

of Israelis and greatly set back the cause of peace.

In the past, I have expressed disappointment that the United States has not worked harder to advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, as well concerns about specific actions by the Israeli government. However, these concerns should not be misinterpreted as a lack of support for Israel or a lack of recognition of the very real threats that she faces. I am strongly committed to the long-term security of Israel, and I will continue to work towards the vision of a safe and secure Israel at peace with her Arab neighbors.

Israelis can be proud of the vibrant democracy that they have created, and I know that many Rhode Islanders share my deep appreciation for the close friendship between our two nations. I once again offer my congratulations and best wishes to the Israeli people.

#### BURMESE WAR CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I wish to draw the attention of my colleagues in the Senate to a new report by a credible organization based on the Thailand-Burma border. In "Shattering Silences," the Karen Women's Organization has carefully investigated and recorded the Burmese military regime's use of rape as a weapon of war against ethnic minority women, revealing a shockingly brutal and callous practice.

The report documents that both young and old women are being raped, and usually very brutally. Forty percent of the rapes committed by the regime's soldiers were gang rapes, and over one-quarter of the women were killed after being raped.

This horrifying evidence, which echoes previous documentation conducted by our own State Department, suggests that Burma's regime is deliberately using rape as a weapon to terrorize and subjugate the Burmese people. Fifty percent of the rapes were committed by officers in the military regime.

Many of us hoped that after the exposure of the use of rape as a weapon in Bosnia, the practice would come to an end. Sadly, our hopes have not been fulfilled, and Burma is the new Bosnia. To be a woman in Burma's ethnic states is to live in constant fear of sexual violence and murder.

Ever since the United States imposed economic sanctions on Burma last year, the ruling regime has made repeated promises of a so-called transition to democracy. The rapes documented in this report show what many of us have known for a very long time; that promises by this regime are meaningless. Our State Department must take a lead in condemning these horrific acts and move to rally support for international sanctions on Burma. We cannot wait any longer, while more

women face the war crimes committed by Burma's dictators.

#### NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I proudly note passage of S. Res. 310, a resolution to designate May 15, 2004, as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. I again cosponsored this resolution with Senator CAMPBELL, as we do every year. We are right to remember and commemorate the sacrifice and commitment of our law enforcement officers serving our communities, States and country. We annually honor the officers and their families who made the ultimate sacrifice for public safety.

I commend Senator CAMPBELL for his leadership in this issue. This marks the 8th year running that he and I have teamed up to submit the resolution to commemorate National Peace Officers Memorial Day. As a former deputy sheriff, Senator CAMPBELL has experienced first-hand the risks faced by law enforcement officers every day while they protect our communities.

I also want to thank each of our Nation's brave law enforcement officers for their unwavering commitment to the safety and protection of their fellow citizens. They are real-life heroes.

Currently, more than 850,000 men and women who guard our communities do so at great risk. Each year, 1 in 15 offices is assaulted, 1 in 46 officers is injured, and 1 in 5,255 officers is killed in the line of duty in the United States every other day. After the hijacked planes hit the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001, 72 peace officers died while trying to ensure that their fellow citizens in those buildings got to safety. That act of terrorism resulted in the highest number of peace officers ever killed in a single incident in the history of this country.

In 2003, 146 law enforcement officers died while serving in the line of duty, well below the decade-long average of 165 deaths annually, and a major drop from 2001 when a total of 237 officers were killed. A number of factors contributed to this reduction including better equipment and the increased use of bullet-resistant vests, improved training, and advanced emergency medical care. And, in total, more than 17,100 men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice—of that number 43 are police officers who have already been killed in 2004 while serving in the line of duty.

During the 108th Congress, we have improved the Justice Department's Public Safety Officers Benefits program by making law the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act (Public Law 108-182), which allows survivors of public safety officers who suffer fatal heart attacks or strokes while participating in non-routine stressful or strenuous physical activities to qualify for federal survivor benefits.

The Senate also passed the Campbell-Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership

Grant Act, S. 764, which will extend through FY 2007 the authorization of appropriations for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program that helps State, tribal and local jurisdictions purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers. The House has yet to act on this important measure. We want to be sure that every police officer who needs a bulletproof vest gets one.

Last month, the Senate added to the gun liability bill by a vote of 91-8 the Campbell-Leahy Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, S. 253. This measure would establish national measures of uniformity and consistency to permit trained and certified on-duty, off-duty or retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms in most situations so that they may respond immediately to crimes across State and other jurisdictional lines, as well as to protect themselves and their families from vindictive criminals.

This National Peace Officers Memorial Day, Vermonters will remember our brave State Police Trooper, Sergeant Michael Johnson, who was killed last Father's Day while trying to stop a suspect leading two other State troopers on a high-speed chase. Sergeant Johnson was not even on duty, but he went to help his fellow troopers that Sunday afternoon after hearing their trouble on his radio. He had just deployed a set of tire spikes across the interstate when the suspect swerved to avoid the spikes and struck him. Sergeant Johnson left behind his wife and three children. Words are insufficient for the brave sacrifice of the man who was so admired by his family, community and the Vermont State Police force. In memory of this bravery and service to his family, community, State and country, Sergeant Johnson will be one of the names added this year to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

National Peace Officers Memorial Day will provide the people of the United States with the opportunity to honor the extraordinary service and sacrifice given year after year by our police forces. More than 15,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington to join with the families of their fallen comrades. I thank the Senate for acting on this important resolution.

#### CHINESE COMPETITION

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, in 2001, World Trade Organization members accepted China into the organization only after negotiating the most complex accession agreement in WTO history. Under their accession agreement, China committed to adopting a market- and rules-based economy and special safeguards for the domestic industries of other WTO members that could be severely injured by surges of imports from China's non-market economy. China has yet to live up to their commitments. China's problems stem from a significant lack of intellectual

property right enforcement, to the continued dumping and transshipping of textiles, to the subsidizing of their steel industry. China also manipulates their currency, the yuan, in order to gain an unfair competitive advantage.

These unfair trade practices seriously jeopardize many United States industries, including the textile and steel industries. The textile industry has been hit particularly hard by unfair trade with China. Since 1997, more than 250 textile plants in the U.S. have closed. With quotas on textile and apparel set to be totally phased-out on January 1, 2005, it is not unrealistic to expect even more job losses and factory closings in the textile industry. Quotas are set under the Multifiber Arrangement, MFA, an international agreement that allows countries to impose quotas on the level of goods imported from individual supplier countries. The MFA was designed to prevent a worldwide crisis in textile and apparel trade. Specifically, it was needed to keep very low wage producing nations from overwhelming global markets.

If these quotas are lifted, China is poised to control 70 percent of the textile and apparel market share. Allowing China to dominate world markets in this sector will result in the devastation of many third world economies, resulting in widespread economic and social instability.

If the goals of the World Trade Organization are to increase global prosperity and economic advancement through orderly trade, and especially to advance the development of the third world through orderly trade flows, we have to ask ourselves the following question: Does our current trade policy with China help further those goals, or will it continue to cost millions of United States' manufacturing jobs and undermine global advancement in general and in the third world specifically?

With the expiration of the quotas, the United States will see even more of the products they buy manufactured in a country that allows their workers to be treated poorly. Workers in Chinese factories suffer serious, routine and ongoing abuse at the hands of their employers. Health and safety conditions almost always fail to meet Chinese law or international standards, and workers regularly work illegally long hours for overtime pay that is not calculated according to law. Chinese workers also face harsh disciplinary measures and the use of heavy fines for minor infractions of factory rules.

We need to let China know that if they keep dumping and transshipping textiles, permanent quotas will be put in place. If China continues to steal intellectual property rights, they will find themselves before every WTO tribunal that exists. One of the best investments the U.S. ever made was spending billions of dollars during the Cold War to prohibit the spreading of communism. We need to show similar strength when it comes to standing up

against China's communist dictatorship that trades unfairly, oppresses its people, and bleeds our economy dry.

What I would like to see my country do, Republican and Democrat, is to ask the Chinese to stop cheating; to try to persuade the Chinese government through international organizations such as the WTO, to stop stealing market share and become a better member of the Family of Nations. There's a lot of resistance to any idea about change. Our opponents argue that current trade policy is appropriate because of the fact that it may reduce prices to consumers. This is only true if you review what hidden costs we are paying. Such costs include: over 3 million lost manufacturing jobs in the past 5 years, frozen wages, health and pension benefits for workers that have managed to remain employed, shrinking tax base for Federal, State and local government. Maybe the greatest cost, however, is to our national security. There is no doubt that the United States was the single greatest military power in the 20th century because of its industrial strength. If we make China the new industrial superpower, will that not translate into China becoming the single greatest military power of the 21st century?

The large economic growth China has experienced over the last several years is not going to the average Chinese citizen. In fact, it is estimated that just 0.16 percent of the Chinese population controls 65 percent of the nation's U.S. \$1.5 trillion liquid assets in the Mainland bank deposits. The income distribution in China is likely to be the most unequal in the world. Rather than using this economic growth to help China's 800 million rural residents who earn the equivalent of just 80 cents per day, it is going to their military disproportionately.

Today, China is the world's largest purchaser for foreign military weapons and technology. China's defense industry has become far more productive in the last five years and improvements can be expected as the Chinese economy continues to grow. China is now more than doubling its budgeted defense spending this year as part of an aggressive military modernization strategy. And some European countries are even pushing the European Union to lift the arms trade embargo on China. What I considered at one time to be a regional problem is a national security problem.

Rigged and unfair international trading rules are a key cause of the U.S. manufacturing crisis. China's unfair trade practices are costing United States jobs and jeopardizing our manufacturing base. They have shown that they are not yet committed to participating in a rules-based global trading system and are not yet willing to make the necessary steps to transition into a market-based economy.

China continues to manipulate the currency markets to keep the dollar artificially high and its own currency,

the yuan, artificially low. By playing the currency market in this manner, China effectively subsidizes their exports to the U.S. and places a tariff on U.S. shipments to China. This mercantilist practice has caused serious damage to the U.S. manufacturing sector. The U.S. Congress must take action.

Senator CHARLES SCHUMER and I have introduced legislation that would require China to adopt a market-based system of currency. The goal of this legislation is to remove China's unfair currency advantage and the detrimental impact that it is having in the U.S. and abroad.

Something must be done to alleviate the detrimental economic impact China is having on our manufacturing industry. I urge the Leadership to allow a clean vote on this important legislation. I believe it will receive overwhelming bipartisan support and give the administration one more tool to get the Chinese to uphold their WTO obligations.

#### MOTORSPORTS FACILITIES FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong and enthusiastic support for S. 1524, the "Motor-sports Facilities Fairness Act." This legislation would properly clarify and codify the classification of a "motor-sports entertainment complex" as 7-year property for depreciation purposes. The legislation would define a "motorsports entertainment complex" as a permanent facility that hosts one or more racing events each year that are sanctioned by a nationally recognized sanctioning body. I was an original cosponsor of S. 1524, when my colleague, Senator SANTORUM, introduced it last July 31.

Virginia is home to twenty-seven motorsports facilities, ranging from the one-eighth of a mile Natural Bridge Dragstrip to such NASCAR Nextel Cup facilities as Richmond International Raceway and Martinsville Speedway. These tracks are found in every part of the Commonwealth, from Coeburn in Southwest Virginia, to Manassas in Northern Virginia to Norfolk in Hampton Roads. Every track makes a contribution to the economy, whether they run a weekly racing series, or draw over 100,000 fans for a Nextel Cup event.

The importance of these tracks for jobs and economic growth in Virginia was illustrated in an April 21, article in the Washington Times, by Jeffrey Sharpshott, entitled, "Virginia City Seeks 'Something Else.'" This article described the significant positive impact of motorsports and the Martinsville Speedway on the area's economy: "Martinsville, next-door neighbor to North Carolina, also tried to latch onto the rising popularity of auto racing and NASCAR. The town parlayed its speedway into a tourist draw. It opened a small community-