

have 5.5 million cluster bombs containing 728.5 million bomblets. That means we are still prepared to use an enormous number of cluster bombs that have significant failure rates—some estimate as high as 40 percent.

Out of the 728.5 million cluster submunitions, only 30,900 have self-destruct devices that would ensure a less than 1 percent so-called dud or unexploded failure rate. Those submunitions account for only 0.00004 percent of the U.S. total.

The Pentagon has stated that cluster bomblets with failure rates of more than 1 percent “will remain in the Department’s inventory until used or until they have reached their extended life and are demilitarized.”

That is pretty clear information that we are going to continue to use them. I think that is wrong.

In fact, by fiscal year 2011, the United States will still possess 480 million old cluster munitions with significant failure rates.

The latest Pentagon study on cluster bombs cite failure rates of 2 to 6 percent for the entire U.S. arsenal. Other studies, however, including one by the GAO, found failure rates as high as 16 percent. U.S. marines in Karbala, Iraq, in 2003 believe the failure rate in some places was as high as 40 percent.

But even if you accept the conservative estimate of the Pentagon report, if the United States used its entire arsenal of cluster bombs, we would leave 27 million unexploded bomblets somewhere in the world. And a 16-percent failure rate would equal 117 million unexploded bomblets, and a 40-percent failure rate would equal 300 million unexploded bomblets.

Where am I going with all this? Think about it. Three hundred million unexploded bomblets spread from Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, southern Lebanon, wherever it may be, and those bomblets remain there decade after decade until somebody picks them up. And then that somebody is either killed or maimed for life.

I ask you: Is this the legacy we want to leave behind in Iraq and Afghanistan? Is this the legacy Israel wants to leave behind in Lebanon? Or is this the legacy anyone that manufactures and sells these munitions want to leave behind?

There are steps we can take to ensure a failure rate of less than 1 percent. And the Pentagon isn’t going to do it. But at a cost of between \$8 and \$15, a self-destruct device can be added to cluster submunitions that destroy these munitions if, in fact, they survive intact.

The Pentagon has argued that adding this device is cost prohibitive. And it may well be.

The amendment of Senator LEAHY and myself does not address this issue.

I would like simply to end by reading the amendment.

No funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to acquire, utilize, sell, or transfer

any cluster munition unless the rules of engagement applicable to the cluster munition ensure that the cluster munition will not be used in or near any concentrated population of civilians.

Is that too much to ask? That if you are going to use a cluster munition which spews bomblets for a half mile that you be certain these are not going to be used in a civilian area? I think the answer is clearly is no.

I hope the Senate will see fit to agree to this amendment.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE REPORTER PAUL SALOPEK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, during the August break, I took some time off with my wife. As we were traveling, we were contacted by Jim O’Shea, who works with the Chicago Tribune, in the city of Chicago, which I represent.

He told me about a terrible situation. A writer for the Chicago Tribune, Paul Salopek, who was on assignment for National Geographic in Africa, was arrested and detained in the Sudan.

For 9 days, our embassy was not notified. When they learned of this and found him, he was in a confinement or jail cell in El Fasher in Sudan. He is being charged with visa and other violations for crossing over into Sudan and most notably he is being charged with the crime of espionage.

I come to the Senate today to let the American people know about his plight but also to speak to the Sudanese Government and their embassy in Washington. Many times when we come to the Senate to speak about foreign policy issues, we discuss the fate of hundreds of thousands, sometimes even millions of people. This relates to the fate of one man. Paul Salopek is not just another journalist, not just another correspondent. He is a Pulitzer Prize winner.

I first started reading his work in the Chicago Tribune. As soon as I would finish a piece he had written, I would rush to the byline to see who wrote this. He is truly a gifted writer. He has written some things which I have saved and clipped out, that I hang onto. They are dog-eared and yellowed from age, he is just that good.

When I went to the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, this last December with Senator BROWBACK, we were touring an area where, sadly, 5,000

people a day die in this region of Africa. Very few people in the West are aware of it. In preparation for that journey, we looked at the National Geographic special on Africa and particularly the section on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was, once again, one of those pieces of writing that stops you cold. And you think: I wish I had the gift to come up with the words of this writer. The writer, once again, was Paul Salopek.

On August 6, Paul Salopek was arrested in the Sudan while on freelance assignment for the National Geographic, along with his driver and interpreter. He has been charged, as I said, with espionage and with writing “false news,” along with an immigration violation.

When you look at his assignment, it was not even close to being politically sensitive. National Geographic had sent him to this region to write about the history and culture of the Sahel region of Africa. I know that he undertook this assignment with the same commitment and passion as he has in all of his work.

When we visited the Congo, one of the women there, who had worked with Paul while he was in that region, said she could not remember another writer who became so immersed in his work, spending the entire day with the Pygmy people of the Congo, and then at night he would be off to his tent and, by just a dim light, working on his computer writing all night to bring together all of his thoughts.

His subject, in this case for the National Geographic, has been the geography, history, culture, environment, wildlife, natural resources, religion, landscape, and populace of the Sahel, a wide swath of land running from the Atlantic Ocean to the Horn of Africa. I know when the piece is finally written it will be well worth reading.

The name “Sahel” comes from the Arabic word for “border” or “margin.” And for many Americans, the Sahel is undoubtedly on the margins of their awareness. Paul Salopek’s article would have helped change that. Now he awaits trial in El Fasher, in the North Darfur region of Sudan.

I have been in close contact with the U.S. Embassy in Sudan and understand he is being treated well while he awaits trial. Mr. Bishop, who works for our embassy in Khartoum, has been in frequent contact, visiting him almost on a daily basis, providing him with water and food and the basics of life and making certain he is being taken care of. And I am glad to report that is happening. I appreciate that fact and all the efforts the State Department and others have undertaken on his behalf.

Assistant Secretary of State Jendayi Frazer urged Sudanese President al-Bashir to release him. And many of us in Congress have been working to try to help effect his release.

Let me make it clear: Those of us who know of the work of Paul Salopek know one thing for certain, Paul

Salopek is a journalist. He is not a spy. He has written on everything from the human genome diversity project, for which he won his first Pulitzer Prize, to the civil war in the Congo, for which he won his second.

He has been a student of cultural geography, which informs his current project on the Sahel, once traveling hundreds of miles by mule through the remote Sierra Madre region in Mexico.

In another brilliant story, Paul traced the route of a barrel of oil, tracking shipments of crude oil from across the globe, until they reached South Elgin in my home State of Illinois, and filled the gas tanks of the cars in my home State.

He has written a touching article about 7-year-old brides in Ethiopia and a 13-year-old school girl in Angola who was tortured after she was accused of witchcraft.

His writing captures the reader from the opening sentence, illuminating and educating along the way. As Adlai Stevenson once said: He can make the words march on the page.

One of his former colleagues, now with the Seattle Times, wrote this week:

If we don't care about Paul, we don't care about the stories he writes. We don't care about the world and the people in its farthest reaches and most desperate circumstances. His work serves us all, to help us understand and feel.

I would like to associate myself with that quotation.

Paul Salopek is a journalist, a reporter, and most fundamentally he is a writer. He crossed a border without the correct paperwork, but he has spent his writing career breaking down borders that divide us in this world.

I am hopeful the Government of Sudan will recognize the fact that although Paul did enter the country without a visa, which is a civil violation, he did so as a writer, writing for the National Geographic magazine. He is not a spy. He did not come to this region of the world with any political agenda.

I am heartened by the news that the Khartoum Government has issued a pardon to a Slovenian writer and envoy who had been convicted of similar charges.

I hope that Mr. Salopek can be released even more quickly.

The American Society of Newspaper Editors, Reporters without Borders, the Overseas Press Club, and the Committee to Protect Journalists have all issued statements urging the release of Paul Salopek and his driver and translator who were detained with them.

I want to repeat those calls on the floor of the Senate.

This is an opportunity for the Sudanese Government to make one small step in the right direction, toward recognizing basic freedoms.

I want to thank all those who tried to help; my colleague, Senator OBAMA, traveling in Africa, who has tried to do his part to help Paul Salopek. I also

want to acknowledge the work that has been done by former Congressman, former Ambassador, former Secretary, now Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico, who is also trying to help in every way he can.

This is an opportunity for the Sudanese Government to make the right step in the right direction, toward recognizing basic freedoms, toward demonstrating the kind of humanitarianism which will leave, I think, the Sudanese Government in good stead with many countries around the world.

It is my deepest hope that Paul Salopek will soon be reunited with his family and soon be released from this prison. It is a matter of the freedom of the press but, as I said, also the freedom of one fine man.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORT 109-325

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have a transmittal letter dated September 5, 2006 printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2006.

HON. TED STEVENS,
President Pro Tempore,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: After two years of investigation and five hearings, the Committee is pleased to transmit our bipartisan, unanimous Final Report, 109-325, entitled "GIMME FIVE"—Investigation of Tribal Lobbying Matters.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN MCCAIN,
Chairman.
BYRON DORGAN,
Vice Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF GM IN BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for 25 years the Chevrolet Corvette, known as America's sports car, has been exclusively manufactured in the General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant

in Bowling Green, KY. I rise today to celebrate Bowling Green as the "Home of the Corvette." We are very proud that it is in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The Corvette looms large as one of America's most admired sports cars. Introduced in 1953, it was originally produced elsewhere, but in 1981, General Motors recognized Kentucky as the growing, business-friendly environment it has become and decided Bowling Green and the Corvette made a good match. The first Kentucky-built Corvette rolled off the assembly line on June 1, 1981.

The Bowling Green Assembly Plant also produces the Cadillac XLR and XLR-V in addition to three models of the Corvette. Over 39,000 GM cars are manufactured in Kentucky each year and delivered to driving enthusiasts all over the world. Over the 2½ decades, the Bowling Green Assembly Plant has undergone redesign and updating to incorporate the latest technology. Recently, the newest model, the Corvette Z06, was launched and continues the success of the made-in-Kentucky Corvette brand.

The over 1,200 Kentuckians who work at the Bowling Green Assembly Plant maintain a high standard of quality while also serving as vital contributors to their communities. Plant employees have generously donated their efforts and resources to noble causes such as the United Way, Junior Achievement, the American Red Cross, D.A.R.E.—Drug Abuse Resistance Education—the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and various local charities.

The plant and its workers also work closely with Western Kentucky University to sponsor grants and events. They also offer 30 internships to WKU students each year, giving young men and women an invaluable opportunity to learn about the business world from inside one of America's biggest companies. Several interns have gone on to earn permanent jobs with GM after graduation.

The Bowling Green Assembly Plant's contribution to the local economy cannot be understated, either. Not only does the plant provide jobs to Kentuckians and keep directing money into the local economy, the plant also offers public tours, attracting over 50,000 tourists to the area every year.

Every Corvette built in Kentucky is custom-built for an individual customer; the cars are not mass produced. The employees of the Bowling Green Assembly Plant are very proud of their commitment to precision and high quality. They have won more than 70 automotive industry awards since 1997.

The Bowling Green Assembly Plant will celebrate its 25 years in Kentucky this September. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Kentuckians who make America's sports car for their dedication to achievement and success, both on the job and in their communities. Kentucky is still reaping the rewards