

Haram because they are killing children all in Africa and they are dastardly committers of violence against civil society.

□ 1815

PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS
REMAIN UNPROSECUTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, news has come out, February 2, Groundhog Day, in this article from Adam Kredo entitled, "The Obama Administration Has Not Prosecuted a Single Palestinian Terrorist Who Killed Americans."

"The Obama administration has not prosecuted a single Palestinian terrorist responsible for killing Americans abroad, despite a congressional mandate ordering the Justice Department to take action against these individuals" . . . "Palestinian terrorists have murdered at least 64 Americans, including two unborn children, since 1993. Yet the U.S. Government has failed to take legal action against those who committed the crimes, lawmakers disclosed during a Tuesday hearing on the Justice Department's failure to live up to its mandate to bring these terrorists to justice.

"Many of the terrorists continue to roam free across the Middle East, with one hosting a Hamas-affiliated television show in Jordan.

"With criticism mounting from Congress and U.S. victims of terrorism, Justice Department officials say they are working to initiate cases, but warn that this could take 'many years' to play out.

"The Justice Department has repeatedly declined to comment when faced with questions from Congress about the lack of prosecutions, according to Representative RON DESANTIS of Florida, chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security.

"The Justice Department 'has not been able to cite one example for this committee of even a single terrorist who has been prosecuted in the U.S. for any of the 64 attacks against Americans in Israel,' DeSantis said. 'Indeed, many of these terrorists roam free as the result of prisoner exchanges or evasion.

"This is not what Congress intended' when it created the DOJ's Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism in 2005,' DeSantis added. 'This is not what the American people want, and this does not provide justice to the victims' families that has been so tragically elusive.'

"The Justice Department has sought to evade questions about its failure to prosecute known terrorists responsible for the murder of U.S. citizens.

"This includes its failure to level charges against Ahlam Tamimi, the Palestinian woman responsible for blowing up a Jerusalem pizza shop in 2001. The attacks killed 15, including a pregnant American woman. Tamimi currently resides in Jordan and hosts a television show on the Hamas-owned Al Quds station.

"When the Oversight and Government Reform Committee questioned the Department of Justice about this case, the Department declined to comment,' DeSantis said. 'If in fact bringing to justice the perpetrators of terrorism against Americans in Israel is a high priority for the DOJ, then surely people of this nature should be prosecuted for their crimes.'" . . . "American victims of terrorist attacks abroad who testified at the hearing offered sharp criticism of the Justice Department for failing to take on terrorists in the U.S. courts.

"Sari Singer, who was injured in a 2003 Palestinian terror attack on a bus in Jerusalem, said that she has lost faith in the government."

Singer said, "I grew up believing that my country would be there for me and protect me no matter where I was in the world. These last years have left me feeling let down."

I would insert parenthetically, Madam Speaker, that she shares that same feeling with the victims in our State Department of the attacks at Benghazi, and the many hours people waited thinking surely our government will come to our aid.

So it sounds like victims of terrorists abroad share this, whether it is from Benghazi or whether it is from other terrorist attacks, that the administration is not going to be there for you.

The article goes on: "Peter Schwartz, whose nephew Ezra was shot in the head by a Palestinian terrorist in November 2015, said that the Obama administration has not been forthcoming about any potential investigations into the incident" . . . "The Obama administration was criticized in August when it sought to limit the restitution American victims of terrorism could receive. The administration argued in a legal briefing issued to the court that a large cash award to these victims could complicate the administration's efforts to foster peace between Israel and the Palestinians."

Clearly, the administration's interests, as Sari Singer observed, is not with American victims of foreign terrorism. It is with the foreign terrorists that maybe if we side up to them enough, maybe if we will be nice to them and not punish them, then maybe they won't keep killing American citizens. That is false thinking.

Madam Speaker, I can't help but think as we find out this week that this administration has released \$100 billion to the largest supporter of terrorism in the world—Iran—and Iran has made clear that once they got this money from the Obama administration that they were going to increase their

help to terrorists like Hamas and Hezbollah. In other words, they told us in advance that when America cedes to Iran \$100 billion extra, they are going to be able to help more terrorists commit more of their acts of terrorism.

Now, back when I was a judge or even back years and years ago as a prosecutor, we always approached cases that if you assisted somebody, say you gave them money, and they told you before you gave them the money that they are going to use some of this money to commit a criminal act, then we always felt like you could prosecute those people. Jurors could bear that out because if you knowingly aid, assist—even encourage—you don't even have to give them money. If you just encourage them to commit a violent act or encourage them to go about what they plan to do, and they already said, "We plan to commit more terrorism with what you give us," then you were an accomplice. Under the laws federally, and as well as in the laws I am aware of in most States, certainly in Texas, you would be charged as a principal. So if you gave money to someone knowing that they said, "We are going to use money and help kill people and help terrorism," and then they committed the terrorism, you could be convicted of the same terrorism of those you gave the money to help.

It is interesting that those principles seem to apply to all other Americans, but this administration feels surely they won't apply to this administration. Sure, Iran has said they are going to support more terrorism once they get all this extra money from the Obama administration. But apparently the Obama administration, according to these pleadings they filed, if you just be nice to the terrorists, let them keep their own money, gee, they will probably quit killing Americans. It doesn't work that way.

Let's take a look at who this administration, this Commander in Chief's administration, is willing to punish. I have a letter here that was sent by my friend, our fellow colleague, DUNCAN HUNTER, to the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee when he discusses Sergeant First Class Charles Martland and points out he is considered a first-rate warrior.

"While in Afghanistan in 2011, at a remote outpost, Martland confronted an Afghan Local Police commander for kidnapping a young boy and raping him repeatedly over several days. The issue was brought to the attention of Martland and his fellow soldiers after the boy's mother asked for help, after she also was attacked by the ALP—or Afghan Local Police—commander.

□ 1830

"When Martland and Captain Danny Quinn confronted the rapist, he admitted to the charge and laughed in their faces—at which point Martland and Quinn took matters into their own hands. This occurred after two separate

but similar human rights violations, including another rape, near the outpost, resulting in no punitive action whatsoever.

“The Afghan Local Police commander was dragged to the perimeter gate, where he was thrown out and told never to come back. It is important to note that the Afghan Local Police commander left on his own, only to deliberately exaggerate his injuries. Multiple sources have confirmed this fact, including a linguist and authorities who were never interviewed by Army investigators after the incident.

“For this action, Martland was removed from the outpost and faced reprimand. He later was allowed to reenlist, only to face a Qualitative Management Program review board in February 2015.”

That would be a year ago.

“The Army argued that the black mark on his record, which states he assaulted ‘a corrupt Afghan commander’ is cause to expel him from duty, despite the fact that he has the full support of his command and immediate leadership. In fact, the Department of Defense Inspector General reported to me that”—this is a letter from DUNCAN HUNTER—“‘personnel are very supportive of the Sergeant and his efforts to remain in the U.S. Army. . . .’ And there continue to be efforts within his command to not ‘inadvertently hamper his efforts.’ This was in response to an alleged gag order put on Martland and his fellow soldiers”—apparently, about trying to stop the rapes that were going on in Afghanistan.

“Importantly, Martland was permitted to resubmit an appeal to the Qualitative Management Program decision after his first appeal was denied outright. And recently, a decision within Army Human Resources Command recommended that the Army uphold the judgment that Martland be removed from service, although a final decision has yet to be made about his future.”

Madam Speaker, we have an American hero in Sergeant First Class Charles Martland. Dragging a child rapist out of the confined area that this child rapist was using to be a serial rapist, doing harm to children in Afghanistan, is an act of heroism, not an act to be condemned. In fact, courts I am aware of, certainly juries in Texas, would say that was acting in defense of a third person. This man is guilty of nothing except a heroic act to save children and women from being raped by a corrupt police commander.

But under this administration, where we give money to supporters of terrorism, the largest supporters of terrorism in the world, and where we beg courts not to give large reimbursements to victims of terrorism, our own American victims of foreign terrorism because that might not help, it might make the foreign terrorists mad if they have a judgment against them, then it seems like this is perfectly consistent with the policies of this administra-

tion. We give money to terrorists who say they are going to use it to support terrorism; we don’t give money to victims of terrorism.

In fact, this administration should have done what the House passed and implored the administration to do, and that is to make sure that not a dime was allowed to be released to Iran until the verdicts outstanding against Iran by American victims of Iranian terrorism were paid first. But in its haste to get all this money to those who say they are going to use a bunch of it to support terrorism, the American victims were left in the lurch. It is more than irresponsible. It is unconscionable what has been going on.

At some point, people in this administration have got to figure out what most of the American people have figured out, and that is you are not going to stop terrorism by trying to be sweet and kind to the terrorists. Some of us learned it on the playground growing up. I guess now that the Federal Government has control of education to such an extent that schools are forced to teach to the test—I have even had elementary schools tell me: We have had to do away with recess in elementary school because we just don’t have time. We have got to teach them to the test so that we can get that Federal money and we can stay open.

But if you allow recess and kids are on the playground and you have kids that were smaller like I was, you learn you are not going to stop bullying by giving your money to a bully. If you give a bully money, not only do they not respect you, they have more contempt and it encourages their bullying. You can’t do that. You have to stand up to bullying. You find out when you do that, sometimes you will have a teacher, like my fifth grade teacher, that took up for the bullies, but you will ultimately find more teachers will not tolerate that kind of conduct.

This administration never learned that. Maybe there was no chance to learn that in the young schools in Indonesia. Maybe that is why we have a Commander in Chief that thinks we should reward the terrorists, the supporters of terrorism, and punish the victims of terrorism by not letting them have proper financial restitution.

But it is tragic what is going on. It is tragic.

There are a number of stories about Sergeant Martland, including from my friend Jay Sekulow. He said:

“Yet, for his actions, he was immediately pulled from the battlefield and this decorated war hero is now facing expulsion from the military.”

This administration’s priorities are so completely out of step with truth, justice, and the American way—what used to be the American way. Perhaps the American way has been fundamentally transformed in the last 7 years, so now the American way has become that we help terrorists, give them money, and we punish those who are victims.

Well, of course, we know that our Secretary of State thanked Iran for their activities. I haven’t heard whether or not Secretary of State Kerry has thanked Iran for this latest story. This from foxnews.com, “Iran’s Supreme Leader Awards Medals to Troops Who ‘Captured’ U.S. Sailors.” The story says:

“Iran’s supreme leader has awarded medals to five members of the Iranian Navy whom he said ‘captured intruding’ U.S. Navy sailors during a tense incident in January.

“Ayatollah Ali Khamenei awarded the Order of Fat’h medal to Admiral Ali Fadavi, the head of the navy of the Revolutionary Guards, and four commanders who seized the two U.S. Navy vessels, according to Reuters. Iran’s state media reported the news on Sunday.

“Order of Fat’h given by Chief Commander of Armed Forces to IRGC Navy commanders who captured intruding U.S. marines”. . . “In a tweet from his account Sunday, Khamenei misidentified those who were ‘captured’ as being members of the Marines.

“On January 12, Iran captured the ten sailors whose boats ‘misnavigated’ into Iranian waters, according to Defense Secretary Ash Carter. Though the sailors were released the following day, Iran released video of the sailors being captured, detained and apologizing for the incursion.

“Though Iran initially accused the sailors of spying, Fadavi later said an investigation had established the sailors were led astray by ‘a broken navigation system’ and the trespassing was ‘not hostile or for spying purposes’.

“The sailors were attempting to navigate from Kuwait to Bahrain when they crossed into Iranian waters.”

Well, Madam Speaker, we have got satellites that could show exactly what happened. I would think that if this administration wanted to defend our sailors, they would show the satellite footage of where they were and we would be able to see for sure whether or not they did cross into Iranian waters.

But consistent with these reports and stories we have already looked at this evening, it seems if they are going to act consistent with this administration’s prior actions, this administration wouldn’t want to embarrass the Iranian military, the supporters of terrorism, and so we wouldn’t want to show that they were liars. So we won’t show by satellite footage exactly where our sailors were, and we won’t show exactly where our other naval vessels were. These were reported to be small vessels. Well, you don’t have small Navy vessels unless they are near much larger Navy vessels. Normally, if they are larger Navy vessels, there are other small vessels that can go rather quickly.

If you have the Navy vessels there, there is a good chance there is a carrier nearby, an airstrip, where jets could be there in no time whatsoever. It used to

be under other Commanders in Chief, not this one, but other Commanders in Chief, that if we had sailors who were in danger of being captured by a country, particularly the largest supporter of terrorism in the world, our jets would be put in the air. They would get there immediately. They would keep flying overhead and protecting those sailors until the Navy itself could get there to rescue them.

For some reason, this administration thought it was a better idea not to put our aircraft in the air—kind of reminiscent of Benghazi. We are not going to send aircraft that could have been there in minutes. But, heck, I was asking a former commander at Ramstein Air Base clear up in Germany. He didn't realize where I was going.

I asked: How long would it take, say, to get to North Africa from Ramstein?

He said: About 3, 3½ hours at the most.

I said: So you could have been at Benghazi in 3½ hours?

He said: Oh, well, we had ordnance on the planes that particular evening, and it would have taken awhile to reconfigure those.

Well, if you can get clear from Ramstein Air Base to Benghazi in 3, 3½ hours, tops—we have got planes a whole lot closer to where these Navy vessels were—they should have been able to be there in minutes. I am sure some commander or some admiral who is afraid of the Commander in Chief would never admit that, not these days.

But the fact is this once proud United States military who protected its own for the last 70 years and now it calls upon the largest supporter of terrorism to come get our sailors and to have them kneel on their knees, hands behind their heads, as if they are POWs, embarrass them to the maximum, for that, Secretary of State Kerry thanked Iran.

Well, Madam Speaker, I see my friend from Nebraska is here. I yield to my friend.

□ 1845

NEBRASKA VALUES

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

I want to point out something about Mr. GOHMERT. He was speaking about our military a moment ago. He, himself, is a veteran. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam war, and I appreciate his service.

Madam Speaker, I also want to share something with the body today. I write a weekly report, generally, called the Fort Report. This week, I sent one that I hoped would have a broader meaning to the House of Representatives and, perhaps, to anyone else who might encounter this. It is entitled, "Nebraska Values." It is stories about America's political and economic and cultural crises. As we all know, they are dominating the headlines across our Nation. There is widespread, bipartisan dis-

satisfaction with the status quo, and it is propelling a new conversation against the dysfunction and gridlock that have long thwarted effective government here in Washington, D.C.

As families across our Nation face pressing challenges, it is sad, but elected officials often prioritize divisive rhetoric instead of empathy and understanding. Now our disagreements have widened into chasms. It is exhausting—exhausting to America's spirit—and it is distracting us from the possibilities that are before us. In the midst of this contentious Presidential primary season, Madam Speaker, maybe it is time to just pause, change the subject, and celebrate some of the best examples that our country has to offer.

In a small town gym in Beemer, Nebraska, at Beemer Elementary School, the community recently gathered to celebrate the life of Joseph Lemm. While deep sadness marked the occasion, the community's desire to gather and tell stories and honor this remarkable man pointed to a much deeper understanding of the values that bind us.

Joe chose to put on three different uniforms in his life—first, by enlisting in the United States Air Force after high school. Then he went on to have a career with the New York City Police Department and, finally, with the New York Air National Guard. Joe served three tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. This past December, Joseph Lemm gave his all for his country, along with five other Americans who were killed in Afghanistan. Although Joe left Nebraska a very long time ago, I am quite certain that he carried his early formation with him throughout his life of service, and I suspect my State, Nebraska, was never far from Joe's heart.

Before the service that memorialized him, I saw Joe's mother, Shirley. Shirley embraced me as though we were family members, and, perhaps, we were. She embraced our Governor, Governor Ricketts, and United States Senator SASSE in the same way. Everyone in the gym in the little town of Beemer knew, in the midst of this deep grief and loss, that Joseph Lemm's life had great value, had great purpose.

Madam Speaker, several weeks ago, Washington, D.C., was buried in an avalanche of snow, the remnants of which are still around. I was intending to come back to Washington but had to cancel that trip, and I had more time than I had anticipated in my hometown of Lincoln. As I was in my office, I noticed some young people who were walking around the complex in their signature blue Future Farmers of America jackets, the FFA jackets. I love those jackets, Madam Speaker. They are emblazoned with the name of their hometown below the FFA symbol. These young people had gathered along with others from the Distributive Education Clubs of America; the Future Business Leaders of America; the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America; Educators Rising;

and the Future Health Professionals Skills USA to talk about a very important issue: food security.

In Nebraska, we are very fortunate to have a very, very low unemployment rate. We have the convergence of some extraordinary natural resources, that of our farming and ranch community; we have manufacturing; we have a financial sector; we have had a long tradition of solid community leadership, which has left our economic situation much better than most across the country. Even so, even in our State, we face problems with structural poverty.

These young students came together because they recognized the need to engage in the issue of children who face hunger—of children who return from school hungry, of children who have to worry about not having enough to eat when they get up in the morning. These young people were there, gathered to lead the way—to find realtime solutions in their own small communities, to help the impoverished, vulnerable members who are all around them.

Madam Speaker, that same snowstorm that kept me out of Washington, though, did not deter hundreds of other Nebraska students who left the comforts of their homes and drove on buses through the night to exercise their fundamental American rights: the freedom to assemble and the freedom of speech.

In the face of that devastating blizzard a couple of weeks ago, these principled boys and girls participated in the annual March for Life. They are young people in our country who refuse to accept the current settlement in our wounded culture. They refuse to stare at pain and woundedness and then walk away. They refuse to accept what has been fostered upon us for the last four decades of brokenness, of fracturing in family life, and the deep wounds that abortion has caused in so many women. They are demanding that we do better as a country. They are saying to all of us that women deserve better, that we deserve better. They traveled to Washington to explicitly express this pro-life perspective and to proclaim that we should care for unborn children, for their mothers, and for our society as a whole.

This is the new generation—the Millennial Generation—that, in many ways, is standing upon the ash heap of broken tradition, and they are longing for more. They are saying there is a better way no matter how deep and difficult the problem is. Although our Nation, particularly in our politics, still experiences deep and sad divisions over the question of abortion, I do think we should all commend these students for responsibly exercising their rights to peaceably demonstrate, for standing up for what they believe. That is a source of renewal and strength in America. Sometimes it discomforts us. Sometimes it challenges those of us in power when truth has spoken to us. Sometimes it bumps up against systems that seem stacked against the ordinary person.

These young people are not willing to accept the current economic, political, and cultural settlement in our country. They are saying let's strive for more. Let's imagine what we could be. Let's put aside the pain. Let's heal the past and look forward when all life is celebrated as a beautiful gift. I respect what they did, and I think, again, all of us here can look to these young people who have responsibly demonstrated in front of us as good future stewards of a rebuilt America.

So, Madam Speaker, that is really what I wanted to say to you today. I am proud of these Nebraskans who have continued to demonstrate a better pathway for America in public servants and in military heroes, such as Joseph Lemm, who gave his life for his country, in the young people back home who are deciding to tackle systemic childhood poverty and hunger, and in the students who trekked all this way in hazardous conditions to stand in defense of vulnerable persons.

Perhaps, in the example of these young people, we can find an answer to what is right about America at a time when so much seems to be going wrong. We can carry forward the best of our traditions, those put forward by small communities and families that are really the renewing social force that will help turn our country around.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I am very grateful to my friend from Nebraska. Mr. FORTENBERRY and I came in together, and I am so glad we did. We have been friends ever since. What a noteworthy tribute he had to pay. I am grateful for that tribute.

Madam Speaker, we have had so many Americans who have given, as Lincoln said, the last full measure of devotion for freedom, for liberty, for people who were not even Americans, because that is who Americans have been.

I know our current President is fond of saying that is who we are, and then he provides access to \$100 billion for Iran—the largest supporter of terrorism. It says it is going to keep supporting terrorism, just with a lot more money now that the President has made all of this available. The President says that is not who we are, and then he shows us that we open our arms to terrorists from all over the world.

So many Americans gave their lives and gave their limbs for liberty in Iraq, for liberty in Afghanistan. In fact, in Afghanistan, if I recall my figures correctly, in the 7¼ years under Commander in Chief Bush, from October of 2001 until January of 2009, there were just over 500 precious American lives given for the cost of freedom in Afghanistan. Supposedly, we were told by this President, the war was pretty much over. He sent more troops for a while to Afghanistan; but even after, supposedly, the war has been over and troops have been left over there, we keep getting Americans killed.

It is because of the rules of engagement that so needlessly tie their

hands. It is because this administration would rather punish Green Beret Sergeant First Class Martland for stopping a serial child rapist. It would rather punish him—throw him out, end his military career—because this administration, at least here in this country, does not want to offend the serial child rapist in Afghanistan.

No wonder people around the world have lost so much respect for the United States in the last 7 years. They know that stuff is going on. They knew that Sergeant Martland stood up for the child and for the woman. They knew what he did. They spread the word. Then the word spreads when Sergeant Martland makes international news because this administration wants to punish him for dragging him out of the compound—not killing, not beheading, not disemboweling—in an act of defense of many third persons. They find out this administration punished the military hero, the Green Beret who protected the victims.

It is incredible. I mean, any administration that would do that would probably turn around and, if it heard about some entity that was allowing unborn babies to be killed and was selling body parts, might be tempted to punish the people who exposed it instead of punishing those who did such a heinous act.

□ 1900

Those who have read Scripture know there will come a time when right is wrong, wrong is right, the good are punished, and the evil are rewarded. But we also know the day will come when the ultimate judge of the world will set things straight.

So this is a story from Martha Mendoza, Maya Alleruzzo, and Bram Janssen from the Associated Press: "Oldest Christian monastery in Iraq is razed." This is heartbreaking.

This is a monastery Americans were devoted to restoring. It is a monastery where people came to know Jesus of Nazareth for the last 1400 years. It is a place where God did miracles in people's lives. It is a place where our military were very, very careful to protect because they knew the Christian significance.

As this administration miscalculated—apparently, our intelligence agencies did not miscalculate. Apparently, our intelligence agencies made very clear to this administration that ISIS is not a JV team, that these are dangerous people and they have to be stopped and you have to ramp it up.

So it wasn't our intelligence. We didn't have bad intelligence. The reports are out there. The administration, thinking it knew better than those on the ground in the area, did not take ISIS seriously.

Now, this Christian monastery over 1400 years old has been razed. The story from Iraq:

"The oldest Christian monastery in Iraq has been reduced to a field of rubble, yet another victim of the Islamic

State group's relentless destruction of ancient cultural sites.

"For 1,400 years the compound survived assaults by nature and man, standing as a place of worship recently for U.S. troops. In earlier centuries, generations of monks tucked candles in the niches and prayed in the cool chapel. The Greek letters chi and rho, representing the first two letters of Christ's name, were carved near the entrance.

"Now satellite photos obtained exclusively by The Associated Press confirm the worst fears of church authorities and preservationists—St. Elijah's Monastery of Mosul has been completely wiped out.

"In his office in exile in Irbil, Iraq, the Rev. Paul Thabit Habib, 39, stared quietly at before- and after-images of the monastery that once perched on a hillside above his hometown of Mosul. Shaken, he flipped back to his own photos for comparison.

"'I can't describe my sadness,' he said in Arabic. 'Our Christian history in Mosul is being barbarically leveled. We see it as an attempt to expel us from Iraq, eliminating and finishing our existence in this land.'

"The Islamic State group, which broke from al-Qaeda and now controls large parts of Iraq and Syria, has killed thousands of civilians and forced out hundreds of thousands of Christians, threatening a religion that has endured in the region for 2,000 years. Along the way, its fighters have destroyed buildings and ruined historical and culturally significant structures they consider contrary to their interpretation of Islam."

Madam Speaker, I find it interesting that these writers know what leaders in this administration still, after all these years, have not figured out. It is Martha Mendoza, Maya Alleruzzo, and Bram Janssen.

They point out in this article that these people believe that these sites are contrary to their interpretation of Islam. Yet, this administration says, no, it has nothing to do with Islam.

The article continues:

"Those who knew the monastery wondered about its fate after the extremists swept through in June 2014 and largely cut communications to the area.

"Now, St. Elijah's has joined a growing list of more than 100 demolished religious and historic sites, including mosques, tombs, shrines and churches in Syria and Iraq. The extremists have defaced or ruined ancient monuments in Nineveh, Palmyra and Hatra. Museums and libraries have been looted, books burned, artwork crushed—or trafficked.

"'A big part of tangible history has been destroyed,' said Rev. Manuel Yousif Boji. A Chaldean Catholic pastor in Southfield, Michigan, he remembers attending Mass at St. Elijah's almost 60 years ago while a seminarian in Mosul.'

"These persecutions have happened to our church more than once, but we

believe in the power of truth, the power of God,' said Boji. He is part of the Detroit area's Chaldean community, which became the largest outside Iraq after the sectarian bloodshed that followed the U.S. invasion in 2003. Iraq's Christian population has dropped from 1.3 million then to 300,000 now, church authorities say."

Christians are under persecution, being killed in greater numbers than any time in our history. Yet, it is not the Christians being persecuted in greater numbers than any time in history. It is not the group that many in the world recognize are the most persecuted religion in the world.

This administration wants to welcome those of the religion of persecution rather than the most persecuted group in the world, that being Christians, although just recently this article from CNS News, "550 Syrian Refugees Admitted to U.S. Since the Paris Attacks"—and, of the most persecuted highest number killed in the history of the world, Christians, this administration admitted two.

An article from the Texas Tribune points out that Governor Greg Abbott and my friend, Democrat U.S. Rep. HENRY CUELLAR, "pressed the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on Monday to explain why the agency plans to reduce its aerial surveillance on the Texas-Mexico border."

"Monday's request comes as CBP is reporting a new surge in the number of undocumented immigrants crossing the Rio Grande. From October to December of 2015, about 10,560 unaccompanied minors entered Texas illegally through the Rio Grande Valley sector of the U.S. Border Patrol. That marks a 115 percent increase over the same time frame in 2014."

Madam Speaker, what is clear is that, as this administration says, oh, we are arresting fewer people coming into the country illegally, these kind of reports make clear, well, yeah, if you close your eyes, you will keep arresting even fewer. That is what they are doing. They are closing our eyes to our ability to see people that are violating our law.

At the same time, we get this report from the Washington Examiner that sanctuary cities now cross the 300 mark, with Dallas and Philadelphia added to it.

Madam Speaker, with so much to be depressed about, I want to commend the people of the State of Iowa, where I spent a couple of days last week and where I have spent other times many days in the past. When I am among the Iowans, I feel like I am back home in East Texas. The people are wonderful.

I had somebody ask earlier today about: What do you think about your party?

I said: What do you mean?

He said: Well, you look at the people that won the Iowa caucuses.

So?

The comment was made: Well, in the Democratic caucus or primary, you had

two White Socialists—this was the comment from this person—and in the Republican primary, the first and third vote-getters were Cuban, Hispanic Americans, and the fourth was African American. Isn't that interesting the way things have turned?

Well, I have enjoyed coming to love the people of Iowa, and I look forward to the days ahead because of them.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

WATER SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I want to pick up on some issues of security. We have heard for the last hour discussions of security, and there are many different aspects to the question of security.

Are we secure in this world in which we live? Well, there are a lot of problems. To be sure, we can worry about China and the South China Sea, and we do. Certainly, in the Middle East, where I recently visited the Gulf States and Iran, there are a lot of concerns there.

As you move into Iraq, there are the issues of ISIL, al Qaeda and, of course, the great tragedy that is occurring in Syria where, basically, cities are simply being destroyed, obviously, the churches, the monasteries, the mosques—boom—housing.

There are well over 270,000 people—Christians, Muslims, and others—killed in the Syrian civil war and the resultant desire by people to get out of there. Immigration issues are abounding. Certainly, they affect us here in the United States.

There are many other security issues beyond those that make the headlines. There are security issues in our homes. For example, do we have a job? Well, that is a big issue.

Often here on the floor, in days gone by, I would stand with my colleagues and we would talk about creating jobs in the United States. We would talk about strategies of Make It In America, strategies to use our tax dollars to buy American-made products and services so that our money could be used to employ our own people and to support our own businesses.

These are all very, very important strategies. They do happen to do with individual security, community security, and family security. So security has many, many pieces.

Tonight I want to talk about one type of security. This is something that affects every human being, every animal, large or small, from an elephant to the smallest mouse. This security issue is one that affects every form of life. It is called water. It is called water.

This is the most basic of security issues. You don't go but a day or 2,

maybe 3, days, if you are not doing much and it is really not very hot, without water. It is essential. This is a bottom-line security issue.

If you don't have water, you are insecure. If you don't have water, you will very soon be dead. If you have poisonous water, you may not die immediately, but it will certainly affect you.

Let's take a look at this. This is water from Flint, Michigan, United States of America. There are roughly 100,000 human beings in Flint, Michigan.

Well, among the most essential of all of the things we need for life, for security, is water. That is Flint, Michigan, water, a city of 100,000 people in the United States.

□ 1915

Oh, we would like to think of ourselves as being the most advanced place in the world. That is Flint, Michigan, water. Nine thousand children under the age of 4 or 5 have been drinking that water contaminated with lead for about 14 months.

I am not going to go into the reasons why that tragedy is occurring. There are many. There is an FBI investigation and there are questions about the Governor of Michigan and the way in which it was done, but I am not going to go there today.

I want to go to something else that we are responsible for here in the House of Representatives and our colleagues across the Capitol in the U.S. Senate. I want to talk about our responsibility here because this is our business.

If we are concerned about security—and we are—we should—and we do—talk about al Qaeda. We should—and we do—talk about ISIS. We should—and we do—talk about refugees and whether they are safe or not. We talk about San Bernardino and the great tragedy there. We should talk about it, and we should do something about it.

There is another side of security that we have specific responsibility to deal with. In 1974, we set out to clean up the waters of the United States with the Clean Water Act. Over the years, it has been amended. In 1996, we set standards for clean water and we provided some funding.

If someone were to grade us on our success in addressing one of the fundamental security issues, that is, the ability to have clean, drinkable water, here is the scorecard. Let's take a look at it. Let's see.

We can run down through aviation, bridges. Oh, by the way, this is from the American Society of Civil Engineers. They produce a scorecard on how well this great Nation, the United States of America, is doing on providing fundamental security.

Aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water: D. Today, at a hearing on water, the Society of Civil Engineers said we have got a D on drinking water.

Somebody asked them: Is that the bottom grade?