

TERRORIST BOMBING IN EGYPT

Mr. President, I want to discuss another subject. I want to discuss the news we heard today of a raid in Egypt aimed at a bunch of Israelis who were there on vacation—brutalizing, suicide bombers, the whole thing. An Israeli official says maybe it was al-Qaida. Obviously it was some mad group.

What I see lately is disturbing trends regarding the various criticisms of Israel. We have seen two prominent church bodies decide to take away their investments from Israel because of Israel's—maybe it is because Israel wants to defend itself, to keep its people alive. Maybe it is because Israel wants to live as any other country—in peace, without torture, without suicide bombers ripping up the society.

The Israelis have lost over 1,000 lives since 2000. Think of it in terms of America and the numerical equivalents because their population is so much smaller. One thousand citizens of Israel would be the same as 48,000 Americans lost to terror. Heaven forbid it, but that is the truth of the matter.

Israel has taken appropriate measures to defend itself against the terrorist threat it faces every day. Israel has made tough choices to defend her people. But now we are seeing these respected, mainstream church organizations contemplating divestment campaigns against the State of Israel. I wish they would talk about ending the violence that has been the pattern there for so long. There is so much violence and strife in the region, not dissimilar to that which we are facing in Iraq.

There is a trend. You can see it in the talk of a divestment campaign—blame Israel first. The innocents killed by terrorists are ignored, but there is a disproportionate focus on civilian victims of Israeli military operations against terrorists. To blame Israel for the turmoil and violence in the Middle East is outrageous. Review some of the recent history in the Middle East, events that had nothing to do with Israel. Yet when I was in Syria with other Senators, we heard the President of Syria, President Assad, say all the problems that exist in the area are because of Israel.

Millions died in the Iran-Iraq war. It had nothing to do with Israel. In Sudan, Arab Muslims are murdering thousands of Black Christians—nothing to do with Israel. Iraq invading Kuwait in 1991 and threatening Saudi Arabia had nothing to do with Israel. The Taliban took control of Afghanistan and severely oppressed women and gave safe haven to terrorists—nothing to do with Israel. None of these events had anything to do with Israel, yet somehow or other the region's problems are Israel's fault.

How much time do I have remaining? The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 4 seconds remaining.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, with that, I will close my comments and hope the world takes a look at

what is causing the problems within Israel and her right to defend herself.

I yield the floor.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll, and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 1, Leg.]

Frist

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAIG). A quorum is not present. The clerk will call the names of absent Senators.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now move to instruct the Sergeant at Arms to request the presence of absent Senators, and I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion.

Mr. HARKIN. Parliamentary inquiry: Are we not in a quorum call?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We have had a quorum call, and a quorum is not present.

Is there a sufficient second on the motion?

There is a sufficient second.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll. Mr. MCCONNELL. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) are necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALXANDER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 205 Leg.]

YEAS—85

Akaka	Conrad	Grassley
Alexander	Cornyn	Gregg
Allard	Corzine	Hagel
Baucus	Craig	Harkin
Bayh	Crapo	Hatch
Biden	Daschle	Hutchinson
Bingaman	Dayton	Inhofe
Bond	DeWine	Jeffords
Brownback	Dodd	Johnson
Bunning	Dole	Kennedy
Burns	Domenici	Kohl
Byrd	Dorgan	Kyl
Cantwell	Durbin	Landrieu
Carper	Ensign	Lautenberg
Chafee	Enzi	Levin
Clinton	Feingold	Lincoln
Cochran	Feinstein	Lott
Coleman	Fitzgerald	Lugar
Collins	Frist	McCain

McConnell	Reid	Specter
Mikulski	Roberts	Stabenow
Miller	Rockefeller	Stevens
Murkowski	Santorum	Talent
Murray	Sarbanes	Thomas
Nelson (FL)	Schumer	Voinovich
Nelson (NE)	Sessions	Warner
Nickles	Shelby	Wyden
Pryor	Smith	
Reed	Snowe	

NAYS—4

Allen	Breaux
Bennett	Inouye

NOT VOTING—11

Boxer	Graham (FL)	Leahy
Campbell	Graham (SC)	Lieberman
Chambliss	Hollings	Sununu
Edwards	Kerry	

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is present.

The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Bingaman amendment has been set aside.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the two distinguished whips have done a lot of work on the resolution before us through yesterday, last night, and over the course of the morning. As people have been saying, we have come to a stall period, and we really do need to refocus on the resolution itself. We are down to a very few remaining amendments that were agreed to. The list was agreed to last night. I urge our colleagues to allow us to progress on the underlying resolution and on those amendments so we can progress with a lot of business that we have to do. But we cannot do the other business until we address these amendments.

I understand everyone's rights, but I remind everybody that we are in a cloture period, and we invoked cloture. I believe the vote this morning was 88 to 3. Therefore, I urge us to stay on the business we are now on and to address the amendments. Once we complete the amendments, we will proceed to the cloture vote on the underlying resolution itself.

We have just used a procedural vote. We have not had to use procedural votes very often over the last couple of years. I am disappointed to have to force Members to come back to the floor, but we do need to focus on the business at hand. We have other issues to address, such as the FSC/ETI bill and the Homeland Security appropriations that we are doing. We cannot get to those until we address the business at hand.

Some people are saying we ought to go home or we should not do the Nation's business. We are talking about intelligence reform, the safety and security of the American people, and we need to address those issues now.

We do have the FSC/ETI bill, the Defense authorization bill, and the Homeland Security appropriations, when they are available, and we will take those up. But we have to complete this bill first.

On the business at hand, I have an amendment at the desk, which has