

and the cycle of violence may continue.

It is imperative that the government and the LTTE agree to an immediate cease-fire to avoid further loss of life, permit access to U.N. monitors and humanitarian organizations, and permit civilians to leave for areas of safety. The Obama administration, the British, Indian and other concerned governments, should be publicly urging the same.

Over the longer term, if lasting peace is to come to Sri Lanka, the government must effectively address, in negotiations which include all the main Tamil and Muslim parties, the core issues that have fueled the conflict including laws and policies that unfairly discriminate against Sri Lanka's minorities.

There is a related issue that needs to be mentioned, and that is the imprisonment for the past ten months of J.S. Tissainayagam, a journalist, and N. Jashiharan, a publisher, and his wife, V. Valamathy. They were arrested for articles critical of the government, and are being held in violation of their right to freedom of expression. Another of Sri Lanka's most respected journalists, Lasantha Wickrematunga, was gunned down in broad daylight a few weeks ago. According to Navi Pillay, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, "[t]he killing of . . . Wickrematunge . . . was the latest blow to the free expression of dissent in Sri Lanka. The searing article he wrote prophesying his own murder is an extraordinary indictment of a system corrupted by more than two decades of bloody internal conflict." The High Commissioner noted that there have not been any prosecutions of political killings, disappearances and other violations committed in recent years. That in itself speaks volumes about the Sri Lankan government's credibility.

For many years, the United States and Sri Lanka have enjoyed good relations. A close friend of mine, James Spain, was our Ambassador there years ago. He often told me of his deep affection for the Sri Lankan people, and of the country's extraordinary natural beauty.

When the tsunami crashed ashore in December 2004, a member of my staff was on the island. The American people responded generously to help Sri Lanka rebuild.

It has therefore been difficult for me to watch the conflict intensify, the LTTE abuse civilians and fail to live up to its commitments, and the government threaten to expel foreign diplomats, aid agencies and journalists, and refuse appeals to permit independent observers and aid workers access to areas where Tamil civilians are trapped. And as reputable, courageous journalists have been arrested on transparently political charges or assassinated.

The Sri Lanka government will one day want the respect and support of the United States. The same can be said of

the LTTE, if and when it renounces violence and becomes a legitimate political party. How they respond to today's humanitarian appeals will weigh heavily on how the United States responds when that day comes.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IDAHO NATIONAL LAB

MR. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge a milestone of singular significance for Idaho and for the Nation. This month marks the 60th anniversary of the Idaho National Laboratory.

In February 1949, the Federal Government settled on a site in east central Idaho to host the National Reactor Testing Station—a place where scientists and engineers could come together to develop and test new ways to put the power of the atom to productive use for society. In short order, Experimental Breeder Reactor-I was designed, built and operating—producing the world's first usable amount of electricity from nuclear power and later, proving that reactors could produce, or breed, more fuel than they consume.

Breakthrough after breakthrough followed in the ensuing years, including significant contributions to national security with the development of the nuclear propulsion systems for U.S. Navy submarines and aircraft carriers. The Idaho testing station was the genesis of American civilian nuclear power, responsible for powering an American city for the first time with nuclear-generated electricity, as well as the design and construction of 52 pioneering nuclear reactors. The Idaho testing station was responsible for the development of world leading reactor safety codes and the operation of the Nation's premier materials testing device—the Advanced Test Reactor.

Building on its unsurpassed nuclear energy expertise and in recognition of its broader capabilities and unique assets, our Idaho "testing station" was formally designated a national laboratory in 1974. And the pace of innovation has only accelerated since. The lab's researchers have received dozens of R&D 100, Bright Light, Federal Laboratory Consortium and related awards for the development of technologies as diverse as concealed weapons detection systems and novel electrolyte batteries. The lab's central location within the Western Inland Energy Corridor—a band stretching from western Canada down through our nation's Intermountain and Rocky Mountain West—place it in a remarkable position to identify, assess and integrate the corridor's unmatched wind, biomass, hydropower, geothermal, conventional and unconventional fossil and uranium resources.

At 60, the Idaho National Lab's relevance to the Nation could not be greater. Its mission to "Ensure the nation's energy security with safe, competitive, and sustainable energy systems and unique national and home-

land security capabilities," represents a pledge to serve by each of the lab's nearly 4,000 employees, as well as the management team and partners from institutions of higher education in Idaho and nationwide.

I congratulate the employees, management team and community partners of the Idaho National Lab on the occasion of its 60th anniversary and look forward to many more years of success, built on this matchless legacy of science and engineering innovation.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

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

First of all I appreciate all your efforts in this manner and hopefully some relief will become of them. Secondly this letter may be a bit different than most of the others you have received. I, like many others feel the burden of increasing fuel prices and wonder "why" prices have risen so much in the past few months. I also have deep concerns for the dependence of foreign oil this country is a slave to. However, we Americans are for the most part, myself included, are selfish, wasteful and will not give up our conveniences. Therefore I personally do not mind the higher price of fuel (but hopefully the prices will drop) in the aspect that hopefully it will encourage people to be a bit more conservative. I am fortunate that my wife and I live less than three miles from where we work (separate business) in the past we both have driven our vehicles. My personal vehicle is a Ford F250 that gets 10 mpg. I have been driving for the convenience, but recently we have begun riding together (we also have a Ford Escape at 25 mpg), walking that takes about 45 minutes, riding bicycles at about 15 minutes and I also have a motorcycle that gets 55 mpg that I have dusted off and begun to ride. So it is not all bad. I also realize most people are not that fortunate. The things that bother me the most are that in the land of plenty, our auto manufacturers are still producing vehicles that get under 15 mpg; it is way past time for that to change. Domestic oil production needs to be increased, but please do it sensibly. Consider