



S. HRG. 114-612

# NOMINATION HEARINGS OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

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## HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

## COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

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FIRST SESSION—MARCH 10 THROUGH DECEMBER 2, 2015

SECOND SESSION—FEBRUARY 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

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Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations



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## NOMINATIONS

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THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2015

U.S. SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,  
*Washington, DC.*

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Lucy Tamlyn, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Benin  
Jeffrey J. Hawkins, Jr., of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Central African Republic  
David R. Gilmour, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Togolese Republic  
Daniel H. Rubinstein, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia  
Carolyn Patricia Alsup, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Gambia

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The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:04 p.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Jeff Flake presiding. Present: Senators Flake, Gardner, Murphy, and Markey.

### OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JEFF FLAKE, U.S. SENATOR FROM ARIZONA

Senator FLAKE. This hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will come to order.

Thank you all for being here. It is nice to see the nominees and family members, as well. That is always the best part.

Today, we have ambassadorial nominees for Benin, Togo, Central African Republic, Tunisia, and The Gambia. These are all important and challenging posts, to put it mildly. I look forward to hearing from today's nominees about how diplomatic engagement can help build positive economic and political trends in Benin and Togo, and how to address ongoing challenges that we have in Tunisia, which is often said to be, as we spoke about yesterday, the most successful democratic transition of those who were involved in the Arab Spring.

If confirmed, the Ambassador-designate will mark the return of the U.S. Ambassador to Bangui, following a 2-year gap. That is significant. I look forward to hearing how U.S. interests, including stability, can be advanced in the complex environment, certainly, in Central Africa.

Finally, the committee is eager to hear about the best way to go forward in The Gambia as well.

I look forward to all of you sharing your expertise.

Senator Markey is voting and will come back here shortly, but we will go ahead and get started. I am glad to have Senator Gardner here. I know he has to leave shortly, but I appreciate his interest.

The first nominee is Lucy Tamlyn. Ms. Tamlyn is a career Foreign Service officer with the Foreign Service and currently is serving as director in the Office of Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan. Ms. Tamlyn has served in a wide range of overseas positions, including Deputy Chief of Mission in Lisbon, economic consular at the U.S. mission in the OECD in Paris, Provincial Reconstruction team leader in Iraq. And Ms. Tamlyn also served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Chad.

So glad to have you here.

Our second nominee is David Gilmour. Mr. Gilmour is a career Foreign Service officer and currently serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of African Affairs. Previously, Mr. Gilmour led the Africa Bureau's Public Diplomacy Office. Mr. Gilmour's numerous overseas assignments include Deputy Chief of Mission in Panama City, Panama, and in Malawi as well.

Jeffrey Hawkins is our third nominee today. He is a career member of the Foreign Service also, most recently consul general in Lagos, Nigeria. Prior to that assignment, he was director of the South and Central Asian Affairs Office in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. He served in a number of overseas assignments, as you all have, including Deputy Chief of Mission in Angola, Brunei, and political economic chief at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Daniel Rubinstein is a career Foreign Service officer as well. He most recently served as Special Envoy for Syria, a place without any problems at all, so thank you for your service there. That is the position that he has held since 2014. Previously, he served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Mr. Rubinstein's overseas leadership positions include serving as consul general in Jerusalem, chief of the Civilian Observer Unit in the Sinai in Egypt, and Deputy Chief of Mission in Amman, Jordan. He also served as director of the Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs.

Finally, we have Carolyn Patricia Alsup, a career member of the Foreign Service. Ms. Alsup also served recently as Deputy Chief of Mission in Ghana. Previously, she led the Office of Central African Affairs and Deputy Chief of Mission in The Gambia. So this will be a return trip for you, if confirmed. Ms. Alsup also held a number of positions in economic affairs at the State Department, including serving as executive assistant of the Economic Bureau and special assistant in the Office of Under Secretary of Economics, Business and Agricultural Affairs.

Thank you all for being here, and I appreciate your service and meeting with you before. I am just amazed at the sacrifices that you made and that your families have made as well.

I appreciate having family members here. I hope that you will introduce them as you begin your remarks.

And we will recognize Lucy Tamlyn first.

**STATEMENT OF LUCY TAMLYN, NOMINATED TO BE  
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN**

Ms. TAMLYN. Thank you. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is a great honor for me to appear before you today. I am grateful to President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the confidence they have placed in me as their nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of Benin.

My husband, Jorge Serpa, is here today, representing many far-flung family members, especially our children, Ben and Filipa. Unexpected evacuations and long separations have not dampened their enthusiasm or the pride they take in being part of the Foreign Service family. I know that I could not have come this far without their support.

I joined the Foreign Service in 1982 and have served in positions of increasing responsibility across three continents, including three assignments with the Bureau of African Affairs.

Working alongside of, and learning from, extraordinary colleagues and leaders in the State Department, I have gained the experience and the understanding, which, if confirmed, will enable me to faithfully represent and advance U.S. interests in Benin.

Mr. Chairman, Benin is a strong partner of the United States. The people of Benin are justly proud of their democratic traditions and record of peaceful transfers of power. President Thomas Boni Yayi, serving his second and final 5-year term, was invited by President Obama in 2011 to the White House as one of four African Presidents representing Africa's democratic progress, which, as President Obama stated at the time, is vital to a stable and prosperous Africa, and also critical to the stability and prosperity of the world.

With 50 percent of the Beninese population under 18 years of age, Benin is a vibrant and dynamic nation rich in culture, history, and potential. We partner with the Government of Benin to provide a helping hand to support the inclusive economic growth, which is the centerpiece of the country's own poverty reduction strategy, and which will enable the people of Benin to achieve a better future for themselves and their families.

Our largest assistance program targets malaria, a disease which is particularly deadly for the young and which takes an enormous economic toll on the economy.

Benin is on track to receive a second Millennium Challenge Compact, a reflection of its ability to sustain high rankings in the MCC's political, economic, and social indicators, and to muster the political will to address shortcomings when those rankings slip.

U.S. investment in Benin through the Millennium Challenge Account will help address energy shortfalls, which are a serious impediment to economic growth.

Benin is a strong regional partner on other fronts. It has stood with its neighbors to confront the horrors of Boko Haram and is a member of the Lake Chad Basin Multinational Joint Task Force, to which it has pledged a battalion.

The government partners with the United States and other international donors to combat drug trafficking, piracy, and maritime crime.

Our shared human rights values are reflected in the stands that Benin takes in international fora and its multiple contributions to peacekeeping operations worldwide, including in Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

But challenges remain internally and externally for Benin. Robust economic growth is essential to meet the needs of the people. But despite considerable efforts on the part of President Yayi's government, extreme poverty and corruption remain serious obstacles to achieving development goals.

The country is vulnerable to economic shocks, particularly emanating from larger economies in the region. Transnational organized crime can flourish where borders are porous and thinly surveilled, and where corruption corrodes the rule of law.

And finally, extremist violence threatens Benin's near neighbors, where perpetrators of such violence find recruits in disenfranchised and vulnerable communities.

My priorities, if confirmed, will be to identify those areas where U.S. partnership can assist the government and people of Benin continue as a beacon of democracy, stability, peace, and tolerance in the region. I will seek to further strengthen the ties of friendship and understanding with the people of Benin. And I will look for ways to advance U.S. interests for the benefit of the American people through a partnership with Benin, which bolsters the fight against transnational organized crime and enables us to stand together for shared values internationally.

Benin has welcomed more than 2,000 Peace Corps Volunteers over the years, and in the truest spirit of partnership, these Volunteers have given much and received much from the host communities in which they worked.

Kate Puzey was one such Volunteer whose life was tragically cut short, but whose memory very much endures. If confirmed, one of my highest priorities will be to continue to work with the Government of Benin for justice for Kate Puzey and our family.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the opportunity to address you today. I am very happy to take any questions that you may have.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Tamlyn follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF LUCY TAMLIN

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is a great honor for me to appear before you today. I am grateful to President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the confidence they have placed in me as their nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of Benin.

My husband, Jorge Serpa, is here today representing many far-flung family members, especially our children, Ben and Filipa. Unexpected evacuations and long separations have not dampened their enthusiasm or the pride they take in being part of the Foreign Service family. I know that I could not have come this far without their love and support.

I joined the Foreign Service in 1982 and have served in positions of increasing responsibility across three continents, including three assignments with the Bureau of African Affairs. Working alongside of, and learning from, extraordinary colleagues and leaders in the State Department, I have gained the experience and the understanding which, if confirmed, will enable me to faithfully represent and advance U.S. interests in Benin.



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Benin is a strong regional partner on other fronts. It has stood with its neighbors to confront the horrors of Boko Haram and is a member of the Lake Chad Basin Multinational Joint Task Force, to which it has pledged a battalion. The government partners with the United States and other international donors to combat piracy, drug trafficking, and other maritime crime. Our shared values are reflected in the stands that Benin takes in international fora and in its multiple contributions to peacekeeping operations worldwide, including in Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

But challenges remain internally and externally for Benin. Robust economic growth is needed to meet the needs of the people, but despite considerable efforts on the part of President Yayi's government, extreme poverty and corruption remain serious obstacles to development. The country is vulnerable to external shocks, particularly emanating from larger economies in the region. Transnational Organized Crime can flourish where borders are porous and thinly surveilled and where corruption corrodes the rule of law. And finally, extremist violence threatens Benin's near neighbors, as perpetrators of such violence find recruits in disenfranchised and vulnerable communities.

My priorities, if confirmed, will be to identify those areas where U.S. partnership can assist the government and people of Benin continue as a beacon of democracy, stability, peace and tolerance in the region. I will seek to further strengthen the ties of friendship and understanding with the people of Benin. And I will look for ways to advance U.S. interests for the benefit of the American people through a partnership with Benin which bolsters the fight against transnational organized crime and enables us to stand together for shared values internationally.

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to address you today. I am very happy to take any questions which you may have.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Mr. Gilmour.

**STATEMENT OF DAVID R. GILMOUR, NOMINATED TO BE  
AMBASSADOR TO THE TOGOLESE REPUBLIC**

Mr. GILMOUR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have submitted a longer version of my statement for the record.

Mr. Chairman, I am honored to appear before you today, and I am grateful to President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the confidence they have placed in me as their nominee for Ambassador to Togo. I am also grateful for the support of Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield.

I am joined today by my wife, Judith Martin, who has spent a lifetime in the Foreign Service, first with her father, S. Douglas Martin, a career State Department officer, and her mother, Pauline, and later as my cherished partner as we traveled the world and raised our family in eight overseas posts and in Washington during my 29 years in the Foreign Service.

Also, here is our son, Tristan. Our other two children, Miles and Schyler, are watching online from Texas.

I would also like to acknowledge my father, John Gilmour, who could not be here today. He worked for 34 years in local government, proudly serving the citizens of the small town in Michigan where I grew up. Everything I know about integrity, treating people with respect, and dedication to public service, I learned from my dad.

Mr. Chairman, I believe my service in four African posts and in senior positions in Washington, as well as postings elsewhere in the world, including as Deputy Chief of Mission in Panama, have prepared me for this assignment. If confirmed, I will draw upon these experiences to advance U.S. interests in Togo and the West African region.

The United States and Togo enjoy a strong relationship and broad mutual interests. Togo lies at the heart of West Africa, a region that is important to the security of the United States, and to which the United States has long-standing economic and cultural ties.

Mr. Chairman, our policy priorities in Togo are to safeguard the welfare of American citizens, promote democracy and good governance, improve maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, promote human rights, combat transnational crime, advance commercial opportunities for U.S. business, and improve the quality of health care and education.

Togo is recovering from 15 years of political and economic isolation that began in the early 1990s due to political instability. The country's long cycle of decline ended in 2007, following largely free and fair legislative elections.

The political situation has stabilized over the past few years, and successive elections were recognized by the international community as free and fair, despite some shortfalls.

Most recently, Presidential elections in April of this year were judged credible by international observers, and the United States congratulated the people of Togo for exercising their democratic rights.

The country is presently at peace. Should I be confirmed, I will work to maintain a peaceful, transparent, and fair political climate, thereby consolidating and expanding on the democratic gains of the past several years.

Togo has been a willing partner in advancing security in West Africa and beyond. If confirmed, I look forward to helping enhance Togo's ability to police and regulate the Gulf of Guinea and to expand their capacity to train and deploy peacekeepers, as they have successfully done in Mali, Darfur, Cote d'Ivoire, and many other conflicts.

If confirmed, I will strongly support Togo's efforts to address the challenges of corruption, wildlife trafficking, smuggling, and traf-

ficking in persons, which also threaten the national interests of the United States.

The Government of Togo recognizes that improving the investment climate is key to sustained economic growth and eliminating poverty. If confirmed, I will support reforms that promote investment and provide opportunities for American companies. I will work to strengthen Togo's developing role as a regional trade and transportation hub, and encourage Togolese entrepreneurs to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by AGOA.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to address you. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you in representing the interests of the American people in Togo. I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gilmour follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DAVID R. GILMOUR

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today, and grateful to President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the confidence they have placed in me as their nominee for Ambassador to Togo. I am also grateful for the support of Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield.

I am joined today by my wife, Judith Martin, who has spent a lifetime in the Foreign Service, first with her father, S. Douglas Martin, a career State Department officer, and later as my cherished partner as we traveled the world together and raised our family in eight overseas posts and in Washington during the 29 years of my Foreign Service career. Also here is our son, Tristan. Our other two children, Miles and Schyler, will be watching online from Texas. I would also like to acknowledge my father, John Gilmour, who could not be here today. He worked 34 years in local government, serving the citizens of the small town where I grew up in Michigan. Everything I know about respect, integrity, and dedication to public service, I learned from my dad.

Mr. Chairman, I believe my service in four African posts and in senior positions in the Bureau of African Affairs in Washington, as well as postings elsewhere in the world, including as Deputy Chief of Mission in Panama, have prepared me for this assignment. If confirmed, I will draw upon these experiences to advance U.S. interests in Togo and the West African region.

The United States and Togo enjoy a strong relationship and broad mutual interests. With a population of nearly 7 million inhabitants, Togo lies at the heart of West Africa, a region that is important to the security of the United States, and to which the United States has long-standing cultural ties. If confirmed, I will do my utmost to broaden and strengthen our mutual pursuit of this shared agenda.

Mr. Chairman, our policy priorities in Togo are to safeguard the welfare of American citizens, promote a representative democracy and good governance, improve maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, promote human rights, improve the capacity to combat transnational crime, advance commercial opportunities for U.S. businesses, and improve the quality of health care and education. To achieve these goals, the United States has a range of programs supporting public health, security sector reform, international peacekeeping and economic development. If confirmed, I commit to working closely with our international partners to help Togo promote empowerment and prosperity for all Togolese, regardless of their ethnic, religious, regional or political affiliations.

The United States established diplomatic relations with Togo in 1960 following its independence from a French-administered trusteeship. Togo is recovering from 15 years of political and economic isolation that began in the early 1990s due to political instability. Togo's long cycle of decline ended in 2007, following largely free and fair legislative elections. The political situation has stabilized over the past few years, and Presidential and legislative elections, held in 2010 and 2013, respectively, were recognized by the international community as free and fair, despite some shortfalls. Most recently, April's Presidential elections were judged credible by international observers, and the United States congratulated the people of Togo for exercising their democratic rights before, during, and after the vote. The country is presently at peace. Should I be confirmed, one of Embassy Lomé's top priorities will be to support and maintain a peaceful, transparent, and fair political climate, thereby consolidating and expanding on the democratic gains of the past several years.

A stable, peaceful, and prosperous Togo serves American interests and expands Togo's ability to contribute to regional stability. The United States maintains a good relationship with the Togolese military, which has been a willing partner in key areas such as maritime security and international peacekeeping. If confirmed, I look forward to maintaining our strong partnership with Togolese security officials to effectively police and regulate Togolese waters in the Gulf of Guinea. Additionally, if confirmed I hope to strengthen Togo's capacity to engage in peacekeeping missions through the Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance program, which has been active in Togo since 2009, and has assisted with the training and deployment of Togolese peacekeeping forces to Mali, Darfur, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Rurundi, Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic. Also, beginning in 2013, the Government of Togo has stepped up its effort to curb wildlife trafficking, making several seizures and arrests. The United States is providing technical expertise and material support to help the Togolese law enforcement community overcome this rising challenge. If confirmed, I look forward to maintaining our strong partnership with the Togolese on this issue.

Poverty continues to breed corruption and crime, smuggling, and trafficking in persons. If confirmed, I will support Togo's efforts to address these challenges, which also threaten the national interests of the United States. The Government of Togo recognizes that an improving but still challenging investment climate and a developing but still weak private sector are key impediments to Togo's prospects for sustained economic growth, and eliminating poverty. If confirmed, I will take advantage of available initiatives to promote a healthy economy, including identification of public-private partnerships that include American companies and that enjoy United States Government guarantees. The Embassy will look to use regional programs offered through the U.S. Agency for International Development to strengthen Togo's developing role as a regional trade hub, as well as to help ensure that the country makes the most of Lomé's deep-water port, which is a significant contributor to the Togolese economy. If confirmed, I will encourage the Togolese Government and Togolese entrepreneurs to take full advantages of the opportunities and preferences provided by AGOA.

Development assistance to Togo provided through the U.S. Agency for International Development focuses primarily on improving Togo's national public health capacity: USAID's West African Regional Health Office runs multiple health programs in Togo, including HIV/AIDS prevention. Through the Department of Defense's HIV/AIDS Prevention Program monitored by Embassy Lomé, 50 newborns were born free of HIV to HIV-positive mothers last year. This year that program has been expanded to include 150 mothers. If confirmed, I will look to employ such existing initiatives, including the multilateral partnership of the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), to assist the Togolese Ministry of Health in improving basic public health programs and treating and eradicating disease. The Embassy in Lomé will also continue to support a robust Peace Corps presence in country with a programmatic focus on health, especially on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the committee, for this opportunity to address you. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you in representing the interests of the American people in Togo. I am happy to answer any questions you have.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.  
Mr. Hawkins.

**STATEMENT OF JEFFREY J. HAWKINS, JR., NOMINATED TO BE  
AMBASSADOR TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

Mr. HAWKINS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the next Ambassador of the United States to the Central African Republic. I thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for entrusting me with this important responsibility.

If confirmed, I will work with Congress to advance the interests of the United States in the Central African Republic.

Joining me here today is my wife, Annie. I am deeply grateful to Annie and to our small children, Max and Alex, for allowing me

this opportunity to serve my country, despite the hardships and sacrifices that it will require of them.

Mr. Chairman, the Central African Republic, a Texas-sized nation in the heart of Africa, is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and a resilient and entrepreneurial people. Sadly, however, cycles of conflict have roiled that nation for decades.

Beginning in late 2012, the Central African Republic saw its latest and certainly its worst such cycle. Conflict left thousands dead and hundreds of thousands displaced. Armed factions, including foreign groups like the heinous Lord's Resistance Army, controlled large swathes of its territory. The picture, frankly, was bleak.

Mr. Chairman, a transitional government, with strong support from the international community and the United States Government, is taking the first, difficult steps toward peace. If confirmed, my primary objective will be to support this process.

We have a strong interest in CAR's success. A successful transition will help forestall a return to anarchy and atrocities on victim populations. A successful transition also will assist in preventing extremist and trafficking groups from using the country's ungoverned spaces for their own nefarious purposes.

Finally, it will also aid in reducing regional instability.

The people of the Central African Republic are clearly ready for a new beginning. Earlier this year, they gathered together in grassroots consultations to speak about their hopes for their nation's future. Armed groups agreed to halt the use of child soldiers and committed to stopping violent conflict.

The country's political transition will culminate later this year with a constitutional referendum and elections.

The international community provides key support to this process. In particular, the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, MINUSCA, has operated in the country since September 2014. Nearly 10,000 U.N. peacekeepers and some 900 French troops provide the security backbone for this deployment.

The United States has made a real commitment to the positive change we are beginning to see in the Central African Republic. Over the past 2 years, we have contributed some \$800 million to assist at-risk populations, underwrite the U.N. effort, reform the justice sector, aid the electoral process, and encourage peace-building and reconciliation.

In September of last year, with support of the Congress, we reopened our Embassy after nearly 2 years of closure.

Mr. Chairman, we may not have a better opportunity to break the cycles of conflict in CAR. If confirmed as Ambassador, I will ensure that U.S. resources are used appropriately. I believe my deep experience in Africa, years working in post-conflict environments like Afghanistan, and strong Foreign Service leadership credentials will be useful in promoting U.S. Government interests there.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today, and welcome any questions you might have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hawkins follows:]

## PREPARED STATEMENT OF JEFFREY J. HAWKINS, JR.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the next Ambassador of the United States to the Central African Republic. I thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for entrusting me with this important responsibility. If confirmed, I will work with Congress to advance the interests of the United States in the Central African Republic.

Joining me here today are my wife, Annie, and our children, Max, 5, and Alex, 3. Regrettably, security conditions do not permit families to join our diplomats working in Bangui. I am deeply grateful to Annie and the boys for allowing me this opportunity to serve my country, despite the hardships and sacrifices that it will require of them.

Mr. Chairman, the Central African Republic, a Texas-sized nation in the heart of Africa, is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and a resilient and entrepreneurial population.

Sadly, however, cycles of conflict and political instability have roiled that nation for more than 30 years. Beginning in late 2012, the Central African Republic saw its latest, and worst, such cycle. Regional and ethnic conflict left thousands dead and hundreds of thousands displaced. Armed factions, including foreign groups like the heinous Lord's Resistance Army, controlled large swathes of its territory. The picture, frankly, was bleak.

Mr. Chairman, there is now reason for hope in the Central African Republic. A transitional government—with strong support from the international community and the United States Government—is taking the first, difficult steps toward peace.

If confirmed, my primary objective will be to support this process. Should this process succeed, a newly peaceful and democratic Central African Republic will face many serious challenges. We have a strong interest in CAR's success. A successful transition will help forestall a return to anarchy and atrocities on victim populations. The transition also will assist in preventing extremist and criminal trafficking groups from using the country's ungoverned spaces for their own nefarious purposes and in reducing regional instability. A successful transition will put the people of CAR in a position to rebuild their lives and build a better nation themselves.

The people of the Central African Republic are clearly ready for a new beginning. Earlier this year, Central Africans gathered together, in grassroots consultations known as the Bangui Forum, to speak about their hopes for their nation's future. At the forum, armed groups agreed to halt the use of child soldiers and committed to stopping violent conflict. Voter registration began in June and continues to expand throughout the country. The country's political transition will culminate later this year with a constitutional referendum and elections.

The international community provides key support to this process. In particular, the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic—MINUSCA—has operated in the country since September 2014, to reinforce the transition and protect civilian populations. Nearly 10,000 U.N. peacekeepers and approximately 900 French troops provide a security backbone for this deployment.

The United States has made a real commitment to the positive change in the Central African Republic. Over the past 2 years, we have contributed over \$800 million to assist at-risk populations, underwrite the U.N. effort, reform the justice sector, aid the electoral process, and encourage peace-building and reconciliation. In September of last year, with support of the Congress, we reopened our Embassy after nearly 2 years; the Embassy is a vital platform for oversight of our operations and I want to recognize here the extraordinary efforts of our team on the ground in Bangui.

Mr. Chairman, we may not have a better opportunity to break the cycles of conflict in CAR. If confirmed as Ambassador, I will ensure that U.S. resources are used appropriately so that they will contribute effectively to sustainable change in the Central African Republic. I believe my deep experience in Africa, years working in post-conflict environments like Afghanistan, and strong Foreign Service leadership credentials will be useful in promoting U.S. Government interests there.

In closing, I would like to express particular thanks to the outstanding team currently serving at Embassy Bangui for their courage and fortitude in leading our engagement in the Central African Republic.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today, and welcome any questions you may have.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Mr. Rubinstein.

**STATEMENT OF DANIEL H. RUBINSTEIN, NOMINATED TO BE  
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA**

Mr. RUBINSTEIN. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you as President Obama's nominee to be the next Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia.

I would also like to thank Secretary Kerry for placing his trust in me to manage the relationship with this important partner, and recently designated Major Non-NATO Ally.

Before I begin, I would also like to take a moment to recognize and thank my family, my wife, Julie, and our children, Jonah and Simon. They have provided unconditional love and constant support throughout my career.

Mr. Chairman, I have had the honor of serving as a Foreign Service officer for the last 26 years, much of it in the Middle East, including 1 year in Tunisia. My previous assignments have provided me with an extensive background in economic and counter-terrorism issues that are critical to our partnership with Tunisia.

While my time in Tunisia was before the 2011 revolution, I maintain an abiding respect and admiration for the country, its culture, and its people. If confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia, I pledge to work with my colleagues in the executive and legislative branches of our government to advance our national interests and deepen this partnership.

During President Caid Essebsi's visit to Washington in May, President Obama affirmed the enduring partnership between the United States and Tunisia based on both mutual interests and shared values. Tunisia's democratic progress is an important counterpoint to those who assert that Islam and the Arab world are somehow incompatible with democracy.

Chairman Flake, let me assure you that during these challenging times, I am deeply cognizant that the number one priority of an Ambassador is the safety of Americans abroad. If confirmed, I assure you that I will carefully monitor the security environment as I seek to advance our diplomatic objectives, with no higher responsibility than ensuring the security of all U.S. citizens in Tunisia and all personnel under my charge.

In addition to keeping this commitment in mind, I will also continue to be mindful that this is a critical time in our engagement with Tunisia.

Since the 2011 revolution, Tunisia has taken remarkable and inspiring steps to build an accountable and representative democracy. But despite historic legislative and Presidential elections in 2014, the democratic transition and the country's security remain fragile.

In recent months, Tunisia has endured two horrific terrorist attacks that threaten the progress so many Tunisians have fought for since Mohamed Bouazizi set himself alight in Sidi Bouzid and thus sparked the Arab Spring.

Those vile attacks on innocent tourists and Tunisian citizens underline the enormous security challenges facing Tunisia. The reasons for radicalization are many but what is clear is that high levels of youth unemployment, feelings of marginalization, and instability in Libya are exploited by those who wish to undercut Tunisia's progress in the name of radicalism and barbaric violence.

If confirmed, I will work with my colleagues across the U.S. Government to direct resources to increasing the capacity of Tunisian Security Forces to address and degrade the threats posed by groups like AQIM, Ansar al-Sharia Tunisia, and ISIL, which has claimed responsibility for the Bardo Museum and Sousse attacks.

Tunisia's security services have made commendable progress in dealing with dangerous extremists, but more needs to be done. In the wake of the attacks, the Tunisians have asked for continued support for their military and internal security forces to include increased information-sharing, equipment, and training to effectively identify threats and subvert efforts of violent extremist groups.

If confirmed, I will continue these endeavors, and I will also support reform to Tunisia's judicial, prison, and police forces to help make them more professional institutions that are more responsive and accountable to their public.

And while security support is critical, Mr. Chairman, the United States must also help strengthen Tunisia's economy in order to address some of the root causes contributing to the rise of extremist violence. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Government of Tunisia in support of its economic reform agenda. I will also support the government and private sector's efforts to increase access to economic opportunities for all, to include marginalized and economically disadvantaged populations.

I firmly believe that we cannot forget what makes Tunisia special: Its democracy. Islamists, secularists, and many in between are working together daily to negotiate and seek consensus. Tunisia is the only Arab country ranked as "free" by Freedom House. The consolidation of democratic governance will take time and patience as Tunisia builds its institutions and works to ensure the freedoms guaranteed to Tunisian citizens by their constitution.

Tunisia's people expect transparency in government institutions, and for government officials, security forces, and their private sector leaders to behave in ways that are not corrupt and that benefit the public. If confirmed, I will ensure the United States continues to promote reforms that will address issues of transparency and accountability, and prioritizes the rights of the Tunisian people.

If confirmed, Mr. Chairman, I will also pay close attention to the management of the Embassy and its hardworking and dedicated personnel. As our partnership with and assistance to Tunisia grows, I can assure you I will work to ensure we have adequate staff and resources to properly manage the many facets of the relationship.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the opportunity to testify before you. I can assure you today that, if confirmed, it will be my honor to further U.S. interests and strengthen our relationship with Tunisia, and I look forward to the opportunity to welcome you in Tunisia, if confirmed, and work with you and your staffs to achieve those goals.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Rubinstein follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DANIEL H. RUBINSTEIN

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Markey, and members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you as President Obama's nominee to be the next Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia. I would also like to thank Secretary Kerry for plac-



ing his trust in me to manage the relationship with this important partner, and recently designated Major Non-NATO Ally. Before I begin, I'd also like to take a moment to recognize and thank my family—my wife, Julie, and our children, Jonah and Simon. They have provided unconditional love and constant support throughout my career.

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If confirmed, I will work closely with the Government of Tunisia in support of its economic reform agenda. I will also support the government and private sector's efforts to increase access to economic opportunities for all, to include marginalized and economically disadvantaged populations. I will promote these efforts through expanded technical support for the government's reform efforts, through greater coordination with international partners to leverage their resources and expertise, and via continued support for workforce development and entrepreneurship initiatives. I will prioritize the strengthening of Tunisia's economic institutions and increasing public sector transparency and accountability.

I firmly believe that we cannot forget what makes Tunisia special: its democracy. Islamists, secularists, and many in between are working together daily to negotiate and seek consensus. Tunisia is the only Arab country ranked as "free" by Freedom House. The consolidation of democratic governance will take time and patience as Tunisia builds its institutions and works to ensure the freedoms guaranteed to Tunisian citizens by their constitution. Tunisia's people expect transparency in government institutions, and for government officials, security forces, and private sector

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I thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Markey, and members of the committee, for the opportunity to testify before you. I can assure you today that, if confirmed, it will be my honor to further U.S. interests and strengthen our relationship with Tunisia, and I look forward to the opportunity to welcome you in Tunisia and work with you and your staffs to achieve those goals.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Ms. Alsup.

**STATEMENT OF CAROLYN PATRICIA ALSUP, NOMINATED TO  
BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

Ms. ALSUP. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today. I wish to express my gratitude to the President and Secretary of State for the trust and confidence they have placed in me as their nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia.

If confirmed, I would embrace the opportunity to apply my 23 years of experience as a Foreign Service officer to advance U.S. priorities in The Gambia. I believe my previous experience as Deputy Chief of Mission in The Gambia from 2005 to 2007, and my most recent experience as Deputy Chief of Mission at our Embassy in Ghana, would be particularly helpful in continuing to advocate for U.S. objectives in The Gambia.

Throughout my Foreign Service career, I have relied on my ability to build and maintain a strong, collaborative team with high morale and a clear sense of purpose to advance U.S. interests and objectives, whether it was promoting increased literacy, facilitating U.S. investment, encouraging entrepreneurship, advancing human rights, or supporting democratic institutions and free and fair elections.

I believe I am well-prepared to assume the duties and responsibilities of U.S. Ambassador to The Gambia and to deal with the many opportunities and challenges associated with that position.

The United States and The Gambia share a long history dating back to the mid-1800s. The Gambia has a rich cultural heritage, perhaps made most famous in the United States by Alex Haley's novel, "Roots," which still today brings many African-Americans to the country on a journey to discover their heritage.

The United States is committed to helping the Gambian people improve their lives by promoting democratic principles, human rights, and economic development. If confirmed, I will continue our efforts to engage the Government of The Gambia on these core areas to accomplish our shared goal of greater prosperity for The Gambia and for the Gambian people.

The Gambia is a troop-contributing country for U.N. peace-keeping missions, including a substantial presence in Darfur, a very important contribution to international peace and security. But peace and security must start at home.

The Gambia, as a predominately moderate Muslim country where people of different faiths have long lived together with little tension, could play an important role in promoting tolerance and countering violent extremism. However, The Gambia will not be able to play that role to the fullest without making changes at home.

We remain deeply concerned about the downward trajectory of The Gambia's human rights record. Gambians are being arbitrarily arrested and detained for longer than the constitutionally mandated 72-hour period, and discriminatory legislation and verbal and physical abuse have been targeted against the LGBTI community.

Furthermore, we still do not know the whereabouts of two missing dual Gambian-American citizens who were last seen in The Gambia over 2 years ago.

Human rights is a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy; respecting and upholding human rights is also a cornerstone of maintaining a just and peace society, and mitigating the lure of violent extremism.

In my career, I have found that when we as diplomats are open to dialogue, to listen and speak frankly, that we can make great strides in narrowing our differences on even the most contentious issues. If confirmed, I will seek regular dialogue with Gambian officials, political parties, civil society, journalists, youth, and women to emphasize the importance of respect for and protection of all human rights.

Lastly, although the U.S. Embassy footprint in The Gambia is small, we are able to expand our reach through the 92 Peace Corps Volunteers working in the education, environment, and health sectors. Peace Corps has been active in The Gambia since 1967 and has been warmly welcomed by the government and people of The Gambia. If confirmed, I would make my top concern the safety and security of the nearly 2,000 U.S. citizens in The Gambia, about half of whom are minors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to appear today. I would be pleased to respond to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Alsup follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF CAROLYN P. ALSUP

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am honored to appear before you today. I wish to express my gratitude to the President and Secretary of State for the trust and confidence they have placed in me as their nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia.

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The United States and The Gambia share a long history dating back to the mid-1800s. The Gambia has a rich cultural heritage perhaps made most famous in the

United States by Alex Haley's novel, "Roots," which, still today, brings many African-Americans to the country on a journey to discover their heritage.

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However, The Gambia will not be able to play that role to the fullest without making changes at home. We remain deeply concerned about the downward trajectory of The Gambia's human rights record. Gambians are being arbitrarily arrested and detained for longer than the constitutionally mandated 72-hour period, and discriminatory legislation and verbal and physical abuse have been targeted against the LGBTI community. Furthermore, we still do not know the whereabouts of two missing Gambian-American citizens who were last seen in The Gambia over 2 years ago. Human rights is a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy; respecting and upholding human rights is also a cornerstone of maintaining a just and peace society and mitigating the lure of violent extremism. In my career, I have found that when we as diplomats are open to dialogue—to listen and speak frankly—that we can make great strides in narrowing our differences on even the most contentious of issues. If confirmed, I will seek regular dialogue with Gambian officials, political parties, civil society, journalists, youth and women to emphasize the importance of respect for, and protection of, all human rights.

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Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to appear today. I would be pleased to respond to your questions.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you all for your testimony.

We have been joined by Chris Murphy, a Senator from Connecticut. Thank you for being here.

Let me just start with a couple questions.

Ms. Tamlyn, how can Benin take better advantage of AGOA and improve their economic performance? Is that a reasonable prospect?

Ms. TAMLYN. Thank you, Senator. That is an excellent question.

Their exports under AGOA are very small, at least those that are covered by AGOA. Of course, some of their primary exports are not covered, such as cotton.

But I think one of the ways we can work with them to improve that record is, in fact, through the Millennium Challenge Compact, which is going to work on improving the supply of electricity. For many small businesses or agro industry, the inability to maintain a steady production line because of gaps in electricity coverage is a real impediment to economic growth and to getting those products out to market.

So I think that is a very important contribution that we are making. We do hope that we will be able to see an increase in economic production generally and hope that that translates as well into products that can be exported to the United States, products that are valued added that U.S. consumers seek and that help benefit to the economy of Benin.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Mr. Gilmour, to what extent does the Togolese military play in domestic politics?

Mr. GILMOUR. Thank you, Senator.

The military has played less and less of a role in politics, fortunately, in recent years because there has been a process of reform since 2007. There have been successful free and fair elections. And part of our strategy has been to work with the Togolese military to increase their professionalism to be able to deploy peacekeeping missions.

They have about 1,000 peacekeepers on deployment right now. That is both military and foreign police units that have deployed. I think that is the largest contingent in Mali right now.

So that has helped a great deal. And then our other key area in working with them has been in the maritime area. They have been a very strong partner in terms of building their capacity to patrol the waters off the coast of Togo. Togo has become a kind of safe harbor for the region. On any given day, there are over 100 ships lying off of Lome, waiting to go into the other nearby ports and into Lome itself, because the Togolese military has done such a good job of patrolling their waters.

Much of that is thanks to assistance from the United States. We have donated patrol boats and done quite a bit of training. If confirmed, I would certainly look forward to working to intensify that cooperation.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins, elections have been postponed now twice in CAR. What is the likelihood that they will go as scheduled? And if so, does that allow for adequate preparation?

Mr. HAWKINS. An excellent question and one that will be determinate in the future of this country.

The electoral process is underway. Elections are scheduled in October. There will be a constitutional referendum followed by Presidential elections subsequently. In November, there will be legislative elections. That is the plan.

The first part of that now is voter registration, and we have had some fairly promising news. Registration in Bangui is up. Almost 300,000 people have been registered there. The Embassy estimates that approximately 350,000 eligible voters live in Bangui, so that part of the process is doing well.

They are moving out into the provinces now to register voters.

Funding remains an issue, and there is still a gap of about \$15 million to pay for the elections. Getting election preparations out into those provinces, particularly in areas where government control is weak, is going to be an issue.

Another issue is the voting of refugees. That is a key element in this because those refugee populations must be brought in and included, or you will not have elections that will reflect the will of the entirety of the people.

So there are a lot of issues at stake, but we are there. We are supportive. We have done work. The U.S. Government has done work on the constitutional drafting process, on the electoral code. We are just putting in \$2 million into electoral education. So we are hopeful that things will go ahead as planned.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Mr. Rubinstein, what types of U.S. engagement have been effective in Tunisia? It is one of the best examples of transition after the Arab Spring. What have we done that has worked?

Mr. RUBINSTEIN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for the question.

My sense is that there has been some very effective diplomatic engagement in the first instance, particularly to keep all of the leading elements of Tunisia's body politic, whether they were secularist, Islamist, or others, working together during some of these very fragile moments of the transition. That involved, I think, some very good engagement out in the field at the most senior levels.

Of course, we provided resources to ensure that both the legislative and the Presidential elections occurred peacefully and in ways that were credible, free, and fair. So I think that engagement was very, very effective.

I think on the security side, there has been as well some very effective engagement. The Tunisian and U.S. militaries have a long history of working together. That engagement has deepened not only through Joint Military Commissioned annual meetings but also through now a far more robust set of activities, primarily training and equipping the Tunisians on various capabilities, particularly in the CT area. So that is going to continue.

I think on the economic side as well there has been some very effective engagement. We are providing some technical advice as they tackle some of the key critical economic reforms that need to be really driven home during this period. That includes getting a new investment code, banking reform, tax and customs reforms, as well as a public-private partnership law. We have had some really good engagement with technical advisers to get them where they need to be on those fronts.

Senator FLAKE. That sounds like a full range.

Mr. RUBINSTEIN. Yes, sir.

Senator FLAKE. Ms. Alsup, when we spoke in my office, we talked about realistic expectations about the situation in The Gambia. One of the issues is trafficking. How can we help in that regard? What impact can we have on government there?

Ms. ALSUP. I am glad you asked that question, Senator. We are, in fact, bringing the head of The Gambia's coordinating committee on anti-trafficking here to the United States for a seminar that is coming up in August on combating trafficking in persons. Through the J/TIP office at the State Department we also provided some training through UNODC, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

With regard to prisoners who were released, I believe 200 a while ago, what do you think prompted that action?

Ms. ALSUP. Well, I think that the action was purportedly a gesture in honor of the Eid celebration. However, I believe that it was done primarily to show the world that The Gambia is trying to move toward a greater respect for human rights. At least, that is my hope that is what it means.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

We have been joined by Senator Markey. If we seem blurry-eyed, we both arrived yesterday at 3:30 a.m., having just traveled to Africa. I am glad to have taken the trip and to be back.

If you want to make any statement or launch into questions?

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The chairman and I did have a great time in Africa, Ethiopia and Kenya, for several days.

We thank you each for being willing to serve our country in the roles that you are nominated for. It is a very important continent, and it is just exploding economically. But underneath it, there are many historical tensions, problems that continue to exist.

Mr. Rubinstein, I was in Tunisia 3 years ago. They were just drafting the new constitution, with a lot of hope for the country. It is where the peaceful revolution really began, and it turned into something that is unrecognizable in other countries. But in Tunisia, I think there is still a commitment to trying to fulfill the original ideal.

Can you talk a little bit about that and what, from your perspective, is the greatest threat to Tunisia being a model that ultimately can be emulated?

Mr. RUBINSTEIN. Thank you very much, Senator.

I share your optimism regarding Tunisia. What I would say though is, as opposed to a model for the rest of the Middle East, perhaps it is better to think of it as an example. The reason I mention that is because the very high number of differences between all of these countries in the Middle East, whether going through Arab Spring experiences or not.

But certainly, it serves as an example where there was political compromise practiced by people of very, very different perspectives, if we think about Nahda on the Islamist side all the way through to Nida Tounes on the other side, strongly secular. The fact that those political movements and others have continued through very, very challenging times to work through their differences, reach consensus, and also pass off power, as we saw Nahda do in 2014 to the transitional government, concede defeat in the last elections, these are hopeful signs that there is significant buy-in on the part of really all parts of the Tunisian political spectrum to continue on that path of democratic transition.

Frankly, I think what threatens it most are these horrific terrorist attacks. That is why the Tunisian security forces do need to be bolstered. They do need our help. With the generosity of the Congress, I suspect that we will be able to bring them greater security capacity, particularly in the area of border security.

Senator MARKEY. I agree with you. I visited Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt in the spring of 2012. They were all drafting their new constitutions. They each had a Muslim Brotherhood in each country. It was pretty clear that each Muslim Brotherhood was different from the other. It is not monolithic. Each one, to a certain extent, has to reflect the history of its own country and be accommodating to it, including the 1959 constitution that gave equal rights to women in Tunisia. It just cannot be overturned overnight in a country.

That is why Tunisia, in my mind, is something that is really hopeful, but we have to keep our eye on it as well.

If I could go to Togo for a second, there was just an election. There was a resounding victory. It has been rejected by the opposition. There are accusations of fraud.

You just heard the President, Mr. Gilmour, talk about that in Ethiopia before the African Union. Can you talk a little bit about Togo, this election, and how you view our ability to work for that government to make sure that it has the kind of credibility that the President was talking about?

Mr. GILMOUR. Thank you, Senator.

There has been a process of political reform going on in Togo since 2006, with what they call the global political agreement that was negotiated between the opposition and the government. Since that time, they have had free and fair elections in several instances, including in April of this year. There were questions about the fairness of the election and the administration beforehand.

Our Ambassador, Ambassador Whitehead, who is there was very much part of the discussions of bringing in the other international observers, including the International Organisation of La Francophonie, to help lend credibility to the administration of the elections.

So everyone who was there who observed had a consensus that the elections were, indeed, free and fair.

One opposition leader, as you mentioned, has rejected the results, but fortunately since the election, things have been peaceful, so people have not come out in the street to protest. I think we still can make progress, certainly, on the issue of term limits, which the President talked about in his speech in Ethiopia.

In fact, term limits have been on the agenda in Togo for several years. There were negotiations as recently as last year between the government and opposition about the modalities of how they might work that out. In fact, in the legislature last year, there was legislation introduced but did not pass. So the government and opposition were not able to come to agreement on kind of the implementation and how term limits could work.

I am told that term limits are still on the agenda and that the president is willing to talk about this and that the opposition is, of course, very much engaged in the question. So I would look forward to, if confirmed, continue to facilitate that dialogue, as Ambassador Whitehead has done.

Senator MARKEY. If I could go to Gambia for a second and talk a little bit about that tension that exists between the United States and the Gambian Government over democracy and its operation in Gambia.

Can you talk a little bit about that, Ms. Alsup, so we can get your perspective?

Ms. ALSUP. Thank you, Senator, for that question.

Yes, there is a very real tension between the United States and The Gambia regarding democracy and human rights. If confirmed, that would be one of my priorities, to establish a dialogue. I believe it is important that we engage. I do not think that changes can be made overnight, but I think it is important that we continue to emphasize the importance of democratic principles, the importance of respect for human rights, particularly with regard to arrests. There have been many arbitrary arrests.



We were pleased with the release of the prisoners recently. Many of them were the family members of people who had been involved in the December 30 coup attempt, so we were very pleased that they had been released.

However, it is something that would be ongoing. We have had a good relationship now with the Foreign Minister, someone whom I had met with frequently when I was in The Gambia before. But I think we need to have that kind of dialogue that we have with her at all levels of the government. That would be my top priority, to establish that dialogue.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you so much. I thank all of you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Senator Murphy?

Senator MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you all for being with us here today.

Mr. Hawkins, I just wanted to talk about what you have learned so far in your preparation for this post, as to the effect of the U.S. spending and U.S. aid in CAR. I was trying to figure out what the number is. It looks to me around \$70 million or so, heavily in humanitarian aid and really small amounts of money being spent on this election. I think we have less than \$1 million in electoral support.

What is your sense of what we have been able to leverage with the amount of money that we are spending there, and what you have heard from folks in terms of recommendations about where we might need to spend more in order to get a bigger bang for our buck?

Mr. HAWKINS. Thank you, Senator. I appreciate that question.

I think you have to break our assistance down a bit. The overall number in the last 2 years is quite large. It is about \$828 million. A lot of that is for assistance for refugees and internally displaced people. They estimate that about 2.7 million people in CAR need some sort of assistance. That is over half the population of the country. So this year alone, we will be providing about \$101 million in that area.

Another big ticket item is our support to MINUSCA, to the U.N. peacekeeping operation, our assessed contributions. I think for the last little bit over a year, that has run at about \$452 million.

So those are big and very impactful and very important contributions that we have made.

In some other areas, the numbers are smaller but still important. One area that we are looking at very closely is the justice sector. The INL Bureau in the State Department has about \$25 million to help reestablish the justice system in that country, in a place that has had such dreadful occurrences and people's rights abused in such awful way, providing people an outlet, a justice outlet, is hugely important. That has been impactful. The court has started working in Bangui, at least. In the first session, they went through a number of cases.

We are also providing assistance for victims of sexual abuse, which in that conflict context is very important.

Some of the contributions in other areas are smaller. The electoral area is certainly one that requires attention of the inter-

national community. The shortfall there is pretty significant, as I mentioned earlier. It is about \$15 million. That is an immediate need, because those elections are taking place in a few months, if they hold to the schedule. So that is, certainly, something that we will need to look at more closely.

We are not alone on this, of course. There is an international coalition of willing partners who have contributed in various ways. The International Contact Group for CAR just met on the 27th, and we were represented there, and a number of countries in the AU and others were looking at those issues.

But there is a lot to do. I am very proud of the U.S. contributions so far. If confirmed, I look forward to overseeing those programs, ensuring that they are operated appropriately, and making the best case possible that we have the resources we need to move this forward.

Senator MURPHY. Having spent \$800 million there, it would be a shame if we relatively nickel and dimed them such that they could not run an appropriately funded election.

Mr. Rubinstein, I was with a big delegation in Tunisia earlier in the year, and I wanted to ask you a couple questions in that context.

On a bipartisan basis, we were there and made a commitment to do everything that Tunisia needed in order to continue on its democratic path. Then as a member of the Appropriations Committee, we just voted for a foreign aid budget that did not fund the President's request for Tunisia, something that, from what I understand, the Tunisians have noticed. There seems to be a separation between our rhetoric and what we are able to deliver.

There is some vague language in the appropriations bill that we are going to try to find the money somewhere else, but is this going to be an issue for you? Can we fulfill the commitments that we have made, formally or informally, if we do not ultimately fund the number that the President has requested?

Mr. RUBINSTEIN. Thank you very much, Senator, for that question.

My sense is that the increases that are in the administration's request for fiscal year 2016 are very well grounded and they reflect some very serious needs not only in the security area where it is plainly obvious that Tunisia is facing some extremely serious threats with these two major attacks, but also in the economic reform and the democracy, governance, and rights areas.

Frankly, if those two areas do not keep up in some way with the security side of the relationship, that could get out of whack. I think that is a problem.

So I do sense that we have made those rhetorical commitments. Tunisia is counting on our support as well as that of other countries. Thankfully, we do have other countries that are in the mix. Of course, Tunisia getting support from the IMF and the World Bank and others. But I think they are primarily looking to the United States to meet these needs at this time and to ensure that they stay on the path, particularly, I would add, on the side of giving them the fiscal space so that they can make these very difficult economic reforms, particularly reforming state-owned banks, investment, tax, customs. These are going to entail some real choices,

and probably some winners and losers. It will be important for us to provide that fiscal space for them.

Senator MURPHY. I wanted to ask you one more question, drawing on your long experience in the region. I tend to think the way that we think of the region is far too black and white. There are not really friends and enemies. There are degrees of friends and degrees of enemies or adversaries, whatever you want to call them.

We had a meeting with a cross-section of opposition leadership while we were there that included Nahda, that included Rachid Ghannouchi.

Actually, some members of our delegation chose not to take part in that meeting because they did not want to be associated with a member of an Islamist party.

So just talk to me about how the United States deals with, specifically, a group like Nahda, but the general phenomenon of Islamist parties who cannot be completely excluded from political coalitions but often have values that are completely antithetical to those that we wish were the core of these emerging democracies? So maybe speak to it specifically with respect with Nahda, but I am sure you may have thoughts in a broader sense from your experience in the region.

Mr. RUBINSTEIN. Senator, I think you properly identified the key factor, and that is: Is the Islamist movement both an important part of the national political fabric and social fabric of the country? And secondly, are they playing by the rules? Those are two indicators that at least I have looked to and, if confirmed, I would look to in Tunisia to see if they are continuing to do what they have done so far, which is to participate fully and constructively in political life there, to engage in compromise, to be supportive of the reforms the country needs.

In fact, they have been very supportive. They have formed key coalitions to get things done with Nida Tunis and other parties. That is something I think should be, frankly, strengthened.

As far as other movements in other parts of the region, I think you made an excellent point. They do need to be looked at in terms of their commitments to representative democracy and whether they want to be a good actor, a constructive actor, and know how to turn over power to others when appropriate, when citizens have voted. On those indices or indicators, Nahda has done very well. Certainly, I think it has been entirely appropriate that we engage with them, as we do with other Tunisian political parties and movements.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Senator Markey had a followup.

Senator MARKEY. I just had a couple questions for you, Mr. Hawkins.

The Central African Republic has historically not really had religious tensions, but they seem to have broken out. Can you talk a little bit about how out of character it is in the history of the country? And what is going on right now in terms of those new ethnic and religious tensions being activated?

Mr. HAWKINS. Thank you very much, Senator.

The origins of the current cycle of conflict in CAR are complicated. There are many different elements to that. There are regional and economic, ethnic tensions that all play into this.

Unfortunately, as we went from late 2012, 2013, some of these tensions took on, as you noted, sir, an increasingly sectarian flavor. I think that is a cause of real concern. That has been one area of emphasis for us on the policy side and on the assistance side, focusing again on reconciliation and bringing people together after this incredibly divisive period in their history.

We are spending this year and last about \$15 million on reconciliation programs.

Given my experience in Nigeria, where we did a lot of interfaith work, working with evangelical Christians and Muslim clerics, bringing those people together is so important to creating a national identity, an inclusive national identity. If confirmed, that will be one of my priorities as Ambassador to the re.

Senator MARKEY. Can you talk a little bit about the role of conflict diamonds in the Central African Republic right now?

Mr. HAWKINS. Hugely important. One of the major industries of the country, and again, this is a country that has been blessed with very rich resources and yet is at the bottom of every indicator for economic growth.

Diamonds play a key part now in fueling conflict because many of the bad actors in CAR are sitting on diamond resources. And diamonds will play an absolutely crucial role in getting this country out of this conflict, because that will be one of the main sources of revenue.

I was quite surprised, in studying for preparation for taking on this assignment, if confirmed, that something like 100,000 people in a country of 5 million depend on the diamond industry in the CAR. So it has a huge effect.

The focus internationally has been on the Kimberley Process. That coalition of producing and purchasing countries has suspended CAR since 2013. The Kimberley Process is looking very closely at ways that those parts of the diamond industry that are now increasingly under the international control or under state control can be brought into the system and that maybe diamonds can be used to fund good things, to fund the government, to fund support for the people, as opposed to funding conflict.

Senator MARKEY. Good luck to all of you on your missions.

And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you, Senator Markey.

I want to thank all of you for being here. I appreciated meeting you all in my office. I wish you all the best. Certainly, our country relies on your professionalism and your expertise and your willingness to serve.

And also to your families, I want to express appreciation for the sacrifices that they all make in their own way.

I think one of these is an unaccompanied post. To Annie and Max and Alex, that is a particular sacrifice, in that regard.

But for all of you, I know that there are a lot of sacrifices that are made, and we just want you to know that this committee and the Senate, the Congress, appreciates that.

So thank you for your service. Thank you for what you are doing. We look forward to moving this process along with your nominations.

I should say that the record will stay open for a couple days, until Friday. So if anything needs to be submitted until then, it will be included in the record.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you very much. This meeting is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:03 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

#### ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

##### RESPONSES OF LUCY TAMLYN, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

###### AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TAMLYN'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR ISAKSON

*Question.* As we discussed during your office call, one of my highest priorities in office is ensuring that justice is done for Kate Puzey, who was murdered in Benin while serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer. There has been progress in the prosecution of this case, including assistance by our own FBI.

◆ Will you commit to continuing the same level of engagement on this issue as your predecessor, Ambassador Michael Raynor?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I am committed to continuing Ambassador Raynor's high level of engagement to achieve justice for Kate Puzey. This tragedy took the life of an extraordinary young woman who was dedicated to improving the well-being of Beninese children—especially girls—and to promoting increased understanding between the United States and Benin through her service in the Peace Corps.

Your ongoing engagement on this issue and numerous trips to Benin, including for the 5th anniversary of Kate's murder in March 2014, have helped keep the Puzey investigation at the forefront of bilateral relations. President Yayi has been consistent in his commitment to seeing that justice is served. The Beninese Government and law enforcement cooperation with U.S. authorities and U.S. law enforcement remains high. The U.S. interagency law enforcement team is working closely with Beninese counterparts to develop and pursue new leads and to lay the foundation for successful prosecution.

If confirmed, I will work to continue this strong cooperation between the U.S. interagency team and the Government of Benin. I also pledge to work with you to ensure this issue remains a top priority in U.S.-Benin relations.

##### RESPONSES OF DAVID R. GILMOUR, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE TOGOLESE REPUBLIC, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

###### AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE GILMOUR'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR MENENDEZ

*Question.* According to the most recent Country Reports on Human Rights, "corruption and inefficiency were endemic in the police force, and impunity was a problem."

◆ What resources are available through State Department to combat police corruption, and what can you do as Ambassador to help Togo establish a roadmap to reforming police?

*Answer.* Police modernization and training programs are available through the Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) to help combat police corruption. If confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Togo, I will continue to advocate for efforts to modernize Togo's stance toward corruption and the prosecution of corruption.

I will also continue to promote programs to combat corruption through the Embassy in Lome and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL). The United States, through the Embassy in Lome and through other INL and Department of Justice programs, has facilitated several anticorruption workshops and other training opportunities for Togolese law enforcement and judicial per-

sonnel. Embassy Lome also enjoys a very productive working relationship with the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection and engages with the government regularly on efforts to reinforce the capacity of Togo's national police. This summer the Government of Togo announced the creation of a high authority unit tasked with preventing and fighting against corruption, including corruption among government officials. If confirmed, I will also pursue additional INL programs aimed at increasing police professionalism and capacity. Additionally, with assistance from donors such as the European Union, I will work collaboratively with our international partners to implement a justice modernization project to improve transparency and efficiency as a roadmap to reforming police in Togo.

**Question.** The 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report indicates that Togo is making considerable efforts to comply with the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking, but has not demonstrated efforts to address trafficking of adults.

- ◆ If confirmed, what steps will you take to encourage the Government of Togo to increase prosecution of traffickers, and enact draft laws outlawing forced labor and trafficking for sexual exploitation?

**Answer.** If confirmed, I will continue our call on the Government of Togo to step up its current efforts to convict and punish traffickers. I will also stress to the Government of Togo the importance of enacting the draft law prohibiting forced labor and forced prostitution of adults. To help the Togolese public better understand the complexities involved in human trafficking in Togo and influence their government to enact the draft legislation, I will increase Embassy Lome's public diplomacy on the issue and engage with grassroots organizations and the public in antitrafficking efforts.

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RESPONSES OF JEFFREY J. HAWKINS, JR., NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE HAWKINS'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CORKER

**Question.** What is the status of the position held most recently by Ambassador Stuart Symington and what is the plan as it relates to U.S. engagement on the issue of facilitating a regional effort toward political reconciliation?

**Answer.** Ambassador Stuart Symington becomes Deputy Assistant Security for African Affairs for the Central African Region and Security Affairs on August 3, but will continue to serve as the Special Representative for the Central African Republic (CAR). Special Representative Symington will continue to support our policy objectives in the Central African Republic by engaging and facilitating regional and international efforts toward the ongoing political reconciliation processes in CAR.

**Question.** What role will the J Under Secretariat, and specifically the Bureau for Conflict and Stabilization (CSO) have in maintaining close and continuing cooperation toward a negotiated settlement and stabilization of the country?

**Answer.** CSO is providing targeted, diplomatic, and analytic support in Washington and the Central African region, to Embassy Bangui, the Africa Bureau, and other key international actors to help advance critical transition processes in the Central African Republic (CAR). These processes include local and national-level dialogues, constitutional reform, reconciliation, and elections preparations, as part of our effort to help ensure that these initiatives continue to be a priority beyond the May 2015 Bangui Forum. CSO is focusing on analyzing atrocities and political violence risks associated with the transition process, and, depending on funding and the situation in country, providing direct on-the-ground support to programs, such as those associated with reconciliation and early warning/response, furthering the objectives which came out of the Bangui Forum.

CSO initially deployed an employee to Bangui in May 2015 for 3 weeks to support the Embassy in analyzing atrocities and political violence risks during the transition process; providing an update on these processes as they relate to medium and longer term goals of the U.S. Government, CAR Government, and international community; developing recommendations on how to guide next steps; and providing enhanced diplomatic engagement. The CSO employee returned to Bangui in July for another 3 weeks in order to followup on these initiatives and identify potential points of intervention for CSO in the areas of reconciliation and early-warning/response. CSO's current effort in CAR is supported by CSO's previous work in CAR, which includes an in-country interagency conflict assessment and planning exercise

in 2011; DC-based mass atrocities prevention planning in 2013; and DC-based national and local level dialogue consultations and research in 2014.

Since 2011, CSO has also been involved in the counter-Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) mission, which includes CAR, through a field representative, based in Kampala, Uganda, that supports the LRA-affected countries.

*Question.* In the same vein as above, what role will the Department of Defense play in helping to facilitate a more stable and politically viable CAR in this challenging region and what priority will they have?

*Answer.* The Department of Defense (DOD) will continue to support U.S. security assistance efforts, led by the State Department, in the Central African Republic (CAR). To date, DOD has supported the troop contributing countries to the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) by providing airlift, equipment, and the construction of U.N. base camps in-country, and will continue to provide support to the peacekeepers on a bilateral basis and to the U.N. where possible.

*Question.* How will the nominee be further empowered as Ambassador and the post and his country team be resourced to address the significant deficiencies at post and those in the political environment identified during his confirmation hearing?

*Answer.* We remain committed to expanding and normalizing operations following the resumption of the activities of Embassy Bangui in September 2014, despite operating in a challenging environment in the Central African Republic (CAR).

This summer, we will increase the number of Embassy staff in order to expand our political, economic, development, and public diplomacy engagement in CAR. We intend to maintain and, when conditions permit, increase the number of temporary personnel, allowing the United States to address specific programmatic and operational priorities that broaden our overall engagement and ensure appropriate stewardship of U.S. resources.

In addition, Embassy support staff will continue their efforts to improve management and information technology platforms, thus enabling staff to keep up with the increased workload.

We are working to lease housing in addition to using existing U.S. Government-owned residences on and off the Embassy chancery compound, thereby lessening the burdens placed upon the Embassy's aging infrastructure and improving the overall quality of life for Embassy personnel.

If confirmed, I will continue to make strides in normalizing our Embassy's operations, thus permitting us to continue the important work of helping the Central Africans find the peace, justice, and prosperity they richly deserve.

*Question.* What is the U.S. Government position on the holding of an election in October 2015 in CAR?

*Answer.* The United States, in line with the position of the international community, supports the efforts of the CAR authorities to hold the first round of Presidential and legislative elections in October 2015 or as soon as possible.

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE HAWKINS'S RESPONSES TO  
QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR MENENDEZ

*Question.* As the Central African Republic looks toward national elections, many people in the country are continuing to face a humanitarian crisis. There are approximately 400,000 people displaced internally and another 420,000 Central Africans living as refugees in neighboring countries. The U.N. estimates that 2.7 million people throughout the Central African Republic, over half the country's population, are in need of humanitarian assistance. And while parts of the country have indeed stabilized, there are areas of CAR that remain violent and volatile.

- ◆ In your estimation, what are the greatest challenges to a coordinated international response to assisting displaced populations? What can be done to ensure United Nations and international organizations are meeting the continuing needs of these populations?

*Answer.* The greatest challenges to a coordinated international response to assist displaced populations in the Central African Republic (CAR) are insecurity, lack of basic state services, and funding.

Ongoing insecurity and recent clashes in some areas of CAR continue to create new displacement and additional humanitarian needs while preventing people from returning to their homes and livelihoods. Targeted attacks against humanitarian agencies hinder access and provision of services to affected populations.

Humanitarian agencies also face the daunting task of substituting for the state system in the provision of basic services, such as primary health care, education, and clean water. This stretches their limited resources as they try to meet the needs of all Central Africans, including the displaced, in areas where there is little state presence.

Also, the U.N. strategic response plan to support some 2.7 million people in need of humanitarian aid in CAR remains only 32 percent funded. Consequently, humanitarian agencies must make difficult choices about their operations and the populations slated for assistance.

The United States will continue our critical support and build upon the roughly \$251 million in humanitarian aid we have provided in FY14 and FY15 to date in order to ensure the United Nations and international organizations are meeting the needs of the CAR's people. Further, we will work closely with other donors and liaise directly with U.N. humanitarian agencies to ensure that support reaches those most in need, including internally displaced persons and refugees, and is not duplicative.

*Question.* The Bangui Forum was widely praised by the international community for its inclusiveness. The forum brought together members of the transitional government, armed groups, and civil society to discuss the way forward on elections, disarmament of rebel groups, and the creation of justice and reconciliation mechanisms.

- ◆ (a) What is the status of implementation of recommendations from the Bangui Forum, such as disarmament of Seleka and anti-Balaka fighters, a constitutional revision process, and mechanisms for reconciliation? What, in your view, are the key challenges to implementation?

*Answer.* (a) Following the conclusion of the May 2015 Bangui Forum, the transitional government established a followup committee to begin the process of implementing the Forum's recommendations. The naming of the committee members, however, has been subject to debate and revisions as some groups, including the primarily Muslim, ethnic Peulhs have complained they were not adequately represented on the committee. Consequently, there has been little progress in the implementation of the Forum's recommendations.

The U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) has developed a \$10 million pre-disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, and repatriation (DDRR) program that intends to jump-start the process of disarming former armed combatants. The program faces challenges as rebel leaders have proven reluctant to comply with the May 10 DDRR agreement because they are unsure of what long-term DDRR and security sector reform will look like. Donor support for DDRR remains insufficient. On a positive note, in May the international community successfully encouraged a group of ex-Seleka soldiers to vacate a camp in downtown Bangui, which allowed the removal of approximately 3 tons of explosives that had been in danger of spontaneous explosion.

Discussions at the Bangui Forum helped inform an early July workshop of Central African Republic (CAR) experts and international observers on the constitution. The draft constitution will now move to the Transitional National Council, the interim Parliament, for consideration, after which the draft will be presented to voters at an October 4 referendum.

The transitional CAR Government is considering several mechanisms for reconciliation including transitional justice measures, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and a Commission on Good Governance.

The key implementation challenges of the Bangui Forum recommendations are the lack of financial resources and human capacity capable of organizing, leading, and carrying out programs that could convert recommendations to reality.

- ◆ (b) How is the administration planning to support the implementation of these recommendations?

*Answer.* (b) In support of the Bangui Forum's recommendations, we are working with the United States Institute of Peace to develop a grant that will assist and work with the Bangui Forum followup committee. In addition, Embassy Bangui is closely monitoring the constitutional drafting process and, through the American Bar Association, is supporting the efforts of CAR's civil society to advocate for an inclusive and representative draft.

- ◆ (c) The inclusion of civil society and community leaders is absolutely essential to the success of these efforts. If confirmed, what would you do to encourage the continued consultation of civil society in the constitutional revision process?



Answer. (c) I witnessed, as Consul General in Lagos, Nigeria, during the recent Presidential elections, the importance of having civil society and community leaders engaged in political processes. If confirmed as Ambassador, I will work closely with all facets of CAR's civil society, through public diplomacy campaigns, training workshops, and informal dialogue, to ensure they are well informed and engaged in the political transition, including the constitutional revision process. I will further work with the CAR transitional authorities, including members of the transitional Parliament who lead the constitutional drafting process, to encourage a robust dialogue with the people of CAR about the democratic foundations upon which their country should be built.

*Question.* How much in total funding has the United States provided to help reestablish rule of law in the Central African Republic in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, and what do we hope to achieve through the activities that we have funded? What has been accomplished to date? What plans are in place to assess progress in helping reestablish the criminal justice system? What assistance has been provided to the police, gendarmerie, and prosecutors? How do we plan to measure its effectiveness?

Answer. In fiscal year (FY) 2014, the United States Government provided \$15.6 million to help reestablish rule of law and criminal justice in the Central African Republic (CAR). In FY 2015, we intend to spend \$10.2 million for these activities in the CAR.

With this funding, we hope to assist the CAR Transitional Government reestablish law enforcement and criminal justice processes, thereby strengthening the rule of law in the country.

With our assistance, the CAR Court of Appeals held its first criminal court session in more than 5 years. The court heard 78 cases, a figure that was 25 percent higher than anticipated. We have opened and staffed three legal aid centers in major towns for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). With additional U.S. support, the American Bar Association-Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI) is working on several cases of SGBV victims and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is working with the Ministry of Justice to deploy mobile courts to the provinces, and to develop rehabilitation plans for courts in provincial cities.

In support of reestablishing the police and gendarme, we, in collaboration with UNDP, expect to hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the rehabilitation of several police and gendarmerie facilities in several weeks. We are also working with the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission to CAR (MINUSCA) to deliver critical equipment for the police, gendarmerie, and newly reconstituted civilian prison service.

The capacity and level of operations of criminal justice institutions in CAR are extremely low, and some institutions, such as courts, barely function, which provides a clear baseline for measuring progress. As a result, basic output-related measurements such as the holding of a criminal court session, number of cases heard, opening of legal aid centers, number of SGBV cases being accepted, and rehabilitation and reopening of prisons and police and gendarmerie stations will continue to provide immediate, meaningful indicators on the progress in reestablishing criminal justice and rule of law.

With our partners, we have established clearly defined output and outcome-related measurements to assess and monitor progress. With ABA-ROLI, we have a monitoring and evaluation plan that has defined indicators, ranging from the number of bar association attorneys trained to the percentage increase in paralegals' knowledge of basic legal principles. With UNDP, we are expanding our monitoring and evaluation to better gather and analyze criminal and court data, conduct surveys, and track other information.

Finally, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) sits on the steering committee that directs UNDP's work in CAR and is working to send additional staff to Bangui for on-site monitoring and oversight.

RESPONSES OF DANIEL H. RUBINSTEIN, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE  
REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE RUBINSTEIN'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CORKER

*Question.* What is the Chief of Mission's role in engaging the Tunisian American Enterprise Fund? How will you work with the Tunisian American Enterprise Fund

to ensure that it is reaching its maximum investment potential? What are the challenges to the Tunisian American Enterprise Fund's success?

**Answer.** The Tunisian-American Enterprise Fund (TAEF), seeded with \$60 million in Economic Support Funds, has made an initial investment of \$2.7 million in a Tunisian microcredit firm and hopes to invest approximately \$7 million over the next several months in Tunisian Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). I expect TAEF to fully invest its funds and create growth in SMEs, venture capital opportunities, and in microfinance.

The TAEF has had challenges navigating a difficult and complicated Tunisian financial regulatory system, but after creating innovative investment platforms, it is poised to make important investments in the Tunisian economy in the coming year. Hopefully, the Enterprise Fund activities will also bolster the Tunisian Government's reforms that directly bear on the Fund's activities, such as small business establishment and expansion.

If confirmed, I will continue to closely monitor the Fund's progress, engage with its board of directors to advocate for additional progress, and ensure that the Fund is effectively working to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and employment in Tunisia.

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