Thank you, Senator Casey. Senator Risch, thank

you both for holding this important hearing. It really is a moment

in time that we need to be heard, and I hope that some of our

voices will be heard by the people of Syria who, as Senator

Shaheen just mentioned to me, are risking their lives every single

day to just keeping on this battle that they are in.

In a show of his true colors, President Assad has responded, as

you have said, with vicious force instead of respecting the voices of

the Syrian people. The U.N. estimates that more than 3,500 people

have already lost their lives and thousands more injured, imprisoned,

forced to flee. The Syrian Government has ordered Syrian

troops to fire on their own communities, orchestrated the torture

of prisoners, some only children.

And in August, President Obama rightfully said for the sake of

the Syrian people, the time has come for President Assad to step

aside. That was an extraordinarily clear message from our President.

The Obama administration has also moved to implement a range

of tough sanctions that we just discussed a moment ago. I had

teamed up with Senator DeMint to call for these sanctions, prohibiting

all transactions between Americans and the Government of

Syria, banning United States services to, and new investments in,

Syria, and banning the importation of Syrian petroleum. And after

our move, the EU moved to ban import of petroleum, and since

they purchase 90 percent of all Syrian oil, that is a big deal.

Unfortunately, other members of the international community

have utterly failed to stand up against President Assad’s abuses.

And I wanted to talk to you about one of those countries, Russia.

It is my understanding that despite vigorous efforts, the U.S.

Ambassador Rice was unable to secure a United Nations Security

Council resolution condemning the Syrian Government’s crackdown

because of a Russian and a Chinese veto. And according to the

news reports, Russia led the opposition, and our Susan Rice said

that the United States was ‘‘outraged’’ and she called the vote ‘‘a

cheap rouse by those who would rather sell arms to the Syrian

Government than stand with the Syrian people.’’

So I guess my question is, Would you speak, Mr. Feltman, Secretary

Feltman, to Russia’s opposition to any condemnation of the

Assad regime. Is it that they want to sell weapons? Is it something

more than that? Is there something more we can do? What is your

take on it?

I hear you. And let me just say I think this is

key. And, Mr. Chairman, I would hope that we could all work

together to craft some kind of a message to the Russians because

this is critical. They are taking the lead on blocking any type of

resolution.

Now, I have a second point I want to make here. According to

an Amnesty International Report, the Syrian authorities—I am

reading this from the report. ‘‘The Syrian authorities have turned

hospitals and medical staff into instruments of repression in the

course of their efforts to crush the unprecedented mass protests

and demonstrations. People wounded in protests or other incidents

related to the uprising have been verbally abused and physically

assaulted in state-run hospitals, including by medical staff, and in

some cases denied medical care.’’

The report cites experiences from a number of wounded protesters,

including one shooting victim who said that a doctor at a

state-run hospital told him—this is a doctor—‘‘I am not going to

clean your wound.’’ This is really hard to say. ‘‘I am waiting for

your foot to rot so that we can cut it off.’’ That is supposedly a

quote from a doctor.

It also cites a doctor who was forced to flee Syria after he reported

a nurse was torturing a young protester. This is what the

doctor said. ‘‘I remember hearing shrieks of pain,’’ said the doctor,

‘‘so I walked toward the voice and I saw a male nurse hitting the

boy hard on his injury and swearing at him as he poured antiseptic

on the injured foot in an act that clearly intended to cause the boy

additional pain.’’

So I have three quick questions I think you can answer.

How much information are we receiving about the abuse and

denial of care to injured protesters, including by medical staff?

Second, are the International Committee of the Red Cross and

the Syrian Arab Red Crescent currently able to provide care to the

wounded?

And then last, in light of this, why have we not been able to use

this to turn around the policies of Russia and China?

Thank you very much. Again, I will not ask you

to answer the last point, but I would hope we would take this information

to the Russians and the Chinese. Thank you.