

Not Just ‘Performative,’ Sen. Blackburn Takes on FBI and UN



by Roger L. Simon

One of the criticisms you hear of Republican senators is that, in modern parlance, they’re “performative”—in other words, all talk and no action. They’re performing.

But it’s difficult to act when you’re in the minority, and sometimes talk is welcome, with action hopefully in the wings after the next election.

Toward that end, Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) has been making some useful talk—more accurately doing some useful interrogating—on two matters, one domestic and one foreign with domestic ramifications.

From the domestic side, on Dec. 5 she was grilling FBI Director Christopher Wray at a Senate hearing regarding the flight logs from Jeffrey Epstein's so-called "Lolita Express" to Epstein's private Caribbean island known, not without irony, as Little Saint James.

Sen. Blackburn had tried to subpoena these logs but was apparently blocked by Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) for reasons unspecified (but we can guess).

Sen. Blackburn [put it this way](#) to Mr. Wray: "I want to know what awareness you have of the FBI's failure to investigate these claims. ... I tried to get the subpoena of the flight logs. ... People need to know who was on those planes and how often they were on those planes. ... Should these logs be made public? They've been heavily redacted. ... We never got to the bottom of this. ... They swept it under the rug, and that is wrong, and you need to right the wrong."

No chance of that with Christopher Wray, and Mrs. Blackburn undoubtedly knew it. This was indeed "performative," but so be it. It was a good and needed performance.

Mr. Wray's serial prevarications, not even faintly imaginative at this point (he'll look into the matter ... it's been a while since he's studied the specifics, etc.), deserve as much public exposure as possible.

The director's constant goal, it appears, is the defense of an organization that has become indefensible.

If that means covering up for powerful people in government, industry, and entertainment engaged in pederasty and/or human trafficking, again so be it. They are, after all, above the law.

The powerful are those who protect the FBI and vice-versa, especially when they're of the approved ideology at the proper time.

One can only imagine what the internal culture of the FBI must

be like to keep this two-tiered justice system operating.

Which brings me to Sen. Blackburn's other salutary "performance" questioning another organization, the United Nations.

Many have found the U.N. to be corrupt, at least since the late, great journalist [Claudia Rosett](#) helped uncover their oil-for-food program that skimmed millions off the Iraq War. The many other areas of heavy U.N. criticism include its Human Rights Council staffed with dictatorial regimes, its World Health Organization's fealty to China during COVID-19, and its endless misuse of science in the climate controversy.

But Sen. Blackburn is focusing on a particularly timely, although it's been around a long time, questionable branch of the U.N., the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) that has been suspected of collaborating with, or at least covertly aiding, Islamic terror organizations literally for decades. (The instances of this are numerous, but don't look for them on the front pages of Google where they have been, of course, sanitized.)

In this case, Sen. Blackburn has [written a letter](#) to U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Linda Thomas Greenfield and UNRWA Commissioner Philippe Lazzarini demanding an investigation into whether an UNRWA employee was guarding one of the hostages kidnapped by Hamas on Oct. 7.

"It is deeply concerning that, despite the prevalence of these reports, the United Nations has seemingly done nothing to investigate or prevent the siphoning of UNRWA funding by terrorists. And UNRWA continues to double down on its claims that each subsequent, documented report is 'unsubstantiated,'" she wrote.

The Tennessee senator was referring to a [report on X](#) (need I say formerly Twitter?) by Israeli journalist Almog Boker that read: "'Uninvolved,' they say, right? Well, read this story carefully. One of the abductees, held for nearly 50 days in an attic, reveals he was held by a UNRA [sic] teacher—a father of ten children. This teacher locked the victim away, barely

provided food, and neglected medical needs.”

When UNRWA [says](#) this was “unsubstantiated,” one wonders if they bothered to interview the hostage. So far, no word—and I doubt we can expect one.

When I wrote above that this foreign issue had domestic ramifications, I was referring to the ongoing controversy of whether and to what extent the United States should continue to fund the United Nations.

As of now, the United States pays 22 percent of the budget and is assessed 27 percent of the peacekeeping budget. That was capped at 25 percent by Congress in 1993.

I have long advocated against funding or, at least, a serious diminishment. Years ago (roughly 2009), I made a (supposedly humorous) video for the now-defunct PJTV called “The Trump UN” in which I advocated that none other than Donald Trump should take over the U.N. complex in Manhattan. The Secretariat building would be turned into a posh home with an East River view for retired dictators as motivation for them to step down.

Unfortunately—or fortunately, depending on how you want to view it—this video has disappeared from the internet. But who knows? Perhaps it will reappear in something closer to a real-life version next November.

We shall see then the level of U.N. funding. Meanwhile, Sen. Blackburn should keep on “performing.”

And speaking of “performances,” Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) has been deservedly receiving high praise for her [evisceration of the “woke” stuffed blouses](#) currently helming Harvard, MIT, and UPenn. Right on, sister.

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