

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRESS WRITES TO BOUTROS GHALI ABOUT INDIAN REPRESSION OF SIKHS

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that a letter has been sent to Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Secretary General of the United Nations, demanding that the United Nations get involved in seeking the release of Jaswant Singh Khalra, the Indian human rights activist who was kidnapped by the police outside his house in Amritsar on September 6. Here it is early December and his whereabouts are still unknown. Mr. Khalra was kidnapped after publishing a report which showed that the Indian regime had kidnapped more than 25,000 young Sikh men, tortured them, murdered them, then declared their bodies unidentified and cremated them. The police chief of Tarn Taran, Ajit S. Sandhu, reportedly told Mr. Khalra, "We made 25,000 disappear. It would not be hard to make one more disappear." Amnesty International reports that for this threat, Mr. Sandhu was recently transferred to another district. Transfer is the most severe punishment a police official faces.

As Amnesty International said in its report entitled "Determining the fate of the disappeared in Punjab," "Punjab police have been allowed to commit human rights violations with impunity."

Recently, the United Nations spoke out strongly against the executions of nine political activists in Nigeria. That was the right thing to do. People should not be killed or abducted and tortured for expressing political opinions or for exposing abuses of the rights of others. Yet the United Nations has not spoken up against the illegal detention of Mr. Khalra, the ongoing illegal detention of more than 70,000 other Sikhs under a repressive, expired law known as Tada, which has been discussed in this House many times, or any of India's massive abuses of the fundamental human rights of Sikhs and other minorities. This is the same United Nations, by the way, under whose auspices President Clinton is sending 20,000 Americans to keep a very fragile peace in Bosnia. Why won't the Secretary General speak out against human rights abuses in India, one of the most oppressive and corrupt countries in the world? Is it because India falsely claims to be a "democracy"?

It is time for the United Nations to condemn human rights violations in India as it does so effectively around the world.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDONESIA'S INVASION OF EAST TIMOR

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 1975, Indonesia invaded the small country of East Timor and began two decades of violent occupation and repression. More than 200,000 East Timorese have been killed or have died of starvation since the invasion of the Indonesian Government. Portugal continues to protest Indonesia's invasion, and the United Nations has never recognized Indonesia's claim on East Timor. Both the Security Council and the General Assembly have issued numerous resolutions reaffirming East Timor's right to self-determination. However, these actions have been ineffective.

Tragically, we are still witnessing the harsh reality of this invasion. Massacres, disappearances, suppression of free speech, and human rights abuses have consistently been reported since the invasion. In November 1991, the world was outraged by the Santa Cruz massacre where Indonesian soldiers opened fire into an unarmed crowd, killing more than 250 people; in June of 1994, Indonesian troops committed acts of sacrilege against the East Timorese Church and clergy; in July 1994, a clash between East Timorese students and Indonesian troops in response to this incident left 18 students injured; and in January of this year, Indonesian soldiers kidnapped, tortured, and murdered six civilians.

At a joint hearing before the International Relations Subcommittees on Asia and the Pacific and International Operations and Human Rights on March 16, the Director of the Human Rights Watch stated: "In East Timor, violations of fundamental rights has been especially severe, and have worsened dramatically since the APEC summit meeting in Jakarta last November."

Congress has acted on behalf of the people of East Timor, but I believe we must do more. The United States must not tolerate continued human rights abuses by the military in East Timor. We must not turn our backs on the East Timorese, who, against great odds, have resisted the Indonesian invasion for 20 years. The U.S. should not let another 20 years of human rights abuses and oppression pass. I commend my colleagues Representatives KENNEDY and LOWEY for their efforts to recognize this anniversary on behalf of the people of East Timor, and for introducing the East Timor Human Rights Accountability Act of 1995. I urge my colleagues to continue to condemn acts of violence by the Indonesian Government against the people of East Timor.

DELHI MASSACRES

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that last month Sikhs and the world remembered the 11th anniversary of the brutal November 1984 massacre of Sikhs in which more than 40,000 Sikhs were killed by government-inspired mobs while government television and radio repeatedly called for more Sikh blood. Over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in Delhi alone during this massacre. For 3 days, the police stood aside, under strict orders to do nothing. Sikh police officers were disarmed and confined to their barracks to prevent them from helping their Sikh brothers and sisters.

In all, more than 150,000 Sikhs have been murdered in India since 1984. In addition, there have been murders of over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, more than 43,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, and others, and thousands of Dalits "black untouchables". The State Department reported in 1994 that between 1991 and 1993, the Indian regime paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs.

Self-determination is the God-given right of all people of all nations. This is the principle that underlies our Declaration of Independence, and it is a principle that is sweeping the world. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh nation asserted its right the self-determination by declaring its independence from India, forming the sovereign, independent country of Khalistan. The Sikhs had ruled Punjab from 1765 to 1849. India's response to Khalistan's declaration of independence has been to set up the repression against the Sikh nation. Today Khalistan lives under the occupation of 500,000 Indian troops—more troops than the British stationed in the entire subcontinent at any time during their rule.

As the leader of the free, democratic countries of the world, the United States should not be propping up this repressive tyranny. It is time for America to take strong action to see to it that India respects human rights and the right of self-determination.

I am introducing into the RECORD a speech delivered by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, at a November 4 rally commemorating the November 1984 massacres.

STATEMENT OF DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH

Today we are gathered to commemorate the anniversary of India's brutal November 1984 massacres of Sikhs in which more than 20,000 Sikhs were murdered by government-inspired mobs in Delhi alone, and over 40,000 throughout India. As the Home Minister at that time, Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was intimately involved in that murderous operation. For three days, the regime did nothing about the massacre while the state television and radio cried for more Sikh blood. In India there is no peace

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

or freedom for Sikhs or other minority nations. The record of Indian rule in our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, is one of genocide and tyranny by the country that presumes to call itself "the world's largest democracy."

The Associated Press recently reported on the suit filed in India's Supreme Court by Harpreet Singh, a Sikh man who was illegally detained four years ago and listed as having been killed in an "encounter" with the police. While we are glad that his case came to light, it is not unusual. Sikhs continue to be oppressed and butchered in supposedly free India. India is a country which tortures, murders, abducts, and rapes people. In India, "disappearances" are routine.

Recently, the Indian press reported that since 1990 over 25,000 young Sikh men had been abducted, tortured, and murdered by the Indian regime. Then their bodies were listed as unclaimed and cremated. The person who issued this report, Jaswant Singh Khalsa, general secretary of the Human Rights Wing (Shiromani Akali Dal), was abducted by the Amritsar police on September 6 and has not been seen since. The next day, Amnesty International issued an "Urgent Action" bulletin calling for his release. They expressed the fear that Mr. Khalsa is being tortured. Indeed, according to Asia Watch, "virtually everyone detained in Punjab [Khalistan] is tortured."

A mass grave which held the remains of 400 Cambodians shook the world, as it should have. Why is the mass cremation of more than 25,000 innocent Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan, ignored?

On October 19, 65 members of the U.S. House of Representatives from both parties and across the political spectrum wrote to Mr. Rao demanding Mr. Khalsa's release. So far there has been no response. Mr. Khalsa remains in illegal detention.

According to a report issued by Human Rights Watch and Physicians for Human Rights, one police officer told HRW/PHR that "over a five-year period, 500 people were killed by police station alone." Another police officer is quoted as saying, "During my five years with the Punjab Police, I estimate 4,000 to 5,000 were tortured at my police station alone." There are over 200 such police stations in Punjab, Khalistan.

A policy of summary executions in Punjab, Khalistan has the blessings of some key officials at the Centre, as borne out by a series of secret communications from Delhi. The pattern of "encounter killings" is that "the victim would be detained during police raids on villages or city neighborhoods and tortured for several days before being killed. One police officer said: 'During my career with the Punjab police, I participated in approximately five raids per day.'" Three types of Sikhs are targeted for torture and death by the police: (1) Amritdari Sikhs, (2) young Sikh men and (3) political asylum returnees.

The U.S. State Department reports that from 1991 through 1993, the Indian regime paid more than 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. In November 1994, the Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, was paid \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab, Khalistan, and in neighboring Kashmir. Seventy-five percent of Punjab's water has been diverted to nonriparian states. India is a police state, not a democracy at all.

It takes more than elections to make a democracy. I would remind you that Adolf Hitler was democratically elected. For Sikhs, Kashmiri Muslims, Christians in Nagaland, Assamese, and the tribal people of Manipur, no matter who wins the elections, the bloody repression continues. The Indian regime has killed over 120,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 43,000 Kashmiris since 1988 and over 200,000

Christians in Nagaland since 1947. Tens of thousands of people have been killed in Assam, Manipur, and other tribal areas since independence. Dalits ("black untouchables") have died by the thousands.

Recently a Dalit girl was blinded by her teacher for the sin of drinking from the water pitcher. A few years ago, a Dalit constable was stoned to death when he sought shelter in a temple on a rainy day. In the state of Madhya Pradesh in late February, a 40-year-old nun was pulled from a bus in the town of Indore and stabbed 36 times by a Hindu militant. These are not the acts of a democratic nation. The U.N. Charter, to which India is a party, calls on nations "to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors." Where is the tolerance in these Indian policies?

The historical record shows that 85 percent of those hanged in the cause of India's independence were Sikhs. Eighty (80) percent of those exiled and 75 percent of those jailed were Sikhs as well, despite the fact that the Sikhs at that time constituted less than 2 percent of India's population.

In 1947, when India achieved independence, three nations were to receive power. The Hindus got India, the Muslims got Pakistan, and the Sikh nation was to receive a state of our own. But the Sikh leadership at the time made the critical mistake of taking our share with India on the solemn promises of Gandhi and Nehru that Sikhs would enjoy "the glow of freedom" in Punjab and that no law affecting Sikh rights would be passed without Sikh consent. As soon as the constitution was adopted, those promises were broken and the repression of our people began. As a result, no Sikh has ever signed the Indian constitution.

Nine times the Indian regime has imposed Presidential rule—direct rule by the central government—on the Sikhs of Punjab, Kashmir and Nagaland currently suffer under Presidential rule. Many other states have suffered the same fate. Rule from the Center is imposed in utter disregard of democratic principles.

Perhaps the greatest offense of all, however, was the Indian regime's brutal terrorist attack on the most holy Sikh shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar and 38 other Sikh temples throughout Punjab, in June 1984. This is the equivalent of attacking the Vatican or Mecca. These brutal attacks ultimately resulted in the murder of 20,000 Sikhs by the government, including important Sikh leaders like Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a major spokesman for Sikh freedom. The attack took place from June 3 through 6, 1984. 15,000 troops of the Indian army took part in this surprise attack, called Operation Bluestar. These attacks were timed to fall on a holy day for the Sikh nation. Many innocent, unarmed men, and women and children, who had come only to pray on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, were instead gunned down in the very temples in which they sought peace and solace.

In the face of this repression, the Sikh nation declared its independence on October 7, 1987, forming the separate country of Khalistan. Although our movement to liberate Khalistan is peaceful, democratic, and nonviolent, the brutal Indian regime insists upon treating all Sikhs as "terrorists." The cases of Harpreet Singh and Jaswant Singh Khalsa clearly emanate from that policy. This past September 19, U.S. Representative Philip M. Crane, one of the senior Members of Congress, called upon the Indian regime to recognize the independence of Khalistan. It is time for the United Nations to do the same.

The Sikh nation showed its support for independence in February 1992, when only

four (4) percent of the Sikh population in Punjab, Khalistan, voted in the elections there, held under the Indian constitution, a constitution which no Sikh has ever signed.

In December, Sikh leader Simranjit Singh Mann spoke to a crowd of 50,000 Sikhs and called for a peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement to liberate Khalistan. He asked his audience to raise their hands if they agreed. All 50,000 hands were raised. For this blatant act of free speech, he was arrested in January and kept in illegal detention for six months. He continues to face charges under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which has expired. Old charges against Mr. Mann which has been dismissed were reinstated in order to frighten him into silence. Our demand for freedom is irrevocable, irreversible, and non-negotiable.

India is not one nation. It is a conglomeration of many nations thrown together for administrative purposes by the British. With 18 official languages, India is doomed to disintegrate just as the former Soviet Union did.

Freedom for Khalistan and all the nations living under Indian occupation is inevitable. It is time for India to recognize the inevitable and end its illegal occupation of Khalistan and the other minority nations it occupies. India must recognize Khalistan's independence, as Congressman Crane said. It is time for the United Nations to stop dignifying bloodthirsty tyrants like Mr. Rao. It is time for the U.N. to speak out for the ideals of its charter by working to liberate Khalistan and all the nations of the Indian subcontinent.

Freedom is the universal birthright of all people and nations. It is this universal right that the Sikh nation claims for itself. The only way that right can be preserved is in a sovereign, independent Khalistan. India must recognize reality and free Khalistan now. The Sikh nation will be free. KHALISTAN ZINDABAD.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE SEPARATION INCENTIVE AND REEMPLOYMENT ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Federal Employee Separation Incentive and Reemployment Act because of my concern about Federal Government downsizing and its impact on Federal employees. The Federal Government has a responsibility to its employees to make the transition to the private sector as easy as possible. Federal employees separated from employment should have a soft landing.

Members should know that Federal employees are some of the most dedicated and hard working people around. The Federal employees I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with over the years have a unique sense of community and that is why they have chosen jobs in public service. Serving the needs of the American people is honorable and indispensable. However, as obsolete Government functions are phased out or new technology reduces the need for some positions, Federal employees will be displaced.

Vice President Gore took the lead in 1993 in the downsizing and streamlining effort when he began his "Reinventing Government" initiative. As a result of the reinvention, the administration has reduced Federal employment by