

Singh Aulakh, president of the Council of Khalistan. Another is Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai of the Kashmiri American Council. These two gentlemen do not advocate violence. They advocate peaceful, Democratic, nonviolent struggle for the freedom of their homelands, Khalistan and Kashmir. Yet, according to the Indian regime, they are terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, the people of America and the world, and the fair-minded, thinking Members of this Congress know better. The truth was revealed 3 years ago when the Indian newspaper *Hitvada* reported that the Indian regime paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, the equivalent of \$1.5 billion to create and then support covert state-sponsored terrorism, not only in Punjab, Khalistan, but in neighboring Kashmir as well. Yes, the country that is one of the five largest recipients of United States aid, the country that calls itself "the world's largest democracy," paid a public official \$1.5 billion to foment terrorism so that it could pit the freedom-loving people of Punjab, Khalistan, and Kashmir against each other. In view of this violent, divide-and-conquer tactic, I would ask the obvious question: Who are the real terrorists here? Clearly the real terrorist organization is the Government of India.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason why the hard-working taxpayers of this country should be forced to support this brutal terrorist regime. We should cut off all aid to India, declare it a terrorist nation, and embrace the freedom movements in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, and throughout the occupied, oppressed nations of South Asia.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPHINE TRIPLETT

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, the African-American Network of Kern County hosted its seventh annual Community Awards Night on November 8, 1997 and selected several outstanding Kern County citizens in recognition of their lifelong efforts to improve the way of life that thousands of people, young and old, black and white enjoy.

The recipient of this year's Frederick Douglas Leadership Award is Mrs. Josephine Triplett, a friend and associate from our days together at Bakerfield College. Josephine Triplett is the recipient of an award named after an American hero who believed in freedom for all people in America, who helped Harriet Beecher Stowe establish an industrial school for young people, who after meeting with President Lincoln during the Civil War built two regiments of black soldiers including his two sons, and who supported voting rights for women.

Josephine Triplett's worthiness of the Frederick Douglass Leadership Award can be found in his writings when he said: "The whole history of progress of human liberty shows that if there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground; want rain without thunder and lightning; want the ocean without the awful roar of its many

waters." Josephine Triplett is an agitator, a quiet one perhaps, but she manifests a clear commitment to children, to women, to those in need. As a professor of child development at Bakerfield College, she has been an advocate for infant nutrition and early childhood instruction. She works tirelessly at training college students to pursue these same goals as they go beyond the academic degree. The care and concern she has for others are obvious from the moment her warm personality and ready smile are in your presence.

Josephine Triplett has a distinguished record with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center as well as serving as the curator of the Allenworth State Historic Park. She has assisted with the Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children and has many, many more worthy organizations that she lends her time and commitment and seemingly limitless energy.

Josephine Triplett is one of those Americans who is a leader at home, but often through quiet bearing, is not recognized. We salute her.

RECOGNIZING THE MEXICAN AMERICAN GROCERS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Mexican American Grocers Association Foundation [MAGAF], a scholarship foundation which has awarded over \$1,000,000 to students attending junior colleges and public and private colleges and universities throughout the country.

MAGAF is the brainchild of the Mexican American Grocers Association [MAGA]. MAGA is a nationally recognized advocacy and trade organization, representing the interests of retailers, vendors and others involved in the grocery industry. It was this intimate involvement in and knowledge of the grocery industry which led MAGA's board of directors to found MAGAF. For the past 20 years, MAGAF has provided the financial resources for disadvantaged, deserving students of Mexican/Latino heritage to pursue college degrees in business administration or business-related fields. It is MAGAF's hope that these young scholars, upon graduation, will seek careers within the grocery industry.

MAGAF was established on the premise that private industry has a responsibility to return to the community some of what it has earned. In its tireless dedication to provide needed financial resources to college students, MAGAF also has gained the strong support of others in the grocery industry. Each summer and fall, the giants of the grocery industry attend annual fundraisers to support MAGAF's efforts. It is this cooperative relationship and commitment which has enhanced the diversity of the executives and business owners currently working in the grocery industry.

I am proud to be a longtime supporter of MAGAF. It is a commendable endeavor which provides needed resources to promising college students and its help ensures, upon their graduation, that the grocery industry has a

prospective workforce that is diverse and well educated. Because of MAGAF's efforts, today, highly qualified and educated Mexican/Latinos fill positions in the sales, merchandising and marketing segments of the grocery industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mexican American Grocers Association Foundation on its 20th anniversary of providing financial assistance to our community's college bound students and to wish it well in its future endeavors.

FREE LEYLA ZANA

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, as I speak here tonight, members of the Kurdish community are conducting a vigil for peace and a hunger strike to spotlight the continuing oppression of the Kurdish people. I rise tonight for one simple reason: to express my solidarity with the hunger strikers and my support for the Kurdish people's struggle for freedom, justice—and self-determination. The symbol of that struggle is a fellow democratically elected representative, the imprisoned Kurdish leader, Leyla Zana.

In Turkey today, Mr. Speaker, innocent Kurdish civilians are being massacred, entire Kurdish villages are being destroyed, and millions of Kurds are forced from their homes, forced to the cities where unemployment and inflation are extremely high. The entire region of southeastern Turkey has been ravaged—it has become an economic and humanitarian disaster area. This is simply unacceptable. This is a cause for alarm for a country that uses American arms to commit such crimes. United States-made weapons should never again be used against the Kurds or against anybody else, as they were at the ancient Kurdish city of Halabia, where over 5,000 Kurdish civilians, mostly women and children, were gassed to death. Never again.

Leyla Zana has committed her life's work to pursuing a peaceful and just resolution to the enduring Kurdish question. I hope my colleagues will learn her story—an incredible story of self-education, political growth, heroism and courage.

The Turkish Government feared Leyla Zana was progressing too far in her endeavors for peace and now she shares a prison cell with a convicted murderer. But they cannot imprison her picture, her words, her courage, and her inspiring story.

An initiative has been undertaken in the U.S. House of Representatives in pursuit of Leyla Zana's freedom. I, and 143 of my colleagues in Congress have signed a letter to President Clinton urging him to seek Leyla Zana's immediate and unconditional release from prison. More Members of Congress are standing with Leyla Zana and the Kurdish people now than ever before. Without a doubt, the U.S. Congress is becoming more aware of, and more sympathetic to, the plight of the Kurdish people.

Kurds in Iran, Iraq, Syria, as well as Turkey live as second class citizens, denied the basic human rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Because of the inspiring work of Leyla Zana and thousands of others, the oppression of the Kurdish minority will someday