model for all Americans who desire to serve their country in the most difficult and trying of circumstances. Many young men and women are now serving their nation without regard to personal safety to ensure we enjoy the freedoms our forefathers paid for so many years ago. We salute you and honor you Christopher good luck with your recovery, and good luck in your future endeavors.

SIKH ACTIVIST DETAINED IN CANADA AND BRITAIN AT BEhest OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT

HON. DAN BURTON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Bhagwan Singh Sandhu, a leader of the Sikh Students Federation, was detained at the airports in Vancouver and in London last month, apparently at the behest of the Indian government. According to information I have received, Dr. Sandhu was detained overnight and interrogated by Canadian intelligence agents who were in constant contact with Indian officials in Delhi. According to Dr. Sandhu, he was told that he was a terrorist, yet no evidence to support this claim was produced by authorities in Canada. The same thing apparently happened to him on his arrival in London. All records of his interrogation were retained by the Indian regime.

Mr. Speaker, the Indian Government appears to be trying to capitalize on the world’s heightened concerns about terrorism to harass innocent Sikhs beyond its borders. In the case of Dr. Sandhu, it appears that India manipulated our friends in Canada and Great Britain so that they would detain Dr. Sandhu. The Council of Khalistan has issued an excellent pamphlet on the detention of Dr. Sandhu. It is very informative, I would like to place it in the RECORD at this time.

[From the Council of Khalistan, Mar. 11, 2002]

SIKH ACTIVIST ARRESTED IN CANADA AND ENGLAND AT BEhest OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT

INDIA TERRORIZING SIHKS INTERNATIONALLY

WASHINGTON, March 11, 2002

Mr. Bhagwan Singh Sandhu, a leader of the Sikh Student Federation, was arrested at the Vancouver airport on February 12 on the instructions of the Indian government. Canadian intelligence agents interrogated Dr. Sandhu while they were in constant touch with Indian intelligence in Delhi. They offered no evidence of any involvement by Dr. Sandhu in any terrorist activity in India or any other country. Yet he was labeled a terrorist by the Canadian intelligence officials. They locked him in a cold, small cell with only a cement bench to lie down on.

The following evening, February 13, he was put on a plane to London.

When Dr. Sandhu arrived in London, the British, acting at the behest of the Indian government arrested him. He was interrogated and searched, then held in jail overnight. He was then sent back to India. The Indian government kept all the papers related to his arrest and detention. When he arrived in India, he was arrested again. He had to get medical attention due to his injuries from his arrests. His letters of protests to the Canadian, British, and Indian authorities have been unanswered.

“This arrest shows the true face of Indian secularism,” said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the organization that leads the Sikh Nation’s struggle for independence. “These illegal arrests show that the Hindu nationalists will reach anywhere with their arrest warrants and other minorities,” he said. “They attacked the Golden Temple in 1984. They have attacked Christian churches, schools, and prayer halls. It has been an ongoing pattern of repression,” he said.

“It is shameful that the Canadian and British governments have gone along with India’s repression by illegally arresting and harassing Dr. Sandhu,” said Dr. Aulakh. “Dr. Sandhu is a victim of India’s tyrannical, fanatical drive to eliminate all minority populations of rampaging Hindu cultural imperialism,” he said. “It is clear that the agents at the airports in Vancouver and London were working at the behest of the brutal Indian government, perhaps at its direction since they were apparently in constant contact with Delhi.”

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988. More than 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947, along with tens of thousands of Dalits, Tamiils, Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, and other minorities. A report issued last year shows that 52,268 Sikh political prisoners are held in Indian jails, as tens of thousands of others. On February 28, 42 Members of the U.S. Congress wrote to President Bush, asking him to work to get these political prisoners freed. Since Christmas 1996, Christians have felt the brunt of the attacks. Priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been destroyed, and no one has been punished for these acts. Militant Hindu fundamentalists allied with the RSS, the pro-Fascist parent organization of the ruling BJP, burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death.

Last year, a cabinet member said that everyone living in India must be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus. In July 1997, Narinder Singh, a spokesperson for the Golden Temple, told National Public Radio, “The Indian government, all the time they boast that they’re democratic, they’re secular, but they have nothing to do with a democracy, they have nothing to do with a secularism. They try to crush Sikhs just to please the majority.”

“The only way to escape this government-supported violence and tyranny is for the Sikhs, Christians, and other minorities to claim their freedom from India,” Dr. Aulakh said. “That is the only way to prevent the Hindu theocracy from wiping us out,” he said. “We must launch a Shantmai Morcha (peaceful agitation) to liberate Khalistan,” he said.

“Sikhs are a separate nation and ruled Punjab until 1849. A leader has signed the Indian constitution. The people of South Punjab until 1849. No Sikh leader has signed Khalistan,” Dr. Aulakh said.

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FALUN GONG
HON. MARK UDALL
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the religious persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in mainland China. Falun Gong representatives believe that over 100,000 Falun Gong practitioners have been arrested. Tens of thousands have been thrown into labor camps without trial, and at least 1,000 healthy practitioners have been put into mental hospitals and have suffered illegal psychiatric abuse. It has also been reported that between 1,000 and 1,600 people have been killed in police custody.

It is thought that there are as many as 10 million Falun Gong practitioners worldwide. Falun Gong believers hold that this spiritual practice instills the three principles of truthfulness, compassion and tolerance, and would merely like the opportunity to peacefully practice their beliefs without fear of torture or imprisonment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting Falun Gong and its practitioners’ quest for peace and tolerance.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. SOSSINA HAILE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women’s History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation’s most notable women during the month of March and it is my honor to not only recognize women of the past but to also recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I am honored today to pay homage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O’Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all the women of my Congressional District, whose contributions have made a profound difference in the face and fabric of our nation. It is a special privilege to recognize an outstanding woman of California’s 27th Congressional District, Dr. Sossina M. Haile, who is a well-respected and valuable member of the educational community in my district and her work as a professor and advisor is important in helping to shape the face and scope of research in this country.

Dr. Haile received her Bachelor of Science degree in Math, Science and Engineering from MIT and went on to receive her M.S. degree in the same discipline from the University of California, Berkeley. She returned to her alma mater, MIT, where she earned a Ph.D. She began her professional career in education at the Max-Planck-Institut für Festkorperforschung in Stuttgart, Germany as a Fulbright then Humboldt Fellow between October 1991 and August 1993. She served as the Department of Materials Sciences and Engineering’s Battelle Professor at the University of Washington from September 1993 to September 1996. In the fall of 1996 she became an Assistant Professor in the Materials Science Department at the California Institute of Technology and I am happy to announce that she was recently granted an Associate Professorship at Caltech in the fall of last year.

Over her academic years, Dr. Haile has compiled an impressive and outstanding list of