

do well to follow his lead in standing for strong support of Affirmative Action.

The reason Affirmative Action is needed is due to the historic experience of Blacks in America. The experience of Blacks in this country is without analogue and is unique due to the nature of American enslavement of millions of Blacks during the founding of the republic and thereafter. The political, social, cultural and economic effect of racial exclusion because of slavery, which continued in the form of Jim Crow laws and currently operate through more subtle forms of racial prejudice, result in Black Americans having a special and unique set of claims for redress by the body politic.

This month you celebrated the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and pledged yourself to renewed efforts toward equal opportunity. The way to turn your words into something beyond empty rhetoric is to support concrete action towards equal opportunity in the form of Affirmative Action. Even Dr. King called for "compensatory measures" to help Blacks approach parity in employment opportunities, income wealth, entrepreneurship and other indicators of well being in this country. While we believe that race should not be the only factor in Affirmative Action efforts, we do believe that it is valid to take account of race as a factor when opportunities are distributed among people in society today.

With greater effort expended by your Administration and others yet to come, we look forward to the day when Affirmative Action will no longer be necessary. That will be when America has finally attained the level of equal opportunity, inclusion and sense of beloved community for all citizens.

The Black community seeks the opportunity to be strengthened so that eventually it can stand upon its own feet, having the effects of past racial exclusion and discrimination erased and able to enter into the fullness of the blessings of America. Your Administration's active support of the Black community in this matter could be among the greatest legacies of the party of Lincoln.

We pledge to pray for you and your administration that you might encounter the Divine Wisdom in this matter.

In Christ,

G. E. PATTERSON,  
*Presiding Bishop.*

The General Board: C. E. Blake; C. D. Owens; L. E. Willis; J. N. Haynes; P. A. Brooks; G. D. McKinney; W. W. Hamilton; L. R. Anderson; N. W. Wells, R. L. H. Winbush; S. L. Green, Jr.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
MARY SLAMA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mary Slama—Beloved wife, cherished mother and grandmother, and friend and mentor to many.

Mary leaves behind a legacy of professionalism, volunteerism, journalistic talent, and sincere concern for her community. Driven by a passion for learning and personal growth, Mary attained a Bachelor's degree and later a Master's degree in English. She led the West Life newspaper as reporter, then editor, with fairness, accuracy, wit and heart. Mary kept west side readers well informed and updated on news stories ranging from local community and political news to human interest stories.

Mary's high level of energy and great enthusiasm for life radiated throughout her every endeavor. Her vital work on behalf of my Congressional campaign raised the spirits of those around her, and inspired others to do their best. Moreover, Mary's wonderful sense of humor and kind nature consistently served to soften even the harshest of personalities.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mary Slama—Community advocate, and friend and mentor to countless, including me. I offer my deepest condolences to her beloved husband, Bill; beloved son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Marilyn; cherished grandchildren Natalie and Patrick, and to her many colleagues and friends. Her kind nature, journalistic talent and ability to connect with others have made our corner of the world a better place. Mary Slama's friendship, significant work, and concern for our community will be remembered always.

SPARE THE LIFE OF DEVINDER  
PAL SINGH BHULLAR

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Devinder Singh Pal Bhullar faces the death penalty. He should be spared. His pending execution shows that the Indian constitution only protects the Hindu majority.

Bhullar was accused of being involved in a 1993 bombing near the offices of the Youth Congress in Delhi. 20 people were killed in that blast and Congress leader M.S. Bitta lost a leg.

This might be a justifiable sentence for such a crime except for a few small details. Mr. Bhullar was found "not guilty" by the presiding judge of a three-judge panel from India's Supreme Court. The judge directed that he be released. Apparently, that was not acceptable to the fundamentalist Hindu nationalist regime. So they tortured him to coerce him into signing a false confession which was subsequently retracted. Yet they are executing him on the basis of this forced confession.

This is offensive to anyone with a sense of justice. Mr. Speaker. This is not the way a democratic country does things. It is how criminal cases are handled in such models of democracy as Red China and Iraq. Meanwhile, Sajjan Kumar and H.K.L. Bhagat, the officials responsible for inciting the murders of thousands of Sikhs in Delhi, have never been brought to justice.

Unfortunately, this is typical of how India treats its minorities. Last year in Gujarat 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were murdered by militant Hindu nationalists while police, under orders, stood by and did nothing. No one has been punished for this atrocity. Now police in Gujarat are demanding very intrusive information about Christians there. Meanwhile, two states have enacted laws prohibiting religious conversions—except to Hinduism, of course.

Police have murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 85,000 Muslims in Kashmir, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalit "untouchables," Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. Indian forces were caught

red-handed in a village in Kashmir trying to set fire to the Sikh Gurdwara and some homes there. Two studies have shown that Indian forces carried out the massacre of 35 Sikhs in Chithisinghpura three years ago this month.

Missionary Graham Staines and his two sons were murdered by being burned to death in their jeep while the killers surrounded the jeep and chanted "Victory to Hannuman." Missionary Joseph Cooper was severely beaten and had to spend a week in the hospital. Then he was expelled from the country for preaching. The widow of Mr. Staines was also expelled from India. Christian churches have been burned and schools and prayer halls have been violently attacked with impunity. There have been priests murdered and nuns raped.

In 1995, Indian police picked up human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra did a study of cremation grounds in Punjab which showed that thousands of Sikhs have been picked up, tortured, murdered, then declared "unidentified" and secretly cremated. For his efforts, Khalra was picked up by the police and murdered while in police custody. More than 52,000 Sikhs sit in jail as political prisoners without charge or trial.

The time has come to stop our aid to India. We should also support the self-determination to which all peoples and nations are entitled. This is the only way to end atrocities such as these and to ensure peace, freedom, stability, and prosperity in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's outstanding press release on the Bhullar case into the RECORD.

DEVINDER PAL SINGH BHULLAR'S LIFE MUST  
BE SPARED

MINORITIES ELIMINATED, DIRECTLY OR BY  
COURTS

WASHINGTON, DC, Feb. 25, 2003.—The impending execution of Devinder Pal Singh Bhullar shows that the Constitution of India only protects the majority Hindu population, according to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for independence from India. Dr. Aulakh called on the President of India to stop the execution. Bhullar was accused of a 1993 bomb blast near the Youth Congress office in Delhi in which 20 people were killed. Congress leader M.S. Bitta lost a leg in that attack.

The presiding Judge of a three-Judge bench in the Supreme Court of India found Professor Bhullar, a political activist, "Not Guilty" and directed that he be released. However, Professor Bhullar was convicted based on a forced confession obtained through torture, which was retracted. On that basis India wants to impose capital punishment on Professor Bhullar. Sajjan Kumar and H.K.L. Bhagat, who personally incited the murder of thousands of Sikhs in Delhi, go off scot-free without any punishment. Even by Indian standards, this is an outrageous miscarriage of justice.

"The Bhullar case is merely the latest example of how India eliminates minorities," said Dr. Aulakh. Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been picked up, tortured, and killed, then their bodies are declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Then Mr. Khalra was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. Similarly, the police murdered former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke. His body was not handed over to his family.