

Many witnesses talked about the atrocities that have become everyday policy in India's minority states, such as Punjab, Khalistan and Kashmir. Witnesses testified to such atrocities as extrajudicial killings, including fake encounter killings, custodial deaths throughout the country, excessive use of force by security forces, youth sexually incapacitated through torture, rapes, murders, burning villages, and others.

India claims to be democratic, but it is really a brutal tyranny, as these atrocities show. It has placed over 700,000 troops in Kashmir and another 500,000 in Punjab, Khalistan to suppress any opposition to its brutal rule. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 87,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Dalits, and others.

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America, the beacon of freedom for the world, cannot just stand by and let these atrocities occur. We should stop aid to India until it respects human rights and we should put this Congress on record in support of self-determination for the Sikhs, Kashmiris, Nagas, and everyone who is seeking freedom from India's brutal rule.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan issued an excellent, detailed, and informative press release on the hearing, which I would like to insert in the RECORD now.

DR. AULAKH, OTHERS EXPOSE INDIAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 12, 2004.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, exposed Indian human rights violations against the Sikhs and other minorities at a Congressional hearing today entitled "Decades of Terror: Exploring Human Rights Abuses in Kashmir and the Disputed Territories." He gave a very emotional informative, strong statement. It was a very successful appearance.

"Repression is the official policy of supposedly secular and democratic India," said Dr. Aulakh. "The reality is that India is a Hindu theocracy, not the democracy it claims to be," he said. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan. India's brutal occupation of Khalistan and other minority nations is now internationalized and brought to the attention of the world. On December 5, President Bush told Dr. Aulakh, "I am aware of the Sikh and Kashmiri problem." Dr. Aulakh made it clear to the committee that "freedom for all the minority nations of South Asia is the only way to end the repression and secure full human rights for everyone in that troubled region."

Dr. Aulakh testified that "An Army commander in Amritsar district threatened that he would murder the Sikh men, bring the women to the Army barracks, and produce a new generation of Sikhs." Mr. Chairman, this is disgraceful and extremely insulting to the proud Sikhs. It is unbecoming of an army commander of a nation which claims to be the world's largest democracy." He blasted India's policy of Hindutva, the total Hinduization of every aspect of life in India. He noted that Amnesty International has not been allowed into Punjab since 1978. "Even Castro's Cuba has allowed Amnesty International into the country more recently," he said.

Subcommittee Chairman Representative Dan Burton (R-Indiana) opened the hearing

with a statement. Congressman Burton said, "Just as the world is disgusted by the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by United States servicemen and women, we should be disgusted by the tactics that have been systematically employed by Indian military and paramilitary forces." He quoted the U.S. State Department report on India: "Significant human rights abuses included: Extrajudicial killings, including fake encounter killings, custodial deaths throughout the country, and excessive use of force by security forces." Chairman Burton noted "techniques like reprisal killings, burning down of whole villages, and summary executions." He said that "India's insistence on resolving a political problem by force has dragged it down into a campaign of essentially lawless state terrorism."

"We thank Chairman Burton for holding this important hearing," said Dr. Aulakh. "It has been helpful in showing the world the truth about India's claim to be a secular democracy. What India really is is one of the world's most brutal tyrannies," he said.

Other speakers included The Honorable Michael Kozak, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; The Honorable Donald Camp, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of South Asian Affairs; Mr. T. Kumar, Advocacy Director—Asia, Amnesty International; The Honorable Bob Giuda, Chairman of Americans for Resolution of Kashmir and Deputy Majority Leader of the New Hampshire House of Representatives; Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Executive Director of the Kashmiri American Council; Mrs. Attiya Inayatullah, a human-rights activist and aid worker; and Selig Harrison, Director of the Asia Program, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Policy. Sikhs from Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania came to the hearing. Representatives of the Sikh Coalition were in attendance. Such Sikh youth leaders as Amardeep Singh Bhalla, Gurpreet Singh Dhillon, Mona Kaur Dhillon, and others, as well as Sikh activists Ranjit Singh, Gurbax Singh Dhillon, Karj Singh Sandhu, Kavneet Singh Pannu, and many others attended in an excellent show of Sikh strength.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 87,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." Mrs. Inayatullah testified that in Kashmir, "Since 1989 and as of January 2004 the death toll stands at 87,648. The orphan count is 105,210, women ages 7-70 molested is a shameful 9,297 and another 21,286 reported widowed, with there being no record of the number of youth sexually incapacitated through torture and disabled for life." She said that "Buzz words like cross-border terrorism and fundamentalism will not cover India's guilt." Rep. Giuda noted that "Indian law immunizes its army and police from prosecution for actions committed under color of 'prevention of terrorism', enabling a hideous government-sanctioned repertoire of torture, rapes, murder, arson, and custodial killing. Pakistan allows U.N. observers and human-rights organizations unfettered access to Free Kashmir, while India denies access to substantial parts of IOK. One must ask, 'Why are no observers allowed? What is India hiding?'"

Mr. Kumar said that "torture, including rape, deaths in custody, extrajudicial killings, and 'disappearances' have been perpetrated by agents of the state with impunity." He said that "Most families of all backgrounds have experienced some form of loss—of livelihood, of a relative, or of the

sense of security of life, liberty, and other fundamental human rights." Dr. Fai reported that "Killings in Kashmir have become so commonplace that they are reported like car accidents in the United States." He described rapes, torture, arbitrary arrests, and other activities. He noted that "freedom to speak, write, or organize around self-determination or criticism of the Indian government for millions of Kashmiris is chimerical." He noted that the Official Secrets Act gives the government authority to suppress criticism of its policies. He said that "India has authorized a police state reminiscent of the Gestapo."

Mr. Harrison stated that India has built "an inflated military force that has committed well-documented atrocities." Secretary Kozak said, "Our annual human-rights report documents our concern and gives examples of the abuses that take place all too frequently."

Dr. Aulakh testified that Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Khaira was murdered in police custody. His body was never given to his family. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has not been brought to trial for the murder of Jathedar Kaunke. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khaira. According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Amnesty International recently reported at least 100 current torture cases in Punjab. A Sikh leader named Gurnihal Singh Pirzada was arrested on charges that he attended a meeting with "dissidents." Although he denies attending the meeting, he said that it would not be illegal if he did.

Dr. Aulakh noted that history shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. India is ruled by Hindu theocrats whose agenda is "Hindu, Hindi, Hindutva, Hindu Rashtra," or total Hindu domination of every facet of Indian life. An Indian Cabinet minister said that everyone who lives in India must be a Hindu or subservient to Hindus.

"As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

IN HONOR OF ROBERT RIVERS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Robert Rivers is a man of many parts who has served his community, city and country. Bobby, as he is most familiarly known, was born in Harlem and after

high school joined the Air Force, serving four years and being honorably discharged.

He returned home to his family and met Hazel Pazant, who became his wife. Fortunately for the Bronx they moved here and started to raise their family of four children. Bobby became a police officer in the New York City Police Department in 1969. While a police officer, he attended and graduated Fordham University with a degree in Sociology.

Also during his years on the force, he settled in the northeast Bronx and he joined his local block association, the Seton Falls Neighborhood Association, one of the many organizations helping his community that he joined. He also joined the Guardians Association, a police organization, eventually becoming its president. He retired from the Police Department in 1997 as a Detective but remains active with the National Black Police Association.

He has engaged in many civic activities in his community, including the fight to save Seton Falls Park from becoming a landfill, and joined the 47th Precinct Review Committee, monitoring the activities of the police in the community. He is also a member of the NAACP, serving on several committees in that organization, and is chair of the Legal Redress Committee.

He also serves as Chair of the Thurgood Marshall Independent Democratic Club.

Bobby Rivers is a tireless activist for his community, willing and able to participate in any and every activity that will help his community and improve life there. I congratulate him for his great work and wish him every continued success.

RECOGNIZING JAMES PARKER
SOUTHWORTH FOR ACHIEVING
THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Parker Southworth, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 135, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop for the past seven years, participating in numerous Scout activities. Over the years James has been involved with scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions such as Patrol and Senior Patrol Leader, five-year camper at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, and Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. He has also earned thirty Merit Badges. For his Eagle Scout project, James organized a project to teach tree pruning techniques to other Scouts and Leaders and then pruned the trees around the four mile walking trail in Kearney, Missouri.

James will be serving the United States of America by enlisting in the Marine Corps and will be leaving by the end of this month for his induction.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Parker Southworth for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING GLENN E. ESTESS AS
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
FOR 2004–2005

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor a good friend of mine, and an outstanding citizen, the newly named president of the Rotary International Club, Mr. Glenn E. Estess Sr. Following is a resolution provided by the Rotary Club of Shades Valley, Alabama, of which Mr. Estess is a member.

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr., a native of the state of Mississippi, United States of America, has devoted a significant portion of his adult life to service with Rotary clubs; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. became a Rotarian first in 1960 as a member of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville, Florida; and

Whereas, upon moving to Wayne, New Jersey, he affiliated with the Rotary Club of that city, becoming as he had been in Florida, a member of the club's board of directors; and

Whereas, when his business brought him to Birmingham, Alabama in 1970, he promptly affiliated with the Rotary Club of Shades Valley, Alabama; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. held many offices of trust and responsibility as a valuable member of the Rotary Club of Shades Valley, Alabama, including that of president of the club in 1975–1976; and

Whereas, in the year 1979–1980 Glenn E. Estess Sr. was called upon to serve in the demanding position of district governor of Rotary District 686 (later 6860); and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. was PolioPlus National Coordinator in 1987–1988, giving leadership to a program, conducted in cooperation with various national and international health organizations, designed to eradicate polio and other scourges throughout the world by the year 2005 by initially raising more than \$240 million; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. was a member of the Rotary International Assembly Committee for six years, served as chairman of the Rotary International Assembly, and became International Assembly moderator in 1999; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. has three times been a member of the influential Rotary International Council on Legislation and has also attended two additional sessions of the Council on Legislation as an official observer; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. served as vice president of Rotary International during 1991–1992; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. was a trustee of The Rotary Foundation during the years 1993–1996; and

Whereas, in 1996–1997 Glenn E. Estess Sr. and his charming wife, Mary, served as official aides to the Rotary International president and his wife; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. is a Rotary Foundation Major Donor, a Paul Harris Fellow, and a Benefactor of the Foundation; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. is the deserving recipient of The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and the Foundation's Distinguished Service Award; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. has recently served as a member of Rotary International's vital Audit and Operations Review Committee, Rotary International's only committee with a six-year term as mandated by the 1998 Council on Legislation; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. is the recipient of Rotary International's coveted Service Above Self Award; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. is married to Mary Grantham, and they are the parents of three adult children, all of whom; along with ten additional family members, are Paul Harris Fellows; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. has further demonstrated his unflagging spirit of service to the community by accepting roles of importance with such prominent civic organizations as the Birmingham Baptist Health System, then an eleven-hospital system with approximately 10,000 employees, of which he was chairman of the Board of Trustees; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. displayed his civic consciousness while living in Florida by serving as chairman of the YMCA, the American Chemical Society, and the Arthritis Foundation; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. has given service as a member of the Board of Regents of the National Association of Personnel Consultants in the United States; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. has been a director of the Better Business Bureau of Central Alabama and a trustee for the Workman's Compensation Trust of the Business Council of Alabama; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. has been a faithful and involved member of Brookwood Baptist Church of Mountain Brook, a suburb of Birmingham, Alabama; and

Whereas, Glenn E. Estess Sr. will be formally installed as president of Rotary International on May 26, 2004, at the annual convention held in Osaka, Japan, to serve during the year 2004–2005; and

Whereas, the citizens of the great state of Alabama are extremely honored and proud that Glenn E. Estess Sr. has been chosen to lead Rotary International during its centennial celebration year of 2005: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the one hundred fifty six members of the Rotary Club of Shades Valley, Alabama, individually and collectively, unambiguously and enthusiastically congratulate its esteemed fellow member, Glenn E. Estess Sr., upon his election to the prestigious position as president of Rotary International for the year 2004–2005; and be it

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be suitably engrossed and framed and presented to Glenn and Mary Estess. Done this 3rd day of May 2004 by members of the Rotary Club of Shades Valley, Alabama, in meeting assembled.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, in the rural landscape of family farms and small towns of central Pennsylvania, the fabric of America is woven. It is a fabric of patriotic Americans who work hard, respect their neighbors, and stand proud for this nation. It is a fabric of families that heaps admiration on the fathers and mothers and the sons and daughters who serve in our Armed Forces with selfless dedication. And it is this same fabric of families who sacrifice so much for this country.

Our soldiers stand resolved to protect our families and our children from danger and attack. To these American military heroes, it is understood that we must do everything possible to win the war on terror and keep Americans safe. Failure is not an option. If freedom