

of thousands of other minorities. They are holding over 52,000 Sikhs as political prisoners, according to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) and tens of thousands of other minorities, according to Amnesty International.

The only way to preserve basic human rights for minorities in India is to stop all aid and trade until India observes these basic liberties. And we should also go on record in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and the minority nations of South Asia. That will help bring freedom, prosperity, peace, and stability to this troubled region.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to place the Council of Khalistan's press release on the celebration into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

#### 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF GURU GRANTH SAHIB

WASHINGTON, DC, Sept. 10, 2004.—On September 1, Sikhs gathered in Anuitsar to observe the 400th anniversary of the first installation of the Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scriptures, at Darbar Sahib, the holiest of Sikh shrines. Indian President Abdul Kalam, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Buddhism, attended the celebration. Sikhs remember that bullets pierced through the Guru Granth Sahib during Operation Bluestar, the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, in 1984.

The Guru Granth Sahib was written by the Sikh Gurus as revealed to them by God. It was written at the time in which they lived. It also includes the writing of other saints of that time which fit the philosophy of the Sikh Gurus.

"This anniversary is a joyous occasion for the Sikh Nation as we celebrate the Sikh way of life as given to us by the Gurus," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. The Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, leads the struggle to liberate Khalistan, which declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987.

Sikhism is an independent, monotheistic religion that believes in the equality of the whole human race. The tenth and last Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, declared the blessing "In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi," conferring sovereignty on the Sikh Nation, which is culturally, linguistically, and religiously distinct from any other people in the world, including Hindu India. "We must honor the Guru by reclaiming our lost sovereignty," Dr. Aulakh said.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. Christians and Muslims have also been murdered in other parts of the country. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." According to a study by the Movement Against State Repression, 52,268 Sikhs are being held in illegal detention as political prisoners without charge or trial. Some of them have been held since 1984!

Christian missionary Joseph Cooper was expelled from India after a mob of militant Hindu nationalists allied with the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), a fundamentalist, pro-Fascist organization that is the parent organization of the BJP, beat him so severely he had to spend a week in the hospital. In 2002, 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were

murdered in Gujarat while police were ordered to stand aside, reminiscent of the 1984 Delhi massacres of Sikhs. Indian newspapers reported that the government planned the Gujarat massacre in advance.

India is not one country; it is a polyglot thrown together by the British for their administrative convenience. Sikhs ruled Punjab until 1849 when the British conquered the subcontinent. Sikhs were equal partners during the transfer of power from the British. The Muslim leader Jinnah got Pakistan, the Hindu leaders got India, but the Sikh leadership was fooled by the Hindu leadership promising that Sikhs would have "the glow of freedom" in Northwest India. The Sikhs took their share with India on that promise. For that mistake, Sikhs are suffering now. "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.

"Democracies don't commit genocide," Dr. Aulakh said. "Only in a free and sovereign Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper. In a democracy, the right to self-determination is the sine qua non and India should allow a plebiscite for the freedom of the Sikh Nation," he said.

"The Guru Granth Sahib is the reigning Guru of the Sikh Nation and reminds us of our heritage of freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "It is appropriate that it received a fitting celebration."

#### SYSTEMS—NATIONAL 8(a) GRADUATE OF THE YEAR

### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 2004*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to congratulate bd Systems and its President/Chief Executive Officer Clarisa F. Howard of Torrance, California on being named the United States Small Business Administration's National 8(a) Graduate of the Year.

I am very proud that this prestigious award, which is presented annually to companies who have demonstrated excellence in business since graduating from the SBA's 8(a) minority business development program, was awarded to a business located in the heart of the 37th District of California.

Clarisa Howard built bd Systems from a three-person operation in 1981, to a thriving company of more than 346 employees today. bd Systems has operations in twenty locations, including right here in the District of Columbia.

bd Systems has been recognized for over 20 years as a world-class provider of technology solutions, providing proven engineering and IT performance, design, analysis, and support. Under Clarisa's leadership, the firm has earned a positive reputation as a key subcontractor to several large defense contractors, including Boeing, which operates a facility in the Long Beach area of my District.

Mr. Speaker, this week is National Minority Enterprise Development Week, and minority business owners from all over the country are participating in a weeklong conference being held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel here in Washington, DC.

The theme for this year's conference, which is the largest federally sponsored activity held on behalf of minority business enterprises, is

"Forward to the Future, Minority Business Enterprise: The National Priority".

The conference is an important conduit in providing critical information to both the minority business community, and to corporate America at large. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the number of minority owned small businesses are growing nationwide and are an emerging economic force.

In closing, I'd like to salute Clarisa Howard and all of the employees of bd Systems for their tremendous achievement, and I am sure that they will continue to be a success for years to come.

#### OPPOSITION TO COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

### HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 2004*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to a cost-of-living increase for Members of Congress. During the recent August district work period, I traveled across Kansas, meeting with farmers and ranchers, teachers, small business owners, and health care providers. Many of them shared with me the difficulties they face making ends meet in our recovering economy with the rising costs of transportation and health care services. These individuals are working hard to provide for their families, but while they are experiencing first-hand the effects of a cost-of-living increase, an automatic pay raise is not available to them. Families in Kansas and across the country are making tough decisions, controlling spending, balancing their budgets, and practicing fiscal discipline; Members of Congress should be no different.

I am opposed to an automatic congressional pay raise and believe the process should be reformed. If Congress desires a pay increase, we should debate the issue as we do with other funding legislation. There should be a yes-no vote on the record with full disclosure to the public. Congressional action should reflect the interests of our constituents and any vote to increase Member salaries should be done with an open, transparent process.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 2004*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, because of an emergency in my district, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 441, 442 and 443. If present I would have voted "yea."

#### REMEMBERING TOM OSBURN

### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 2004*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to the former mayor of Sherman,