

had to travel under heavy security after being attacked and vandalized.

Over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been murdered, along with thousands of Muslims in other parts of the country. Recently, according to the BBC, the Indian government finally admitted that Muslims in Gujarat did not set the train fire that led to the massacre of 5,000 of them, a massacre that a policeman told an Indian newspaper was planned in advance by the Indian government.

India forced Untouchables out of a refugee camp after the tsunami, according to Yahoo! News. The Washington Post reported that they were being given only the leftover food of Brahmins and India has refused all efforts by the international community to come and help them. Even though the very Indian constitution that Republic Day celebrates outlawed the caste system, it is alive and well to this day.

Mr. Speaker, these are just the latest examples of the repression of minorities that continues to occur while India celebrates its secular, democratic constitution. This is unacceptable. In the President's recent Inaugural Address, he spoke about extending freedom to all the world. India is one place where that effort needs to be carried out before the country, a multinational, polyglot empire like Austria-Hungary, the Soviet Union, or Yugoslavia, falls apart. We must do whatever we can to ensure freedom and peace for all in the subcontinent.

The best things we can do are to stop our aid and trade with India until human rights are respected and the violent repression ceases and to put ourselves on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir (as promised in 1948), in Nagaland, and throughout the minority areas of the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to place an article about Dal Khalsa's protest in Amritsar and a press release about the Council of Khalistan's protest here in Washington into the RECORD.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC.

**SIKHS MARK INDIAN REPUBLIC DAY BY
PROTESTING GENOCIDE, REPRESSION**

WASHINGTON, DC, January 26, 2005.—Sikhs from all over the East Coast came to Washington today to mark Indian Republic Day by protesting the genocide and repression against the Sikhs and other minorities. They raised slogans such as "India out of Khalistan" and carried signs such as "India: Democracy for Brahmins, Tyranny for Minorities." The demonstration was organized by the Council of Khalistan, which leads the struggle to establish a sovereign, independent Khalistan free from Indian occupation. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan. The Council of Khalistan was established at that time to lead the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement to liberate Khalistan from Indian oppression. It is the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland.

Republic Day is the anniversary of the adoption of India's constitution, which is supposed to ensure a secular, democratic government. But the Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." 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! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa 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. Khalsa was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalsa. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swarn Singh Ghotna murdered him. He has never been tried for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs.

Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. None of the people involved has been tried. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered not to get involved in that massacre, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984.

"Is Jaswant Singh Khalsa celebrating? Is Jathedar Kaunke celebrating? Is Graham Staines celebrating?" Dr. Aulakh asked. "How can a democracy celebrate the kind of violent repression that claimed their lives?"

When India became Independent, Sikhs were equal partners in the transfer of power and were to receive their own state, but the weak and ignorant Sikh leaders of the time were tricked into staying with India on the promise that they would have "the glow of freedom" and no law affecting the Sikhs would pass without their consent. Sikhs ruled an independent and sovereign Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849 and were recognized by most of the countries of the world at that time. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution.

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. Last year, the Punjab Legislative Assembly passed a bill annulling all water agreements with the Indian government, preventing the government's daylight robbery of Punjab river water. Punjab needs its river water for its crops. In the bill, the Assembly explicitly stated the sovereignty of Punjab. Political leaders in Punjab have again called for an Independent Khalistan.

"This shows that the drive for freedom is still alive in Punjab," Dr. Aulakh said. "It is clear that India does not accept Sikhs," said Dr. Aulakh. "The Indian government continues to persecute and kill our Sikh brethren," he said. "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. "With-

out political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. A sovereign Khalistan is essential for the survival of the Sikh religion."

[From WebIndia123.com, Jan. 26, 2005]

DAL KHALSA OBSERVE R-DAY AS "BETRAYAL DAY" IN AMRITSAR

AMRITSAR, January 26, 2005 (ANI).—Leaders of Dal Khalsa on Wednesday gathered at Gurudwara Shahid Ganj, Amritsar to observe the Indian republic day as betrayal day.

The Dal Khalsa leaders, including president of Dal Khalsa Harcharnjit Singh Dhama, Khalistan ideologue Jagjit Singh Chauhan, Satnam Singh Paunta Sahib, hijacker of Indian Airlines plan in 1981 performed a Ardaas for the freedom of the Sikh nation.

They hoisted the Khalsa flag of Maharaj Ranjit Singh's regime, which symbolises Sikh raj, and prayed for the freedom of the Sikh community as they took guard of honour and pledged to continue their struggle for a free Sikh nation.

Dal Khalsa leaders describe 26th January as "betrayal day" for the Sikhs as Indian leaders betrayed the Sikh nation and imposed the present Constitution on them.

They also believe that Sikhs have been massacred in Punjab, Delhi and elsewhere after the Blue Star Operation in 1984.

**RECOGNIZING JOHN LANDERS
UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS
RETIREMENT**

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, for the past two years John Landers has served with utmost distinction as a professional staff member of our Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization.

Anticipating an active agenda on Federal workforce issues and oversight when I assumed the Chairmanship of the Government Reform Committee in January of 2003, I requested the loan of a subject expert on civil service law and regulation from the Office of Personnel Management.

The person selected by OPM for this assignment was John Landers. I expected John to be technically competent, but with over 30 years of experience in Federal personnel issues John brought with him an encyclopedic recall of pertinent statutes, regulations, court cases, and precedent that proved invaluable to our Committee's work.

John began his career at the U.S. Civil Service Commission as a retirement claims examiner in 1972. He quickly progressed through the benefits programs to lead the Retirement Policy Division and eventually became a Senior Advisor. As a legislative and policy analyst, John wrote Government-wide regulations as well as legislative proposals on the retirement, health, and life insurance programs. Having learned these programs from the inside out, John took over OPM's Technical Analysis Branch in 1984 and the Retirement Policy Division in 1987, where he helped develop and implement the Government's new retirement system known as "FERS."

In 1998, John became a Senior Advisor to OPM's Associate Director for Retirement and Insurance, and in 2001 became a Special Assistant to the Director of OPM. In these positions John assisted in shaping broad Federal

workforce policy, including introduction of pre-tax benefits as a component of compensation, and personnel elements written into the legislation creating the new Department of Homeland Security. For his contributions John received the Director's Award for Excellence in October 2002.

John retired from OPM in January 2003, but his newly won status was short-lived when he was approached by the Director as her choice to represent the agency with our Committee. I am very grateful that John placed his dedication to public service above his own well-earned interests by accepting the appointment. During the past two years his expertise contributed directly to our key initiatives including establishing the new National Security Personnel System for the Department of Defense, improving benefits for Federal employees and retirees, and providing diligent oversight of personnel management across the Government.

On January 7 of this year, John completed his last day of service with the Committee and resumed his status as "retired." I believe John really means it this time, and we promise not to further interrupt his plans. On behalf of our entire Committee, I express deep appreciation to John for his superb service to our Nation, and I wish him many happy and healthy years ahead to enjoy with his wife Rita and their family.

FLIGHT OF FREEDOM—A JOURNEY TO SAVE JOBS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to the "Flight of Friendship—A Journey To Save Jobs", which is a heart-warming effort underway in the great state of Oregon. The Flight of Friendship is a people-to-people effort by individuals in Oregon who are coming together to provide an economic lifeline to people in Thailand who work in or are dependent upon the tourism industry for their livelihood. Tourism is recognized as one of the key industries in the tsunami-affected area that provides sustainable jobs and the one that can be jump-started by the return of tourists as in this Flight of Friendship.

The Flight of Friendship's formal mission is an admirable one: In the aftermath of the catastrophic tsunami that struck South Asia on December 26, the natural reaction for us was to do something, anything, that would bring some measure of relief to those in the affected areas. We wanted to do something NOW because we have such a feeling of urgency.

Many of us may not have the skills to rebuild communities or repair broken bones or care for orphaned children, but we do know that our humanity has a purpose. When we can take our time and provide a conduit for information and give face-to-face support by traveling to those areas and help those who need to stay working, we know we are giving something that matters. We can help tell the world that these restaurants, hotels and entertainment venues are open and ready to receive visitors.

Flight of Friendship will focus on cities and regions that depend on the tourist trade for

economic survival. We hope that Oregon's lead and example will challenge others from around the U.S.—private citizens and the travel industry as well, to follow. We encourage people to visit these beautiful, intriguing places and extend an economic lifeline. Flight of Friendship is a journey to save jobs.

Under the leadership of Oregonians Sho Dozono, Joe D'Alessandro and Elaine Franklin, over 100 business and political leaders from the state of Oregon will travel to Thailand this month in a significant effort to help re-establish that country's tourism industry and keep vital jobs in place. I would like to commend every person associated with the Flight of Friendship for his or her dedication to making a real difference.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID LIEBER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. WAXMAN and I pay tribute today to a remarkable individual and a dear friend, Dr. David Lieber. Dr. Lieber will be joined by his colleagues, family and friends on February 10, 2005, at a special University of Judaism dinner to celebrate his 80th birthday. The dinner's theme, "Walking Humbly with God," is especially fitting given the enormity of Dr. Lieber's accomplishments and the humility for which he is well known.

Since 1956 when Dr. Lieber was appointed Dean of Students of the nine-year-old University of Judaism (UJ), he has been a driving force for improvement and expression. He helped transform the University from a Hebrew Teachers Institute that offered adult classes in what is now known as Korea Town into a nationally recognized educational institute complete with an undergraduate college, graduate programs in education, business administration, Jewish studies and rabbinic studies, a large library and two think tanks. He served as University President for an impressive twenty nine years until he retired in 1993.

Dr. Lieber continues to be intellectually and spiritually inspirational to the Jewish community. Since his retirement as University President, he dedicated himself to assembling a superb team of scholars and produced *Etz Hayim: Torah and Commentary*, a work that makes it possible for millions to benefit from his knowledge and dedication. We have known him for many years and have great respect for his wisdom and guidance.

Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Lieber has worked on behalf of many issues of importance to the Jewish people. He is past president of the Rabbinical Assembly and served on the Assembly's Executive Committee. He chaired its Strategic Planning Committee which evaluated needs of the religious body into the year 2000. He is an ordained Rabbi and former spiritual leader of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles 1950–1954. He served as Chaplain for B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at both the University of Washington and Harvard University. In recognition of his work, he was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters degree, honoris causa by Hebrew Union College in 1982 and the Torch of Learning Award by Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1984.

Dr. David Lieber received a BA, magna cum laude, in 1944 from College of the City of New

York and a Bachelor of Hebrew Letters from Jewish Technological Seminary of America. In 1947 he was awarded a Master's degree from Columbia University and received a Doctor of Hebrew Literature Degree from Jewish Theological Seminary in 1951.

Dr. Lieber and his accomplished wife, Dr. Esther Lieber, were married June 10, 1945, are the proud parents of Michael, Deborah, Daniel, and Susan. They have twelve beautiful grandchildren.

It is our distinct pleasure to ask our colleagues to join us in saluting our dear friend Dr. David Lieber and the institution he built for our children and generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to circumstances affecting the health of a family member, I was not present for rollcall vote Nos. 7 through 13 on January 6, 25 and 26. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" with reservations on rollcall vote No. 7, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 8, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 9, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 10, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 11, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 12, "no" on rollcall vote No. 13.

WOMEN AND SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to denounce the fake Social Security crisis that President Bush is trying to sell to the American public.

As the new Democratic Chair of the Women's Caucus, I am especially concerned because women and children are the first targets to be thrown off the lifeboat.

We expect women to raise families, support elderly family members and take care of children.

But, women lose more years of retirement savings when they stop working to raise kids or take care of parents.

Therefore, they depend more on Social Security when they retire. Social Security has been a strong program for its beneficiaries. In my district in East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley in LA County, there are 59,525 Social Security beneficiaries who rely heavily on their hard-earned monthly Social Security benefits. The average Social Security benefit for these individuals living is \$787 a month.

If we are looking at just retired workers alone, they only receive \$540 a month. For many people, particularly Latinos and other minorities, this benefit is their only source of income. My district is very diverse. Sixty-two percent is Latino, and 18 percent is Asian. Forty-one percent of elderly Latinos have Social Security as their only means of income. Without Social Security, over half of America's Latino elderly would live in poverty. Social Security is especially important for minority women.

They will be left most vulnerable to the Republican privatization scheme because they