

Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Here in Cleveland, the Ukrainian Museum-Archives is a monument to the struggles and triumphs of the people of the Ukraine and reflects the passion and dedication of the members of our Ukrainian community who seek to keep the stories, spirit, and history of the Ukraine alive by preserving cultural artifacts, advancements, historical documents, books and photographs to pass along to every new generation.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and welcome of Dr. Oleh Shamshur, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, along with the leaders and members, past and present, of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Greater Cleveland. Their vigilant determination to raise awareness of their struggle for liberty serves as a monument to all who have traveled to America seeking freedom and opportunity and reflects the vibrant fabric of diversity of our Cleveland community and our entire nation.

CONVENT ATTACKED IN INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, while we were observing the anniversary of a horrible terrorist attack on America, 13 Catholic schools were closed in Lucknow, India, after the Convent of Loreto, the school there, and the chapel were attacked by the violent Hindu organization the Bharatiya Janata Yuva, a youth arm of the BJP, which is part of the RSS, a Fascist organization that published a book on how to get minorities, including Christians, falsely implicated in criminal cases.

The spokesman for the BJP demanded a high-level inquiry into the school, according to the Tribune newspaper of Chandigarh, saying it engaged in "irrational behavior." Apparently, being a Catholic is irrational behavior and "unscientific activity" in the world of Hindu militants.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this is not an isolated incident. There has been a wave of attacks against Christians. According to an article that appeared in the Journal of the London Institute of South Asia, some Christian boys were shot while praying. A mob of Hindus burned a missionary, Graham Staines, and his two sons (ages 8 and 10) to death and they have gotten away with it. Another missionary, Joseph Cooper, was severely beaten and then expelled from India. Christians have been arrested for sharing their religious beliefs. Violent Hindu Fascists have raped nuns, murdered priests, burned churches, and committed other acts of violence against Christians. More than 300,000 Christians have been killed by the Indians in Nagaland alone.

This would be bad enough if it were just Christians, Mr. Speaker, but, sadly, it is not. Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities, such as Dalits, have been similarly repressed. The Muslims had their most revered mosque in India destroyed. Somewhere between 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were murdered in one pogrom in Gujarat. More than 90,000 have been killed in Kashmir. The government has murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs. Their most

sacred place of worship, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, which has been called the Sikh equivalent of the Vatican, was attacked in June 1984. Hundreds of people were brutally murdered there, and more than 20,000 were killed in the month of June 1984. More than 52,000 Sikhs are political prisoners in India. They have murdered human-rights activists for exposing their secret cremations, murdered religious leaders, murdered toddlers, and paid out more than 41,000 cash bounties to police officers who killed Sikhs.

I would like to thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh of the Council of Khalistan for bringing the Loreto attack to my attention.

Mr. Speaker, we are at war right now with Fascists using the cover of Islam. Many of us have criticisms of the war policies, but the recent anniversary of September 11 reminds us that we cannot let terrorists carry out their awful deeds with no consequences. So why do we refuse even to raise our voices against Fascists who use the cover of the Hindu religion and oppress and kill Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, and others? At the very least, Mr. Speaker, we should be willing to stop trading with India and cut off our aid, and we should stand for the principles that America represents by seeking a democratic solution to the repression in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on the status of Christian Nagaland, predominantly Sikh Khalistan, Kashmir, and the others who seek their freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put the Council of Khalistan's press release on the Loreto attack in the RECORD.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN LUCKNOW CLOSED AFTER ATTACK ON CONVENT BY MILITANT HINDUS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Thirteen Catholic schools were closed today to protest vandalism on the premises of the Loreto Convent, according to the Tribune of Chandigarh. Among the schools that were closed is the Loreto School. Militant Hindus from the Bharatiya Janata Yuva (a youth movement affiliated with the Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) and the Fascist RSS) attacked the Convent of Loreto, Loreto Chapel, and the school there. A spokesman for the BJP, Mr. H. Dikshit, demanded an investigation of the school, saying that it encourages "irrational behavior" and "unscientific activity." Mr. Dikshit said that the state government is "overreacting to breaking a few flower pots."

The attacks are part of a pattern of violence against Christians that has been going on heavily since Christmas 1998, which is in line with similar tyranny against other minorities. 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 Hannuman," a Hindu god. Missionary Joseph Cooper was beaten so badly that he had to spend a week in an Indian hospital. Then the Indian government threw him out of the country. None of the people involved has been tried. Several states have enacted anti-conversion laws, which in practice prevent anyone from converting to any religion except Hinduism. Such a law is being considered by the Lok Sabha, the national Parliament. Christians report that they have faced threats, physical attacks, and jail time for sharing their beliefs. The Rashtriy Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu Fascist organization that is the parent organization of the BJP, published a booklet on how to implicate Christians and other minorities in false criminal cases. The people who have murdered priests, raped nuns, forced them to

drink their own urine, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. In 2002, the Associated Press reported an attack on a Catholic church on the outskirts of Bangalore in which several people were injured. The assailants threw stones at the church, then broke in, breaking furniture and smashing windows before attacking worshippers. Last year, two young Christian boys were shot at while they prayed. Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

Sikhs and Muslims know the same repression that Christians have been experiencing lately. In June 1984, Indian forces invaded and desecrated the most sacred center and seat of the Sikh religion, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, along with 37 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab. Over 20,000 were killed. Several young Sikh boys were taken into the courtyard of the Darbar Sahib complex and asked if they supported Khalistan (the independent Sikh homeland.) When they answered with the Sikh religious statement, "Bole So Nihal," they were summarily murdered. The Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib, was shot full of bullet holes.

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 not given to his family. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khaira. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran 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. A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

The MASR report states that 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, mostly under a repressive law known as the "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Last year, 35 Sikhs were charged and arrested in Punjab for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag.

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. The most important mosque in India, the Babri Mosque, was destroyed by militant Hindu fundamentalists who have never been held responsible for their actions.

"The attack on the Loreto Convent shows that minorities have no place in India's so-called democracy," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for an independent Khalistan. Khalistan declared its independence on October 7, 1987. 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. Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It has 18 official languages. "The only way that the repression of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities will end is to liberate our homelands, such as Khalistan, Nagaland, Kashmir, and the rest, said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

IN MEMORY OF ESTHER
MARTINEZ

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart today to honor the memory of a very special New Mexican, Esther Martinez.

Esther Martinez is renowned for her work as an educator, author, and master storyteller. But it is her life story that is very unique.

Born in 1912, her grandson Matthew notes that Esther typically introduced herself by saying she was born the same year New Mexico became a State and the *Titanic* sank. As a young girl, she traveled by covered wagon with her grandparents from her home in the Ute Country of Colorado to what was then known as San Juan Pueblo, now Okay Owingeh.

After arriving at Okay Owingeh, Esther was sent to the Santa Fe Indian Boarding School, as a part of the Federal Government's efforts to assimilate Native Americans into mainstream society. There she was scolded and often punished for speaking Tewa, her native tongue. As a lonely young girl, Esther longed to hear the voices and stories of her grandparents.

Story telling in her native Tewa language would be Esther's greatest legacy. She dedicated herself to maintaining and preserving the various forms of the Tewa language. Among her Pueblo people Esther or Aunt Esther, as many called her, is best known for her storytelling, but also recognized for her linguistic and educational contributions.

Esther taught Tewa at the San Juan Day School and for more than 20 years served as the school's director of bilingual education.

She also published her stories and used them as learning tools in the classroom. As a master of the Tewa language, she compiled Tewa dictionaries in various dialects for the northern New Mexico Pueblos and also translated the New Testament into Tewa.

Last Thursday, Esther was in Washington, DC, where I had the privilege of helping present her with the Nation's highest honor for folk and traditional artists. At the age of 94, Esther was named a 2006 National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts. With members of her family in the audience, Esther rose to be honored and received a standing ovation for her life's work preserving her native Tewa language and traditions.

Tragically, while making her way back home from the airport Saturday evening, Esther was

killed in a traffic accident. Two of her daughters traveling with her suffered injuries but survived the crash.

Our hearts weigh heavy with the news of Esther's tragic passing but her legacy will forever live in the contributions she made to our Nation as an educator, linguist, and master storyteller. Her greatest role, however, was as a mother of 10 and grandmother who was loved by many. Our deepest sympathies are with them today.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO TOM
VELOZ

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness today to honor the memory of my friend, Thomas Michael Veloz. A caring and charitable man who was a monumental presence in Santa Clarita, CA, Tom passed away on September 13, 2006, at the age of 69.

Born in New York in 1937, Tom moved to California with his family in the 1950's. He attended the University of Southern California and graduated with a degree in business finance and education in 1960. After graduating, Tom worked in his father's business, Aquafine Corporation. Eventually assuming the role of president, Tom made the company an international success and then began another thriving business, Ultra Violet Devices, Inc. He was well regarded by his peers who held him in high esteem for his leadership, honesty and integrity. Extremely astute and innovative, Tom helped define many of his industry's current manufacturing standards.

Success in business afforded Tom the opportunity to be a generous philanthropist and he was honored several times for his efforts. Tom was a major benefactor to Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, College of the Canyons and many other local nonprofit organizations, including local chapters of the United Way, American Cancer Society and the American Diabetes Association. But helping kids became his passion and he was a driving force behind the Santa Clarita Valley Boys and Girls Club. Tom was also very instrumental in opening the Sheila R. Veloz Breast Imaging Center at Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital in memory of his second wife, Sheila, and he actively participated on the center's board.

With his contagious sense of fun and enthusiastic love of life, Tom had a genuine affection for others. He was a funny man with a constant smile and a twinkle in his eye, and he made many friends, some of whom became targets of his renowned practical jokes. Always the doting grandfather, Tom enjoyed semi-retirement because it gave him the opportunity to spend more time with his beloved grandchildren.

Although Tom will be remembered as a visionary community leader who generously helped others, his lasting legacy rests in his family. He is survived by his wife, Janet, sons, David and Peter, his first wife, Roberta, brothers, Robert, and his identical twin, Frank, as well as stepdaughters, Sheryl Regan and Janine Jones, and 10 grandchildren. His second wife, Sheila, preceded him in death.

Tom's life personifies Cicero's statement that the memory of a well-spent life never dies. Tom Veloz made a positive and profound difference in the Santa Clarita Valley. He will be remembered as a kind man with a giving heart; one who always strived to make his world a better place.

HBCU WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in strong support of the outstanding contributions that our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities have given us over the years.

There are four HBCU's in the state of Florida: Florida Memorial in Miami, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, my alma mater, and Edward College in my district in Jacksonville, and Bethune Cookman, a great institution in Daytona Beach, a school I work very closely with.

The importance and outstanding work HBCU's do around the country is most noteworthy. In addition to educating African American students nationwide, they provide resources for our communities, such as mentoring and tutoring programs for our youth.

Around the country, HBCU's enroll 14 percent of all African American students in higher education, even though they make up just 3 percent of our nation's 4,000 institutions of higher education. HBCU's have awarded masters degrees and first-professional degrees to about 1 in 6 African American men and women, and awarded 24 percent of all baccalaureate degrees earned by African Americans nationwide.

I would also like to add that my Alma Mater, Florida A&M University, currently tops the list for black students and was recognized in this month's edition of Black Enterprise Magazine for being the #1 university in the country for black students. It is also the #1 producer of blacks earning bachelors degrees in the United States!

FAMU alone has produced many of society's leaders in various fields, including myself, ALCEE HASTINGS, KENDRICK MEEK, other Members of Congress past and present, the current mayor of Detroit, Kwame Kilpatrick, tennis great Althea Gibson, and football legend Bob Hayes. Most recently, FAMU has produced young leaders such as Mr. Andrew Gillum, the youngest City Councilman ever to be elected in Tallahassee, Florida, Miss Black Universe 2006, Ms. Kimberlee Borland, and an emerging leader on my staff, Mr. Joseph Bastian.

As you can see, Historically Black Colleges and Universities are a staple in our community and are vital to the success of the students striving to achieve the American dream. These colleges and universities are preparing a new generation of leaders, business people, teachers, entrepreneurs and scholars. I urge your continued support of these historic institutions as we recognize them and spotlight their achievements.