

The act, however, is expected to die when it reaches the Senate foreign relations committee: the Bush administration is counting on Saudi Arabia to help stabilise Iraq, curtail Iran's nuclear and regional ambitions and give a push to the Israeli and Palestinian peace process at a conference due to be held this month in Annapolis, Maryland.

"Do we really want to take on the Saudis at the moment?" asks Bronson. "We've got enough problems as it is."

SIKHS OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY OF DELHI MASSACRES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, on November 3, Sikhs from up and down the East Coast gathered here in Washington to protest the 23rd anniversary of the Delhi massacres. Over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in that massacre, which followed the assassination of Indira Gandhi. Sikh police officers were locked in their barracks to keep them from interfering with the massacre. State TV and radio called for "blood for blood," inciting the people to kill more Sikhs.

This was a massive atrocity by the Indian regime against the Sikhs. It made it clear that the Indian government had no intention of treating the Sikhs like people in a free and democratic country ought to be treated. Instead, they chose to inflict mass terror on their Sikh citizens. This is not the way a democratic government acts, Madam Speaker. It is the action of a terrorist regime. India should be declared a terrorist regime for acts like this, for creating the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and for its ongoing subversion of Pakistan by sponsoring cross-border terrorism in Sindh, as reported in the January 2, 2002 Washington Times.

Sikhs in attendance at the demonstration raised slogans in support of Khalistan as well as slogans in opposition to the massacre. As you know, the Sikhs declared their independence from India on October 7, 1987. Khalistan is their country, but it remains occupied by over half a million Indian forces. I would like to know why "the world's largest democracy" insists on maintaining authoritarian control of Khalistan instead of allowing the people there to have a free and fair vote on its status. This congress should put itself on record in support of such a vote, as well as the plebiscite that was promised to the Kashmiri people in 1948 and has never occurred. Nagalim, too, seeks its independence from India. The Nagas should also be granted the right to vote on their status. What would be wrong with that, if India is the democracy it says it is? And if India is the democracy it says it is, then why are so many peoples trying to get out from under its rule?

In addition to demanding that India allow the right to self-determination (which is the essence of democracy), we should demand that basic human rights be observed in "the world's largest democracy." The Delhi massacre is just one example of how basic human rights are ignored there. The murders of over 250,000 Sikhs, over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, more 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens

of thousands of other minorities, including Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others speak loudly on the lack of human rights in India. So does the fact that Amnesty International has not been allowed into Punjab since 1984. This situation cannot continue.

We should cut off our aid and trade with India until it allows basic human rights, including but not limited to the right to self-determination, to all people under its rule.

Madam Speaker, the Council of Khalistan issued an excellent and informative press release on the Delhi massacres and the demonstration that was held this month. I recommend it to all my colleagues and I would like to place it in the RECORD at this time.

SIKHS REMEMBER DELHI MASSACRES WITH VERY SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 13, 2007.—Sikhs from around the East Coast gathered by the Gandhi statue at the Indian Embassy in Washington, DC on November 3 to commemorate the Delhi massacres of November 1984 in which over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered while the police were locked in their barracks and the state-run television and radio called for more Sikh blood.

The rally was attended by Sikhs from Philadelphia, including Dr. Bakhshish Singh Sandhu, S. Karj Singh, and S. Dharam Singh, as well as Sikhs from New Jersey, Baltimore, Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC, and other locations. New York Sikhs led by Sardar Avtar Singh Pannu also participated. The attendees spoke, carried signs, and chanted slogans. Slogans included "Khalistan Zindabad" ("Long live Khalistan"), "India free Khalistan", "India stop killing minorities", "India free Kashmir", "India free Christian Nagaland", and others.

The Delhi massacres were a brutal chapter in India's repression of the Sikhs, according to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which is leading the demonstration. "This brutal, government-inspired massacre clarified that there is no place in India for Sikhs," Dr. Aulakh said. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan. In the twenty years since then, India has continued its illegal occupation of Khalistan and stepped up the repression of the Sikhs while the Sikh Nation has continued to work to achieve its birthright.

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.

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, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

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, and then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not 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 never

been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. 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! 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.

"Only a sovereign, independent Khalistan will end the repression and lift the standard of living for the people of Punjab," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "Democracies don't commit genocide. 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."

A TRIBUTE TO JEFFERSON AWARD WINNER RUSSELL EWELL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the achievements of a very special man within my home district in California. Russell Ewell, who has recently been honored with a Jefferson Award, is much deserving of the accolade, which spotlights outstanding public service.

Mr. Ewell brought the community E-Soccer, a unique athletic outreach program affiliated with the Hope Technology School, where his wife is the Executive Director. The unqualified success of E-Soccer in bringing together typical and special needs children of all ages on a soccer field is a testament to Russ Ewell's visionary concept.

Children are encouraged and enabled to develop skills, confidence and self-esteem through the sport of soccer. They also make lasting friendships. This wonderful program serves over 250 children on Saturday mornings in communities throughout the Bay Area. It is free and benefits from an all-volunteer staff. Showcasing the growing scope of E-Soccer is the fact that a team of nine coaches from the program recently visited Nairobi, Kenya, to train volunteers there on how to establish their own E-Soccer activities. There are plans for further outreach projects in other countries.

Madam Speaker, Russell Ewell established the E-Soccer program in April 2000 specifically for children with special needs in Foster City. His inspiration came from his two sons with special needs. Their younger sister, Jady, is not a special needs child. Russ wanted Jonathan, who has Down Syndrome, and Jordan, who is autistic, to be able to interact with typical children, benefiting from the athletic coordination practiced in soccer. He also wanted families with special needs children to have an opportunity to enjoy an athletic experience that is both positive and uplifting. To that end, he worked with soccer coaches, special needs educators and physical therapists on developing a program like no