Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, November is Alzheimer’s Awareness Month—This month we recognize the 4 million Americans victimized by this devastating disease and the family members who are most often their primary caregivers.

Alzheimer’s Disease is debilitating, indiscriminate and cruel—it creeps into the brain, captures the mind and renders its victims with impaired judgment, personality change and loss of language and communication skills.

Today, Alzheimer’s is on track to wreak havoc as the epidemic of the next century burdening our nation’s health care system and leaving millions of American families in emotional and financial ruin. It is predicted that by 2050, 14 million Americans will be afflicted. We need a strategy today.

As part of this strategy, we must recognize that there are thousands of spouses and other family members struggling to provide care for their loved ones in their homes each year. Seven in ten people with Alzheimer’s disease live at home. Almost 75% of home care is provided by family and friends placing a tremendous emotional burden on these caregivers and a financial burden averaging $12,500 per home patient.

Each year, Alzheimer’s costs our nation at least $100 billion and American business $33 billion, most of that in the lost work of employees who are caregivers.

It is imperative that we increase the federal commitment to this disease. We must create new programs to relieve caregivers and we must continue our work toward treatment and a cure. Last year the federal government dedicated $400 million to Alzheimer’s research, but that’s still not enough—the federal commitment to heart, cancer and AIDS research—diseases of comparable cost to our country—is 3 to 5 times higher. Next fiscal year we will increase research dollars for Alzheimer’s by $100 million.

Last June—in an effort to encourage legislative solutions to deal with Alzheimer’s—I along with my colleague from across the aisle Chris Smith—kicked off the first bipartisan Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease. To date we have 82 members with a goal of reaching 100 by 2000.

The time has come to wage a serious war against Alzheimer’s disease. The time has come to fight for solutions to improve the lives of those affected today and to fight for a cure to save the lives of those who will be affected tomorrow.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Indian Express reported on November 12, 1999 that a Christian family was hacked to death in Jamshedpur. The attackers stormed the house of 35 year-old Santan Kerali, dragging Mr. Kerali, his wife, their two-year-old child, and a relative out of the house to murder them. Finally, the mutilated bodies of the Kerali family “were found on a football field about 100 yards from our house,” according to the article. The newspaper does not identify the assailants, but the attack is part of the ongoing pattern of repression of Christians in India today.

I have been deeply concerned about recent reports of Hindu activists raping and terrorizing nuns. A nun named Sister Ruby was abducted by Hindu fundamentalists, who stripped her naked and forced her to drink their bodily fluids. They threatened to rape her if she refused.

Earlier this year, Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons were burned alive by members of the Bajrang Dal, which is the youth arm of the openly Fascist organization called Rashitera Swayamsewa Sangh (RSS). The ruling BJP, which leads India’s 24-party governing coalition, is the political arm of the RSS.

Since Christmas Day of 1998, Hindu fundamentalists have burned down Christian churches, prayer halls, and schools. Four priests have been murdered, some of them beheaded.

Christians have not been the only target of persecution in India. Sikhs and Muslims are routinely beaten, tortured, and murdered by these radical groups or even Indian security forces.

Mr. Speaker, India is neither secular, nor is it democratic. It is clear that there is no place for religious, linguistic, or ethnic minorities in India. So, it is no wonder that there are seventeen freedom movements in India.

I call on the President to press the Government of India on the issues of human rights and self-determination when he visits the subcontinent next year. If the United States will not speak out for freedom in the world, who will? If we don’t press these issues today, when will we? We must do whatever we can to bring freedom to all the people of India.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Indian Express article into the RECORD.

[From the Indian Express, Nov. 12, 1999]

CHRISTIAN FAMILY Hacked to DEATH

JAMSHEDPUR—Four members of a tribal Christian family have been hacked to death by some unidentified people at Peteripa village of west Singhbhum district.

Police said some people had stormed the house of one Santan Kerali (35) at midnight on Wednesday.

The assailant pulled him, his wife and their two-year-old child besides one female relative out of the house and killed them with sharp weapons.

The mutilated bodies of Santan, his wife and the child were found on a football ground, about 100 meter away from their house. PTI report.