

RSS BOMBS CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S
PRAYER MEETING

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on May 31 Newsroom.org reported that a May 21 bomb blast that injured 30 Christians during a prayer meeting was apparently carried out by the RSS, the pro-Fascist, militant Hindu fundamentalist organization that is the parent organization of the BJP, the party that leads India's government.

According to the Newsroom report, which was brought to me by the President of the Council of Khalistan, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, the bomb exploded during a meeting of the Women's Club, a Christian group. An extensive investigation by the All-India Christian Conference showed that the Sangh Parivar, a branch of the RSS, was responsible for the incident despite police claims that it came about as a result of strife within the Christian community. The Catholic Bishops' Conference has written to the Indian government demanding action.

This bombing is the latest in a string of violent attacks on Christians and other religious minorities. According to the article, "the community is being threatened with anonymous letters and telephone calls ordering citizens to stop Christian prayers." Anti-Christian slogans have been painted on walls all over town.

In the light of incidents like this against Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities, the United States must act. Our aid to India, one of the largest recipients of American aid, must be stopped until all people's rights are respected. India should be declared a terrorist state and punished accordingly. Congress should call for a free and fair plebiscite under international supervision to allow the Christians, Sikhs, and other minority nations under Indian rule to enjoy self-determination, as a democracy should.

I would like to place the article from Newsroom into the RECORD. I urge my colleagues to read it and see the reality of religious freedom in India.

CHRISTIANS IN INDIA CLAIM BOMBING IS PART
OF HATE CAMPAIGN

NEW DELHI, India, 30 May 2000 (Newsroom)—A bomb blast that injured 30 people in the coastal state of Andhra Pradesh last week was part of a campaign of hate by Hindu extremists, leaders of a Christian organization claim.

The blast at a prayer meeting in the Women's Club at Machilipatnam on May 24 was not the result of strife within the community as police first said, according to a team assembled by the All India Christian Council (AICC). The AICC has presented its report to Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who said in a press release that he has directed police to review the investigation.

"We have already written to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee about this," Father Dominic of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of India (CBCI) said. "With the report we hope the government will take it seriously."

The incident follows a series of attacks against Christian institutions, priests, and

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

nuns in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh.

The AICC team—composed of an advocate, a pastor, and a community representative—said it found disturbing elements of a deliberate hate campaign by the Sangh Parivar, the extended family of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu nationalist organization that is the ideological parent of India's governing Bharatiya Janata Party. Provocative statements and signs have been painted on the walls in the town, the AICC said.

The community is being threatened with anonymous letters and telephone calls ordering citizens to stop Christian prayers in the schools or face dire consequences, according to the AICC.

Police previously attributed the bombing to rivalry between two local pastors. After interviewing Christians belonging to both congregations, the AICC concluded that police were incorrect. Local police have since said that senior officers who made the earlier statements did so in haste.

"Going by the facts, evidence, and circumstances, in our opinion the cause of the blast is a handiwork of fundamentalists who conspired and executed a meticulous precision blast without leaving any evidence to the site," the AICC report said. The bomb was not an "ordinary (crude) one but it appears to be either a time bomb or a remote bomb," according to the report.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY GROSWOLD—
DENVER & COLORADO TRAVEL
INDUSTRY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to congratulate Jerry Grosword on being inducted into the Denver & Colorado Travel Industry Hall of Fame. He is one of only seven members to receive this distinction. He was inducted on April 1, 2000 at the Second Annual Denver's Salute to Tourism, an event which raised over \$25,000 last year for Colorado students entering the hospitality and tourism field.

Mr. Grosword's roots have a long-standing history with tourism in Colorado. He got his feet wet as a water boy for early ski pioneers, building the first trails on the slopes in Winter Park, Colorado. In 1959, he joined the Winter Park Recreational Association and eventually served as chairman. After his tenure as chairman, he became Chief Executive Officer for the resort and held it for 22 years. Currently, Jerry is serving as Chairman of the Board for Club 20 in western Colorado.

Without Jerry's contribution, Winter Park would not be the ski community that it is today. His dedication and commitment helped to complete one of the largest ski expansions in Colorado's tourism history. I am proud to honor Jerry and thank him for his efforts to make Colorado's tourism industry a model for other states.

June 9, 2000

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT
OF 1999, H.R. 1082

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999.

Why is it that we sit here in Congress and profess how far America has come? Why is it that we continuously stress how we have grown economically and socially? Is now not the time for America to grow morally? For those who fear to answer this question, I will answer for them. The time is now.

Over a year ago, the bipartisan Hate Crimes Prevention Act was introduced. This legislation will make it easier for federal authorities to assist in the prosecution of racial, religious and ethnic violence. This legislation has since been referred to the Subcommittee on Crime. My colleagues, why have we not done more? Instead of doing more to strengthen hate crimes legislation, members of society with no sense of remorse are killing those who they believe to be inferior to them.

I should not have to stand here and remind you of the brutal death of James Byrd, Jr. from my home state of Texas. But just to persuade those of you who continue to dismiss the ongoing atrocities of hate crimes that occur, I will. James Byrd, Jr. was beaten shamelessly by two white supremacists and then chained to a pickup truck. These two men then dragged him to his death. You have all heard this before and still action by Congress remains to be seen.

My colleagues, I come to you today urging that we take action now. Has the prosperity of America become so great for some that we simply dismiss senseless acts of hate crime? The answer is no. We cannot allow another minute to pass before we enact the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. As Members of Congress and leaders, we must realize that now is the time to take action.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MONROE E. WALL
AND DR. MANSUKH C. WANI

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, two men who have devoted their lives to finding safer, more efficacious treatments for one of the world's most deadly diseases are being honored tonight.

Dr. Monroe E. Wall and Dr. Mansukh C. Wani of the Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina will receive the prestigious Charles F. Kettering Prize, an award given by the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation to the scientists who have made the most outstanding recent contribution to the diagnosis or treatment of cancer.

Drs. Wall and Wani, who have collaborated for more than 38 years in their work, discovered two vital chemotherapeutic compounds,