TRIBUTE TO THE LATE EARL T. SHINHOSTER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Earl T. Shinhoster who tragically lost his life last Sunday, and to offer my condolences to his wife, Ruby, and son, Michael. Earl Shinhoster was a family man and friend on a private level, and a national hero in the civil rights movement through his involvement in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on a very public level. His efforts were far reaching, and noticed across the nation, including the Sixth Congressional District of South Carolina which I represent.

Born in Savannah, Georgia, Shinhoster grew up in the eastside neighborhoods and graduated from Tomkinks High School and Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. His first involvement in the civil rights movement was in the 1960s as a member of the Connie Wimberly Youth Council.

Shinhoster will be fondly remembered for many achievements, but perhaps most for his 30 years of dedicated service to the NAACP. He served in many senior positions, including National Field Secretary. He also served as Executive Director and Chief Economic Officer from August 1994 through 1998. During this time, the NAACP went through a period of unprecedented growth going from 600,000 members to nearly 1 million. Shinhoster is also credited with helping the NAACP out of a period of considerable financial instability and internal strife. Shinhoster was a man of great ingenuity, integrity, and offered leadership to the NAACP in a time when the organization needed him most.

Aside from his service to the NAACP, Shinhoster served as the Ghana Field Director with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs of Washington, D.C. He helped to implement the Institute’s election observation process with the 1966 elections of Ghana’s president and parliament. He was also instrumental in election monitoring in Nigeria and South Africa.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Americans he benefited during his lifetime of service, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a man who devoted his entire life to the cause of civil rights and the NAACP. Earl T. Shinhoster will be sadly missed, but his legacy will not be forgotten.

RULE OF LAW DETERIORATING IN INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Newsroom.org reported on June 6 that a group of human rights and religious freedom activists in India issued a written statement saying that political leaders have failed to guarantee the rule of law for religious minorities. This is significant, Mr. Speaker, because these are Indians saying this. The statement follows a similar one from the All-India Christian Council (AICC). The AICC said that it “holds the government responsible for the lack of safety of Christians in various parts of India.”

The recent statement was signed by Hasan Mansur, head of the Karnataka unit of the People’s Union for Civil Liberties; Ruth Manorama of the National Alliance of Women’s Organizations; Sister Dolores Rego, who represents over 10,000 Catholic nuns in India; and H. Hanumanthappa, former chair of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, among others.

The statement said that the Indian government is “incapable of guaranteeing the rule of law for protecting the right to life and security of peaceloving citizens” and “has become so anarchic as to have derailed democracy.” Indian human rights activists are saying that there is effectively no democracy in India.

There have been several recent incidents. Just within the past few days a priest was murdered and five churches were bombed. A group of Christians was savagely beaten while distributing religious literature and Bibles. These are just the latest incidents of violence against Christians, a reign of terror that has been going on since Christmas 1998. In March, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs while President Clinton was visiting India. Remember that these Indian human rights holders hold the government responsible for all these incidents. They were carried out by militant Hindu nationalists under the umbrella of the RSS, the parent organization of the BJP, the political party that rules India.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, according to the Politics of Genocide by Inderjit Singh Jaijee of the Movement Against State Repression. And why does a democracy need a Movement Against State Repression? India has also killed more than 20,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and tens of thousands of Dalits, Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, and others. It is holding about 50,000 Sikhs as political prisoners without charge or trial, as well as thousands of others.

It offends me that our government continues to funnel aid to a government that has such a complete disregard for basic human rights. We should immediately cut off American aid to India until everyone there enjoys the liberties that we expect from democratic states. India should be declared a terrorist state. And we should put Congress on record in support of self-determination for the people of Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the other nations seeking their freedom. That is what we can do to ensure freedom and the rule of law in the troubled South Asian subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the Newsroom Article of June 6 into the RECORD.

INDIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS CHAMPION POLITICIANS FOR DETERIORATING RULE OF LAW

DELHI, India, 6 June 2000 (Newsroom)—Prominent Indian advocates of human rights and religious freedom accused political leaders in a written statement of failing to guarantee the rule of law for social and religious minorities and appealed to the government to uphold the rule of law and India’s constitutional democracy.

The All Indian Christian Council last week had issued a similar statement expressing concern “about the unabated violence against Christians” taking place in the state of Gujarat and elsewhere. The council said it “holds the central government responsible for the lack of safety of Christians in various parts of India.”