

No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalsa. The only witness to the Khalsa kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randhawa, has been repeatedly harassed by the police, including having been arrested for trying to hand a note to then British Home Secretary Jack Straw. Last year, 35 Sikhs were charged and arrested in Punjab for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. How can making speeches and raising a flag be considered crimes in a democratic society?

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. The MASR report 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."

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. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire. Recently, militant Hindus from the Bharatiya Janata Yuva (a youth movement affiliated with the BJP and the Fascist RSS) attacked the Convent of Loreto and the school there. A spokesman for the BJP, Mr. H. Dikshit, demanded an investigation of the school!

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.

It is good that you have admitted the guilt of the Indian government for the Delhi massacres, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed, by apologizing for the massacres, but what good does it do the Sikh Nation? Where are the apologies for the Golden Temple attack, the destruction of the Akal Takht, and the desecration of Darbar Sahib, and the other atrocities? Where is the compensation for the victims' families? That operation was yet another act of Indian domestic terrorism.

The Guru granted sovereignty to the Sikh Nation, saying "In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi." We must remind ourselves of our heritage by raising slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" and beginning a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan. Whoever is honest and dedicated in leading that Shantmai Morcha deserves our support. Every morning and evening we recite, "Raj

Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

The flame of freedom continues to burn brightly in the heart of the Sikh Nation. No force can suppress it. Recently, Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal announced that they are uniting for sovereignty for Khalistan. This was met with chants of "Khalistan Zindabad." The Punjab Legislative Assembly proclaimed the sovereignty of Punjab when it cancelled the water agreements. Only by liberating Khalistan can we put an end to the repression and terrorism against the Sikh Nation by the Indian regime. Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to the liberation of Khalistan.

Last year, Sikh farmers were expelled from Uttaranchal Pradesh and their land was seized. They were beaten up by the police. Their homes were bulldozed by paratroopers. Their homes in many cases were built using their life savings and by their own hands. We condemn this act of state terrorism by the government of Uttaranchal Pradesh. As you know, Sikhs are prohibited from buying land in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. Now Uttaranchal Pradesh joins that list. Yet there are no restrictions on land ownership in Punjab by non-Sikhs. People from anywhere can buy land in Punjab, including people from Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. India is trying to subvert Khalistan's independence by overrunning Punjab with non-Sikhs while keeping Sikhs from escaping the brutal repression in Punjab. It is incumbent on the Sikh diaspora to free Khalistan. We must redouble our efforts. That is the only way to keep these atrocities from continuing and to protect the Sikh Nation and the Sikh religion.

The Akali Dal conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikhs during June 1984 in Punjab. Among those who conspired with the government, according to Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism, were Dr. Chohan, Ganga Singh Dhillon, and Didar Singh Bains. It appears the Indian regime is even willing to arrest its own agents to suppress the movement for Khalistan! Now Badal and Chief Minister Amarinder Singh have been accusing each other of being tied in with "terrorists." These leaders view support for Khalistan as terrorism, as the Indian government does. They have shown where their loyalties lie. How will these so-called Sikh leaders account for themselves? Remember the words of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh."

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's memo calling Sikhs "a criminal tribe." What a shame for Home Minister Patel and the Indian government to issue this memorandum when the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India. There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India. Our moment of freedom is closer than ever. Sikhs will continue to work to make certain that we shake ourselves loose from the yoke of Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity.

Sincerely,

GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,

President.

HONORING THE MILLS-PENINSULA
MEDICAL CENTER GROUND
BREAKING

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 2006 is a day that will long be remembered in Burlingame, California, as the ground breaking for the construction of the Mills-Peninsula Medical Center. This medical facility, located in my Congressional District, is a continued example of why the Bay Area continues to be at the forefront of nation's healthcare system.

The New Mills-Peninsula Medical Center, scheduled to open its doors to the public in 2010, will be an extraordinary facility integrating the latest environmentally friendly technology design into a state-of-the-art \$528 million 450,000-square-foot building. This newly constructed modern marvel will boast an emergency room 40 percent larger than that of the existing Mills-Peninsula Hospital, and will also provide 243 patient beds in all-private rooms. This new hospital will also have space designated for accommodations for family members of patients, allowing for those who have traveled great distances the ability to remain close to sick loved ones. The blueprints also include an attached office building that will offer space for physician offices, a new parking garage and gardens for people to get away from the hustle and bustle of the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the Mills-Peninsula Hospital has been in existence for nearly 100 years and is consistently held up as a beacon of excellence for hospitals in the Bay Area. The hospital has been a recipient of numerous awards and recognitions including, being named the Best Hospital in San Mateo County 14 years running by the readers of the San Mateo County Times as well as being named the best place to work in the Bay Area for two consecutive years by the Business Journal Publications. Professional recognitions include being designated as one of the top eight hospitals in the State of California for cardiovascular surgery by the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

Mr. Speaker, the ground-breaking and planned opening of this hospital has come to fruition due to the tireless efforts of the members and board of the Peninsula Health Care District, Mills-Peninsula Health Services, and Sutter Health, as well as the extraordinary support of community leaders and residents. Without their spectacular efforts, this state-of-the-art facility would be nothing more than a dream. I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mills-Peninsula Hospital community on the successful ground breaking of their new hospital.

RECOGNIZING JOHN FINERTY'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to pay tribute to John Finerty for his 25 years of faithful service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. John began his work as a member of the professional staff on November 8, 1981, just 6 years after the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, a period marked by ruthless Soviet repression and widespread violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Driven by a passion for upholding the dignity of the downtrodden, John devoted himself to documenting the cases of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience cast into the Soviet gulag or banished because of their beliefs. His career at the Commission began in the aftermath of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a situation he followed closely. He also focused on the plight of Soviet Jewry, abuse of psychiatry and use of slave labor in the USSR, the persecution of human rights defenders, and repression of religious believers. His determined efforts were undertaken for well-known dissidents and the unknown alike without distinction. The resolution of hundreds of Soviet human rights cases were brought about in no small measure as a result of John's diligence.

The end of the Cold War brought new challenges and opportunities and once again John's talents proved invaluable to me and my fellow Commissioners as freedom began to take root in the former Soviet Union and the subjugation of the Baltic States came to an end. Throughout the turbulent transition, John remained focused on promoting peaceful democratic change while continuing his vigilant defense of human rights. He was part of the first teams to monitor elections in the former USSR. While the conflict in Chechnya has faded from the focus of many, John has not been willing to forget its victims. Similarly, he has helped draw attention to those who have fallen victim to terrorists in places like Beslan.

Mr. Speaker, in this year when we observe the 13th anniversary of the Helsinki Commission, as a long-serving Commissioner and Co-Chairman, I am pleased to recognize and commend John Finerty for his faithful service and tireless defense of human rights and dignity.

HONORING CHIEF TERRENCE P. LIPINSKI OF THE BRIDGEVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Terrence P. Lipinski of the

Bridgeview Fire Department, in recognition of his retirement, after 30 years of dedicated service. Chief Lipinski has been an invaluable asset to the fire and emergency management community in the United States and we are forever grateful for his passion, wisdom, and guidance.

Terrence Lipinski began his career with the Bridgeview Fire Department as a firefighter, rising to the ranks of lieutenant and shift commander before becoming chief. He has served as chief for over a decade, while simultaneously taking on other state and national leadership roles.

During his career, Chief Lipinski has been president of the Bridgeview ETSB Board, president and vice president of the MABAS Division 21 Chief's Board, a trustee for the Bridgeview Fireman's Pension Fund, and a member of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Executive Board. During times of devastation and disaster, as in the aftermaths of the tornado in Utica, IL and Hurricane Katrina, Chief Lipinski has responded as a member of the first command incident team. He has also assisted in establishing a mutual aid system in Texas and, recently, the State of Illinois appointed him as a lead coordinator for a statewide exercise. Currently, Chief Lipinski is vice president of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System and serves on the Region 7 EMS Advisory Board, the Christ Advocate EMS Advisory Board, and the Moraine Valley Community College Fire Education Advisory Board.

It is my honor today to recognize Chief Terrence P. Lipinski. After 30 years, the Bridgeview Fire Department is privileged to have had his dedication, determination, and impeccable service. Chief Lipinski's contributions, insights, and hard-work have truly made our great nation a better place to live. I wish him the very best in retirement and congratulate him on his accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAUL C. FISHER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend Paul C. Fisher, who passed away on Friday, October 20, 2006.

Paul was a genius and a dreamer, an advocate of the scientific technique in social sciences and a philosopher. Paul is most well known for his invention of the "space pen", which was first used by NASA on Apollo 7 in 1968. Paul was the recipient of the Governor's Distinguished Nevada Business Award in 1989. As a result of his marketing and manufacturing efforts, Paul was presented with the Governor's Industrial Appreciation Award as Exporter of the Year in 1996 by Nevada's Governor Bob Miller.

Paul was also a public servant. He was an outstanding example of a civic and community minded person that I had the privilege of knowing and interacting with during his many years as a resident of southern Nevada. Throughout the years, Paul demonstrated his

passion and pride for both his community and country. Having twice run for the President of the United States, he was a strong advocate of economic and tax reforms to better the lives of our Nation's poor. Paul also ran for U.S. Congress in Nevada in 1986 and in Illinois in 1954.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of my good friend Paul C. Fisher. He dedicated his life to the pursuit of ideas that would help improve conditions for mankind. I applaud all his efforts; he was truly a distinguished humanitarian and will be profoundly missed.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ETHEL MINOR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Ethel Minor, the outgoing President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), for her 14 years of service to the San Antonio Chapter of the NAACP.

Ms. Minor was born on November 26, 1922 in the City of San Antonio in the State of Texas. She attended Prairie View A&M University and majored in Business Administration at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. She then began her 35 years of service to Kelly Air Force Base as an Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist in the Black Employment Program, fighting for equal treatment of employees at the Kelly Air Force Base until her retirement in 1980.

Ms. Minor was involved in the civil rights marches and protests throughout Bexar County during the turbulent 1960s, was elected to the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP in 1987, and served for 10 consecutive years from 1987 to 1996, and 4 years from 2003-2006. Under her remarkable leadership, the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP succeeded with the voter registration drives. She also promoted the education of the African-American youth, advocated for the local African-American community, and organized the San Antonio Annual Martin Luther King Day March Celebration, which has become the largest annual civil rights celebration in the entire Nation with over 100,000 attendees.

In addition to her work as the first female President of the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP, Ms. Minor is extensively involved in many community service and educational organizations including the Centennial, Scholarship, and Diversity Committees at St. Philip's College, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and the National Council of Negro Women. She was the first black PTA President at Brackenridge High School, a Member of the District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) in the East Central School District, and the Program and Nominating Chair of the International Training and Communication ITC. She has received numerous honors and awards such as: the Yellow Rose of Texas which was given to her by then-Governor Mark White, the Key to the City of New Orleans, the Friend of Education Award from American Federation of Teachers, Top Ladies