

New statistical studies show that the wealthiest 1 percent of the population own nearly 40 percent of the wealth of this country, more than the bottom 90 percent. That is the greatest concentration of wealth in the industrialized world and, most significantly, it is a trend accelerating faster here than anywhere else.

In 1959, the richest 4 percent of American families earned as much income as the bottom 35 percent. By 1989, that top 4 percent earned as much as the bottom 51 percent. In 1980, the average pay for a chief executive officer of a major corporation was 42 times as high as that of a factory worker. Today, the CEO earns 149 times as much.

Meanwhile, while profits soar and CEOs reap huge salary increases, the purchasing power of the minimum wage has declined by 26 percent over the last 20 years. Many of the new jobs being created are low-wage, part-time, or temporary, without benefits. As major corporations continue to "downsize," the number of temporary jobs in America has exploded from 962,300 in 1987 to 1,657,700 in 1993.

Tens of millions of American workers are experiencing extraordinary financial insecurity and pressure. Will they have their jobs tomorrow, or is the owner moving the company to China where he can get workers for 20 cents an hour? Will their limited health-care benefits be cut even further? Will they ever collect on the pension plan they've been promised?

From 1988 to 1993, worker productivity in the private sector increased by 5.9 percent. Average hourly earnings, however, declined by 4 percent. By 1993, the typical family had lost \$1,400 of the buying power it had in 1991. People are working longer, harder, and more productively—and they're becoming poorer. Should the average American be angry?

Given the crisis facing the American middle class, what has the new Republican-controlled Congress been doing to address our nation's underlying economic problems?

JOB

There is nothing in the "Contract With America" to address our \$160 billion trade deficit, the decline of our manufacturing base, and the loss of millions of decent-paying manufacturing jobs. How do we get corporate America to reinvest in this country, rather than in cheap, unprotected labor abroad? This is apparently not a subject of much interest to the Republicans, who have recently received huge amounts of corporate campaign contributions.

DECLINING LIVING STANDARDS

At a time when the rich are getting richer and the middle class and the poor are getting poorer, the Republicans have adopted a series of bills to cut benefits drastically for working people and the poor-making life more difficult for those already hurting the most. The Republicans are proposing major cuts in child nutrition, fuel assistance, education, affordable housing, Medicare, Medicaid, and college financial aid.

TAX CUTS

Fifty percent of the individual tax breaks passed by the Republican House will go to people making a \$100,000 a year, and the upper 1 percent will get more in tax breaks than the bottom 60 percent. For the lower middle class, there will be virtually no tax reductions at all.

Should the average American worker be angry?

If we are to turn this country around and create an economy that provides well for all the people, and not just the rich, we must focus on the real causes of our problems—and demand real solutions.

Most importantly, we must have the courage to take on the big money interests who—

through their control of the economy, the political parties, and the media—make most of the decisions that affect our lives now and those of our children, too.

THE GOLDEN TEMPLE MASSACRE: SELF DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE FOR KHALISTAN

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the terrible conditions that the people of Khalistan must endure on a daily basis. June 3–6 marks the 11th anniversary of the Golden Temple Massacre, where the Indian army massacred thousands of Sikhs. The situation has not improved, and the Indian police routinely use torture, murder, and rape to oppress the Sikh people. This religious intolerance and ethnic warfare amounts to genocide and must stop.

We need only look at the former Soviet Union to understand why a society based on ethnic repression cannot work. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the republics were finally able to break free and exist in peaceful democratic states. It has been predicted that India will suffer the same fate and it is our duty to support and encourage the people of the Sikh Nation. The following remarks by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh should be read to fully understand the importance of the situation.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

Washington, DC, June 3, 1995.

Remarks of Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President, Council of Khalistan, on the Eleventh Anniversary of the Golden Temple Massacre, at Washington, DC.

I am glad to see so many people here today. As you know, the Sikh Nation celebrated its 296th birthday this past Vaisakhi Day. That was a joyous occasion; today is a sad one. We all know about the oppression the Sikh Nation has suffered under India's tyrannical occupation of our homeland, Khalistan. At least 120,000 Sikhs have been murdered in India since 1984. Tens of thousands of Sikhs remain in prison. In many rural areas, where the killings are most frequent, whole villages are emptied of their most able bodied young men.

The bloody massacre we commemorate today helped to clarify for the Sikh Nation its true place in Hindustan's sham "democracy." The oppression and bloodshed inflicted on the Sikh Nation by the brutal Indian tyrants make it crystal clear that there is no place for Sikhs in India. For ourselves and for our children, we must liberate Khalistan. Only a free and independent Khalistan will insure that the Sikh Nation can live in peace, prosperity, and freedom.

Freedom for Khalistan is coming soon. It is inevitable. Dr. Jack Wheeler of the Freedom Research Foundation, who predicted the Soviet collapse, predicted almost a year ago that within ten years, India will cease to exist as we know it.

When Sikhs read about India's recent destruction of one of Kashmir's most sacred mosques, we felt a familiar pain remembering how we felt when thousands of our Sikh brethren were slaughtered in the Golden Temple massacre.

In the country that bills itself as "the world's largest democracy," military forces are being used to attack the faith, identity, and even the very being of the Sikh nation. But instead of breaking the Sikh nation, as

the tyrants of Hindustan had hoped, it has led to a resurgence of the Sikh faith in our struggle for dignity and freedom. The Golden Temple massacre crystallized a desire in the Sikh nation for a free and sovereign Khalistan.

As you all know, today marks the anniversary of that act of wanton desecration. From June 3 through 6, 1984, 15,000 troops of the Indian army launched a surprise military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest shrine of the Sikh people. Simultaneously, they attacked 38 other Sikh temples throughout Punjab, Khalistan. These attacks, timed on a holy day for the Sikh nation, left 20,000 Sikhs dead. Many innocent, unarmed men, women and children, who had come only to pray on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, were gunned down in the very temples in which they sought peace and solace.

The operation took 72 hours to complete. A news blackout in Punjab was initiated immediately before the attack. In the Temple complex itself, hundreds of Sikhs were forced into rooms designed to hold no more than 20 or 30 people. Most died of asphyxiation. Many Sikh women were raped before being killed.

In one episode, one hundred Sikh boys, students at the temple who were between 8 and 12 years old, were lined up along the sacred pool that surrounds the Temple. The Indian army officers asked each boy, one by one, if he supported Khalistan. One by one, each boy would cry out *Bulleh So Nihal!* ("Everyone cry out and be contented!"), and the rest would respond *Sat Sri Akal* ("God is Truth!"). One by one, each boy was shot in the head. Yet the Indian regime claimed that "Not a single woman or child was wounded in the operation proper at the hands of the Army personnel."

Other Sikhs were herded together, their turbans were removed and used to tie their hands behind their backs. They were blindfolded and their unshorn beards were stuffed into their mouths. They were then killed by machine gun fire. Bodies were piled together and shipped to nearby Gobindgarh fort, where they were drenched in kerosene and burned. The stench of smoldering bodies permeated in the area for two weeks. Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikhs lost their lives.

The damage to the Temple complex was extensive. We cannot forget how the Akal Takht, the throne of timeless God, was severely damaged and the Temple's library building was destroyed. Priceless original manuscripts written by the Gurus were burnt. The Golden Temple itself was riddled with bullet holes, many precious stones inlaid upon its walls removed by Army personnel.

In the mopping up operations, the Indian forces planted sophisticated weapons inside the Golden Temple in an effort to legitimize the action. The Golden Temple was utterly desecrated. In the 400-year history of the Golden Temple, no ruler had done the kind of damage the Indian Government meted out in the 72-hour massacre. The Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of the Sikh religion, had bullet holes in it. This is Indian religious tolerance.

Eleven years later, we remember. The Sikh nation can never forget the brutal massacre and desecration that took place during those dark days. We cannot forget, and the memory reminds us that we must take back our homeland from the tyrannical Indian regime. We must liberate Khalistan from the grip of oppression, and we should do so very soon. It is our destiny. *Raj Karega Khalsa!* Khalistan will be free.

Eleven years later, the killing has not stopped. Virtual martial law and press blackouts have been in place almost continuously

since 1984. In November 1984, after Sikh bodyguards assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Congress party and government sponsored rioting broke out in cities all over India. 40,000 Sikhs lost their lives, 20,000 Sikhs in New Delhi alone. Sikhs were pulled out of shops, homes, trains and buses, and burned alive. For three days, television stations throughout India, all State controlled, aired the simple message, Blood for Blood.

Indian newspapers recently reported that 25,000 bodies have been cremated and listed as unclaimed by the Indian regime since 1990. In Amritsar district alone, over 6000 bodies were listed as unidentified. This is one of 13 districts in Punjab. A mass grave which held the remains of 400 Cambodians shook the world, as it should have. Why does the mass cremation of 25,000 in Punjab, Khalistan, get ignored? These Sikhs were brutally tortured and murdered by the Indian police, then cremated to hide the evidence.

Sikhs are not the only victims. Indian "democracy" has murdered over 150,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 43,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, and other tribal people. According to the State Department's 1994 report on human rights, between 1991 and 1993 the Indian regime paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. Many people simply "disappear." It is the great unknown holocaust.

These atrocities are part of a pattern of oppression by the corrupt Indian regime. According to the Indian magazine Sunday, for every case of human rights violations that is reported, another thousand go unreported.

I am sure that you know what happened to Simranjit Singh Mann. On December 26, Sardar Mann made a speech calling for a peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement to liberate Khalistan. He asked the 50,000 Sikhs in his audience to raise their hands if they agreed with him. All 50,000 did so. For this blatant act of free speech, Mann was arrested under the so-called "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA). Although the regime has repealed TADA, and despite a Supreme Court ruling that asking for Khalistan is not a crime, Mann remains in a windowless cell almost five months after he was arrested. This is typical of the kind of tyranny practiced against the Sikh nation by the Indian regime.

According to the government of India, all Sikhs are terrorists. The regime has even outlawed the Sikh baptismal ceremony of amrit. Most Sikhs have a friend or relative who has been imprisoned, tortured or killed by police, ostensibly because they are terrorists. This is the myth that justifies the Indian government's bloody campaign of ethnic cleansing. The world is beginning to realize that Sikh terrorism is a myth. On November 6, the Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian regime paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to foment terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir, then blame it on "Sikh militants." Again, Indian "democracy" is exposed.

This oppression must stop. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh nation declared its independence from India, forming the separate country of Khalistan. Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and from 1765 to 1849. Punjab belongs to the Sikhs. Sikhs own 95 percent of the land in Punjab, Khalistan. Over two-thirds of the population of Punjab is Sikh. No Sikh has ever signed the Indian constitution. In the Indian-run elections in Punjab, Khalistan, in February 1992, 96 percent of the Sikhs there did not vote, according to India Abroad. India's occupation of Khalistan is destroying our homeland. The Sikh Nation has made its desire for freedom clear. We want our country back. We want to live in

peace, and we want to live apart from India in a free, democratic society.

Every day the world is exposed to the brutality of India's occupation of Khalistan. In May 1994, Human Rights Watch/Asia and Physician for Human Rights released a report entitled Dead Silence: The Legacy of Abuses in Punjab. The report quotes a police officer as saying, "Once I became a police officer in Punjab, I realized that torture is used routinely. During my five years with the Punjab police, I estimate 4,000 to 5,000 were tortured at my police station alone." Another policeman was quoted as saying that 500 people were killed at his police station in five years. At least 200 of these torture centers currently operate in Indian-occupied Khalistan.

In 1947, when India achieved independence, three nations were to receive power. The Hindus got India, the Muslims got Pakistan, and the Sikh Nation was to receive a state of our own. But the Sikh leadership at the time made the critical mistake of taking our share with India on the solemn promises of Gandha and Nehru that Sikhs would enjoy "the warm glow of freedom" in Punjab and that no law affecting Sikh rights would be passed without Sikh consent. Almost immediately, those promises were broken and the repression of our people began.

India is not one nation. It is a conglomeration of many nations thrown together for administrative purposes by the British. It is the last vestige of colonialism. With 18 official languages, India is doomed to disintegrate just as the former Soviet Union did. Freedom for Khalistan and all the nations living under Indian occupation is inevitable. The Sikh Nation's demand for an independent Khalistan is irrevocable, irreversible, and nonnegotiable. But we are willing to sit down with the Indian regime anytime to demarcate the boundaries of Khalistan. It is time for India to recognize the inevitable and withdraw from Khalistan.

An independent Khalistan will help make South Asia nuclear-free. Punjab, Khalistan, produces 73 percent of India's wheat reserves and 48 percent of its rice reserves. As a country where it takes three days' pay to buy a box of cereal, India will have to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty because it needs food. Once India disarms, Pakistan will have no reason not to do so as well. Khalistan will sign the NPT and a 100-year friendship treaty with the United States.

In the past eleven years, there have been thousands of cases of Sikh deaths and torture at the hands of Indian police and security forces. According to domestic and international human rights groups, the following are frequently used torture methods by the Indian government:

A log of wood made heavier by weights is placed on the legs of the detainee and rotated up and down.

The legs of detainees are often stretched and then the thigh muscles are beaten until they tear.

Body joints are beaten with a heavy baton. Electric shocks are applied to genitals resulting in impotency.

Sikh women and girls are raped, then usually killed or rendered infertile.

Family members are forced to watch while violence is inflicted on other family members. Often the parents must watch as their children suffer.

Husbands are forced to beat their wives and vice versa.

Pregnancies are forcibly terminated.

Security officials sponsor death squads throughout Punjab. Typically, these agents arrive in unmarked cars, dressed in plain clothes and carry automatic weapons. The death squads pick up suspects and take them to interrogation centers.

According to Asia Watch, "virtually every-one detained in Punjab is tortured." Sikhs who die of torture are routinely listed as having died in fake "encounters" with the police. Behavior like this is the reason that Amnesty International has been barred from conducting an independent human-rights investigation in Punjab, Khalistan since 1978. Even Fidel Castro's Cuba has allowed Amnesty International into the country more recently.

Eleven years after the Golden Temple massacre, the human rights situation has only gotten worse. Our history and the history of other minority nations under Indian occupation teach us that freedom for Khalistan, Kashmir, and Nagaland is the only way to prevent further massacres like the one in the Golden Temple.

Secular democracy in India is a myth. The plight of minority nations in India is a direct result of Indian government's racial and ethnic intolerance. A Brigadier General of the Indian Army made clear the actual, if unofficial, policy of the Indian government he said that he would execute the mayors of all six villages, kill all the adult males, and confine all the women to army camps, that they would reproduce with Hindus and thereby "breed a new race."

No longer can genocide be an accepted norm of democracy. Let me close with a poignant quotation from a former world leader, one that expresses the very situation in which Sikhs find themselves.:

A government that has to rely on the Criminal Law Amendment Act and similar laws, that suppresses the press and literature, that bans hundreds of organizations, that keeps people in prison without trial, and that does so many things that are happening in India today, is a government that has ceased to have even a shadow of a justification for its existence.

These were the words that Jawaharlal Nehru used to describe the British Administration in India in 1936. What is the difference between the India of 1936 and the India of 1995? I'll tell you. Our small homeland of Punjab, Khalistan has 500,000 security forces. The British never stationed that many troops in the entire Indian subcontinent. And the British, in the century in which they ruled Punjab, never came near slaughtering the 120,000 Sikhs India has slaughtered in the last eleven years.

The free countries of the world support peace, justice, and freedom. I call on all Americans to support freedom for Khalistan. All the Sikh Nation asks is the same freedom that Americans enjoy.

On this anniversary of the Golden Temple massacre, Sikhs will never forget the brutal desecration of our most sacred shrine. I know that by 1999, which will be the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Sikh nation, the truth will be known, and the Sikh nation will celebrate that year in a free and sovereign Khalistan.

Khalistan Zindabad! India out of Khalistan!

SAFE KIDS AND OREGON

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the work that Oregon First Lady Sharon Kitzhaber is doing in my home State to protect our children from preventable injuries. Getting children involved in their own safety is something that makes good sense,