

Secretary of State Christopher, recently and rightfully, attacked Indonesia's human rights record. However, the United States must employ a consistent standard of human rights for all countries, whether they are friends or foes. The United States should openly condemn these extrajudicial abductions and deportations by Indian, Thai, and Nepalese authorities. The current practice of condemning one country's human rights violations while ignoring others creates a double standard which leaves us open to accusations of racial and ethnic bias.

Copy of Fax received from: Sikh residents of Thailand. Dated: July 18, 1996. Addressed to: The Centre for Human Rights—Geneva. Copied to: Council of Khalistan—Washington, DC.

DEAR SIR: We the Sikh residents of Thailand solemnly affirm that on the 15th of July around 6:00 AM a house owned by a Thai Sikh was encircled and searched by about twenty fully armed Thai policemen. Nothing incriminating was found in the house. The police arrested and detained the owner of the house along with a pro-Khalistan activist named Mr. Nam Singh who is well known in the Indian Government circles as Kanwar Pal Singh Chawla of Amritsar who was holding a Pakistan passport and a Thai work permit.

The pro-Khalistani activist or the so-called extremist is reported to have been outside India for several years and was only attached to the political wing of the Khalistan movement and was not involved directly or indirectly in any kind of violent actions.

The owner of the house was cleared on bail around 6 o'clock on the same evening on the minor charge of harbouring an alien.

The pro-Khalistani or the so-called extremist was interrogated for long hours and forced to sign un-specified papers and was denied and deprived of his fundamental right to have an access to legal advice. No visitors were allowed to see or talk to him. On the following morning the owner of the house contacted in person a Thai Human Rights activist and Magsasay Award winner Mr. Thonghait Thongpao to seek his help in this matter. Before Mr. Thongpao could do anything about the so-called extremist the Thai police secretly put him on flight TG3112 to Katmandu to be handed over to the Indian authorities which is grossly against Human Rights. As he was a bona-fide Pakistan holder and had a legal and valid Thai work permit he should have either been deported to Pakistan or be allowed to fight his case in Thailand. We have no knowledge whatsoever whether this unwarranted action of the Thai police was taken with the knowledge of the Thai government or not. If he was on the so-called "wanted" list of the Indian government the Indian authorities should have gone through the proper and legal channels to have him deported directly to India instead of Nepal. The reason for deporting the "extremist" to Nepal and not India is an old Indian tact to fool the world that an armed militant was killed while trying to infiltrate into India using Pakistani passport via Nepal.

We the Sikh residents of Thailand would really appreciate if the Centre for Human Rights could look into this matter and take the necessary and urgent measures with the Indian government to ensure that the so-called extremist is humanely and well treated and justice is done with him. Please make sure that he is not subject to a third degree torture or killed in false encounter.

Thanking you in anticipation for your favorable and prompt action.

Truly Yours,

SIKH RESIDENTS OF THAILAND.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we in Maryland are a proud lot. We take pride in the natural beauty of our State, in its diverse and flourishing business community, and in the variety and character of our citizens.

It is with this deeply instilled pride that I rise today to report the recent outstanding successes of one of the crown jewels in our State's educational system, the University of Maryland.

The University of Maryland at College Park is consistently noted as one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the country. To bolster this widely held view, the U.S. News and World Report's "Graduate Rankings Issue" hit the newsstands this spring to announce that an impressive number of the University of Maryland's graduate programs were ranked in the top tier. In fact, no university—public or private—in the mid-Atlantic region and few public universities in the country scored as consistently high as the University of Maryland in fields ranging from journalism, business, economics, and computer sciences to mathematics, physics, education, and engineering.

Specifically, the U.S. News and World Report survey ranked the public relations program in the college of journalism No. 1 in the Nation. The college of business and management was ranked in the top 25 in the country. The college of education and the A. James Clark School of Engineering, as well as the departments of computer science, mathematics and physics, were also highly ranked.

These achievements in excellence speak highly of the students and faculty thriving to achieve greatness and advance the threshold of knowledge.

But the excellence does not end there. It was nothing less than the national championship for the University of Maryland mock trial team. Competing with prestigious schools from across the country, including Yale, Cornell, Duke, Georgetown, and Carnegie Mellon, the Terps took home the top prize.

Not to be outdone, a team from the University of Maryland took top honors at this year's Texas Instruments DSP—digital signal processors—Solutions Challenge. The team of three beat out teams from MIT, Princeton, and the University of California-Berkeley, among other schools to grab first prize. The team's successful design used a video compression system that compresses the large volume of data needed for the representation of video signals, making it possible to transmit video signals over communication channels, such as telephone lines.

And if Marylanders weren't already bursting with pride over these accomplishments, the Terps became the first ever back-to-back champions in women's division I lacrosse by defeating our neighbors, the Virginia Cavaliers. The win also extended their NCAA record for consecutive wins to 36.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Maryland is truly committed to excellence, both in the classroom and on the athletic field. These achievements make me extremely proud to have this fine institution in my district. I look

forward to reporting further their scholastic and academic successes in the near future.

VISION IS MORE THAN SEEING

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of us take our senses for granted, until some situation comes so close to us that we can no longer ignore the fact that some people cannot see, cannot hear, or cannot do some other thing that the rest of us do thousands of times each day.

Last year, the Saginaw News, under the editorial leadership of Paul Chaffee, the moving photography of Steve Jessmore, and the profound writing skills of Jean Spenner, published a wonderful story entitled "Blind Faith." The story detailed how the more than 500 students of Carrollton Elementary School worked for 11 months to train Carl, a lovable puppy, into a leader dog who has become the source of sight for Gordon W. Bailey, a motorcycling minister from Kansas City, MO.

Steve Jessmore won several well deserved awards for his photography in this 24-page story. He was named the "Midwestern Region Photographer of the Year" by the National Press Photographers Association, the "Michigan Photographer of the Year" by the Michigan Press Photographers Association, and won the Barry Edmonds Michigan Understanding Award by the Michigan Association. It seems rather poignant that the story of a man who could no longer see without help was so strongly portrayed by Steve's moving photographs. Every shot served to remind us that we take for granted one of God's blessings. It also served to demonstrate that even though many of us can see, we can still be blind to what is in front of us without the skilled assistance of a photographer with a vision for the ordinary things around us that are so important.

The series itself also won the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for Photo Journalism, the Detroit Press Club Foundation Award, the Women in Communications Great Lakes Regional Journalism Competition, and the Lincoln University Unity Award.

Chris Chambers, the fifth grade teacher at Carrollton Elementary, and her students learned about a puppy growing into a dog, leader dogs, and the very important training work done by Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, MI. They also learned about holding fundraisers to pay for the expenses of their dreams.

After a year at Carrollton Elementary School, Carl goes on to Leader Dogs for the Blind where he becomes the 10,048th dog graduated from the organization since 1939. He met his new owner, Gordon Bailey, who continued training with him. Remarkably, Carl, as a puppy, made a difference in the lives of the students at Carrollton Elementary, and as a leader dog has restored a great freedom of mobility to Gordon Bailey.

There are times when many of us criticize the media for concentrating on bad news. This is one time when these proficient journalists have brought us a moving story of hope, of sacrifice, of need, and success. I commend

this story by the Saginaw News to you and our colleagues and urge all of you to look for these stories of worth from your own media. Let editors, reporters, and photographers know that we appreciate what they do, and want to see more of it.

HONORING THE BERLOFSKYS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor two good friends and neighbors, Miriam and Jerome Berlofsky, who are celebrating 35 years of marriage this November. The Berlofskys are active and vital citizens in my home community of Co-op City.

Since 1951, Jerome has been a knight in the Fraternal Order Knights of Pythias, Kingsbridge Lodge No. 810, and participated in many of the altruistic endeavors of that organization. Miriam joined the Pythias Sisters in 1960 and has worked tirelessly in many capacities, culminating in her election as grand chief of the State of New York in 1984. The Berlofskys have always been active in their faith as members of the Traditional Synagogue of Co-op City and holding several important positions. They are charter members of the AARP Co-op City chapter and they bring culture and entertainment to the community as members of the Bronx Concert Singers.

This is just a partial list of the many good deeds performed by the Berlofskys. Perhaps more than anything else, however, they are most proud of the enduring love and the joy they have had in raising their son, Rodger. On this special occasion I want to join with their family and friends in wishing them happiness and good health.

CONGRATULATING GERIC HOME HEALTH CARE, INC.

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute GERIC Home Health Care, Inc. This outstanding business which is located in my congressional district was recently selected to receive the Entrepreneur of the Year Award. I am proud to extend my congratulations to GERIC's founders, Gwen and Eric Johnson, as they mark this outstanding achievement.

The Entrepreneur of the Year program was founded by the professional services firm of Ernst & Young. The program recognizes entrepreneurs who have demonstrated excellence in such areas as innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their businesses and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that GERIC Home Health Care received the Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the area of social responsibility. Since the company's inception 4 years ago, this mother and son team has demonstrated a sincere commitment to improving the Cleveland community.

GERIC is now the fastest growing home health care agency in northeast Ohio. The

company provides services such as skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and social services. GERIC has been able to provide critical jobs and job training opportunities throughout the greater Cleveland area. Equally important, the company has provided high quality health care services to some of our most vulnerable populations.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting Gwen and Eric Johnson, and members of the GERIC Home Health Care family. I am proud of their selection for the Entrepreneur of the Year Award and I am pleased to recognize their efforts.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTH COUNTRY LIBRARY IN BELLPORT, NY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to the South Country Library in Bellport, Long Island, which is celebrating the centennial of its founding this year.

The Bellport Library was originally organized in 1897 because of the foresight and enthusiasm of 14 young women who called themselves the Entre Nous Club. Seeing the need for a library in their bustling seaside village, the Entre Nous Club raised money by sponsoring a reception in the home of one of its members, Mrs. Spencer S.W. Toms. Each member brought with them a book—60 books were collected that day—forming the nucleus of the Bellport Library.

In 1919, village residents met at the home of Mrs. Charles E. Osborn to plan a memorial in honor of local soldiers and sailors who sacrificed their lives in World War I. It was decided to build a new library building and dedicate it to the fallen soldiers. The seed money raised at a block party was used to incorporate the Bellport Memorial Library Association in 1920. Mrs. Frederick Edey opened her playhouse to hold benefits for the library, Mrs. Edward Bok of Philadelphia, a summer resident, gave \$1,000 toward the library building, and Mrs. J.L.B. Mott donated the property.

The charming library building became a reality in 1923, at a cost of \$8,000, and stood on the site of Capt. Thomas Bell's apple orchard. In 1924, the library was registered under the New York State Board of Regents. In 1926, the memorial tablet was dedicated and a portrait of Mrs. Mott was hung above the mantel.

During the 1950's the library association was extended to include all residents of the South Country School District. Then in 1986, the library moved to its modern building on Station Road and changed its name to the South Country Library to reflect its service to the entire school district.

In 1997, the library will celebrate the centennial of its organization and on August 17, 1996, a centennial fundraising event is being held to launch a season of celebratory programs at the library.

During the past 100 years, the South Country Library has maintained a strong commitment to scholarship. Occupying small quarters in its early days, the library has grown in both scope and size since 1897. With the dedication of its founders, the hard work of the board

of trustees, librarians, and staff members, it has become a wonderful resource for the school district and entire community. We must continue to promote literacy and education throughout Long Island. With the help of the South Country Library, we can continue to achieve these goals as we move into the next century.

CLUSTER RULE STATEMENT

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak today, along with many of my colleagues, regarding the cluster rule for the pulp and paper industry and specifically the EPA's July 15 Federal Register notice.

America's forest and paper industry ranges from state-of-the-art paper mills to small family-owned saw mills. In New York State, the industry plays an integral role in keeping and creating jobs. This industry ranks in the top half of manufacturing industries in the State, representing over 5 percent of the work force. Employing 62,300 workers, the timber business carries a payroll of \$1.9 billion and will expend a total of \$263 million for upgrading operations.

The original cluster rule, as proposed in 1993, would have jeopardized over 33 mills nationwide, the loss of 21,500 direct mill jobs and 86,000 additional jobs, for a total of 107,500 American jobs lost. This was clearly unacceptable.

Over the past 3 years since the cluster rule was proposed, many of us have closely monitored its development. I have always urged creation of an alternative approach that will not destroy jobs or the economic well-being of the vital timber industry. With the recognition of the need for this approach, I commend the EPA for the work which has been done to present a more balanced option of the cluster rule and urge quick approval of this alternative approach.

We must continue to support the pulp and paper industry in this country by encouraging the implementation of this fair cluster rule. Specifically, I support the option that allows the complete substitution of elemental chlorine with chlorine dioxide. This alternative, known as best available technology option A, will provide virtually the same level of environmental and health protection as the original approach the Environmental Protection Agency introduced in 1993.

The EPA's own research demonstrates that the main difference between these two options is the exorbitant costs associated with the earlier approach. Improving the environment remains an immediate concern. However, the original cluster rule proposal goes beyond what is necessary to protect the environment and the public. We must be careful not to endanger workers and their families. Option A protects both jobs and our environment.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support option A and encourage using this opportunity to rectify the unnecessary costs associated with the original cluster rule proposal. This Government, with this Congress' support, must put forward a final regulation which will assure a more responsible approach to environmental health