

extract oil from the outer continental shelf occurred 10½ miles from shore in 18 feet of water; today the industry is developing oil and gas reserves over 168 miles from shore in thousands of feet of water.

Today, there are nearly 200 drilling rigs currently producing gas and oil energy for the United States. Since their exploration began, the industry has developed 3-dimensional seismic translation of geophysical data which uses high speed computers to provide scientists a clear picture of energy reserves beneath the seafloor. The industry has also pioneered the development and application of remotely operated vehicles and is at the forefront of the development and use of a satellite positioning system.

So who is driving the advance of domestic offshore industry? It is the men and women of Aker Gulf Marine of Ingleside, TX, who built Shell's record-setting Mars facility. It is the employees of Halter Marine shipyard in Sabine, TX, who specialize in construction, repair and modification of mobile offshore rigs. It is the workers in Chiles Offshore and the AMFELS yard in Brownsville, TX, who are building a jack-up rig capable of drilling in 360 feet of water.

The industry provides nearly 40,000 petroleum-related jobs located offshore and another 46,000 jobs indirectly related to Gulf of Mexico oil and gas operations. As we enter the 21st century, our Nation is facing the challenge of protecting our environment and wisely using our natural resources. I am confident that the offshore industry will continue to provide reliable and affordable energy supplies to meet America's evolving needs. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the offshore industry and the 25th anniversary of the National Ocean Industries Association.

TRIBUTE TO FRIEDA HARDIN

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special veteran in my district, Frieda Hardin. On October 18, Yeoman Hardin, a resident of Livermore's veterans center, was one of six featured speakers and one of two female World War I veterans in attendance at the dedication of the new Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington, DC.

At 101 years of age, Frieda Hardin may be the nation's oldest living female veteran. She enlisted with the Navy in 1918 at the age of 22, just 2 days after she learned the Navy was accepting women. During the war, she was assigned to Portsmouth, VA, and the Norfolk Navy Yard where she was a Yeoman Third Class working as a clerk checking document receipts in the freight office. At that time there was not yet military housing for women so she lived in a boarding house in town. After the war ended, Yeoman Hardin completed her 2 years of service with the Navy in Bremerton, WA. She went on to raise four children and has since been involved with many veterans' events.

Frieda Hardin is truly a pioneer. At the time she joined the Navy, women were not yet al-

lowed to vote. She did not let that deter her. She wanted, as she puts it, "to do something more, something bigger and better" for herself and her country. She encourages women in the military to "carry on!" and believes they are doing a wonderful job. She is proud to have been able to serve her country and has great admiration for those who do so today. Her speaking role at the dedication of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial is an honor well deserved. She is a role model for women veterans everywhere. I would like to thank Yeoman Hardin for her dignity, courage, and service to our country.

OCTOBER 29, 1997—EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF HON. WALTER H. CAPPS, REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 1997

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to mourn the untimely passing of Congressman WALTER CAPPS.

WALTER possessed great moral integrity and deep rooted religious values which he combined with a devotion to his community and our country. WALTER CAPPS was a community leader, not a career politician. If there were conflicting political differences, WALTER would seek common ground.

On an ideological level, WALTER CAPPS and I were political allies, on a personal level we were good friends and I will sorely miss him. I own a trailer on a hunting ranch in WALTER's district and every time I made it up there, I would try to stop by and visit him. Everybody admired WALTER for his vitality and conviction to issues like quality schools, safe streets, affordable health care, and financial security for the elderly.

WALTER CAPPS brought a fresh perspective to Congress, a desire to improve the lives of his constituents, enrich his community, and restore the bond of trust between our Government and the people. WALTER always believed that our Government should be as good as the people it serves.

My condolences go out to WALTER's wife, Lois, who has lost a great husband, to Lisa, Todd, and Laura who have lost a great father and to the thousands of people who's lives WALTER has touched.

INDIAN POLICE FIRE AT CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, India may dress like a democracy for Halloween, but it is only a costume. That was proven again last week when a Christian religious festival in Ludhiana was shut down by police gunfire.

According to the Tribune of Chandigarh, 19 police and 9 Christians were injured in the incident. Two vehicles were also damaged, the

newspaper reported. Those Christians were merely holding a five-day festival on the theme "Jesus Christ is the answer." Is there something wrong with this in a secular democracy? Apparently, the Indian authorities think so.

The festival was met with protests by the Bharatiya Janata Party, Shiv Sena, and the Bajrang Dal. These are militant Hindu political organizations that do not believe in religious tolerance. It was at their instigation that permission to hold the festival was withdrawn. However, when assurances were given that no "magical healing" would occur and no conversions would take place, the festival was allowed to go on.

That's right, Mr. Speaker, the festival was only allowed to take place in the secular democracy of India after the authorities were assured that no conversions would take place. In other words, if people became Christians as a result of what they saw and heard at the festival, then the festival would be closed. Secular democracy in action.

On October 22, activists from the militant Hindu organizations tried to set the festival's location on fire. The electric lights were damaged. These religious terrorists were not punished. No action was taken against them. Is this how India protects its secular tradition?

While this was going on, the Indian regime is attempting to arrest the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, the spiritual leader of the Sikh Nation. Here is another fine example of religious tolerance by the world's largest democracy.

Finally, the Christian festival was closed by the authorities. The attendees then began a dharna, or what we would call a sit-in. For this act of peaceful resistance, the tyrannical forces of Indian theocracy opened fire on them.

Mr. Speaker, such a country is unworthy of the label "democracy." We rightly protest human-rights violations in China, including the mistreatment of Christians, Buddhists, and others. Yet India is 100 times more oppressive than China. We must take strong measures to bring democracy to South Asia by cutting off U.S. aid to this theocratic satrapy, placing an embargo against it, and declaring our support for the self-determination of the Christians of Nagaland, the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, and the other South Asian people and nations struggling for their freedom. We must also include India in any sanctions taken against countries that fail to observe religious freedom. Those measures will stand as our contribution to political, cultural, and religious freedom in South Asia.

I am introducing the story from the Tribune of Chandigarh into the RECORD.

[From the Chandigarh (India) Tribune, July 16, 1997]

DSP HURT IN BRICKBATTING

LUDHIANA, October 26.—The police opened fire in the air and resorted to a lathi charge to disperse an agitated mob of Christians last night as many as 19 policemen, including a DSP and nine Christians were injured in the brickbattling and lathi charge. Two vehicles were also damaged. The Christians had started a five-day programme on "Jesus Christ is the answer" festival from October 22, to October 26 on the Chandigarh Road. They claimed that they were holding their prayers and thousands of Christians were participating in the same. On the other hand BJP activists of the Shiv Sena and the Bajrang Dal objected to the holding of the festival alleging that the Christians were resorting to conversions and indulging in

"magical healing." The administration on the first day withdrew permission to hold the festival but on the assurance that no magical healing would be done and no conversions would take place, it relented. However, groups opposed to the holding of the festival continued their protest dharna near the venue of the festival. The police had made elaborate security arrangements. According to a spokesperson for the Christians, the district administration yesterday forced them to wind up the festival as tension was brewing up in the town. He said that on October 22 an attempt was made to set the venue on fire and electric lights were damaged. But the administration did not take any action against the rioters. He said as the announcement for the cancellation of the festival was made the youngster started a dharna on the Chandigarh Road. The police lathi charged them and chased them to the CMC Chowk where other Christians had collected in protest against the cancellation of the festival. The spokesman said a deputation of the Christians had also met the Chief Minister, Mr. Parkash Singh Badal, at a village in Muktsar district two days ago and apprised him of the situation. The SSP, Mr. Dinkar Gupta, said as many as 19 policemen were injured in the brickbatting. He said the police force was outnumbered at the CMC Chowk and had resort to a lathi charge and open fire in the air to protect themselves.

INDIA SHOWS RELIGIOUS "TOLERANCE" BY FIRING ON CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL AND BEHEADS A CATHOLIC PRIEST

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, once again the mask of Indian "democracy" has slipped off and the grisly reality underneath has been exposed. Just weeks after the state funeral of Mother Teresa earned India fawning media coverage, it has fired on innocent Christians who were merely holding a 5-day festival called "Jesus Christ is the Answer." According to official reports, 9 Christians and 19 police officers were injured.

This unconscionable act of religious tyranny took place after the militant Hindu parties complained of possible conversions of Hindus to Christianity during the festival in Ludhiana, Punjab. India used to have a law against religious conversions of Hindus. Although it claims that this law has been repealed, in practice it is still enforced.

Hindu militant rioters tried to sabotage the festival by setting fire to the soundstage and other equipment. According to newspaper articles, no action was taken against the persons responsible for these acts. Instead, the authorities closed down the festival based on the allegation that conversions were occurring. What kind of "secular democracy" allows its police to shoot at people merely because they may be persuading people to adopt their religious views.

That is not secularism, and Mr. Speaker that is not democracy. It is militant, fundamentalist theocracy of the same kind that operates in Iran.

And finally Mr. Speaker, I sadly report that a Catholic priest was found beheaded in the northern India state of Bihar. This was the

third Catholic clergyman killed in the past 2 years in this religion. The colleagues of the Reverend A.T. Thomas said that he was killed for aiding the region's "untouchables." There were further reports that the police in the area were offering a \$28 reward for the return of the priest's missing head.

Mr. Speaker, these gruesome facts make it imperative that this Congress continue to support the inclusion of India as a major violator of religious rights in the Wolf-Specter Freedom From Religious Persecution Act of 1997.

I would like to conclude by thanking Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, president of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing these atrocities to my attention. I am introducing the Council of Khalistan's press release and the AP article on this matter into the RECORD.

INDIAN POLICE OPEN FIRE ON CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL JUST WEEKS AFTER MOTHER TERESA'S STATE FUNERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 30—Several police and Christians were injured after police used firearms, tear gas and baton charges to disperse Christians who were holding a five-day festival entitled "Jesus Christ is the Answer" in Ludhiana, Punjab. Indian authorities dispersed the festival by force after allegations that organizers were engaging in conversions of Hindus to Christianity.

Indian authorities allowed the Christian festival only after assurances by organizers that no conversions would take place. However, in the course of the five-day festival, Hindu protests organized by political leaders turned more militant as rioters attempted to set fire to the soundstage and other equipment. It was reported that Indian authorities took no action against the Hindu rioters.

When allegations arose that the Christian festival was actually converting Hindus, Indian authorities closed down the festival. Christians conducted a sit-in protest on the Chandigarh Road. Police responded by using tear gas and batons to beat the protestors, police gunfire was also reported. Official figures place the injuries at 9 Christians and 19 police officers, however, Christian casualties may be much higher.

"This is secular democracy in action," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "Unless you are Mother Teresa, this is how most Christians in India are treated." Christians in Nagaland have faced religious and political persecution since Indian independence, over 200,000 Christian Nagas have been murdered since 1947. Punjab State Magistracy and human rights groups have stated that since 1984, over 250,000 Sikhs were killed by Indian security forces. 53,000 Kashmiris have been killed since 1988 and tens of thousands of Dalits, India's dark skinned aboriginals relegated to untouchable status, have also been killed.

"Although the Indian Government has publicly declared that their law against converting Hindus is no longer in force, these Christians were attacked by Indian police because of charges that they were converting Hindus and that should indicate how the Indian Government feels about Christians and about Hindus converting to Christian faith," concluded Dr. Aulakh.

[From the Tribune News Service, Oct. 27, 1997]

DSP HURT IN BRICKBATTING

LUDHIANA, October 26—The police opened fire in the air and resorted to a lathi charge to disperse an agitated mob of Christians last night as many as 19 policemen, including a DSP and nine Christians were injured in the brickbatting and lathi charge. Two ve-

hicles were also damaged. The Christians had started a five-day programme on "Jesus Christ is the answer" festival from October 22 to October 26 on the Chandigarh Road. They claimed that they were holding their prayers and thousands of Christians were participating in the same. On the other hand BJP activists of the Shiv Sena and the Bajrang Dal objected to the holding of the festival alleging that the Christians were resorting to conversions and indulging in "magical healing." The administration on the first day withdrew permission to hold the festival but on the assurance that no magical healing would be done and no conversions would take place, it relented. However, groups opposed to the holding of the festival continued their protest dharna near the venue of the festival. The police had made elaborate security arrangements. According to a spokesperson for the Christians, the district administration yesterday forced them to wind up the festival as tension was brewing up in the town. He said that on October 22 an attempt was made to set the venue on fire and electric lights were damaged. But the administration did not take any action against the rioters. He said as the announcement for the cancellation of the festival was made the youngster started a dharna on the Chandigarh Road. The police lathi-charged them and chased them to the CMC Chowk where other Christians had collected in protest against the cancellation of the festival. The spokesman said a deputation of the Christians had also met the Chief Minister, Mr. Parkash Singh Badal, at a village in Muktsar district two days ago and apprised him of the situation. The SSP, Mr. Dinkar Gupta, said as many as 19 policemen were injured in the brickbatting. He said the police force was outnumbered at the CMC Chowk and had resort to a lathi charge and open fire in the air to protect themselves.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 29, 1997]

PRIEST BEHEADED IN INDIA FOR WORKS

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AP)—A Catholic priest was found beheaded in a forest in northern India, apparently killed for aiding the region's no-caste untouchables, colleagues said today.

A search party from the Australian-run mission that employed the Rev. A.T. Thomas found his decapitated body Monday near Sirka village, three days after Thomas was abducted from the village's meeting place.

He was the third Catholic clergyman killed in the past two years in Bihar, India's least-developed state, where caste-based gang wars have killed hundred of residents in recent years.

Thomas, an Indian working for Province of the Society of Jesus, had established 15 schools and health projects for Harijans, or untouchables, who occupy the lowest rung in the hierarchy of the Hindu caste system.

"He was working for uplifting the Harijans in remote areas. That may have been a threat to the upper castes," the Rev. George Pereira of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India said in New Delhi.

Police were looking into Thomas' past mediation in land disputes, police Superintendent Bihuthy Pradhan said in Bihar.

The priest earlier had been involved in a successful court fight by the untouchables to cultivate land claimed by upper caste Hindus.

"It looks like an act of revenge," the Rev. Father Phil Crotty said in Melbourne.

Police were offering a \$28 reward—a month's wages in that area—for the return of the priest's missing head.