

not a Democratic state in any real sense. This leads me to ask why the overburdened taxpayers of the United States should be taxed to support this brutal, tyrannical regime. As the world's only superpower and the leader of the worldwide movement to freedom, it is America's obligation to support those who struggle peacefully for freedom.

We should demand that India apologize to Mr. Kumar for violating his rights and that it stop violating the basic liberties of those under its control. If India cannot meet even the most basic standards of human rights, it is not worthy of our support. We should impose an embargo on Indian and cut off aid from this country. We should also speak out strongly in support of the freedom movements in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all over South Asia. This is the best way to protect American values and interests in that part of the world.

I am introducing Mr. Kumar's letter into the RECORD.

RAM NARAYAN KUMAR,

Klagenfurt, Austria, 2 February 1997.

UNION MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS,

The Govt. of India, South Block, New Delhi.

Sub: My illegal detention and interrogation about my forthcoming book on Punjab at Delhi's airport on 19-20th night of January 1997.

SIR: I am writing this letter to protest against my illegal detention and interrogation at Delhi's international airport on January 19-20th night, when I was leaving the country with the British Airways flight BA 142 to join my wife in Austria. Before elucidating, I will introduce myself and my work to the extent it seems to bear on the incident.

My name is Ram Narayan Kumar. I am a writer by profession, and have published three books. My last book titled "The Sikh Unrest and the Indian State: Politics, personalities and historical retrospective" is due to be released early next month by Ajanta Publications of Delhi. In India I live at "Srinivas", Krawal Nagar, Delhi 94. My telephone number there is: 2262421. My wife, a doctor, is an Austrian national. Our address in Austria is: 60/7 Mühlgasse, 9020 Klagenfurt.

I remain an Indian citizen, and travel on passport number S 647894, issued by the Indian Embassy at Vienna on 24 June 1996.

I have been engaged in documenting and disseminating information on human rights violations by the State authorities from the time Indira Gandhi imposed the Emergency in June 1975. During that period, I was detained without trial for nineteen months for criticizing the dictatorial measures she had employed to conserve her regime. I was again incarcerated for leading a strike of colliery workers in Madhya Pradesh, culminating in the hostage case of New Delhi in April 1982. The experiences and considerations that guide my public life, and the chronology of my involvements until 1988, are part of a book—"Confronting the Hindu Sphinx"—published in 1992.

For the last eight years, I have been involved in documenting reports of State atrocities in Punjab. As a member of the Committee for Information and Initiative on Punjab, I have taken active part in collating and verifying the evidence, also by way of video recording, which forms the basis of a petition that is pending before the Supreme Court. The petition shows that in the period from 1992 to 1994 the Punjab police have illegally cremated thousands of dead bodies by labelling them as unidentified. The petition also supplies evidence to establish that many persons so cremated had earlier been picked up by the security forces. The facts regard-

ing the illegal cremations, as shown in our petition, have been authenticated by the Central Bureau of Investigation which has investigated the allegations at the order of the Supreme Court. The matter is now pending before the National Human Rights Commission for the examination of all the issues that attend on the establishment of these facts. Jaswant Singh Khaira, General Secretary of the Akali Dal's Human Rights Wing and a resident of Amritsar, had helped me in this work of documentation. In early September 1995, Khaira got kidnapped by armed commandos of the Punjab police. Khaira's whereabouts remain unknown, and I suspect that he has been done away with. After Khaira's abduction, I put together a short documentary film from the video material he had helped me to gather. This film has been used by several human rights groups in India and abroad to campaign for Khaira's release. Clearly, the film upset the Indian authorities. In fact, one Mr. Bedi of the Indian Embassy in Vienna rebuked me for defaming India. This row about defaming India, which divides the protagonists of the establishment and their critics, follows from divergent positions of empathy. From my position, to defame the abuse of power is to extol the humanity of those who, otherwise, become its mute victims. This same Mr. Bedi telephoned me, in early September 1996, to ask when I planned to return to India next. I was surprised that the Indian Embassy should count on me to support its snooping about my activities. Later in Delhi, some officers who would not identify themselves called on me to ask "some questions". I told them to come back with their identification cards. They never returned.

On 20 January 1997, I was going to return to Austria after spending four months in India. After checking in with the British Airways around 10 p.m. of 19 January 1997, I went to the immigration counter. The officer there took my passport, looked in his computer, and asked me if I had produced a video film on Punjab. I acknowledged having done a documentary. After scanning his computer for a while, the officer asked me to step aside and to take a chair within the enclosure of his superior who was overseeing the movement at all the counters: "It will take some time to clear you," he told me. Soon after midnight, one person appeared at my side to ask if I had authored a book titled "The Sikh Unrest in Punjab and the Indian State". As he seemed all prepared to interrogate, I asked him to identify himself. "My senior officers would soon arrive", he said to skip my question. I wished to telephone a lawyer friend. But this he would not allow: "You are under detention. Forget your flight and about contacting anyone," he told me.

After midnight, I was led to a room for interrogation. I found myself surrounded by almost twenty-five officers. I asked them to identify themselves, and to spell out the legal basis on which I was being detained and interrogated. Their response: "Don't waste time on legal etiquettes. This is a joint interrogation. We would not tell you more. You would complicate matters for yourself by insisting on legal formalities." I was asked to explain what my forthcoming book on Punjab contained. I told them that it was a long work which took me years to complete. I could not give its substance to them in choice morsels, as they were demanding. "Give us the gist in a nutshell", my interrogators insisted. I had no option but to try. My interrogators kept taking notes, interrupting me intermittently to help them formulate sentences for their report.

After settling their report on the book, they compelled me to narrate the chronology of my own political and person background. I told them to consult the book "Confronting

the Hindu Sphinx", which is partly autobiographical and covers the main events of my life till 1988. But the would not be deterred from having the story from the horse's mouth. They also forced me to pose for a photograph, and went on to compel me to give information on my relatives and close associates.

My interrogation lasted till five in the morning of 20 January. I was able to leave the next day due to the courtesy of the British Airways. They confirmed my reservation although the validity of my return ticket, which I had purchased in Austria, had already expired. I had mentioned the expiry of my ticket to my interrogators: It would become their responsibility to arrange my flight if I should lose my ticket because of their illegal action. Their answer: They could not bother how and when I fly again.

At the end of it all, I remain baffled about the significance of this episode. Why did not my interrogators identify themselves if they were acting under the law? It was a joint interrogation, and a large number of senior officers took part. Which organizations did they represent? Whose orders were they carrying out? The interrogation concerned mainly the forthcoming book. What was the idea? The interrogation makes no sense even if I assume that the authorities might be contemplating a ban on the book. This could not be done until someone carefully reads it. Or, was the aim to demonstrate the coercive powers of the Indian State, to suggest that unless I taper down my human rights work and begin to cooperate with the authorities, my life would become difficult?

I have no intention to give up my commitments, no matter what the circumstances and pressures. I do not expect any regard from the authorities but on the basis of fairness and legality, common to all. I complain because the tactics adopted by the Indian Embassy in Austria, the officers who visited me at my house in Delhi and finally my interrogators at Delhi's airport are illegal, intimidating and constitute direct violation of my fundamental rights. I also fear that the agencies that have orchestrated my interrogation may further try to damage the circulation of my book by intimidating the publisher and by taking recourse to other unlawful ways.

I sincerely hope that you will act on my complaint. Please, initiate suitable action against the agencies responsible for infringing my rights as a citizen and a writer. Please, also ensure that they do not persist in harassing me, my relatives and associates in unlawful ways.

Sincerely yours,

RAM NARAYAN KUMAR.

SOLDIERS FROM THE SUPPLY PLATOON OF THE 1019TH QUARTER MASTER COMPANY RETURN HOME FROM THEIR PEACEKEEPING MISSION IN HUNGARY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take this opportunity to welcome home to Syracuse the 29 soldiers of the Supply Platoon of the 1019th Quartermaster Company after a very successful mission in the region of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

These dedicated Central New Yorkers spent the past 6 months as part of the U.S. Peacekeeping Mission. They were stationed in Hungary, where they provided support for Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Joint

Guard. The majority were reservists working in the main supply warehouse where every uniformed American was processed and provided with essential equipment. In addition to these duties, they also processed all of the servicemen as they left the area prior to their returning to the States. There were times when the company processed over 500 soldiers a day.

Our community is proud of the hard work and dedication displayed by the 1019th Quartermaster Company. They are truly a credit to Central New York.

Following are the names of the members of the Supply Platoon of the 1019th Quartermaster Company: 1st Lt. David Fosdick, 2d Lt. Ronald Humphrey, CWO3 Gerald Davies, M. Sgt. Robert Fuller, Sfc. Ramona Sandoval, S. Sgt. Thomas Fahey, Sgt. Gregory Beebe, Sgt. Teddy Cavollo, Sgt. William Hazelton, Sgt. David Jones, Sgt. Edward Keegan, Sgt. Abraham Ortiz, Sgt. Miguel Pujos, Sgt. Deborah Reed, Sgt. Bradley Wass, Spc. Debra Addison, Spc. Richard Bailey, Spc. Michael Bick, Spc. Nicola Green, Spc. Traci Hall, Spc. Leroy Hardge, Spc. Samantha Isles, Spc. Sean Lawless, Spc. David Nixon, Spc. Timothy Peterson, Spc. Megan Taylorrolf, Pfc. Alana Crossman, and Pfc. Vincent Harris.

I would ask my colleagues to join me in thanking them as they return to their civilian jobs or their educational pursuits. We are proud of the commitment our national reservists make to their families and our country.

COMMEMORATION OF AMBASSADOR SAMUEL WISE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on January 21, 1997, the United States lost one of its finest public servants, Ambassador Samuel G. Wise. In his 20 years of service in the State Department and the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Ambassador Wise sought to advance the precious principle of democracy. His diplomatic skills, recognized worldwide, helped forge an international consensus on human rights and an effective process to hold states accountable to the Helsinki principles. Through his work, many lives were saved and democracy was strengthened.

I first met Sam soon after being appointed to the Helsinki Commission in 1989. I did not know him very well, but his reputation was one of a kind with a good heart for people. He did not seek the limelight, but instead labored quietly and nobly behind the scenes. His work will live on in the effective organization he helped create and the human rights standards he helped strengthen. He will be sorely missed.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Mary, and his family during this time of loss.

CONGRATULATIONS ANN BROWN

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, though some appointments of the Clinton administration

may be underwhelming, the selection 4 years ago of Ann Brown to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission continues to gather rave reviews.

Ann is the CPSC's seventh Chairman, and I recommend that the agency retire her jersey. Consumer advocacy has been her passion for two decades, including service as vice president of the Consumer Federation of America for nearly 15 years and chairman of Public Voice for 11.

Ann understands which products harm children—from venetian blind cord loops to pajama drawstrings—and how to persuade industry and Congress to sell safety. Her focus and her voice are always clear.

Ann celebrates a milestone birthday this month. No one will believe which one, and I wonder if, just this once, we can waive the consumer's right to know.

Happy birthday to an extraordinarily competent public servant, lively and dear friend, and Smith College alumna. Your congressional fan club salutes you.

TEN COMMANDMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 1997

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, our forefathers established the United States, "one nation under God, * * *" as a country in which the Government shall not regulate the religious practices of its citizenry either by "respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; * * *." This logical separation of two distinct activities in the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States supports the argument that religious freedom can be exercised by U.S. citizens on government property separately from the government respecting an establishment of religion.

Frankly, I am at a loss to understand why all the attention regarding the display of the Ten Commandments is focused on Alabama, when the Ten Commandments are displayed in other public forums across the Nation including the Supreme Court. Perhaps certain parties simply find the great State of Alabama a more appealing target of their anti-Christian attacks.

When I proudly took the oath of office as Representative of the First District of Alabama at the beginning of the 105th Congress, I swore to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. The first amendment of the Constitution of the United States clearly prohibits the regulation, by the Federal Government, of Judge Moore's right to exercise his religious beliefs by displaying the Ten Commandments. I am pleased to join the sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 31, my distinguished colleague from Alabama, Mr. ROBERT ADERHOLT, as a cosponsor of the concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the display of the Ten Commandments by Judge Roy S. Moore, a judge on the circuit court of the State of Alabama. I urge a favorable vote on this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY LEVY

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in the House and the residents of Dade County, FL, to recognize an upcoming leader in my district, Ms. Emily Levy. Emily, a senior at North Miami Beach Senior High, has been chosen as a finalist in the prestigious Westinghouse Science Talent Search for her work with children with learning disabilities.

Emily has displayed an astonishing level of maturity and dedication to her community for someone who is only 17 years old. As a volunteer at a school for children with learning disabilities, Ms. Levy noticed the frustration her students experienced while trying to learn in a traditional manner. As a result, she created a nonlinear program that has made learning easier for her students. She spent 5 years meticulously revising this brain imagery form of conceptual organization. Ms. Levy can be proud that because of her efforts, the course of young lives can be changed, and minds can be opened.

In addition to her obvious talent in the science field she maintains a 5.04 grade point average—on a 4.0 scale—has won piano and oratory competitions, and models professionally. She will be attending Brown University in the fall.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and delighted to count Ms. Emily Levy as a constituent, and am sure that this is not the last we will hear from her.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT WILDLIFE LEGACY ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Theodore Roosevelt Wildlife Legacy Act. This legislation will improve the National Wildlife Refuge System because it clearly reaffirms President Roosevelt's original intent in establishing our first wildlife refuge in 1903—to conserve fish and wildlife for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Why is it necessary to reaffirm our commitment to the only system of public lands dedicated to wildlife conservation? Because legislation recently introduced in the House would fundamentally alter the purpose and undermine the conservation mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. In the last Congress, a vote against a very similar bill, H.R. 1675, was counted by the non-partisan League of Conservation Voters as one of the key environmental votes of 1996.

H.R. 511, which was recently introduced by the chairman of the Resources Committee, would undermine wildlife conservation on our refuges by elevating hunting, trapping, and other forms of recreation to a purpose of the system coequal to conservation. But do not think that this is a purely philosophical debate about whether hunting should be a purpose of