

come to fight for solutions to improve the lives of those affected today and to fight for a cure to save the lives of those who will be affected tomorrow.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY HACKED TO DEATH—RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION CONTINUES IN INDIA—AMERICA MUST SUPPORT FREEDOM FOR KHALISTAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Indian Express reported on November 12, 1999 that a Christian family was hacked to death in Jamshedpur. The attackers stormed the house of 35 year-old Santan Kerai, dragging Mr. Kerai, his wife, their two year-old child, and a relative out of the house to murder them. Finally, the mutilated bodies of the Kerai family "were found on a football field about 100 yards from their house," according to the article. The newspaper does not identify the assailants, but the attack is part of the ongoing pattern of repression of Christians in India today.

I have been deeply concerned about recent reports of Hindu activists raping and terrorizing nuns. A nun named Sister Ruby was abducted by Hindu fundamentalists, who stripped her naked and forced her to drink their bodily fluids. They threatened to rape her if she refused.

Earlier this year, Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons were burned alive by members of the Bajrang Dal, which is the youth arm of the openly Fascist organization called Rashteria Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS). The ruling BJP, which leads India's 24-party governing coalition, is the political arm of the RSS.

Since Christmas Day of 1998, Hindu fundamentalists have burned down Christian churches, prayer halls, and schools. Four priests have been murdered, some of them beheaded.

Christians have not been the only target of persecution in India. Sikhs and Muslims are routinely beaten, tortured, and murdered by these radical groups or even Indian security forces.

Mr. Speaker, India is neither secular, nor is it democratic. It is clear that there is no place for religious, linguistic, or ethnic minorities in India. So, it is no wonder that there are seven-teen freedom movements in India.

I call on the President to press the Government of India on the issues of human rights and self-determination when he visits the sub-continent next year. If the United States will not speak out for freedom in the world, who will? If we don't press these issues today, when will we? We must do whatever we can to bring freedom to all the people of India.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Indian Express article into the RECORD

[From the Indian Express, Nov. 12, 1999]

CHRISTIAN FAMILY HACKED TO DEATH

JAMSHEDPUR—Four members of a tribal Christian family have been hacked to death by some unidentified people at Peteripa village of west Singhbhum district.

Police said some people had stormed the house of one Santan Kerai (35) at midnight on Wednesday.

The assailant pulled him, his wife and their two-year old child besides one female relative out of the house and killed them with sharp weapons.

The mutilated bodies of Santan, his wife and the child were found on a football ground, about 100 meter away from their house. PTI report.

NONDISCRIMINATORY RETRANSMISSION CONSENT IN H.R. 1554

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, as a conferee appointed to H.R. 1554, and as a proponent of competition, I deliberated long and hard to promote increased consumer choice in the video marketplace by strengthening the competitive position of satellite carriers as they go head to head with incumbent cable operators; however, they are not the only competitors in the evolving video marketplace.

Since enactment of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, cable over-builders have acquired franchises all across the country and have begun to operate traditional wireline systems. In addition to these familiar distribution systems, several new digital wireless cable systems, which use microwave frequencies to transmit programming, also offer consumers a competitive alternative.

Although incumbent cable systems still dominate the video distribution market, satellite carriers continue to gain market share and, with the advent of local into local, will see even greater consumer interest in their product.

Unfortunately, the newer entrants—the over builders and the digital wireless providers—still face some pretty stiff obstacles in their efforts to penetrate this market. The single most significant hurdle they face is access to popular programming at fair prices. This issue has long-term significance for video competition and my subcommittee will continue to study this important problem. However, in the short-term, these new competitors are running into serious retransmission consent problems that prevent them from expanding as fast as they would like and that unnecessarily deprive consumers of an alternative choice.

When attempting to renegotiate retransmission consent contracts, these new competitors are told they must take other programming services they do not want. Too frequently, they are told they must purchase a "bundle" of programming that includes the broadcast signal they want, but also includes programming in which the broadcaster or his affiliated network has a financial interest. As you might expect, "bundles" of programming cost a lot more than a single broadcast signal, and they take up valuable channel space that the new entrants would prefer to use for other programming—programming they choose to carry, not programming they are forced to carry.

The bottom line is that these "tying" arrangements are not optional, they are forced on these new entrants as the quid pro quo for obtaining retransmission consent; impose higher programming costs on new entrants that put them at a competitive disadvantage vis a vis established players in the market;

and take up valuable channel space which, in the case of wireless operators, is limited to the spectrum space available.

If our efforts to increase consumer choice are to succeed, we must go beyond what we have been able to accomplish in H.R. 1554.

I ask my colleagues to join me in a pledge to reopen the debate about nondiscriminatory retransmission consent and agree to study this matter further to see what additional steps we can take to strengthen the competitive position of all new entrants into the video marketplace. If we succeed, consumers will enjoy lower prices, better service quality and more choice.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR-ELECT
JENNIE STULTZ

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Mayor-elect Jennie Stultz as she prepares to become the first female mayor of Gastonia, North Carolina, in its 122-year history. Her candidacy galvanized middle-aged women and young moms who, local studies indicated, felt disenfranchised in the last municipal elections.

Her campaign to improve the image of the city, which once was chosen as an All American City, resounded with her fellow citizens. I applaud her efforts to promote the City of Gastonia as the friendly, progressive and All American City that she and I know it to be.

Jennie Stultz has dedicated 20 years of her life as a community activist and volunteer. She served as Administrator of Gastonia Clean City, then as Community Relations Director from 1982 to 1997.

She gave of her time and services on numerous civic boards, including the House of Mercy, which assists those with terminal illnesses; the Governor's Council for Children and Youth; and has just completed a term as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Gaston Literacy Council, Inc.

Her father, Elmore Thomas, who was stationed overseas during World War II, wrote in a letter dated July 23, 1944: "When I get back, I might run for mayor of Gastonia. At least, all the boys in the unit say I should."

I commend Jennie Stultz for carrying on that tradition of service to community and nation for which her father fought and for realizing a long, unfulfilled family dream.

My fellow colleagues, I ask that you join me in saluting a woman who exemplifies the spirit of optimism for the future and the pride of community that prevails in this land. May her tenure bring continued prosperity and pride to the people of Gastonia, North Carolina.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOHN
H. HARLAND COMPANY DALLAS-
AREA FACILITY

HON. RICHARD K. ARMEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the John H. Harland Company's Dallas-area Facility on its 25th Anniversary.

The John H. Harland Company is the second largest check printer in the United States and the leading provider of database marketing to financial institutions. Founded in 1923, the John H. Harland Company opened its Dallas facility in 1974. Today, this facility employs 320 people and processes 112,000 orders per week. In April 1997, John H.

Harland Company moved into the 26th Congressional District, opening a 83,000 square foot facility in Grapevine, Texas.

Harland's recent move to a regional network of nine production facilities has brought additional work into the Grapevine facility and has contributed to the local economy. It also improves the quality of the company's services

and offers greater economic security for its employees and their families.

I offer my sincere congratulations to the employees of this facility and to the John H. Harland Company on this momentous occasion.