

Khalistan will end India's corruption, tyranny and genocide against the Sikh Nation," he said. "India is on the verge of disintegration. The Sikh leadership should immediately begin a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan."

[From the Burning Punjab News, Mar. 21, 2000]

MASSACRED SIKHS IDENTIFIED

SRINAGAR.—The 35 Sikhs massacred at Chatti-Singpora in south Kashmir late last night by unknown armed persons have been identified. Following is the list of people killed by militants: Rajinder Singh (42), Karnail Singh (35), Rajan Singh (40), Naranjan Singh (50), Gurdeep Singh (25), Ajeetpal Singh (22), Joginder Singh (26), Gurbax Singh (35), Uttam Singh (30), Surjit Singh (22), Majit Singh (30), Devinder Singh (18), Rajinder Singh (35), Reshpal Singh (40), Gurmeek Singh (35), Sukha Singh (53), Ravi Singh (38), Jangbhadur Singh (36), Rajdeep Singh (18), Naseeb Singh (50), Kulbeer Singh (20), Darban Singh (28), Deader Singh (50), Gurmeet Singh (22), Ujal Singh (28), Charan Singh (50), Sartaj Singh (30), Rajnath Singh (45), Faqir Singh (65), Karnail Singh (45), Sheetal Singh (66), Ravinder Singh (22), Jagdesh Singh (25), Sagir Singh (60), and Sartaj Singh (26). One Devinder Kaur died of heart attack following the massacre.

IN TRIBUTE TO BRUCE DOWNING

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of attending the annual meeting and recognition dinner of the United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley, at which Bruce Downing of Winchester, Virginia, received the 1999 Volunteer of the Year Award.

I would like to share with our colleagues the outstanding community service work of Mr. Downing, who was cited in one award nominating letter as "a giant among men in this community. His calm, reassuring manner, his generosity, and his compassion for others are without measure. Bruce Downing has made the community a better place to live. He is a hero."

Mr. Downing, 52, began his community service in the mid-1960's when his college fraternity helped special needs children at a local school. He later became a volunteer with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and other organizations including Grafton School, Access Independence, Help with Housing, ABBA Pregnancy Care Center, and numerous United Way boards and others.

He and his wife, Donna, also donated one of their own family vans with a special wheelchair life to a family in need.

Mr. Speaker, Bruce Downing represents the thousands upon thousands of giving and caring Americans who reach out as volunteers to help their fellow citizens. They do so not for any honors or recognition that may come their way; rather they do it with generous hearts because they want to make a difference in people's lives.

We salute Bruce Downing and all the other volunteers of the United Way and the many other volunteer organizations who lend a helping hand every day of the year to serve their communities. They are indeed heroes.

HONORING TRISH ARREDONDO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trish Arredondo for her lifelong contributions to the health and well being of Northwest Indiana. This is a very special pleasure as Trish is a close personal friend. I have known her for the better part of two decades and have seen firsthand the efforts of her dynamic accomplishments on behalf of her friends, neighbors, and community.

Trish Arredondo is currently President and Chief Executive Officer of the Planned Parenthood Association of Northwest/Northeast Indiana. During Trish's tenure, Planned Parenthood has made a vast impact on our community in the areas of both health care and education. The organization has grown three fold in the number of clients, and has tripled the geographic area served.

Trish spearheaded a capital campaign that has allowed the organization to purchase its headquarters and originate a "mini-grant" awards program designed to bring research funding to special aspects of women's health care such as breast cancer. She has been instrumental in increasing public awareness in women's health issues such as cervical cancer and teen pregnancy. Under her direction, the organization increased its medical services to include testing for Tuberculosis and Hepatitis B. Planned Parenthood is the sole provider of health care services for 75 percent of the 40,000 patients it serves annually. This evolution of the organization's role in community care has become an invaluable part of Northwest Indiana's health care system.

In addition to her role in Planned Parenthood, Trish Arredondo also gives much of her time back to the community. She is a member of the Northwest Indiana Executive Council, the Governor's Council on Health Care 2000, the Rape Task Force, the Welfare to Work Council, and is a charter member of the Northwest Council for Teen Pregnancy. She is a past member of the Northern Indiana Arts Association and was named as one of the most influential women in Northwest Indiana by the Times newspaper in March, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Trish Arredondo for her professional achievements and her many years of dedication to the betterment of our community. We in Northwest Indiana are truly thankful to have someone of Trish's talents on our team. Her life's work has been on behalf of those less fortunate in our community, and we are extremely grateful for her dedication and perseverance. Please join me in wishing her a happy and healthy retirement.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF LEOCADIA VASQUEZ VALENCIA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with much sadness that I inform my colleagues of the passing of a great individual, a person who graced our world and our lives with so much love and compassion.

Leocadia V. Valencia, the mother, grandmother, great grandmother, great-great grandmother passed away, on her Sabbath day, Saturday, February 19, 2000 in California. She was 98 years of age. Born in Matehualia, Mexico, wife of Felix G. Valencia, Pastor in the Church of God 7th Day. She was a long-time resident of Sacramento, California.

Leocadia lived a very full and very fulfilling life, a life graced by her husband, who passed away four years ago (December 12, 1995), with whom she has been blessed by sixteen children: Survived by Carrol Cervantes, Sophia Rivas, Felix Valencia, Hope Brocklehurst, Matthew Valencia, Ruth Gomez, Mary McAuliffe, Paul Valencia, Lydia Hanzalik, Ruby Valencia, Rachel Sidhu, Sam Valencia. Survived by two sisters; Margarita Garnica, Micaela Perea. Extended mother to the following grandchildren: Yolanda Velasquez, Steve Valencia, Linda Macias, Terry Adame, Ernest Valencia and numerous grand children, great grand children, great-great grandchildren. These children and many grandchildren brought tremendous joy and inspiration into their lives.

Leocadia was and remains so much a tremendous person in our thoughts and in our memories. We appreciate so much and will long remember the many good and positive things she brought into our lives, and most of all her faith and love for God.

I join with Leocadia friends and family members in honoring such a truly remarkable and outstanding person, a mother, grandmother, a great-grandmother and great-great grandmother, to all of those who loved her so much.

Leocadia gave so much to those she loved, and each of us is better and more fortunate for what she unselfishly gave to us and gave to our world, a world made so much brighter and more gentler by her life and her presence.

Mr. Speaker, we are all gifted by the lives of mothers and grandmothers who do so much in guiding our lives and providing us comfort and proper direction. I join with all of those who loved Leocadia V. Valencia in extending our prayers, knowing that God's heaven is blessed and graced by one of his most beautiful and loving Angels. I ask God's peace and comfort on the family during this time of sorrow.

ST. PAUL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 84TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and high regards that I congratulate St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana, as it celebrates its 84th anniversary as a parish this coming Sunday. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Reverend Everett Gray on this magnificent occasion.

From modest beginnings, St. Paul's has emerged as a cornerstone of the Gary community. The church was organized in 1916 through the efforts of six dedicated pioneers. The first structure was a portable building of the 21st Avenue school. Through the hard work of Reverend Martin VanBuren Bolden and the six founders, the membership continued to grow, and on July 17, 1917, two lots

were purchased at 1938 Adams Street. It was there that St. Paul's began to flourish as both a religious and a social institution.

During the Great Depression, the people of St. Paul's saw the needs of those around them and reached out a helping hand. The church basement was used as both a medical facility and a place where those in need could go for food. Their generosity was exemplified when the church donated money to those who could not afford the burial expenses for loved ones that had recently passed away. St. Paul's shaped the lives of many people during those hard times and still stands as a pillar of our community.

On May 1, 1943, St. Paul's welcomed Dr. Lester Kendal Jackson as its pastor, who made an immediate impact on his congregation. Under his leadership all outstanding debts were paid, and a significant balance was put into the treasury. He helped to organize many groups which would inspire the youth of the parish, including a literary society, Girl and Boy Scout teams, and a drama club. Dr. Jackson also fought for the rights of African Americans throughout the city of Gary, and was later inducted into the Steel City Hall of Fame for his contributions to the community.

After a fire in 1963 destroyed the building that they had used for over 45 years, the people of St. Paul's erected a new church at 2300 Grant Street on January 16, 1966. It is here that the church came under the direction of Reverend Everett Gray, or Pastor Gray, as he prefers to be addressed. Under Pastor's Gray's guidance, St. Paul's has continued to thrive, both in terms of spiritual growth as well as practical improvements.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me congratulating the parish family of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, under the guidance of Pastor Gray, as they celebrate their 84th anniversary. All current and former parishioners can be proud to say that they belong to the second oldest Baptist church in Gary, Indiana. They have weathered many storms in order to make countless significant contributions to their community throughout the past 84 years.

NEW MASSACRE OF SIKHS IN INDIA

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today, as President Clinton began a visit to India, a new act of political violence occurred in Kashmir, as 35 Sikh villagers were rounded up and killed by gunmen. The New York Times reports in the enclosed article that this was the first major attack on the small Sikh community in Kashmir since an insurgency by Kashmiri Muslims against Indian rule began 10 years ago. Sikhs had previously lived peacefully in the only predominantly Muslim area of India. It should be noted that in India, government security forces have been implicated by international human rights organizations in the murders, disappearances and torture of thousands of Sikhs.

The village of Chati Singhpura Mattan, 42 miles from Srinagar, is controlled by Kashmiri

groups that abandoned the rebellion and were recruited by the Indian army as a counterinsurgency militia force. The Indian government has blamed Islamic radicals controlled by Pakistan for this heinous crime. However, the Indian government's control of this specific area has caused many Sikhs in the United States to believe that the gunmen were agents of the Indian government's Research and Intelligence Wing [RAW] posing as Kashmiri militants. There are more than 700,000 Indian security forces stationed in Kashmir, which has been called the most militarized area of this planet.

A fair and impartial investigation by international monitors is necessary to resolve this case and other acts of brutality committed in Kashmir. I have repeatedly advocated that fair elections, free of violence, that would permit the people of Kashmir to determine their own destiny is the best means to end this conflict. In addition, a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue would have a significant impact in easing the conflict between India and Pakistan.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 21, 2000]

35 MASSACRED IN SIKH TOWN IN KASHMIR

Srinagar, India, Tuesday, March 21 (AP)—Gunmen rounded up and killed 35 Sikh villagers in the disputed state of Kashmir, the police said today as President Clinton began a visit to India.

The massacre on Monday night was the first major attack on the small Sikh community in Kashmir since separatist Muslims started their insurgency 10 years ago. Sikhs are considered a neutral minority, but Indian officials had warned earlier of violence by Muslim militants hoping to draw attention to Kashmir during Mr. Clinton's visit.

Both India and Pakistan claim the Himalayan territory and have fought two wars over it.

The gunmen were not immediately identified and no group claimed responsibility for the attack, the police said.

Mr. Clinton arrived in New Delhi, 400 miles to the south, on Monday evening after a visit to Bangladesh. He has said that reducing tensions between India and Pakistan is one of his objective of the trip.

Many Kashmiris were hoping that the president's visit would lead to a breakthrough in the long deadlock on the region's future.

Mr. Clinton's spokesman, Joe Lockhart, expressed outrage over the killings, saying in a statement that "out most profound sympathies go out to the victims of this brutal massacre."

The attackers entered the village of Chati Singhpura Mattan after dark and forced the residents from their homes, police officials said.

The assailants separated the men from the women, announcing that they were conducting a "crackdown." Indian security forces operate similarly when searching a neighborhood for militants that they suspect may be hiding there. The gunmen then opened fire on the men, killing 35 of them. One man was critically wounded.

Sikhs have lived mostly undisturbed in the Kashmir Valley, the only area in predominantly Hindu India with a Muslim majority. Many run the trucking companies that supply the valley.

In the last six months, attacks by the militants have focused on army bases and patrols rather than random terrorism, and have shown a higher degree of training and expertise, senior army officers have said. They said about 3,500 militants were in Kashmir, and many of them had infiltrated the cease-

fire line from Pakistan, with the help of the Pakistan army. Pakistan denies giving active aid to the militants.

The area of the Sikh village is about 42 miles from Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, and is controlled by armed Kashmiri groups that abandoned separatism and were recruited by the Indian army as a counterinsurgency auxiliary force.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 21, 2000]

NEAR CLINTON'S INDIA VISIT, VIOLENCE FLARES IN KASHMIR

(By Pamela Constable)

Srinagar, India, March 20—While their government and most of their countrymen are hoping President Clinton will play down the sensitive topic of Kashmir during his visit to India this week, people in this depressed, wintry city at the political heart of the disputed, violence-torn region are praying for just the opposite.

Today, in the worst single attack on civilians in a decade of guerrilla war, unidentified gunmen massacred 35 Sikh men in the Kashmiri village of Chati Singhpura Mattan, wire services reported. Security officials had feared that armed Pakistan-based insurgents, who have stepped up attacks here in recent months, might stage a dramatic attack during Clinton's stay in India.

Clinton condemned the attack in Kashmir. "On behalf of the president and all Americans let me express our outrage at the attack on a village in Kashmir last night," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart told reporters in New Delhi.

Many Kashmiris believe that only a world leader of Clinton's stature can put pressure on Indian officials to start meaningful negotiations with Pakistan over the mountainous, predominantly Muslim border region where separatist sentiment is strong, guerrilla violence is rapidly rising and Indian troops patrol with an iron fist.

"If Mr. Clinton can make a difference in places like Chechnya and Bosnia, why not in Kashmir?" said Shah Khan, 22, who sells shirts and pants in the teeming alleys of Lal Chowk bazaar. "We are happy because at least his visit will bring some attention to our problems, but we wish he would come to Kashmir and see for himself. Then we would all tell him one thing: we want freedom."

But this message is highly unlikely to reach Clinton's ears or the Indian capital this week. On Sunday, about 50 Kashmiri independence activists were arrested and jailed as they tried to board buses that would take them to New Delhi for a protest rally near Parliament, where Clinton is scheduled to speak Wednesday.

In a brief interview in jail today, the group's leader Shabir Shah, 44, said they had been tear-gassed and dragged into police vans as they prepared to leave. He said the group, which seeks Kashmiri independence from India, had planned to stage a peaceful rally and a symbolic hunger strike.

"President Clinton says he wants to help ease tensions in the region, and he will be talking with India and Pakistan, but we wanted to tell him that it is futile until we Kashmiris are taken into account," Shah said.

Kashmir, which is divided between India and Pakistan, has been the major source of friction between the two neighbors and nuclear powers for a generation. Since the early 1990s, the Indian-occupied part has been the site of a violent conflict between anti-India insurgent groups and Indian security forces, which has cost tens of thousands of lives. Last summer, a 10-week border conflict in the Kargil mountains left hundreds dead.

Today's attack on the Sikhs seemed to represent an especially gruesome escalation of