

It would also set the precedent that the malignant whims of a determined dictator can reduce the United Nations to a hollow debating society that cannot uphold the promise of world peace.

A war against Iraq by a renewed international coalition or by the United States alone would be a grave and sobering step with many risks and unknowns. We cannot and should not take such a step without full consideration by the United Nations and the Congress, as the President has promised. But the dangers of continued inaction, of endless dithering, are too frightening to ignore. We must act to support the President.

SARASOTA CONCERT BAND

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack on the United States of America were honored by a special performance of Charles Gabriele's "Ave Maria" presented by the Sarasota Concert Band, conducted by its director Maestro William Barbenera, at the band's September 2nd concert. Lorraine Murphy-Renfroe and Douglas Renfroe were the solo vocalists.

Members of the band who performed in the tribute were: Patricia Dominowski, Adrienne Clover, Kelly Hatin, Valerie McManus, Lindsey White, Tom Hughes, Kelly Jacobs, Jave Martin, Pan Winkle, Phil Hohman, Estella Lilly, Maria Herrera, Calvin Wright, Megan Jefferds, Harry Phillips, Lynn Miller, R.C. Summers, George McLain, Marc Levensen, Kristen Constantino, Liz Jefferds, Joe Martinez, Dick Thierry, Gerry Snyder, John Hietala, Dave Jacobs, Jacob Bradley, Robert Moore, Merrill Wilson, Eric Vanzylveld, Andrea Hatin, Robert Thurston, Marvin Luckett, Charles Wilson, Bill Namack, John Haswell, Lara Fetzek, Chuck Evans, Laurita Noller, Pam Winkle, Robert Andrews, Jack Brokensha, Mike Dubi, Carolyn Gallmeyer, Fred Gallmeyer, Jeff Hanscom, Joe Hruby, Ann Jefferds, Marc Levensen, Faye Luckett, William Namack, Eddie Pawl, Bryson Sanders, Dianne Saunders, Michael Saunders, Paul Worrell, Lisa Barbanera, Kim Clark, Diane Jolly and Melissa Martinez.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this most commendable musical tribute to the victims.

IN HONOR OF JACQUELINE ELLAM AUTRY, RECIPIENT OF THE HONORARY CONGRESSIONAL HORIZON AWARD

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jacqueline Autry, who will receive the Honorary Congressional Horizon Award on September 27, 2002 at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage. The Honorary Congressional Horizon Award is presented annually to individuals who have personally contributed to expanding the opportunities for all Americans,

and who have set an exceptional example for young people through their successes in life.

Success has always followed Jackie Autry. As a young woman in 1959, she started her career at Security First National Bank, working first as a switchboard operator, then as an Assistant Manager of Operations, and then Manager. At the young age of thirty-two, she was appointed to the position of Vice President, where she remained until July 17, 1981, when she married the American cowboy legend, Gene Autry.

Mrs. Autry has clearly demonstrated her selfless devotion to the community of Los Angeles. Her invaluable contributions to the community include serving as President of the Palm Springs chapter of the American Red Cross and serving as Treasurer and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Eisenhower Medical Center and Hospital. She has also served as President of Community Blood Bank of the Desert and currently serves as Director and President of the Autry Foundation.

Mrs. Autry also has the venerable distinction of being the only woman ever to serve on the Major League Baseball Executive Council and Board of Directors. She continues to serve the sporting community while acting as Honorary President of the American League of Major League Baseball.

Over the years, Mrs. Autry's remarkable breadth of involvement with the community has been a benefit and an inspiration to many. I am proud to honor the contributions of Mrs. Autry. It is through her accomplishments that we are inspired to believe in the power of each American to make a difference in our nation. In acknowledgement of her service, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in recognizing the achievements and contributions of Jacqueline Autry.

IDAHO PUBLIC LANDS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the people of Idaho are fortunate to have the incredible resources of the public lands for work and play. Our public lands provide forest, mineral, and grazing resources, as well as access to a wide variety of outdoor recreation pursuits. The beauty of Idaho's mountains and rivers draw thousands of tourists to our state, injecting millions of dollars into our state's economy and supporting thousands of small businesses. So it is fitting to draw attention to an expedition that recently passed through Idaho.

American Frontiers: A Public Lands Journey is drawing attention to America's public lands legacy through a two month, 3,000 mile journey entirely on public lands and waters. Two teams of adventurers, including teachers, a firefighter, a nurse, a reporter, and several outdoor enthusiasts began this trek on August 1, one team starting from the Canadian border, the other from the Mexican border. The two teams will join together on September 28, 2002 in Salt Lake City on National Public Lands Day. The northern group journeyed into Idaho while they were on the Continental Divide Trail, and hit the halfway point in their journey in the Targhee National Forest.

We all treasure the special moments spent in awe of the natural wonders around us, and

stand to gain from a better understanding of America's public lands legacy. My thanks go to the Public Lands Interpretive Association and the many sponsors and partners organizing this special journey. I encourage you to read more about this incredible journey on America's public lands by visiting the interactive website www.americanfrontiers.net.

REPRESSION OF MINORITIES CONTINUES IN INDIA—SIKHS, MUSLIMS, CHRISTIANS CONTINUE TO BE TARGETED

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am distressed about two recent articles that show the continuing repression of minorities in India. One article appeared in The Hindu, an Indian newspaper. It said that over 5,000 Muslims were killed in the violence this spring in Gujarat. Then the Times of India reported that a group of Indian police officers fired on a group of peaceful Sikh protestors. These articles show that minorities such as Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and others continue to suffer the worst kind of repression in "democratic" India.

In Gujarat, the police were quoted as saying that they were ordered to stand aside and let the Muslims be killed. This was strangely reminiscent of the 1984 massacre of Sikhs in Delhi. It is part of India's pattern of repression of its minorities. Now, it comes out that peaceful Sikh protestors who were simply holding a peaceful protest against what they see as desecration of their gurus and their scriptures were fired upon by Indian police. What kind of a democracy fires on peaceful protestors engaged in peaceful action?

Christians continue to be oppressed as well. Churches have been burned, prayer halls have been attacked, nuns have been raped, and priests have been murdered. Militant Hindu nationalists burned a missionary and his two young sons to death while they slept in their jeep. A few years ago, police fired on a Christian religious festival that was peacefully promoting the theme "Jesus Is the Answer."

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stop U.S. aid to India. It is time to declare our support for self-determination for the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and all the peoples demanding their freedom from India. We cannot just stand by and allow India's repression to go on with our support. Self-determination is everyone's birthright. Freedom is everyone's birthright. It is time for America to follow our principles and support it.

The Council of Khalistan issued an excellent press release on the police firing at the peaceful demonstrators. I would like to insert that into the RECORD at this time. In addition, I would like to place the article from The Hindu into the RECORD to show my colleagues the ongoing repression of minorities in supposedly democratic India.

INDIAN POLICE FIRE AT PEACEFUL SIKH PROTESTORS

INDIA AGAIN SHOWS IT IS NOT A DEMOCRACY

WASHINGTON, DC, August 5, 2002.—The Times of India reported on August 1 that police in Malout fired on a crowd of peaceful

protestors, injuring many of them. Several have been admitted to Civil Hospital, Malout. Eight protestors were arrested. The police used tear gas on the demonstrators. Two people suffered bullet wounds, according to the article.

The demonstrators were protesting against a so-called religious function organized by the Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan which was aimed at undermining the Sikh religion and slandering the Sikh gurus, according to the Times of India.

"Like the attack on the Golden Temple, this incident shows that there is no place in India for Sikhs," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. Khalistan is the Sikh homeland declared independent on October 7, 1987. "The Indian government is dedicated to wiping out the Sikh religion," he said. "Nations that do not have political power perish. The only way to ensure that the Sikh religion can survive is to liberate Khalistan as soon as possible," he said.

"This attack shows that India is not a democracy, despite its pretensions," said Dr. Aulakh. "Democracies don't attack minorities and minority religions. Democracies don't commit genocide."

Indian security forces have murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights organizations. These figures were published in the book "The Politics of Genocide" by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. India has also killed over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 80,000 Kashmiris since 1988, and tens of thousands of other minorities.

A report issued last year by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Additionally, according to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners. On February 28, 42 Members of the U.S. Congress from both parties wrote to President Bush to urge him to work for the release of Sikh political prisoners. The MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]"

In November 1994, the Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert terrorist activity in Punjab, Khalistan, and in neighboring Kashmir. The book "Soft Target", written by Canadian journalists Brian McAndrew and Zuhair Kashmeri, shows that the Indian government blew up its own airliner in 1985 to blame Sikhs and justify further repression. It quotes an agent of the Canadian Security Investigation Service (CSIS) as saying, "If you really want to clear up the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver. We know it and they know it that they are involved." On January 2, the Washington Times reported that India sponsors cross-border terrorism in the Pakistani province of Sindh.

Christians have been victims of a campaign of terror that has been going on since Christmas 1998. Churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been attacked, nuns have been raped, and priests have been killed. Missionary Graham Staines and his two sons were burned alive

while they slept in their jeep by militant Hindu members of the RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP. Earlier this year, over 5,000 Muslims were murdered by Hindus in Gujarat, according to The Hindu. These attacks were planned by the government, according to human-rights organizations, and news reports quoted a police officer as saying they had orders not to intervene to stop the violence.

"India's efforts to eliminate the Sikh religion are doomed to fail," Dr. Aulakh said. "This terrible act of police brutality shows that India is neither secular nor democratic, and it is time to launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that the Sikh Nation can finally enjoy the glow of freedom that was promised to us in 1947. Sovereignty is our birthright, and self-determination is the cornerstone of democracy. It is time for self-determination for all the peoples of South Asia."

[From the Hindu, April 16, 2002]

GUJARAT RIOT TOLL COULD BE UP TO 5,000

JAIPUR, April 15.—Various social and political groups and human rights organizations, which held a public meeting here over the week-end to protest against the recent violence in Gujarat, demanded removal of the Narendra Modi Government and spoke out against the move to hold elections to the State Assembly prior to the return of normalcy.

The meeting addressed by K.S. Subramanyam, former Director-General of Police, Tripura; Magsaysay Award winner, Aruna Roy; noted economist, Prabhat Patnaik; Renuka Khanna, PUCL Activist from Baroda in Gujarat and others, asked for immediate steps to restore people's faith in the system in the riot-ravaged Gujarat.

Presenting the report of a delegation comprising prominent citizens who toured the affected areas of Gujarat, Mr. Subramanyam, who was a member of the delegation, said the police in Gujarat had extended a helping hand to the rioters on the instructions of the Chief Minister, Narendra Modi.

The official records speak of over 700 casualties in Gujarat riots but they had learnt that the number of those killed could be between 2,000 and 5,000, he observed. "Senior administrative as well as police officers confided with us that in a meeting with the officials called on the eve of the VHP-announced bandh of February 28, Mr. Modi had asked them to honour Hindu sentiments". This directive made the officers passive spectators to what went on in Gujarat on the day of bandh and thereafter, Mr. Subramanyam said.

He also said the delegation could see that the Godhra carnage itself was not the result of any pre-planned strategy but the outcome of a tussle between the Kar Sevaks in the train and the people living in the slum clusters near the railway station. Ms. Renuka Khanna said the police colluding with the rioters to wreak havoc with the lives and property of the minority community, would only lead to the birth of terrorism.

Ms. Aruna Roy said it was for villagers to preserve the pluralistic culture of India's rural areas and stop trouble-makers from disturbing the social fabric.

Prof. Patnaik traced the roots of the social and communal unrest to the growing unemployment and poverty in the wake of globalisation.

The meeting, which held the Gujarat Government, its police and administration fully responsible for the killings in that State, also found them guilty of discriminating against the victims and their families later, as well by denying them relief and compensation. By giving a clean chit to Mr.

Modi, the National Democratic Alliance Government at the Centre too shared the guilt of the genocide in Gujarat, the meeting noted.

TRIBUTE TO JIM AMOS FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Amos for his contributions to the San Diego community. Jim retired this month as President and CEO of Mail Boxes Etc., Inc., which is headquartered in my district.

Jim's professional accomplishments are indeed laudable. What I want to recognize today, however, is the mark Jim has left on San Diego through his commitment to philanthropy.

In 1998, Jim founded the MBE We Deliver Dreams Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to improving the lives of children who are victims of abuse, neglect, poverty, violence or illness.

The MBE Foundation has grown rapidly since its founding, and in that time has delivered numerous dreams to children throughout the world. I am particularly grateful for the Foundation's Community Care Fund; a separate fund dedicated to making dreams come true for San Diego youth.

Jim may be departing the San Diego community, but he is leaving an indelible impression upon it, and for that I thank him. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jim's commitment to charity and his success with the MBE Foundation, both of which serve as examples to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEFF LUDWIG,
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF NAI
MICHAEL COS.

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to Mr. Jeff Ludwig, senior vice president of Nai Michael Cos. As a result of his personal initiative to become a community emergency response team member, Mr. Ludwig was able to assist the community of La Plata, Maryland in constructing a new Town Center after it was hit by a powerful tornado in April 2002. After President Bush's State of the Union Address in January, Mr. Ludwig responded to the President's call to volunteerism by signing up for the Citizen Corps to become a member of the new emergency response group. He took advantage of online training manuals and completed his course, despite the fact that the Homeland Security Program had not yet begun to train citizen volunteers. This motivation prepared him to assist his community on April 28. It also makes him one of the first citizens corps community emergency response team leaders to take actions in the Nation's history.

When the tornado struck La Plata, Mr. Ludwig teamed up with the Facchina Group to