

rights and his presentation at the New York panel. I would like to insert this press release into the RECORD at this time.

S. GURTEJ SINGH EXPOSES INDIAN TYRANNY AT SEMINAR

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 16, 2002.—The Sikh Nation appreciates the contributions of S. Gurtej Singh IAS, who spoke at a seminar in New York last week. He exposed the genocide of the Indian government and the betrayal and corruption of the Akali Dal leadership in his book, *Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism*, and in his speech he gave historical facts about the sovereign, independent Sikh state and the independence of the Sikh religion since its inception. He explained how the Hindu majority wants to assimilate the Sikh religion and establish a Hindu Rashtra. We recommend that everyone read his book.

"S. Gurtej Singh has done an excellent job of exposing the connivance of the Akali leaders, such as Badal, Tohra, and Mann, with the Indian government in its campaign of terror against the Sikh Nation," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "He is to be saluted," Dr. Aulakh said. "The Sikh Nation needs more good Sikhs like S. Gurtej Singh if it is ever to end the oppression." The Council of Khalistan is the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. The Council of Khalistan leads the Sikh Nation's struggle for independence.

"Gurtej Singh's presentation was excellent and he made a detailed presentation of the abuses and oppression of the Sikh Nation," Dr. Aulakh said. "The time has come to throw out the conniving Sikh leadership of the Akalis and Congress and unite behind committed, principled, pro-Sikh leaders who are committed to freedom," he said.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988. More than 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947, along with tens of thousands of Dalits, Tamils, Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, and other minorities. Last month, police stood by as militant Hindus attacked Muslims in Gujarat. Over 5000 people died, according to the Indian newspaper *The Hindu*. The Indian government paid twice as much compensation to the families of Hindus who were killed as it paid to Muslims who were killed.

The U.S. State Department reported in 1994 that the Indian government paid out over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. Since Christmas 1998, a wave of violence against Christians has seen priests murdered, nuns being raped, churches being burned, Christian schools and prayer halls destroyed, and no one has been punished for these acts. Militant Hindu fundamentalists allied with the pro-Fascist RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP, burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death.

"For the survival of the Sikh Nation, the time has come to launch a Shantmai Morcha (peaceful agitation) to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation," Dr. Aulakh said. "I call on the Sikh leadership in Punjab to begin a Shantmai Morcha immediately. If they will not, the Sikh Nation should rid itself of them and support leaders who will do so," he said. "I also call on the United States government to support freedom for Khalistan and the other minority nations seeking their freedom from India," he said. "Sikhs are a separate nation and ruled Punjab until 1849. No Sikh has signed the Indian constitution," Dr. Aulakh said.

Sikhism is a sovereign, independent, monotheistic religion which believes in the equality of the whole human race, including

gender equality. Sikhs pray every day for the well being of all humanity. The Sikh Nation was established as sovereign. Guru gave political power to the Sikh Nation. ("In Grief Sikhhan Ko Deon Patshahi.") "Freedom and self-determination are the birthright of all peoples and nations. The people of South Asia must have self-determination now," Dr. Aulakh said. "India is on the verge of disintegration," he said. "Khalistan will be free by 2008."

SEPTEMBER 11 ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 2002

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001 our people, our democracy, and our values were attacked in a cowardly and reprehensible way. I visited the Pentagon two days after the attacks, and the sheer devastation viewed in person was beyond the imagination.

When I made it back home to Louisiana, I hugged my wife and kids and could not help but think of the people who never returned home on September 11. That fateful day introduced us to hundreds of heroes. And it reintroduced us to the wonderful spirit of our nation.

I visited Ground Zero for the Commemorative Joint Meeting of Congress one year later and visited the Pentagon on the anniversary of the attacks. These sites—along with the Pennsylvania crash site—stand as reminders of the devastation our country suffered, but they also remind us that America is not devastated.

We are unified in the knowledge that democracy and freedom will prevail. People across the country have, over the last year, demonstrated to the world that terrorism can never destroy our way of life. And I am proud of our country, proud of my fellow citizens for the patriotism, spirit, and strength they have shown over the last year.

It is a great honor to serve in Congress at this time, and I take very seriously my pledge to protect and defend the United States of America.

May God bless us all, and may He continue to bless our great nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 2002

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I missed some votes because I was traveling. I left for Iraq on Wednesday to get a better understanding of how a preemptive U.S. military strike against Iraq will affect the Iraqi people. Had I been able to, I would have voted:

"No" on H. Res. 552 (rollcall vote No. 416).

"No" on Approving the Journal (rollcall vote No. 417).

"Yes" on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3295 (rollcall vote No. 418).

"No" on H. Res. 553 (rollcall vote No. 419).

"Yes" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 4600 with Instructions (rollcall vote No. 420).

"No" on final passage of H.R. 4600 (rollcall vote No. 421).

"Yes" on H.R. 2215 (rollcall vote No. 422).
"Yes" on H. Res. 111 (rollcall vote No. 423).

IN HONOR OF TIMOTHY GREGORY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Mr. Timothy Gregory in preserving a vital part of Southern California's architectural heritage. Over the last few years, Mr. Gregory has been instrumental in bringing to light the architectural significance of the Janes Village area.

Mr. Gregory is locally known as "The Building Biographer," and his knowledge has aided countless citizens in the community in appreciation of the architectural treasures that surround them every day. Through innumerable hours devoted to researching and informing the community about Janes Village and the vision of Elisha P. Janes, the noted local builder for whom the area is named, Mr. Gregory has almost single-handedly been responsible for the rediscovery of Mr. Janes' Altadena building projects and their spectacular architecture.

The three hundred homes built between 1924 and 1926 are part of Mr. Janes' vision to build a thousand homes in Altadena. Although he never met that mark, the hundreds of homes he did build still stand as a testament to the early years of development in the Los Angeles area. Originally billed as "Homes of Distinction in Scenic Altadena," these homes are as unique and special today as the day they were built.

These homes stand as an enduring architectural monument—three hundred homes built on nine streets, of which two thirds can be directly attributed to the work of Mr. Janes. Their distinctive English Revival style marks some of the most remarkable architecture of the time.

Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Gregory, Janes Village has now established itself not only as a Heritage Area, but as a neighborhood and community with a rich historical past. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in applauding the work of Timothy Gregory in celebrating and preserving a piece of our incredible architectural history.

INDIA CANNOT GOVERN WITHOUT THE PEOPLE'S CONSENT

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 2002

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, no government can govern without the consent of the governed. That is one of the founding principles of America.

Earlier this year, my friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, issued a "New Year's Message to the Sikh Nation." In it, he noted that India is governing the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Christians of Nagaland, the Muslims of Kashmir, and many other minority nations without their consent.

In the letter, the Council of Khalistan said that the elections earlier this year in Punjab

won't have any effect in terms of freeing the people, but merely change the facts of the oppressors. The letter noted that in the likely event of a war between India and Pakistan, it will be the Sikhs and the Kashmiris who will be the primary victims. He called on Sikhs not to fight for India. He reminded us that no Sikh representative ever signed India's constitution. How can India's constitution be binding on the Sikhs when they have never been a party to it?

Dr. Aulakh wrote that India is not one country and is just a remnant of British colonialism. He wrote that its breakup is inevitable. On January 25, Indian Home Minister L.K. Advani admitted that when Kashmir leaves India, India will unravel. That is why India is so scared of the 17 freedom movements within its borders. There is clear sentiment for freedom within India's borders, Mr. Speaker. We must do what we can to help that cause along.

What can America do to help the cause of freedom in South Asia? For one thing, we can try to keep India and Pakistan at peace. Unfortunately, there has already been firing across the Line of Control in Kashmir. We should use our diplomatic power to stop the fighting before it becomes all-out war. Both sides have nuclear weapons, Mr. Speaker, and the Pakistani government has been quite helpful to us in the war on terror, at least until India's military maneuvers forced them to divert troops to the Indian-Pakistani border.

We should stop our aid to India to help stop the atrocities against Sikhs, Christians, Kashmiri Muslims, dark-skinned Dalit "untouchables," and others. We should also publicly declare our support for self-determination for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the minority nations and peoples seeking their freedom from India.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan's open letter is very informative. I think my colleagues will be very well informed by reading it. Therefore, I would like to place it in the RECORD now.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

Washington, DC, January 3, 2002.

KHALSA Ji: Wahe Guru Ji Ka Khalsa, Wahe Guru Ji Ki Fateh!

Happy New Year to you and your family and friends. May 2002 be the best year you have ever had.

At the dawn of a new year, freedom for Khalistan is closer than ever. India is showing its instability. The Indian government is so desperate that it was caught red-handed murdering Sikh girls in Kashmir. Just as it did in Chithisinghpura, the regime is committing terrorist acts to try to set minority nations against one another in pursuit of India's ongoing drive for hegemony in South Asia. On May 27, several Indian soldiers were caught red-handed trying to set fire to a Gurdwara and some Sikh homes in Kashmir. Sikh and Muslim residents of the village overwhelmed the troops and stopped them from carrying out this atrocity. Now India has set up another terrorist incident that has cost the lives of at least three Sikh girls.

India has massed large numbers of troops and warheads on the border. Unfortunately, the upcoming war will result in the deaths of many Sikhs, Kashmiris, and other minorities, exactly the result the Indian government wants. I urge Sikhs not to support India. Punjab and Kashmir will be the main battlegrounds. Sikhs will be killed in the upcoming war more than any other people will, as they have in every war in the past. It is Sikhs who will suffer the most, and that suf-

fering would be made worse by shedding Sikh blood for the oppressors of the Sikh Nation. We do not have a choice of peace or war. The Sikh Nation has a right to choose peace, and that choice requires the independence of Khalistan. To save Sikh lives, do not fight with the Hindu slavemasters. Instead, work to liberate Khalistan.

This is an ideal opportunity to begin a Shantmai Morcha and form a Khalsa Raj Party to achieve independence for Khalistan and to liberate the other countries seeking their freedom from Indian occupation. Take advantage of this opportunity. Fight to free Khalistan. Remember the words of former Akal Takht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh: "If a Sikh is not Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." Self-determination is the right of all people and nations.

India is not one nation. It has 18 official languages. The Sikh Nation's sentiment for Khalistan is clear. Pro-Khalistan handbills were handed out at the Golden Temple on June 7 during the commemoration of Gallughara Divas and Sant Bhindranwale's martyrdom. Ajmer Singh Lakhwal, the head of the Bharat Kisan Union, has called for self-determination for the Sikhs. The flame of freedom burns bright in the hearts of the Sikhs.

India wants to wipe out minority nations so that they cannot ask for their freedom. To achieve that objective, the Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, more than 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Dalits (dark-skinned "Untouchables," the aboriginal people of South Asia), Tamils, Bodos, Assamese, Manipuris, and others.

The Deccan Chronicle reported that the Indian government knew of the attack on Parliament, which killed 13 people, in advance and did nothing. The Indian army carried out the attack to provide a pretext for an attack on Pakistan and Kashmir. It hopes to use the killings of young Sikh girls to get Sikh to fight against Kashmiris.

India has a long record of terrorism. In November 1994, the Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, approximately \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab, Khalistan, and in Kashmir. The book Soft Target, written by two very respected journalists from the Toronto Star and the Toronto Globe and Mail, conclusively establishes that the Indian government blew up its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 innocent people. According to India Today, the Indian government created the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and put up LTTE leaders in New Delhi's finest hotel. According to journalist Justin Raimondo of www.antiwar.com, George Fernandes, now the Defense Minister, even raised funds for the LTTE. The LTTE were created to stoop a U.S. broadcast tower in Sri Lanka. The Indian government turned on the LTTE because the LTTE now seeks an independent country for Tamils.

A report issued in April by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the totalitarian "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Persons arrested under TADA are routinely re-arrested upon their release. Cases were routinely registered against Sikh activists under TADA in states other than Punjab to give the police an excuse to continue holding them. 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.]" As General Narinder Singh has said, "Punjab is a police state."

These Sikh political prisoners and the tens of thousands of other political prisoners held in India must be released immediately. Even before their release, the political prisoners should also be given the Khalsa Raj Party nomination for the seats in the Legislative Assembly, the SGPC, and when the parliamentary elections come up, for Parliament. The Sikh Nation will vote for these Sikh political prisoners, as they are the heroes of the Sikh Nation. No government can govern without the consent of the governed. The present Akali leadership of Badal, Tohra, Mann and others are the agents of the Indian government and are under their control. Do not trust them. Remember, Badal promised during the last election campaign that he would release Sikh political prisoners, punish guilty police officials who committed atrocities against the Sikh, and from a commission to investigate atrocities committed against the Sikhs since 1984.

In 1947, when India was divided, the cunning and deceitful Hindu leadership promised that Sikhs would have the glow of freedom in Punjab and that no law affecting Sikh rights would be passed without Sikh consent. As soon as the transfer of power had occurred and India was free, those promises were broken. Instead, India began its effort to wipe out the Sikh people, the Sikh Nation, and the Sikh religion. The Sikh Nation must regain its sovereignty to survive.

Sikh gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India from the British. At that time, they were only 1.6 percent of the population. Sikhs are the ones who suffered the most after the freedom and partition of India. The Khalsa Panth can do it again to free itself from the slavery of Hindu India.

A free Khalistan will bring prosperity to the people of Punjab farmers will be able to sell their produce at high prices in the international market and buy cheaper fertilizers, insecticides, and seeds. Farm produce will not lie in the market for weeks without buyers as it did during the sale of the rice crop last year.

We must have a full, free, and fair plebiscite on the status of Khalistan and we must launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland. Let us take this opportunity to bring freedom to our homeland and all the countries of South Asia.

Panth Da Sewadar,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
PRESIDENT,

Council of Khalistan.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITING AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2002

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 2002

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I have introduced legislation that will remove the requirement that institutions of higher education be accredited in order to be eligible for federal funds. The system of accreditation of colleges and universities that has developed in the United States does not serve its avowed purpose of ensuring that institutions of higher education have good academic programs and standards, and it fails to provide hardly any benefit at all to our higher education system. Additionally, more effective and less costly mechanisms are already in place to protect students because no institution can receive federal funds until the Department of Education certifies its financial and administrative capacity.