

INDIA MUST RELEASE SIKH
POLITICAL PRISONERS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues are strong supporters of India. They apparently believe India's claim that it is "the world's largest democracy." But why does a democracy have political prisoners?

According to a report last year by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), the Indian government admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners. Amnesty International has reported that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners. These prisoners are being held without charge or trial, illegally. Some of them have been in illegal custody for many years, despite the provisions of the law. Many of the Sikh political prisoners have been in detention since 1984. That's 18 years, Mr. Speaker. Eighteen years! How can a democratic state justify this?

Now, all of us want good relations with India and with all nations, as the President said in his State of the Union speech. But we also want to support the cause of freedom for all the people in the world. That is one of the main reasons we are fighting terrorism. We should use our increasing ties to India to pressure them to release all their political prisoners. As the bastion of democracy, it is our duty to speak up for these oppressed minority people.

Leading activists like Jaswant Singh Khalsa, former Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke, and so many others have been killed by the Indian government after being made to disappear. Christians have suffered an ongoing wave of persecution, which many of us in this House have detailed repeatedly. It is time for the civilized world, under the leadership of the United States, to speak out strongly against this repression. But in addition, we must take prudent, peaceful, measured action to stop the repression of these minorities.

The Sikh leadership and the leadership of the other minorities should nominate the political prisoners for office as a way to help secure their release. This would make it much more difficult for India to continue holding them.

I might note that India has also been a practitioner of terrorism. It created the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a Tamil militant group that our government designates as "terrorist," and harbored its leaders in the most elegant hotel in Delhi. It has been reported that the Indian Defense Minister has raised money and supplied arms for the LTTE. It has also been reported that the Indian government sponsors terrorist activity in Sindh, a border province of Pakistan. As you know, Pakistan has been a strong supporter of our efforts in the war on terrorism until India's troop movements forced them to divide their effort and pull troops off the Afghan border to counter an impending threat from India.

In addition, India paid the late governor of Punjab a lot of money to generate terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir. Indian troops were caught trying to set fire to a Sikh Gurdwara. There are numerous other incidents, such as the Air India bombing, the Chithisinghpura

massacre, and other incidents, where the evidence points strongly to the Indian government.

If India cannot behave like a civilized, democratic nation, it does not deserve to be treated like one. We should stop American aid to India until the political prisoners are released and the minorities can enjoy their full rights and liberties, and we should strongly urge India to hold a free and fair plebiscite in Kashmir, Khalistan, Nagaland, and all the nations seeking their freedom. Remember that India promised a plebiscite in Kashmir in 1948. I call on India to deliver on that promise. We should work with them to bring this about. That is the way that we can help secure the blessings of liberty for all the people of South Asia.

KAZAKHSTAN AND THE U.S.: A GROWING PARTNERSHIP IN
NEED OF OUR SUPPORT

Mr. Speaker. The terror that struck our country on September 11 brought anguish to the hearts of all caring people. Events that followed have focused the world's attention on Central Asia and the war against the terrorists.

Kazakhstan, the largest nation in that region, has offered cooperation in every area of the war effort. Kazakhstan has stood with us, and we, as Americans, must join hands with them, helping Kazakhstan and our other new allies in the area as they work to stabilize this critical region.

"Kazakhstan plays a crucial role for the international community as a bulwark against regional instability and conflict," President Bush said in a recent letter to President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan. "America especially appreciates Kazakhstan's strong support in fighting the international scourge of terrorism," the President added.

As we are nearing the end of the military phase of the Afghan campaign and turning our attention to rebuilding that country, Kazakhstan, lying 200 miles to the north of Afghanistan, can play a crucial role in the success of these efforts. There are many reasons for this: most important are Kazakhstan's strong economic record, enormous potential, political stability and success in providing equal opportunities for all of its 130 ethnic groups, and, last, but not least, its willingness to participate fully in rehabilitation efforts in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan's largely Muslim community, although secular, has a special appreciation for the suffering and the hopes of the Afghan peoples. Already 25,000 tons of grain from the fertile lands of Kazakhstan have reached the hungry in that war-torn region. More will be coming.

For Kazakhstan to be able to realize its potential to help to the rebuilding of Afghanistan and restore regional stability, the country needs firm and long-term support from the United States. There are many reasons we should become more involved with this strategically important country. Not the least are the vast oil reserves of Kazakhstan that could potentially rival those of Saudi Arabia and will help guarantee our future energy needs. Kazakhstan's cooperation in the war on terrorism coupled with our energy concerns mean that now is the time for us to support Kazakhstan and their bright future.

President Nazarbayev's recent visit to Washington strengthened the Administration's recognition of the need to develop closer ties with Kazakhstan. The Government in Astana obviously wants closer ties, and America can only benefit from working more closely.

In the Joint Statement Presidents Bush and Nazarbayev adopted after their meeting, they confirmed a "commitment to strengthen the long term strategic partnership and cooperation". I particularly welcome the Energy Partnership Declaration, which identified "a long-term energy partnership" as "one of the key elements of the strategic interaction" between Kazakhstan and the USA. I fully support those intentions, and I ask unanimous consent to put the joint statement of these world leaders in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I believe that the decade of growing friendship and cooperation, and particularly the strong support shown to us by Kazakhstan in fighting terrorists, has proved Kazakhstan to be our true friend and worthy of all help we can provide.

Friends help friends. There are a number of very real steps Congress must take:

First, we should work to graduate Kazakhstan from an outdated Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Act of 1974 and grant Kazakhstan permanent normal trade relations status. I welcome the U.S. administration's stated intention to work with Congress on this issue and I call on my colleagues to support H.R. 1318 which I proudly cosponsored. It will repeal Jackson-Vanik in relation to Kazakhstan. This step needs to be taken during the current session. It will provide a much-needed boost for the expansion of the U.S. trade ties with Kazakhstan and will directly benefit hundreds of American businesses there. I remind my fellow members of Congress, and the American nation, that American investment in Kazakhstan over the past decade totals 5 billion dollars. That makes the U.S. the largest single foreign investor in the country, and makes Kazakhstan the clear focus of American investment in Central Asia.

Second, Congress should consider earmarking assistance to Kazakhstan in the next year's budget. The assistance should go to further solidifying Kazakhstan's successes in reforming its economy and society, as well as to strengthening its military and border protection. This move will send a clear message to the people of this important ally that the U.S. is serious about its intentions to stand by Kazakhstan as they move to become the main driving force behind the development of Central Asian stability and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, we are truly committed to seeing the whole of Central Asia develop into a truly stable and prosperous region. Only then will it cease to be a breeding ground for terrorism and a source of threats to our homeland and other peaceful nations. The time to act is now.

JOINT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W.
BUSH AND PRESIDENT NURSULTAN
NAZARBAYEV ON THE NEW KAZAKHSTAN-
AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP

[The White House, December 21, 2001]

We declare our commitment to strengthen the long-term, strategic partnership and cooperation between our nations, seeking to advance a shared vision of a peaceful, prosperous and sovereign Kazakhstan in the 21st Century that is increasingly integrated into the global economy and the community of democratic nations. To this end, we will advance our cooperation on counterterrorism and non-proliferation, democratic political and free-market economic reform, and market-based investment and development of energy resources.

These goals further reflect our recognition that the threats of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction endanger the security not only of the United States and Kazakhstan, but of the world at large. We therefore seek to develop our security cooperation to address these challenges and foster cooperation among Kazakhstan, its Central Asian neighbors, the United States, and our European friends, partners, and allies. In pursuit of these objectives, we are determined to deepen cooperation bilaterally and within NATO's Partnership for Peace.

We reiterate our intent to cooperate in the war against terrorism to its conclusion and within the framework of the international coalition. We underscore our support for a broad-based Afghan government at peace internally and with its neighbors. We also pledge our readiness to cooperate in Afghanistan's reconstruction.

Recognizing that Kazakhstan was the first country to renounce its nuclear-weapons status voluntarily, we reaffirm our mutual commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Both sides agree on the need for urgent attention to improving the physical protection and accounting of all nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons materials in all possessor states, and to preventing illicit trafficking in these materials. We pledge to expand our cooperation on these matters under the United States-Kazakhstan Cooperative Threat Reduction Agreement.

In the spirit of partnership, Kazakhstan and the United States intend to strengthen joint activity in ensuring security and stability in Central Asia. We agree that the expansion of trade and economic ties among the states of Central Asia, and deepening of regional integration in important areas, such as the environment, water resources, and transportation systems are a basis for regional security. The United States will consider enhancing assistance programs to Kazakhstan to strengthen border security and to increase the defensive capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

We recognize that free market economies and the rule of law provide the most effective means to advance the welfare of our citizens and the stability of our societies. The United States and Kazakhstan pledge to advance our bilateral economic, trade, and investment relations, including through expanded contacts between the business communities of our countries. We will strive to further develop an attractive, transparent and predictable investment climate. Achieving this goal requires removal of legislative and administrative barriers to investment, strengthening respect for contracts and the rule of law, reducing corruption, and enhancing Kazakhstan's strong record on economic reform.

We also intend to cooperate to advance Kazakhstan's integration in the global economy by supporting Kazakhstan's accession to the World Trade Organization on the basis of standard and agreed criteria, and its graduation from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

We affirm our desire to strengthen our energy partnership to diversify export options for Kazakhstan's oil and gas and to diversify global energy supplies. We share the view that a key element of this effort is development of multiple pipelines that will ensure delivery of Caspian energy to world markets, unfettered by monopolies or constrained by geographic chokepoints. We welcome the recent opening of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) Pipeline and underscore our support for development of the Aktau-Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil export route on commercial terms. We will also work together to

protect the rights of foreign investors and to abide by decisions of courts, particularly of international courts of arbitration.

Recognizing that democracy is a cornerstone of long-term stability, we reaffirm our desire to strengthen democratic institutions and processes, such as independent media, local government, pluralism, and free and fair elections. We also reiterate our mutual commitments to advance the rule of law and promote freedom of religion and other universal human rights as promoted by the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which we are both members. Finally, we pledge to enhance understanding between the citizens of our two countries by promoting people-to-people exchanges, initiatives of nongovernmental organizations, and contacts between business people.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MORLEY BALLANTINE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Morley Ballantine and thank her for her contributions to the State of Colorado and the Durango community. Morley will always be remembered as a dedicated pillar and leader of the community. She has been honored and idolized throughout the years for her hard work and commitment to preserving the Southwestern heritage and culture. As we celebrate her exceptional honor of being inducted into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame, I would like to take the time to highlight her career and bring several of her accomplishments to the attention of this body of Congress.

Morley became a member of the community when she and her husband, Arthur, relocated to Durango in 1952 and established a local newspaper, the Durango Herald. Their passionate, lifelong pursuit of providing quality, trustworthy news to Colorado citizens has been rewarded and praised throughout the region for over fifty years. As the Durango Herald passes this recent milestone, it enjoys the ranking as one of Southern Colorado's most influential news sources in the region. Morley, along with son Richard, have led the paper's efforts to produce quality journalism and are additionally responsible for several other successful outlets, notably the Mancos Times, the Cortez Journal, and local magazine Inside/Outside.

In their quest to continue and promote our Western roots, the Ballantines have dedicated their resources and energy to preserving our historic cultures. Beginning in 1964, the family contributed \$10,000 to fund the Center for Southwest Studies located at Ft. Lewis College in Durango. The center is responsible for the collection and maintenance of artifacts, records, and accounts of Colorado history, most notably the ancient Anasazi Indian culture. Their initial donation was just a prelude to the enormous and generous donations of \$500,000 over the last century.

Mr. Speaker, Morley Ballantine, as well as her family, have been model citizens and icons of the State of Colorado. Throughout her life, Morley has dedicated her time and energy to improving her fellow citizen's lives through

organizations such as the Colorado Forum, Women's Foundation, and ensuring our younger generations are provided with a quality education as a trustee emeriti for Fountain Valley School in Colorado Springs. She has been a true leader for Colorado and her efforts certainly deserve the praise and adulation of this body of Congress, and this nation. Congratulations on your recent honor Morley, and good luck in your future endeavors.

NATIONAL LAMPOON ARTICLE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to take a moment to read the following article from the satirical website magazine, National Lampoon Dotcom. Sometimes irony is the most revealing truth.

[From the National Lampoon, Jan. 29, 2002]
COMPANIES LINE UP TO HIRE ARTHUR ANDERSEN

NEW YORK—Accounting firm Arthur Andersen stunned observers when, in the wake of the Enron scandal, the red-faced auditors reported a huge leap in new business.

"We were worried that the allegations of signing off on fake partnerships, covering up millions in losses and shredding documents would tarnish our image," stated Andersen CEO Joseph Berardino. "But it turns out that a lot of companies have seen that we here at Arthur Andersen are willing to go the extra mile for their business."

Business experts agree.

"There are a lot of companies, particularly on the NASDAQ, that could stand to have \$600 million in bogus profits right now," noted Mike Farnsworth, CEO of Temblor Telecommunications. "It makes management look good."

"Look, most of my compensation is based on options," continued Farnsworth. "Why would I hire an accounting firm that might insist on the spirit of the law, when I could hire Arthur Andersen and cash out? Those guys are pros! When I saw that guy [David Duncan] refuse to testify in front of Congress, I knew that the boys at Andersen had balls. There's no 'I' in 'Team' with them."

The rest of the big 5 accounting firms have taken note.

"At KPMG, we're not just a rubberstamp," stated Global Chairman Stephen Butler. "We're a respected rubberstamp."

Farnsworth is unmoved. "I'm going to stand in front of all my employees this afternoon and tell them that there's no better time to buy our stock, even though at the same time, I'll be dumping my shares faster than I ditched my second wife. The only reason I can do this is because I can rest-assured that the \$500 million of debt hidden in off-shore partnerships will be just between me and Arthur Andersen."

"Every time they invoke the 5th Amendment, they prove they're a name I can trust," finished Farnsworth.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HERMAN FAIRBROTHER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to William Herman