

that these projects serve the greater good must seem little consolation to an owner whose property comes under threat of eminent domain. Eminent domain can derail a property owner's life plan, erasing years of hard work spent getting a business off of the ground or building a home.

The Constitution makes it clear that a property owner forced to sell under eminent domain is entitled to "just compensation." While it is debatable whether any compensation can be truly just, it seems that, at the very least, the government owes a seller a fair price for their property and the opportunity to rethink their plan and to move on with their life.

Current tax law related to gain on sale of property under eminent domain denies sellers the opportunity to decide how they would like to move on with their life. It mandates that sellers must pay taxes on income from sale under eminent domain unless they reinvest their money in real estate within 3 years. So not only is the government forcing property owners to sell their property, it is also telling them what to do with the money from that sale.

The Eminent Domain Relief for the Little Guy Act will remedy this by removing the current requirement that a seller must reinvest in real estate. This will make sale of all real property by an individual or a small business under eminent domain tax exempt, meaning that the seller can use their income to start a business, invest in the stock market, save for retirement, or, if they choose, reinvest in real estate. Many will indeed choose to buy a new home or to move their business to a new location. But fairness dictates that this should be their decision.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4603 and make sure the little guys and gals who are forced to sell under eminent domain are allowed the flexibility in spending their income that they need and deserve.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DOUG HUGHES, USN.

#### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2004*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Naval Officer, Captain Doug Hughes, and to recognize his dedicated service to our Nation as he prepares to complete his service in the United States Navy. It is a great honor for me to take this opportunity to thank Captain Hughes and his family for his 24 years of distinguished service to our Nation for which he has proudly and selflessly served in the defense of freedom.

It was during his last assignment as director of the Secretary of the Navy's Appropriation's Liaison office, that I first came to know Captain Hughes. In this capacity, he has proved to be an invaluable link between the Secretary and the Chief of Naval Operations to me, my staff, and to the professional staff of the Appropriations Committee. Captain Hughes has escorted me and other Members of Congress on several occasions as we traveled both home and abroad to review military operations and confirm the health and welfare of our troops.

On every occasion, Captain Hughes performed his duties in an exacting and precise manner. But far more important to me and the members of the Appropriations Committee was the insight he shared with us concerning matters of national security and the Department of the Navy. He clearly understands the role of the Navy in providing for our Nation's security and stability, as well as serving as an ambassador for American values throughout the world.

We have always been able to count on Captain Hughes' candor, intelligence, and steadfast devotion to duty mixed in with a flair of humor. He was an invaluable asset to me in Congressional deliberations on all matters regarding our Armed Forces and his perspective on the needs of the Nation with respect to our sea services will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that behind every service member there stands a strong and supportive family so I also want to recognize the Hughes family: his lovely wife Nancy, and his children, Reggie and Lee. They have been stalwart partners in his service to the United States. We can ill afford to forget that it is the strength of family, and indeed their love and support, that make it possible to honorably serve in uniform. My wife Beverly and I have the highest respect for those families who support and enable their sons, daughters, husbands, and wives to serve in uniform. We appreciate and honor all the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, in defense of freedom.

In closing, my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and I want to express our thanks and appreciation for the special contribution Captain Doug Hughes has made to the United States Navy. We wish Captain Hughes and his family continued success and the traditional naval wish of "fair winds and following seas" as he closes out his distinguished military career.

#### TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF GOLDEN TEMPLE ATTACK

#### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2004*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 20th anniversary of one of the most brutal attacks in history, the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple, which is the center and seat of the Sikh religion. Attacking the Golden Temple is the equivalent of attacking the Vatican or Mecca.

The Golden Temple was under siege from June 3 to June 6, 1984, under a Congress Party government led by Indira Gandhi, whose daughter-in-law Sonia Gandhi is now the President of the Congress Party and its floor leader in Parliament.

As you know, the supposedly secular Congress Party was recently swept back into power in India's elections. But for minorities, it doesn't really matter whether the Congress Party or the just-ousted Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is in power. Either way, the repression continues. Although there is a Sikh Prime Minister in India, he has no real power. He is at the mercy of Mrs. Gandhi. India continues to hold 52,268 Sikh

political prisoners without charge, trial, or access to legal counsel, according to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR.) India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since June 1984. Another 50,000 have "disappeared." These are not the tactics of a democracy, Mr. Speaker. They are the tactics of a police state. What is India afraid of? Are they scared of a little free speech?

125 other Sikh Gurdwaras were also attacked at the same time. In all, over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered in this brutal attack, known as Operation Blue Star. These included major spokesmen for Sikh freedom such as Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, and others. The Sikh holy scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib, written in the time that the ten Sikh Gurus lived, was shot full of bullet holes by the Indian forces. Young Sikh boys, ages 8 to 13, were taken out in the courtyard and asked whether they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh state. When they answered with the Sikh religious incantation "Bole So Nihal," they were shot to death.

The Golden Temple attack made it clear that there is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular and democratic India. As Bhindranwale himself said, "If India attacks the Golden Temple, it will lay the foundation stone for Khalistan." On October 7, 1987, Khalistan formally declared itself independent from India. India claims that there is no support for Khalistan. Then let them test the issue democratically at the ballot box by holding a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan on the subject of independence.

The Sikh Nation had sovereignty before, from 1710 to 1716 and from 1765 to 1849. No Sikh representative has ever signed India's constitution. The Sikhs have a heritage of freedom from their Gurus and they will be free again. Iraq is becoming a free country and will soon have a representative government. In the 21st century, you cannot suppress people for long. The people must determine their own fate. Only a free Khalistan will enable the Sikhs to live in peace, freedom, dignity, and prosperity. This cannot happen as long as their homeland is under Indian control.

If the Sikhs were the only victims of Indian repression, that would be bad enough. They are not. India has killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947. It has killed priests, raped nuns, attacked Christian schools, prayer halls, and festivals, expelled and killed missionaries, and carried out other atrocities against the Christian community. In short, it is not safe to be a Christian in India today. India has killed over 87,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988. Between 2,000 and 5,000 Muslims were massacred in Gujarat while the police were ordered to stand aside. Even India's own Human Rights Commission found evidence that the government preplanned the Gujarat massacre. Amnesty International says that tens of thousands of minorities are being held as political prisoners.

This is unacceptable in any country, Mr. Speaker, especially a country that proclaims itself democratic. The Sikhs cannot forget or forgive the brutal Golden Temple attack. Neither can the other minorities forget the brutality that has been done to them. That is why America must act. Not one dollar of U.S. aid should be provided to India until basic human rights are respected. India can start by releasing all its political prisoners. We should also

demand that India hold a free and fair plebiscite on the issue of independence for Khalistan, for Kashmir, for Nagaland, and for all the nations seeking their freedom. Multinational states like India are inherently unstable, as the examples of Austria-Hungary and the Soviet Union show. And the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. It is time for the United States to take a stand for democracy, freedom, and stability.

Mr. Speaker, on June 5, the Council of Khalistan sponsored a demonstration to commemorate the Golden Temple attack. I would like to have the text of the Council of Khalistan's Press Release regarding this event placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

[Press Release from the Council of Khalistan  
June 5, 2004]

**SIKHS COMMEMORATE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
GOLDEN TEMPLE ATTACK**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Sikhs from Philadelphia, Florida, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and elsewhere on the East Coast came to Washington, D.C. to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Indian government's brutal military attack on the Golden Temple, the center and seat of the Sikh religion, and 125 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered. They chanted slogans such as "India out of Khalistan", "Khalistan Zindabad", and others.

During the attack, young boys ages 8 to 13 were taken outside and asked if they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh country. When they answered with the Sikh religious incantation "Bole So Nihal," they were shot. The Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scriptures, written in the time of the Sikh Gurus, were shot full of bullet holes and burned by the Indian forces.

The Golden Temple attack was a brutal chapter in India's repression of the Sikhs, according to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of Khalistan, which leads the struggle for Khalistan's independence. "This brutal attack clarified that there is no place in India for Sikhs," Dr. Aulakh said. On October 7, 1987, Khalistan declared its independence from India.

"Sant Bhindranwale said that attacking the Golden Temple would lay the foundation stone of Khalistan, and he was right," said Dr. Aulakh. "Instead of crushing the Sikh movement for Khalistan, as India intended, the attack strengthened it," he said. "Just last year, Sardar Atinder Pal Singh, a former Member of Parliament, held a seminar on Khalistan in Punjab. It was well attended and featured outstanding presentations, including one by Professor Gurtej Singh, IAS, Professor of Sikhism," said Dr. Aulakh. "The flame of freedom still burns bright in the hearts of Sikhs despite the deployment of over half a million Indian troops to crush it," he said. "Dal Khalsa, a Sikh political party, held marches through Punjab demanding the establishment of an independent Khalistan."

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not a single country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 87,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and

others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalsa.

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! "These prisoners never committed any crime but peacefully speaking out for Sikh freedom," said Dr. Aulakh. "What is a democracy doing holding political prisoners?" he asked. "This alone shows that for Sikhs and other minorities, there is no democracy, no freedom of speech."

"As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh,'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

**TRIBUTE TO THE LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS  
AND THEIR STATEMENT  
ON IRAQI PRISONER ABUSE**

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place in our Nation's RECORD the statement issued by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious on May 7, 2004, regarding the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib Prison.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious joins its voice with other faith-based organizations and human rights groups in expressing our abhorrence and shame at the abuse perpetrated on Iraqi prisoners by some members of the U.S. military. These inexcusable atrocities violate our common humanity.

We do not accept the explanation of our government leaders that these acts were the behavior of a few individuals. Rather, we see these abusive actions as symptomatic of a deeper, pervasive sickness. All of us share the responsibility and the blame—the soldiers who performed these heinous acts, military officials who have oversight for the treatment of prisoners, U.S. government officials who ignored reports of these abuses, and all of us who have contributed in some way to our culture of violence.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious, an organization representing 73,000 Catholic women religious in the United States, urges that the following actions be taken to begin to address these serious violations of human dignity and human rights:

Now that President Bush has issued a late and limited apology for the abusive treat-

ment of Iraqi prisoners, that there be a thorough investigation, and that the results be made public

That this investigation include any personnel regardless of rank or office who had knowledge of these atrocities and allowed them to continue with impunity

That any military, intelligence, or privately contracted personnel found to have engaged in or encouraged acts of torture or inhumane treatment be prosecuted

That there be a complete and public Congressional oversight hearing and investigation into the treatment of all detainees held by the U.S. military anywhere in the world, an investigation which will allow Members of Congress to exercise their powers and rights to enable the balance of power to be restored

That all prisoners held by the United States be granted access to international monitoring groups such as the Red Cross, the Red Crescent, Amnesty International, and the United Nations

That U.S. government and military officials make a commitment to protect the human dignity and rights of the Iraqi people.

As leaders of religious congregations we reach out to our Muslim sisters and brothers. We grieve with you. We share your outrage. We will continue to pray and work for social justice, peace, and respect for human dignity and human rights of all people. As a nation we share in the shame. Together we must work to assure that these abuses never happen again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the words of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and all they represent as we work toward human rights for all individuals around the world.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF EARL  
GILLIAM, A TRUE SAN DIEGO  
HERO**

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to honor a truly great San Diego leader. Judge Earl B. Gilliam made a positive impact on San Diego as a judge, a teacher, and a community leader. I have introduced a bill (H.R. 4474) that will appropriately honor him by putting his name on a new post office in my district.

Earl Gilliam grew up in southeast San Diego. His parents owned a fish market on Imperial Avenue where he worked when he was not attending San Diego High School. He went on to complete his undergraduate education at San Diego State University before moving on to Hastings Law School.

Shortly after being admitted to the California Bar in 1957, he was appointed Deputy District Attorney in San Diego. He became the first African-American judge appointed to the San Diego bench 6 years later and was named Presiding Judge of the San Diego Municipal Court in 1971. Governor Jerry Brown named him to the California Superior Court in 1975 and President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California in 1980. He served there for over 20 years, until his passing in 2001.

In his long, distinguished career Judge Gilliam presided over numerous noteworthy