

democracy, nothing to do with a secularism. They just kill Sikhs to please the majority.”—Narinder Singh, spokesman for the Golden Temple, on NPR August 1997.

U.S. Representative Dana Rohrabacher (R-Cal.) has said that for the minorities such as Sikhs and Kashmiris “India might as well be Nazi Germany.”

A PATTERN OF REPRESSION AGAINST THE SIKH NATION

Over 250,000 Sikhs murdered since 1984.

52,268 Sikh political prisoners, according to the Movement Against State Repression

More than 50,000 Sikhs disappeared in Indian government’s secret cremations. Their remains have never been given to their families.

Indian government paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police to kill Sikhs

Gurnihal Singh Pirzada, a senior officer in the IAS, arrested after allegedly being seen at a meeting of gathering of Punjab “dis-sidents.” Pirzada denies attending such a meeting, but points out that it would not be illegal if he did.

Jaswant Singh Khalra kidnapped by police and murdered in police custody after exposing Indian policy of arresting Sikhs, torturing them, murdering them, cremating the bodies, as “unidentified.”

Surdev Singh Kaunke, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, highest Sikh religious leader, murdered by police official Swarn Singh Ghotna, who has never been punished.

The Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, the equivalent of \$1.5 billion to foment and support covert state terrorist activity in Punjab and Kashmir.

This is the state of freedom in Punjab, Khalistan under Indian rule.

“The mere fact that they have the right to choose their oppressors does not mean they live in a democracy.”—Rep. Edolphus Towns (D-NY).

THE REPRESSION CONTINUES WHILE INDIA PROCLAIMS ITS SECULARISM AND DEMOCRACY

Half a million Indian forces have been sent to Punjab, Khalistan to subdue the freedom movement there. Another 700,000 are deployed in Kashmir. They join with the police in carrying out the kinds of atrocities described above. India calls this “protecting its territorial integrity.”

In March 2000 in the village of Chithisinghpura, 35 Sikhs were massacred. Two studies of this massacre, one by the International Human Rights Organization, based in Ludhiana, and the other conducted jointly by the Punjab Human Rights Organization and the Movement Against State Repression, concluded that the massacre was the work of Indian forces, a conclusion supported by reporter Barry Bearak in the December 31, 2000 issue of the New York Times Magazine. In another village in Kashmir, Indian troops were caught red-handed trying to set fire to several Sikh houses and the local Gurdwara. Sikh and Muslim villagers joined together to stop this atrocity before it could be carried out.

Sikhs ruled Punjab as an independent, secular country from 1765 to 1849. Sikhs have never accepted the Indian constitution. At the time of the transfer of power, Sikhs were equal partners who were to receive sovereignty along with Muslims and Hindus. When the Indian constitution was adopted in 1950, no Sikh representative signed it and no Sikh representative has signed it to this day.

On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation formally declared its independence from India, naming their new country Khalistan. Since then, Khalistan has been under illegal occupation by the Indian government and its forces.

“If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh.”—Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht

Unfortunately, Sikhs are not the only victim of India’s brutal tyranny.

India has murdered over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, more than 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of other minorities

Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons were brutally murdered by being burned to death while they slept in their jeep by a mob of Hindu militants affiliated with the militant, pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) who chanted “Victory to Hanuman,” a Hindu god.

An American missionary from Pennsylvania, Joseph Cooper, was expelled from the country after being so severely beaten by RSS goons that he had to spend a week in the hospital.

In January 2003, an American missionary and seven other individuals were attacked.

Christian schools and prayer halls have been attacked and destroyed.

A Christian religious festival was broken up by police gunfire.

In March 2002, between 2,000 and 5,000 Muslims were brutally murdered in Gujarat. India’s National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), an official body, found evidence in the killings of premeditation by members of Hindu extremist groups and complicity by Gujarat state officials. A police officer confirmed to an Indian newspaper that the massacre was pre-planned by the government.

The most revered mosque in India, the Ayodhya mosque, was destroyed by Hindu mobs affiliated with the BJP and a Hindu temple was built on the site.

The states of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Orissa have all passed bills barring religious conversions.

DEMOCRACIES DON’T COMMIT GENOCIDE; SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION IN SOUTH ASIA

The right to self-determination is the essence of democracy. Please urge your representatives to support self-determination for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the states seeking their freedom. Demand a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence and an end to foreign aid to India until human rights are respected.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “IMPORTATION OF SAFE FOOD ACT OF 2004”

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce the introduction of the “Importation of Safe Food Act of 2004.” The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (the Act) imposes new requirements intended to protect U.S. consumers from adulterated food products. Unfortunately, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, in attempting to comply with the Act, has overstepped its authority in a manner that could lead to the unintended consequences of raising consumer prices, increasing job losses, and threatening legitimate U.S. businesses. This legislation would prevent the loss of these important jobs.

A proposed FDA regulation is scheduled for full enforcement on August 13, 2004, and would require that confidential manufacturing facility registration numbers appear on all prior

notices submitted to the FDA as a condition of food import. This requirement would be impossible to meet for lawful third-party importers who do not deal directly with the manufacturers and thus have no means of obtaining the confidential numbers. The adversely-affected importers include food wholesalers distributing in the secondary marketplace or reimporting American-manufactured products, and manufacturers bringing competitors’ articles into this country for sampling or testing.

The requirement also would create domestic job losses and raise consumer prices. For example, it is estimated that thousands of jobs within the secondary market industry alone could be at stake. In addition, numerous freight forwarders, truckers, and warehousemen who work in conjunction with the industry likely would face similarly substantial economic hardship. Moreover, the secondary market results in cost savings to consumers ranging between 10 and 15 percent. That is a major benefit to the American economy that cannot be discounted.

That is why we are introducing the Importation of Safe Food Act of 2004. This bill would clarify that (1) the notice must contain the name and address of the manufacturer and that the importer must identify those parties required to be shown by whatever means available to it; and (2) food articles may not be automatically rejected solely on the basis of an incomplete notice unless the Secretary is presented with additional evidence that the article poses a threat to the health of an animal or human. It also would give the government more authority in regulating food facilities so that tainted foods cannot enter the Nation’s food supply.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall No. 279, “no” on rollcall No. 280, “yes” on rollcall No. 281, “yes” on rollcall No. 282, “yes” on rollcall No. 283, “yes” on rollcall No. 284 and “yes” on rollcall No. 285.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT NED NEUSTROM OF JOHNSON COUNTY MED-ACT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Edward “Ned” Neustrom of Johnson County Med-Act, who died unexpectedly of cardiac arrest while on duty on Friday, June 18th.

Lieutenant Neustrom was found by firefighters at the emergency response station located at 13801 Switzer in Overland Park, KS, where he was assigned. Neustrom was a respected paramedic and departmental mentor with more than 25 years experience with

Johnson County's Med-Act Department. He began his career as an emergency medical technician in February 1978. In August 1980, he advanced to the paramedic level and was again promoted in 1984 to team leader and to the rank of lieutenant. Neustrom was involved in many aspects of the Med-Act Department, including the Disaster Response Team, the Special Operations Group, the Emergency Operations Team, and he also served as a field training officer. Most recently, he was an integral member of the team that created and launched a partnership between the city's fire department and the Johnson County Med-Act Department. Neustrom had been assigned as a paramedic to the Overland Park station since the partnership was formed in 2002.

Neustrom and his wife of 23 years, Linda, are the parents of three daughters. A family man with many friends, who enjoyed fly-fishing and playing guitar in his free time, he was 49 years old. I join with the grieving members of Johnson County Med-Act and the Overland Park Fire Department in paying tribute to this dedicated public servant, whose services were conducted with full public safety honors. Mr. Speaker, I commend to all members of this House the life and legacy of Lieutenant Ned Neustrom, and ask that you join me in this tribute.

UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT LET
TYTLER ENTER COUNTRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to read that Jagdish Tytler, India's Minister of State for Non-Resident Indian Affairs, was coming to the United States to speak to the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. While there are many fine people of Indian origin, Jagdish Tytler is a person who is unfit to visit this country. He is the person most responsible for the genocide against Sikhs in Delhi in November 1984. To bring Jagdish Tytler to America is to give our implicit blessing to that massacre.

After the assassination of Indira Gandhi, Tytler and others organized bands of Hindus who grabbed Sikhs and burned them to death. He was one of the people responsible for getting the Sikh police locked in their barracks so that they could not intervene. Meanwhile, the state-run radio and TV screamed for more Sikh blood. In all, over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered.

Mr. Speaker, why is such a person being granted entry to the United States? And why is he in India's Cabinet? Unfortunately, rewarding people who carry out such activities is too common in India. We do not have to grant it our implicit approval.

As you know, over a quarter of a million Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government since 1984. The Indian government has also killed more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 87,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and thousands upon thousands of other minorities as well. They continue to hold tens of thousands of political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. This includes over 52,000 Sikhs, some of whom have been held in illegal custody with-

out charge or trial for 20 years. A democratic country should be embarrassed to have carried out acts like these, and I call on Prime Minister Singh to begin to rectify India's record by releasing the political prisoners and by removing Mr. Tytler and others involved in atrocities from his government. This will be a good first step towards restoring democracy for all the people.

America is the beacon of freedom. It is a country dedicated to the principles of freedom and equal rights. While we have not always been perfect in our efforts to follow these principles, they form the foundation of America. We embarrass ourselves and our principles by allowing the likes of Jagdish Tytler to come and make speeches in our country.

As long as people like Mr. Tytler are in the government, it is confirmation that there is no place for Sikhs and other minorities in India. Until it repudiates this and allows all people to exercise their full rights, we should provide no aid to India. And we should put ourselves on record in support of a free and fair vote on independence for the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, and for all the other nations seeking their freedom. And we should keep the leaders who practice brutality and commit atrocities out of our country.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
OF INQUIRY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a resolution of inquiry to request documents about the abuse of detainees and prisoners in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay. Two weeks ago, Democrats publicly requested that the White House release all documents concerning the growing Iraq prison abuse scandal. We were ignored, so today I am offering a resolution of inquiry which formally requests that the White House to release the documents.

We are in the midst of one of the most serious incidents of human rights abuses in our Nation's history. In Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo, it is increasingly clear that our Nation's military and civilian contractors—at the behest of the very highest officials in the administration—engaged in physical, psychological, and sexual abuse on a widespread basis. Scores of detainees were murdered. Numerous warnings were ignored. The Justice Department provided the legal cover necessary to justify torture.

The resolution I am offering today will ensure that the administration no longer picks and chooses what information it will share with us. While the administration released a number of documents yesterday pertaining to the treatment of detainees and prisoners, we've all learned that it only shares what information reflects on it best. There is no reason to believe that the memos made public yesterday represent all of what the President and his Cabinet approved.

The documents also touch on only one of many issues that need investigation. While understanding how the administration came to deny Geneva Convention protections to detainees is important, it is also critical to deter-

mine what the administration did once it realized its military was committing abuse, what role contractors had in this mess, whether warnings were ignored, and more. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support this resolution so that we may get the rest of the documents in the administration's possession so that we may conduct a thorough investigation.

The prison scandal is a stain on our Nation and an impediment to the prosecution of the war against terror. If this Congress can't find the will to investigate an abuse of this magnitude, it calls into question our entire constitutional system of checks and balances.

We've given the President and the Republican majority every opportunity to participate in what any decent society demands—accountability for inhuman and degrading acts committed in our name. If they won't help us get to the bottom of why these atrocities happened, we'll do it without them.

H. RES.—

Resolved, That the President is requested, and the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Attorney General are each directed, to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution all documents in their possession, except those documents in the Attorney General's possession that have been found by a court to be protected by Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e) in a proceeding at which the Attorney General or the Department of Justice is a party, relating to the treatment of prisoners or detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan, or Guantanamo Bay and any requisite instructions for handling such documents, including—

(1) every report, memorandum, or complaint from the International Committee of the Red Cross relating to the treatment of detainees or prisoners and any documents that reference such memorandum, report, or complaint by the President, by any Federal official covered by this resolution, or by any agency under any such Federal official;

(2) every report, memorandum, or complaint from Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Iraqi Human Rights Association, Afghan Human Rights Commission, Physicians for Human Rights, or Human Rights First relating to the treatment of detainees or prisoners and any documents that reference such memorandum, report, or complaint by the President, by any Federal official covered by this resolution, or by any agency under any such Federal official;

(3) every document relating to interrogation techniques;

(4) every internal report of a law enforcement, military, or intelligence agency or organization concerning interrogation or detention operations;

(5) every internal report of a law enforcement, military, or intelligence agency in response to allegations that the treatment of prisoners or detainees violated or continues to violate international or American law;

(6) every document and memorandum regarding the applicability of the Geneva Conventions, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights, sections 2340-2340A of title 18, United States Code, the War Crimes Act of 1996, and the Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States to the treatment of prisoners or detainees;

(7) every document and memorandum relating to command relationships between military police units and military intelligence units;