

"chilling." BOEHLERT said, "The only conceivable explanation for the investigation is to attempt to intimidate a prominent scientist and to have Congress put its thumbs on the scales of a scientific debate."

But observers say the ROI may pose a thorny problem for the representative because he has recently squared off against competitive primary opponents and is anticipating another close race against a conservative in 2006. In seeking a thirteenth term, Boehlert faces conservative GOP primary challenger Bradford Jones, a former Seneca, NY, mayor who has already launched an election bid. Boehlert narrowly won a primary challenge against conservative Republican David Walruth in 2002 and faced him again in the 2004 primary. Walruth was backed by a number of conservative organizations, including the anti-tax group Club for Growth.

A spokesman for BOEHLERT did not return calls seeking comment.

And while many environmentalists praise Gilchrest's voting record, they are blasting his recent last-minute change of position on House refinery legislation. The legislation, supporters said, would speed production of refined oil and gasoline by aiding the country's oil refineries in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The Republican leadership cajoled members to support the measure in the face of near-unanimous Democratic opposition. GILCREST's decision to switch his vote and side with most of his GOP colleagues in the end proved crucial as the bill passed 212-210.

Ehlers recently broke party ranks by opposing a House-passed overhaul of the 1973 Endangered Species Act. The overhaul would give property owners new rights and reduce the Federal role in protecting habitats. It passed late last month by a vote of 229 to 193, although Ehlers joined Michigan's Democratic delegation in voting against the measure.

Even if the ROI fails to gather GOP support, the tool may still allow House Democrats to gather executive branch information on climate change, according to congressional researchers.

A 2003 Congressional Research Service report on the procedure finds that ROIs are "often much more effective in obtaining information from the executive branch than one would expect from committee and floor action. Administrations have often released a substantial amount of information, leading the committee of jurisdiction to conclude that the dispute is moot and it is therefore appropriate to report the resolution adversely and table it on the floor." Relevant documents are available on InsideEPA.com.

CONGRATULATING THE JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in Springfield, Massachusetts on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary. Since it was founded in 1880, the John Boyle O'Reilly

Club has been the center of Irish culture in western Massachusetts. From music, language, dancing to sport, the Boyle has promoted and preserved the unique culture of Ireland for generations.

On Saturday, November 5, 2005, two hundred members of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club will hold a banquet to celebrate this historic milestone. The Irish Ambassador to the United States of America will attend the ceremony to pay tribute to the enormous contribution the club has made to the local community. It will be a heartfelt and fitting celebration of culture, tradition and family.

The Irish poet W. B. Yeats once wrote: "Think where man's glory most begins and ends/and say my glory was I had such friends." That sentiment helps describe what the JBO means to many of its members. More than just a social club, the Boyle has become a familiar setting for every occasion on life's journey. For many families in the Pioneer Valley, it is a special place that has produced fond memories and lasting friendships.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to an important group of individuals associated with the John Boyle O'Reilly Club. President Mary Quinn, Vice-President Patrick Burns, Treasurer Joseph Walsh and Secretary Patricia Devine deserve particular recognition for their leadership during this anniversary year.

The Board of Directors, which includes Patrick Reilly, Mary Kate O'Connor, Timothy Hurley, Matthew Dooney, Eric Levine and Stephen Lonergan should also be acknowledged for their dedication and commitment.

And finally, I want to congratulate the members of the club who are directly responsible for its success and longevity. On their behalf, I would like to submit this history of the club, written by member Dan Shea, into the permanent RECORD of the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in recognizing the John Boyle O'Reilly Club on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary. Let us hope this local landmark continues to celebrate the culture of Ireland for at least another century.

THE JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY CLUB, 1880-2005, 125 YEARS OF CULTURE, TRADITION, AND FAMILY

This year the John Boyle O'Reilly Club celebrates its 125th Anniversary. The John Boyle O'Reilly Club is Western Massachusetts' oldest continuous Irish-American organization. The Club was originally organized in 1880. It initially went by other names but subsequently took the name of the famous Irishman, John Boyle O'Reilly, shortly after his death in 1890. During this time period, various Irish organizations drilled and trained for when the time came to return to Ireland and fight for Irish freedom. The John Boyle O'Reilly Club was one of the hosts when Irish President Eamon Devalara came to the United States in 1921 to seek funds for the newly proclaimed Irish Republic. The call to return to Ireland never came but the organization stayed and promoted the ideals of Irish freedom and Irish culture.

The John Boyle O'Reilly Club has been housed in several locations through out the years. In the early 1900s the Club would have its meetings above Linehan's Saloon on Worthington Street. In 1933, the Club incorporated and received its corporate charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its liquor license from the city of Springfield. At that time the club was lo-

cated at the old Poli building on Worthington Street. The club moved to Hampden Street in 1943. On Sundays, local Irish musicians would play live music on WBZA in the old Hotel Charles and then walk over to Hampden Street and play music for the rest of the day. The John Boyle O'Reilly Club moved the second floor of 1653 Main Street in 1955.

In 1970, the John Boyle O'Reilly Club purchased the present building at 33 Progress Avenue in Springfield. The building was a mere shell of a structure when purchased. Many members volunteered labor and material to finish construction and to complete the interior. The John Boyle O'Reilly Club opened its doors on Progress Avenue in March of 1972. There have been several renovations over the years to make the surroundings more enjoyable for the members and guests of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club.

Throughout the years, the John Boyle O'Reilly Club has held many dances, concerts, Celi, music lesson, Irish language lessons, bagpipe lessons, sessions, and benefits for many families who fell on hard times due to injury, illness or an unexpected death.

The John Boyle O'Reilly Club continues its mission of being a home for Irish-American culture, whether it is Irish step dancing, music, the live broadcast of the Gaelic Football and Hurling Games from Ireland, or meeting with friends and family. It may be known as "the Boyle," "the JBO" or simply "the Club," but it still is a place for Irish-Americans of all ages to come and enjoy one of the finest Irish Clubs in New England. The John Boyle O'Reilly Club continues to look forward to being the home of Irish American culture and celebrations in the coming years. We look forward to the coming year and invite all of our members and friends to come and celebrate the 125 years of culture, tradition, and family with the John Boyle O'Reilly Club.

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY SHIFTS
BLAME ON TERRORISM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear that the Legislative Assembly in Punjab recently had a discussion on terrorism there. Terrorism is an important issue which all leaders of the world must address. However, the debate turned into partisan politics of the type we're too familiar with here—each side blaming the other for spurring the terrorism in Punjab, while they ignored the real cause of the problem—the Indian government.

India has imposed a reign of terror in Punjab, Khalistan for many years, starting with a memo sent to police by their first Home Minister, Mr. Patel, describing Sikhs as "a criminal class." This month marks the anniversary of one particularly brutal chapter in that reign of terror—the Delhi massacres of November 1984, in which 20,000 Sikhs were murdered. The government locked Sikh police officers in their barracks to keep them from getting involved and the government's own radio and TV called for more Sikh blood.

The newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the governor of Punjab, the late Surendra Nath, the equivalent of \$1.5 billion to foment terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir. The U.S. State Department reported that the government paid more than 41,000

cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. One even got a bounty for killing a three-year-old boy.

Human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa compiled and published a report showing that India had a policy of picking up young Sikh men, torturing and killing them, declaring their bodies unidentified, and then secretly cremating them. Khalsa identified over 25,000 such cases at three cremation grounds in Punjab. Others who have followed up on Khalsa's work found that the number is at least 50,000. For his work, Mr. Khalsa was arrested by the Punjab police and killed while in police custody. The only witness to the Khalsa kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randhawa, has been repeatedly arrested and harassed by the police.

Surdev Singh Kaunke was the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, the highest Sikh religious leader. He was murdered by a police official named Swaran Singh Ghotna. No one has ever been punished for this atrocity. The driver for another religious leader, Baba Charan Singh, had his legs tied to two jeeps, which then drove off in different directions, tearing the man in half.

Mr. Speaker, why are such actions tolerated, especially by a government that calls itself democratic? America must take a stand against such tyranny.

The time has come to stop all our trade with India and all our aid to that country until such time as basic human rights are fully protected. And we must put this Congress on record in support of self-determination for the people of Punjab, Khalistan, and all the other peoples and nations seeking freedom, such as predominantly Muslim Kashmir and predominantly Christian Nagaland. This is the most effective way to end terrorism in the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's press release into the RECORD now for the information of my colleagues.

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY DEBATES TERRORISM
AMARINDER, BADAL SHOULD DISCUSS FREEDOM
FOR SIKH NATION

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 2, 2005—The Punjab Legislative Assembly recently had a session to debate terrorism. Both the Congress Party and the Akali Dal blamed each other for encouraging Sikh youth to carry out the violence.

Amarinder Singh and Parkash Singh Badal are trying to change the history of Punjab. They are fully aware that Punjab, Khalistan has been engaged in a long struggle for independence after the Delhi massacres of November 1984. On April 29, 1986, Sarbat Khalsa passed a resolution for the independence of Khalistan and formed the Panthic Committee. On October 7, 1987, the Panthic Committee declared the independence of Khalistan. The Council of Khalistan was formed at that time to lead the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to liberate Khalistan.

These leaders are betraying the Sikh Nation. They need to be exposed and removed from their leadership roles. As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." Recently, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh apologized for the Delhi massacres, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed, firmly establishing India's guilt in this atrocity against the Sikh Nation.

The Indian government controls the Sikh leadership. Both Badal's Akali Dal, which claims to be the protector of Sikh interests,

and Amarinder Singh's Congress Party, which is the party that carried out the Golden Temple attack, are under Indian government control.

New Sikh leadership is emerging in Dal Khalsa and other organizations. They hoisted the Khalistani flag in front of the Golden Temple on Republic Day in January and again on the anniversary of the Golden Temple attacks. They marched and made speeches for Khalistan. For this, they were charged by the Indian government and 35 were arrested.

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 one 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. Last year, the Punjab Legislative Assembly passed a bill annulling all water agreements with the Indian government, preventing the government's daylight robbery of Punjab river water. Punjab needs its river water for its crops. In the bill, the Assembly explicitly stated the sovereignty of Punjab.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 90,000 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. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalsa. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Surdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder.

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! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

"It is time to replace Amarinder Singh and Badal with new leadership that is committed to the interests of the Sikh Nation," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "Only a sovereign, independent Khalistan will end the repression and lift the standard of living for the people of Punjab," he said. "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH DEMANDS
FULL ACCOUNTING FOR SECRET
CREMATIONS IN PUNJAB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, Human Rights Watch wrote an excellent letter

to the National Human Rights Commission of India demanding full accounting for the secret cremations of Sikhs in India. The secret cremations were described by India's Supreme Court as "flagrant violation of human rights on a mass scale." The court ordered the Indian government in November 1995, two months after the "disappearance" of Jaswant Singh Khalsa, to conduct a full investigation into this brutal policy. Ten years later, that investigation has never taken place. Instead, the commission has chosen to focus on the trivial issue of whether the cremations were conducted in accord with the police rules, a terrible diversion from the real issue, which is that the Indian government is carrying out this genocidal policy against the Sikh minority.

This investigation must proceed, and it must be a full-fledged inquiry into this murderous policy, India must make full restitution to the victims' families.

Mr. Speaker, I will be inserting the letter from Human Rights Watch into the RECORD at this time.

NOVEMBER 1, 2005.

Re mass secret cremations in Punjab.

Hon. DR. JUSTICE A.S. ANAND,
Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission,
Faridkot House, Copernicus Marg,
New Delhi, India.

DEAR JUSTICE ANAND: As the National Human Rights Commission prepares to issue a decision in the Punjab mass secret cremations case, we urge the Commission to order a full accounting of the systematic abuses that occurred in Punjab, determine liability after detailed investigations into the violations, and provide for compensation for surviving family members based on a detailed understanding of the scope of violations suffered by each individual.

In 1994, investigations by human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa revealed that security forces had abducted, extrajudicially executed, and secretly cremated thousands of Sikhs in Punjab from 1984 to 1994. Mr. Khalsa exposed over 2,000 secret cremations in Amritsar district alone—one of 17 districts in Punjab. Subsequent investigations by human rights groups confirmed that secret cremations had occurred throughout the state, and that cremation was only one form of disposing of victims' bodies. After publicly disclosing his findings, Mr. Khalsa was abducted by the Punjab police and "disappeared" in September 1995. In November 1995, the Supreme Court ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to inquire into his abduction and allegations of mass cremations.

On December 12, 1996, the Indian Supreme Court found the inquiry by the CBI into mass cremations in Punjab disclosed a "flagrant violation of human rights on a mass scale" and ordered the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to adjudicate these mass crimes and "determine all the issues" (Paramjit Kaur v. State of Punjab). After challenges by the Indian government, the NHRC limited its investigation to illegal cremations in Amritsar district alone. The NHRC has now received 3,500 claims of illegal cremation in Amritsar.

Instead of investigating these secret cremations as unlawful deprivations of life, the Commission has adopted the narrow issue of whether the victims' bodies were cremated according to police rules. At two hearings in October 2005, the petitioner Committee for Information and Initiative on Punjab (CIIP) challenged the Commission's decision to discard investigations, especially given the failure to identify the vast majority of victims and establish procedures, standards and