

over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered and over 52,000 held as political prisoners without charge or trial, illegally. Some have been held since 1984.

In addition, more than 89,000 Kashmiri Muslims, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, Muslims and Christians throughout India, and other minorities such as Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others are also being treated to brutal oppression by the Indian government. According to Amnesty International, tens of thousands of these minorities are being held as political prisoners.

Freedom is the birthright of everyone and self-determination is the cornerstone and essence of democracy. Yet India, which proclaims itself democratic and secular, will not allow the free expression of the democratic will of the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other areas seeking their freedom. Instead, it continues to hold them in subjugation by brutal force. India promised to hold a plebiscite on the status of Kashmir in 1948. It has never done so. Instead, it kills in massive numbers to hold onto its empire. But history tells us that multinational, polyglot empires such as India are doomed to fall apart.

America is a beacon of freedom for the world. That is why so many people come from around the world to America. How often America has sent its troops to fight for freedom. Sometimes we may have made errors in judgment or strategy, but the intent is always to promote freedom. Can we not at least take peaceful, moderate measures to promote freedom in South Asia?

Mr. Speaker, we must stand for freedom. We must do what we can. We should stop all aid to India, except direct aid to tsunami victims, until such time as all the political prisoners are released. We must stop the aid until democratic values prevail all through India and everyone within its borders can freely exercise his or her rights without fear of reprisals from the government. We must demand a free and fair plebiscite on the political status of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all those lands seeking their freedom from India. That will help bring freedom, peace, and stability to the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's new year message into the RECORD at this time.

MAY GURU BLESS THE KHALSA PANTH IN 2005 WITH FREEDOM, HAPPINESS, UNITY, AND PROSPERITY—FREEDOM LIES IN THE HEART OF THE SIKH NATION; NO FORCE CAN SUPPRESS IT

(By Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh)

Happy New Year to you and your family and the Khalsa Panth. May 2005 be your best year ever. I wish you health, joy, and prosperity in the new year.

The flame of freedom continues to burn brightly in the heart of the Sikh Nation. No force can suppress it. All the political leaders in Punjab are recognizing it. Punjab's Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh, was declared a hero of the Sikh Nation for asserting Punjab's sovereignty and preserving Punjab's natural resource, its river water, for the use of Punjab farmers by cancelling Punjab's water agreements. As recently as December 7, former Member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann again reverted to public support of Khalistan. He pledged that his party will lead a peaceful movement to liberate Khalistan. Obviously, Mr. Mann is aware of the rising support of our cause. Mann joins Sardar Atinder Pal

Singh, Sardar D.S. Gill of the International Human Rights Organization, and other Sikh leaders in Punjab in supporting freedom for Khalistan openly. Jagjit Singh, President of Dal Khalsa, was quoted in the Deccan Herald as saying that "the Indian government can never suppress the movement. Sikh aspirations can only be met when they have a separate state." There is no other choice for the Sikh nation but a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Every Sikh leader must come out openly for Khalistan. We salute those Sikh leaders in Punjab who have done so and urge more Sikh leaders to join the cause.

Any organization that sincerely supports Khalistan deserves the support of the Sikh Nation. However, the Sikh Nation needs leadership that is honest, sincere, consistent, and dedicated to the cause of Sikh freedom. Leaders like Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan, Harchand Singh Longowal, Didar Bains, Ganga Singh Dhillon, the Akali Dal leadership, and others who were complicit in the attack on the Golden Temple cannot be trusted by the Sikh Nation. The evidence against them is clear in Chakravyuh: Web of Indian Secularism. The Sikh Nation cannot believe that these leaders will not betray the cause of Khalistan, just as they betrayed the Sikh Nation in 1984. We must be careful if we are to continue to move the cause of freedom for Khalistan forward in 2005 as we did in 2004.

The Akali Dal conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikhs during June 1984 in Punjab. If Sikhs will not even protect the sanctity of the Golden Temple, how can the Sikh Nation survive as a nation?

The Akali Dal has lost all its credibility. The Badal government was so corrupt openly and no Akali leader would come forward and tell Badal and his wife to stop this unparalleled corruption.

The Council of Khalistan has stood strongly and consistently for liberating our homeland, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. For over 18 years we have led this fight while others were trying to divert the resources and the attention of the Sikh Nation away from the issue of freedom in a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Yet Khalistan is the only way that Sikhs will be able to live in freedom, peace, prosperity, and dignity. It is time to start a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation.

Never forget that the Akal Takht Sahib and Darbar Sahib are under the control of the Indian government, the same Indian government that has murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs in the past twenty years. The Jathedar of the Akal Takht and the head granthi of Darbar Sahib toe the line that the Indian government tells them. They are not appointed by the Khalsa Panth. The SGPC, which appoints them, does not represent the Sikh Nation anymore. They have become the puppets of the Indian government and have lost credibility with the Sikh Nation. Otherwise they would behave like a real Jathedar, Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke, rather than like Indian government puppet Jathedar Aroor Singh, who gave a Siropa to General Dyer for the massacre of Sikhs and others at Jalianawa Bagh. These institutions will remain under the control of the Indian regime until we free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation and oppression and sever our relations with the New Delhi government.

The Sikhs in Punjab have suffered enormous repression at the hands of the Indian regime in the last 25 years. Over 50,000 Sikh youth were picked up from their houses, tortured, murdered in police custody, then secretly cremated as "unidentified bodies." Their remains were never even given to their

families! More than a quarter of a million Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government. Another 52,268 are being held as political prisoners. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Even now, the capital of Punjab, Chandigarh, has not been handed over to Punjab, but remains a Union Territory. How can Sikhs have any freedom living under a government that would do these things?

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. The leaders in Delhi are only interested in imposing Hindu sovereignty over all the minorities to advance their own careers and their own power. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's memo labelling Sikhs "a criminal tribe." What a shame for Home Minister Patel and the Indian government to issue this memorandum when the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India.

How can Sikhs continue to live in such a country? There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India. Let us work to make certain that 2005 is the Sikh Nation's most blessed year by making sure it is the year that we shake ourselves loose from the yoke of Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity.

REINTRODUCTION OF CENSUS DIRECTOR LEGISLATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Ms. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation that establishes a 5-year term of office for the Director of the Census Bureau. By establishing a fixed term of office, this legislation would lessen the role that politics plays at the Census Bureau, an agency which should be grounded in the science of counting our Nation. Other agencies charged with developing critically important statistical information, including the Bureau of Labor Statistics, have a fixed term for their directors. This policy ensures the most accurate, non-partisan data possible.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to introduce the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, also known as the Akaka Bill. This legislation is supported by the Hawaii State Legislature, Governor Linda Lingle, numerous Native Hawaiian organizations and a variety of other ethnic and Native American groups. This bill represents another step in the reconciliation process between Native Hawaiians and the U.S. federal government.

On January 17, 1893, the government of the Kingdom of Hawaii was overthrown by a group of American citizens, who acted with the support of U.S. Minister John Stephens and a contingent of U.S. Marines from the U.S.S.

Boston. One hundred years later, a resolution extending an apology on behalf of the United States to Native Hawaiians for the illegal overthrow of the Native Hawaiian government and calling for a reconciliation of the relationship between the United States and Native Hawaiians was enacted into law.

This measure continues the reconciliation process by establishing a procedure through which a Native Hawaiian governing entity could achieve federal recognition if it chooses to do so. This recognition would extend the policy of self-governance and self-determination currently extended to American Indians and Alaska Natives. It also protects existing Native Hawaiian programs and begins to address the claims of the Native Hawaiian people. This bill does not authorize Native Hawaiians to conduct gaming.

This legislation is critical to the future of the State of Hawaii. Most importantly, Native Hawaiians deserve the right to decide their future and chart their own destiny. It is time their inherent rights are restored.

I urge my colleagues to resolve these long-standing issues with the Native Hawaiians and support this legislation.

RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR
STUDY ACT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act, directing the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the mountains and canyons in Southern California that are part of the Rim of the Valley Corridor, as designated by the State of California.

The Interior Department study would examine the suitability of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include this corridor, which contains areas of rare Mediterranean ecosystems and encircles the mountains above the San Fernando, La Crescenta, Santa Clarita, Simi, and Conejo Valleys, as well as the famed Arroyo Seco, home of Pasadena's Rose Bowl.

For millions of Southern Californians, the mountains that rise above our communities are a haven from the noise and commotion of Los Angeles. Our mountains can and should be places where city-dwellers can enjoy such activities as hiking, camping, mountain biking, horseback riding, observing wildlife, and admiring nature's scenic beauty. Given the tremendous growth pressures in Southern California, we must act now to preserve our precious open space. It is my hope that the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act will embody a dream and vision of a Southern California enhanced not only by what we have built, but also by what we have preserved.

The National Park Service oversees the highly successful Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the world's largest urban park, spanning from the mountains to the sea and protected in perpetuity by Congress in 1978. Inclusion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor would link wildlife habitat in the Santa Monica Mountains to the Angeles National Forest.

The Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act would require the Interior Department to complete its study within 1 to 3 years, consulting with State and local government entities, as well as other interested parties, including private property holders. It would then be necessary for Congress to enact subsequent legislation to implement the study's recommendations.

Last year, I was pleased to work with my colleague, Representative RICHARD POMBO, the Chairman of the Committee on Resources, on this bill, which passed the Senate. I am grateful to Chairman POMBO and to the other Members and staff of the Committee who worked to report the bill favorably to the full House. Unfortunately, in the press of business at the end of the last Congress there was no time to consider the bill on the floor.

I am pleased that this legislation has the bipartisan support of Representatives DAVID DREIER, GEORGE MILLER and BRAD SHERMAN as principal cosponsors. I am delighted that the senior Senator from California, Senator FEINSTEIN, is also introducing this important legislation today.

The Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act will result in an initiative creating a lasting legacy of nearby natural open space for our children—and their children—to enjoy.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES T.
MCLAWHORN, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a very special tribute to a true community leader, Mr. James T. McLawhorn, Jr. It is my honor to recognize the significant contributions that he has made to the City of Columbia and the State of South Carolina.

The son of James T. McLawhorn, Sr. and Allily McLawhorn, "J.T." was born on April 21, 1947, in Greenville, North Carolina. Mr. McLawhorn is a graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, where he received his degree in Political Science. He also sought higher degrees, attaining a Master's in Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Miami Coral Gables.

On Thursday, January 27, 2005, Mr. McLawhorn celebrates 25 years of dedicated service as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Columbia, South Carolina Urban League. The Columbia Urban League is a non-profit, non-partisan, interracial organization serving African Americans and economically disadvantaged individuals and families.

Mr. McLawhorn's leadership has been visionary in implementing new programs that have had a tremendous impact throughout South Carolina. In 1985, he founded the National Black Family Summit, a premier action forum on family issues, with an emphasis on the African American community. Annual meetings of the Summit have brought together more than 1,300 participants to develop strategies for family empowerment.

His deeply felt commitment to initiating positive change in the African American community has resulted in the publishing of an annual

report entitled *The State of Black South Carolina: An Action Agenda for the Future* that is a widely recognized publication. The publication serves as a blueprint for identifying and addressing public policy issues that are critical to improving the quality of life for all South Carolinians. The publication is penned by area professionals, used as reference material in area libraries, and serves as a teaching supplement in educational institutions throughout the state. It was an honor for me to be one of the contributors to this publication in past years.

It is also in Mr. McLawhorn's nature to stand up for what he believes, and that dedication led him to serve as one of the chief planners of "King Day at the Dome," held on the third Monday. A few years ago that historic event was one of the largest civil rights demonstrations in the history of South Carolina, bringing more than 60,000 people to downtown Columbia to protest the flying of the Confederate battle flag atop the South Carolina State House. In part, because of the public outcry witnessed at "King Day at the Dome," the flag was removed from any position of sovereignty.

Mr. McLawhorn is also actively involved in empowering today's youth so they may be meaningful community contributors as adults. Under his direction, the Columbia Urban League and the South Carolina Department of Social Services have teamed up to administer "creative and dynamic programs" that help young people around the state. The Youth Leadership Development Institute is one example in which high school students are placed in work settings for five weeks during the summer and participate in academic, social and cultural enrichment activities. I have had the opportunity to host several of the program's students in my office, and I have seen the benefit they derive from experiencing the challenges and rewards of the working world.

Dedicated to the empowerment of African Americans, Mr. McLawhorn has received many prestigious awards on both the state and national levels. Former Governors Carroll Campbell and David Beasley presented him with the prestigious Order of the Palmetto. The Order of the Palmetto is the highest award given to any civilian in the state. It recognizes the significant accomplishments of notable South Carolinians. The National Urban League recently voted him President of the Decade for his unwavering commitment. Mr. McLawhorn was also recently awarded the 2004 TEC Champion Leadership Award for his foresight in bringing the DigiPen Summer Video Game Programming Workshop to the Midlands. He and the Columbia Urban League have also received the Whitney M. Young Jr. Race Relations Award. To add to his staggering list of accomplishments, he was an invited participant to the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference by the United States Secretary of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in applauding Mr. James T. McLawhorn for his many achievements. I congratulate him on his quarter century of service and commend him for his significant efforts to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians.