

As soon as Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, president, SAD (A), came out from Akal Takht after participating in ardas, radicals started raising slogans for an independent Sikh state and showed pages containing statements in favour of Khalistan and posters displaying damaged Akal Takht in the military operation. However, Mr. Badal accused those who indulged in sloganeering of being agents of the Congress, which was responsible for the infamous Army operation. He said Mr. Mann was well aware that Punjab had to suffer greatly because of this.

Mr. Mann said though they were not allowed to continue their peaceful struggle to attain independence, they would contest the next elections democratically.

Commenting on the recent judgments and coverage in newspapers, he claimed that judges and the English media had also saffronised. He asked people to raise their hands if they wanted revival of Anandpur Sahib's resolution of 1973 and for severing of relations with the Congress and the BJP.

Giani Joginder Singh Vedanti, Jathedar, Akal Takht, said the real tribute to those killed in the operation would be to protect the Sikh history and culture, and to stop apostasy and addiction among the Sikh youth.

He said the Sikh religion was formed to safeguard human ideal's of truth, righteousness and values. He added that for this reason it had to fight against rulers who forgot their duties towards the masses.

Among those present on the occasion were Mr. Avtar Singh, president, SGPC, Bibi Jagir Kaur, former SGPC president, and senior Akali leaders, including Mr. Gurdev Singh Badal, Mr. Ranjit Singh Brahmputra, Mr. Sewa Singh Sekhwan, Mr. Sucha Singh Langah, Mr. Bikramjit Singh Majithia and Mr. Guljar Singh Ranike.

IN CELEBRATION OF RUTH PASSEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ruth Passen as she celebrates her 80th birthday. I am proud to pay tribute to her 40 years of respected community journalism as the editor and publisher of the Potrero View, and recognize her lifetime of community service and social activism. Born and raised in San Francisco, she became a formidable advocate for social justice, peace, equality, democracy and freedom.

In 1970, with a few dedicated volunteers, Ruth launched the Potrero View, which has become San Francisco's longest running community newspaper. With her guidance, the Potrero View grew from a neighborhood newsletter into an award-winning, respected, and much anticipated journal of local news, as well as a significant resource of community services. Its investigative style and editorial integrity are well-known throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

As a dear friend and right arm to the late, legendary Enola Maxwell, Ruth helped build the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, affectionately known as the Nabe, into a hub of vital services for the youth, the elderly, and the families of Potrero Hill. She was instrumental in bringing her beloved jazz and theater to the Nabe and the wider community.

Ruth was actively involved with the Women's International League of Peace and Free-

dom in the peace mobilization of the 1960s and 70s and worked in solidarity with the people of El Salvador for justice and democracy in the 1980s.

Ruth and her husband Joe Passen, whose life we celebrated on this floor 14 years ago, were relentless champions of the labor movement. Together, they fought for working men and women on the San Francisco waterfront and in the maritime industry throughout the West Coast. They helped San Francisco become the first and foremost trade union town in the world. They worked alongside Cesar Chavez in support of California's farm workers.

As Young Democrats they were part of a progressive movement in San Francisco that brought Phillip Burton, John Burton, Sala Burton and me to this people's House.

We thank Ruth for her immeasurable contributions to our City. We wish her every happiness as she begins a new chapter in her life as Editor Emerita of the Potrero View and grandmother extraordinaire. Finally, she will have much deserved time to pursue her many interests, as well as spend time with her beloved family—her son Marc, daughter-in-law Dianne, and granddaughters Natalie and Teresa. Thank you, Ruth for your years of service to our beautiful City of San Francisco.

ARTICLE EXPOSES REPRESSION OF SIKHS BY INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, a good article appeared in the Argus of Fremont, California on repression of the Sikhs in India. Fremont has a large Sikh population and the article appeared earlier this month in conjunction with the commemoration of the Indian government's June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple, the most sacred Sikh shrine.

The article points out that the abuse at Abu Ghraib which embarrassed all of us, was a lesser offense than what India did to its Sikh population in June 1984 when it attacked the Golden Temple and 37 other Gurdwaras in Punjab.

The article quotes a Sikh named Jasdeep Singh as saying that "We would have said that was nothing" referring to Abu Ghraib.

Now, Mr. Speaker, since we know how atrocious the Abu Ghraib incidents are, that gives us an indication of the carnage that was inflicted on the Sikh Nation by the Indian regime in June 1984.

The article also discusses the Sikhs' desire for an independent, sovereign Khalistan, which declared its independence from India in 1987. This has been met with many years of bloody repression, including the murders of over 250,000 Sikhs and over 52,000 who are held as political prisoners in "the world's largest democracy."

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to demand self-determination and full human rights for all people in South Asia. We should stop our aid and trade with India and we should demand a free and fair plebiscite not only on the status of Khalistan, but of Kashmir (as India promised in 1948), of Nagalim, and all the nations seeking their freedom in that troubled region.

It would be good for the freedom, prosperity, and stability of all concerned.

I would like to insert the Argus article into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Argus, June 5, 2006]

FREMONT SIKHS RECALL OPPRESSION

(By Matthew Artz)

FREMONT.—Jasdeep Singh couldn't help but laugh at the uproar over the torture of prisoners at Abu Ghraib.

"We would have said that was nothing," said Singh, who moved to Fremont in 1992, he said, after Indian authorities detained and tortured him three times because he is Sikh.

Sikh nationalism barely a blip on the international radar, was front and center Sunday at the Fremont Gurdwara Sahib, the local Sikh house of worship, where community leaders reaffirmed support for transforming the Indian state of Punjab into a secular Sikh-majority state of Khalistan.

"We know from our history that Sikhs will never be safe or truly free unless they have a homeland of their own," Singh said.

For the estimated 150,000 Sikhs living in the Bay Area, Tuesday marks the anniversary of two of the most devastating and seminal events in the history of the 500-year-old faith.

In 1984, with Sikhs pressing for an independent Punjab, where they are a majority, the Indian government invaded the Golden Temple—Sikhism's holiest place—and 36 other religious sites where separatists were hiding, killing thousands. The attack came on the 378th anniversary of the torture and death of a Sikh religious leader.

Four months later, when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was murdered by two of her Sikh bodyguards, rioters murdered thousands more Sikhs, who are easy to identify because the men wore turbans and grow long beards.

The bloodbath and ensuing eight years of repression drove many Sikhs to North America.

Now, 7,500 miles from their ancestral land, leaders of the Fremont gurdwara won't let their brethren forget about what transpired in India.

Photographs of 73 Sikhs murdered by Indian authorities in 1984, including the two men who killed the prime minister, ring the gurdwara's dining room.

On Sunday, the gurdwara installed an exhibit about their faith that included photographs of Sikh men being burned alive or beaten by Indian soldiers. Other pictures commemorated the 400th anniversary of the torture and murder of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, who refused to remove references to Islam and Hinduism from the Sikh's holy book.

"We're trying to make people aware," said Ram Singh, a gurdwara leader who plans to protest outside the Indian Consulate in San Francisco tomorrow. "We don't want our future generations to forget what happened to us."

Jasdeep Singh, an engineer, won't forget the day in 1989 when soldiers raided his graduate school boarding house and detained all the Sikhs in an effort to gain intelligence on separatist leaders.

"First the clothes came off," he said. Later, guards tied his hands behind his back and hung him from the ceiling. "These two shoulders," he said, "felt like they were going to pop out."

Since Singh arrived in Fremont, persecution of Sikhs in India has decreased and the governing Congress Party named a Sikh, Mammohan Singh, to serve as prime minister.

Years of repression followed by some reforms have stifled the independence movement in Punjab and left Sikhs in the Bay

Area divided over the nationalist cause, said Ram Singh, who favors an independent Khalistan.

"It's not that simple," said Balraj Gil as he peered at the pictures of torture. "You can't just get an independent state."

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE S. HUGH
DILLIN

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remark upon a good man, a great jurist, a wise friend now gone.

On June 23, 2006, United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, sitting en banc in Indianapolis, will conduct a memorial ceremony in honor of an extraordinary man. In 1961, Mr. Speaker, President John F. Kennedy appointed Indiana's S. Hugh Dillin to serve as a Judge of that Court. After 45 years of service, earlier this year in a snow storm we said farewell to him in Indianapolis.

A veteran of World War II, son of a lawyer in Petersburg, Indiana, he came up to the bench in Indianapolis through the politics of southern Indiana and our General Assembly, representing his beloved Pike County and leading the Senate.

I will never forget him. When I was first elected to Congress, it happened that I had emergency surgery at about the time the rest of Congress was being sworn in here in this chamber. A little glum, I watched the festivity of that occasion from a hospital bed in Indianapolis. As I did so, Judge Dillin came to my room with a brief case, introduced himself and produced a single sheet of paper for my inspection, his appointment as a Deputy Speaker of this House, and remarked that he never expected to be so close to the line of Presidential succession as he came that day. He proceeded to administer the oath of office to me and I became a Member of this body and a friend of his for life. I was delighted to bring him to Washington for the next swearing in and a picture of him with me and Speaker Gingrich overlooks my desk today.

He was a giant in the life of Indiana. All of his days he was a man of renowned wit and solid sense-based Hoosier wisdom, forever finding great voice in the resolution of disputes and the teaching of lessons. Much has been made of his stewardship of the Indianapolis school desegregation case which ground on for years, resulting in bussing of children to white suburban schools. A product of our segregated schools, I was always of several minds about the remedy but ended with confidence that he did his very best to follow the law in fashioning a solution. His life was threatened again and again for his trouble and bumper stickers advocated his impeachment, but he kept his listing in the phone book. He permitted the installation of security cameras and buzzers at his chambers but declined to lock his door.

There were many other cases and controversies in the course of his 45 years of service. His decisions involving Indiana's prisons and her treatment of inmates helped extend the Constitution to those so easily forgotten. In closing the disciplinary cells—dungeons, really—at the Indiana Reformatory he

began his entry of judgment with a recitation of the Indianapolis ordinance relating to the treatment of pets, succinctly pointing out that animals in our city were entitled to better conditions than those cells at the Reformatory provided human beings. He brought the Constitution to bear on the plight of women who were prisoners in Indiana, extending equal protection of the law in ways which helped to bring them most of the opportunities provided to male prisoners of the state: the chance to further their educations, pursue meaningful job skills, and to be imprisoned under conditions commensurate with the crimes for which they were sentenced.

There were smaller but important cases, too. A local Arsenal Technical High School girl, a fine baseball player, played on the "boy's" varsity team. The Indiana High School Athletic Association rules forbade her team from competing with other teams as long as she proposed to play. After a day's trial, as he announced his decision from the bench enjoining enforcement of the rule, she rushed from the room, glove in hand. When he wondered aloud what he had done wrong, he got this answer: "She's late for practice, Judge." That young woman, on account of her ability to compete, earned a college scholarship and an education she would not have had access to without his decision. She is a coach today, I am told.

He was much sought after as a speaker and one speech bears particular mention. On the occasion of his retirement as Chief Judge, I believe it was, there was one of those huge festive gatherings of the worthies of bench and bar to celebrate his career and, as usual, his remarks were warmly anticipated. When a distinguished colleague of his pulled her guitar from under the table, faced him and sang a song about him, that was a hard act to follow. As he rose to speak, though, he mastered the crowd. "I'll not talk long," he said. "I have just 482 words for you, important words, many of which many of you have forgotten, or had no occasion to study for far too long." And then he read the Bill of Rights to the gathering.

He lived his last years in Cambridge, Massachusetts, under the watchful eye of his beloved daughter Pat and was laid to rest in his beloved Petersburg. We miss him but his life and lessons, his spirit and his sagacity, his wit and wisdom, live on in our hearts, enriching us all.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN COM-
MEMORATES GOLDEN TEMPLE
MASSACRE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on June 3 Sikhs from around the East Coast gathered here in Washington to commemorate the June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple by the Indian government. That attack occurred simultaneously with attacks on 37 other Gurdwaras in what came to be known as Operation Bluestar. Operation Bluestar took the lives of over 20,000 Sikhs in Punjab.

The demonstration was organized by the Council of Khalistan, which has been leading the peaceful, nonviolent, democratic Sikh

struggle for independence for almost 20 years, ever since Khalistan declared its independence from India in 1987.

Mr. Speaker, given the repression of the Sikhs and other minorities, such as Christians, Muslims, and others, I think we would do well for America to support the freedom movement in Khalistan and throughout the subcontinent. This is especially so given that India has a history of anti-American activities.

It is time to press India to pay attention to human rights by stopping our aid and trade with that country and it is time to put the Congress on record in support of self-determination. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination.

I would like to add the Council of Khalistan's press release on its June 3 demonstration to the RECORD at this time.

SIKHS COMMEMORATE GOLDEN TEMPLE
ATTACK

WASHINGTON, DC, June 3, 2006.—Sikhs from Philadelphia, Florida, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and elsewhere on the East Coast gathered in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, June 3 to commemorate 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 June 1984, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered. They chanted slogans such as "India out of Khalistan", "Khalistan Zindabad", and others. In addition, demonstrations were held in several other cities throughout the world.

During the Golden Temple 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 Nihaf," they were shot to death. 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. "Sikhs cannot forgive or forget this atrocity against the seat of our religion by the Indian government," said Dr. Aulakh. "This brutal attack clarified that there is no place in India for Sikhs," he said. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan.

"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. "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.

A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Additionally, according to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners. MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run