

attacks. And no other ally has contributed more forces to the global war on terror. The United States owes a great debt of gratitude to Prime Minister Blair and to the great people of his nation. We honor their sacrifices and their deep friendship.

NEW THREAT TO FREEDOM OF  
SPEECH AND PRESS IN INDIA AS  
WARRANT IS ISSUED FOR SIKH  
EDITOR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently an arrest warrant was issued by the government of Punjab for Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, a practicing physician, International Secretary General of Dal Khalsa USA, and Editor-in-Chief of the Sikh publication *Shamshir-e-Qaum*. Warrants were also issued for two of his associates. This is a blatant violation of the basic rights of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are two of the rights that are basic to democracy, yet they can be suppressed at will in "the world's largest democracy."

Dr. Udhoke's crime was to publish articles in his magazine that criticized the Chief Minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal, and advocated freedom for the Sikhs. For this, he is under the cloud of an arrest warrant. He has had to go underground to avoid arrest.

Madam Speaker, this is frighteningly familiar. It is reminiscent of the tactics of the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, or any of the other totalitarian police states around the world which America has always opposed. How can any Member of Congress support such a blatantly authoritarian country?

I would strongly advise the Indian government to withdraw the arrest warrant against Dr. Udhoke. If it does not, it will confirm that it is the tyrannical, authoritarian, repressive regime that the minorities charge that it is, rather than the democracy it proclaims itself to be.

This is unfortunately just the latest chapter in a long line of repression against minorities. We have detailed for many years the tens of thousands of Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Dalits, and other minorities who have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government, as well as the tens of thousands of political prisoners who are held in India, according to Amnesty International. Laws have been passed that prohibit anyone from converting from Hinduism to any other religion. Booklets have been published on how to implicate Christians and other minorities in false criminal cases. Sikhs have been arrested for marches and speeches. A Christian priest was forced to drink his own urine. And the arrest warrant for Dr. Udhoke shows that the repression goes on.

Madam Speaker, India's Constitution, like ours, guarantees freedom of speech and the Indian courts have ruled that peacefully advocating independence for Khalistan (or any other minority nation) is not a crime. So what was the basis for Dr. Udhoke's arrest?

I thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing the Udhoke case to my attention. The Council of

Khalistan has issued a press release condemning the arrest warrant against Udhoke. I recommend it strongly to my colleagues. It shows the truth about how democracy is really practiced in India. The need for the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Christians of Nagaland, the Muslims of Kashmir, and the other minorities within India's artificial borders to claim their God-given right to be free could not be clearer. If they can be arrested for articles they publish, how can they count on the government to protect any of their rights?

It is time for us to speak up and take action. We can help by stopping aid and trade with India until the basic human rights and civil rights of all people are observed. India can start by withdrawing the arrest warrant for Dr. Udhoke and his associates. We should also put the United States Congress on record publicly in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and all the people seeking freedom in South Asia in the form of a free and fair vote on their status. Isn't that the democratic way?

ARREST WARRANT FOR UDHOKE MUST BE  
WITHDRAWN

WASHINGTON, DC, JUNE 28, 2007.—The Council of Khalistan today demanded that the arrest warrant for Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, International Secretary General of Dal Khalsa USA and Editor-in-Chief of the periodical *Shamshir-e-Qaum*, and two of his associates be withdrawn. The arrest warrant was issued by the government of Punjab after Dr. Udhoke printed articles about the persecution of the Sikh Nation and how the Sikh religion is being attacked by the RSS and its political arm, the BJP. He criticized Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal in his articles. The Akali Dal government of Badal is in a political alliance with the BJP. Dr. Udhoke and his associates' persecution has been condemned recently by the World Peace Forum.

Dr. Udhoke is a medical doctor who takes care of the sick as well as being an activist for the interests of the Sikh religion and the Sikh Nation. Dr. Udhoke, a resident of the Amritsar district, has been forced underground. He is charged with treason and antinational activities. His magazine, which was on the stands for sale, was removed by the Badal government. This action is a threat to freedom of speech, of the press, and of religion, which are basic democratic and civil rights.

Badal is the Chief Minister. As such, he is responsible for law and order. Yet he was quick to put out an arrest warrant for Dr. Udhoke for exercising his freedom of speech, but he had to be pressured into prosecuting Ram Rahim, the fraudulent baba who was impersonating Guru Gobind Singh, and he has not yet arrested him. This shows what the Badal government's priorities and allegiances are. He is more concerned with arresting those who defend the interests of the Sikh Nation and the Sikh religion than those who violate it. Ironically, despite Badal's begging and pleading, Ram Rahim supported the Congress Party in the recent elections in Punjab.

"The arrest warrant against Dr. Udhoke shows that there is no freedom of speech in Punjab or in India," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "As the late General Narinder Singh said, 'Punjab is a police state.' Only a free Khalistan will allow Dr. Udhoke and all Sikhs to enjoy freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and all the rights of free people, rights that are the birthright of all people," he said.

"Badal's conduct is shameful for a Sikh leader," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "He is the leader of a government of the Akali Dal, which was organized to protect the interests of the Sikh Nation, yet he is in bed with the Indian government that is oppressing the Sikhs. Badal is under the complete control of the Indian government, rather than working for the Sikhs. We must free ourselves of corrupt, anti-Sikh leaders like Badal and his friends by liberating Khalistan," he said. "As former Akal Takht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh said: 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'"

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 in India.

The MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistrate as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

"The Sikh masses and the Akali Dal must rise to the occasion and establish new leadership that works for the interest of the Khalsa Panth and abides by Sikh tradition," said Dr. Aulakh. "Badal and his government have betrayed the Sikh Rehmat Maryada, Sikh principles, and Sikh tradition. Their leadership must be rejected for the interests of the Khalsa Panth," he said. "Remember Guru Gobind Singh's words: 'In grieb Sikhin ko deon patshahi.' It is time to realize Guru Sahib's blessing. Only a free Khalistan will put a stop to occurrences like the arrest of Dr. Udhoke," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. The time is now to launch a Shantmai Morcha to free Khalistan."

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment by the gentleman from Virginia.

The Office of Special Counsel is a little-known agency with an important mission: it protects Federal whistleblowers from retaliation and enforces the Hatch Act, the law that prevents Federal officials from using Federal resources to engage in partisan politics.

Last month, the Special Counsel issued a report highly critical of Lurita Doan, the GSA Administrator. The Special Counsel found that during a briefing for certain GSA employees by the White House Deputy Director of Political Affairs, the Administrator encouraged her subordinates to engage in partisan political activity.

Here's what the Republican-appointed Special Counsel had to say about this incident: The GSA Administrator displayed no reservations in her willingness to commit GSA resources, including its human capital, to the Republican Party. Her actions, to be certain, constitute an obvious misuse of her official authority and were made for the purpose of affecting the result of an election. One can imagine no greater violation of the Hatch Act than to invoke the machinery of an agency, with all its contracts and buildings, in the service of a partisan campaign to retake Congress and the Governors' mansions.

Currently, the Special Counsel is investigating whether Karl Rove and other White House officials violated the Hatch Act by holding numerous other political presentations at over 20 Federal agencies across government.

Now, this amendment would take \$1,000,000 from the Office of the Special Counsel. I have had serious disagreements with the Special Counsel in the past, but I have never proposed cutting the budget of this small agency. The Office only has a budget of about \$16 million, so a cut of this magnitude could have a devastating effect.

We need more enforcement of the Hatch Act and more protection of Federal whistleblowers—not less.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Davis amendment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on June 25, 2007, I missed rollcall votes numbered 549, a Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" should be established and 550, a Resolution to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center."

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes numbered 549 and 550.

#### HONORING ST. SYMPHOROSA PARISH ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Symphorosa Parish in Chicago, IL. Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of participating in the 80th anniversary celebration mass at this distinguished parish, which has been a pillar of faith and service in Chicago since 1927. I am especially proud to thank St.

Symphorosa for providing me with a strong moral and academic education in church and at the parish grammar school.

The Archbishop of Chicago established St. Symphorosa to provide a multi-ethnic, American parish for the Clearing neighborhood on Chicago's southwest side. Under the leadership and guidance of Father J. Leo Sharp, the new parish celebrated its first Sunday Mass on June 19, 1927.

Without a church of its own, the parish initially met in the Clearing Town Hall until construction of a new church could be completed in September 1928. Once the building complex was completed, St. Symphorosa School opened under the guidance of four Benedictine sisters. The parish and school have since changed locations, but the school remains open, educating and serving the community's youth.

The parish rendered noble service during the Great Depression. Although forced to sell some of the parish's land to keep the church open, Father Sharp and the Benedictine sisters ministered to needy families by collecting and distributing clothing. In 1943, the parish received a new pastor, Father Anthony Harte, who presided over the parish's expansion in the wake of World War II. By the time Father Harte retired in 1967, St. Symphorosa had added five buildings to the parish property, the parish population had tripled, and the school had over 1,600 students.

Father Francis Manioli became the parish's third pastor, and brought the changes of the Second Vatican Council to St. Symphorosa. To strengthen the parish's ability to serve its members and the community, Father Manioli added new programs to the parish that included the Super Club, the Altar & Rosary Sodality, and Widows and Widowers. His successors, Father John McNamara and Father Marc Pasciak, encouraged lay participation in the parish and established a parish council and staff.

Today, St. Symphorosa Parish is as vibrant as ever, and the parish continues to serve the worship needs of over 2,400 families in Clearing and surrounding communities. The St. Symphorosa Family Fest, its major celebratory event, has grown into one of the largest parish festivals in the Chicago Archdiocese.

It is my honor to recognize St. Symphorosa on the occasion of its 80th anniversary. The parish has fulfilled Father Sharp's vision of a proud community that works together, learns together, and worships together. With its legacy of remarkable pastors and committed parishioners, the parish has truly become a "Family Celebrating Faith."

#### TIME TO FOSTER GREATER COLLABORATION FOR OUR REGIONAL SECURITY

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Joint Statement issued by the Bush Administration and the Caribbean Heads of State at the conclusion of the CARICOM summit. I cannot underscore enough the importance of a consistent and progressive relationship between the United

States and the Caribbean. I am pleased with the success of the Conference on the Caribbean held in Washington DC, last week with the members of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM. To hold such a historic meeting during Caribbean-American Heritage Month speaks to the understanding of the administration to the importance of maintaining a fruitful partnership with our neighbors in the Caribbean.

During their visit to the United States the heads of states of CARICOM requested to meet with Members of the U.S. House of Representatives with whom they have worked on issues affecting the Caribbean and Members who sit on committees with jurisdiction over issues affecting the region. Fourteen members of the delegation, including the President of Guyana, Vice President of Suriname, Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of Antigua & Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago met with members of the House Ways and Means Committee for an Executive Session that I organized. Among the topics we discussed during this executive session were the Caribbean trade preferences expiring next year and their possible extension, as well as the provision of enhanced assistance of the U.S. Government to the CARICOM Secretariat for capacity building to implement its single market.

In order to expand economic opportunities at home and in the Caribbean, there is a need to update and expand the Caribbean Basin Initiative. President Bush stated his intentions to work with Congress to extend the reach of the Caribbean Basin Trade Promotion Act as well as the 1991 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, TIFA.

Expanding the TIFA to include services benefits our Caribbean neighbors in light of services being the backbone of CARICOM economies. At the forefront of the services offered by many CARICOM countries are professional financial services. Our support for recognizing the regulatory and transparency compliance of CARICOM countries—10 of which are listed alongside 34 nations in current tax haven legislation—should be addressed. By investigating and recognizing the compliance of these nations, in line with the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD, definition of tax havens, legislators can remove their names from current bills that could prove detrimental to developing Caribbean economies if passed.

In addition to the House Committee on Ways and Means, the heads of states met with the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Congressional Black Caucus. During the meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus, House Speaker NANCY PELOSI reiterated the commitment of the House leadership to address the challenges facing the nation of Haiti.

Having shared values and interests in regional security, the Caribbean Community and the United States can best achieve democratic aims by fostering regional understanding and accountability. Greater support for regional security goes beyond sharing resources and ideas to protect our borders, but it also encompasses the threat of HIV/AIDS. After Sub-Saharan Africa, the largest population of HIV/AIDS infected individuals resides in the Caribbean. In Congress, we continue to provide funding to assist nations in the region address