

this challenge. Haiti and Guyana are two of the nations that will benefit from the funding provided to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR; we are also pushing to include funding to expand this initiative to all Caribbean nations.

While the national security threats of our countries are different in terms of scale, we must work to ensure cooperation in the fight against drugs, small arms, and transnational crime, all which threaten the entire region. Rising crimes rates in the Caribbean can be attributed to a deportation process that does not widely consider the negative impact on receiving countries. Criminal deportees sent to the Caribbean often have established themselves in the United States, and being sent to the Caribbean without financial or social support can foster poverty in the region. The situation of poverty, if left unaddressed, increases the transnational pressure to adopt extremist ideology. We must therefore be committed to decreasing the incidence of crimes leading to deportation through the sharing of resources and information. There must be a regional effort to address threats of terrorism in the United States and the Caribbean.

Supporting Haiti's reconstruction process should also be a priority of the U.S. government. As the second free-state in the Western Hemisphere, how we treat Haiti as a recovering democracy is how we treat ourselves. As Haiti makes efforts under the leadership of President Préval to rebuild, the U.S. can serve as an important bilateral partner. The need to grant temporary protected status (TPS) to Haitian nationals in the U.S. is urgent to ensure the protection of Haitians as well as remission preservation during the country's time of recovery. These remissions are crucial to the welfare and survival of Haiti from recent environmental and political difficulties.

As the cornerstone of development, educational collaboration should be sought in the Western Hemisphere to promote higher living standards and stronger democratic institutions. We must support increased exchanges between U.S. and Caribbean students. The Shirley A. Chisholm United States-Caribbean Educational Exchange Act of 2007 introduced by Congresswoman BARBARA LEE presents an opportunity to fund educational development and exchange programs between the U.S. and the Caribbean. I encourage my colleagues to support greater relationships with our friends in the Caribbean. The prosperity and security of our region depends on the decisions we make today to foster collaboration and effective communication between the U.S. and our CARICOM neighbors.

Overall, I believe that the members of CARICOM had very productive meetings in Washington, DC, and laid the foundation for future discussions and a commitment to help the CARICOM nations meet their 20/20 Vision.

JOINT STATEMENT: CONFERENCE ON THE
CARIBBEAN

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the United States of America and of the Caribbean Community Nations of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, meeting in Washington DC, on June 20, 2007, reaffirm our unequivocal commitment to a secure and prosperous region and future for the benefit of all of our citizens.

2. Recalling our shared history of democracy, respect for human rights, social justice, and cultural and ethnic diversity, we highlight the value of our enduring friendship and recommit ourselves to enhancing our partnership to reinforce the development aspirations that guide our mutual priorities.

3. We pledge to continue promoting the consolidation of democratic norms, values, and institutions throughout the hemisphere and to enhance accountability and respect for individual rights.

4. We agree to take steps to expand economic opportunities for our people, to address the threats of terrorism and crime, and to provide the benefits of democracy to all members of our societies, recognizing that democracy will best flourish if our societies are stable and our economies are prosperous.

5. We recognize the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy as a critical element of the growth and development strategy of the Caribbean Community.

6. We are determined to strengthen our existing trade arrangements. We acknowledge President Bush's announcement to work with Congress to extend and update the Caribbean Basin Trade Promotion Act and the 1991 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement. We further commit to the harmonization of customs procedures consistent with global standards and the advancement of technical trade cooperation.

7. We reiterate our support for Caribbean efforts to expand the services sector, and encourage a focus on the international financial services sector to facilitate a competitive means of economic diversification while remaining committed to the maintenance of appropriate regulatory and supervisory practices, consistent with the highest international standards.

8. Cognizant of the spread of HIV and AIDS and the impact on the economic and social development of our people, we pledge to deepen our cooperation in health and welcome the initiative to continue PEPFAR in the Caribbean.

9. Cognizant that more than 95 percent of CARICOM's energy needs are derived from fossil fuels, we pledge to increase cooperation in this area to achieve sustainable, secure, and affordable access to energy for all our citizens.

10. We agree to increase cooperation efforts in the field of education and workplace training. We commit to strengthen teacher training by expanding the Caribbean Centers for Excellence. We also commit to strengthen human capacity in the Caribbean to meet the demands of a 21st century employment environment through partnering with academic institutions and non-governmental groups as well as through skills training for youth via the Entra-21 program.

11. We declare our intention to negotiate an agreement on cooperation in Science and Technology including Information Communication Technologies.

12. We recommit to our ongoing efforts of cooperation in the area of disaster preparedness, mitigation, and recovery.

13. We acknowledge the multidimensional nature of the security threats and challenges faced by our countries and pledge to continue to work together in the fight against terrorism, trafficking in persons, drugs and small arms, and transnational crime.

14. We also acknowledge the successful security partnership developed to secure the CARICOM Region during its hosting of the Cricket World Cup 2007. To this end, we agree to continue strengthening the Region's security infrastructure.

15. We recognize the need to work more closely on immigration security issues in a manner respectful of national laws and government services capacity and sensitive to

the effects of human displacement. We will jointly work toward the expansion of the pilot reintegration program for deportees in Haiti to include other CARICOM member states. We will develop new ways to facilitate, coordinate, and communicate between our immigration services.

16. We are heartened by the substantial progress in Haiti made by the Government of President Préval, with the support of international partners. We recognize that Haiti will continue to require substantial regional and international support in the implementation of a consistent and long-term strategy of institution and capacity building, and pledge to work together with the three branches of the Haitian Government.

17. On the occasion of Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we pay tribute to the generations of Caribbean-Americans who have helped shape the spirit and character of the United States of America and who continue to contribute to the growth and development of the Caribbean.

HONORING JACK VALENTI

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2007

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it took a larger-than-life man like Jack Valenti to bridge 2 larger-than-life worlds like Hollywood and Washington. It is fitting that this legendary character, whose own life was often like an epic film, would end up in the movie business.

From a very early age, the passion and drive that would motivate him for his 85 years were clearly evident. Lacking the money to go to college, Jack worked to put himself through school and eventually get his MBA at Harvard. During that time, he also joined the Army, flew 51 missions and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He got his first taste of politics in Houston, TX, when he met Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson, and he was hooked. He campaigned heavily for the Kennedy-Johnson ticket in 1960 and maintained the relationship with Lyndon Johnson through November 1963 when the Vice President asked for his help with a Presidential visit to Dallas. On that fateful day of November 22, Jack was just a few cars away from President Kennedy when the shots were fired.

Through that tumultuous time, Jack returned to DC with now President Johnson, and grew to be his close confidant and advisor. That solemn trip on Air Force One would be the trip to Washington from which Jack never really returned. As presidential advisor, and then President of the Motion Picture Association of America, Jack Valenti become one of those rare Washington denizens that shapes and defines a city that usually does the shaping and defining.

Through nearly 4 decades at MPAA, he shepherded the most powerful names in Hollywood around countless industry and political landmines. As the world grew flatter, technology grew smarter and politics remained as volatile as ever, Jack Valenti's vision helped the American movie business not only weather these challenges, but emerge bigger than ever.

He was an undeniable force felt on both coasts. And now his absence is also felt undeniably.

FORMER MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENT ARRESTED AGAIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently the government of Punjab erected a statue to honor Beant Singh, the late Chief Minister of Punjab, who presided over the murders of over 50,000 Sikhs and the secret cremations of Sikhs in Punjab at the behest of the Indian government. Longtime Sikh activist and former member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann showed up with some associates to protest the honor given to this brutal, barbaric ruler. During the protest, they tried to hang a picture of Dilawar Singh, who killed Beant Singh, on the statue. Dilawar Singh is considered by the Sikhs to be a martyr. For this act of protest, they were arrested.

Mr. Mann is also one of the people who was arrested in 2005 for the crime of making speeches in support of Khalistan, the independent Sikh homeland, and raising the flag of Khalistan. I fail to see what crime was committed in any of these acts.

Coupled with the recent arrest of Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke for publishing articles critical of the Chief Minister, Mann's arrest makes it clear that for minorities such as the Sikhs, free speech, free assembly, and a free press do not exist in India. For minorities such as Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and others, India is far from the democracy it claims to be. For them, it's a police state just like the Soviet Union or Nazi Germany.

Mann's arrest and Udhoke's arrest violate India's constitution as well as all the principles of freedom and democracy. We cannot stand idly by and let these arrests go by without taking any action.

What can we do? We can and should cut off our aid and trade with India until all people there are allowed to enjoy basic human rights and civil rights. We can and should publicly demand self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagalim, and all the people seeking freedom in South Asia in the form of a free and fair vote on their status. Self-determination is the essence of democracy. Unfortunately, "the world's largest democracy" denies this essential right to its minority citizens. We have a strong voice. Let us raise it in support of these minorities.

The Council of Khalistan has issued a very informative press release on the arrest of Mr. Mann and his associates.

SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN MUST BE RELEASED

WASHINGTON, DC, June 28, 2007.—The Council of Khalistan today demanded the immediate release of former Member of Parliament Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann and his associates who tried to hang a picture of Beant Singh's assassin on the late—Chief Minister's statue in Jalandhar. Beant Singh, who received less than 7 percent of the vote, was installed as Chief Minister by the Indian government. He presided over the murders of more than 50,000 Sikhs. He was the person who instituted the policy of secret cremation, in which young Sikhs were arrested, murdered in police custody, then declared unidentified and secretly cremated and the families never received their bodies. This barbaric policy was exposed by human-rights

activist Sardar Jaswant Singh Khalra. As a result of his report, Khalra was arrested and murdered while in police custody. His body was also secretly cremated and was never given to his family.

Recently, the Punjab government under Parkash Singh Badal erected a statue of Beant Singh in Jalandhar. Sardar Mann and his associates were arrested when they tried to hang a picture of his assassin, Dilawar Singh, on it.

"The arrest of Simranjit Singh Mann and his associates is another blow to freedom of speech and freedom of assembly in India. basic rights of free people," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "If a group of people can't even hold a peaceful demonstration without being arrested, then what rights do they really have? Where is India's often and loudly proclaimed commitment to democracy? Mann and his associates must be released immediately."

Mann was previously arrested in 2005, along with other Sikh activists, for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. He came to prominence after the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple and 37 other Gurdwaras in June 1984, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed, including Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. Mann resigned from the police, saying that he could not serve a government that would attack the Golden Temple. In 1989, Mann wrote to the Chief Justice of India, "reiterating my allegiance to the Constitution and territorial integrity of India," according to Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism by Professor Gurtej Singh IAS, which reprints the letter. He also served as a Member of parliament from Punjab around that time. In the mid-1990s, Mann was arrested for peaceful political activities by the Indian government and the Council of Khalistan secured his release. In 2000, Mann came to the United States with the blessing of the Indian government, escorted through the United States and Canada by Amarjit Singh of the Khalistan Affairs Center. He spoke to a group on Capitol Hill in Washington DC and while speaking in New York, he said that the office of the Council of Khalistan in Washington, DC should be closed. Since then, he has continued his political activism in Punjab, Khalistan. Neither Amarjit Singh nor the Khalistan Affairs Center has uttered a word of protest against Mann's arrest. Mann's grandfather gave a siropa to General Dyer, the British general who was in charge of the army that massacred over 1,300 Sikhs at Jalianwalla Bagh. A few years ago, Queen Elizabeth apologized to the Sikhs for the massacre during her visit to Punjab.

"The arrest of Simranjit Singh Mann and his associates shows that there is no freedom of speech in Punjab or in India," said Dr. Aulakh. "This underlines the need for a free, sovereign, independent Khalistan. In a free Khalistan, no one would be arrested for peaceful political activity," he said. "In a free Khalistan, no one would erect a statue to honor those who carry out genocide against the Sikh religion and the Sikh Nation. These arrests should make it clear to Sikhs that even if you cooperate with India, they will use you and throw you away," said Dr. Aulakh.

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), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. According to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners in India. 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 arrests of Simranjit Singh Mann and Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke show that it is urgent to liberate Khalistan from Indian rule as soon as possible," said Dr. Aulakh. "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 Sessions amendment to H.R. 2829, the Financial Services Appropriations bill. H.R. 2829 includes a provision to help restore equity to the contracting process by preventing private contractors from having an unfair advantage over Federal Employees when competing for Federal jobs. The Sessions amendment would eliminate that provision from the bill and would continue the administration's policy of playing politics with the civil service system.

The rapid increase in procurement spending in recent years has brought the size of the "shadow government" represented by Federal contractors to record levels. We must stop the misguided effort to send Federal jobs to private contractors at any cost. H.R. 2829 is an important step in that direction.

H.R. 2829, specifically section 738, ensures that Federal employees have the right to compete fairly for their jobs before they are privatized. The bill prevents contractors from gaining an unfair advantage by not providing comparable health and retirement benefits. H.R. 2829 also ensures that agencies, not OMB, have the discretion to decide whether a public-private competition is appropriate.

H.R. 2829 gives Federal employees the right to appeal privatization decisions—a right that contractors already enjoy. We saw this in the Army's reversal of its 2004 decision to allow the in-house Federal workforce at Walter Reed Army Medical Center to perform support services at Walter Reed. When the competing private contractor protested the Army's decision, the Army reversed its decision and resolved the A-76 process in favor of the contractor. If the Army had initially decided in favor of the contractor, the employees would have had no similar right to protest.

This is about fairness. The administration's policy under Circular A-76 puts private contractors on third base before Federal employees even get a turn at bat. Section 738 of this bill helps level the playing field. The Sessions amendment would strip this important language from the bill. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Sessions amendment.