

world's most populous democracy—is in reality a highly deficient democracy; and that it has yet to do what it legally and morally must do; which is to clean up its atrocious human rights record.

The massive human rights violations of the Indian Government have been well documented. In fact, according to the Department of State's 2006 Human Rights Report for India: "Major problems included extrajudicial killings of persons in custody, disappearances, torture and rape by police and security forces. The lack of accountability permeated the government and security forces, creating an atmosphere in which human rights violations often went unpunished. Although the country has numerous laws protecting human rights, enforcement was lax and convictions were rare." Again, these are not my words; this is from the State Department's official report on Human Rights.

Although relations between India and the United States have been rocky in the past, since 2004 Washington and New Delhi have been pursuing a "strategic partnership" based on shared values such as democracy, multiculturalism, and rule of law. In addition, numerous economic, security and globally focused initiatives, including plans for "full civilian nuclear energy cooperation," are currently underway. I support these initiatives but I remain deeply concerned about the numerous serious problems that remain when it comes to India's respect for the rights of all of her citizens.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to place a copy of the Human Rights press release into the RECORD at this time. I urge my colleagues to read it and remember it and as the United States and India move towards greater cooperation in numerous endeavors to insist that India live up to its moniker and adhere to the full expression of democracy and basic human rights; especially for members of ethnic or religious minorities.

INDIA: TIME TO DELIVER JUSTICE FOR ATROCITIES IN PUNJAB

DELHI.—The Indian government must take concrete steps to hold accountable members of its security forces who killed, "disappeared," and tortured thousands of Sikhs during its counterinsurgency campaign in the Punjab, Human Rights Watch and Ensaaf said in a new report released today.

In order to end the institutional defects that foster impunity in Punjab and elsewhere in the country, the government should take new legal and practical steps, including the establishment of a commission of inquiry, a special prosecutor's office, and an extensive reparations program.

The 123-page report, "Protecting the Killers: A Policy of Impunity in Punjab, India," examines the challenges faced by victims and their relatives in pursuing legal avenues for accountability for the human rights abuses perpetrated during the government's counterinsurgency campaign. The report describes the impunity enjoyed by officials responsible for violations and the near total failure of India's judicial and state institutions, from the National Human Rights Commission to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), to provide justice for victims' families.

Beginning in the 1980s, Sikh separatists in Punjab committed serious human rights abuses, including the massacre of civilians, attacks upon Hindu minorities in the state, and indiscriminate bomb attacks in crowded places. In its counterinsurgency operations in Punjab from 1984 to 1995, Indian security

forces committed serious human rights abuses against tens of thousands of Sikhs. None of the key architects of this counterinsurgency strategy who bear substantial responsibility for these atrocities have been brought to justice.

"Impunity in India has been rampant in Punjab, where security forces committed large-scale human rights violations without any accountability," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "No one disputes that the militants were guilty of numerous human rights abuses, but the government should have acted within the law instead of sanctioning the killing, 'disappearance,' and torture of individuals accused of supporting the militants."

A key case discussed in detail in the report is the Punjab "mass cremations case," in which the security services are implicated in thousands of killings and secret cremations throughout Punjab to hide the evidence of wrongdoing. The case is currently before the National Human Rights Commission, a body specially empowered by the Supreme Court to address this case. However, the commission has narrowed its efforts to merely establishing the identity of the individuals who were secretly cremated in three crematoria in just one district of Punjab. It has rejected cases from other districts and has ignored the intentional violations of human rights perpetrated by India's security forces. For more than a decade, the commission has failed to independently investigate a single case and explicitly refuses to identify any responsible officials.

"The National Human Rights Commission has inexplicably failed in its duties to investigate and establish exactly what happened in Punjab," said Adams. "We still hold out hope that it will change course and bring justice to victims and their families."

The report discusses the case of Jaswant Singh Khaira, a leading human rights defender in Punjab who was abducted and then murdered in October 1995 by government officials after being held in illegal detention for almost two months. Despite credible eye-witness testimony that police chief KPS Gill was directly involved in interrogating Khaira in illegal detention just days prior to Khaira's murder, the Central Bureau of Investigation has thus far refused to investigate or prosecute Gill. In September 2006, Khaira's widow, Paramjit Kaur, filed a petition in the Punjab & Haryana High Court calling on the CBI to take action against Gill. More than a year later, she is still waiting for a hearing on the merits.

"Delivering justice in Punjab could set precedents throughout India for the redress of mass state crimes and superior responsibility," said Jaskaran Kaur, co-director of Ensaaf. "Indians and the rest of the world are watching to see if the current Indian government can muster the political will to do the right thing. If it fails, then the only conclusion that can be reached is that the state's institutions cannot or will not take on the security establishment. This has grave implications for Indian democracy."

Victims and their families seeking justice face severe challenges, including prolonged trials, biased prosecutors, an unresponsive judiciary, police intimidation and harassment of witnesses, and the failure to charge senior government officials despite evidence of their role in the abuses.

Tarlochan Singh described the hurdles he has faced in his now 18-year struggle before Indian courts for justice for the killing of his son, Kulwinder Singh:

"I used to receive threatening phone calls. The caller would say that they had killed thousands of boys and thrown them into canals, and they would also do that to Kulwinder Singh's wife, kid, or me and my wife . . .

"The trial has been proceeding . . . with very little evidence being recorded at each hearing, and with two to three months between hearings. During this time, key witnesses have died."

After Mohinder Singh's son Jugraj Singh was killed in an alleged faked armed encounter between security forces and separatists in January 1995, he pursued numerous avenues of justice. He brought his case before the Punjab & Haryana High Court and the CBI Special Court, but no police officer was charged. A CBI investigation found that Jugraj Singh had been killed and cremated by the police. However, 11 years and a few inquiry reports later, the CBI court ended Mohinder Singh's pursuit for accountability by dismissing his case in 2006. Mohinder Singh describes his interactions with the CBI:

"On one occasion when [the officer] from the CBI came to my house, he told me that I wasn't going to get anything out of this. Not justice and not even compensation. He further said that: 'I see you running around pursuing your case. But you shouldn't get into a confrontation with the police. You have to live here and they can pick you up at any time.' He was indirectly threatening me."

Human Rights Watch and Ensaaf expressed concern that the Indian government continues to cite the counterinsurgency operations in Punjab as a model for preserving national integrity.

"The government's illegal and inhuman policies in the name of security have allowed a culture of impunity to prevail that has brutalized its police and security forces," said Kaur.

The report suggests a comprehensive framework to address the institutionalized impunity that has prevented accountability in Punjab. The detailed recommendations include establishing a commission of inquiry, a special prosecutor's office, and an extensive reparations program.

"The Indian government needs to send a clear message to its security services, courts, prosecutors, and civil servants that it neither tolerates nor condones gross human rights violations under any circumstances," said Adams. "This requires a comprehensive and credible process of accountability that delivers truth, justice, and reparations to its victims, who demand nothing more than their rights guaranteed by India's constitution and international law."

HONORING ROBERT C. THOMPSON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to call to the attention of the House the outstanding public service of Robert C. Thompson of McLean, Virginia, in my congressional district, as he prepares to retire this month.

Mr. Thompson has contributed more than 30 years of public service to our Nation, most recently as Deputy Director for Management and Administration of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, which he helped completely restructure from the ground up following 9/11. He has proven himself a pioneering, tireless leader in the Navy's efforts to combat terrorism around the globe.

Robert Thompson began his career in the Army, where he saw armed conflict in Vietnam, and was stationed in the Republic of

Korea and stateside. After leaving the Army, Mr. Thompson joined the Naval Investigative Service as a special agent in 1976, where he quickly made a name for himself in counter-intelligence. He was selected to head counter-intelligence operations for the Navy in 1984, and was awarded the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement in December 1990.

In 1994, Mr. Thompson was detailed to the National Security Council, where he helped build the foundation of U.S. counterintelligence strategy. His contributions to this effort permanently improved this Nation's efforts in combating terrorism. During a later tenure as Acting Director of the National Counterintelligence Center, Mr. Thompson was entrusted with performing several high-profile damage assessments on the impact of espionage and security breaches of the highest order of importance to the U.S. government. His exemplary service was recognized with the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, the highest award bestowed by the U.S. Intelligence Community, in November 2001.

In retirement, Mr. Thompson looks forward to traveling with his wife, Betty Ann, and enjoying the outdoors with his family. His son, Robert, is currently on his second tour with the Virginia National Guard in the Middle East.

I am proud to call attention to Mr. Thompson's dedication. I congratulate Mr. Thompson on his exceptional performance, leadership, and unfailing commitment to his country. The contributions he has made to the intelligence community will serve as a strong foundation for future success in the global war on terror for years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. HAZEL
BALDWIN FORBES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Hazel Baldwin Forbes. Hazel is a native of Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina and the daughter of Colene M. Baldwin Stanley and Prince Baldwin. She showed a genuine interest and aptitude for music at an early age. She first studied piano under the tutelage of Mrs. Tabitha Thompson from age seven through high school. At the age of 15, she became solely responsible for directing the senior choir at the Little Wheel of Hope Baptist Church in Lake Waccamaw. During her years as a teen musical prodigy, she was in great demand for performances at weddings, funerals, concerts, recitals and as an accompanist for soloists and vocalists.

Upon Hazel's admission to Shaw University, she auditioned and was selected as a pianist and accompanist for the University Chorale Society under the direction of Professor Harry GilSmyth. Holding a double major in English and Music, she graduated from Shaw University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. She subsequently earned a Master's of Social Work Degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

For more than 30 years, Hazel served as a Clinical Social Worker. Her practice includes work with adolescent girls, families, couples, parents and children; individuals living with mental illness, abuse, neglect, fears, and vio-

lence that interfere with meaningful relationships and a positive sense of self. Hazel now focuses her practice on providing clinical supervision and coaching to psychiatrists, nurses, other clinical social workers, and case managers.

Though Hazel remained true to her trade, she never lost her passion for music. She found time to keep active in a variety of musical interests. She has served choirs as their directress and accompanist for more than 25 years in New York City, Richmond, Virginia, and Raleigh, North Carolina. In New York, she was employed as a music instructor at Bedford Stuyvesant's Junior High School 35. She also served for a number of years on the faculty of the Hampton Ministers' Conference and Organist and Musicians Guild and most recently as Directress of the Adult Choir at Christian Faith Baptist Church from which she is now retiring.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Hazel Baldwin Forbes and her commitment as a social worker and a gifted musician. I also want to thank and applaud Mrs. Forbes for sharing that gift with the rest of us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful, caring and talented woman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, because I was unavoidably detained, I was not able to vote on passage of H.R. 2102 (rollcall No. 973). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yea."

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CLEAN WATER ACT

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 35th anniversary of the passing of one of the most important laws in this country: the Clean Water Act.

The Clean Water Act is a keystone law for the protection of our Nation's waters. This law ensures water quality for a healthy environment, the vitality of plant and animal species and most notably, it is fundamental to public health and our survival.

Two-thirds of cities in the United States draw their water from rivers, and our health relies on the health of the rivers. An entire generation has grown up in this country taking for granted the cleanliness of our Nation's waters. For us, it has been as easy as turning on the faucet for a glass of clean, safe drinking water. And I am confident that without the Clean Water Act, this would be in jeopardy.

The Clean Water Act, using both regulatory and non-regulatory tools, has reduced pollution in our waterways. The act established the basic structure for regulating pollutants and gave the Environmental Protection Agency the

authority to implement pollution control programs. The act brought us water quality standards and made it unlawful for any person to discharge any pollutant into navigable waters at any time.

My home State of Oregon has worked hard to do its part in solving its water pollution problems, and no city has done more to advance innovative strategies to mitigate storm water run-off pollution than Portland, Oregon. Run-off is a serious threat to our water quality. In fact, runoff from roads is responsible for 80 percent of the degradation of the Nation's surface water.

Portland has been making an extraordinary investment toward a comprehensive Greenstreets Implementation Program that will reduce impervious surfaces, treat and filter storm water at its source, reduce demands on the city's collection system, support regulatory compliance and enhance watershed health. In short, greenstreets filter storm water before the water soaks into the ground, pours into a river or ends up in the sewer system. The city of Portland estimates that its green street projects reduce pollution in runoff by up to 90 percent.

Greenstreets also save money for sewer ratepayers and taxpayers. According to the city of Portland, traditional pipe and stormwater disposal systems can cost up to twice as much as green streets. What more could you ask for: safe drinking water and clean rivers, at less cost to the taxpayer.

Portland is a national leader in this and will continue to be a laboratory for techniques that other jurisdictions can use to meet regulations of the Clean Water Act. It is through these innovative technologies and techniques that the Clean Water Act will continue to meet its mission to provide the public with safe, clean drinking water.

ON H.R. 3580

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I opposed H.R. 3580, a bill to reauthorize the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA), because it failed to address the fundamental drivers of the high cost of pharmaceuticals, the pharmaceutical industry's deplorable safety record, and their lack of accountability.

The bill ignores the single biggest conflict of interest at the FDA. The pharmaceutical industry pays hundreds of millions of dollars every year to the Food and Drug Administration, which is tasked with regulating them. The result is that the FDA has a relationship with industry that treats them more like a customer than an entity in need of oversight and evaluation. A 2002 Government Accountability Office report found that "Our analysis of FDA data found that a higher percentage of drugs has been withdrawn from the market for safety-related reasons since PDUFA's enactment than prior to the law's enactment . . ." Furthermore, FDA staff morale has declined. The GAO found that "FDA's attrition rates for most of the scientific occupations involved in its drug review process are higher than those for comparable occupations in other federal public health agencies and the remainder of the federal government." A Consumer Reports poll in