

The act, however, is expected to die when it reaches the Senate foreign relations committee: the Bush administration is counting on Saudi Arabia to help stabilise Iraq, curtail Iran's nuclear and regional ambitions and give a push to the Israeli and Palestinian peace process at a conference due to be held this month in Annapolis, Maryland.

"Do we really want to take on the Saudis at the moment?" asks Bronson. "We've got enough problems as it is."

SIKHS OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY OF DELHI MASSACRES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, on November 3, Sikhs from up and down the East Coast gathered here in Washington to protest the 23rd anniversary of the Delhi massacres. Over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in that massacre, which followed the assassination of Indira Gandhi. Sikh police officers were locked in their barracks to keep them from interfering with the massacre. State TV and radio called for "blood for blood," inciting the people to kill more Sikhs.

This was a massive atrocity by the Indian regime against the Sikhs. It made it clear that the Indian government had no intention of treating the Sikhs like people in a free and democratic country ought to be treated. Instead, they chose to inflict mass terror on their Sikh citizens. This is not the way a democratic government acts, Madam Speaker. It is the action of a terrorist regime. India should be declared a terrorist regime for acts like this, for creating the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and for its ongoing subversion of Pakistan by sponsoring cross-border terrorism in Sindh, as reported in the January 2, 2002 Washington Times.

Sikhs in attendance at the demonstration raised slogans in support of Khalistan as well as slogans in opposition to the massacre. As you know, the Sikhs declared their independence from India on October 7, 1987. Khalistan is their country, but it remains occupied by over half a million Indian forces. I would like to know why "the world's largest democracy" insists on maintaining authoritarian control of Khalistan instead of allowing the people there to have a free and fair vote on its status. This congress should put itself on record in support of such a vote, as well as the plebiscite that was promised to the Kashmiri people in 1948 and has never occurred. Nagaland, too, seeks its independence from India. The Nagas should also be granted the right to vote on their status. What would be wrong with that, if India is the democracy it says it is? And if India is the democracy it says it is, then why are so many peoples trying to get out from under its rule?

In addition to demanding that India allow the right to self-determination (which is the essence of democracy), we should demand that basic human rights be observed in "the world's largest democracy." The Delhi massacre is just one example of how basic human rights are ignored there. The murders of over 250,000 Sikhs, over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, more 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens

of thousands of other minorities, including Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others speak loudly on the lack of human rights in India. So does the fact that Amnesty International has not been allowed into Punjab since 1984. This situation cannot continue.

We should cut off our aid and trade with India until it allows basic human rights, including but not limited to the right to self-determination, to all people under its rule.

Madam Speaker, the Council of Khalistan issued an excellent and informative press release on the Delhi massacres and the demonstration that was held this month. I recommend it to all my colleagues and I would like to place it in the RECORD at this time.

SIKHS REMEMBER DELHI MASSACRES WITH VERY SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 13, 2007.—Sikhs from around the East Coast gathered by the Gandhi statue at the Indian Embassy in Washington, DC on November 3 to commemorate the Delhi massacres of November 1984 in which over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered while the police were locked in their barracks and the state-run television and radio called for more Sikh blood.

The rally was attended by Sikhs from Philadelphia, including Dr. Bakhshish Singh Sandhu, S. Kari Singh, and S. Dharam Singh, as well as Sikhs from New Jersey, Baltimore, Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC, and other locations. New York Sikhs led by Sardar Avtar Singh Pannu also participated. The attendees spoke, carried signs, and chanted slogans. Slogans included "Khalistan Zindabad" ("Long live Khalistan"), "India free Khalistan", "India stop killing minorities", "India free Kashmir", "India free Christian Nagaland", and others.

The Delhi massacres were a brutal chapter in India's repression of the Sikhs, according to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which is leading the demonstration. "This brutal, government-inspired massacre clarified that there is no place in India for Sikhs." Dr. Aulakh said. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan. In the twenty years since then, India has continued its illegal occupation of Khalistan and stepped up the repression of the Sikhs while the Sikh Nation has continued to work to achieve its birthright.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, and then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family.

The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotra murdered him. Ghotra has never

been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra.

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

"Only a sovereign, independent Khalistan will end the repression and lift the standard of living for the people of Punjab," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "Democracies don't commit genocide. As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

A TRIBUTE TO JEFFERSON AWARD WINNER RUSSELL EWELL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the achievements of a very special man within my home district in California. Russell Ewell, who has recently been honored with a Jefferson Award, is much deserving of the accolade, which spotlights outstanding public service.

Mr. Ewell brought the community E-Soccer, a unique athletic outreach program affiliated with the Hope Technology School, where his wife is the Executive Director. The unqualified success of E-Soccer in bringing together typical and special needs children of all ages on a soccer field is a testament to Russ Ewell's visionary concept.

Children are encouraged and enabled to develop skills, confidence and self-esteem through the sport of soccer. They also make lasting friendships. This wonderful program serves over 250 children on Saturday mornings in communities throughout the Bay Area. It is free and benefits from an all-volunteer staff. Showcasing the growing scope of E-Soccer is the fact that a team of nine coaches from the program recently visited Nairobi, Kenya, to train volunteers there on how to establish their own E-Soccer activities. There are plans for further outreach projects in other countries.

Madam Speaker, Russell Ewell established the E-Soccer program in April 2000 specifically for children with special needs in Foster City. His inspiration came from his two sons with special needs. Their younger sister, Jadyn, is not a special needs child. Russ wanted Jonathan, who has Down Syndrome, and Jordan, who is autistic, to be able to interact with typical children, benefiting from the athletic coordination practiced in soccer. He also wanted families with special needs children to have an opportunity to enjoy an athletic experience that is both positive and uplifting. To that end, he worked with soccer coaches, special needs educators and physical therapists on developing a program like no

other; a sports program that doesn't isolate typical and special needs children, but integrates them seamlessly into group activities. Both communities benefit from the interaction. Russ has seen that success in his own children as well as the many families who have participated. What began with 5 children has grown into a blossoming effort with 250 young soccer players.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I bring Russell Ewell's E-Soccer program to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives. He has created a shining example of how one man's idea can alter the lives of many for the better.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 816
CONGRATULATING THE COLORADO ROCKIES ON WINNING THE NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP AND PLAYING IN THE 2007 WORLD SERIES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution congratulating the Colorado Rockies on their National League Championship and first-ever franchise appearance in the World Series. The Rockies defied the odds this year by making it to the World Series, capturing the best hopes of Coloradans and giving us all a reason to cheer for their success. Despite a tough loss to a great team in the Boston Red Sox, we remain proud of the Rockies' efforts and astonished at their meteoric rise to the top of the National League.

Toward the close of the season, the Rockies were the underdogs in the National League pennant race. The challenge of making the playoffs seemed as large and daunting as the mountain range for which the Rockies were named, but the team maintained an optimism and competitive spirit that kept them alive long after commentators had written them off. Winning 21 of their last 22 games prior to the World Series—an unprecedented feat in baseball history—the Rockies rolled over expectations and swept the Arizona Diamondbacks in the NLCS.

The World Series proved to be a bigger challenge than the Rockies could surmount, and they lost in four games to a very talented Red Sox team. Despite the losses, the Rockies carried themselves with dignity and true sportsmanship, giving Coloradans something to be proud of. As the father of two young athletes I can say that the way the Rockies carried themselves is a tremendous example for our young people. We would have loved to have seen the Rockies bring home a victory this year, but, as the Red Sox' Manny Ramirez said during the ALCS, there's always next year. I know I am not alone in looking forward to watching some great Rockies baseball in the future.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Colorado Rockies on a great season and in thanking them for serving as great examples of professional athletes practicing sportsmanship.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF MIKE BIONDI

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of my good friend, Mike Biondi, and I offer my deepest condolences to his family after his passing last night at the age of 50. Mike's sudden and tragic passing came as a great shock to me, as I had planned to see him early next week, and I hope that we can do as good of a job remembering Mike as he did living an outstanding life that had a positive impact on so many across the country.

Mike was a founding partner at Wasserstein Perella & Co., and rose to become chairman and CEO. I had the honor of working with Mike at Wasserstein, and I am privileged to have been able to call him a friend. Mike took me under his wing during my time at Wasserstein and became my mentor.

While working as an investment banker at Wasserstein Perella & Co., Mike helped establish Chicago-based Exelon Corporation, one of the Nation's largest electric utilities. Mike could literally take credit for helping to keep Chicagoans warm during our coldest winters.

Mike joined First Boston's mergers and acquisitions team after serving as an attorney at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. He spent the past 4 years at Lazard LLC, where he served as cochairman of investment banking. No matter where he worked, Mike was held in high esteem and widely recognized for his intellectual acumen, wisdom and integrity.

Mike graduated from Dartmouth University where he played on the baseball team. He also received graduate degrees from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Wharton business school. Mike continued to be active with the Dartmouth community and cochaired the Dartmouth College Fund Committee with his wife Cynthia.

No matter where he went—Dartmouth, Penn, Lazard, Wasserstein—Mike had a profound effect on people. He was not just my mentor or the mentor for others at his firms, but he was also a role model for the people whose lives he touched and a mentor to students both during his time on campus and as an alumnus.

Madam Speaker, Mike was a titan in his field, and a tremendous human being. He is survived by his wife Cynthia, his four sons, Michael Jr., James, William, and Cameron, and his two brothers, Frank and Robert. I extend my deepest condolences and gratitude to his family. We will all miss Mike, and I know that I will never forget the lessons he taught me both in business and in life.

DOING MORE THAN TALKING
ABOUT PHYSICAL FITNESS

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, we are all well acquainted with the Mark Twain quote, "Everyone talks about the weather but nobody

does anything about it." I think the 21st century equivalent of Mr. Twain's words might be, "Everyone talks about physical fitness but far too few do anything about it."

There is strong evidence that increased physical fitness not only benefits the individual, but our society and our economy as well. Increased physical fitness not only reduces the risk of heart disease but it also reduces the risk of developing diabetes and can help control Type II Diabetes.

Additionally, physical fitness can help older adults build stronger bones and develop muscle; thereby lessening the severity of any fall. Physical fitness also increases worker productivity, contributes to lower workplace absenteeism and improves mental health. A physically fit society also lowers Federal spending to combat diseases like heart disease or hypertension that affect so many of our Medicaid patients.

The importance of physical activity as a benefit to all was recently highlighted by a new study on the economic burden of chronic disease, authored by the Milken Institute. Its findings are stark—the incidence and costs of chronic disease are rising rapidly. If nothing is done to increase the level of fitness in the Nation, the costs of treating the associated diseases will grow by 42 percent over the next decade.

According to the Milken Institute study, we need to move our health care system to one that provides incentives for prevention, wellness and focuses on achieving a healthy body weight. It is evident that an increased amount of physical fitness contributes materially to these goals. Furthermore, as Members of Congress, we should be looking at how to best effectively improve physical fitness.

One way is to remove any inequities under Federal law that prevents the promotion of physical fitness. Two inequities currently exist. First, gym memberships that employees provide for off-site facilities are taxable to the employee as a benefit while those in-house are not—a clear disincentive for both companies and individuals to work fitness into the work day. Second, flexible spending accounts can not be used for physical fitness equipment or activities. Thus, we have a situation where you can use a flexible spending account on medicines to treat illnesses such as diabetes but the funds can not be used to increase the opportunity to exercise, which often controls and sometimes can prevent disease.

In both cases, legislation is currently pending before the Ways and Means Committee to correct these inequities. I urge the members of the Committee and its leadership to consider them expeditiously and to disprove Mark Twain's reworked adage.

BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK,
FOUNDER OF SIKHISM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, this month marks the 538th birthday of Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion. As you may know, Guru Nanak was born in 1469 in what is now West Punjab. Every year, Sikhs from around the world gather in Nankana Sahib, where