

Only independence will allow the Sikhs and the other oppressed minorities to live in freedom, prosperity, security, and dignity, which is their birthright. It is clear that as long as they remain under India's rule, they cannot get just and fair treatment. The atrocities will continue. This is unacceptable, Madam Speaker.

We should be on record in support of self-determination for Khalistan and throughout the subcontinent. We should also stop our aid and trade with India until it learns to respect the human rights of all people. This is in accord with American principles and these are practical steps we can take to bring real freedom to South Asia.

[April 4, 2007]

VAISAKHI DAY MESSAGE TO THE SIKH NATION

DEAR KHALSA JI: WAHEGURU JI KA KHALSA, WAHEGURU JI KI FATEH!

On April 13, the Sikh Nation will celebrate Vaisakhi Day, observing the 308th anniversary of the day Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa Panth. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family and friends and all Sikhs a Happy Vaisakhi Day. As you know, Vaisakhi Day is the anniversary of the founding of the Khalsa. On Vaisakhi Day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh baptized the Sikhs and required them to keep the five Ks. He made the Sikhs into saints and soldiers, giving the blessing "In grib Sikhin ko deon Patshani" ("I give sovereignty to the humble Sikhs.") Just two years after his departure from this earthly plane in 1708, the Sikhs established their own independent state in Punjab. Today we struggle to regain the sovereignty that Guru Gobind Singh bestowed upon us over 300 years ago.

We must remind ourselves of our heritage by raising slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" and beginning a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan. Every morning and evening we recite, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

Last week, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, Managing Editor of the International Journal of Sikh Affairs, representing the Council of Khalistan, presented a memorandum on Sikh sovereignty and the release of the Sikh political and non-political prisoners in India to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva. The memorandum discussed the Human Rights Violations, persecution, torture, genocide of Sikhs since 1984 as well as the current situation in Punjab, Khalistan. The ongoing effort to reclaim the freedom that is our birthright took another step forward with this delivery.

The Sikhs in Punjab have suffered enormous repression at the hands of the Indian regime in the last 23 years. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. In addition, over 50,000 Sikh youth were picked up from their houses, tortured, murdered in police Custody, then secretly cremated as "unidentified bodies." Their remains were never even given to their families! Over 52,000 Sikhs sit in Indian jails as political prisoners without charge or trial, according to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR.) Some of them have been in illegal custody for over 20 years! Repression and genocide of this magnitude at the hands of the Indian government is unparalleled in the late part of the 20th century. India should be ashamed of the genocide it has committed against Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities.

Recently, Chief Minister Badal backed off his promise to repeal Section 5 of the Punjab Termination of Agreement Act, the section that allowed the free transfer of Punjab's

river water to Haryana and Rajasthan to continue. This promise was essential to getting him elected. Although he is the leader of the Akali Dal, Badal has again shown that he is under the control of the Hindutva movement. It is time for the Sikh leadership to stop kowtowing to the Indian government and start protecting the interests of the Sikh Nation. He should immediately sever his alliance with the BJP. As every Sikh knows, the BJP is determined to destroy the Sikh religion and the Sikh Nation.

Dr. K.S. Aulakh (no relation) recently resigned as Vice Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University after Mr. Badal ordered him to open the University gate, which had been closed because of robberies and a murder, something that he could not do. Dr. G.S. Kalkat, former Vice chancellor of PAU and chairman of the Punjab Farmers Commission, described this resignation as unfortunate and said there should be no political interference in the workings of the University could not be tolerated. Dr. Darshan Singh, former Dean of Postgraduate Studies at PAU; Dr. D.R. Bhumbra, former Vice Chancellor of Haryana Agricultura University; Prof. Pritpal Singh Kapur, former pro-Vice Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University; Dr. Darsban Singh, former Dean of Postgraduate Studies at PAU; and Lt. Col. Chanan Singh Dhillon, retired President of the Indian Ex-Services League; among others, were also critical of Badal's political interference. Dr. K.S. Aulakh was appointed by Mr. Badal several years ago when Badal was Chief Minister before, so this was an unusually courageous act on his part and he is to be saluted for it. Mr. Badal is Chief Minister of Punjab. Why doesn't he even want to protect the students, faculty, and staff at PAU from robberies and murders?

Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti is another who is under Indian government control. A couple of years ago, he was quoted as saying, "We don't want separate territory." Apparently, Vedanti would rather maintain the oppression and the atrocities against the Sikh Nation than enjoy the glow of freedom, as promised to us at the time of independence. Has he forgotten our heritage of freedom? How can the spiritual leader of the Sikh religion deny the Sikh Nation's legitimate aspiration for freedom and sovereignty? Is he not stung by the words of one of his predecessors, former AkalTakt Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh, who said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh"? Is Akal Takht occupied by a person who does not believe in Sikh values and Sikh aspirations?

Sikhs can never forgive or forget the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple and 125 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab. Over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered in those attacks as Operation Bluestar, including Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and over 100 Sikh religious students ages 8-13 who were taken out into the courtyard and shot. These attacks accelerated the Sikh independence movement and deepened the desire for independence in the hearts of Sikhs, a fire that burns brightly in the hearts of the Sikh Nation to this day. Sant Bhindranwale said that the attack on the Golden Temple would "lay the foundation stone of Khalistan" and he was right.

Khalisa Ji, at this time of Vaisakhi, the whole Khalsa Panth must be energized to re-establish a sovereign, independent Khalsa Raj by freeing our homeland, Khalistan. It is time for Sikhs to look back at our history of persecution and suffering over the past two decades. The Hindu government of India, whether run by the Congress Party or by the BJP, wants minorities either subservient to Hinduism or completely wiped out. In spite

of the fact that the religions believe completely opposite things, Hindus desire to engulf Sikhism just as they did with Jainism and Buddhism in India. They think that Buddhism is part of Hinduism because Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, was born in India. Similarly, Guru Nanak was born Hindu, so they proclaim Sikhism to be part of Hinduism. Yet Guru Nanak said that he was "neither Hindu nor Muslim." Jesus was born Jewish. Does that mean that Christianity is merely part of Judaism?

On this auspicious occasion celebrating the birth of the Khalsa Panth, we must bring back our Khalsa spirit. We must remember our heritage and tradition of "Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah" by committing ourselves to freeing our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian Occupation. We need a new Sikh political party which has a dedication to the interests of the Sikh Nation as its sole objective, to establish Khalsa Raj by liberating Khalistan, severing all political ties with India.

The Indian government wants to break the will of the Sikh Nation and enslave them forever, making Sikhism a part of Hinduism. This can only be stopped if we free Punjab from Delhi's control and reestablish a sovereign, independent country, as declared on October 7, 1987. We must recommit ourselves to freeing our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. Raise slogans of "Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah," "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa," "Khalistan Zindabad," and "India out of Khalistan." Use this Vaisakhi to launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan. In spite of India's best efforts, they cannot arrest all of us. Their jails are overflowing as it is. We must keep the pressure on every day to force India to withdraw from our homeland and allow the glow of freedom in Khalistan.

The flame of freedom still burns brightly in Punjab in spite of the Indian government's brutal repression. Perhaps this is why India is afraid to hold a free and fair vote on the subject of independence. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. The time to achieve our independence is now. Always remember our heritage: Raj Kare Ga Khalsa; Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah. Freedom for Khalistan is closer than ever. We must rededicate ourselves to achieving it.

Pantha Da Sewadar,
DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH
President, Council of Khalistan.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST
TERMS THE RECENT TERRO-
RISTS ATTACKS THAT OC-
CURRED IN CASABLANCA, MO-
ROCCO AND IN ALGIERS, ALGE-
RIA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution condemning in the strongest terms the recent terrorist attacks in Morocco and Algeria.

Often times we forget that we are not the only country or people affected by the scourge of international terrorism. Radical extremists have affected and disrupted the lives of many of our friends and allies all over the world. Daily, we see images and hear stories of blatant, unprovoked, vicious attacks on innocent

men, women and children. Our enemy is not limited to fighting on a military battlefield. Our enemy does not discern its victims on the basis of race, religion or nationality.

The most recent examples of this complete disregard for human life are the attacks occurring this last week in Morocco and Algeria. Not only did the attacks result in several deaths and injuries, but whole communities were devastated and thrown into extreme chaos.

The people and governments of Morocco and Algeria must know that we stand behind them and that America does not condone any act of terrorism, killing several people and devastating communities by the chaos and havoc wreaked by them.

I am pleased my colleague and friend, Representative MICHAEL ROGERS from Michigan, has joined me as an original cosponsor of this resolution. I strongly urge our colleagues to support it and urge its swift consideration.

FARM RISK MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I introduce legislation today, along with my Alabama colleagues Reps. SPENCER BACHUS, JO BONNER, BUD CRAMER, and MIKE ROGERS, to enable America's farmers to better manage the risk to their livelihoods in times of severe weather and skyrocketing energy costs. The Farm Risk Management Act (FARM Act) would create risk management accounts, using both USDA and individual farmer contributions, to reduce the financial impact of disasters on the agriculture community. The FARM Act would allow farmers to insure their income by creating a whole-farm risk management program based on total revenues from all their farming activities. This is a departure from the current crop insurance program, which provides coverage based on a specific commodity. The new risk management account goes beyond the scope of current crop insurance by allowing farmers to withdraw funds from their accounts to help offset any unforeseen farm expense including high energy or fertilizer costs. With my new proposal, a farmer would deposit money into the new risk management account. The U.S. Department of Agriculture would then match the farmer's contribution in this tax-deferred, interest-bearing account, rather than subsidizing a portion of the crop insurance premium for the farmer as is done presently. As a result, farmers would effectively be self-insured.

More and more, we are seeing farmers lose their farms due to the unfortunate combination of increasingly harsh weather, rising operational costs and a Federal crop insurance program that is too expensive to help many cover their losses. Recent Farm Bill hearings and subsequent meetings I have had with farmers in the Southeast have led me to the conclusion that current crop insurance programs are not working. The present system is too expensive, leaving many farmers exposed to uncontrollable risks. It also allows room for fraud which only serves to drive up program costs for everyone.

There is an urgent need for significant crop insurance reform that will offer hard-working farmers the tools they need to manage the unique risks involved in agricultural production. This approach of individual risk management accounts could address many of the problems associated with the current crop insurance system and save the Federal government money by alleviating the future need for ad hoc disaster assistance. Most importantly, it will give farmers struggling against natural forces beyond their control greater flexibility to make a living while performing the vital task of putting food on America's table.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JACKIE ROBINSON

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and groundbreaking accomplishments of Jackie Robinson, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of integrated Major League Baseball. Sixty years ago this month, Jackie Robinson overcame institutionalized opposition to become the first African-American Major League Baseball player. He proved himself to be among the best that have ever played the game. He was a member of six World Series teams and earned six consecutive All-Star Game nominations. In 1962 Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In addition to his multiple sports accomplishments, Jackie Robinson accomplished great things in his personal life. He was a key figure in the establishment of a growth of Freedom Bank. He also served with honor and distinction as a second lieutenant in the United States Army from 1942-1944. In 1984, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. It gives me great pride to have served during the 108th Congress when we awarded Jackie Robinson the Congressional Gold Medal.

Throughout his life Jackie Robinson stood up against inequality, served as a great role model for all American citizens, and proved that anything is possible. I recall one story that exemplified his commitment to justice, when he faced court-martial charges for insubordination resulting from his refusal to obey an order to move to the back of a segregated military bus in Texas. I salute Jackie Robinson and commend him on his life of accomplishment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING STIMULATION ACT OF 2007

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce with my colleagues "The Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Competi-

tiveness Act." I introduced legislation in both the 108th and 109th Congresses focused on strengthening U.S. manufacturing, and both times it was passed by the House. I am pleased that this bill contains many of the same provisions as well as others, since the global competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing remains a pressing issue.

The President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI), started in 2006, launched a three-pronged approach to competitiveness by strengthening research at the National Science Foundation, Office of Science at the Department of Energy, and the laboratories and construction of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). This bill addresses the last of these agencies by fully supporting the ACI requested improvements, as well as reauthorizing programs at NIST crucial to our global competitiveness.

Although manufacturing has experienced tremendous technological gains over the last few years, international competition has exacted a terrible toll on our nation's manufacturers. In particular, our small and medium-sized firms are under tremendous pressure to become more efficient, to modernize, and to cut their prices. There is no evidence that these pressures are likely to go away.

This bill will help address long-term problems facing our nation's manufacturers by broadening and strengthening manufacturing extension services and creating a new program to revive manufacturing innovation through collaborative research and development.

Specifically, this bill will address the competitiveness needs of our Nation by:

Reauthorizing the critical programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), a federal research laboratory dedicated to ensuring U.S. leadership in technology-based standards and industries; creating a new collaborative research and development program for manufacturing technology; creating a fellowship program at NIST to develop U.S. manufacturing research expertise; reauthorizing and creating a new grant program within the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program so that the MEP Centers can extend their expertise to a range of problems beyond their current scope of activities; and establishing the Technology Innovation Program and Advisory Board to help bring more innovative technologies to market.

I want to thank Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for working in a bipartisan manner to introduce this bill, which addresses such an important topic to our nation. I appreciate the efforts of the majority to consider the input of the minority members of the Science and Technology Committee.

Madam Speaker, it is incredibly important to our future for this nation to remain competitive today. Congress must provide a coherent federal response to the changes that are underway in manufacturing, and to support the technological innovation that is fundamental to retaining our manufacturing strength. This bill provides a mechanism for that crucial response and I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue in the 110th Congress.