

NEW REPORT EXPOSES GOVERNMENT'S SYSTEMATIC HUMAN-RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PUNJAB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on October 1, Ram Narayan Kumar, the producer of the excellent video "Disappearances in Punjab", and Cynthia Mahmood, a professor at the University of Maine who has studied issues in Punjab, issued a detailed reported entitled "Disappearances in Punjab and the Impunity of the Indian State." It exposes the brutal tyranny that has been imposed on the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan by "the world's largest democracy."

The report exposes India's "war without quarter" against the Sikh Nation that has resulted in the extrajudicial murders of over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. The authors describe this "war without quarter" as a "dirty water." The authors note that "the law in Punjab accommodated to, buttressed, and furthered the pattern of atrocities against Sikh citizens that had evolved against Sikh citizens. Minimal human rights were being abrogated in 'the world's largest democracy.'"

These abuses were carried out through mechanisms like the so-called "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which permitted virtually unlimited detention of anyone without charge or trial. Even though this repressive law expired in March 1995, thousands of people continue to be held under it.

The report contains extensive discussion of the case of Jaswant Singh Khaira, who was kidnapped and murdered by the police after he exposed the Indian government's brutal mass cremation policy in Punjab. After his report, the Tarn Taran police chief, Ajit Sandhu, told Mr. Khaira, "We can make one more body disappear." It appears that this promise has been kept. Now the police have filed false charges against Jaspal Singh Dhillon, who assisted and continued Mr. Khaira's work. The Indian Supreme Court described this policy as "worse than a genocide." It said that there have been "flagrant violation of human rights on a mass scale."

The report also demonstrates the weakness of India's National Human Rights Commission, which cannot investigate abuses by the security forces and cannot investigate cases over a year old. The Commission is essentially impotent.

As a result of these abuses, 18 human-rights organizations and 13 individuals who have been active in human-rights work formed the Coordination Committee on Disappearances in Panjab, which then appointed the Peoples Commission on Human Rights Violations in Punjab. This commission has issued 90 citations and taken over 3,000 more cases. The government has taken action to close down the commission and tried to prevent its first meeting from taking place. The report shows that the government has worked to silence human-rights groups through intimidation and violence.

Mr. Speaker, these events occurred in only one of India's 25 states. There are currently 17 freedom movements within India's borders. The United States is a bastion of freedom in the world. We should not be supporting such

a repressive country. The sanctions we placed on India this spring must be maintained and we should also cut off its U.S. aid. It is now apparent that only when the people of Punjab, Khalistan and the other captive nations of the Indian subcontinent are allowed to claim their sovereignty will their people live in freedom, peace, prosperity, and stability. The United States Congress can help make that happen by declaring our support for free and fair plebiscites on independence in Punjab, Khalistan and in Kashmir. By these means we can help end these abuses and bring freedom to all the people of South Asia.

I thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing this report to my attention and his continued effort to free his nation from the repression of the Indian government.

HONORING CLAUDE GANAYE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to World War II hero Claude Ganaye, who in September 1944, was a 16-year-old French national whose actions saved the lives of United States combat troops of the 29th Infantry Division. Veterans of that division gratefully recall his bravery.

Even though Claude Ganaye and his family had been driven from their home in Brest, France, by Nazi troops, young Claude had the presence of mind to note the location of German mines, snipers and gun emplacements. Claude Ganaye found a French-speaking GI, Philip Roy of Company L, 116th Infantry to whom he provided his detailed intelligence. Acting on this information, the 29th Infantry Division was able to avoid casualties while taking enemy positions and capturing 40 prisoners.

Twenty years ago, Mr. Ganaye moved to California where he became a naturalized citizen of the country whose troops he guided from harm's way. Mr. Ganaye resides with his family in the 6th Congressional District whose citizens thank him for the courage and composure he, as a teenager, demonstrated in the mind-numbing conditions that marked the heroic allied invasion of France. It is fitting too, as we honor our veterans, to join them in acknowledging Claude Ganaye's contribution to his adopted nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Claude Ganaye.

PURPLE HEART AND POW MEDALS
FOR JOSEPH LAJZER

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on September 18, 1998, National Prisoner of War/Missing In Action Recognition Day, our nation finally honored one of the few remaining heroes and survivors of the Bataan Death March. During the graduation of new air men and women from basic training at Lackland Air

Force Base, Retired Army Air Corps World War II veteran Tech. Sgt. Joseph Lajzer was awarded the Purple Heart and POW medals for injuries sustained more than 56 years ago in the jungles of the Philippines.

Joseph Lajzer volunteered for the Army in 1941 at the age of twenty. He was trained as a tanker and his unit, B Company of the 192d Tank Battalion, was sent to Clark Field in the Philippines. Not long after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese attacked and landed in the Philippines. After many days of intense fighting and desperately short of medical supplies, food, and ammunition, Mr. Lajzer's unit was captured on April 8, 1942. The following day the tragic Bataan Death March began.

The horrors of the six day march defy any description. Nearly 650 American soldiers along with thousands of Filipino soldiers died during the march. For the next three and one half years, Lajzer endured unspeakable pestilence, starvation, and brutality while in captivity. Joseph Lajzer was finally liberated on September 6, 1945, but had to endure additional months in military hospitals recovering from injuries inflicted by his Japanese captors.

Tech. Sgt. Lajzer's services to our nation didn't end after his release. He went on to serve for a total of 25 years, retiring from the United States Air Force in 1966. In spite of his extraordinary service in uniform, Lajzer was never formally recognized. He waited patiently for more than twenty years while administrative and other delays prevented the award of the Purple Heart and the POW medals to this deserving American. Finally, on September 18, 1998, our nation recognized and honored Tech. Sgt. Lajzer.

A SOLDIER BY AN UNKNOWN AUTHOR AT
BATAAN/CORREGIDOR

A soldier is a nobody, we hear lots of people say. He is the outcast of the world and always in the way.

We admit there are bad ones from the Army to the Marines, but the majority you will find, the most worthy ever seen.

Most people condemn the soldier when he stops to take a drink or two, but does a soldier condemn you, when you stop to take a few.

Now don't scorn the soldier but clasp him by the hand, for the uniform he wears means protection to our land.

The government picks its soldier from the million far and wide, so please place him as your equal good buddies side by side.

When a soldier goes to battle you cheer him on the way, you say he is a hero when in the ground he lay.

But the hardest battle of the soldier is in the time of peace, when all mock and scorn him and treat him like a beast.

With these few lines we close sir, we hope we don't offend but when you meet a soldier just treat him like a friend.

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE KIBBEE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding life of a friend from my hometown, Bonnie Kibbee of Alpine, California. Bonnie passed away last month and I would like to take a moment to commend the

dedication this exceptional person had for her community.

Born in New Hampshire, Bonnie came to San Diego with her family when she was a little girl. She was a small business owner, a real estate agent, a backcountry activist and an avid gardener whose own home garden became a popular fixture in the Alpine community. The Kibbee's, whose garden included various assortments of irises and day lilies, would set aside a day each spring to allow the public to come and visit.

Upset upon learning that the Internal Revenue Service was intending to confiscate the savings account of a child to pay off a parent's debt, Bonnie quickly established herself as a government watchdog and community patriot by protecting and standing up for the rights of private property owners. Through her positions on the Alpine Community Planning Group, Paul Gann's Citizen's Committee, the Christmas Calling Committee and as President of California Taxpayers Network, Inc., Bonnie dedicated herself towards community improvement, reducing crime and promoting law enforcement. Among her initiatives included raising funds for the Alpine Community Center, finding a new home for the Alpine Chamber of Commerce, assisting congressional efforts to oppose overzealous federal acquisition of private property and working to ensure that human beings were provided the same protections afforded to birds, fish and insects.

In a time when apathy is often chosen over public involvement, Bonnie Kibbee exhibited the true character of grassroots activism. As a Member of Congress, it is encouraging to see a private citizen who takes notice of what is taking place around them and works to change their community for the better. Thank you Bonnie for all your hard work. You were a natural leader, a great American and will be truly missed.

OREGON PUBLIC LANDS TRANSFER AND PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4326 because I think that this is a noncontroversial package that will help address ongoing resources needs in Oregon ranging from wastewater treatment to land transfers.

I am particularly pleased that this package includes a measure to authorize the Willow Lake Natural Treatment System project which will reduce wintertime sewer system overflows to the Willamette River in Salem and local creeks.

This initiative will also provide a source of irrigation water for the farming community and improve the river habitat for fish.

Mr. Speaker, this is just one of the win-win initiatives in this important package.

This package also includes a common sense land transfer arrangement between O & C counties and the BLM, a land exchange between the BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Hart Mountain in eastern Oregon, in addition to other measures that have widespread support.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

ARKANSAS AMVET OF THE YEAR, WINSTON MCGINNIS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has dedicated his time to working for Arkansas' veterans. For this reason, the AMVETS has awarded this great veteran, Winston "Mac" McGinnis who lives in my District in Melbourne Arkansas, the prestigious AMVET of the Year Award.

The AMVET of the Year Award was given to Mac for the many hours of volunteer work for all veterans and their families since his retirement from the U.S. Air Force in 1966. After an injury in Guam while serving in the Air Force, that resulted in a spinal cord injury, Mac was retired with 20 years of service. Since that time he has worked with other veterans and has volunteered in four different Veterans Hospitals. He has received a 100,000 mile award from the VA for the miles he has driven doing volunteer work and transporting veterans to and from VA hospitals.

Mac is the Executive Director of the AMVETS Department of Arkansas, Commander of Post #1 in Melbourne VAVS Representative at the Little Rock Medical Centers and National Executive Committeeman for Arkansas AMVETS. The Silver Helmet Award has over the past 40 years acquired a well-deserved reputation as the most prestigious of all the awards given by veterans organizations. I congratulate Mac for his award and his years of service working with the veterans in Arkansas. Mac, thanks for a job well done. I wish you well.

HONORING KATIE DAVIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Katie Davis for her dedicated service to the Brooklyn community and to congratulate her as a recent recipient of an Institute for Community Living award.

Katie Davis, a graduate of Hunter College and Columbia University's Public Health Administration School, and a successful administrator at Kingsborough Psychiatric Center has made and continues to make a difference in the lives of young African Americans and Hispanics. Katie's involvement with youngsters in various aspects of their lives through a continuous process of mentoring, engagement in positive activities and community programs aimed at giving them hope for their future, has helped to mold their actions and to lead more productive lives. Many of these young adults have gone on to successfully occupy various positions, further their studies and give back to their communities by helping others.

Katie has made a tangible difference in the lives of countless young adults as well as in her own. She has worked incessantly on be-

half of community residents who have special needs like her own daughter, Jacqueline, and continue to meet daily challenges for independence and dignity throughout their lives. It is in Jacqueline's memory that the Institute for Community Living's Emerson/Davis Family Development Center was dedicated. Katie has also been an advocate for children's education and for the improvement of housing for seniors and young low-income families.

Katie is an active member of the Board of Directors of the Vanguard Urban Improvement Association, which sponsors, the development and renovation of affordable housing for low-income families in Central Brooklyn. She is also chairperson of Medgar Evers College Community Council, where she works to improve the college's ability to connect with the community, and to enhance the academic status of this educational institution. One of Katie's greatest accomplishments, however, was her election by the grassroots community as a delegate to the 1984 Democratic Convention. Her election by the community was viewed as an acknowledgement of her tireless efforts in providing voter education workshops, and organizing and directing voter registration and participation campaigns. As an active member of the Antioch Baptist Church she has served on its Board of Trustees. Katie currently resides in Brooklyn with her husband, Hervin, and her daughter, Charlene.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Katie Davis for her invaluable contributions to the Institute for Community Living and the Brooklyn community.

TRIBUTE TO JOE KENNEDY

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, Evans County, Georgia certainly has its share of outstanding citizens.

Perhaps because in Evans County people still take very seriously things like God, patriotism, and civic responsibilities.

And so, among so many outstanding citizens, it gives me particular pleasure to pay tribute today to one of Evans County's own who never failed to live up to those standards—Joe Kennedy, loving father, devoted husband, political leader, and outstanding Georgian.

Born and raised in Claxton, Joe spent his whole life dedicated to serving his fellow citizens in public life.

He was the kind of elected official people always felt was working for them, for Joe was a guy who, over a period of 40 years in public life, always seemed to be truly happy to help people in any way he could.

He seemed happy to help because he was.

He enjoyed serving people, and he was so very proud of his participation in a profession that he believed to be a noble one.

If Joe were alive today, he would surely be astonished that some people are even asking the question of whether character matters.

What an absurd question, and he could not conceive of why anyone might even suggest that a man's integrity was not the most important consideration of all.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Joe served with distinction in the Korean war and received numerous decorations for his service, including