

Secretary of State Christopher, recently and rightfully, attacked Indonesia's human rights record. However, the United States must employ a consistent standard of human rights for all countries, whether they are friends or foes. The United States should openly condemn these extrajudicial abductions and deportations by Indian, Thai, and Nepalese authorities. The current practice of condemning one country's human rights violations while ignoring others creates a double standard which leaves us open to accusations of racial and ethnic bias.

Copy of Fax received from: Sikh residents of Thailand. Dated: July 18, 1996. Addressed to: The Centre for Human Rights—Geneva. Copied to: Council of Khalistan—Washington, DC.

DEAR SIR: We the Sikh residents of Thailand solemnly affirm that on the 15th of July around 6:00 AM a house owned by a Thai Sikh was encircled and searched by about twenty fully armed Thai policemen. Nothing incriminating was found in the house. The police arrested and detained the owner of the house along with a pro-Khalistan activist named Mr. Nam Singh who is well known in the Indian Government circles as Kanwar Pal Singh Chawla of Amritsar who was holding a Pakistan passport and a Thai work permit.

The pro-Khalistani activist or the so-called extremist is reported to have been outside India for several years and was only attached to the political wing of the Khalistan movement and was not involved directly or indirectly in any kind of violent actions.

The owner of the house was cleared on bail around 6 o'clock on the same evening on the minor charge of harbouring an alien.

The pro-Khalistani or the so-called extremist was interrogated for long hours and forced to sign un-specified papers and was denied and deprived of his fundamental right to have an access to legal advice. No visitors were allowed to see or talk to him. On the following morning the owner of the house contacted in person a Thai Human Rights activist and Magsasay Award winner Mr. Thonghait Thongpao to seek his help in this matter. Before Mr. Thongpao could do anything about the so-called extremist the Thai police secretly put him on flight TG3112 to Katmandu to be handed over to the Indian authorities which is grossly against Human Rights. As he was a bona-fide Pakistan holder and had a legal and valid Thai work permit he should have either been deported to Pakistan or be allowed to fight his case in Thailand. We have no knowledge whatsoever whether this unwarranted action of the Thai police was taken with the knowledge of the Thai government or not. If he was on the so-called "wanted" list of the Indian government the Indian authorities should have gone through the proper and legal channels to have him deported directly to India instead of Nepal. The reason for deporting the "extremist" to Nepal and not India is an old Indian tact to fool the world that an armed militant was killed while trying to infiltrate into India using Pakistani passport via Nepal.

We the Sikh residents of Thailand would really appreciate if the Centre for Human Rights could look into this matter and take the necessary and urgent measures with the Indian government to ensure that the so-called extremist is humanely and well treated and justice is done with him. Please make sure that he is not subject to a third degree torture or killed in false encounter.

Thanking you in anticipation for your favorable and prompt action.

Truly Yours,

SIKH RESIDENTS OF THAILAND.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we in Maryland are a proud lot. We take pride in the natural beauty of our State, in its diverse and flourishing business community, and in the variety and character of our citizens.

It is with this deeply instilled pride that I rise today to report the recent outstanding successes of one of the crown jewels in our State's educational system, the University of Maryland.

The University of Maryland at College Park is consistently noted as one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the country. To bolster this widely held view, the U.S. News and World Report's "Graduate Rankings Issue" hit the newsstands this spring to announce that an impressive number of the University of Maryland's graduate programs were ranked in the top tier. In fact, no university—public or private—in the mid-Atlantic region and few public universities in the country scored as consistently high as the University of Maryland in fields ranging from journalism, business, economics, and computer sciences to mathematics, physics, education, and engineering.

Specifically, the U.S. News and World Report survey ranked the public relations program in the college of journalism No. 1 in the Nation. The college of business and management was ranked in the top 25 in the country. The college of education and the A. James Clark School of Engineering, as well as the departments of computer science, mathematics and physics, were also highly ranked.

These achievements in excellence speak highly of the students and faculty thriving to achieve greatness and advance the threshold of knowledge.

But the excellence does not end there. It was nothing less than the national championship for the University of Maryland mock trial team. Competing with prestigious schools from across the country, including Yale, Cornell, Duke, Georgetown, and Carnegie Mellon, the Terps took home the top prize.

Not to be outdone, a team from the University of Maryland took top honors at this year's Texas Instruments DSP—digital signal processors—Solutions Challenge. The team of three beat out teams from MIT, Princeton, and the University of California-Berkeley, among other schools to grab first prize. The team's successful design used a video compression system that compresses the large volume of data needed for the representation of video signals, making it possible to transmit video signals over communication channels, such as telephone lines.

And if Marylanders weren't already bursting with pride over these accomplishments, the Terps became the first ever back-to-back champions in women's division I lacrosse by defeating our neighbors, the Virginia Cavaliers. The win also extended their NCAA record for consecutive wins to 36.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Maryland is truly committed to excellence, both in the classroom and on the athletic field. These achievements make me extremely proud to have this fine institution in my district. I look

forward to reporting further their scholastic and academic successes in the near future.

VISION IS MORE THAN SEEING

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of us take our senses for granted, until some situation comes so close to us that we can no longer ignore the fact that some people cannot see, cannot hear, or cannot do some other thing that the rest of us do thousands of times each day.

Last year, the Saginaw News, under the editorial leadership of Paul Chaffee, the moving photography of Steve Jessmore, and the profound writing skills of Jean Spenner, published a wonderful story entitled "Blind Faith." The story detailed how the more than 500 students of Carrollton Elementary School worked for 11 months to train Carl, a lovable puppy, into a leader dog who has become the source of sight for Gordon W. Bailey, a motorcycling minister from Kansas City, MO.

Steve Jessmore won several well deserved awards for his photography in this 24-page story. He was named the "Midwestern Region Photographer of the Year" by the National Press Photographers Association, the "Michigan Photographer of the Year" by the Michigan Press Photographers Association, and won the Barry Edmonds Michigan Understanding Award by the Michigan Association. It seems rather poignant that the story of a man who could no longer see without help was so strongly portrayed by Steve's moving photographs. Every shot served to remind us that we take for granted one of God's blessings. It also served to demonstrate that even though many of us can see, we can still be blind to what is in front of us without the skilled assistance of a photographer with a vision for the ordinary things around us that are so important.

The series itself also won the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for Photo Journalism, the Detroit Press Club Foundation Award, the Women in Communications Great Lakes Regional Journalism Competition, and the Lincoln University Unity Award.

Chris Chambers, the fifth grade teacher at Carrollton Elementary, and her students learned about a puppy growing into a dog, leader dogs, and the very important training work done by Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, MI. They also learned about holding fundraisers to pay for the expenses of their dreams.

After a year at Carrollton Elementary School, Carl goes on to Leader Dogs for the Blind where he becomes the 10,048th dog graduated from the organization since 1939. He met his new owner, Gordon Bailey, who continued training with him. Remarkably, Carl, as a puppy, made a difference in the lives of the students at Carrollton Elementary, and as a leader dog has restored a great freedom of mobility to Gordon Bailey.

There are times when many of us criticize the media for concentrating on bad news. This is one time when these proficient journalists have brought us a moving story of hope, of sacrifice, of need, and success. I commend