

International have not been allowed in Khalistan for almost 20 years.

EVEN AS THE SIKH GENOCIDE CONTINUES, SO DOES THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE

A quarter million Sikhs murdered since 1984 has not deterred the Sikh nation from our commitment to establish an independent and democratic Khalistan. Unlike what is reported by the Indian government and its media outlets, the Sikh struggle to re-establish our homeland as an independent state is not a violent one. We are committed to the Sikh tradition of peaceful, nonviolent civil and political disobedience called *Shantmai Morcha*, or peaceful agitation.

The Sikh Nation of Punjab was the last South Asian country to fall to British imperialism in 1849. The Sikhs ruled Punjab for almost a century before the British conquest. A century later, Sikh national sovereignty was expressly recognized by both the British and Indian leaders. Nehru assured the Sikhs that they would enjoy the "glow of freedom" in the Sikh homeland. Mohandas Gandhi told the Sikhs that if the Congress should ever betray them ". . . the Congress would not only thereby seal its own doom, but that of the country too. Moreover, the Sikhs are a brave people. They know how to safeguard their rights by the exercise of arms, if it ever comes to that."

In the intervening 50 years of Indian government rule, Sikhs have faced its darkest period in history. Even toddlers who have been baptized into Sikhism are not spared. Last December the Chandigarh court found that the police had murdered 3 year old Arvinder Singh, along with his father and his uncle, and labeled them as terrorists. Under Indian law, police can kill Sikhs, identify them as terrorists and receive cash rewards for the killing. In 1994, the U.S. State Department estimated that 41,000 cash bounties were issued between 1991 and 1993.

Throughout this horrible period, we Sikhs have never surrendered our right to national sovereignty, and we have never surrendered our rightful claim to a pluralistic democracy in an independent Khalistan. The Indian government genocide campaign, a campaign in which all baptized Sikhs are considered terrorists, is just the latest form of oppression set upon the Sikh nation; and is part of a larger pattern of Indian government imperialism over numerous nations and peoples in South Asia.

U.S. RESPONDS TO INDIAN OPPRESSION OF THE SIKHS

In response to the continued subjugation of the Sikhs in Khalistan, Congress has just introduced legislation, House Concurrent Resolution 37 (H. Con. Res. 37), which recognizes and supports the Sikh nation's right to national self-determination. The bipartisan resolution, co-sponsored by Gary Condit (D-CA) and Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), urges the implementation of an internationally sponsored plebiscite so that Sikhs themselves could decide, by free and fair vote, whether or not they want to remain with India.

If India is the democracy that it claims, then it should allow the people of Khalistan to decide for themselves whether or not they want to be a part of India, just as the U.S. has done with respect to Puerto Rico and Canada has done with respect to Quebec.

Please join us in celebrating this auspicious holiday of the Sikh Nation, it is a time of feasting and festivity. But please also remember that there are millions of Sikhs in our homeland Khalistan who do not have much to celebrate. And think about them the next time you read something about the "world's largest democracy" and call your Member of Congress and ask them to co-sponsor H. Con. Res. 37—because everyone deserves the kind of freedom that we enjoy in the U.S.

Happy 298th Birthday Sikh Nation.

HONORING MARJORIE DAVIS FOR OUTSTANDING AND CONTINUED COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Marjorie Davis who has contributed greatly to making our community safer and a better place to live. Ms. Davis, originally from Overtown but now a resident of Northwest Fort Lauderdale, has volunteered her time, effort, and hard work to eliminate drug dealers from the community, and has created programs that have helped unite the communities with one another. She is an outstanding individual who has helped shape community pride, generated respect, and manifested hope that was once lost.

The Miami Herald recognized Marjorie Davis in a January 20, 1997, article entitled "Building Bridges Between Communities" which commemorated her honorable civic service. I would like to submit this inspiring article for the RECORD.

MARJORIE DAVIS

The whistler has left the corner of Fifth Street and 18th Avenue in Northwest Fort Lauderdale.

A defiant intruder in a modest community of neighbors who know each other by name, he would stand with his hat cocked to the side, pucker his lips, and blow to signal his customers.

Mothers, fathers, and teenagers with an appetite for crack cocaine who heard the shrill would file to the corner like children chasing the song of an ice cream truck.

For a while, whistler thought the corner was his. That is, until he met Marjorie Davis, president of Dorsey-Riverbend Homeowners Association.

The corner is hers. Has been for 40 years. She owns a three-bedroom home with a gazebo at 1713 NW Fifth St., and was not afraid to let the whistler know it.

"I'm paying property tax for all this corner right here," she told whistler one day, looking him square in the eyes.

"Old lady, get back in the house," he said smugly.

In the '80s, whistler and his friends stood on corners throughout Davis' neighborhood in the heart of Fort Lauderdale's historic black community. Pimps with flashy cars and prostitutes in skimpy dresses strutted down the community's Main Street.

Their days were numbered.

Davis, then an elementary school teacher in her 50s, rallied the troops, a battalion of proud neighbors who weren't going to let their community be overrun by hoodlums. The association—organized in the '70s over lively conversation and plates of barbecue chicken and potato salad at a neighborhood cookout—haunted city commission meetings until they got police to beef up patrols.

Soon after, the whistler was arrested.

"I guess he thought I was just going to run in the house and be afraid," says Davis, a widow who turns 70 next month. "God doesn't like ugly."

A child of Bahamian immigrants, Davis was taught to stand up for what she believes in. She and her two siblings grew up in Overtown under the watchful eye of every adult on her tidy block until the highway divided her community.

Davis is spending her retirement making her neighborhood the kind of close knit community she knew as a child.

"You really need somebody to get the people together" says Lula Gardner, a retired domestic, standing in the doorway of a home she rebuilt and decorated with a garden of Impatiens and Chrysanthemums. "She keeps around here nice."

Davis has worked with the city to make it that way, adding shade trees, sidewalks, and a citizen patrol. Along the way, she's battled slumlords, billboards, and politicians looking to build a homeless shelter.

The fight keeps her young.

"My husband used to say, 'You put this community before anyone else,'" Davis says. "I think they appreciate it."

Marjorie Davis has demonstrated her commitment to strengthening and linking communities together. Her enthusiasm and service are special qualities that make her a remarkable individual who is greatly appreciated by many. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my entire community, I commend Marjorie Davis for her outstanding service to our community and extend our best wishes for continued success.

IN HONOR OF MR. BENJAMIN EISENSTADT, FOUNDER OF CUMBERLAND PACKING CORP.

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of a great man, Mr. Benjamin Eisenstadt, founder of the Cumberland Packing Corp.

I wish to honor him today not because he began what is now a successful company, but instead because he was, and remains, the example of a model employer who earned the admiration, respect, and loyalty of his employees. His legacy remains in these times when corporate downsizing has become the norm, and hardworking, loyal employees have become disposable commodities. The company he started is now described as a "family business that tries to treat its workers like family" by the New York Times. Mr. Eisenstadt's belief was that the workers do matter and business decisions should take them, and their families, into account.

It is often said that these qualities have long been lacking in corporate America. I submit to you that they are not, but only that we have overlooked them by focusing on wealth over character. Mr. Eisenstadt showed us all that it was, and still is, possible to build a successful business without sacrificing your employees. His company still provides good jobs with livable wages to its workers. In exchange Cumberland has their support and undying loyalty. His method was simple, people are your first and most important resource: Treat them well. I am certain that Marvin, his son, will continue this honorable legacy.

I wish for my colleagues to join me today in saluting this fine and good man, Mr. Benjamin Eisenstadt. Thank you, Mr. Eisenstadt, for showing us that the way of the future is not less, but more. More compassion, more opportunity, and more respect for working men and women.