

May 28, 1995 and carried with him his admiration for space exploration. Ms. Kelly contacted my office requesting assistance in immortalizing her father's memory. She asked that I contact NASA Operations and forward her request to have her father's lapel pin flown on the space shuttle. After a month of corresponding between NASA and my office, the dream of Ms. Kelly and her father was about to be realized.

On April 17, 1998 the Space Shuttle Columbia launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center and on board was Mr. Kelly's lapel pin. Space Shuttle Commander Richard Searfoss agreed to carry the pin in his personal effects bag. Upon return of the shuttle, Mr. Kelly's pin will be returned to the family with a lasting memorial to Mr. Wilfred Kelly.

The opportunity to facilitate such a rare privilege is one that I will cherish as a Member of this distinguished body.

IN HONOR OF THE FAIRVIEW
PARK WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fairview Park Women's Club of Fairview Park, Ohio for fifty years of dedicated service, friendship, and education.

Chartered in December 1948, the Fairview Park Women's Club is committed to the improvement of the community. This club was founded by over three-hundred women and continues its strong membership today. The club sponsors many events such as refreshments for council meetings and fundraising for its scholarship fund. The Women's Club also is committed to the Hunger Center and makes an effort to donate food to the center at every meeting. The friendship these women have developed over the years through service is truly a lasting hallmark of this organization.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting the Fairview Park Women's Club and their accomplishments in the community.

RWANDA GENOCIDE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, each of us has a moral obligation to remember the past, to tell our children, to leave a written record, and to work towards a brighter future. A few days ago, the Prime Minister of the interim government that directed the 1994 slaughter of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Tutsis in Rwanda pleaded guilty to genocide and agreed to testify against others accused of planning the massacres. We have been told that the Rwanda genocide of 1994 was the worst massacre of human life since the World War II holocaust. Nearly 1 million people were killed in less than 100 days. The world knew the genocide was going to occur. Despite advanced warnings, the world community did not mobilize to stop the horror.

Today, we must ask: What are we doing to help build Rwanda? As legislators, we need to

share our expertise with new governments and young democracies in a sincere effort to build peaceful, civil societies. Today, the task at hand for Rwanda is to help Rwandans live together again. The country and its people are trying to endure after being cruelly torn apart. We must help Rwanda survive and build a democratic, free nation.

SIKHS FORM CITIZENS COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE GENOCIDE IN PUNJAB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, when the Akali government in Punjab was elected, they promised to appoint a commission to investigate the genocide against the Sikhs since 1984. They have not kept that promise. As a result, Justice Kuldip Singh, the President of the World Sikh Council, announced that he will be appointing a citizens' commission to conduct this investigation, according to an article that ran on April 10 in the "Times of India."

Justice Kuldip Singh said that the commission will be chaired by a retired Supreme Court justice, that it will begin work next month, and that it will submit its report by the end of the year. It will investigate atrocities by militants as well as those by the state and central governments. Since the Akali government took power in Punjab in March 1997, more than 100 atrocities by the state government have been documented.

We should take this opportunity to congratulate Justice Kuldip Singh and all the human-rights activists who provided the impetus for this commission. It is well past time for the truth about Indian genocide in Punjab, Khalistan to come out. This commission is the beginning of that process. Just as the world has begun to learn the truth about the genocide in Armenia over eighty years ago and the Holocaust more than 50 years ago, it is critically important that the world learn the truth about India's genocide against the Sikhs and the other minorities of South Asia, such as the Christians of Nagaland, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Dalit Untouchables, and others.

Why has the Akali-BJP government in Punjab resisted this probe? The only people who resisted exposure of these other genocide campaigns were those who would be hurt by the revelation. One has to wonder why the Akali government would make itself part of the coverup. In that light, the Citizens Commission is a great step forward. We await their report so that the truth about the genocide in Punjab, Khalistan will come out. I urge the other minorities under Indian rule to create similar commissions to bring out the truth about India's treatment of them as well.

I would like to submit the "Times of India" article as well as the excellent press release on the Commission from the Council of Khalistan. I urge my colleagues to read them.

[From the Times of India, Apr. 10, 1998]
SIKH COUNCIL PANEL TO PROBE PUNJAB
VIOLENCE

CHANDIGARH. The World Sikh Council (WSC), headed by former Supreme Court judge Kuldip Singh, has decided to set up a "people's commission" to probe violence in Punjab during the militancy period.

Mr. Singh told reporters that the commission, to be headed by a retired chief justice of the Supreme Court, would start functioning from next month. It is expected to submit its findings by the year end. He said the commission would probe "human rights violation by militants and also the state".

Mr. Singh said the people had the right to know the truth and those who were oblivious to it were likely to repeat history. A constitutional body could not probe this problem, hence the need for setting up such a commission.

Interestingly, the Akali Dal-BJP combine had promised to set up a similar commission on the eve of the assembly elections last year. After coming to power in the state, it abandoned the plan saying such a commission would only open old wounds.

CITIZENS COMMISSION FORMED TO
INVESTIGATE GENOCIDE IN PUNJAB

STATE TERRORISM, POLICE BRUTALITY WILL
FINALLY BE EXPOSED

Washington, D.C.—The World Sikh Council will appoint a Citizens' Commission to investigate the genocide in Punjab, according to today's edition of The Times of India. Retired Supreme Court Justice Kuldip Singh, President of the World Sikh Council, announced the formation of the commission, which will begin its work next month and is expected to report on its findings by the end of the year, according to the article.

The Punjab state government under Akali Dal Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal had promised to set up a commission to investigate the genocide, but it broke that promise and now boasts that it has not prosecuted even a single police officer. The Akali Dal is a political ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and currently has two positions in India's central government.

"The Sikh Nation welcomes the formation of this commission," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the government *pro tempore* of Khalistan. Khalistan is the sovereign, independent Sikh homeland, which declared its independence on October 7, 1987. The Council of Khalistan leads the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to liberate Khalistan from Indian rule.

"I would like to congratulate Justice Kuldip Singh, as well as General Narinder Singh, Inderjit Singh Jaijee, Dr. Kharak Singh Mann, Dr. Gurdarshan Singh Dhillon, Dr. Sukhjot Kaur Gill, Bibi Baljit Kaur Gill, the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), the Punjab Human Rights Organization (PHRO), and the entire human-rights community in Punjab, Khalistan for maintaining the pressure that led to the formation of this commission," Dr. Aulakh said. "I request the blessing of the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Bhai Ranjit Singh Ji, and his support for the work of this commission," he said. "The time has come for the full truth about Indian genocide against the Sikh Nation to come out. It is time for the Sikh Nation to unite in support of this effort," Dr. Aulakh said.

Since the Akali Dal government took over in March 1997, over 100 atrocities by Punjab police have been documented, including rape, torture, abductions, and murders. "Disappearances" continue to occur. The state government's own human-rights commission reported that it has received over 200 complaints. Since 1984, the Indian regime has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs.

"The Armenian community is working hard to get the U.S. Congress to recognize the genocide against the Armenians 80 years ago," Dr. Aulakh pointed out. "The Jewish community has made sure the world never forgets the Holocaust over 50 years ago. The