

won't have any effect in terms of freeing the people, but merely change the facts of the oppressors. The letter noted that in the likely event of a war between India and Pakistan, it will be the Sikhs and the Kashmiris who will be the primary victims. He called on Sikhs not to fight for India. He reminded us that no Sikh representative ever signed India's constitution. How can India's constitution be binding on the Sikhs when they have never been a party to it?

Dr. Aulakh wrote that India is not one country and is just a remnant of British colonialism. He wrote that its breakup is inevitable. On January 25, Indian Home Minister L.K. Advani admitted that when Kashmir leaves India, India will unravel. That is why India is so scared of the 17 freedom movements within its borders. There is clear sentiment for freedom within India's borders, Mr. Speaker. We must do what we can to help that cause along.

What can America do to help the cause of freedom in South Asia? For one thing, we can try to keep India and Pakistan at peace. Unfortunately, there has already been firing across the Line of Control in Kashmir. We should use our diplomatic power to stop the fighting before it becomes all-out war. Both sides have nuclear weapons, Mr. Speaker, and the Pakistani government has been quite helpful to us in the war on terror, at least until India's military maneuvers forced them to divert troops to the Indian-Pakistani border.

We should stop our aid to India to help stop the atrocities against Sikhs, Christians, Kashmiri Muslims, dark-skinned Dalit "untouchables," and others. We should also publicly declare our support for self-determination for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the minority nations and peoples seeking their freedom from India.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan's open letter is very informative. I think my colleagues will be very well informed by reading it. Therefore, I would like to place it in the RECORD now.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, January 3, 2002.

KHALSA JI: Wahe Guru Ji Ka Khalsa, Wahe Guru Ji Ki Fateh!

Happy New Year to you and your family and friends. May 2002 be the best year you have ever had.

At the dawn of a new year, freedom for Khalistan is closer than ever. India is showing its instability. The Indian government is so desperate that it was caught red-handed murdering Sikh girls in Kashmir. Just as it did in Chithisinghpura, the regime is committing terrorist acts to try to set minority nations against one another in pursuit of India's ongoing drive for hegemony in South Asia. On May 27, several Indian soldiers were caught red-handed trying to set fire to a Gurdwara and some Sikh homes in Kashmir. Sikh and Muslim residents of the village overwhelmed the troops and stopped them from carrying out this atrocity. Now India has set up another terrorist incident that has cost the lives of at least three Sikh girls.

India has massed large numbers of troops and warheads on the border. Unfortunately, the upcoming war will result in the deaths of many Sikhs, Kashmiris, and other minorities, exactly the result the Indian government wants. I urge Sikhs not to support India. Punjab and Kashmir will be the main battlegrounds. Sikhs will be killed in the upcoming war more than any other people will, as they have in every war in the past. It is Sikhs who will suffer the most, and that suf-

fering would be made worse by shedding Sikh blood for the oppressors of the Sikh Nation. We do not have a choice of peace or war. The Sikh Nation has a right to choose peace, and that choice requires the independence of Khalistan. To save Sikh lives, do not fight with the Hindu slavemasters. Instead, work to liberate Khalistan.

This is an ideal opportunity to begin a Shantmai Morcha and form a Khalsa Raj Party to achieve independence for Khalistan and to liberate the other countries seeking their freedom from Indian occupation. Take advantage of this opportunity. Fight to free Khalistan. Remember the words of former Akal Takht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh: "If a Sikh is not Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." Self-determination is the right of all people and nations.

India is not one nation. It has 18 official languages. The Sikh Nation's sentiment for Khalistan is clear. Pro-Khalistan handbills were handed out at the Golden Temple on June 7 during the commemoration of Gallughara Divas and Sant Bhindranwale's martyrdom. Ajmer Singh Lakhwal, the head of the Bharat Kisan Union, has called for self-determination for the Sikhs. The flame of freedom burns bright in the hearts of the Sikhs.

India wants to wipe out minority nations so that they cannot ask for their freedom. To achieve that objective, the Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, more than 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Dalits (dark-skinned "Untouchables," the aboriginal people of South Asia), Tamils, Bodos, Assamese, Manipuris, and others.

The Deccan Chronicle reported that the Indian government knew of the attack on Parliament, which killed 13 people, in advance and did nothing. The Indian army carried out the attack to provide a pretext for an attack on Pakistan and Kashmir. It hopes to use the killings of young Sikh girls to get Sikh to fight against Kashmiris.

India has a long record of terrorism. In November 1994, the Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, approximately \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab, Khalistan, and in Kashmir. The book Soft Target, written by two very respected journalists from the Toronto Star and the Toronto Globe and Mail, conclusively establishes that the Indian government blew up its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 innocent people. According to India Today, the Indian government created the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and put up LTTE leaders in New Delhi's finest hotel. According to journalist Justin Raimondo of www.antiwar.com, George Fernandes, now the Defense Minister, even raised funds for the LTTE. The LTTE were created to stoop a U.S. broadcast tower in Sri Lanka. The Indian government turned on the LTTE because the LTTE now seeks an independent country for Tamils.

A report issued in April by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the totalitarian "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Persons arrested under TADA are routinely re-arrested upon their release. Cases were routinely registered against Sikh activists under TADA in states other than Punjab to give the police an excuse to continue holding them. The MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "If we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" As General Narinder Singh has said, "Punjab is a police state."

These Sikh political prisoners and the tens of thousands of other political prisoners held in India must be released immediately. Even before their release, the political prisoners should also be given the Khalsa Raj Party nomination for the seats in the Legislative Assembly, the SGPC, and when the parliamentary elections come up, for Parliament. The Sikh Nation will vote for these Sikh political prisoners, as they are the heroes of the Sikh Nation. No government can govern without the consent of the governed. The present Akali leadership of Badal, Tohra, Mann and others are the agents of the Indian government and are under their control. Do not trust them. Remember, Badal promised during the last election campaign that he would release Sikh political prisoners, punish guilty police officials who committed atrocities against the Sikh, and from a commission to investigate atrocities committed against the Sikhs since 1984.

In 1947, when India was divided, the cunning and deceitful Hindu leadership promised that Sikhs would have the glow of freedom in Punjab and that no law affecting Sikh rights would be passed without Sikh consent. As soon as the transfer of power had occurred and India was free, those promises were broken. Instead, India began its effort to wipe out the Sikh people, the Sikh Nation, and the Sikh religion. The Sikh Nation must regain its sovereignty to survive.

Sikh gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India from the British. At that time, they were only 1.6 percent of the population. Sikhs are the ones who suffered the most after the freedom and partition of India. The Khalsa Panth can do it again to free itself from the slavery of Hindu India.

A free Khalistan will bring prosperity to the people of Punjab farmers will be able to sell their produce at high prices in the international market and buy cheaper fertilizers, insecticides, and seeds. Farm produce will not lie in the market for weeks without buyers as it did during the sale of the rice crop last year.

We must have a full, free, and fair plebiscite on the status of Khalistan and we must launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland. Let us take this opportunity to bring freedom to our homeland and all the countries of South Asia.

Panth Da Sewadar,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
PRESIDENT,

Council of Khalistan.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITING AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2002

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 2002

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I have introduced legislation that will remove the requirement that institutions of higher education be accredited in order to be eligible for federal funds. The system of accreditation of colleges and universities that has developed in the United States does not serve its avowed purpose of ensuring that institutions of higher education have good academic programs and standards, and it fails to provide hardly any benefit at all to our higher education system. Additionally, more effective and less costly mechanisms are already in place to protect students because no institution can receive federal funds until the Department of Education certifies its financial and administrative capacity.

Accreditation these days has little to do with academic rigor or educational outcomes; rather, it serves only to show that a school has the right set of inputs, and virtually every college and university in the nation is able to comply with these standards. Because federal law makes eligibility to receive federal student loan funds conditional upon retaining accredited status from an accrediting association recognized by the Department of Education, schools have a rather large incentive to maintain their accreditation status. This places an enormous amount of influence in the hands of the accreditors, who oftentimes force schools to reallocate resources or even adopt policies at odds with a school's individual mission in order to comply with accreditation requirements and recommendations.

As we continue to pursue policies of accountability for our education institutions and strive to do our part in making higher education affordable for more Americans, we should examine ways that the accreditation process can be changed to play a more useful role—one that provides meaningful information about a school to students and parents. I believe my legislation is the necessary first step to achieve this goal.

RESTORING BUDGET DISCIPLINES

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 2002

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, the end of September marks not only the end of fiscal year 2002, but also the expiration date for crucial mechanisms of budget discipline. I rise today to inform my colleagues that I have introduced the Restoring Budget Disciplines Act of 2002, a bill designed to extend budget enforcement mechanisms and get us back on the path of balanced budgets. I invite all members, from both sides of the aisle, to co-sponsor this legislation.

The 1990s were a decade of great fiscal progress, as we converted chronic deficits into hard-won surpluses. There is widespread agreement that the discretionary spending caps and the pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules—which were originally established in 1990 and which expire today—played a critical role in achieving this progress. Indeed, in his recent appearance before the House Budget Committee, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan testified that the spending caps and PAYGO rules have been effective, and noted that “[f]ailing to preserve them would be a grave mistake.”

The bill I have introduced extends the PAYGO rules through fiscal year 2007. As you know, the PAYGO rules require that the cost of all mandatory spending increases and all tax cuts enacted during a session be fully offset. If this condition is not met and the net effect of all tax legislation and mandatory spending legislation enacted during a session reduces the surpluses or increases the deficit, then the rules provide for a sequestration of resources by the Office of Management and Budget.

The bill also takes important steps toward extending the discretionary spending caps. The precise levels at which these caps should be extended can emerge only from bipartisan

negotiations. But this bill puts the Congress on record as supporting a renewal of the caps, and it provides for the extension of key provisions of the Budget Act pertaining to the caps once such levels are set.

The fiscal progress of the last decade was achieved largely as a result of budget agreements between the White House and Congress. Now is the time for bipartisan action to renew the budget enforcement mechanisms that were created and extended in those landmark agreements.

TRIBUTE TO COL. AND MRS. DOUGLAS RAABERG

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, if has come to my attention that Claudia and Douglas Raaberg have received the 2002 Gen. and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award. The Raabergs have demonstrated a strong commitment and dedication to the United States Air Force.

The Gen. and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award recognizes the wing commander and spouse whose contributions to the nation, Air Force and local community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive leadership of a military couple in a key Air Force position. The Raabergs received this award for their efforts while stationed at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

As commander of the 71st Flying Training Wing, Col. Raaberg secured \$11.5 million and 11 acres of land to build 230 new housing units, the first for the base in 60 years. His emphasis on dormitory improvements resulted in new furniture, carpet, microwaves and free Internet access for assigned airmen.

Claudia oversaw the Vance Spouses Club “compassion coalition,” an initiative to invite spouse clubs across the Department of Defense to contribute to the assistance program for survivors of the September 11 terrorist attacks. She was also an active participant in “Christmas in April,” mustering volunteers and \$20,000 to rebuild and repair 10 homes in a day for local disabled and elderly residents.

Mr. Speaker, Claudia and Douglas Raaberg have distinguished themselves as community leaders in the United States Air Force. Their service to our nation is invaluable and I am sure that my colleagues will join me in wishing the Raaberg family all the best.

GUJARAT VIOLENCE A POGROM AGAINST MUSLIMS, NEWS REPORT SAYS

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 2002

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, an interesting article appeared at Islam Online, an Internet news site. It said that the People's Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR) had found that the recent violence in Gujarat in which, according to The Hindu newspaper, over 5,000 people were killed, was a planned

pogrom designed to reduce Muslims to second-class citizens. Unfortunately, Muslim and other minorities such as Christians, Sikhs, and others are already second-class citizens in India.

The article says that the violence was well organized and planned long before the train attack in Godhra. It reports, that “the organizers of the carnage tapped on a seam of hatred, based on anti-Muslim propaganda which had been carefully cultivated over many years.” It clearly points the finger at the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Bajrang Dal, militant Hindu fundamentalists organizations inclined to violence which are under the umbrella of the militant, Hindu nationalist, pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), whose political wing is the BJP, the party that leads India's government. It was the RSS that published a booklet last year on how to implicate Christians and other religious minorities in fake criminal cases. It was the VHP that murdered missionary Graham Staines, yet has not been punished for it. In New York a couple of years ago, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee told an audience proudly, “I will always be a Swayamsewak”.

This reveals the reality of so-called democracy in India. It is a democracy for the Brahmins, but it is a tyranny for the minorities. We should stop our aid to India until they allow human rights and we should declare our support for self-determination for all the people living within its borders. Otherwise, I am afraid, violence will be even more a way of life in South Asia than it already is, and that would be a tragedy for all the people there. If we can do anything to prevent that, we should do so.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add the Islam Online article to the RECORD at this time to give more detail on the pogrom in Gujarat.

GUJARAT POGROM AIMED AT REDUCING MUSLIMS TO SECOND CLASS CITIZENS

NEW DELHI, JUNE 3 (ISLAMONLINE).—The People's Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR), one of India's premiere human rights organizations, said in its report on the violence in Gujarat, “The whole intent of the pogrom has been to reduce Muslims to second class citizens in their own country.”

The PUDR is a well-known independent human rights organization in India monitoring human rights violations against minorities and weaker sections of society.

The PUDR report “Maaro, Kaapo, Baaro: State, Society and Communalism in Gujarat” said that the organizers of the carnage tapped on a seam of hatred, based on anti-Muslim propaganda which had been carefully cultivated over many years.

The report said that the anti-Muslim carnage was planned well before the Godhra train tragedy. It says that the hate propaganda increased in the six months prior to February 2002.

The PUDR report says that the VHP (World Hindu Council) and its youth wing, the Bajrang Dal, organized trishul (tridents) distribution ceremonies in villages with Muslim populations. Speeches were made abusing and threatening Muslims during these ceremonies.

The report gives the instance of Pandarwada village where one of the worst massacres and sexual abuse cases took place. A meeting was held in this village about a fortnight before the attack.

The PUDR report provides detailed lists of people named as organizers and attackers.

Many of these are functionaries of the ruling party, BJP, the VHP and the Bajrang Dal.