

In February 42 Members of Congress wrote to President Bush to get 52,268 political prisoners released from Indian prisons. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Over 80,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988. More than 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947, along with tens of thousands of Dalits, Tamils, Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, and other minorities.

Since Christmas 1998, Christians have been subjected to a wave of oppression. According to the Indian Express of October 7, Hindu militants have forcibly reconverted Christians in Ajmer. Priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been destroyed, and no one has been punished for these acts. Militant Hindu fundamentalists allied with the RSS, the pro-Fascist parent organization of the ruling BJP, burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death.

"Sikhs are a separate nation. We ruled Punjab until 1849. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution," Dr. Aulakh said. "Nations that do not have political power perish," he said. "Remember the words of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh: 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.' Support for Khalistan is picking up internationally. Last month, members of the British Parliament from both political parties supported the Sikh demand for an independent Khalistan. Many U.S. Congressmen are on record in support of an independent Khalistan."

"The censorship of the Council of Khalistan's mail shows that India is a fundamentalist majority Hindu theocracy and is a tyranny, not a democracy. It does not respect human rights for Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, or anyone but Brahmin extremists," said Dr. Aulakh. "For the well being of the Sikh Nation, to prevent abuses like this from occurring in the future, we must free Khalistan," he said. "I call on the Sikh leadership in Punjab to launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation," said Dr. Aulakh. "I call on the Sikh leadership in Punjab to begin a Shantmai Morcha immediately. The people of South Asia must have self-determination now."

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER  
AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, October marks the 17th annual Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This is a time to remember and to reflect upon the strength and courage of the family and friends we have lost to this awful disease and to rejuvenate our hope through those who have survived. This October we also celebrate the advances that have been made and steel ourselves for the battle still before us.

Breast cancer ranks second among cancer deaths in women. Mortality rates have decreased over the last several years, but, according to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 40,000 deaths from breast cancer are still anticipated in 2002. In the state of New York, nearly 3,000 women will die from breast cancer this year. The fight is still very real.

More women are beating cancer through early detection and improved treatments. Experts also urge everyone to include regular physical activity, maintain a healthy weight, and limit alcohol intake to reduce your risk of cancer.

I would like to raise an issue that has been in the press many times this past year. There has been an ongoing debate regarding the effectiveness of mammography. The government's health experts have reaffirmed the value of mammography. In February, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson announced an updated recommendation from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) that calls for screening mammography, with or without clinical breast examination, every one to two years for women age 40 and over. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) also reaffirmed its support for mammography. Secretary Thompson said, "While developing technology certainly holds the promise for new detection and treatment methods, mammography remains a strong and important tool in the early detection of breast cancer. The early detection of breast cancer can save lives." This debate underscores for me the great importance of health self-awareness, early detection and education.

October also marks the 10th anniversary of the pink ribbon, won by millions to support the fight against breast cancer. The pink ribbon was created by SELF Magazine, exemplifying the great activism and support of so many. We have seen successes in the fight for a cure because of the cooperation and involvement of many communities and organizations, including the strong public-private partnerships, corporate America, charitable and advocacy organizations, and health, research and government institutions.

For the past four years, there has been a bipartisan commitment to doubling the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget, with the doubling to be completed this year. Our collective hope is that these strong investments in biomedical research, including the National Cancer Institute, will spur scientific advances that will ultimately translate into better health care for all, including better treatments and a cure for cancer.

I have been a strong proponent of prevention. One of my first initiatives in Congress was a bill to provide annual mammograms for women on Medicare. It was included as a part of the Balanced Budget Agreement in 1997. This Congress, I introduced with Congresswoman SUE KELLY, the Cancer Screening Coverage Act, HR 1809, to give everyone a fighting chance in detecting cancer at its earliest stages. This legislation applies to private health insurance plans and to the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan, requiring these plans to cover cancer screening.

Working with Congressman GILMAN, I was able to secure \$500,000 for a New York University Medical Center study on the potential causes of high breast cancer rates on Manhattan's East Side, neighborhoods along the East River, and in Rockland County. Specifically, the study will investigate environmental factors that may be related to increased rates of breast cancer.

I am also a cosponsor of HR 4596, The National Cancer Act. Introduced in the House by Congresswomen CAPPS and ROUKEMA and in the Senate by Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, this bill consists of thirteen major provisions that

address the cancer continuum: research, translation, access to care, quality of care, and cancer prevention. Additionally, I am a cosponsor of HR 1624, the Access to Cancer Therapies Act, and HR 1354, the Assure Access to Mammography Act, which seeks to raise the Medicare payment rates for routine mammography screening.

Working together, we will achieve prevention and a cure for breast cancer.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
JOHN HITE

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, John Hite is a professional teacher of science at Tuscarawas Valley High School; and

Whereas, John Hite has been selected to receive a Governor's Award for Excellence in Youth Science Opportunities by the Ohio Academy of Science in cooperation with the Office of the Governor and the Ohio Department of Education; and

Whereas, John Hite should be commended for reaching this milestone, for his devotion to his students, and for his ongoing efforts to extend science education opportunities beyond the classroom;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating John Hite for his outstanding accomplishment.

HONORING CONGREGATION B'NAI  
JACOB AS THEY CELEBRATE  
THEIR 120TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many who have gathered to celebrate the 120th Anniversary of Congregation B'nai Jacob of Woodbridge, Connecticut. Throughout its history, B'nai Jacob has been an invaluable institution in the Greater New Haven Jewish community.

The oldest conservative synagogue in the area as well as the second largest in the State of Connecticut, Congregation B'nai Jacob has a long and proud history as an American synagogue. Today, more than seven hundred families make up its membership. Led by Rabbi Richard Eisenberg and Cantor Joshua Konigsberg, both well-respected throughout the national Jewish community, Congregation B'nai Jacob continues to play a prominent role in our community and across the globe.

Originally founded by Jewish immigrants from Russia seeking refuge in America, Congregation B'nai Jacob has become one of Greater New Haven's leading advocates for social justice. Actively participating in the interests of the community as a whole, members are both leaders in the Jewish community and general society. Annual events are sponsored to benefit many local service organizations and its membership can also be found on a