

The Council of Khalistan recently put out an open letter to the Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan. They called for Sikhs to use these elections to elect officeholders who are committed to freeing the Sikh homeland, Khalistan.

Mr. Speaker, this is the only way to end the repression that has killed over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, with more than 52,000 being held as political prisoners. Some of the prisoners are army officers who refused to participate in the brutal military attack on the seat of the Sikh religion, the Golden Temple, in 1984. Others are simply those who participated peacefully in the movement to liberate Khalistan.

India claims to be a democratic country. It also claims that there is no support for Khalistan. Why not simply hold a vote on the issue, the democratic way? Instead, this country that loudly proclaims that it is secular and democratic imposes the most brutal repression on the Sikhs and other minorities such as Christians in Nagaland and elsewhere, Muslims in Kas-hmir and throughout the country, Tamils, Dalit "Untouchables," Bodos, Assamese, Manipuris, and others.

I join with the Council of Khalistan in urging the Sikhs and all the minorities suffering under Indian oppression to vote for honest candidates committed to freedom for their people. This is the best thing that they can do to free themselves from this brutal tyranny.

We can help by stopping American aid to India until all people's basic human rights are respected and by declaring our support for a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence. These measures will press India to begin living up to the democratic values that they so loudly proclaim.

I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's message to the Sikh Nation regarding the elections into the RECORD at this time.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,  
Washington, DC, March 2, 2004.

#### *Open Letter to the Sikh Nation*

PUNJAB ELECTIONS SET FOR MAY 10 OPPORTUNITY FOR SIKH NATION TO CLAIM FREEDOM CHOOSE HONEST LEADERSHIP COMMITTED TO SIKH FREEDOM—DON'T MISS THIS PEACEFUL, DEMOCRATIC OPPORTUNITY TO LIBERATE KHALISTAN

DEAR KHALSA JI: WAHEGURU JI KA KHALSA, WAHEGURU JI KI FATEH!

Elections in Punjab have been set for May 10. This is an opportunity for Sikhs to install honest, dedicated leadership. Choose only leaders who are committed to Khalsa Raj. Only when Khalistan is free can Sikhs live in prosperity, security, and dignity. Only when Khalistan is free of Indian occupation can Punjab's farmers get a fair price for their crops. Only when Khalistan is free will our water stop being diverted to nonriparian states. We must do everything that we can to free our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. These elections provide an opportunity to reclaim our freedom democratically and peacefully.

The Guru granted sovereignty to the Sikh Nation, saying "In Grieb Silkhin Ko Deon Patshahi." The Sikh Nation must achieve its independence to fulfill the mandate of the Guru. We always remember it by reciting every morning and evening, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening? I urge Sikhs to unite and take action to liberate our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan.

Parkash Singh Badal disgraced the Sikh Nation by running the most corrupt govern-

ment in Punjab's history. His government was so corrupt, they even came up with a new term for bribery: "fee for service." If you didn't pay the fee, you didn't get the service. The Badal family was so adept at receiving bribes that Mrs. Badal could tell how much money was in a bag just by picking it up! We are pleased that Chief Minister Amarinder Singh is prosecuting the Badal family for its corruption. Clearly, the Akalis do not merit the Sikh Nation's support.

Badal also broke his campaign promises of 1997. He promised to release all the political prisoners. Yet according to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), the Indian regime admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners. They are being held without charge or trial, some of them since 1984! How can a democratic state hold political prisoners? He promised to punish police officials who have committed atrocities against Sikhs since 1984. No such action was ever taken. Where is the punishment of Swaran Singh Ghotna, who murdered Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke? Where is the punishment of the police officers who kidnapped and murdered Sardar Jaswant Singh Khalra? He promised to appoint a commission to study the human-rights violations against the Sikhs. Yet when such a commission was formed by concerned Sikhs, he used the power of government to shut it down and deny it a meeting place.

The Congress Party is no better. It is the party that invaded and desecrated the Golden Temple and 125 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab in June 1984 to murder Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikhs, including General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and over 100 Sikh religious students ages 8-13 who were taken out into the courtyard and shot. If Sikhs will not even protect the sanctity of the Golden Temple, how can the Sikh Nation survive as a nation? No conscientious Sikh can support the Congress Party. It is the enemy of the Sikh Nation.

Sikhs must speak for, work for, and vote for candidates committed to freeing our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. Let us take this opportunity to put people in office who will work for Sikh freedom and will work to give the Sikh Nation a free and fair plebiscite on freedom for Khalistan.

Sarbjit Singh, the son of Sikh martyr Beant Singh, has been given a ticket in a reserved constituency in Bhatinda by the Akali Dal (Amritsar.) He deserves the support of Sikh voters, but Sikhs should not support Simranjit Singh Mann, who changes his colors on Khalistan almost daily. Mann is under the control of the Indian government, as shown by his letter to the Chief Justice of India, which is reprinted in the book Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism, by Professor Gurtej Singh. Mann has been in Parliament for the past few years. What has he done to advance the cause of Sikh freedom? Has he even made a single speech on behalf of freeing our homeland?

We call on distinguished Sikh leaders such as Justice Ajit Singh Bains, General Narinder Singh, Professor Gurdarshan Singh Dhillon, Professor Gurtej Singh, former MP Atinder Pal Singh, and others to run themselves or find candidates who reflect their views. And we call on them to give a ticket to deserving, educated political prisoners. This will help to get the political prisoners freed and will help to put people in Parliament who are committed to Sikh freedom and sovereignty.

Remember the words of Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." The time to achieve our independence is now. India is not one country. It is a poly-

glot empire thrown together under one roof for the administrative convenience of the British colonialists. It has 18 official languages. History shows that such countries are doomed to fall apart. India will collapse just like the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Soviet Union, and other multinational states such as Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human rights groups and published in Inderjit Singh Jaijee's excellent book, *The Politics of Genocide*. India has killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947 and murdered priests, raped nuns, burned churches, and destroyed Christian schools and prayer halls. They expelled missionary Joseph Cooper from the country after militant Hindu nationalists beat him up so badly that he had to be in the hospital for a week. Missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons were burned to death while sleeping in their jeep by a mob of militant Hindus chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. Since they were allied with the pro-Fascist RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP, they were able to commit this atrocity with impunity. Muslims were massacred in Gujarat while the police were under orders to stand aside and let the massacre occur, a frightening parallel to the 1984 Delhi massacres of Sikhs. A policeman told an Indian newspaper that the Gujarat massacre was planned in advance by the government.

India is a fundamentalist Hindu theocracy, not secular or democratic at all. Remember what Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple, told America's National Public Radio in 1997: "The Indian government, they are always boasting that they are democratic, that they are secular. They have nothing to do with a secularism, nothing to do with a democracy. They just kill Sikhs just to please the majority." On December 5, President Bush told me "I am aware of the Sikh and Kashmiri problem."

Soon Kashmir will be free from Indian occupation. Now America is involved in it. As L.K. Advani predicted, "When Kashmir goes, India goes." We agree with him and we urge the Indian government to hold a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence and to sit down with representatives of the Sikh Nation to negotiate the boundaries of a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Sikhs must use the upcoming elections to elect representatives who will make certain that India does that. Sikhs must claim their birthright by liberating Khalistan. Only by freeing Khalistan will we put an end to this corruption and restore control of Punjab and its assets to the people, to whom it rightfully belongs. A sovereign, independent Khalistan is a must for the survival of the Sikh Nation and will provide an optimal environment for the Sikh Nation to progress to its optimum potential politically, religiously, and economically. Let us take this opportunity to free Khalistan.

Panth Da Sewadar,  
DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,  
*President, Council of Khalistan.*

#### DISTURBING STATEMENTS OUT OF EL SALVADOR

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 17, 2004*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the United States grants Temporary Protective

Status (TPS) to about 400,000 citizens of El Salvador annually, and helps facilitate their sending about \$2 billion home to their families each year. We do this, in part, because the United States enjoys a positive working relationship with the democratic government there.

Unfortunately, the communist candidate for the Presidency, and his political party, the FMLN, has explicitly stated their support for the communist narco-guerrillas who have been attacking the democratic government of Colombia since 1962. They have also said that upon their election to office they will immediately open full diplomatic relations with communist Cuba, a country recognized by the United States as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Based upon these disturbing statements, should the communist/FMLN candidate assume the Presidency of El Salvador, it may well be necessary for the United States to reconsider our relationship with El Salvador, the continuation of TPS for Salvadoran citizens, and our current support for their sending remittances back home.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the following statement, which I believe provides a concise overview of this matter placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement. I strongly urge my colleagues to read it and keep it firmly in mind as we await the results of the March 21st elections in El Salvador.

STATEMENT ON U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY REGARDING THE FMLN TPS AND NATIONAL SECURITY

In making immigration decisions, such as the granting or extension of Temporary Protective Status (TPS) or the conversion of TPS to Permanent Resident Status or other considerations that enable foreign nationals to remain in the United States, the U.S. government must put first the national security of the United States.

TPS AND THE PRO-TERRORIST REGIMES

For that reason, the granting of TPS to nationals of a country should be immediately reviewed and, in most cases, terminated, if a pro-terrorist party wins power or enters the government of that country.

THE FMLN AS A PRO-TERRORIST PARTY

The FMLN, a political party in El Salvador, can be considered a pro-terrorist party because of its support for designated terrorist organizations, such as the FARC, and for the public participation by some of its leaders in a pro-Al Qaeda rally where the U.S. flag was burned, this taking place immediately after September 11, 2001. The U.S. Embassy in El Salvador was forced to condemn the written public statements related to the September 11th attacks that were issued by the FMLN and hostile toward the U.S.

The FMLN was created as an armed subversive communist organization that sought the violent overthrow of the Government of El Salvador in order to replace it with a pro-Castro Marxist-Leninist regime. After years of armed aggression and terrorism, the FMLN signed a peace agreement in 1992 that brought the violence to an end and led to the participation of the FMLN in the political process. The leader of the FMLN has reiterated recently his commitment to communism. The FMLN continues to participate actively in international gatherings with violent and radical anti-U.S. groups and terrorist organizations. Recent purges in the FMLN have left the party under the complete control of its most hard-line com-

munist leaders. The FMLN is also known to organize in the United States among the Salvadoran immigrant community.

EXCELLENT CURRENT RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S.-EL SALVADOR

It must be emphasized that the United States has superb relations with the current government of El Salvador, led by the party ARENA. This friendship is based on confidence, shared values, mutually beneficial international policies and strong personal relationships. Excellent bi-lateral relations permit a high-level of cooperation on important national security matters. El Salvador provides military and intelligence cooperation and is part of the coalition that has sent armed forces to post-war Iraq. The Salvadoran government is also an active promoter of the free trade agreement with the United States.

TPS BASED ON EXCELLENT STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP

In the context of excellent relations and close cooperation, the U.S. government was able to grant and extend TPS for the benefit of nearly 300,000 Salvadorans now living and working in the United States. For similar reasons, the U.S. government has not had special concerns about the source and use of the \$2 billion per year in remittances sent by Salvadorans in the United States to their home country, allowing the free movement of that large sum. The government of El Salvador has shown itself to be a reliable and trustworthy counterpart regarding U.S. national security.

FMLN IN GOVERNMENT RADICALLY CHANGES THE EQUATION

If the FMLN enters the government of El Salvador following the presidential elections scheduled for March 2004, it will mean a radical termination of the conditions that permitted the granting of TPS in the first place. The U.S. government would have no reliable counterpart to satisfy legitimate national security concerns, especially those regarding the threat posed by pro-terrorist groups and the providing of funding for those groups.

FMLN IN GOVERNMENT WOULD REQUIRE TERMINATION OF TPS

Therefore, if the FMLN enters the government in El Salvador it will be necessary for the U.S. authorities to consider all available information regarding the ties of the FMLN to violent anti-U.S. groups and designated terrorist groups and, on that basis, proceed toward the immediate termination of TPS for El Salvador.

FMLN IN GOVERNMENT WOULD REQUIRE REVIEW OF REMITTANCES

In many instances, pro-terrorist groups conduct fundraising in the United States, and special controls and restrictions on the flow of funds have been applied where necessary. Given the pro-terrorist nature of the FMLN and its ties to designated terrorist groups, if the FMLN enters the government in El Salvador, it will be urgent to apply special controls to the flow of remittances from the United States to El Salvador, a sum that is currently \$2 billion per year.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN MILLER, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to Ken A. Miller,

a true pioneer in the field of public works and flood control. Mr. Miller is retiring as Director of the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works after 33 years of outstanding service to the citizens of San Bernardino County, California, the last 16 as director of the department.

The crowning achievement of Mr. Miller's distinguished career is the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, a \$1 billion project that has also been one of my top priorities for nearly two decades. Completion of the Seven Oaks Dam, the Prado Dam and Reservoir, the Mill Creek Levee and San Timoteo Creek flood control projects will protect millions of lives and billions of dollars worth of property in Southern California. Mr. Miller was the key driver for this project in San Bernardino County during most of his 33 years of public service.

Mr. Miller lent his skills and talent to a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a range of flood control projects that have made San Bernardino County a much safer place, even as the county grew from a quiet suburb to an urban area of nearly 2 million residents.

While protecting San Bernardino County and other Southern California communities from the danger of severe flooding, Mr. Miller was a leading force behind the modernization and safety advancements of transportation routes, from remote desert highways to busy urban Interstates.

Ken Miller has been a Registered Civil Engineer in the State of California since 1973. He joined the San Bernardino County Flood Control District in 1971, following his graduation with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Cal Poly Pomona.

Ken A. Miller has served as President of the County's Management Forum and as president of the City and County Engineers Association at the county and state level. In one of his final assignments for the County of San Bernardino, Mr. Miller served as Acting County Administrative Officer, overseeing the county's workforce of more than 16,000.

Mr. Miller is a native Californian, born in Sanger and a resident of the San Bernardino area since 1951. Mr. Miller and his wife Sandy reside in Yucaipa, California. They have two daughters, Dana and Jennifer, who are currently attending college.

Under Mr. Miller's leadership, the Flood Control District was awarded the 1999-2000 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) "Outstanding Government Civil Engineering Project" for the Seven Oaks Dam Project and also was awarded the American Public Works Association (APWA) "2000 Project of the Year Award."

Mr. Speaker, Ken A. Miller leaves an impressive legacy of public service and accomplishment. The transportation and flood control projects he made possible will stand for generations as monuments to a career dedicated to the safety and advancement of Southern California. Please join me in thanking him for his public service, and wishing him well in his retirement.