

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER APOLOGIZES TO SIKHS FOR GENOCIDE OF 1984—INDIAN MUST FREE KHALISTAN AND ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently the Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, apologized to the Sikhs for the massacres of Sikhs that took place in November 1984. Over 20,000 Sikhs died in that massacre just in Delhi. Meanwhile, Sikh police officers were locked in their barracks and the state television and radio were encouraging more Sikh bloodshed.

This is a sad chapter in the history of India and it is appropriate that the Government has finally admitted its own culpability and apologized for this atrocity. These kinds of admissions are always welcome. But Prime Minister Singh's apology is 21 years too late and it is only a baby step in the direction of justice. And an apology for the military attack on the Golden Temple in June of that year is still not forthcoming.

Mr. Speaker, there are families of those who died in this massacre who have still never been compensated in any way. We know that no compensation can bring back their loved ones, but at least it can help make their lives better. India must compensate the victims' families if this apology is serious. It must also bring to justice the officials responsible for the massacre. These are necessary steps for the apology to be taken as anything more than mere empty words.

But there is something else that India must do as well. It must make proper restitution to the whole Sikh Nation for this massacre and its many other atrocities against the Sikhs.

How do you pay such a huge debt, Mr. Speaker? How do you pay back an entire nation for atrocities against it? On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence, declaring the new country of Khalistan. Since then, India has continued to occupy Khalistan. Over half a million Indian troops still carry out this brutal occupation to this day. These troops must be withdrawn and India must recognize the sovereignty of a free and independent Khalistan. That is how it can compensate the Sikh Nation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Indian Government maintains that there is no support for Khalistan among the Sikhs in Punjab, despite large marches that have occurred as recently as June demanding Khalistan. In June, 35 Sikhs were charged with a crime. Their offense? They made some speeches and raised the Khalistani flag. To quote my friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, president of the Council of Khalistan, "Is asking for freedom a crime in a democracy?"

So if India is democratic and there is no support for Khalistan, then why is the Indian Government afraid to have a vote on the matter? Why not simply have a vote and prove it? It is time for the United States to hold India's feet to the fire on its proclaimed democratic principles. We must stop our aid to India until it respects human rights and ceases activities such as the Delhi massacre, the arrests of activists for raising a flag, and the like. And we

must demand self-determination for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the suppressed, captive nations of South Asia. In a democracy you cannot rule against the will of the people, and the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. It is time to press India, the self-proclaimed "world's largest democracy," to do the right thing and let the people have their freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's press release on Prime Minister Singh's apology into the RECORD at this time. Thank you.

WASHINGTON, DC, Sept. 14, 2005.—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has formally apologized to the Sikh Nation for the genocide against the Sikhs in November 1984 in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in Delhi alone while Sikh police were locked in their barracks and Indian radio and television called for more Sikh blood.

"We appreciate the Prime Minister's apology," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "It is more than any other Indian leader has done, but it is too little, too late—21 years too late, in fact." The Council of Khalistan leads the struggle to liberate the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, which declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. "We need to see if this apology is sincere or just another propaganda ploy by the Indian government." However, he noted that the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple, the center and seat of Sikhism, in June 1984 was more important to the Sikh Nation. "Where is the apology for that?" he asked.

"India must pay full and appropriate restitution to the families and bring the officials responsible to justice," Dr. Aulakh said. "But the most appropriate and important restitution that can be made to the Sikh Nation is to withdraw all Indian forces from Khalistan and allow it to enjoy its independence," he said. "Only then can the Sikh Nation live in peace, dignity, and freedom, secure in the knowledge that these kinds of incidents will not happen again," he said. "If India and Prime Minister Singh truly believe in freedom and democracy, they have a moral obligation to withdraw from Khalistan and all the nations they occupy, such as Kashmir, Nagaland, and others," he said.

Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, has said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1948, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." According to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial.

"The flame of freedom still burns bright in the hearts of Sikhs despite the deployment of over half a million Indian troops to crush it," Dr. Aulakh said. "Last year, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh signed a bill cancelling the agreements that allowed the diversion of Punjabi water to non-riparian states. The bill asserted the sovereignty of Punjab. Sardar Atinder Pal Singh, another former Member of Parliament, held a seminar on Khalistan in Punjab. It was well attended and featured outstanding presentations, including one by Professor Gurtej Singh, IAS, Professor of Sikhism," he said. "There have been several marches through Punjab demanding the establishment of an independent Khalistan. India is on the verge of disintegration," he said.

Cases were registered against dozens of Sikhs for raising the Sikh flag at the Golden Temple on the anniversary of the Golden Temple attack in the presence of over 30,000 Sikhs. Warrants have been issued for their arrest. The flag of Khalistan was also raised on Republic Day, January 26. 35 Sikhs were arrested at that time. Some of them have been denied bail. Dr. Aulakh demanded that India release all the people arrested for hoisting the flag and drop all charges against all these individuals. "Is it a crime to demand freedom in a democracy?," he asked. "Is this the freedom of speech that is guaranteed under India's constitution?"

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. The collapse of countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It has never been a single nation. It is doomed to break up as they did. Steve Forbes, writing in Forbes magazine, said that India is a multinational, multiethnic, multireligious, multicultural, multilingual state that is doomed to disintegrate like the Austro-Hungarian Empire. "India is not a homogeneous state," Forbes wrote. "Neither was the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It attacked Serbia in the summer of 1914 in the hopes of destroying this irritating state after Serbia had committed a spectacular terrorist act against the Hapsburg monarchy. The empire ended up splintering, and the Hapsburgs lost their throne." India is doomed to fall apart just as Austria-Hungary and the others did.

"We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "While this apology is a small first step, only a free Khalistan will satisfy the Sikh Nation," he said. "We must continue to work until this goal is achieved."

IN MEMORY OF RYAN BRANDT  
YOUNG

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember former Navy SEAL Ryan Brandt Young, a 32-year-old native of Halfway, MD, for serving our country in Iraq.

Young was based in southern Iraq as a security contractor for Triple Canopy and worked with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. He was killed Wednesday, September 7, when a bomb went off in the lead vehicle of a motorcade escort from the airport to the U.S. Embassy in Basra.

In my recent visit to Iraq, Young was a member of the detail that protected my mission. His group watched over the delegation as we traveled into dangerous territory. I was fortunate enough to have met him and honored to have him protect our unit. He was courageous, thoughtful and a true American. Today, I would like to recognize and celebrate his life. He made up his mind when he was only 14 that he would someday be a Navy SEAL, and he certainly achieved that goal. Eight of Young's 13 years in the Navy were spent as a SEAL.

His mother talked to him just 10 days before the bombing, and she described him as very happy, very up, and I think we could learn a great deal from him. It was my honor to have

met Ryan Brandt Young. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service was greatly appreciated.

STATEMENT TO COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT REFORM

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on September 15, 2005, I submitted the following statement during a hearing in the Committee on Government Reform entitled, "Back to the Drawing Board: A First Look at Lessons Learned from Katrina":

Good morning. Thank you, Chairman Davis, for agreeing last week to hold hearings in this Committee on what went wrong with the government response to Hurricane Katrina. This Committee is the most important venue within the House of Representatives for federal government oversight and I am grateful for your leadership. Interestingly, this first hearing will not focus on Hurricane Katrina and the disaster in New Orleans and the surrounding area, but will focus on 3 other cities that are vulnerable to a natural disaster or terrorist attack: Los Angeles, Miami and Washington, D.C. Further, the hearing is intended to examine the local response to crisis, rather than the federal response, to determine how prepared we are to handle another disaster.

Local, state and federal government all play key roles in handling a disaster and disaster relief, but let's face it: the federal government has the largest resources and should have the greatest ability to deal with a serious disaster in our nation. The first lesson we have learned from Katrina is that this proved not to be the case. The federal government was slow to act and the disaster was far too great for city and state government to handle alone.

The second lesson we have learned from Katrina is that we have not learned the lesson from the Iraq war regarding Halliburton. Halliburton overcharged the government at the taxpayer's expense during the Iraq war. Days after Katrina struck, Halliburton was one of the earliest companies awarded no-bid contracts, to repair 3 different Navy facilities in Mississippi. The flawed contracting procedures of the Iraq war are rearing their ugly head in the recovery of Hurricane Katrina. Congress has already appropriated \$62 billion so far and more is surely to come. Yet the contracts awarded have been cost-plus and no bid contracts, lacking oversight and transparency.

There is an infinite number of issues on the federal level that seriously need to be explored. Why aren't more steps being taken to hire local displaced workers to rebuild their towns and cities? How has the merger of FEMA into the Department of Homeland Security played a role in FEMA's ability as an agency? Why didn't FEMA's Hurricane Pam study—contracted out to IEA to investigate what would happen if a hurricane hit the gulf coast—better prepare the federal response to the Katrina disaster?

As Chairman Davis indicated, however, we'll get into more of these federal issues at future hearings.

A very important local issue that should be considered today is the morality of establishing a mandatory evacuation when there are people who lack the ability to evacuate. We saw this in New Orleans with Hurricane

Katrina. Everyone was forced to evacuate, but not everyone could. There were people in hospitals and nursing homes and people too poor and without cars that were simply left behind. How were these people supposed to leave? How might there have been better emergency plans in place to facilitate the evacuation of these citizens? In one reported story, a dead body was left to decay for over 2 weeks in the Algiers neighborhood of New Orleans, despite swarms of local police, Louisiana state troopers and the Army. Residents believed that law enforcement officials left the body there purposely to encourage the residents to evacuate. If their belief is true, such a practice is truly shameful and must be addressed.

Another issue related to local government observed in New Orleans with the enforced racism that occurred through the application of two standards of justice by law enforcement officials. Local law enforcement reportedly allowed white armed vigilantes to ride throughout the city but would not allow the same for black residents. According to Malik Rahim, a community organizer who recently ran for city council in New Orleans. "If a white person was taking something, he was taking food for his family. But if a black was taking something, he was looting." Rahim further described how the white vigilantes were shooting blacks in his neighborhood under the guise that they were protecting his neighborhood, and were even bragging about it. He said he never before seen New Orleans come so close to breaking into a race riot.

If a race riot had broken out in New Orleans the crisis situation there would have become far more disastrous. How can local governments ensure that one standard of justice is applied equally in times of disaster?

I hope this hearing will address the many concerns raised and what changes are necessary in the local planning for disasters in other large cities. Moreover, I look forward to the series of hearings that this Committee intends to hold that will specifically look at the federal response to Hurricane Katrina.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF MAYOR  
PAUL B. CHOATE

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor of the life and legacy of Mayor Paul B. Choate, who passed away at the age of 71 on August 5, 2005. Mayor Choate was born on May 28, 1934 in Lonoke, Arkansas.

Mayor Choate graduated in 1957 from the State Teacher's College and taught school in Paris, Arkansas. He was also a retired biologist with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. In 1967, Mayor Choate moved to Hempstead County and distinguished himself as the first juvenile judge and helped to establish Medical Park Hospital in Hope where he served as a Hempstead County Memorial Hospital Board member.

Mayor Choate was an economic ambassador for the small town of Blevins. As Mayor, he updated the city's sewer system, helped to bring industry to the city, and acquired one of only four generators obtainable from the state for Blevins during the horrific ice storm of 2000 that paralyzed much of Arkansas.

Perhaps what drove Mayor Choate the most was preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. In

Blevins, he was a founding minister of the World of Faith Church and a pastor at the Marlbrook Baptist Church for 7 years.

Mayor Choate truly led an exemplary life and will forever be remembered for his dedication to his family, his community, and the church. My deepest sympathies go out to his wife, Pamela D. Young Choate, their four sons, David, Roy, Timothy, and Andrew, his brothers, William King and Lee King, his sister, Julia, his eight grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL  
JOHN W. HOLLY

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career and contributions of Major General John W. Holly. General Holly is retiring from his position as Deputy Director of the Missile Defense Agency, the Program Executive Officer for Ballistic Missile Defense System, and the Director of the Joint National Integration Center.

Prior to assuming his current position, General Holly was the Program Director of the Missile Defense Agency's Ground-based Mid-course Defense (GMD) Joint Program Office.

General Holly was an integral part in the development, construction, initial testing, and deployment of the nation's GMD system, which gives our nation new and advanced capabilities to defend itself against long-range ballistic missile attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank General Holly for his work developing our nation's defense capabilities against incoming missile threats. I strongly believe that his efforts have significantly contributed to the defense of our nation.

During General Holly's time in Huntsville, I enjoyed working with him as he led the development of the Ground-Based Missile Defense system. I know his leadership and dedication will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of everyone in North Alabama, I rise to express my gratitude to Major General John W. Holly for his many years of service in our nation's military.

IN HONOR OF RAY STEVENS,  
PRESIDENT OF THE DELAWARE  
VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSO-  
CIATION

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Ray Stevens, the outgoing President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (DVFA). During his tenure, Ray has served with distinction in a variety of positions within Delaware's Fire Service.

Originally joining the Selbyville, Delaware Volunteer Fire Company in July of 1967, Ray remains an active member to this day. From 1968 through 1971, Ray served as the 1st and