

atrocities against the Sikhs to justice. I was proud to be one of the 42 Members of this House from both parties who signed a letter earlier this year asking President Bush to work for the release of these political prisoners.

We all support the prosecution of corrupt and brutal officials who were responsible for crimes against the people. However, those who committed these crimes should be brought to justice for these crimes. They and their followers should not be arrested merely for belonging to the Akali party.

A democracy does not arrest people for their political affiliations. A democracy does not hold political prisoners. Yet these things are happening today in India, which says that it is the "world's largest democracy." A report from the Movement Against State Repression showed that India admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners. Some have been there since 1984. Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held, according to Amnesty International.

More than 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian government. It has also killed over 80,000 Kashmiri Muslims, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens of thousands of other minorities as well. Priests have been killed, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned, prayer halls and schools have been attacked by members of the RSS, the pro-Fascist parent organization of the ruling BJP. Indian soldiers were caught red-handed trying to set fire to some Sikh homes and a Gurdwara in a village in Kashmir. The government has been implicated in the mass murders of Muslims in Gujarat this spring and in the March 2000 massacre of 35 Sikhs in Chithisinghpora. It is clear that the true face of India is not democratic at all, but it is a Hindu theocratic tyranny.

The political arrest of members of the opposition party underline the fact that India is not democratic. Therefore, it is not worthy of U.S. support. We should stop our aid to India and our trade with that corrupt, theocratic state. We should make a public declaration of support for self-determination for Punjab, Khalistan, for predominantly Christian Nagaland, for Kashmir, and for all the peoples and nations seeking their freedom from India. This is the best way to bring real freedom, peace, stability, and security to everyone in that troubled region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Times of India article into the RECORD at this time.

[The Times of India, Nov. 12, 2002]

BEARDS WERE TIED UP, BLUE DISCARDED
(By Ks Dhaliwal)

JALANDHAR/BEAS/RAYYA.—Gurcharan Singh Channi heard the knock on the door at 2.30 am of November 7. He guessed right. It was the early morning swoop. He slipped out of the back door. From then on till Monday he remained underground, travelling to Nadda Sahib, boldly giving interviews to various TV channels, moving on to Chandigarh, Ludhiana. Only on Monday he reached Harminder Sahib along with thousands of others who were on the run after the Punjab Police went into an overdrive to arrest SAD (Badal) leaders in view of the SGPC elections. Channi is the general secretary, Jalandhar urban unit, SAD (Badal). Many more like Channi reached Harminder Sahib on Monday in disguise. They hoodwinked the nakas en-route by rolling up their flowing beards, switching over from the traditional Akali blue turban to maroon, coffee colour and sky blue.

They even got past nakas adopting urban styles. Instead of the kurta pajama, they switched to trousers, shirts and neckties.

Hundreds of them were taken out of buses. At Nadkodar Chowk on Monday all bearded men were barred from boarding buses. Sucha Singh Langah tied up his beard to get into the Golden Temple. Sarwan Singh Phillaaur, who was under house arrest, also managed to give police the slip.

Venturing out from Jalandhar many followed circuitous routes through link roads. One popular route used to reach Amritsar was from Jalandhar to Tanda, Hargobindpur Sahib, Mehta Chowk, Mattewal, Majitha bypass and then the Golden Temple. It took double the time as they traversed twice the distance.

Some went from Jalandhar to Kapurthala, Goindwal Sahib, Tarn Taran, Amritsar. Armarjit Singh took his wife and sister-in-law along posing as the nakes that the latter was sick and was being taken to the hospital.

Resham Singh Thiara, who contested the last assembly elections from Nawanshahr on an Akali Dal ticket, posed as a businessman from Delhi.

Buses entering Punjab on Monday were halted at over 40 nakas on way to Jalandhar. "It was only by evening that the nakas appeared to relent as news spread and probably the signal was beeped to relax the check after the government probably realised that it was having a damaging effect on the psyche of the people," said Thiara.

SAD members shout anti-government slogans at the Golden Temple Complex, on Monday.

TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF GUY WILLIS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fire Chief Guy Willis of the Ocean City-Wright Fire Department. For 55 years, Chief Willis has dedicated his services to our Armed Forces and Okaloosa County, Florida.

Guy J. Willis, Jr., was born in Mt. Ephriam, New Jersey on March 12, 1934, he was the son of Gary J. Willis, Sr. and Anna C. Willis. He spent his early years at "fish town," the oldest section of Northeast Philadelphia.

In 1952, at the age of 17, he entered the United States Air Force receiving his basic training at Samson AFB, New York. After basic training, Chief Willis continued to serve in the Air Force in the fire service industry and retired in 1984 having served honorably for 32 years with the rank of Chief Master Sergeant.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, Chief Willis joined the Ocean City-Wright Fire Control District as a Fire Safety Officer and later was promoted to the Fire Chief position. He has been employed with the department for the past 18 years.

Chief Willis is married to the former Miss Kimi Kato of Nagoya, Japan. He has been married for 46 years and has two sons, Colonel Guy J. Willis III, and Lt. Colonel Steven W. Willis, both of who are Air Force Academy graduates. In addition to his sons, Chief Willis has one brother, Ronald B. Willis, Chief Mas-

ter Sergeant, USAF, retired, and one daughter-in-law, Judith R. Willis, Lt. Colonel, USAF, retired.

Between the five Willis family members, they have served a total of 125 years of continuous Air Force service to our country.

Chief Willis and his wife, Kimi, claim Florida as their home of record and the Ft. Walton Beach area as their permanent home of residence, as they have resided here longer than any place else since birth.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize this special person for the example he has set in his community. I offer my sincere thanks for all that he has done for Northwest Florida and this great nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DANNY GALLOWAY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Danny Galloway of Grand Junction, Colorado. The Grand Junction Lions Club recently awarded Danny with the prestigious Home Town Hero award for his years of service to the Grand Junction Special Olympics. As he receives this recognition, I would like to pay tribute to the irreplaceable contributions he has made to the community of Grand Junction.

For the past two decades, Danny has dedicated his time and energy as a Special Olympics coach, organizer and teacher of children with severe disabilities. Danny works closely with School District 51 through a program called "Top Guns," an organization made up of Special Education graduates. Danny also works with a program called "Under Eight Can't Wait," which sponsors involvement for children still too young to participate in the Special Olympics. Through these programs, Danny encourages participation and organizes volunteers necessary to make the Special Olympics a success.

During the 20 years that Danny has worked with the organization, he has played an integral role in helping to increase Special Olympics participation. Through Danny's leadership, School District 51 has expanded its Special Olympics program from only 11 participants at its inception to nearly 200 today. The Grand Junction Special Olympics offers 25 different sports for kids with a variety of physical and mental disabilities. The program provides disabled children with the opportunity necessary to become physically fit, confident and productive members of society.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Danny Galloway of Grand Junction, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. Mr. Galloway has committed his time and energy toward improving the lives of a countless number of disabled children. His selfless dedication to helping those in need has served as inspiration to us all, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding American.