

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF SABINO CICI WHO RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS CITY COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF SAN GABRIEL

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sabino Cici who will retire from the San Gabriel City Council after 25 years of service to the city and community. Sabino was elected to the San Gabriel City Council in 1978, and appointed Mayor four times.

Sabino Cici has been a business owner in the San Gabriel community for 32 years. Throughout his professional and public service career, Councilman Sabino Cici has been an enthusiastic, committed leader and participant on numerous community and regional boards. He currently serves as Director of the Los Angeles County Sanitation District, Director of the San Gabriel Valley Animal Control Authority, and Delegate to the League District Attorney's Community Advisory Council. Sabino has also been actively involved with the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, Community Hospital Founders Trek, United States Air Force Association, San Gabriel Kiwanis, Italian Catholic Federation, and the Peace Officers Association.

Sabino's distinguished list of accomplishments while on the city council include building municipal economic reserves, creation of an Economic Redevelopment Agency, revitalization of the historic San Gabriel Mission District, implementation of the \$5 million Millennium Miles Program to rehabilitate San Gabriel's streets, seismic and ADA retrofitting of City Hall, and restoration of the legendary San Gabriel Civic Auditorium.

An active member of the San Gabriel community, he has supported and participated in the creation of exciting, fun-filled programs and events to educate and communicate the unique story that is San Gabriel and celebrate San Gabriel's diversity such as the Alhambra-San Gabriel Lunar New Year Parade and Festival, Christmas in April, Three-day San Gabriel Birthday & Festival, California History Day, Mission District Mercado, National Night Out, and Kids Day.

Councilman Cici celebrates 12 years of marriage to Kathleen "Cookie" Cici. Together the Cici's have six children and four grandchildren.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Sabino Cici on an impressive and long spanning career as city councilman and for his invaluable commitment and involvement in the City of San Gabriel.

THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the right to self-determination is the essence of democracy. The lack of it is one reason that many of us here in Congress believe India falls short of a full-fledged democracy.

In January 1949, India promised the United Nations that it would allow self-determination in Kashmir through a free and fair vote. It is now 2003 and this plebiscite has still not been held. India refuses to allow the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, predominantly Christian Nagaland, Muslim Kashmir, and the other nations seeking their freedom from India to exercise their right to self-determination through a free and fair vote, the democratic way, despite their claim that there is no support for independence. If not, why not just hold a vote and get the issue behind you?

Instead of following the democratic principle of self-determination, India has tried to continue the subjugation of the Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities through force. They have murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 85,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of other minorities, including Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, and Tamils. A report from the Movement Against State Repression showed that India admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners under the expired TADA law, one of the most repressive laws I know of. TADA expired in 1995. Some of these political prisoners have been held in illegal detention since 1984. According to Amnesty International, tens of thousands of other minorities, such as Christians, Muslims, and others, are also being held as political prisoners. How can a democratic country hold political prisoners? The State Department reported in 1994 that over 41,000 cash bounties were paid to police officers for killing Sikhs. They picked up human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their practice of secret cremations and Mr. Khalra was killed in police custody. Independent investigations showed that the Indian government's forces carried out the massacre of 35 Sikhs in March 2000.

Recently, the All India Christian Council reported that the government is sending out agents to seek intrusive information about Christians, such as whether they are first-generation Christians and how long they have been in India. This is happening in a country where American missionary Joseph Cooper was severely beaten and had to spend a week in the hospital, then was thrown out of the country for the crime of preaching. Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two sons were burned to death while they slept in their jeep by militant Hindu nationalists chanting

"Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god. Priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned, and schools and prayer halls have been violently attacked. A Christian festival was ended by police gunfire. Now two states, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, have enacted laws prohibiting conversions to any religion except Hinduism. The survey of Christians is also occurring in Gujarat.

Gujarat is the state where at least 2,000 and up to 5,000 Muslims were murdered last year, according to Indian newspapers. The press also reported that the government planned the attacks in advance.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan recently issued an open letter detailing these and other Indian government atrocities, repression, and violations of human rights. I urge everyone to read it. India has 18 official languages and it is not one nation. India must stop violating the human rights of minorities and instead follow democratic principles by allowing self-determination for all the minority nations that seek it. That is the only way to bring real freedom, peace, and stability to the region. Until then, the United States should stop its aid with India and Congress should put this country on record in support of self-determination.

I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's open letter into the RECORD at this time, Mr. Speaker. It will be very informative to my colleagues and the people of this country.

MARCH 19, 2003.

OPEN LETTER TO THE SIKH NATION: KHALSA PANCHAYAT REPRESENTS SIKH NATION AND DESERVES OUR SUPPORT

AKALI LEADERSHIP AND JATHEDARS ARE UNDER INDIAN GOVERNMENT CONTROL

We must liberate Khalistan now. This is the only way for the Sikh Nation to prosper, progress, and project the Sikh religion and the interest of the Sikh Nation. Nations and religions without political power disappear.

Our experience since 1947 has been very disappointing and repressive. Colonial rule was better for everyone in India except the Brahmins than Indian rule is. We have been victimized by repression, tyranny, discrimination, and other abuses of our basic, god-given rights. India has used genocide, murder, torture, rape, and everything in its arsenal to destroy the Sikh Nation. It has even blown up its own airliner to blame it on the Sikhs, as the book *Soft Target*, written by two Canadian journalists, proves beyond a doubt. They paid former Punjab governor Surendra Nath \$1.5 billion to foment and support terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir.

The present Sikh leadership is dishonest, corrupt, and completely under Indian control. They are complicit in the crimes of the Indian regime. The book *Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism* by Professor Gurtej Singh shows their complicity. What a shame that they connived with the Indian government before the Golden Temple invasion to murder Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, and thousands of other good Sikhs who were working for Sikh freedom. Over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered in the attack on the Golden Temple and 38 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab, Khalistan in June 1984. Another 20,000 were

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.