

# Step up probe of publisher's murder, says journalists' rights group

By HELENA ZHU  
Epoch Times Staff

VANCOUVER—In light of the findings of the Air India report released last week, a journalists' rights watchdog is calling on police to step up their efforts to bring the murderers of Indo-Canadian Times publisher Tara Singh Hayer to justice.

More than 60 pages of the report analyzed Hayer's role as a key witness in the Air India case, the threats and attacks on Hayer that resulted because of his information about the case, and the RCMP's inability to provide Hayer with the protection he needed and had asked for.

Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE) wants the RCMP to heed the findings of the report and renew their investigation into Hayer's murder.

"With no progress on the murder investigation for almost 12 years, Canada joins a very disreputable group of countries that do not bring the killers of journalists to justice," CJFE President Arnold Amber said in a press release.

"The names of the alleged killers have been printed many times, so the question remains: Why have they not been brought to court?"

Before his death, Hayer was a leading member of British Columbia's Sikh community and an outspoken critic of Sikh extremism. An attempted assassination in 1988 left him in a wheelchair. Ten years later he was murdered, shot in the garage of his home in Surrey, B.C. He was 62.

During those 10 years, there were multiple threats against Hayer for his criticism of violent Sikh separatists and his knowledge of who was behind the Air India bombings. It is believed that both the earlier attack and the murder were connected to his

role as a key witness in the Air India trial.

In his report on the Air India tragedy, John Major said the RCMP were slow to protect Hayer in a timely manner, despite the fact that they had lengthy records from Hayer of threats against his life.

After well-known Vancouver journalist Kim Bolan reported information of a hit list which included her name along with that of Hayer, police installed a video surveillance system at Hayer's home. However, it was malfunctioning on the day of the murder and no footage was recorded.

"Tragically, the murder of Tara Singh Hayer, while he was supposedly under the watch of the RCMP, not only snuffed out the life of a courageous opponent of terrorism, but permanently foreclosed the possibility of his assistance in bringing the perpetrators of the bombing of Flight 182 to justice," Major said in the report.

Today, more than a decade after the murder, no one has been charged in connection with the crime. But police have said that the investigation still remains active.

"I can't provide any specifics but I can tell you that we still have an active task force that is pursuing various aspects of that particular case and they are working very closely with the Air India Task Force," RCMP Supt. Lloyd Plante told the Vancouver Sun last year on the 11th anniversary of Hayer's death.

"I don't want anybody to be under the impression that the Hayer homicide is a done deal for us."

The Air India bombing occurred 25 years ago on June 23, 1985. After getting past security at Vancouver International Airport, Sikh extremists placed a bomb on Air India flight 182 that exploded



Dave Hayer, son of slain newspaper publisher Tara Singh Hayer, is consoled during his father's funeral in Surrey, B.C., in November 1998. Canadian Journalists for Free Expression are calling on police to step up their efforts to bring Hayer's killers to justice. REUTERS/LYLE STAFFORD

off the coast of Ireland, killing all 329 on board.

At a memorial in Toronto on Wednesday, the 25th anniversary of the bombing, Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologized on behalf of the Canadian government to the families of the victims and acknowledged the colos-

sal shortcomings of air security, intelligence, and policing that led to the tragedy.

"The destruction of Air India Flight 182 on June 23, 1985, and remains, the single worst act of terrorism in Canadian history," he said.

"We are sorry."

# People's Summit provides a forum for everyone

By LISHANTHI CALDERA  
Epoch Times Staff

With the backing of the Council of Canadians, GreenPeace Canada, labour organizations, environmental groups, and progressive think tanks, the People's Summit was billed as an alternative to the G8 and G20 summits taking place this week in Ontario.

Held in Toronto from June 18 to June 20, the People's Summit featured workshops, film screenings, and panels, with lectures on global justice, the environment, gender, and economics. It was open to everyone, and everyone was free to voice their opinions and concerns about the state of the world.

More than 100 groups from Canada and other countries participated, with about 180 sessions organized in five main themes: Global Justice, the Environment and Climate Change, Human Rights and Civil Liberties, Economic Justice, and Building the Movement. Participants were offered open space sessions to discuss key issues.

The summit aimed to build solidarity across movements and ensure all voices were represented. Coordinator Marya Folsinsbee said in a press release that the summit had "more legitimacy in representing the aspirations of the people of the world than the G8 and G20 can ever claim."

"The G20 wants to maintain the status quo for its own benefit. The rest of the world wants change," she said.

Tony Clarke, director of the Ottawa-based Polaris Institute, said that moving to a greener economy is an issue that should take front and centre at the G20.

"One of the major issues that needs to be addressed by the global leaders in the G20 is how to make the great transition from the kind of purely industrial economic model we have now to a clean sustainable economic model for the future," he said.

However, he's not holding his

breath.

"The civil society has no way of really expressing our voice or opinion in the court of the G20. The only chance we have is talking with our own government, and in this case unfortunately the government we have in power will not listen. There will be action on the street—that is all people can do."

Eric Darrier, Quebec director and agriculture campaign Coordinator with Greenpeace Canada, said that because participants in the People's Summit were not invited to the G20, "I think it is important to be with other NGOs to say that another world is possible."

He criticized what he said was Prime Minister Stephen Harper's refusal to raise the issue of climate change with G20 leaders.

"Canada doesn't want to give tough means to reduce carbon emissions, so how can we expect other countries when it is far less per capita like China or India to make a useful contribution to fight against climate change if we in northern countries are incapable of actually making significant reduction in our green house emissions?"

Summit attendee Gabriel Nicolau said he is "infuriated" with the governments involved in the G20.

"I don't agree with any of their actions. I won't engage in violence, I don't believe in it, but they are going to hear my voice along with everyone else's. I would like to see all of them thrown out of power and replaced by truly democratic, responsible governments that respect human rights and respect the Earth that we all need to survive."

Nicolau said the People's Summit provided an ideal chance to network with like-minded people.

"To me this is one of the greatest opportunities we ever had in Toronto to network with people that are doing exactly the same work that we are doing or related work, or work we can cooperate on," he said.

# Spymaster warns of foreign influence of Canadian officials

By MATTHEW LITTLE  
Epoch Times Staff

OTTAWA—Canada's spymaster recently made a rare television appearance and even rarer remarks concerning government officials falling under the influence of foreign governments, highlighting an issue especially sensitive as Chinese leader Hu Jintao visits Ottawa.

Speaking with CBC News earlier this week, CSIS director Richard Fadden said the spy agency was concerned that some municipal politicians and cabinet ministers in two provinces were falling under the influence of foreign governments.

It's an issue The Epoch Times has reported on extensively in relation to efforts by the Chinese communist regime to influence Canadian domestic and foreign policy at various levels of government.

Fadden, who later backtracked in some of his comments, said the agency was looking at ways to inform the Privy Council Office of how to make the provinces aware of the problem.

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty said Wednesday that the spymaster should provide more details.

In the CBC interview, Fadden said the agency was particularly concerned about decisions some politicians were making that seemed more beneficial for a foreign government than the public good.

Fadden echoed a previous comment from the agency that was unusual at the time as well.

Three years ago, former CSIS boss Jim Judd broke the agencies normal silence by pointing to China as the top espionage concern. At one point, he said the agency spends half its counter-espionage budget dealing with China.

Similarly, Fadden also pointed to China as a country the agency devotes considerable resources to.

He warned that foreign regimes will use universities and social clubs

to connect with diaspora and later expect favours from them.

"You invite somebody back to the homeland. You pay [for] their trips and all of a sudden you discover that when an event is occurring that is of particular interest to country X, you call up and you ask the person to take a particular view," Fadden told CBC.

Three years ago, former CSIS boss Jim Judd broke the agency's normal silence by pointing to China as the top espionage concern.

That comment runs eerily similar to information uncovered by The Epoch Times that reveals many of the Chinese students rallying to welcome Hu Jintao to Ottawa this week were bribed or coerced to participate.

Fadden said there are at least five countries recruiting future political prospects but China is the most aggressive, funding university clubs and making full use of embassies and consulates.

In a later press release, Fadden dulled his comments, saying he hadn't raised the issue with the Privy Council Office because the cases were not deemed to be of sufficient concern.

In previous reports, The Epoch Times has looked into the influence of Canadian officials invited to China for trips and how, in some cases, their positions on matters sensitive to the regime changed dramatically.

Among the more recent examples is that of Ottawa mayor Larry O'Brien. O'Brien returned from a trip to China this spring and decided to withdraw a proclamation for Falun Dafa Day, Falun Dafa practitioners, who engage in meditation and self-reflection centred on the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance, are the most persecuted group in China today.

# Land donated for 'penny girl's' latest project

By JOAN DELANEY  
Epoch Times Staff

Jeneece Edroff is a fundraising powerhouse.

She started out small, with a penny drive at her school when she was seven years old. That raised \$164 for a charity that helped her family with medical costs related to her condition, neurofibromatosis type 1, a genetic disorder that causes tumours to grow on the nerve pathways of the body.

Since then Edroff, now 16, has raised millions for charitable causes and is the driving force behind raising funds to build Jeneece Place, a home away from home for families that need to travel to Victoria for medical treatment.

Slated to open in January 2011, the project moved a step closer to reality last week with the donation of land near the Victoria General Hospital on which the eight-room facility will be built.

"We will be starting to build shortly," says Victoria-based Edroff, adding that about \$700,000 has been raised so far. But she's not daunted about raising the remaining \$3 million—enough to build the facility and provide operational costs for the first few years.

"We have the land already and stuff now but to get the rest of the money is not that hard, it's just a matter of time. When we start building we just have to make sure we have everything prepared," she says.

Famous for her fundraising prowess, Edroff has raised money for numerous charities and has been recognized with countless awards. Last October, she was the torchbearer who lit the cauldron to launch the start of the 2010 Torch Relay across Canada.

The initial penny drive when she was seven led to another penny drive, this time to help B.C.'s Special Kids through the annual Variety Show of Hearts Telethon. She enlisted the help of a local news anchor to announce the penny drive and the pennies flowed in. Edroff's cheque on her second year participating on

the telethon was \$27,000.

The following year she engaged in many fundraisers to help the B.C. Neurofibromatosis Foundation, including selling flowers, attending a kick-a-thon, and selling two pieces of art for \$300.00 each. To date she has raised more than \$30,000 for the foundation.

Edroff was diagnosed with neurofibromatosis (NF) when she was three. Her condition was accompanied by a severe form of scoliosis, and intense pain was a daily part of her life. Two spinal surgeries helped her walk—against all odds. Other surgeries followed.

Because her doctors believe she is at high risk of getting cancer, she is permanently on chemotherapy. She is the first child in Canada to be given

thalidomide as a cancer treatment, which she has taken for the past six years. Her results have been so positive that another child suffering from NF has also been started on the drug.

**'We have the land already and stuff now but to get the rest of the money is not that hard, it's just a matter of time.'**

—Jeneece Edroff

Edroff has been dubbed "the penny girl" and was recognized as such during Question Period in the B.C. Legislature.

She participates annually in Show of Hearts and the amount she helps raise grows each year. To assist her with her goals, everyone from individual kids to schools, universities, businesses, government officials—and even the Navy—have taken up her fundraising quest.

People often approach her in the street and offer her money too, she says.

"When I go around my neighbourhood, people probably hate me sometimes because I ask them for money all the time. But people sometimes say, 'Here, have 20 bucks for your charity'—just random people. I'm like, 'I have no idea who you are, but OK, thanks.'"

"Sometimes little kids come up and give me money. It's so cute."



Jeneece Edroff (fifth from left) with Health Minister Kevin Falcon (third from right) and other dignitaries on the land that has been donated for Jeneece Place, an eight-room facility that will serve as a temporary home for families travelling to Victoria for medical treatment. ANJEE EDROFF