

## STATEMENT ON INDIA

It is now two years since the leaders and thousands of members of the Indian National Congress were imprisoned without trial by the British Raj. The men and women imprisoned have long been known for their devotion to the ideals of freedom and democracy and for their opposition to fascism. Among them are the most widely followed leaders of Indian thought, such as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad--the Moslem President of the Indian National Congress.

These mass imprisonments solved no problems. They served to intensify the bitter cleavage between the British and the Indians. They set back the cause of India's freedom. And they have made it difficult for Indians to join wholeheartedly in the war for world freedom.

Every member of the United Nations must face the fact that the continued imprisonment of India's democratic leaders is an ever present challenge to our professed war aims.

Recently Mohandas K. Gandhi was released from jail for reasons of health. Since his release Mr. Gandhi has made a number of far reaching suggestions looking towards a solution of the political deadlock. It would seem of the utmost importance that these suggestions be explored as fully as possible. These explorations would be facilitated by making it possible for Mr. Gandhi to confer with the leaders and members of the working Committee of the Congress Party who are now in jail. We believe that the release of these leaders would be a definite sign of Britain's good faith in desiring a settlement of the deadlock. A settlement would be of direct benefit to the United Nations, not only in the prosecution of the war but also in the conclusion of a lasting peace.

We therefore urge you, in the name of common justice and humanity, to take whatever steps you can to effect the release of these leaders.

January  
24th  
1944

*India  
re: message*

My dear Dr. Singh:

It is a pleasure for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to send a message to the India League of America upon the occasion of the India Independence Day meeting January 26th, 1944.

Our people understand, perhaps more clearly than any other American group, the conditions forced upon India. They resemble in many respects the proscription suffered by colored Americans. The arguments for not acting upon the Indian question are in many cases a duplicate of the arguments for not recognizing the American Negro as a first class citizen. This Association continues in its belief that the granting of independence to India will do more than any other single act to demonstrate that the United Nations are sincere in their crusade for a better world.

Very sincerely yours,

Assistant Secretary.

Dr. Anup Singh  
India League of America  
40 East 49th St.  
New York 17, New York

RW:DW  
UOPWA-19

January  
5th  
1944

My dear Mr. Singh:

Mr. White has just left the country for an indefinite stay. Therefore, it will be impossible for him to accept your kind invitation to become one of the sponsors of the India Independence Day meeting to be held in Washington, D. C., on January 26th. It will be impossible for him, also, to send a brief message to this gathering.

Did you wish only a message from Mr. White or would you want one from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People? If the latter be the case, a message will be sent you in time for the January 26th meeting.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mr. White.

Mr. Anup Singh  
India League of America  
40 East 49th Street  
New York 17, New York

DW

Cable Address  
LOTUSCREST

Telephone:  
Plaza 3-5088

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA  
40 EAST 49th STREET  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

January 4, 1944

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OSWALD G. VILLARD  
DR. J. MAX WEIS  
DR. LIN YUTANG

Dear Mr. White:

JAN 5 1944

On the evening of January 26th, 1944, we are holding the India Independence Day meeting in Washington, at the National Press Club auditorium. This will be the first time that we celebrate this day in the national capitol, and we are naturally most anxious to make it a successful occasion.

We would deeply appreciate it if you would consent to be one of the sponsors of this meeting, and if you would also send us a brief message.

The favor of an early response is requested.

Sincerely yours,

*Anup Singh*  
Anup Singh

AS:HWB

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA  
40 EAST 49th STREET  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

HONORARY PRESIDENT:

DR. LIN YUTANG

July  
20th  
1944

K

14500

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RUSTOM D. WADIA

Mr. Walter White, Secretary  
National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People  
69 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Social Security

JUL 21 1944

My dear Mr. White:

On August 9th, 1942, India's anti-Fascist and anti-Axis leaders such as Nehru and Azad and thousands of others were arrested. As you know, many of them are still in jail.

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DR. J. MAX WEIS

It has been suggested that on the 9th of August, an appeal under the signature of prominent Americans be submitted either to President Roosevelt or to the British Ambassador, Lord Halifax.

I am enclosing a copy of the proposed appeal. If you are in agreement with the ideas expressed therein, may I have your permission to use your name as one of the signatories.

Yours very sincerely,

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

J. J. Singh, President

JJS:rd  
enc

Cable Address  
LOTUSCREST

Telephone:  
PLaza 3-5088

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DR. LIN YUTANG

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DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER

July  
25th  
1944

JUL 27 1944

Dear Friend:

15324

On August 9th, 1942, India's anti-Fascist and anti-Axis leaders such as Nehru and Azad and thousands of others were arrested. As you know many of them are still in jail.

It has been suggested that on August 9th this year an appeal under the signatures of several prominent Americans be submitted to Lord Halifax, the British Ambassador in Washington, urging the release of the imprisoned leaders.

I am enclosing a copy of the proposed appeal. If you are in agreement with the ideas expressed therein, will you kindly sign it and return it to us.

In the war of Asia active support and the goodwill of the people of Asia are imperative. The release of India's leaders would break the political deadlock which will undoubtedly hasten the

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Boston, Mass.

...to be submitted to  
Lord Halifax, the British Ambassador in Wash-  
ington, urging the release of the imprisoned  
leaders.

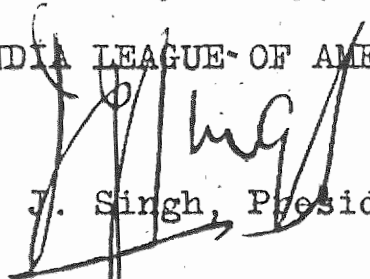
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In the war of Asia active support and the good-  
will of the people of Asia are imperative. The  
release of India's leaders would break the politi-  
cal deadlock which will undoubtedly hasten the  
United Nations' victory in Asia.

We shall be most grateful for your cooperation  
in this matter. As there is very little time,  
an early answer is requested.

Yours very truly,

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

  
J. J. Singh, President

JJS:rd  
enc.

P.S. This appeal has been prepared in co-opera-  
tion with Pearl S. Buck, Representative Emanuel  
Celler, Jo Davidson, Louis Fischer, Clare Boothe  
Luce, James G. Patton and Richard J. Walsh who  
will be signatories to this appeal.

H. E. The Earl of Halifax  
British Ambassador  
Washington, D. C.

Your Excellency:

It is now two years since the leaders and thousands of members of the Indian National Congress were imprisoned without trial by the British Government of India. Many of the men and women imprisoned have long been known for their devotion to the ideals of freedom and democracy and for their opposition to fascism. Among them are the most widely followed leaders of Indian thought, such as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, President of the Indian National Congress.

These mass imprisonments solved no problems. They served to intensify the bitter cleavage between the British and the Indians. And they have made it difficult for Indians to join wholeheartedly in the war for world freedom. To allow even a belated justice to these prisoners, would do much towards restoring the confidence of millions of Asia's peoples.

Every member of the United Nations must face the fact that the continued imprisonment of India's democratic leaders is an ever-present challenge to our professed war aims and a denial of those broad principles of human rights upon which true civilization anywhere must be founded. India's freedom is not India's question alone. It is the question of human liberty. So long as suppression and injustice are allowed to continue in India, they are a threat everywhere in the world.

Recently Mohandas K. Gandhi was released from jail for reasons of health. Since his release Mr. Gandhi has made a number of far-reaching suggestions looking toward a solution of the political deadlock. It would seem of the utmost importance that these suggestions be explored as fully as possible. These explorations would be facilitated by making it possible for Mr. Gandhi to confer with the leaders and members of the working Committee of the Congress Party who are now in jail. We believe that the release of these leaders would be a definite sign of Britain's good faith in desiring a settlement of the deadlock.

A settlement would be of direct benefit to the United Nations, not only in the prosecution of the war, but also in the conclusion of a lasting peace.

We therefore urge you to transmit to your government this request for an immediate release of India's leaders.

Yours respectfully,



CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless deferred character indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

40 49

# WESTERN UNION

1201

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

1944 AUG 2

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NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
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WALTER WHITE=

DLR 409 EDGE COMB AVE=

*Incl. Singh*

REFERENCE MY LETTER REGARDING APPEAL TO LORD HALIFAX FOR THE RELEASE OF INDIA'S LEADERS. HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED ABOUT ONE HUNDRED SIGNATURES WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULD KINDLY LEND YOUR NAME TO THIS APPEAL. PLEASE WIRE COLLECT YOUR APPROVAL=

J J SINGH PRESIDENT INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA  
40 EAST 49 STREET NYC.

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INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA  
40 EAST 49th STREET  
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Telepho  
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*Re: Halifax letter*

17519

AUG 29 1944

August  
28th  
1944

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Brewer, Maine  
WALTER WHITE

Dear Friend,

On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I wish to extend our grateful thanks to you for your signing the letter to Lord Halifax.

You were one of the 127 prominent Americans who joined in this appeal. I am enclosing the complete list.

I do hope that this appeal will have some effect on the British officials in breaking the deadlock in India.

I am sure that my country men in India must have been greatly heartened to learn of your efforts through this appeal.

Once again thanking you for your cooperation,

Yours very truly

India League of America,

J. J. Singh, President

RD/JJS

DR. J. HOLMES SMITH, Vice-President  
HEMENDRA K. RAKHIT, Secretary  
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JOSEPH WILLEN  
New York, N. Y.  
THOMAS YAHKUB  
Boston, Mass.

*Re: Halifax*  
AUG 29 1944

17519  
August  
28th  
1944

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Once again thanking you for your cooperation,

Yours very truly

India League of America,

*J. J. Singh*  
J. J. Singh, President

RD/JJS

*India League  
of America  
Singh*

October 20, 1944

Dear "Harry":

Here is a set of this week's press releases in which you will note the position taken by Dr. Du Bois and Judge Hastie on behalf of the N.A.A.C.P. at the recent conference at the State Department on the Dumbarton Oaks matter.

It was grand seeing you at the Mukerjis. Don't forget to give me the list of people I should see in India. And we must get together before I leave.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary

Mr. J. J. Singh  
India League of America  
40 East 49th Street  
New York City

WW:RR

June 27th  
1944

*India League of America  
National Advisory Board Member*

Dear Mr. Singh:

I am happy to inform you that the Committee on Administration at its meeting yesterday approved my acceptance of your invitation to become a member of the National Advisory Board of the India League of America.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary.

Mr. J. J. Singh, President  
India League of America  
40 East 49th Street  
New York 17, New York

WW:DW

Cable Address  
LOTUSCREST

Telepho  
Plaza 3-5

**INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA**  
40 EAST 49th STREET  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

**HONORARY PRESIDENT:**  
DR. LIN YUTANG

June  
21st  
1944

JUN 22 1944

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S. S. SARNA  
RUSTOM D. WADIA

Mr. Walter White, Secretary  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
69 Fifth Avenue  
New York 3, New York

Dear Mr. White:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of June sixteenth. I am indeed sorry that the question of your joining our National Advisory Board wasn't taken up at your Board meeting last Monday.

However, I am happy to note that this matter will be taken up at your next meeting. My colleagues and I hope that the decision of the Board will be in the affirmative.

With best personal regards.

Yours very truly,

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

J. J. Singh, President

JJS:lk

P.S. Besides the three names that I gave you in my letter of June 7th, the following have just joined our National Advisory Board:  
Congressman Emanuel Celler, New York  
Prof. Lewis Corey, Antioch College, Yellow Springs, O  
Arthur Garfield Hays, New York  
Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, Washington, D. C.  
Bishop Francis J. McConnell  
Mrs. James P. Warburg, New York.

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NORMAN THOMAS  
OSWALD G. VILLARD  
DR. J. MAX WEIS

*Lin*

40 EAST 49th STREET  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

HONORARY PRESIDENT:

DR. LIN YUTANG

June  
Seventh  
1944

JUN 8

110

*Tell him agenda  
long had to defer to me  
meeting will  
advise!*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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DR. J. HOLMES SMITH, Vice-President  
HEMENDRA K. RAKHIT, Secretary  
ROGER N. BALDWIN, Treasurer  
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S. S. SARNA  
RUSTOM D. WADIA

Mr. Walter White  
69. Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. White:

This will confirm my conversation with you of the other day.

I have been asked by our Executive Committee to request you to join our Advisory Committee.

I know, sir, that you are an exceedingly busy person, but let me assure you that joining our Advisory Committee will not entail your attending any meetings or spending any time in our work.

We do not call any Advisory Committee meetings but when some important issues will arise, we will communicate by mail and seek advice and opinion that way.

I am very glad to inform you that besides the names that appear on this letterhead, the following have just joined the Advisory Committee:

John L. Child, president of the Liberal Party  
Henry R. Luce  
Joseph Willen

We are planning to invite several others. My colleagues and I will deem it a great pleasure and privilege to have you on our Advisory Committee. I do hope, sir, that you will be able to accept our invitation.

With my best personal regards,

Yours very sincerely  
INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

J. J. Singh, President

JJS:rd

HONORARY PRESIDENTS:

PEARL S. BUCK  
DR. LIN YUTANG

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MRS. JAMES P. WARBURG  
New York, N. Y.

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

40 EAST 49th STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

*File*

October 13, 1944

Mr. Walter White  
National Association For The  
Advancement of Colored People  
69 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. White:

On behalf of the India League of America, I wish to express our appreciation and thanks for the cooperation and help you have given us in connection with our recent Town Hall meeting in celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's seventy-fifth birthday. Due to your cooperation, our meeting proved both successful and inspiring.

We do hope that at some future date we, in turn, may be of some service to you.

Very sincerely yours,

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

*Ruth Back*  
Ruth Back

RB/r

Telep  
PLaza 3

OC



Singh  
re: Sultan

December 5, 1944

Dear J. J.:

I held up writing the letter to La Guardia hoping that he would be back from Chicago and that I would find him free some time when you and I were also free. But my departure within a few hours and a multiplicity of things I still have to do make that impossible. As second best I have sent him the enclosed letter.

I suggest that you telephone Inspector James Harten, Cortland 7-1900, who makes the Mayor's appointments, asking him to let you know when the Mayor can see you.

I am sending you also copy of a letter from Frederick L. Allen, Editor of Harper's, and of my reply. I know when you and he talk he will get a valuable insight into India and the importance of the Indian question.

Once again, thanks for all the help you have given me in blocking out my trip. I do hope there will be some real fruits from it.

Ever sincerely,

Dr. J. J. Singh  
14 East 56th Street  
New York City

Secretary

WW:RR

*La Guardia  
Appointments*

December 8, 1944  
(Dictated December 5)

Dear Fiorello:

I had hoped to be able to see you before leaving the country but your being at the International Conference in Chicago prevented. Among other things I wanted to bring in to introduce to you Mr. J. J. Singh, President of the India League of America, who is not only a very close friend but one of the most intelligent persons on the Indian and other questions I know.

Mr. Singh wanted to talk with you, among other things, about a plan for a meeting some time in January to which he wishes to invite you. I very strongly urge your sympathetic consideration.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary

Hon. Fiorello H. La Guardia  
City Hall  
New York City

WW:RR

HONORARY PRESIDENTS:  
PEARL S. BUCK  
DR. LIN YUTANG

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Brewer, Maine  
WALTER WHITE

# INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

40 EAST 49th STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

November  
27th  
1944

Mr. Walter White, Secretary  
National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People  
69 Fifth Avenue  
New York, 3, N. Y.

Dear Mr. White:

The Annual Meeting of the India League of America will be held on December 6th at 8:15 P.M. at Steinway Hall, 113 West 57th Street, Studio 608.

We expect several members of the new National Advisory Board as well as the Honorary Presidents, Pearl S. Buck and Dr. Lin Yutang; and Louis Fischer, Vice-President, to be present at the meeting.

We request you to make it a point to attend this meeting and bring friends with you.

Please let us know if you will be able to come.

Yours truly,

J. J. Singh, President

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

JJS:rd

*Singh*

*India League of America  
Singh.*

November 24, 1944  
(Dictated November 22).

Dear J. J.:

That was a swell luncheon today and I enjoyed it immensely.

I want you to have for your confidential information the enclosed copy of memorandum we presented recently to the President, particularly the marked paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 2. I thought you also would like to see the resolution passed by the NAACP Board at its September 11th meeting.

Cordially,

WALTER WHITE.

Dr. J. J. Singh  
India League of America  
40 East 49th Street  
New York 17, New York

WW:DW

*Dr. Singh  
re: Allen letter*

December 7, 1944

Dr. J. J. Singh  
14 East 56th Street  
New York City

My dear Dr. Singh:

Mr. White asked me to send you  
the enclosed copy of letter from Mr. Frederick  
L. Allen of Harper's Magazine, and copy of his  
letter to Mr. Allen.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mr. White

R

*Walter  
Harper*

November 28, 1944

Dear Fred:

Mr. J. J. Singh, who is president of the India League of America, was the guest of Mrs. White and myself at luncheon Sunday.

During the course of our conversation, we talked about the Cripps offer to India which will become increasingly a topic of discussion in the difficult years ahead. I suggested to Mr. Singh that he ought to write an article analyzing the Cripps offer and its implications from the Indian point of view. He had already been asked to discuss this for the New York Times, but I told him that I thought it should be printed in a place which would have more lasting permanence than in a daily newspaper. Naturally, I thought of HARPER'S.

May I make the suggestion that you invite Mr. Singh, whose address is 14 East 48th Street, New York City, to discuss this with you?

I would like to add that Mr. Singh is a man of very broad experience and with a most mature perspective. Whatever he writes or says will not be propagandistic but, instead, a presentation based upon all of the various points of view concerned with the situation in India and the Far East which will play a considerable role in the future of the world.

Cordially,

Mr. Frederick L. Allen  
HARPER'S  
49 East 33rd Street  
New York 18, New York

WALTER WHITE.

WW:DW

*Allen  
W. Singh*

December 7, 1944  
(Dictated December 5)

Dear Fred:

Whether or not an article comes out of it, I hope you will talk with Mr. Singh. You will enjoy knowing him immensely. He can be reached at 14 East 56th Street.

I am off now in a few hours for a fairly longish trip - to the Pacific, China, Burma, Russia, the Middle East and other places. When I get back, in the spring, I am going to telephone you about luncheon because it has been much too long since our last one.

I am terribly sorry I did not have chance to chat with you at the Freedom House Dinner. I wish you had done the plowing through the crowd.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary

Mr. Frederick L. Allen  
Harper's Magazine  
49 East 33rd Street  
New York City

WW:RR

HARPER'S MAGAZINE

*Editorial Rooms*

HARPER & BROTHERS  
PUBLISHERS



49 EAST 33<sup>D</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

December 1, 1944

DEC 4 - 1944

Dear Walter:

I should be glad to talk with Mr. Singh, but we have a project on India under consideration - in fact two projects; and I'm a little uneasy about starting negotiations with a third person. You can well understand how this is. If a man has a manuscript already written one can express an eager wish to see it, but one hesitates to propose an article to a man when one already has other ones on the stove which one has encouraged, even though they may not develop into anything.

I saw you in the distance at the Freedom House dinner and was sorry not to get a chance to plow through the crowd and shake you by the hand. You looked very lofty and superb at the speaker's table.

Sincerely yours,

*Fredrick L. Allen*

Walter White, Esq.  
National Association for the Advancement  
of Colored People  
69 Fifth Avenue  
New York City 3

FLA:bc



*file: Indian  
Cooper  
re: speaker for meeting*

December 7, 1944

My dear Mrs. Cooper:

I have your letter and am sending it to Dr. J. J. Singh of the India League asking him to make suggestions for a speaker for your Twentieth Anniversary.

Dr. Singh's address is 14 East 56th Street, New York City.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary

Mrs. Minnie Wayne Cooper  
Malden  
West Virginia

WW:RR

December 7, 1944

Dear J. J. :

Here is a letter which I have received from the College Alumnae Club of Kanawha County, West Virginia, asking that I recommend a native of India as a speaker for their Twentieth Anniversary in February. I thought you might be able to make some suggestion and have written Mrs. Cooper that I am referring her letter to you.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary

Dr. J. J. Singh  
14 East 56th Street  
New York City

WW:RR

THE COLLEGE ALUMNAE CLUB OF KANAWHA COUNTY

(INCORPORATED)

Malden, West Va  
November 27, 1944

Mr. Walter White  
Executive Secy. of the N. A. A. S.  
69 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. White:

The College Alumnae  
Club of Kanawha County plans  
to celebrate its Twentieth Anniversary

Dear Mr. White:

The College Alumnae Club of Kanawha County plans to celebrate its Twentieth Anniversary in February 1945.

We are intensely interested in India, and would like to secure a native of India, preferably a woman, as our guest speaker for the occasion.

Upon the suggestion of Mrs.  
T. G. Nutter, founder of the club,  
I am writing to ask if you  
know of any Indians (preferably  
women) in this country, whom  
we might secure as a speaker.

I will indeed appreciate  
an early reply, if possible.

Very truly yours,

(Mrs.) Minnie Hayne Cooper, Pres.