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NEWS RELEASE

BOMBING OF AIR INDIA FLIGHT

D. Hayer: On June 23, 1985, the worst mass murder in Canadian history occurred: the bombing of Air India flight 182 by terrorists. It is quite clear that most of these terrorists were from British Columbia. According to many investigations, the bomb used was developed right here on Vancouver Island, and there is no doubt that it was loaded on an aircraft in Vancouver.

On that fateful day, June 23, 1985, at 31,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean near Ireland, the Boeing 747 — with 329 men, women and children on board, mostly Canadian citizens — was blown out of the skies. On the other side of the globe, almost at the same time, at the Narita airport in Japan, two baggage handlers were blown up by a similar bomb, also loaded on a plane in Vancouver.

This dark day in Canada's history will be forever remembered. The victims of this terror were not simply the 331 persons murdered but thousands of family members who still agree that they have not yet found closure or justice for the loss of their loved ones.

I speak of this from my personal viewpoint. My father was also a victim — a victim after the fact but a victim nonetheless. It is clear that he was murdered to ensure his silence. The rights to justice have not been fulfilled. We ask all the members and all the levels of government to work hard and pass laws that protects the rights of victims.

On June 23, I ask all members of this House and all Canadians across this land to remember for a moment the terrible act of terrorism and all those innocent victims who have not seen justice for 25 years, and also to work to make sure the rights of victims and the innocent in society are more important and protected than the rights of criminals.