



SIKH FEDERATION (UK)

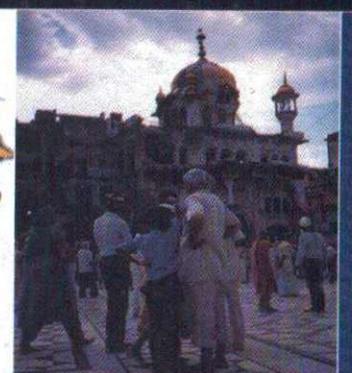
The first and only Sikh Political Party in the UK

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2003-2004



SIKH FEDERATION (UK)

The first and only Sikh Political Party in the UK



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The National Council of Gurdwaras is a non-profit making organisation for all Gurdwaras in the United Kingdom. It was established in September 2003 at last year's National Sikh Convention and was essential in response to the UK Government's desire for more organisations to represent Sikh grass-roots opinion.

Oliver Letwin MP, Shadow Home Secretary speaking at the National Sikh Convention in September 2003 said:

"I mentioned earlier that the announcement of the establishment of the Sikh Federation is good news for Sikhs and good news for Britain. Similarly your other two announcements today concerning the establishment of the National Council of Gurdwaras and the new Sikh Advisory Group are both positive developments. You are showing a determination to act as a cohesive force. You are bringing the Sikh community together to ensure that you are best placed to work with the grain of political and social institutions in this country."

All Gurdwaras in the United Kingdom are automatically members of the National Council of Gurdwaras. Gurdwaras become full members on paying their annual subscription, otherwise they remain associate members. At present the National Council of Gurdwaras represents some 235 Gurdwaras in the UK.

The National Council of Gurdwaras aims to represent the Sangat on all relevant matters involving the UK Government that directly impact on Gurdwaras and the Sangat. Some of the events and campaigns involving the National Council of Gurdwaras in the last 12 months have included:

- National Sikh Convention - September 2003
- Sikh Lobby Day in Parliament - November 2003
- Freedom of religious expression in French schools - January 2004
 - Meeting at the French Embassy
 - Silent protest outside the French Embassy
 - Organising coaches for Sangat to travel and join the Sikh protest in Paris
- "Big Conversation" meeting with the Labour Party - February 2004
- Vaisakhi celebrations at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office - April 2004
- Meeting with the Minister for Transport concerning the right of Sikh airport workers to wear the Kirpan - April 2004
- Arranging for Sangat to participate in the "Rally and march for remembrance, justice and freedom" in central London - June 2004
- Commenting on the revised statutory Code of Practice on Racial Equality in Employment - August 2004
- Northampton Gurdwara and respect for Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji - August 2004
- Meeting the UK Passport Service concerning the right of Sikhs to wear the Kirpan when entering Government buildings - September 2004
- British Library and respect for Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji - September 2004

For further information contact Daljit Singh Shergill on 07931 147523



The first and only Sikh Political Party in the UK

	Page
Launch of the Sikh Federation (UK)	4 - 5
British Sikhs and the establishment	7 - 8
Separate recognition and monitoring of Sikhs	10 - 11
Dealing with challenges to the Sikh identity	13 - 19
Sikh Agenda for the UK Government (revised)	19 - 21
1 year campaign to commemorate 1984	22 - 26
British MPs exposing Indian injustices	27 - 29
Sikhs right to self determination	30 - 32
Action on other fronts . . .	33 - 35
Federation's response to developments in India	36 - 37
The year ahead . . .	39
Sikh Federation (UK) and how to join	40 - 41
Why Khalistan?	42

LAUNCH OF THE SIKH FEDERATION (UK)

British Sikhs find voice in political party

By Dominic Casciani, BBC News Online, September 2003



Thousands of Sikhs are holding a conference in the UK to establish their own political party - but they also want to end the stereotype of the "community leader" which they say stops real voices being heard.

They may form one of the most visible minorities in the UK, but Britain's Sikh community has decided it is time they shouted a little louder.

This weekend thousands of Sikhs are taking part in a three-day conference in Wolverhampton to chart the future course of their community's voice in British politics and society.

It is excellent news that the Convention today has announced the creation of a new national Sikh organisation, the Sikh Federation (UK). It is good that you have decided to work with the mainstream parties. As a cohesive organisation you will have a better chance of achieving not just proper recognition of Sikhs, but a host of other objectives.

The announcement of the establishment of the Sikh Federation (UK) is good news for Sikhs and good news for Britain. You are showing a determination to act as a cohesive force. You are bringing the Sikh community together to ensure that you are best placed to work with the grain of political and social institutions in this country. The work that you do has never been more important.

By organising this event today and coming here in such vast numbers you are showing your commitment to public life and a determination to lead by example. I am told that the Guru Nanak said that: "Truth is higher than everything, but higher still is truthful living". As I think of the loss of integrity in our public life, I can think of no better message to take back to Westminster.



Oliver Letwin MP, Shadow Home Secretary
Speaking at the launch of the Sikh Federation (UK) in September 2003

Liz Lynne MEP addressed the National Sikh Convention in Wolverhampton and welcomed the establishment of the Sikh Federation (UK), a new political body intended to represent the interests of Britain's Sikh community. The Sikh Federation intends to campaign to raise awareness of issues that are of importance to the Sikh community. In particular, they are campaigning to have Sikhs recognised as a distinct ethnic community by the government and other official bodies.

Speaking after the Convention, Liz said, "British Sikhs have made an outstanding contribution to the wealth and diversity of the UK. By organising in such a way they demonstrate their commitment to participating more effectively in the political process."



Liz Lynne MEP
Liberal Democrats Focus Magazine, October 2003

Sikhs Launch Political Party

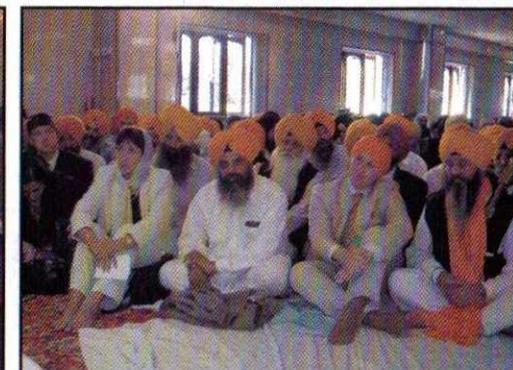
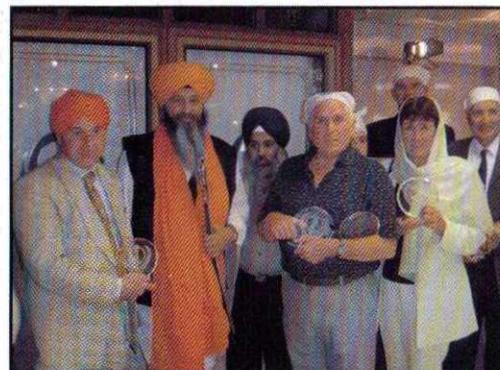
By Nick Britten, 11 September 2003

The Daily Telegraph

The launch of the first political party for British Sikhs is being accompanied by a warning that the Government could cause huge damage in Labour heartlands unless the wishes of Sikhs are taken more seriously.

The Sikh Federation (UK) will set up branches in each major town and city with a sizeable Sikh population. It will not initially put up its own candidates for local, national and European elections, but it intends to back any party that best represents its members.

A spokesman said: "I can name a dozen Labour ministers who have a large number of Sikhs in their constituencies and what the Sikh Federation is there for is to say that unless you start helping us and taking our issues seriously we will not vote for you."



New UK Sikh Party Espouses Khalistan

By Trevor Barnard in London, Asian News International

A "religious-political" party committed to working for the establishment of an independent sovereign Sikh state of Khalistan has been set up by a group of British Sikhs. A resolution to this effect was adopted at a "national convention" attended by an estimated 10,000 Sikhs in the Midlands town of Wolverhampton last week-end. The new organisation is called the Sikh Federation (UK).

The Federation, based on the Sikh "miri-piri" principle - the principle that temporal and spiritual goals are indivisible - will take an increasing interest in mainstream UK politics, but does not envisage putting up its own candidates at either the national or local level.

Rather it will work closely with the main political parties to promote Sikh issues, and will offer support to politicians who take up these issues. It plans to set up branches in each major town or city that has a sizeable Sikh population, drawing its membership from individuals and affiliated organisations committed to the miri-piri principle.

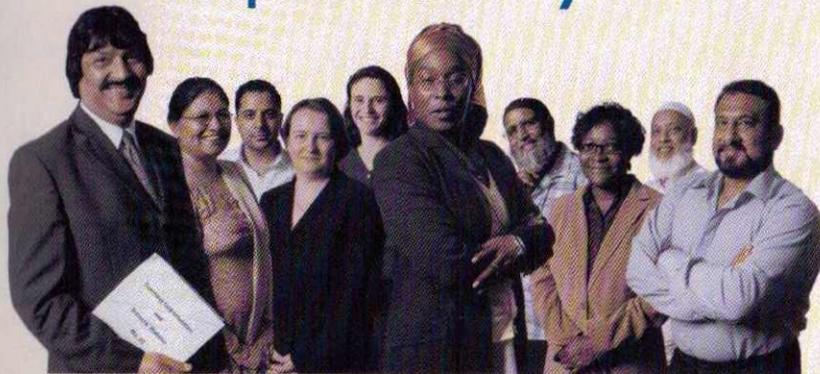
The three key areas of work are stated to be: to promote the Sikh religion, philosophy and way of life; to campaign for human rights issues impacting on Sikhs in the UK and abroad; and to "argue the case for the Sikhs' right to self-determination, lobbying politicians, the UK government, official representatives of foreign governments in the UK, the European Parliament and at the UN for the establishment of an independent sovereign Sikh State of Khalistan".



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BRITISH SIKHS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT

"British Sikhs and the establishment" is the first item in the Sikh Agenda for the UK Government originally unveiled in September 2001. It primarily relates to greater participation and improved representation of the Sikh community in British institutions and politics. The launch of the Sikh Federation (UK) last year was in itself a major development aimed at improving the participation of Sikhs in local and national decision making bodies and in the political sphere. Events during the last 12 months directly associated with this issue are set out below:

Election of first Sikh Liberal Democrat MP



The recent by-election victory by Parmjit Singh Gill in Leicester South was warmly welcomed by the Sikh Federation (UK) as it resulted in greater political representation for Sikhs. He became the first Liberal Democrat MP from an ethnic minority.

Speaking at a Sikh Federation (UK) organised event in April and prior to his election Parmjit Singh made it clear that he supported the British Sikh community on key issues such as those relating to the separate recognition and monitoring of Sikhs, the need to highlight human rights abuses perpetrated against Sikhs and the Sikhs right to self determination. Parmjit Singh will need to make a big impact in the next 9-12 months if he is to be re-elected.

The ethnic vote in Leicester South played a major part in determining the final outcome. In the past 12 months the Sikh Federation (UK) has developed an extensive network of Sikh political activists across the UK that cover over 300 Parliamentary constituencies and well placed to influence candidates during next years' General Election.

"Big Conversation" with Sikh representatives

In February 2004 representatives of the Sikh Federation (UK) were invited by the Labour Party Chair, Ian McCartney MP to take part in a special seminar as part of the "Big Conversation." "Connecting politics and people" was the main theme for discussions with Ministers (Rt. Hon. John Reid and Fiona Mactaggart MP) and Labour MPs (John Battle and Parmjit Singh Dhanda). This provided an excellent opportunity to explain the developments in the Sikh community in the last few years. Specific issues covered included:

- The Sikh Agenda for the UK Government and Government recognition of the changing face of Sikh representation
- Disappointment in the superficial approach by the Home Office to the review of interface between the Government and Sikhs
- UK Government pressure on France on the right of Sikhs to wear the turban in French schools
- Positive action by the UK Government on the separate recognition and monitoring of Sikhs
- The relationship between the UK Government and India from a British Sikh perspective with regards to India's appalling human rights record and the provision of British humanitarian aid



Evidence to the Committee on Standards in Public Life

In June 2004 Sikh representatives gave evidence at a public hearing of the Committee on Standards in Public Life chaired by Sir Alistair Graham. Sikh representatives gave evidence for about 40 minutes on the issue of the lack of public appointments for members of the Sikh community. Many points were raised including:

- the importance of separate monitoring of Sikhs by public bodies so you know where you are and where you are going
- the Commissioner for Public Appointments observation that the perception of people on public bodies is that they were "male, pale and stale"
- using Gurdwaras to target and communicate more effectively with the Sikh community

*Standards in
Public Life*

Changing face of Sikh representation in politics!

There has been a gradual shift in Sikh representation in each of the main political parties in the last twelve months. Traditionally, the Labour Party has dominated in terms of Sikh representation claiming it is the only party with a Sikh MEP, a Sikh Lord, several Sikh MPs and many Sikh councillors. However, the recent by-election in Leicester South and the local and European elections may be an indication that the political map is changing.



MEPs - Labour can still claim to be the only party with a Sikh MEP with Neena Gill's success at the recent European Parliamentary elections.

Lords - Labour Lord King (Tarsem Singh Kang) remains the only Sikh Lord. However, it is rumoured that in the next couple of years the Lords will see several new Sikh Lords, perhaps even the first ever practising Sikh.

MPs - The Liberal Democrats are to be congratulated in now having its first Sikh MP. The prospective candidates known for the next General Election and lack of progress on developing and implementing appropriate Sikh "friendly" policies suggests the Labour Party may be going backwards while the opposition parties are making steady progress.

Councillors - Following the most recent local council elections the number of Labour Sikh councillors has fallen in towns such as Slough, Hounslow, Barking, Greenwich, Newham, Lewisham and Sandwell. The number of Liberal Democrat Sikh councillors has increased and for the first time ever there now are several Conservative Sikh councillors.



Nina Gill MEP, West Midlands

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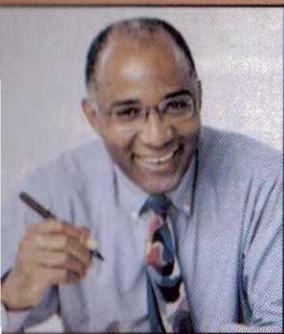
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SEPARATE RECOGNITION AND MONITORING OF SIKHS

Meeting with Trevor Phillips, the Chair of the CRE

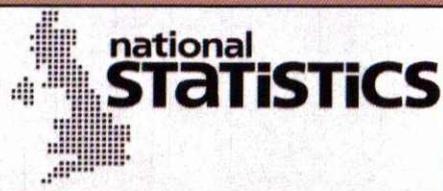


At the National Sikh Convention last year Oliver Letwin MP, the Shadow Home Secretary speaking about the issue of separate recognition and monitoring of Sikhs said: "we are determined to pursue this issue" and that it will be "top of my agenda" when I meet Trevor Phillips.

In early October a meeting took place with Trevor Phillips at the Conservative Party Conference in Blackpool. The ludicrous situation as regards the lack of separate monitoring of Sikhs was explained and Trevor Phillips agreed that Sikhs appeared to have been treated unfairly and was sympathetic to a change of approach. He agreed to look into the scope for changing the Statutory Code of Practice as public authorities should not simply hide behind the Census 2001 categories as regards the need to monitor Sikhs for the provision of public services.

National Statistician meets Sikh organisers on Lobby Day

Len Cook, the National Statistician and Chief Executive of the Office for National Statistics (ONS), met with Sikhs at the Sikh Lobby Day at the Houses of Parliament in November 2003.



The lobby organisers from the Sikh Secretariat, Sikh Federation (UK) and National Council of Gurdwaras that were launching a year long campaign for justice for 1984 met with Len Cook before the lobby commenced. The ONS Chief Executive said he would be getting together with the CRE Chair and taking practical measures as soon as possible to implement the Sikh demand for separate recognition and monitoring of Sikhs.

India admits opposing Sikhs on separate monitoring

In January this year the truth eventually emerged on Indian Government interference and opposition to the separate recognition and monitoring of Sikhs. Over the last few years British Sikhs have mounted a high profile campaign on this issue and despite winning widespread support and countering all arguments in opposition, it appeared the only stumbling block may be opposition from the Indian authorities.

A Parliamentary Question was therefore put down at the request of the Sikh Secretariat. In its response the UK Government denied "official" approaches by the Indian authorities opposing the separate recognition and monitoring of Sikhs.

However, following media pressure Indian High Commission officials went public towards the start of the year. Navdeep Suri, Counsellor for Press and Information in the Indian High Commission told the press in London that "they strongly oppose the idea and they have been lobbying against such a move."

The Indian authorities are attempting to undermine the hard fought and historic *Mandla v Lee* victory in the House of Lords in 1983. Since that date Sikhs have been explicitly recognised by the British courts as constituting a racial group and protected from unlawful racial discrimination. The problem is public bodies are failing the Sikhs by not separately recognising and monitoring Sikhs.



Navdeep Suri

Counsellor for Press and Information, Indian High Commission

The admission by Navdeep Suri who has just returned to India to take up responsibilities at the Ministry of External Affairs is important for all Sikhs to note. It demonstrates the Indian authorities are opposed to greater rights for Sikhs and is another example that Sikhs must have their own independent sovereign State, which protects and promotes Sikh interests at home and abroad.

Senior politicians from each of the main political parties have already joined Sikhs to submit a petition to 10 Downing Street signed by around 200 Sikh organisations. The Statutory Code of Practice on the Duty to Promote Race Equality does not offer proper protection from unlawful racial discrimination as it does not require "public authorities" to separately monitor Sikhs. Over 200 MPs from all political parties, including many Ministers and members of the Shadow Cabinet, have also indicated support for Sikhs to be recognised and separately monitored.



The British Government must now decide whether to listen to a paranoid foreign government that does not tolerate any interference in Indian affairs or law abiding British citizens and elected representatives that wish to ensure race equality policies are fairly applied to Sikhs living in the UK.

Revised statutory Code of Practice on Race Equality in Employment



The CRE has just completed consultation on its revised statutory Code of Practice on Racial Equality in Employment. A number of Sikh organisations, including the Sikh Federation (UK), Sikh Secretariat, National Council of Gurdwaras, British Sikh Federation and Sikhs in England submitted comments to the CRE by its 6 August 2004 deadline. The CRE has been urged to amend the Draft Statutory Code of Practice on Race Equality in Employment and in due course amend the Statutory Code of Practice on the Duty to Promote Race Equality to ensure employers and public authorities monitor Sikhs as a separate ethnic category.

The revised code of practice aims to set standards for achieving racial equality in employment and makes recommendations on the practical steps employers need to take to prevent unlawful racial discrimination and ensure equality of opportunity in employment between workers and job applicants from different racial groups. The code also includes guidance in relation to the provision of services specifically covered by the Race Relations Act, and advice for workers on their rights and responsibilities.

As a statutory code, the revised Code of Practice on Racial Equality in Employment will be approved by Parliament, and its recommendations used by employment tribunals and the higher courts in any legal proceedings brought under the Race Relations Act.

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DEALING WITH CHALLENGES TO THE SIKH IDENTITY

Since 9/11 Sikhs have faced numerous challenges in the West as regards the Sikh identity and the need for greater awareness about Sikhs. In the last 12 months much of the ignorance and challenges have concerned the Sikh Turban (or Dastaar) and Kirpan. The main areas where the Sikh Federation (UK) has been actively involved are shown below:

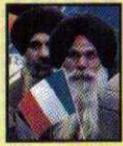
Prince Philip condemned for remarks about Sikh Turban

In December 2003 at a reception at Buckingham Palace the Duke of Edinburgh made an offensive comment to a Sikh police officer about his turban. This was widely reported in the national press. When approached by the media the Federation described Prince Philip's comments as outrageous. A Federation spokesperson was quoted as saying:



"His remarks are indicative of the lack of awareness among the Royals and other British people about the Sikh faith. It highlights there needs to be much greater awareness. For Sikhs the turban and the actual growing of the hair is a very important sign of faith and religion and the Prince's comments are shocking to say the least. Prince Philip and the Royal family should know better. Sikhs fought in both World Wars for the British and many wore turbans. The Royals are in a position of authority and should not be making such bold, provocative and insensitive comments."

Freedom of religious expression in French schools



The Turban or Dastaar issue concerning Sikh children in French schools has been a high profile Sikh identity issue for the last 10 months. The Sikh Federation (UK) has maintained a robust stand on this issue as it not only directly impacts on Sikh children in France, but the wider subject of freedom of religious expression as a fundamental human right for all throughout Europe.

Federation condemns those misrepresenting the Dastaar

The Sikh Federation (UK) took the lead in criticising so-called Sikh representatives that lacked vision and a long term strategy by suggesting it was simply sufficient to negotiate a possible exemption for Sikh children in France, on the basis that the Dastaar had no religious significance. The Federation was instrumental in highlighting the falsehood and stupidity of this approach and the highly dangerous suggestion that the Sikh turban (dastaar) had no religious significance, but only a cultural significance.



UK Sikhs rally against French ban

Times of India, 16 January 2004

Hundreds of British Sikhs will take to the streets here on Saturday, alongside Muslims and Jews, in Europe's first inter-faith public campaign against a controversial French law. The Sikhs are the smallest minority affected by the proposed ban, but their Europe-wide campaign has been the loudest.

Many say it points to a growing assertiveness within a largely peaceful, prosperous and increasingly politically conscious community. Hectic political lobbying across Europe is being spearheaded by the Sikh Federation (UK), Britain's first Sikh political party, which openly espouses Khalistani sentiments.



Federation gets backing for campaign from MPs

The Sikh Federation (UK) used its extensive political contacts to gain political support from UK MPs over this issue. In the British Parliament over 80 MPs signed Early Day Motion 461 - Religious symbols in French schools, which is reproduced below:



Early Day Motion 461 - Religious symbols in French schools

That this House notes proposals to ban noticeable religious symbols in French schools; recognises the importance of wearing certain items as a sign of faith, such as the Muslim hijab, Sikh turban, Jewish kippa and Christian crucifix or cross; understands that the concept of school uniforms, popular in the United Kingdom, is less common in France where there is greater emphasis on individual identity; believes that this ban is a direct attack on religious expression and its importance to individual identity; reaffirms support for freedom of religious expression as a fundamental human right enshrined in international law; and calls on Her Majesty's Government to make strong representations with partners across the European Union against this blatant restriction of personal freedom, in defence of France's diverse faith communities."

Federation takes campaign to the European Parliament

The Sikh Federation (UK) demonstrated during this campaign its credentials as an effective lobby at the European level. The Federation approached and received letters and messages of support from many UK MEPs about the right of Sikhs to wear the turban in French schools and other state maintained sectors in France.

The issue was raised in debate in the European Parliament by Robert Evans a Labour MEP and Vice-Chair of the Citizens' Freedoms and Rights Committee. Roy Perry a Conservative MEP and the Vice President of the Petitions Committee was in close touch with Sikhs regarding a petition at the European level and other MEPs wrote to the Commissioner for External Relations, Chris Patten and the Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, Anna Diamantopoulou.



Messages of support also came from Caroline Lucas an MEP with the Greens and Neil MacCormick an MEP with the Scottish National Party. UK MEPs indicated opposition to the proposals by the French Government and indicated that the European Commission could be forced to take action as Sikhs and others could be discouraged from visiting and working in France due to racial discrimination.

UK Sikhs take lead to defy French Govt ban on turbans

Hindustan Times, January 28

British Sikhs, as the largest Sikh community in Europe (estimated at about 700,000), have taken the lead in campaigning to persuade the French government not to ban the wearing of turbans in state schools, in the wake of the proposed ban on the Muslim hijab. Led by the Sikh Federation (UK) - the recently formed "political" organisation of Sikh activists - a delegation held talks with Assia Xixiou, a special adviser to the French Ambassador, and then about 100 activists from around the country held a silent rally outside the Embassy. Their banners read: "Turban for Sikhs is a requirement - and not negotiable."



They took comfort from a statement in the Assembly by the Education Minister, Luc Ferry, who said that the turban, if it was discreet, would be allowed. The British Sikhs have taken up this suggestion, saying that a turban of a discreet colour, perhaps black or blue, could be made part of the school uniform. They told the French Ambassador in a memorandum that this would be acceptable to the Sikhs of France and elsewhere.

The memorandum recognised that the French authorities were sympathetic to the predicament of the Sikhs in France, but also pointed out that the proposed law may be in direct contravention of European Union directives on racial and religious discrimination, and that, if it were implemented, British Sikhs would ask the European Commission to take appropriate action.

The Sikh Federation and its associated organisations have no fear that a similar ban to that proposed in France might be imposed in the UK, but they feel that they have a duty to help their co-religionists in Europe to maintain their religious freedom.

Sikhs march through Paris to oppose turban ban

Asian News International

About five hundred British Sikhs crossed the English Channel last week-end to join co-religionists from other European countries supporting a demonstration aimed at persuading the French government not to ban the Sikh turban in state schools.

More than 2,000 Sikhs marched along the traditional route through central Paris in a rally that attracted widespread media attention. Officers of the Sikh Federation UK were among those interviewed on television. Kuldeep Singh, Vice Chairman of the Federation, told viewers: "This issue is not simply about the right of Sikhs in France to wear the turban, this issue affects Sikhs throughout Europe and is about freedom of religion as a fundamental human right enshrined in international law."

The proposed law, which was debated in the French National Assembly in February 3, is designed to remove all show of religion from public schools, in line with the country's secular constitution. Specifically it would ban the Muslim hijab, and it is feared that the rule could also include the turban. Thirty years ago British Sikhs won an exemption from a law requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets, and turbans are now commonplace for Sikh police officers serving in the UK. The leaders of the Federation believe that this experience puts them in a favourable position to help the Sikh community in France.



Federation Chairman Amrik Singh said: "We are hopeful the French parliament will heed our concerns, but we are ready to rise to any challenge to the Sikhs." He and his colleagues believe the proposed law may contravene European Union directives on racial and religious discrimination and plan to ask the European Commission to take appropriate action, if it is implemented.

Federation urge Tony Blair to raise turban issue



The Sikh Federation (UK) with the backing of over 60 MPs from the four largest political parties in the UK urged the UK Prime Minister to make strong representations with the French on the turban issue when he met President Chirac on Wednesday 18 February.

The Federation championed the political campaign in the UK and Europe to ensure maximum pressure was exerted on the French authorities against the proposed law restricting freedom of religious expression. The leadership of the Federation met with UK Government Ministers to push for co-ordinated action across the European

Union and to specifically raise the need for Tony Blair to press for a solution to the need for Sikh children to have the right to wear the turban in French schools.

Pressure was exerted directly by the Federation on behalf of the 700,000 strong British Sikh community and indirectly through MPs and Ministers with large Sikh constituencies to ensure this issue was raised in the trilateral German-French-British summit.

In a letter to the UK Prime Minister the Sikh Federation (UK) said: "Sikh children that wear a turban may be left in the impossible situation of choosing between their education and the Sikh way of life." The letter went on to say although "the French authorities have acknowledged that Sikhs have become the unintended victims of the proposed law and have promised to try and find an accommodation by drawing up specific guidance for schools to allow the wearing of the turban. Our fear is this may prove an inadequate safeguard for Sikhs in France and other parts of Europe who will also be directly affected by the new law."

Federation expose flaws in those "negotiating" with the French

In March the Sikh Federation (UK) were made aware by the Home Office that certain British Sikhs were "negotiating" with the French. The Home Office wrote:



"As you may be aware, certain prominent British Sikhs have had meetings, alongside representatives of the French Sikh community, with senior officials from a number of French Government Departments on the turban issue. These have included the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Education. These meetings appear to have achieved positive results, with in-principle concessions being made on the French side that Sikh children who wear the turban will not automatically be thrown out of schools or excluded from the education system, that a mutually acceptable solution will be negotiated with the Sikhs, and that following this a directive will be sent to all schools to ensure that further problems did not arise."

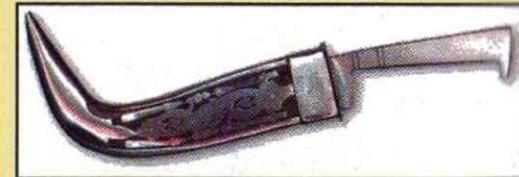
The Federation wrote back to the Home Office in March to state "the process of "negotiating outside the law" and persuading the French to issue directives (without legal backing) to schools about an exemption for the Sikh turban was a high risk strategy for Sikhs." The Federation stated it was concerned that the Home Office had been told by these "prominent" British Sikhs that "a mutually acceptable solution will be negotiated with the Sikhs". The Federation asked the UK Government to explain:

- i) what will happen to Sikh children in France that are required to wear the Sikh turban if the "negotiations" fail to achieve an "acceptable solution" once the law has come into effect
- ii) if Sikh children are allowed to wear the Sikh turban due to a negotiated solution (almost certainly outside the law currently being proposed) how will they be protected in school against difficulties they will inevitably experience due to what many will see as "special" treatment
- iii) if Sikh children are allowed to wear the Sikh turban due to a negotiated solution what guarantees will be given by the French authorities that it will not be possible to successfully challenge the "negotiated solution" via the legal system by those upset by the perceived "special" treatment given to Sikhs

The Home Office has been unable to address these concerns and has stayed silent for the last 6 months.

Challenging European Regulations impacting on the right of Sikh airport workers to wear the Kirpan

Restrictions were introduced on the right of Sikh airport workers to wear the Kirpan in security restricted areas following 9/11. After considerable pressure from Sikh organisations the UK Government reversed its decision in July 2002.



In April 2004 the Department for Transport informed Sikh organisations that the European Commission had told the UK that it was in breach of European Regulations and needed to place restrictions on Sikh airport workers wearing the Kirpan. A meeting was held with Tom McNulty MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for State for Transport on 26 April where the strength of opposition by Sikhs to the European Regulation was made clear.

In June 2004 the UK Government requested an amendment to the Regulations, but this was refused by other EU countries. Various requests for information and explanations have been sought by Sikh organisations from the Department of Transport. A stand off position has been reached with the UK in breach of European Regulations as Sikhs have made it clear they are not prepared to accept further restrictions on the Kirpan.

This issue is likely to come to a head in the next few months. Sikhs have reminded the Department of Transport that Tony Blair has given assurances about the new EU Constitution by reaffirming that we are still an independent Nation State in the EU, able to do what we want to do. It has been suggested that the Department of Transport should demonstrate the UK's ability to act as an independent Nation State by arguing the regulation does not apply to the Kirpan and continue not to implement it.

Challenging restrictions on the Kirpan in public buildings

Other than at airports, where Sikh workers and passengers encounter restrictions on the wearing of the Kirpan, restrictions on the Kirpan have also been an issue at other public buildings. In particular, Sikhs have experienced difficulties at Home Office buildings, such as the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate in Croydon and Passport Service buildings in London. In addition, restrictions on the Kirpan have been an issue at the London Eye and Embassies, such as the Canadian Embassy.



When this issue first came to light Dominic Grieve MP the Shadow Home Office Minister asked the Home Secretary "on what basis Sikhs are required to remove their Kirpan when entering his Department's buildings". The Home Office Minister stalled in giving a direct response.

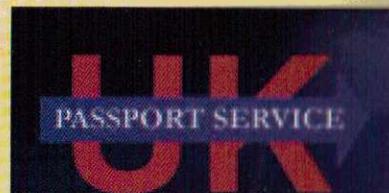
The right of Sikhs to wear the Kirpan had been raised at an earlier Sikh Lobby Day. Ken Purchase the MP for Wolverhampton North East took the lead in raising a Parliamentary Question about the right of Sikhs to wear the Kirpan in public places. He asked the Home Secretary if he would "introduce legislation to make it unlawful to require Sikhs to remove the Kirpan when entering public places."

The Home Office Minister replied by saying: "There are no plans to introduce new legislation in this area. Section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, which makes it an offence to have an article with blade or point in a public place, provides that should a person possess such an article for "religious reasons or as part of any national costume" he would not be guilty of an offence under the Act.

"However, following two separate incidents involving more active members of the Sikh community at the Passport Service building in London and an earlier incident reported from the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in Croydon in the last 12 months the matter was taken up with the relevant authorities. All too often Sikhs experiencing such difficulties do not follow up the incidents to prevent the same problems for other Sikhs.



The UK Passport Service (UKPS) has been accused of lack of proper consultation and implementing an access policy which has the effect of preventing practising Sikhs from making use of all UKPS services. In addition, UKPS has been accused of adopting a practice that appears to be contrary to the policies adopted by other government departments i.e. Lord Chancellors Department, the Houses of Parliament, concerning access to practising Sikh members of the public.



A positive meeting took place at UKPS at the start of September 2004 where it was revealed an extensive review has now been undertaken of practices adopted at different Government buildings. The arguments on the Sikh side have been presented professionally and their appears to be a genuine desire to implement practices that will allow Sikhs to no longer to remove the Kirpan when entering any government building.

As the practices being adopted by government bodies and other organisations is resulting in difficulties for practising Sikhs when entering public places it may be necessary to push for the introduction of specific legislation that will make it unlawful to require Sikhs to remove the Kirpan when entering such places. This option will be considered in the light of progress in the next 6 months and with the approach of the next General Election.



SIKH SECRETARIAT, PO Box LB 1464, London W1A 9LB info@sikh-secretariat.com

SIKH AGENDA FOR THE UK GOVERNMENT

An eight-point Sikh Agenda for the UK Government launched in September 2001 at Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara, Wolverhampton revealed a diverse range of aims and objectives for the Sikh community in the UK.

The Sikh Agenda was arrived at after a three-month consultation period that began after the General Election. The end product was an agenda that represented the aspirations of the disparate parts of the UK Sikh community that could be progressed with the UK Government, the Opposition and individual Members of Parliament.

The Sikh Agenda concept recognises that all Gurdwaras and Sikh organisations should be able to relate to, support and take forward one or more items within the agenda. At the same time no Gurdwara or Sikh organisation is being asked to sign up to the Sikh Agenda in full. A similar logic applies to individual MPs who are able to support and take forward specific items in the agenda without having to back every item.

The Sikh Agenda has provided the UK Government with a clear understanding of the broad range of needs of the Sikh community in the UK and what is required to ensure Sikhs are able to play a more effective role in our multicultural society. The agenda recognises that British Sikhs and the UK Government have an active role to play in promoting British-Sikh relations in the UK and globally.

Each year the details of the eight-point Sikh Agenda are revised following wide-ranging consultations within the Sikh community that reflect developments during the year. The revised Sikh Agenda for the UK Government is produced overleaf.

SIKH AGENDA FOR THE UK GOVERNMENT

Agenda Item 1 - British Sikhs and the establishment

- Increased participation in local and national decision making bodies - the number of public appointments for Sikhs to increase from around 50 to 300.
- Greater political representation, particularly from practising Sikhs - three more Sikh MPs, five new Sikh Lords and an increase in the number of councillors from about 80 to 200.
- Fairer representation in employment - in terms of numbers and seniority in local government, central government, the media, the police and the armed forces.
- Greater participation and representation - in all areas from practicing Sikh women.

Agenda Item 2 - Government funding for Sikh organisations

- A fair share for Sikh organisations and Sikh projects - For example, Sikh organisations need to aim to obtain £20 million of the annual funding available from the independent distributing bodies.

Agenda Item 3 - Promotion of the Sikh identity and the Panjabi language

- Recognition and separate monitoring by public authorities - this assists in obtaining fair treatment as regards employment and the provision of public services to the Sikh community.
- Increased understanding and awareness of the Sikh religion, the Sikh identity and the Sikh articles of faith - Sikh awareness events.
- Removal of all restrictions on Sikh articles of faith e.g. Kesh, Kirpan, Kara, Turban etc. at work, in business and in public places.
- Panjabi as a modern language option for school children - this would implement the motion passed by the National Association of Head Teachers that the national curriculum be changed to bring this about.

Agenda Item 4 - Sikhs and Education

- National Curriculum - secure changes to better reflect the Sikh religion, Sikh way of life and Sikh history.
- Increased awareness of Sikhism in schools - through the provision of school assemblies about Sikhism, recognition of the right of Sikh children to take religious holidays without being penalised and the provision of suitable food reflecting the specific needs of Sikhs.
- State funded Sikh schools - parity of treatment with other faith groups in terms of overall numbers and provision of relevant resources.

Agenda Item 5 - Preserving Sikh heritage

- Working with the UK Government and its agencies to preserve Sikh heritage and promote a wider appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of the Sikh Nation.

Agenda Item 6 - Protecting the human rights of Sikhs and humanitarian aid

- Travel - Ensure the UK Government removes unnecessary travel restrictions and stops harassment at airports and seaports of law-abiding Sikhs wishing to travel to and from the UK regardless of whether they are politically active or not.
- Sikh human rights abuses in India - Seek action from the UK Government on the continuing abuse of Sikh and other minority groups' human rights by the Indian authorities.

Sikh Agenda continued:

- June and November 1984 massacres - Highlight the lack of justice for Sikhs in India following the massacres in June and November 1984: tens of thousands of innocent Sikhs were in several cities across India, including Delhi, which involved government officials and politicians of the ruling political bloc encouraging and leading well-orchestrated gangs.
- Human rights abusers travelling to the UK - Urge the UK Government to take appropriate action against individual Indian politicians, police officers and army personnel, if and when they visit the UK, who have been implicated or directly involved in the murder, torture, abuse and disappearances of Sikhs in India.
- Humanitarian assistance for victims of human rights abuses - Encourage the UK Government to work with British Sikhs to provide financial support and humanitarian assistance to orphaned children and bereaved Sikh family members and those who have suffered from torture, false imprisonment, human rights abuses and state oppression in the Indian subcontinent.
- Status and rights of women - Highlight the plight of women in the Indian subcontinent, including abortion of female foetuses after scanning, dowry deaths and honour killings. Encourage the UK government to link development programmes in the subcontinent with projects to empower women.

Agenda Item 7 - Self determination for the Sikh Nation

- Right to self determination - Lobby the UK Government, official representatives of foreign governments in the UK, the European Parliament and at the UN to accept the Sikh Nation's right to self-determination enshrined in International Covenants on Economic, Social, Cultural, Civil and Political Rights.
- Lobby the UK Government, official representatives of foreign governments in the UK, the European Parliament and at the UN for a change in policy towards the Indian subcontinent so that it adequately reflects the Sikh Nation's desire for self-determination and complements the need to reduce the threat of nuclear war.
- Khalistan - Make known and explain the reasons why Sikhs want to establish an independent sovereign state of Khalistan to the British public, political organisations and the UK Government.

Agenda Item 8 - Challenging the ban and restrictions on Sikh organisations

- Removal of the ban on the International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) - Increase political pressure on the UK Government to have the ban removed in the UK and to clear the name of the many thousands that previously belonged to and associated with the ISYF since 1984.
- Release of frozen funds - Urge the UK Government to release funds held in UK bank accounts that were frozen after 9/11. These relate to assistance provided to orphaned children, bereaved Sikh family members and those that are suffering from false imprisonment and human rights abuses in the Indian sub-continent.
- Work with Sikhs in European countries, Canada, USA and Australia to lobby individual governments, the European Parliament and the UN to have restrictions removed against Sikh organisations from holding funds that were imposed erroneously following 9/11 and the passing of a UN order.
- Brief Parliamentarians, including those responsible for the review of anti-terrorism legislation, on the impact and inappropriate nature of restrictions on British Sikh organisations and individuals. To put in perspective the motivations of those seeking such restrictions, given the wider political context, propaganda and underlying reality of the status of Sikhs in India.

1 YEAR CAMPAIGN TO COMMEMORATE 1984

1 year campaign for 1984 launched in Parliament

Sikh representatives from across the UK assembled at the Houses of Parliament on the Sikh Lobby Day in November 2003 to launch a year long campaign and series of events to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the genocide of Sikhs in 1984 and the complete lack of justice. The Sikh Federation (UK) pledged to raise Early Day Motions concerning the genocide of Sikhs in June 1984 and the November 1984 pogroms against tens of thousands of innocent Sikhs. Speakers included Retired Justice Ajit Singh Bains, Chairman of the Panjab Human Rights Organisation.

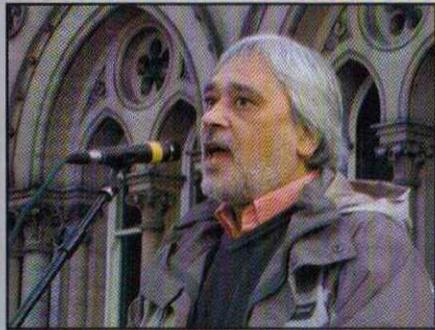


Amrik Singh, Chairman of the Sikh Federation (UK) in a written statement issued to the press before the launch said that:

"British Sikhs will not rest until the Sikh Nation gets justice for the Genocide of Sikhs in 1984. In our view the Sikh people must be given the right to self determination as enshrined in International Covenants on Economic, Social, Cultural, Civil and Political Rights. Given past treaties and the unique Anglo-Sikh history the British Government are under a moral obligation to insist, at an international level, that the Sikh people be given the right to self determination."

MP speaks from the heart about 1984

Sikh Lobby Day - November 2003



Marsha Singh MP
Bradford West

Many in the Sikh community, other than those in the Bradford area, when asked about Sikh MPs often overlook Marsha Singh. In November 2003 the Labour MP for Bradford West and a Member of the Home Affairs Select Committee delivered his first speech at a Sikh Lobby Day in the Houses of Parliament and created quite a stir.

In an honest, but moving speech he explained how he came to the UK from India at the age of two and had never returned to India. He went on to say he was not one for misleading people so he wanted to clarify that although he was brought up in a Sikh family he was not a religious man and would not describe himself as a Sikh. He also said he was not a Khalistani.

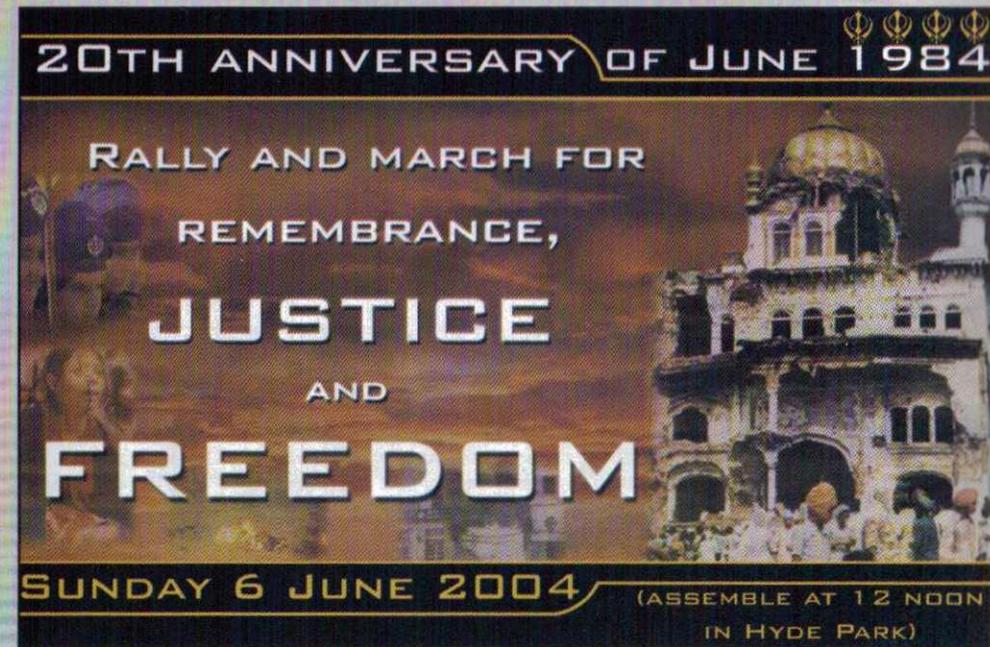
However, he recalled the events of 1984 when the world witnessed the unprecedented action of the Indian Army attacking the Golden Temple complex. Thousands were killed in cold blood, many with their hands and feet bound, including women and children.

Desperately holding back the tears Marsha Singh explained that what little nostalgic link he had with India came to a complete end with the Indian Government's actions in 1984, first in June and then in November. He also made reference to the treatment of other minorities in India and said he was not concerned that many describe him as anti-Indian. He would always raise human rights issues and had no allegiance whatsoever to India.

The importance and impact of Marsha Singh's speech was summed up by the late Jim Marshall the former Labour MP for Leicester South. He said for almost 20 years Sikhs in Leicester had been explaining the hurt and outrage that resulted from 1984 and yet in a few minutes the words of Marsha Singh, who he heard for the first time speak on this issue, had convinced him why 20 years later, Sikhs were still deeply upset and offended. Adrian Bailey the Labour MP for West Bromwich West followed this up by saying the world had changed and the international community had a responsibility to force India to be accountable for 1984.

Nationwide postcard and poster campaign to raise awareness

To ensure the "Rally and march for remembrance, justice and freedom" to mark the 20th anniversary was a success in terms of turnout and impact the Sikh Federation (UK) distributed some 50,000 postcards throughout the UK. These eye-catching postcards raised awareness and were well received. Guru Teg Bahadur Gurdwara, Leicester also sponsored large posters with the same image.



The back of the postcard stated: "On Sunday 6 June 2004 Sikhs across the world will mark the 20th anniversary of June 1984. In the UK Sikhs will be holding a massive rally and march in central London, the likes of which has not been seen since June 1984. Hundreds of coaches organised by Gurdwaras across the UK will bring Sikhs in their thousands to London in an act of remembrance and to show the strength of feeling of Sikhs 20 years later."

Earlier in the year the Sikh Federation (UK) also distributed 10,000 posters highlighting the June 1984 attack laid the foundation stone for Khalistan. The popularity of the posters was indicated by the speed with which the posters were distributed.

How you can help? Join the Sikh Federation - the first UK registered Sikh political party, which is based on the principle of Miri-Piri (the indivisibility of spiritual and temporal goals)

Contact us now to see how you can contribute to the many activities being organised this year.

Sikh Federation (UK), PO Box 150, Leicester, LE5 4DS
 email: sikhfederationuk@yahoo.co.uk info@sikhfederation.com
 website: www.sikhfederation.com

1984 campaign reaches the European Parliament

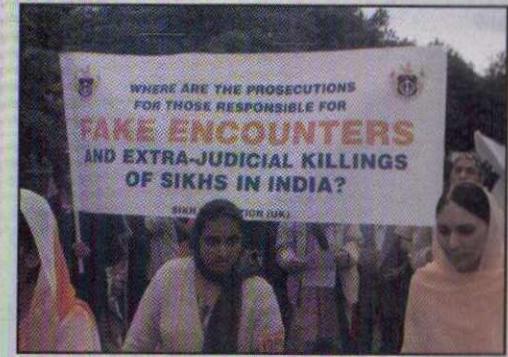
A written declaration was raised in the European Parliament relating to the 20th anniversary of the "Genocide" of Sikhs in 1984. Four Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) belonging to the Green Party - Jean Lambert, Dr Caroline Lucas, Matti Wuori and Alima Boumediene-Thiery, called for a United Nations inquiry at the launch of the Written Declaration. At the launch Dr Caroline Lucas said: "Following a military raid on the Sikh's holiest site, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, and the subsequent assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards in 1984, a wave of violence left hundreds of thousands dead in the Punjab and major Indian cities. The atrocities have been well documented by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and others. Sikhs themselves describe the slaughter as 'their genocide' - but a full UN investigation has never taken place."



Jean Lambert, a member of the European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee continued: "It is vital that an investigation is conducted into whether the massacre . . . in 1984 constitutes genocide in international law. Many of those affected and their families have sought refuge in England - and we must ensure truth and justice prevails."

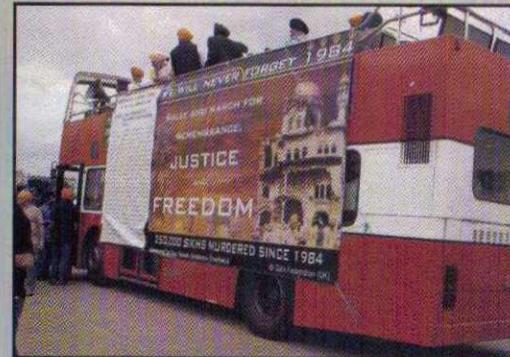
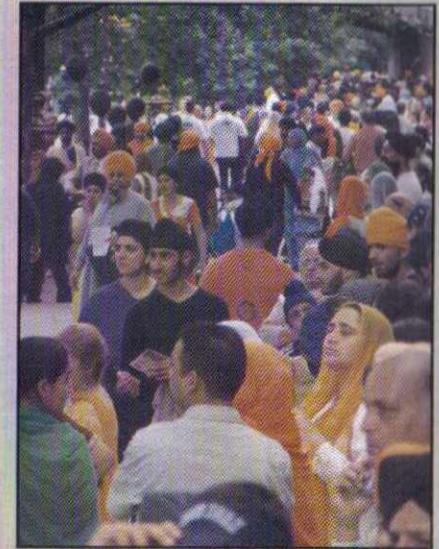
India becomes concerned with Federation's awareness campaign

During the year the Indian press reported: "The Sikh Federation was set up last year as a "political" party and is committed to work for the establishment of Khalistan. It is organising a series of promotions to mark the 20th anniversary of the events of 1984. MPs sympathetic to its cause have tabled motions in the British Parliament drawing attention to the issue." The Federation also revealed that it has received support from several prominent members of the UK Government, including Ministers who have written stating they support the campaign to highlight the atrocities by the Indian authorities and to seek justice for the Sikh Nation.



Rally and march for remembrance, justice and freedom

The event lived up to expectations with an estimated 15,000 Sikhs taking part in the rally and march. The Sikh Federation (UK) produced massive banners to adorn the open top coach used as the stage in Hyde Park and throughout the procession. The image was identical to that of the postcards, but the wording at the top read "We will never forget 1984", the wording at the bottom was "250,000 Sikhs murdered since 1984". Two large banners with the three motions in the UK Parliament also adorned the bus as it wound its way around central London. On two occasions and due to the number of Sikhs attending police motor bikes arranged for detours that took the open top bus with messages blasting out past the Houses of Parliament, 10 Downing Street, Trafalgar Square and the Indian High Commission.



The Sikh Federation (UK) received considerable messages of support for the rally and march from politicians. Over 180 MPs and some 25 MEPs were contacted about the rally and march. Over 40 MPs, including 9 Government Ministers, sent specific messages of support. Jean Lambert MEP, the Vice President of the Green Party in the European Parliament addressed the rally in Hyde Park and made a scathing attack on

the actions of the Indian authorities over the last 20 years and repeated the call for the Sikh right to self-determination, which is the official policy of the Green Party.

Simon Hughes MP, the Liberal Democrat mayoral candidate in London and the party's Home Affairs spokesman made a special effort to join Sikhs in the march on Park Lane and show solidarity and support for the Sikhs on this important anniversary.

The objective of the rally and march was to make an impact and raise awareness with young Sikhs and the wider British public about the events of 1984. The various creative activities facilitated by the Sikh Federation (UK) certainly achieved the desired impact with a huge amount of media interest at the local, national and international level.



BBC World Service - After Blue Star

The BBC World Service which serves millions of people around the world produced two 30-minute programmes on the 20th anniversary of the 1984 attack on the Golden Temple Complex. The series explored the impact of the storming of the Golden Temple Complex on Sikhs both in India and the Diaspora.

The BBC contacted all parties, including anti-Sikh elements, for a "balanced" view. The Sikh Federation (UK) played a significant part in ensuring the Khalistan perspective was given sufficient coverage. A special website to accompany the programme has been set up by the BBC and allows those that may have missed the programmes to listen to the two programmes in full via the internet.



Visit: www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/special/171_afterbluestar/index.shtml

"1984 factor" in the Panjab elections

The Sikh Federation (UK) commenting on the Indian election results said: "In Panjab an important factor was the anti-Congress vote. The results from Panjab, where Congress lost, are at odds with the rest of India. Sikhs in Panjab have rejected the Congress and protested against the nominations of Jagdish Tytler and Sajjan Kumar who have the blood of innocent Sikhs on their hands. Sikhs have made clear they will never forget 1984.

"The Federation commenting on the national picture said: "the election of the Congress to replace the BJP will make little difference to the Sikhs. One is as bad as the other. There should be no doubt that the Indian electoral system and courts will never provide the Sikhs justice in India."

The Early Day Motions (EDMs) reproduced below are currently tabled in the British Parliament and expose the injustices against Sikhs over the last 20 years. The motions condemn the Indian authorities and call on action from the UK Government and the international community against the Indian authorities. The Sikh community is grateful to the MPs listed on the next two pages who have signed one or more of the motions.

EDM 664 - 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STORMING OF THE GOLDEN TEMPLE COMPLEX

That this House notes with sadness the 20th anniversary of the June 1984 assault by the Indian army on the Golden Temple complex, the Sikhs' holiest shrine, where sacred buildings and historic artefacts were destroyed or damaged beyond repair; further notes that the unprecedented action using artillery and tanks took place on one of the most important days in the Sikh calendar, when there were huge numbers of pilgrims in attendance, which resulted in thousands of innocent Sikhs being killed in cold blood, many with their hands and feet bound, including women and children; is appalled that scores of other Sikh Gurdwaras were stormed by the Indian army throughout Panjab and that thousands of Sikhs were arrested, tortured, and killed, including children; recognises that these actions by the Indian authorities continue to have an immeasurable impact on Sikhs throughout the world; and extends its sympathy and support to the law-abiding, hard working, and well respected international Sikh community.

EDM 663 - VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF SIKHS IN INDIA

That this House notes and applauds the efforts of human rights activists in India to highlight atrocities, including false imprisonment, torture, deaths in custody, extra-judicial executions and disappearances, perpetrated against Sikhs in the last 20 years; further notes that it is estimated that over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered and/or disappeared since June 1984; is deeply concerned that 20 years later the Indian Government continues to deny full access to Panjab to international human rights groups and to the UN Rapporteur on Torture; regrets that thousands of families are still waiting to know the fate of relatives who have disappeared; and calls on the Prime Minister, on behalf of the estimated 700,000 Sikhs in the United Kingdom, to lead the international community in demanding full access to Panjab to international human rights groups and the UN.

EDM 662 - 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF NOVEMBER 1984 ATTACKS ON SIKHS

That this House notes with sadness the 20th anniversary of the November 1984 pogrom against thousands of innocent Sikhs in a matter of days in cities across India; further notes that Sikhs became the target of organised violence with murderous gangs swarming into Sikh houses, hacking the occupants to pieces, chopping off the heads of children, raping women, tying Sikh men to tyres set aflame with kerosene and pulling Sikh passengers from public transport to be lynched or burned alive; recognises that Amnesty International in a memorandum to the Government of India, complained that far from being spontaneous expressions of popular grief and anger as made out by the authorities, the killings were the outcome of a well organised plan marked by acts of both deliberate commission and omission by important politicians of the Congress and by authorities in the administration; believes that investigation and criminal proceedings are long overdue; and calls upon Her Majesty's Government to take the lead in the international community to establish an independent UN inquiry into the failure of successive governments in India to take sufficient actions against those responsible for the events of November 1984.

BRITISH MPs EXPOSING INDIAN INJUSTICES

Name	Party	Constituency
Adrian Bailey	Labour	West Bromwich West
Alan Beith	Liberal Democrats	Berwick-upon-Tweed
Alan Meale	Labour	Mansfield
Alan Simpson	Labour	Nottingham South
Alice Mahon	Labour	Halifax
Andrew George	Liberal Democrats	St Ives
Andy Reed	Labour	Loughborough
Ann Cryer	Labour	Keighley
Annabelle Ewing	SNP	Perth
Anne Campbell	Labour	Cambridge
Bill Etherington	Labour	Sunderland North
Bob Russell	Liberal Democrats	Colchester
David Clland	Labour	Tyne Bridge
David Drew	Labour	Stroud
David Taylor	Labour	North West Leicestershire
David Wright	Labour	Telford
Dennis Skinner	Labour	Bolsover
Dennis Turner	Labour	Wolverhampton South East
Doug Naysmith	Labour	Bristol North West
Edward Davey	Liberal Democrats	Kingston and Surbiton
Ellyn Llwyd	Plaid Cymru	Meirionnydd Nant Conwy
Evan Harris	Liberal Democrats	Oxford West and Abingdon
George Stevenson	Labour	Stoke on Trent South
Graham Stringer	Labour	Manchester Blackley
Harold Best	Labour	Leeds North West
Harry Barnes	Labour	North East Derbyshire
Harry Cohen	Labour	Leyton and Wanstead
Helen Clark	Labour	Peterborough
Huw Edwards	Labour	Monmouth
Iain Coleman	Labour	Hammersmith and Fulham
James Plaskitt	Labour	Warwick and Leamington
Jane Griffiths	Labour	Reading East
Jenny Tongue	Liberal Democrats	Richmond Park
Jeremy Corbyn	Labour	Islington North
Jim Cunningham	Labour	Coventry South
Jim Marshall	Labour	Leicester South
John Austin	Labour	Erith and Thamesmead
John Lyons	Labour	Strathkelvin and Bearsden
John McDonnell	Labour	Hayes and Harlington
Jon Cruddas	Labour	Dagenham

BRITISH MPs EXPOSING INDIAN INJUSTICES

continued:

Name	Party	Constituency
Jonathan Shaw	Labour	Chatham and Aylesbury
Julia Drown	Labour	South Swindon
Karen Buck	Labour	Regent's Park and Kensington North
Kevin McNamara	Labour	Hull North
Khalid Mahmood	Labour	Birmingham Perry Bar
Linda Perham	Labour	Ilford North
Lynne Jones	Labour	Birmingham Selly Oak
Malcolm Bruce	Liberal Democrats	Gordon
Mark Hendrick	Labour	Preston
Mark Oaten	Liberal Democrats	Winchester
Mark Todd	Labour	South Derbyshire
Marsha Singh	Labour	Bradford West
Martin Caton	Labour	Gower
Martin Salter	Labour	Reading West
Michael Clapham	Labour	Barnsley West and Penistone
Mike Hancock	Liberal Democrats	Portsmouth South
Neil Gerrard	Labour	Walthamstow
Nigel Jones	Liberal Democrats	Cheltenham
Norman Baker	Liberal Democrats	Lewes
Patrick Hall	Labour	Bedford
Paul Marsden	Liberal Democrats	Shrewsbury and Atcham
Paul Truswell	Labour	Pudsey
Phil Sawford	Labour	Kettering
Phil Willis	Liberal Democrats	Harrogate & Knaresborough
Rob Marns	Labour	Wolverhampton South West
Roger Berry	Labour	Kingswood
Roger Godsiff	Labour	B'ham Sparkbrook and Small Heath
Ronnie Campbell	Labour	Blyth Valley
Rudi Vis	Labour	Finchley and Golders Green
Sandra Gidley	Liberal Democrats	Romsey
Sarah Teather	Liberal Democrats	Brent East
Simon Hughes	Liberal Democrats	North Southwark and Bermondsey
Terry Davis	Labour	Birmingham Hodge Hill
Tom Brake	Liberal Democrats	Carshalton and Wallington
Tony Banks	Labour	West Ham
Tony Lloyd	Labour	Manchester Central
Valerie Davey	Labour	Bristol West
Win Griffiths	Labour	Bridgend

There are at least 50 MPs that have large numbers of Sikh constituents and are not prevented from signing EDMs. These MPs should be approached in the next few weeks and asked to sign these EDMs to show their support for the Sikh community. MPs have until 18 November, which is the last day of the 2003-04 Parliamentary Session.

SIKHS RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION

It was made clear at the launch of the Sikh Federation (UK) in September 2003 that the promotion of the Sikhs right to self determination and freedom to argue the case for the establishment of an independent sovereign Sikh State of Khalistan was a key feature of the organisations' aims and objectives.

In the last twelve months the Federation has continued to stress the right to self determination and push the arguments for Khalistan at every opportunity.

Sikhs have the right to argue for self-determination & Khalistan

In September 2002 the press twisted Rob Marris MP's words and caused considerable controversy by portraying him as an out and out Khalistani. Following the National Sikh Convention last year one or two of the Panjabi newspapers inaccurately reported Rob Marris's reference to Khalistan when he tried to clarify his views.

This may have been an attempt to try and reduce the impact of the National Sikh Convention and the launch of the Sikh Federation (UK). However, this forced Rob Marris to specifically write to each of the Panjabi newspapers about his views on self-determination and Khalistan.

In his letter dated 6 October 2003 he wrote:

"In some parts of the media, I have been misrepresented as to what I actually said - in particular about Sikh Agenda item 7 - Self-determination for the Sikh Nation. I should like to take this opportunity to make my position totally clear."

"I support the right of people peaceably and democratically to argue for the right of self-determination for Khalistan . . . it is particularly important that Sikhs around the world be allowed to put forward such arguments, peaceably and democratically. I have consistently put forward this position, both inside Parliament, and outside. Tragically, the history of human rights abuses in Punjab is widely known. Therefore, it is particularly important that Sikhs outside the sub-continent have the right to argue for self-determination or for independence."

Federation's strategy on self determination & Khalistan

The strategy being used by the Federation as regards self-determination and Khalistan is simple and straightforward. Firstly, British politicians are being asked to recognise the right to self-determination is a basic human right and that the Sikhs have this right as enshrined in International Covenants on Economic, Social, Cultural, Civil and Political Rights. It is difficult for politicians not to recognise this is a right that must apply to the Sikhs.

As regards the issue of Khalistan, the actions of the Indian authorities in the last 25 years in particular, with widespread human rights abuses and the events of 1984, has left little doubt that the Sikhs only choice is to ask for international support in establishing an independent sovereign Sikh State of Khalistan.



Rob Marris MP Pictured with Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer

The arguments are being presented in a professional manner and as politicians know about the human rights abuses and the direct involvement of the Indian authorities in the events of 1984, they accept there has been no justice for Sikhs and the international community must act. Presented with the facts it is obvious to them that India has failed the Sikhs and the matter needs to be projected at an international level.

When these arguments are put in a historical context, drawing upon the strong Anglo-Sikh relationship and politicians are reminded of the situation of Sikhs pre and post Partition they realise that despite Indian propaganda that the Indian State is not sacrosanct and needs to be challenged.

Self-determination is our right - the case for Khalistan is the persecution of the Sikh Nation in the last 25 years

Within weeks of its launch the Sikh Federation (UK) tackled the issue of self-determination for Sikhs and why an independent sovereign Sikh State of Khalistan is inevitable. A Federation speaker at a seminar in London in October said: "Sikhs have the right to self determination and anyone that shies away from this does not believe in basic human rights. Any Sikh, who refuses to accept and acknowledge that Sikhs have this right, should stop calling himself or herself a Sikh."

The speaker said: "The case for self-determination is clear. If you call yourself civilised, someone who believes in democracy, someone who accepts and respects UN declarations and someone who believes in basic human rights then the right to self determination is beyond question. The difficulty we face is the Indian authorities are allergic to the words self-determination. They are not civilised in the true sense of the word, they do not believe in democracy, they refuse to accept UN declarations on the right to self-determination and they have no regard for human rights."

The speaker said "the challenge we face is not convincing the Indian authorities about the right to self-determination, but first convincing ourselves and then convincing politicians and foreign governments. Speaking the truth and winning the arguments are our greatest strengths. As British Sikhs we must convince the British public, political organisations, UK Government and official representatives of foreign governments of not the case for self-determination, which is a right, but the case for Khalistan. It is the persecution suffered by Sikhs in the last 25 years and the events of 1984 that provide the case for an independent sovereign Sikh State of Khalistan.

The Federation speaker also specifically appealed to British Sikhs that wish to genuinely campaign for Khalistan to recognise the changes occurring with the setting up of the Sikh Federation (UK). He said: "those that do not recognise what is going on are in danger of being left behind. It is not enough to simply shout slogans for Khalistan. If the Khalistan movement is to progress and move forward the time has come for self-appointed protagonists of Khalistan that have no real backing and have done virtually nothing constructive to further the true cause for Khalistan to be sidelined."

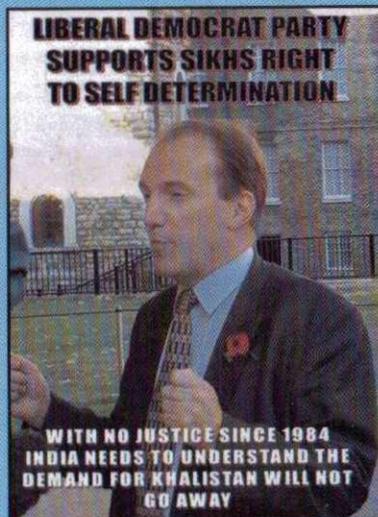
The Federation speaker said "one of these self-appointed leaders had the audacity to suggest the Sikh Agenda for the UK Government should make no mention of the Sikhs right to self-determination or Khalistan as this was his own personal remit. Following a meeting of Sikhs with the UK Foreign Minister responsible for relations with India, where the issue of self-determination was discussed, the same person suggested talking or campaigning on this issue with the UK Government was not necessary as he had a direct line to Tony Blair!"

Liberal Democrats support the Sikhs right to self-determination

Simon Hughes the Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary in an interview given to ZeeTV News before the Sikh Lobby Day in November 2003 spoke freely about his party's support for the Sikhs right to self determination.

In an extensive interview he said there were considerable human rights concerns about the treatment of minorities in India. He spoke passionately about the right to self determination and expressed unconditional support for British Sikhs to push this issue and indeed argue a case for an independent sovereign Sikh State of Khalistan.

This was a most significant development and followed a letter from Mike O'Brien MP the Foreign Minister responsible for relations with India who said "It is important that those responsible for violence, such as that against the Sikhs in Amritsar 1984, are brought to justice".



MAKE THE SIKH VOICE HEARD IN THE UK PARLIAMENT



20th Anniversary of November 1984 anti-Sikh pogroms
Freedom of religious expression in French schools
Sikhs right to self-determination

Sikh Lobby Day Thursday 11th November 2004

ASSEMBLE AT 1.30 PM OUTSIDE THE HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT, WESTMINSTER (ST. STEPHEN'S ENTRANCE)

Organised jointly by: SIKH FEDERATION UK, YOUNG SIKHS, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF GURDWARAS, KHALSA HUMAN RIGHTS & SIKH SECRETARIAT

NEVER FORGET 1984

On 5 November 2003 Sikh representatives from across the UK assembled at the Houses of Parliament on the Sikh Lobby Day and the Sikh Federation (UK) launched a year long campaign and series of events to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the genocide of Sikhs in 1984. The Federation pledged to raise Early Day Motions concerning the genocide of Sikhs in June 1984 and the November 1984 pogroms against tens of thousands of innocent Sikhs. Around 80 different UK MPs have signed one or more of the following motions:

- EDM 664 - 20th Anniversary of the storming of the Golden Temple Complex
- EDM 663 - Violation of human rights of Sikhs in India
- EDM 662 - 20th Anniversary of November 1984 attacks on Sikhs

Please urge your MP to sign these motions if he/she is not prevented by Parliamentary protocol. Your MP has until 18 November 2004, which is the last day of the 2003-04 Parliamentary Session. The Sikh Lobby Day on 11 November 2004 will provide an opportunity to:

- i) reflect on the lack of justice for Sikhs over the last 20 years and urge UK MPs to take the lead in urging the international community to establish an independent UN inquiry into the failure of successive governments in India to take sufficient actions against those responsible for the events of November 1984
- ii) hear from Sikh children from France about their experiences in being denied the freedom to practice their religion at school and to find out what UK MPs and MEPs can do to challenge the law in France
- iii) receive an update on the paper produced and adopted by the Human Rights Advisory Group on the Sikhs right to self determination and the endorsement by UK Parliamentarians

Please contact your constituency MP and arrange an appointment to meet him/her between 1.30-3.30 pm in the Central Lobby on Thursday 11 November 2004. Also invite your MP to the meeting and presentations in the Atlee Suite, Portcullis House from 3.30-5.30 pm. Sikhs from across the UK need to take part in this lobby to show we have a voice and it must be heard.

MAKE THE SIKH VOICE HEARD IN THE UK PARLIAMENT

Sikh Lobby Day Thursday 11th November 2004

Assemble At 1.30 pm Outside The House of Parliament, Westminster (Stephen's Entrance)

SIKH FEDERATION (UK)

Tanglewood House, Pine Walk,
Chilworth SO16 7HG

Email: info@sikhfederation.com

www.sikhfederation.com

ACTION ON OTHER FRONTS . . .

During the year there have been a number of other challenges to the Sikhs at home and abroad where the Sikh Federation (UK) has been active in championing Sikh interests. This section highlights some of these challenges and the response from the Federation.

Challenging the extremist BNP and Al-Muhajiroun

Following the film, Secret Agent by the BBC the Sikh Federation (UK) reacted by demanding the Labour Government take immediate action against the BNP. Immediately after the airing of the programme the Federation said in a press release that:

"The evidence collected by the BBC provides clear grounds for proscribing the BNP under the Terrorism Act 2000. Anti-terrorist laws already exist that the Labour Government could easily use to stop the terrorist activities of the BNP and its members."

"The British Sikh community remain distressed as two Sikh groups were banned at the specific request of the Indian Government. Politicians have also confirmed Sikhs were selected for reasons of political correctness so Muslim groups would not feel victimised."

"If the Labour Government are serious about tackling terrorism it should not be doing favours for the Indian Government, but tackling the BNP that terrorise law-abiding British citizens in the UK. Failing to take action against the BNP and maintaining the ban on the ISYF will demonstrate the Labour Government has no credibility in confronting the true face of terrorism and confirm UK terrorist laws are racist. How can the Labour Government fail to take action against the BNP when its members admit to wanting to blow up places of worship using rocket launchers and machine-gun worshippers in the UK?"

Similarly, the Federation called for action against Al-Muhajiroun. In a meeting with police at New Scotland Yard in July the Federation expressed its disgust at the lack of action against Al-Muhajiroun considering the publicity and concern about the "Annual Rally for Islam" that was due to take place in Trafalgar Square.

The deep concern in the Sikh community was raised as Al-Muhajiroun had issued a press release inviting Sikhs and Hindus to convert to Islam and making derogatory comments that amount to incitement to racial hatred against the Sikhs. In a press statement the Federation said: As far as we are concerned Al-Muhajiroun are no different to the likes of the BNP. We have urged Special Branch and others involved in the proscription process to examine the possibility for such groups to be banned as they are a menace to society and must be denied the opportunity to terrorise law abiding citizens and spread hatred."

Sikhs praised for their arguments against the ban on the ISYF



During the year Lord Carlisle of Berriew Q.C. released his second report on the working of the Terrorism Act 2000. In the report issued last year Lord Carlisle acknowledged the positive representations made by Sikh representatives in relation to the International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF).

In the report this year Lord Carlisle stated: "I have received and considered renewed representations from some who believe that proscription has been used arbitrarily and unfairly, notably Sikhs who impressed me with the vigour and reasoning of their arguments." Lord Carlisle has in effect made a very important distinction between the silence of groups connected to Al-Qaeda and the continued campaign of Sikhs previously associated with the ISYF to sensibly exert political pressure to clear the ISYF name.

During 2003 arguments were specifically presented to Parliamentarians during a special briefing, to the Privy Council and later in the year in a meeting with Lord Carlisle. The "box loads" of evidence presented during 2003 by Sikh representatives and lawyers on behalf of the ISYF has been well received and demonstrated that the ISYF before being suspended was an extremely active and sensible organisation engaged in numerous worthwhile religious, community and charitable activities. The Home Secretary has acknowledged in writing that the evidence presented by the ISYF in this regards could not be refuted.

Although the ISYF remains suspended arguments put forward through political channels have strengthened the case for the ban to be lifted. Evidence has been presented to show the ISYF does not support terrorism and had no relevant connection to any terrorist outrages that may still be the subject of concern in the Punjab or elsewhere today.

The Sikh community's ever-increasing political contacts from all political parties have confirmed that the working group within government that meets to review existing proscriptions every 6 months has the ISYF at the top of its list of organisations where the ban will be lifted first.

As one prominent Labour politician put it: "How long can the UK Government continue to retain the ban on the ISYF given the situation in Panjab over the last decade, the changed emphasis since 9/11, the extensive body of evidence that exists and acknowledgement of the activities of the ISYF." The British Sikh community are waiting to see if the Labour Government will live up to their promises in the run up to the General Election next year.



Is the BBC failing the Sikhs?

A big issue that emerged during the year concerned BBC coverage relating to the Sikhs, where the Sikh Federation (UK) has been active in challenging on behalf of Sikhs. Whilst BBC coverage relating to the National Sikh Convention last year and the June 1984 anniversary has been an improvement on the past, the BBC still fails to provide sufficient and appropriate coverage. In addition, the BBC continues to broadcast insensitive material without due regard to the sentiments of British Sikhs.

The Sonia Deol show broadcast on the BBC Asian Network on 11 May brought this to a head. More recently the BBC 1 programme "Sikhs and the City" broadcast on 2 September has attracted considerable criticism. This is primarily due to insufficient knowledge and a bias towards using controversial characters like BBC Asian Network presenter Sonia Deol and BBC Radio 4 "Thought for the Day" presenter Jeevan Singh Deol. Is it coincidence that both are "employees" of the BBC?



The BBC appears not to appreciate the extent of the problem as demonstrated by the official response to the many complaints about the Sonia Deol show. Frazer Steel, the Head of Programme Complaints in his 1,000+ worded response went into great length to explain why he is not upholding complaints received which suggested there had been lack of due care in the preparation of the programme, an inadequate reaction to the offending remarks, or an intention to provoke.

However, he devoted only one line in the summary to state: "the offence caused to religious feeling by the remarks themselves was clearly such that I must uphold that aspect of the complaints".

The findings and conclusions after the investigation came as no surprise. The defensive response was expected. However, it has become clear the BBC Asian Network is failing the Sikh community if it is found to be broadcasting programmes causing offence to religious feelings.

The BBC appears not to have learnt a lesson from the Sonia Deol show. However, they are now aware that the British Sikh community will challenge it if it continues to fail to provide the level and quality of service expected of a public service body that has moral and social responsibilities.

The Sikh Federation (UK) has gone on record to say: "The BBC must change and be more responsive to the British Sikh community. We along with other prominent Sikh organisations are well aware that we can through our political contacts influence the government on whether the BBC should keep its licence fee after the corporation's current charter expires in 2006".

JOIN THE YOUNG SIKHS



If you are interested in being involved with younger Sikhs join the "Young Sikhs" egroup by emailing: youngsikhsuk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or visit www.sikhfederation.com

FEDERATION'S RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA

Has Manmohan Singh's appointment as PM made any difference?

The appointment of Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister of India has had and will continue to have a positive impact on issues concerning the Sikh identity. It has been reported by media throughout the world that India now has "the first Sikh and first non-Hindu prime minister". This is an important statement in its own right.

Since 9/11 and the Taliban, the turban has been seen incorrectly by some, as a negative symbol and associated with Muslims. A Sikh Prime Minister in a turban who will travel throughout the world should do much to educate non-Sikhs about the Sikh identity. However, the extent to which Manmohan Singh will actively protect and promote the Sikh identity is questionable given he appears to be failing the Sikhs over the Dastaar issue, concerning Sikh children in French schools.

Another positive aspect of Manmohan Singh's appointment is that he has a "clean" image unlike many politicians in India who are seen as corrupt and in politics for personal gain. His "clean" image comes from the fact that he is not really a politician, but a "bureaucrat" turned politician.

Manmohan Singh is a Sikh, which he can not deny. But the "honeymoon" period is coming to an end and he will now be judged by Sikhs by his actions. Manmohan Singh has yet to prove he genuinely holds power. One of his first actions was to appoint Jagdish Tytler as a Minister which has not gone down well with the Sikhs. Manmohan Singh should recall the impact of November 1984 when he sold his house in Model Town near Delhi University and bought a place instead in Chandigarh, where he felt safer.

In the early 1990s Manmohan Singh represented the Indian Government at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva and denied any atrocities were committed by the authorities in Panjab. Now he is Prime Minister he has the opportunity to put the record straight. His image as a "clean" politician can only be enhanced if he combines this with "honesty" and allows Amnesty International and the UN Rapporteur on Torture access to Panjab, which they have been denied for the last 20 years.

Those that suggest that the appointment of Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister has in some way reduced the damage and hurt caused to the Sikh psyche by the events of 1984 and the widespread human rights abuses that followed are mistaken. The Sikhs will never forget the events of 1984 and will ensure justice is delivered. Justice can only be delivered when Sikhs in the Indian sub-continent are able to freely exercise their right to self-determination. The Sikh Federation (UK) believe this will ultimately result in the establishment of an independent sovereign Sikh State of Khalistan.

Sikhs in the West respond to the appointment of Tytler

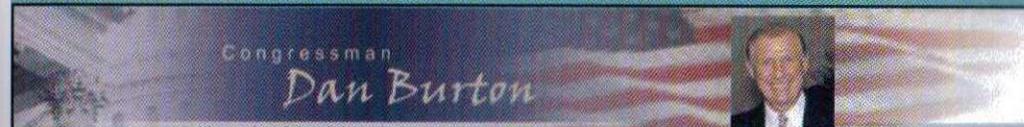
In November 1984 thousands of innocent Sikhs were murdered in a matter of days in cities across India. The killings were the outcome of a well organised plan by the Indian authorities and politicians, such as Jagdish Tytler, of the Congress. Therefore, why did Manmohan Singh appoint someone directly implicated in the organised violence and killing of innocent Sikhs in Delhi in November 1984? This was a mistake and showed complete insensitivity towards Sikhs.

Sikhs in the West are once again being forced to take the lead. The Sikh Federation (UK) and like minded organisations in other western countries have pledged to ensure protest actions take place in countries such as the USA, Canada, Germany and the UK if Tytler makes a visit.

In late June Sikhs across the USA were contacted and mobilised when the Sikh Federation (UK) learned of a visit by Tytler and Advani to a convention of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, to be held from June 23 to 27 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Diego. Within 24 hours Sikhs in America had organised a protest and Congressman Dan Burton of Indiana and Hon. Edolphus Towns of New York had raised the matter in the House of Representatives.

"As someone who has long championed the cause of freedom, democracy, and equal rights for the Sikh community and other oppressed minorities in that part of the world, I am deeply concerned about this man coming to the United States."

"So long as people like Jagdish Tytler are in the India government, it draws into question whether India is truly willing to uphold the democratic values that it preaches. In addition, Mr. Speaker, it should also draw into question the wisdom of the hard-working taxpayers of this country supporting a government that rewards the Jagdish Tytler's of the world with power and authority."



Similarly Hon. Edolphus Towns of New York raised the same matter in the House of Representatives stating:

"Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to read that Jagdish Tytler, India's Minister of State for Non-Resident Indian Affairs, was coming to the United States to speak. He is the person most responsible for the genocide against Sikhs in Delhi in November 1984. To bring Jagdish Tytler to America is to give our implicit blessing to that massacre."



"Mr. Speaker, why is such a person being granted entry to the United States? And why is he in India's Cabinet? Unfortunately, rewarding people who carry out such activities is too common in India. We do not have to grant it our implicit approval. " A democratic country should be embarrassed to have carried out acts like these, and I call on Prime Minister Singh to begin to rectify India's record by releasing Sikh political prisoners and by removing Mr. Tytler and others involved in atrocities from his government."

"We embarrass ourselves and our principles by allowing the likes of Jagdish Tytler to come and make speeches in our country."

"As long as people like Mr. Tytler are in the government, it is confirmation that there is no place for Sikhs and other minorities in India. Until it repudiates this and allows all people to exercise their full rights, we should provide no aid to India. And we should put ourselves on record in support of a free and fair vote on independence for the Sikh homeland, Khalistan."

It was no surprise that within 24 hours it was reported by the press in Washington that Tytler had cancelled his US visit to Los Angeles and San Diego fearing protests.



Khalsa Human Rights (KHR) is an independent human rights organisation based in Leicester.

KHR has a comprehensive human rights exhibition, which has been on tour throughout the UK and in Europe, the United States, Canada and Pakistan.

KHR was set up in response to the failure of the Indian government to allow independent investigation of alleged human rights abuses by internationally recognised organisations such as Amnesty International and UN.



It was formed initially to highlight the human rights violations, which were being perpetrated in Punjab, the whole of India.

Although based in Leicester, Khalsa Human Rights is developing a team of volunteers in many parts of England, and has contacts in Europe, America and in India itself. It is the construction of this international has allowed the exhibition to travel as extensively as it has, and permitted the dissemination of information which makes the human rights campaigning effective.



A separate fund called the Bhai Amrik Singh Shaheedi Fund, which sends money to bereaved families of those who were killed during the conflict in Punjab was set . The Fund supports more than 800 families in Punjab. Most family receives 725 Rs. per month, a further 15,000 Rs. for a girl's wedding and 5,000 Rs. for a boy's wedding. The Fund also sometimes sends significant donations to charitable organisations, such as those looking after orphans.

2004-05 THE YEAR AHEAD . . .

2004-05 will be an important year for British Sikhs

We will have the:

- 20th anniversary of the November 1984 anti-Sikh pogroms
- 300th anniversary of the martyrdom of the sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji in December
- General Election within the next 12 months

We will need to work together to arrange the commemoration of November 1984 and celebrate the important religious anniversaries that will be taking place later this year.

We face numerous challenges and will need to secure adequate assurances from each of the political parties about our key concerns:

- Separate recognition and monitoring of Sikhs
- Better representation of Sikhs in decision making bodies
- Protection and promotion of the Sikh identity
- A greater voice on highlighting atrocities against the Sikhs
- Freedom to express our views on self-determination and Sikh independence

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Sikh Federation (UK) will be agreeing plans for a number of events, campaigns and projects over the next 12 months.

Many events at a local and national level will be organised in conjunction with other Sikh organisations, including Gurdwaras. There will be a special emphasis on greater involvement of the younger generation.

Our aims are to raise awareness amongst Sikhs and non-Sikhs of the Sikh religion, philosophy and way of life; and highlight the injustices being committed against the Sikhs.

Work with the Sikh Federation (UK) to make the events of 2004-05 a success.

For further information visit our web site on:

www.sikhfederation.com

or email

info@sikhfederation.com

Background

The Sikh Federation (UK) was established in September 2003 with the aim of giving Sikhs a stronger political voice by taking an increasing interest in mainstream politics in the UK.

The Federation is a non-governmental organisation, but to discharge its duties as an effective pressure group it is also being registered with the Electoral Commission as the first ever Sikh political party in the United Kingdom.

The Sikh Federation (UK) is based on the "miri-piri" principle the Sikh principle that temporal and spiritual goals are indivisible.

The Federation will also provide the Sikhs with a much needed voice at an international level and will be seeking consultative status with the United Nations at the earliest opportunity.



Aims and Objectives

The Federations' aims and objectives are to work closely with each of the main political parties in the UK to promote relevant issues set out in the Sikh Agenda for the UK Government.

The four key areas of work for the Federation will be to:

- ① Promote the Sikh religion, philosophy and way of life - working within the Sikh community and with local and national government;
- ② Promote sporting and educational activities as well as relevant cultural issues directly associated with the Sikh way of life;
- ③ Campaign for human rights issues impacting on Sikhs in the UK and abroad - working with human rights groups, non-governmental organisations and politicians; and
- ④ Argue the case for the Sikhs right to self-determination and lobbying politicians, the UK Government, official representatives of foreign governments in the UK, the European Parliament and at the United Nations for the establishment of an independent sovereign Sikh State of Khalistan.

For further information visit:

www.sikhfederation.com

Read on the web site about:

- ① 1 year on Sikh Federation (UK) recognised by leadership of all three political parties
- ② Federation announce setting up of "Young Sikhs"
- ③ Dates for regional workshops for "Young Sikhs"
- ④ Federation announce international network to co-ordinate Sikh campaigns
- ⑤ Prejudices not to be tolerated
- ⑥ Financial backing from DSGPC welcomed for legal challenge in France

Please complete the application form below:

Title:	* Full Name:	
* Address:		
* Town:		
* County:		
* Postcode:		
* Home Tel:	Work Tel:	Mobile:
* Email:		Date of Birth:
Member of political party: YES/NO	If yes name of party:	

For Office Use Only

Date Application processed :	Payment Method: Cash/Cheque
Membership Details:	Receipt No:
Nearest Branch:	

* Indicates details required to process the application.

Terms and conditions

I am aged 18 years or over. I am entitled to vote in the United Kingdom and am registered as an elector at the address given above. I agree to abide by the rules and constitution of the Sikh Federation (UK).

I understand that, in compliance with funding laws, if I am donating more than £200 (including my membership subscription of £10), my details will be checked to ensure I am registered on a UK electoral register. If I donate more than £1,000 to a Sikh Federation branch or more than £5,000 to the Sikh Federation (UK) nationally in the course of a calendar year, I understand that my name and the amount of the donation will be reported to the Electoral Commission for publication on their public register of donations to the Sikh Federation (UK).

Signed Date

The information you have provided will not be shared with any organisation or individual outside the Sikh Federation (UK) without your consent, nor transferred outside of the United Kingdom. Please visit the Sikh Federation (UK) web site (www.sikhfederation.com) to obtain your nearest postal address to return your completed application. Alternatively, send it to:

Sikh Federation (UK), Tanglewood House, Pine Walk, Chilworth, SO16 7HQ

WHY KHALISTAN?

Khalistan the Sikh homeland is not a destiny, it is a necessity. Guru Gobind Singh Ji said: "Raj Bina Nahin Dharam Chale Hain, Dharam Bina Sab Dalle Malle Hain" which literally means that sovereignty is a MUST in order for a religion to survive; otherwise religion perishes.

Guru Ji taught us to fight for the truth and for justice. If the only purpose of Sikhi is to meditate and accept the will of God then what was the point of Guru Hargobind Ji building Akaal Takhat Sahib? The whole point is to fight for the truth while doing Naam Simran and following Sikhi.

Sikhs are fighting to keep their distinct identity, to save their religion and to keep Sikhi alive. If that means a separate country then why not? Guru Gobind Singh Ji said "Koi Kisi Ko Raaj Na Dehain, Jo Lehain Nij Bal Se Lehain" which means "no one gives one freedom and sovereignty, the only way to gain independence is through a show of power."

Some people ask - What does Khalistan mean for Sikhs in foreign countries? Well, the answer is simple. Khalistan will play a great role in the lives of foreign Sikhs. A strong country will represent them and will preach Sikhi. Foreign countries will understand the true meaning of Sikhs and the distinct Sikh identity.

Khalistan will come, it is the birthright of Sikhs. Khalistan will:

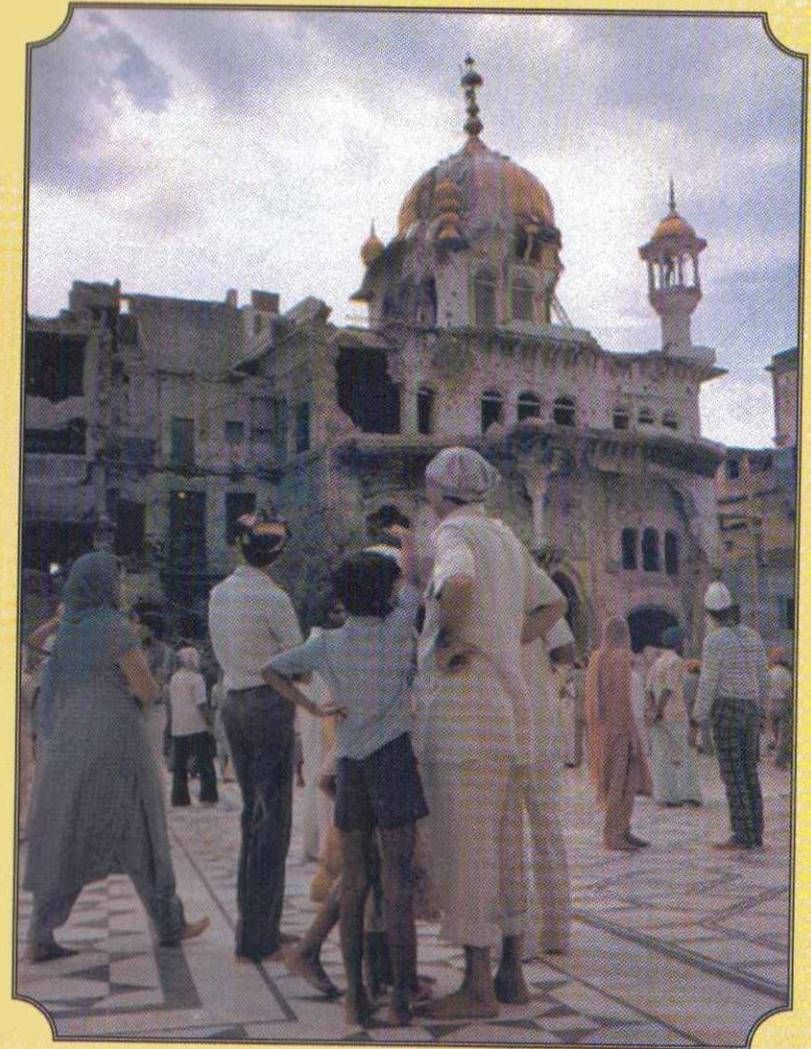
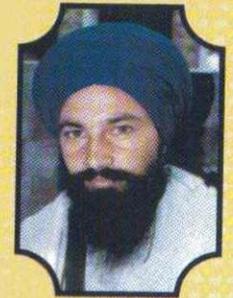
- ⊗ provide an international voice for the Sikhs
- ⊗ keep Sikhi alive by promoting it across the world
- ⊗ bring freedom to practice the Sikh faith
- ⊗ result in less discrimination, injustice and lies to Sikhs
- ⊗ bring peace for Sikhs which they have not enjoyed since 1849
- ⊗ end oppression, holocausts and attacks on the Golden Temple Complex
- ⊗ prevent disappearances of Sikhs
- ⊗ stop killing of Sikhs in fake encounters
- ⊗ reduce the abuse of Sikh women, the turban and Sikh principles

For further information visit:

www.sikhfederation.com

Read on the web site about:

- ⊗ Sikhs across the globe denounce attack on Nankana Sahib
- ⊗ Why India should be denied permanent membership of the UN Security Council
- ⊗ Chancellor Schroeder visits India - Federation urges action by Sikhs in Germany
- ⊗ Indian politicians are the lowest of the low - Modi and Tytler challenge the Sikhs
- ⊗ Does your MP support Sikhs on 1984?
- ⊗ Politician's nominated by Sikhs for "Pack Of Cards"
- ⊗ Why is Kerry victory worrying India?



**Akaal Takht Sahib, Destroyed by the Indian Army in
Operation Blue Star - June 1984**