



OVERVIEW



A Message from the Chairman

The Sikh Federation was set up in September 2003 to be an independent organisation with a clear set of aims and objectives, including lobbying governments and exerting pressure through diplomatic channels for the establishment of an independent sovereign Sikh State.

In the last eight years the Sikh Federation in the UK has established itself as the leading political organisation with UK Parliamentarians and its wide-ranging role has been consistently acknowledged by coverage by the mainstream media. Lobbying the European Parliament, European Commission and United Nations has also been led by the Federation, but the success of this lobbying has been limited with a lack of proper organisation outside the UK.

After extensive consultation the Sikh Federation has decided on a radical restructure to attract a greater number of youngsters and professionals to its leadership in the UK, Canada and USA and expand its political lobbying model across Europe and the globe.

At the international level there will be a 31-member International Supreme Council of the Sikh Federation with Sikh representation from around 20 countries. This will co-ordinate political activities worldwide and lead engagement with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and lobbying at the United Nations.

At the country level there will be 11 or 15-member National Boards of Directors supplemented with advisers and local branches with 5-member Local Boards of Directors in major cities with a large Sikh population. They will take the lead in ensuring successful lobbying of their respective national governments and local politicians.

In the UK, Canada and US the outwardly focused work of the Federation in each country will be led by a 25-member National Management Team headed by five Managing Directors with specific responsibilities. Countries in mainland Europe will collectively nominate 10 members with language skills to work with the 25-member National Management Team in the UK.

The organisation has over many years developed extensive links across the globe, including with those in Punjab who are like-minded and share some or all of the Federation's aims and objectives.

The International Coalition for a Sikh Homeland established early this year with Sikhs from Canada and the USA allows all organisations across the globe, including those in Punjab who support a non-violent campaign for the establishment of a Sikh homeland to work with the Sikh Federation and others to deliver a shared objective.

The 31-member International Supreme Council of the Sikh Federation will have Sikh representation from around the globe. The Council will be dominated by Federation representatives from the UK, Canada and the USA, but the intention is for the Supreme Council to also include several representatives from Punjab that are able to speak for Sikhs on the international stage at the United Nations.

Bhai Amrik Singh

Chair Sikh Federation (UK)

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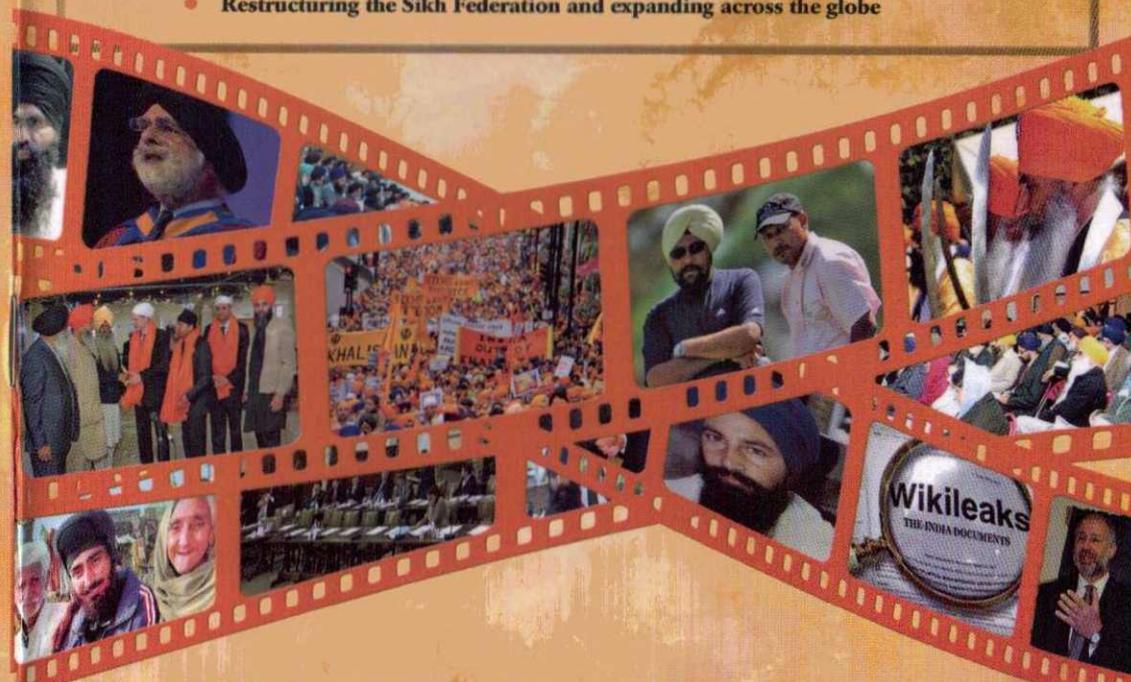
WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND FREEDOM



SIKH FEDERATION (UK) ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS 2010-2011

- Annual International Sikh Convention
- Working with and supporting the Sikh Council (UK)
- Exposing involvement of Indian Minister, Kamal Nath in November 1984 anti-Sikh pogroms
- Working towards securing respect for the Sikh turban at airports across Europe
- Launch of the International Coalition for a Sikh Homeland
- Sikhs secure right to wear Kirpan when attending London Olympics in 2012
- Successful Sikh lobby in the UK Parliament
- UK Parliamentary debate on respect for the Sikh turban
- Campaign to secure the release of Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar
- June 1984 Remembrance March and Freedom Rally
- Indian Government exposed for trying to curb Sikh protests
- Restructuring the Sikh Federation and expanding across the globe





ABOUT THE SIKH FEDERATION (UK)

The Sikh Federation (UK) is a non-governmental organisation, that is a pressure group and often referred to as the first ever Sikh political party in the United Kingdom. The Federation is based on the 'miri-miri' principle, the Sikh Principle that temporal and spiritual goals are indivisible.

The organisation 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.



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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 main areas of work for the Sikh Federation (UK) are:

Promote the Sikh religion, philosophy and way of life – working within the Sikh community and with local and national government;

Promote sporting and educational activities as well as relevant cultural issues directly associated with the Sikh way of life;

Campaign for human rights issues impacting on Sikhs in the UK and abroad – working with human rights groups, non-governmental organisations and politicians;

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.

SIKH FEDERATION WORKING WITH THOSE IN PUNJAB

The Sikh Federation is an independent organisation with a very clear set of aims and objectives that is now restructuring and expanding across the globe. Given the expansion of the organisation across the globe many are asking what links will the organisation have and will it be affiliated to any one group in Punjab.

The Federation is an extremely influential organisation that is widely respected for its work by Sikhs across the globe. The written message by Bhai Amrik Singh at the back of the booklet gives an indication about how the Federation is working with Sikhs that share a common agenda.

The Federation already has extensive links across the globe, including in Punjab, but the strength of the Sikh Federation on the global stage will continue to come from its independence and clear focus that allows it to be direct and assertive.

For more information go to: www.sikhfederation.com

Email: info@sikhfederation.com

WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND FREEDOM



SIKH FEDERATION (UK) ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS 2010-2011

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BUILDING A STRONGER POLITICAL VOICE IN THE UK AND ABROAD

SIKH FEDERATION (UK) CONVENTION PROVES A HUGE SUCCESS

More Sikhs than usual took part in the Annual International Sikh Convention organised by the Sikh Federation (UK) that took place on Sunday 19 September 2010 at Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara, Sedgley Street, Wolverhampton.

In advance of the Convention Fabian Hamilton the Labour MP for Leeds North East and the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for UK Sikhs who was unable to take part in the Convention shared priorities for the group:

- To persuade over 40,000 public bodies systematically to monitor Sikhs as an ethnic group, despite the categories in the 2011 Census. This will ensure a fair provision of public services to the Sikh community
- To make sure that the government keeps its promise to introduce a Code of Practice on Sikh articles of faith that is endorsed by Parliament – a breach of the Code would be taken into account by tribunals and courts when dealing with any dispute arising out of the implementation of the Code
- To press for a radical improvement in how the government engages with the Sikh community through better consultation with organisations like the Sikh Federation (UK)
- Taking up Sikh identity and human rights issues at an international level.
- Ensuring the exclusion from the UK of individuals directly involved in torture, fake encounters, disappearances, genocide and other crimes against humanity.
- Supporting the Sikh campaign for justice for the June and November 1984 massacres.
- Support for a change to Article 25 of the Indian Constitution and laws, such as the Hindu Marriage Act 1955, so the Sikh faith is properly recognised by the Constitution.
- Because of the continued injustices against Sikhs in the Indian sub-continent to support the Sikhs' legitimate right to national self-determination.

The Sikh Federation (UK) released its annual highlights booklet for 2009-10 at the Convention and it proved more popular than ever.

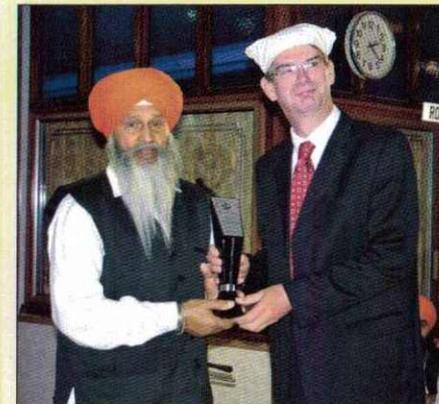


Fabian Hamilton MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for UK Sikhs



There was an impressive list of politicians at the Convention:

- Lee Scott MP, Parliamentary Private Secretary to Secretary of State for Transport represented the coalition Government.
- Emma Reynolds MP, who later in the year became a Shadow Foreign Office Minister touched upon some of the priorities set out in Fabian Hamilton's letter.
- Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
- William (The Earl of) Dartmouth MEP an excellent speaker from the UK Independence Party.



Rob Marris receiving the Shaheed Bhai Amrik Singh Ji Lifetime Achievement Award for his services to the British Sikh community

- Rob Marris, the former Chair of the APPG for UK Sikhs who was specially invited to speak about leading the group for 5 years and was given the Shaheed Bhai Amrik Singh Ji Lifetime Achievement Award for his services to the British Sikh community.

There were many actions and announcements that emerged from the Convention.

ENCOURAGE POLITICIANS TO BECOME ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR UK SIKHS



Sikhs were urged to become much more politically active if they are to take maximum advantage of coalition government. As predicted the Sikh Federation (UK) has made a number of breakthroughs with the new government. However, there is still a need for a greater number of Sikhs associated with the Federation to become politically active in towns up and down the country if the Federation is to shape government policies to the advantage of the Sikh community.

Government and civil servants recognise that working with the Federation is essential and appreciate the Federation will not waver from its stated aims and objectives and will robustly defend the Sikh community's stance on articles of faith. Ministers in the coalition government value the Federation's approach to transparency as it fits well with its own agenda. The Federation as an organisation is accountable to, represents and engages directly with the Sangat in Gurdwaras and through the Sikh media. It is far more accountable than those that government officials currently choose to deal with.

FEDERATION ANNOUNCE NEW STRUCTURE TO MEET INCREASED DEMANDS AND BUILD CAPACITY FOR THE FUTURE

The Sikh Federation (UK) not only announced a 15-member National Executive Council (NEC), but also named 11 additional youngsters to work alongside the NEC. These 11 youngsters were split into three zones – North, Midlands and South and each headed by one of the youngsters in the NEC. In addition, a team of five young Bibis was created to involve more Bibis in the Federation's work. Finally the Federation appointed a team of five independent advisers,



who all work in senior positions in central or local government and/or are involved in politics, including Rob Marris. These changes were made to:

- i) Respond to the growing demands on the Federation;
- ii) Build capacity for the future;
- iii) Prepare for the possibility that the new coalition government will want much more direct dialogue with the Federation; and
- iv) Help build an international coalition for many of the Federation's campaigns.

REVIVING THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE RELEASE OF PROFESSOR DAVINDERPAL SINGH BHULLAR

The Federation also used the Convention to suggest that a concerted effort should be made working with Sikhs around the globe to re-launch the campaign for the release of Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar. The experience of the last twelve months suggests Sikhs have united on this issue and made major inroads to once again bring the Professor's case to the top of the agenda.



Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar



INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT FOR A SIKH HOMELAND

The main theme stressed from an international perspective was like-minded Sikhs from the UK, Canada and USA will establish the key building blocks and vision for a Sikh homeland. The

Federation emphasised that Sikhs must be taken seriously about the desire for the practical establishment of a Sikh homeland. Progress on this should not be delayed whilst an effort is made to get everyone on board.

This work on the building blocks will provide a framework for an international negotiating team that has plans for an initial dialogue with each of the five permanent members of the Security Council – China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States. The dialogue with these countries and any progress made as a result of the meetings will provide a new direction and impetus to bring about the establishment of an independent sovereign Sikh homeland. The objective is simple - to increase international cooperation and gain support for a Sikh homeland.

SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN TO CANCEL TARLOCHAN DASS'S PROGRAMME IN WEMBLEY

In November 2010 the Sikh Federation (UK) became aware that Tarlochan Dass, the son of Darshan Dass, was to hold a programme on Sunday 14 November at the Shri Sanatan Hindu Mandir in Wembley.

Gurdwaras and the Sangat were provided the information below about Darshan Dass and encouraged



to contact the Mandir to encourage them to cancel Tarlochan Dass's programme. It was explained in the past the Hindu community had reacted positively and cancelled his events as they realise his preaching is offensive to Sikhs. They are often not aware of the mischief being created by the likes of Tarlochan Dass.

It was explained Darshan Dass used to:

i) call himself the true and last guru; he made a mockery of the Sikh Gurus and the great Shaheeds of the Khalsa Panth. He referred to himself as Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

ii) sit higher than Dhan Dhan Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Maharaaj, no satkar (respect) was given to Guru Maharaaj Ji, and he distorted Gurbani and made people believe that he was the true saviour.

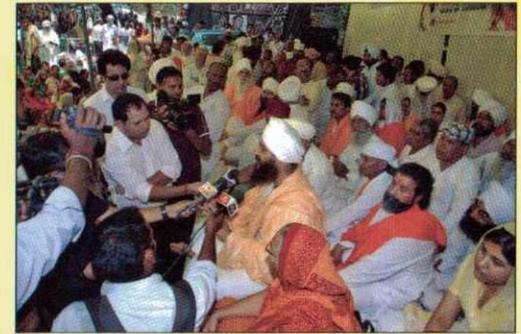
iii) preach that Sikhs and Sikhi do not exist, and that Sikhs are a mixture of Hindus and Muslims, we should all be clean shaven and wear white turbans with white dhotis and we should all have a red tilak on our fore heads.

iv) destroy hundreds of families in desperate need, with trickery and by using standard magic tricks and black magic. Families were broken up and women began to abandon their children to live with him and his bodyguards.

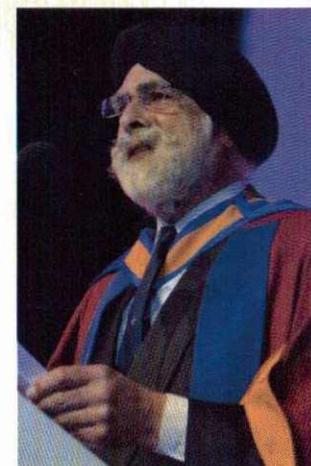
v) bully, intimidate, rape and black mail to extort money and stop people leaving.

It was explained by all accounts Tarlochan Dass has followed in Darshan Dass's footsteps.

Many telephone calls, emails & letters were sent by Gurdwaras and the Sangat to the Mandir & the Shri Sanatan Hindu Mandir in Wembley wrote to say a decision had been taken to cancel the programme.



Tarlochan Dass who had his programme cancelled at the Mandir in Wembley



Indarjit Singh, the first turban wearing Sikh in the UK Parliament

FIRST TURBAN WEARING SIKH IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Just as the booklet went to press it was announced 79-year-old Indarjit Singh, the Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations, will be the first turbaned Sikh to sit in the House of Lords. He said: 'it is an honour for the whole Sikh community.'

He was recommended by the House of Lords Appointments Commission. The Federation congratulating Indarjit Singh and his family said as he was very well spoken they were hopeful he would use the opportunity to publicly raise awareness on Sikh issues.

Indarjit Singh was born in Rawalpindi and came to the UK when he was only a year old. In recent years, he has become a familiar voice on the prestigious 'Thought for the Day' programme that is broadcast on BBC Radio 4.



SIKH FEDERATION (UK) WELCOMES FORMATION OF THE SIKH COUNCIL UK

In December 2010 the Sikh Council UK was formally set up and this was welcomed and supported by the Federation. The leadership of the Sikh Federation (UK) and its wide membership were instrumental in not only ensuring the Sikh Council came into being, but that it operates to complement the work of organisations such as the Federation and supports Gurdwaras.

Around 170 delegates representing Gurdwaras and Sikh organisations across the UK took part in the inaugural General Assembly Meeting of the Sikh Council UK at Gurdwara Sahib Leamington and Warwick.

This is the first time all the large Sikh Gurdwaras and leading Sikh organisations that represent the grassroots of the community across the UK have come under a single platform in order to ensure a consistent approach to addressing key issues affecting Sikhs in the UK and Europe.



Delegates at the launch representing Gurdwaras and Sikh organisations across the UK

The Sikh Council UK provides a unique structure and a new approach by bringing together Sikhs with a range of skills and expertise and provides the framework for a transparent sustainable infrastructure for the long term benefit of the Sikh community.

Sikhs are very well integrated into British society, actively involved in interfaith and cross cultural understanding through education and participation.



Bhai Amrik Singh addressing delegates at the launch

Bhai Amrik Singh who led the ad hoc committee to form the Sikh Council UK started the meeting and explained the considerable progress to date. Reports were presented on provisional dates for meetings for 2011, code of conduct, operating principles and budget until 31 March 2011. The constitution for the Sikh Council UK was then unanimously adopted and members of the Executive Committee were duly nominated, selected and endorsed.

The selection process was smooth and conducted in accordance with the constitution - each person nominated needed to be a delegate and proposed and seconded by two other delegates. The selection of members for the Executive Committee was a transparent process before the General Assembly took a final decision.

A good balance was achieved in those selected who represent Gurdwaras and Sikh organisations and around one-third were graduates from UK universities.



The Federation will continue with its leading role in political lobbying and campaigning with the full backing of the Sikh Council UK. In other areas it will assist the Sikh Council UK where necessary.

The Federation's pivotal role in setting up the Sikh Council UK is reflected in the delegates linked to the Federation that were nominated and selected by the General Assembly to serve on the Executive Committee of the Sikh Council UK.

A Federation spokesman said:

'We hope the Sikh Council UK will be quickly recognised by the UK Government and civil servants will ensure all future consultations that impact on Sikhs will be directed through the Sikh Council UK.'

The UK Government already recognises the Sikh Federation (UK) as leading on lobbying and many campaigns on behalf of the Sikh community and this will remain the case.'

SUCCESSFUL MASS SIKH LOBBY AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

A successful mass Sikh lobby was organised by the Sikh Federation (UK) on 22 March 2011 and was supported by the Sikh Council UK. This was a very important event in which Sikh representatives from many towns and cities attended.

The All Party Parliamentary Group for UK Sikhs hosted those at the lobby in the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House. This is the largest room available and was packed out with around 250 Sikh representatives from across the UK. The event was covered by all three Sikh Channels.



Sikh representatives at the mass Sikh lobby in the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House

The aim of the lobby was to raise the profile of the following Sikh issues with Ministers and MPs and request effective intervention:

Respecting the Sikh identity

- Respect for the Sikh turban at UK Airports (and across Europe)
- Practising Sikhs right to wear the Kirpan if attending events at the 2012 Olympics

Continued violation of human rights in India

- Longstanding death penalty case of Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar
- Illegal detention, torture and murder of Shaminder Singh (Shera)
- US Courts summon Indian National Congress politicians regarding November 1984 Sikh massacre
- Recent discovery of several mass graves of Sikhs from November 1984, e.g. village Hondh-Chillar in Haryana

UK Government engagement with British Sikhs





WORKING WITH THE SIKH COUNCIL UK TO HELP DELIVER ON BEHALF OF THE SIKH COMMUNITY

The Sikh Council UK is a national body that represents a common platform on which the Sikh community can develop a collective agenda in order to achieve its economical, educational, cultural and social aspirations working with the UK Government and European institutions.

Since December 2010 the Sikh Federation (UK) has supported the work of the Sikh Council UK with involvement in the leadership team, executive committee and sub committees. Much of the effort in the first year to 18 months will go into developing the infrastructure of the Council so it has a strong foundation and is sustainable.

Key highlights so far where we have worked with the Sikh Council UK have been:

Census 2011 - Working with the Sikh Council UK, Sikh TV channels and other parts of the media and sewadars across the country to increase awareness about the Census 2011 and help the Sangat complete the questionnaires. When the results start to emerge in July 2012 it is expected more Sikhs would have answered the religious question and protested the absence of a separate ethnic tick box for Sikhs by writing in Sikh.

Nine operational sub committees – Well attended planning and development events have been held and action plans and overall priorities agreed. Those associated with the Sikh Federation (UK) are active members of most of the sub committees.

Respect for the Sikh turban at UK airports – The Sikh Federation (UK) has been supported by the Sikh Council UK and member organisations, especially Gurdwaras through writing letters to MPs to maintain pressure through the Sangat on the Department for Transport to ensure the Sikh turban is not searched by hand. The Sikh Council UK has developed guidelines in several languages – English, Italian, Spanish etc. for the proper searching of the dastar with respect at airports.

Indian sub-continent issues – Numerous issues have been highlighted by the Sikh TV channels since January 2011 and the Sikh Council UK has been encouraged to take many of them up e.g. Honth-Chillar massacre in November 1984, unprovoked forced removal of the dastar by Indian police officer in Mohali etc.

Making links in Europe – The Sikh Council UK has started making links with officials both at the European Commission and at the Council of Europe.

Sharing of information – The Sikh Federation (UK) has been active in sharing relevant information with members of the Sikh Council UK e.g. details to encourage Sikhs to take up the Operation Black Vote (OBV) Parliamentary Shadowing Scheme – ten Sikhs applied for the Scheme, nominating Sikhs



as torch bearers for the 2012 Olympics or trying to get Gatka as part of the opening/closing ceremony, applying for public appointments to increase Sikh participation in national and local decision making bodies, Sikh membership of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) in Kent etc.

Casework – Where relevant cases have been referred by the Sikh Federation (UK) to the Sikh Council UK e.g. Amritdhari girls right to wear her Kirpan during PE sessions, Sikh denied entry to Lords cricket ground because of his Kirpan, helping a Sikh family contact the local MP regarding deportation, preventing the adoption of a 19 month old Sikh girl to a Muslim family when the local Southall Gurdwara withdrew support for the family at the last minute etc.

PARLIAMENATRY LAUNCH OF THE SIKH COUNCIL UK

The Sikh Council UK Parliamentary launch took place in the Houses of Parliament on 22 June 2011. MPs welcomed the formation of the Sikh Council UK and stated that it was long overdue.

It was attended by around 25 MPs representing all three major parties. This included members of the Coalition Government and Shadow Ministers.

The key message was:

- MPs said they were very impressed with the structure and model that had been developed by the Sikh community that could be copied by other communities.
- The Government would be sending a delegation of MPs to Brussels in September 2011 and would work with their counterparts in order to address the issue of respect for the Sikh turban at airports across Europe.



Liz Kendall MP for Leicester West addressing those at the launch

The Sikh Council leadership team, members of the executive committee as well as delegates to the Sikh Council General Assembly attended the gathering that also included Sikh and non-Sikh media.

SIKH COUNCIL UK PROJECTS OF WIDER INTEREST

There are many Sikh Council UK projects where the Sikh Federation (UK) has a direct interest and will be working closely with the Council to make sure they are delivered. These include:

- employing a part-time member of staff to work in the UK Parliament for the All Party Parliamentary Group for UK Sikhs from November 2011
- helping prepare and organise the Europe-wide summit in Paris in November 2011, which will approve a declaration and charter of objectives linked to growing concerns related to the Sikh community across Europe

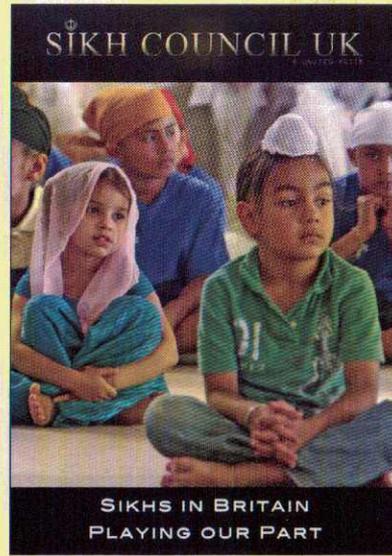


iii) securing the services of a PR company to promote the 'Sikh brand' in the UK, Europe and worldwide that can be employed by member organisations of the Sikh Council UK to help publicise events, campaigns etc.

iv) producing multi-media multi-lingual exhibitions on the Sikh identity, history and Sikh way of life for non-Sikhs across Europe that will be launched in European institutions in April 2012 and November 2012 and could be provided to 'tour' decision making institutions across Europe

v) meet, develop links and agree on sharing information with leading Sikh organisations in the USA, Canada, Australia and other English speaking countries where Sikhs live in large numbers

vi) develop a legal strategy for the Sikh Council UK to tackle key legal issues and set up a Legal Advisory Board



REPORT TO UK PARLIAMENT ENCOURAGES LIFTING BAN ON ORGANISATIONS

International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) gets special mention due to political pressure exerted by India

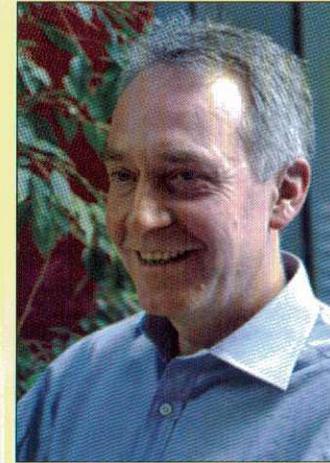
The ISYF was banned in the UK more than 10 years ago in March 2001 and this was widely acknowledged at that time by many UK politicians, including Ministers that this was a direct result of pressure from the Indian authorities.

The Sikh Federation (UK) was set up in September 2003 after working behind the scenes with politicians from across the political spectrum for more than two and a half years. The Federation is now recognised as the leading lobbying Sikh organisation in the UK and Europe.

It is also well known that the Indian authorities have for many years been complaining to the UK Government the Sikh Federation (UK) is the successor body to the ISYF and should therefore be banned. The UK Government and all the main political parties to their credit are however on record as recognising the Sikh Federation (UK) is a legitimate organisation operating within the law and has every right to continue its activities, even though India may find these activities objectionable.

On 18 July 2011 David Anderson QC, the independent reviewer of the operation of the terrorist legislation presented a 100+ page report to the UK Parliament where he made specific reference to the ISYF and the pressure exerted by foreign governments. He has reached a number of conclusions and made recommendations in his report to Parliament. He has confirmed:

i) Banning of some organisations is heavily influenced by foreign policy concerns and this is being used to appease other governments. He has concluded there are significant obstacles of a political or foreign policy nature that makes the lifting of the ban on some organisations difficult as this would be unpalatable to foreign governments.



David Anderson QC, the independent reviewer of the operation of the terrorist legislation

ii) It is too easy and convenient for the UK Government to ban organisations; on the basis of nothing more than a belief, but the process to lift the ban is ineffective. The annual internal review over the last 10 years has never resulted in any bans being lifted. All 11 applications over the last 10 years to have bans lifted have also been refused by the Home Secretary.

David Anderson QC has recommended the process for lifting the ban should be eased and time-limited requiring the Home Secretary to satisfy Parliament on why the ban should be retained and supporting this with specific evidence.

The report specifically states:

'I have been approached on behalf of one banned organisation, the International Sikh Youth Federation, whose supporters believe that it continues to be banned only as a sop to the Indian Government. They wish the ban to be lifted but have no faith in the process of internal review, and after spending some £50,000 in 2001-03 are unwilling to contemplate recourse to what they describe as the "slow, secretive and costly" procedure.'

It is to the credit of the Sikh Federation (UK), that its leadership continues more than 10 years later to politically and legally challenge the improper ban on the ISYF. Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK), reacting to the report presented by David Anderson QC to Parliament said:

'We welcome the reports conclusions and recommendations with respect to changing the process for lifting the ban on organisations. The Government must now respond positively to the report presented to Parliament and we and politicians supporting us will watch carefully what emerges from the next internal annual review of the ISYF later this year.

Given the democratic values that the UK holds so dearly it would be a shame if the outcome of the internal review reinforced the view that foreign policy sensitivities are deemed more important than the rights of law-abiding Sikhs in the UK to organise themselves to openly express their views about the human rights violations in India and the right of Sikhs to peacefully campaign for a homeland.'

A spokesman for the Federation added:

'Following this report if the internal review continues to be ineffective a formal application to have the ban lifted is likely to be made to the Home Secretary by those that remain affected by the ban. There remain law-abiding Sikhs who are denied British nationality, have no travel documents, prevented or harassed from travelling to certain countries and because they remain politically active and criticise India are falsely labelled as terrorists by the media and political opponents. Ironically political opponents that have disassociated from the Sikh Federation (UK) or set up new organisations and silent or given up on the need for a separate Sikh homeland seem to have little difficulty travelling to India and elsewhere.'

A Home Office spokesman said Mr Anderson had raised a number of issues and they would respond formally in the autumn.



SIKH FEDERATION (UK) LEADERSHIP MEET DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

On Saturday 16 April the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg met with the leadership of the Sikh Federation (UK) during a visit to Guru Tegh Bahadur Gurdwara, Leicester.

A spokesman for the Deputy Prime Minister said: 'The aim was to find out about issues affecting the Sikh community in Leicester and nationally.' He then went on to make a speech where he spoke about the significance of Vaisakhi.



Deputy Prime Minister with Sikh Federation (UK) leaders

On Sunday 17 April Simon Hughes MP, the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats, met with the leadership of the Sikh Federation (UK) that resulted in his appearance at the Freedom Rally in Trafalgar Square on 5 June and the remarkable speech he delivered in support of national self determination for the Sikhs.

SIKH FEDERATION (UK) OPENS CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO RESTRUCTURE AND EXPAND ACROSS THE GLOBE

In September 2003 the Sikh Federation (UK), a non-governmental organisation that acts as a pressure group, but is often referred to as the first and only Sikh political party in the UK, was set up with a UK membership base and branches across the country.

The Federation was set up to be an independent organisation in the UK with a clear set of aims and objectives, including lobbying governments and exerting pressure through diplomatic channels for the establishment of an independent sovereign Sikh State.

The origins of the Federation can be directly traced back to the Indian army massacre of Sikhs at the Darbar Sahib Complex in June 1984 that laid the foundation stone for Khalistan and the legacy created by Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. From the outset the Federation has been and will continue to be linked to the Damdami Taksal, the oldest Sikh seminary established by Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

The Federation's lobbying work has primarily been within the UK and encompassed a very wide range of issues that have been taken up with the UK Government and Parliamentarians. Lobbying the European Parliament, European Commission and United Nations has also been led by the Federation, but has been less effective with limited input from Sikhs in other countries.

In the last eight years the Sikh Federation has established itself as the leading political organisation with UK Parliamentarians and its wide-ranging role has been consistently acknowledged by coverage by the mainstream media. In this respect most independent commentators and activists in the Sikh community in the UK and abroad recognise and value the work and contribution of the Sikh Federation (UK).

As indicated in its annual highlights booklet for several years the Federation has been encouraging existing Sikh organisations in Canada and the US to follow a similar model of political lobbying, but with limited success given other demands and challenges on their time and resources.



Earlier this year following meetings between Sikhs from the UK, US and Canada the International Coalition for a Sikh Homeland was launched and an announcement made on 5 June 2011 at the Freedom Rally in Trafalgar Square in London on objectives to be achieved within 12 months.

The Sikh Federation (UK) has for some time been under pressure by those living in mainland Europe, Canada and the US to think about formally expanding the political lobbying model of the Federation across the globe. There has however to date been a reluctance to expand the membership base and branches beyond the UK due to various challenges presented in different countries, not least the need for a leadership team that is widely respected by the local Sikh community, has loyalty to the core principles of the Federation and the need for competent sewadars who can engage with politicians at the national level.

In the last couple of years there has been an unprecedented level of publicity amongst Sikhs regarding the Federation's work with coverage by several Sikh television channels and greater reporting in Sikh/Punjabi newspapers and through social networking. This has resulted in greater knowledge and interest in the UK, Europe and across the globe about the Panthic activities of the Federation. When you combine this with the launch of the International Coalition for a Sikh Homeland earlier this year and the slow progress in Canada and the US to undertake political lobbying on the same scale as the UK the leadership of the Federation launched a 4 week consultation on whether and how it should expand its work across Europe and the globe.

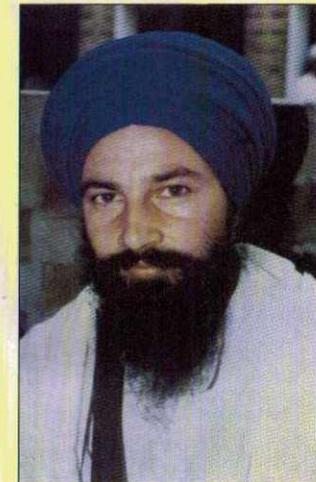
The inside cover at the back of the booklet summarises the international and national structures of the Sikh Federation. The existence of the Sikh Federation at an international level would be directly linked to the vision set by Shaheed Bhai Amrik Singh Ji.

Another radical proposal to attract a greater number of youngsters and professionals to the Federation's leadership in the UK, Canada and US was for the outwardly focused work of the Federation in each of these countries to be led by a 25-member National Management Team headed by five Managing Directors who would also sit of the National Board of Directors.

Each Managing Director will have specific responsibilities split along the following lines:

- i) Strategy, Policy, Research and Administration
- ii) Media, Communications, Marketing and Publicity
- iii) Youth Engagement, Succession Planning and Organisational Development
- iv) Events and Campaigns
- v) External Relations and International Liaison

Those in mainland Europe will join those from the UK to lobby the European Commission, Members of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe. National branches across Europe would look to meet at least twice a year and hold an annual event linked to European institutions. A protocol would be established for media engagement by branches in different European countries. Branches in mainland Europe will be encouraged to nominate 10 members with language skills to work with the 25-member National Management Team in the UK to co-ordinate all correspondence and organise relevant events.



Shaheed Bhai Amrik Singh Ji, who had a vision for the Federation at the international level



DEFENDING AND PROMOTING THE SIKH IDENTITY

SIKH FEDERATION (UK) AND THE CENSUS 2011 CAMPAIGN

The Sikh Federation (UK) has for many years been leading the political and legal campaign for proper recognition of Sikhs in the Census 2011. In the run up to the Census on 27 March 2011 the Federation was delighted that many Sikh organisations, including Gurdwaras and the Sikh/Punjabi media recognised their individual responsibility for the success of this community wide campaign.

16 What is your ethnic group?
 Choose **one** section from A to E, then tick **one** box to best describe your ethnic group or background

Question 16 part E
 Tick the 'Any other ethnic group, write in' box then write Sikh

E Other ethnic group

Arab

Any other ethnic group, write in

S i k h

20 What is your religion?
 This question is voluntary

No religion

Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)

Buddhist

Hindu

Jewish

Muslim

Sikh

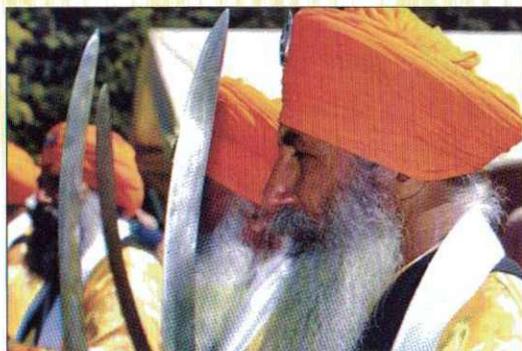
Any other religion, write in

Question 20
 Tick the 'Sikh' box

The collective objective was to ensure Sikhs not only answered Question 20 - the optional religious question and tick the SIKH box, but also in the absence of a separate ethnic tick box for Sikhs, tick 'any other ethnic group' and write in Sikh when answering Question 16.

'THE STORY OF VAISAKHI' SUNDAY 10 APRIL: BBC 1

Earlier this year the Sikh Federation (UK) along with others assisted the BBC to produce a special 30-minute TV programme called 'The Story of Vaisakhi'. This was the first time that BBC1 produced a programme of this nature.



The programmes aim was to increase awareness of non-Sikhs about how Guru Gobind Singh Ji created a blueprint for a Sikhs' distinctive and unique visual identity. The film explored themes, such as, tolerance, equality, humility, dignity and an active concern for others.

Many including the Sikh Federation (UK) contributed to this film to provide an introduction to this annual Sikh festival. Contributions were also made by Dr Rema Kaur, Ramandeep Singh Sohal & Guru Kaur.

Overall the feedback was the programme was very positive, but the Sikh consultant used for the programme was heavily criticised for two or three specific aspects of the programme.



'HANDS OFF TURBANS'



SIKHS UPSET ABOUT AIRPORT SECURITY CHECKS ON TURBANS

BBC News - 24 February 2011

British Sikhs claim the government has broken promises on airport security.

They said the Department of Transport agreed that turbans would not be subject to manual checks introduced at airports across the European Union last year.

The EU checks were shelved by British airports after complaints from Sikh passengers and airport employees.

But Sikhs have said the government has gone back on its word, and re-introduced them this month.

Manual searches

On 14 February several British airports including Heathrow, Gatwick and Birmingham introduced a trial with new security checks which include the controversial hand searches.

Harbhajan Singh is one of many Sikhs employed at Heathrow Airport who are now nervous about going into work following the re-introduction of the manual searches.

"When I passed the security point, the security man touched my turban," he said.

"I said, 'Don't touch my turban with your hands. You can search it without touching it with your hands.' He said, 'No there's a new government rule which means we have to.'"

Campaign group the Sikh Federation said Sikhs had no objections to searches of turbans. It is just the way it is being done that is a matter of concern.

"We carried out wide consultation back in June (and) July and the response from the community was to come up with anything as long as it doesn't mean actually physically touching our turbans," says Dabinderjit Singh, advisor to the Sikh Federation.

Religious symbol

The turban is a religious symbol for Sikhs. It is also a big part of their identity, explains Harbhajan Singh.

"When they touch our turban, we don't like it. It's like our crown. God only knows where their hands have been," he says.

Amrik Singh, a Sikh chaplain at Heathrow, said he had been getting lots of complaints about the checks.

"Everybody was led to believe that this turban touching system is going to stop altogether," he said.

"The government promised us that they would find alternative ways of solving this security problem, so that no one is offended."

Airport security was increased after the 9/11 attacks and other terror plots to blow up planes.

The EU ordered a further tightening of security procedures last year, including manual checks.



The Department of Transport and Sikh groups held a number of meetings to discuss the proposed measures.

The Sikh Federation said the two sides had reached agreement that manual searches of turbans would not be carried out. Sikh campaigners consented instead to the use of a swab which they say is more effective and less insulting.

"They take a swab, a small piece of cotton about one centimetre by one centimetre and they literally touch the turban with it and carry out a very quick chemical test. That is much better than a hand search which will not necessarily catch the chemicals that they are searching for," says Dabinderjit Singh.

The Department of Transport said the manual checks introduced this month are temporary and only at airports taking part in a trial.

It said a long-term decision has not yet been made.

But that is little comfort to Sikhs who say even one hand check of a turban is one too many.



AMRITDHARI SIKHS SECURE THE RIGHT TO WEAR THEIR KIRPANS WHEN ATTENDING LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC EVENTS

Prior to the mass Sikh lobby of the UK Parliament on 22 March Lord Coe sent the following letter to the Sikh Federation (UK):

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Ltd.
23rd floor, One Churchill Place
Canary Wharf, London E14 5LN
Reception +44 (0) 203 2012 000
Fax +44 (0) 203 2012 001
london2012.com



Mr Dabinderjit Singh OBE
Tanglewood House
Pine Walk, Chilworth
Southampton
SO16 7HQ

By email

18 March 2011

Dear Mr Singh,

Thank you for your letter and kind invitation to speak to the Sikh community.

I am grateful for the invitation and I would love to be able to help but sadly, I have immovable London 2012 commitments on Tuesday 22nd March.

However, on the issue of kirpans we have been very clear. At Games-time, small symbolic ceremonial daggers (an Article of Faith with a maximum blade length of 3 inches) carried for religious reasons will be allowed. We have worked closely with the Sikh community and the Metropolitan Police on our plans in this area, and published this statement on our website and I would appreciate your help in communicating this to your Federation.

The Sikh community has played a major role from the outset of the bid to host the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games here in London. For three years now, LOCOG has worked closely with Sikh community representatives on our Faith Reference Group, our forum to discuss and agree our approach to faith-related issues. I look forward to that group continuing its work over the next 18 months.

Thank you for writing and I hope this provides some clarity for you.

With best wishes,

Sebastian Coe KBE
Chairman

UK PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON RESPECT FOR THE SIKH TURBAN

Following the mass Sikh lobby in March and ongoing campaign regarding respect for the Sikh turban a 30-minute Adjournment Debate was arranged for Westminster Hall on Tuesday 26 April.



Paul Uppal MP speaking in the Adjournment Debate on respect for the Sikh turban

The Sikh Federation (UK) produced and distributed a briefing note to over 100 MPs with large numbers of Sikh constituents who may be taking part in the debate. Attached to the briefing were two letters received by the Sikh Federation (UK) from the Secretary of State and the results of consultation with the Sikh community shared with the Department for Transport. Many MPs that spoke in the debate directly referred to the briefing provided.

The debate had an unprecedented number of MPs that wanted to speak that the Chair of the debate referred to in his introduction. Nonetheless, 15 MPs managed to make contributions in the 30-minute debate showing the level of interest in the subject and reflecting the letter writing campaign by the Sikh community.

MPs raised many points including:

- The new procedures at UK airports, that fully respect the Sikh turban, are taking too long to implement and there are inconsistent practices. All airports in the UK should implement the new procedures as early as possible.
- During the debate MPs urged the Minister to take up the matter with her European counterparts. She agreed during the debate to write to Transport Ministers across Europe explaining the situation at airports in the UK where an alternative procedure that gives due respect to the Sikh turban is being trialled.
- The Minister should meet Sikh community representatives and MPs with large numbers of constituents. She agreed to have these meetings.



Minister for Transport
Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers MP

UK TRANSPORT MINISTER WRITES TO OTHER 26 EU MEMBER STATES

On 1 June the Minister for Transport Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers MP sent a 3 page letter to Ministers in the other 26 EU Member States. The letter was copied to Siim Kallias, the EU Transport Commissioner.

In the letter the Minister stated: 'On 30 November 2010 the UK secured European Commission agreement for a trial' that avoids physical touching of the turban by hand and these new procedures are 'progressing smoothly' and maintain the 'highest standards of security'.



In the letter she stated: 'We will continue to keep the European Commission updated on the data resulting from this trial' and the hope that this 'can provide a way forward' and be discussed at meetings of the EU Committee for Civil Aviation Security.

The letter was shared in confidence with the Sikh Federation (UK), but the Department for Transport agreed that the letter could be shared with Sikh Council UK representatives who will be holding meetings with EU officials in Brussels and Strasbourg.

The Federation also informed the Department for Transport that it will make available a copy of the letter sent by the Minister to leading Sikh representatives from other countries in Europe where they wish to discuss the possible use of the UK procedures with their respective governments e.g. Italy and Greece. Sikh representatives from across Europe were requested to contact the Sikh Federation (UK) to obtain a copy of the letter sent to their Transport Minister.

ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR UK SIKHS MEET TRANSPORT MINISTER

On 15 June MPs belonging to the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for UK Sikhs met the Minister for Transport Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers MP and wrote to the Sikh Federation (UK) immediately after the meeting.



When MPs met the Minister it was confirmed 17 of the 20 largest UK airports were taking part in the trial. Fabian Hamilton MP the Chair of the APPG and MP for Leeds North East was surprised when he learnt one of the three airports not taking part in the trial was Leeds Bradford Airport. He agreed to meet the Chief Executive, John Parkin to raise the issue with him personally.

The Minister for Transport said the Secretary of State was going to the Council of Ministers that evening in Brussels and she was going to remind him to raise the matter with his Italian counterpart. Fabian Hamilton suggested that the APPG would organise a visit to the relevant EU Commissioner in Brussels and that the delegation would comprise MPs from the APPG and representatives from the Sikh community in the UK. This idea was warmly welcomed by the Minister. Fabian Hamilton confirmed all MPs have the right to travel to Brussels, or other EU capitals, up to three times per year. The Sikh Federation (UK) is liaising with the APPG Chair to ensure the meeting takes place, the situation in Italy is specifically discussed and the delegation has appropriate Sikh representation.



Main offices of the Department for Transport

The Federation has Sikhs from Italy and Greece on standby for the meeting as there are specific problems in these countries. Fabian Hamilton is expected to give an update on the situation at the Federation Convention in September 2011.



SIKH REPRESENTATIVES MEET UK TRANSPORT MINISTER TO DISCUSS RESPECT FOR SIKH TURBAN AT AIRPORTS ACROSS EUROPE

On 12 July Sikh representatives met the Minister for Transport Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers MP to discuss respect for the Sikh turban at airports in the UK and across mainland Europe.



Minister for Transport
Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers MP

The Sikh Federation (UK) sent three representatives to the meeting - Dabinderjit Singh, an adviser to the Sikh Federation UK, Gurmel Singh, the Secretary General of the Sikh Council UK and Jaspal Singh Anand, from Shepherds Bush Central Gurdwara London. Dr Sadhu Singh, Dr Parminder Singh Garcha and Sukhbir Singh also attended the meeting.

Jasdev Singh and Indarjit Singh declined to take part in the meeting with the Minister. Those that have seen the exchange of emails with the Minister's office believe Jasdev Singh has done irreparable damage to his reputation and credentials as a 'faith adviser' in the lead up to this meeting.

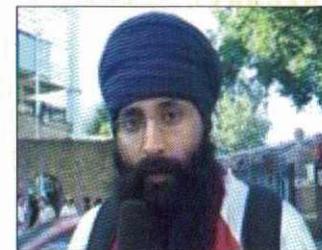
The focus of the meeting was on ensuring the UK trials that avoid physical touching of the turban by hand can be concluded as soon as possible and the results shared with the European Commission to allow other EU Member States to adopt the same procedures as soon as possible.

During the meeting with the Transport Minister Sikh representatives explored a number of possibilities on how pressure could be exerted on other EU countries to adopt procedures similar to the UK and on the Italian authorities in particular. Sikh representatives agreed the strategy for Italy should involve pressure on the Italian authorities through UK MPs, pressure at the European level via UK MEPs and direct engagement with the Italian authorities with the assistance of the UK Department for Transport.

In addition, the Sikh Federation (UK) raised with the Minister the need to ensure Sikhs wearing turbans are allowed to have photographs taken wearing their turbans across the EU when the single EU driving licence starts to be introduced in 2012. This will overcome one of the current difficulties experienced by Sikhs in France who are forced to provide photographs without turbans.

SIKH FEDERATION (UK) SUPPORT FOR AMRITDHARI SIKH DENIED ENTRY TO LORDS

Gurdev Singh was denied access to the Lords cricket ground on Sunday 24 July to watch England play India after he pointed out he was wearing a Kirpan, which was missed in the security check. Gurdev Singh being a good citizen volunteered the information that he was wearing a Kirpan, but was penalised for his honesty.



Gurdev Singh who was denied access to the Lords cricket ground wearing his Kirpan

Despite explaining he was with his sister and cousins in what was a family occasion, he had a legal right to wear the Kirpan, had worn the Kirpan to other sporting events such as watching Liverpool play football at Anfield without any difficulties and he posed no threat the authorities at Lords insisted he could not enter with his Kirpan.



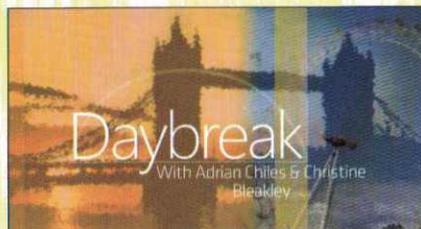
Under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (section 139) and Criminal Justice 1996 (section 3 and 4) anyone is allowed to carry a blade that does not exceed the length of 3 inches for religious, cultural or work related reasons. In addition, the Criminal Justice Act and the 2003 Religious Discrimination Act safeguards the Sikhs to carry the Kirpan.

On being denied entry he staged a silent protest outside the east gate of the Lords cricket ground. The Indian media who were covering the Test match and many cricket fans showed much sympathy towards Gurdev Singh and security staff regretted the action they had taken.

Gurdev Singh contacted the Sikh Federation (UK) the following day and his case was referred to the Sikh Council UK to take up with the MCC. He was advised by the Federation and later in the week it was decided after careful consideration to take his case of discrimination to the mainstream media.

Gurdev Singh was coached by the Federation on the line to take for the ITV Daybreak programme on 29 July that broadcast a positive story in support of Gurdev Singh and the right of Sikhs to wear the Kirpan. Dabinderjit Singh as an advisor to the Sikh Federation (UK) was also interviewed by the ITV. This led to an apology by the authorities running Lords and they also announced a review of their policy. Several other cricket grounds hosting Test matches i.e. Trent Bridge and Edgbaston confirmed their policy was already to allow Amritdhari Sikhs to wear the Kirpan.

As the booklet went to the printers Gurdev Singh confirmed he was expecting a letter within a few days confirming Amritdhari Sikhs would be allowed to wear their Kirpans. Thankfully, the MCC consulted Sir Mota Singh QC regarding the significance of the Kirpan and all the places he has worn it without challenge.



The Membership and General Purposes committee at Lords meets on 19 September and are expected to formally change the Ground Regulations. In the meantime, the Ground Superintendent and the Head Steward have been informed of the situation to ensure that there is no confusion on the right of Amritdhari Sikhs to wear the Kirpan when England play India at Lord's on Sunday 11 September.

FEDERATION EXERTS PRESSURE ON FOREIGN OFFICE REGARDING SIKH IDENTITY ISSUES

In the three months running up to the Convention the Sikh Federation (UK) has been exerting considerable pressure on officials at the Foreign Office. The Federation has been exchanging correspondence on a range of issues impacting on British Sikhs that are their responsibility. These have included:

- i) Foreign Office dialogue with EU countries where Sikhs from the UK are having difficulties when flying back from airports to the UK e.g. Italy, Greece etc.
- ii) Foreign Office dialogue with EU institutions and the United Nations as practising Sikhs are unable to enter European Parliament and United Nations buildings unless they are prepared to remove their Kirpans.
- iii) Discriminatory travel restrictions on British Sikhs travelling to Canada and the USA.
- iv) A number of matters concerning the Indian sub continent and the British Sikh community.

As this booklet went to press the Foreign Office was in the process of organising a meeting with the Sikh Federation (UK).



theguardian

LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS CHIEF ALLOWS SIKHS TO CARRY CEREMONIAL DAGGER

Guardian
Saturday 30 July 2011

Lord Coe says Sikhs can display their kirpan as 'an article of faith' when attending the Games

Sikhs attending the London 2012 Olympics will be able to carry a small dagger, known as the kirpan, following reassurances from Lord Coe.

In a letter to the Sikh Federation, the former gold medal-winning athlete and chairman of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, wrote that there would be no ban on a kirpan with a maximum blade length of three inches (eight centimetres).

In Sikhism, the kirpan and kara (bangle) are two of the five articles of faith that baptised Sikhs must carry at all times.

Lord Coe said: "At Games-time, small symbolic ceremonial daggers (an Article of Faith with a maximum blade length of 3 inches) carried for religious reasons will be allowed.

"We have worked closely with the Sikh community and the Metropolitan police on our plans in this area, and published this statement on our website and I would appreciate your help in communicating this to your federation.



"The Sikh community has played a major role from the outset of the bid to host the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games here in London."

The group, welcoming the letter, suggested its lobbying activity may have even helped London to triumph over Paris in the race to stage the event.

The Sikh Federation wrote to IOC members to discourage them from supporting the Paris bid because of the French ban on religious symbols in public places, "specifically targeting around 45 of the 115 voting IOC members who are from countries where religion is of paramount importance".

Dabinderjit Singh, a spokesman for Sikh interests in the UK, said: "I think that's what Seb was alluding to in his letter. We played that card quite heavily but didn't publicise it at the time."

He added that while there was a growing awareness about the kirpan as a religious item, there was still work to be done.

He cited the case of Sikh cricket fan Gurdev Singh, who was denied access to Lord's during a test match last weekend between India and England because he was wearing a kirpan. He staged a protest outside the ground.

The MCC has since said there was "no intention to cause upset or distress" and that it is in discussion with a "prominent member of the Sikh community", also an MCC Member, on how to handle such matters in the future.

Singh, from the Sikh Federation, said: "There is confusion about what the kirpan is and there will be a problem at the Olympics, in spite of the letter, because there are lots of venues. Are staff going to stand there with rulers, measuring blades?"

"There is a lot more to do about raising awareness, it's a post 9/11 thing. People will confuse visible, turban-wearing Sikhs, even in the UK, for not being Sikhs. Because of the kirpan, people immediately and naturally see it as a weapon."

UK law permits the wearing of the ceremonial dagger in public places for religious reasons. There have been incidents in recent years, however, where Sikhs claim they have been either refused entry to a venue because of their kirpan or told not to wear it.



RAISING AWARENESS & CAMPAIGNING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SIKHS PROTEST IN LONDON AGAINST INDIAN MINISTER KAMAL NATH

Organisers forced to move round table session

On 28 September 2010 the Sikh Federation (UK) organised a successful protest with less than 24 hours notice to coincide with the visit of Indian Minister Kamal Nath to London. High profile figures like Kamal Nath have not been prosecuted, but in fact rewarded by the Congress Party for their part in killing innocent Sikhs in November 1984.

On 2 November 1984 Kamal Nath (currently an Indian Cabinet Minister) led and controlled a mob assault on Sri Rakab Ganj Gurdwara (opposite the Indian Parliament), where hundreds of Sikhs had taken refuge. After a siege that lasted a day, parts of the Gurdwara complex were put on fire and two Sikhs were burned alive by the mob.

He may not have been charged in a court of law in India, as he says, but his "involvement" in the 1984 cases is a matter recorded by Manoj Mitta and Harvinder Singh Phoolka in their book - *When A Tree Shook Delhi*.

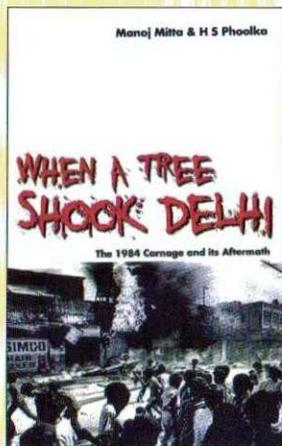
The leader in question was Kamal Nath, who was at the time of the 1984 carnage, an up and coming Congress MP from Madhya Pradesh, and is now a cabinet minister holding a key economic portfolio in the Manmohan Singh government. In a siege that lasted over five hours, Kamal Nath is said to have been there for over two hours.

Extracts from the chapter titled: A Tale of Two Gurdwaras is as follows:

[Page 49] ...*Rakab Ganj Gurudwara, despite being across the street from Parliament House, was subjected to a prolonged siege in which its periphery was damaged, and two Sikhs were roasted alive. The attack on Rakab Ganj Gurudwara was also remarkable for the fact that it was probably the first, and so far, the only instance in the history of mass violence in India, where a political leader admitted to being on the spot. And such an instance ironically occurred in the immediate vicinity of India's parliament.*

This is more than could be said about any of the Congress MPs from Delhi, whether HKL Bhagat, Jagdish Tytler, Sajjan Kumar or Dharam Dass Shastri, as the charge of their complicity was based entirely on the testimony of victims...

Given the strategic location of Rakab Ganj Gurudwara, Kamal Nath's presence there was confirmed by two of the senior-most officers, Commissioner Subhash Tandan, and Additional Commissioner Guatam Kaul, as also by an independent source, The Indian Express reporter, Sanjay Suri.



When A Tree Shook Delhi

The protest involving around 150 Sikhs was outside the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. James the venue for a Round Table Session on Highways Infrastructure. The Indian Government was extremely upset that the Federation had been allowed to protest immediately outside the hotel and complained to the Metropolitan Police.



Sikhs protesting outside the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. James

Undercover police officers told organisers that the Indian High Commission in London first complained to New Scotland Yard and as the police said it was the democratic right for the organisers to protest. They then complained to the Foreign Office who also raised it with the police. The police said they had every confidence in the organisers and even refused to provide any policing for the protest leaving the hotel to arrange their own security for the venue.

When security staff employed by the hotel and those staying at the hotel learnt about the reasons for the protest through several short speeches that were delivered in English they showed much sympathy for the Sikhs protesting.

The protesters forced the organisers of the event to advice the Minister not to turn up at the venue. They then tried to rearrange the Round Table Session for later in the afternoon with a small number of participants at the Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane. Sikhs learnt of the rearranged venue and also disrupted the event at the Dorchester Hotel. The police were soon in contact with the Federation and taken aback that Sikhs had managed to track down Kamal Nath to the Dorchester as security staff at the hotel had alerted the police.

Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK), said: 'Kamal Nath was forced to pull out of an event at the London Business School in May 2010 fearing negative publicity because of Sikh protesters. Sikh protests have also followed Kamal Nath in Canada and the USA in the last 12 months as the Sikh Diaspora feel increasingly frustrated that high profile figures like him have not been prosecuted.'

ILLEGAL DETENTION, TORTURE AND KILLING OF SHAMINDER SINGH (SHERA) IN INDIA

In February 2011 the Sikh Federation (UK) launched a letter writing campaign to secure action from UK MPs regarding the killing of Shaminder Singh (Shera). Over 100 MPs were urged to write to the Indian authorities as well as the Foreign Office and call for a proper investigation and prosecution of police officers and others involved in the illegal detention, torture and killing of Shaminder Singh.

He was a young Sikh from a poor family and the only Amritdhari Sikh in Baggawal village who was picked by police in Nawanshahar district on 31 October 2010.

He was mercilessly thrashed and subjected to third-degree torture for 18 days as he refused to admit involvement in waging war against the Indian state. No case was registered against him.



According to his own words reported on television he would have been eliminated by the Indian Police in a police encounter. He overheard the police officers planning to eliminate him and managed to escape from police custody on 18 November.



Shaminder Singh Shera with his elderly mother

He was later arrested from Patna where he revealed he had become the victim of police torture. Luckily for him the media listened and reported on his experience. A report published in the Hindustan Times on 3 December 2010 forced the Punjab and Haryana High Court into action. Following an investigation the court ordered a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on the state of Punjab for illegally detaining him and subjecting him to third-degree torture. The court also directed the state government on 3 January to take care of Shaminder Singh,

Two weeks later on 17 January Shaminder Singh and his brother Harwinder Singh were going to the Gurdwara in Bagguwal village when they were attacked by about 9-10 unidentified men with sharp edged weapons. It has been widely reported that the finger of blame is pointing squarely at the police. Shaminder Singh was admitted to hospital where he died several days later.

On 30 January the Punjab government (who were ordered by the Court to take care of Shaminder Singh) ordered a probe into the circumstances leading to the death of Shaminder Singh. This followed considerable media and other pressure.

Sikhs across the globe have been horrified watching television footage of Shaminder Singh's treatment and brutal killing.

SIKH FEDERATION (UK) ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR A SIKH HOMELAND

The formation of the International Coalition for a Sikh Homeland (the Coalition) comprising leading Sikh organisations from the UK, USA, Canada and other countries who support a non-violent campaign for the establishment of a Sikh homeland was announced in February 2011 following several years of meetings.

The founding members of the Coalition, which include the Sikh Federation (UK), Canadian Sikh Coalition and the Sikh Youth of America have been working behind the scenes with politicians and a number of governments around the world to promote the case for a Sikh homeland.

The Coalition is establishing active representatives in over 25 countries who convey centrally agreed policies of the Coalition to their respective governments. The aim in the next 12 months is to expand the number of representatives to cover around 50 countries.

Gurdwaras, organisations, businesses and individuals who wish to be associated with the Coalition are to be encouraged to be direct sponsors of specific projects.



GOVERNMENTS URGED TO END INTERNATIONAL AID TO INDIA UNTIL IT PUTS ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER

Following the furore in the UK about its £1bn aid programme to India the International Coalition for a Sikh Homeland (the Coalition) stepped up pressure on various governments around the world to re-examine its policy of providing aid to India.

The Coalition's concern is there is huge poverty in India, but the Indian Government is letting the rich become richer and using a large proportion of its own resources on defence spending and space technology while investment in education is minimal and a blind eye is being turned to the poor and destitute.

A Coalition spokesman from the UK said:

'The divisions in India between the rich and the poor are growing day by day. It is unacceptable for India to be spending £20bn a year on defence and £1.25bn on a space programme when hundreds of millions are suffering and India is unable to meet their basic needs. Eventually there will be an uprising or revolution by the poor that will make events in Tunisia, Egypt and Bahrain pale into insignificance.'



'The Coalition believes it is only a matter of time before India breaks up due to the social, linguistic and religious divisions it has. The international community should be pressuring India to get its priorities right and if India will not listen plan for a smooth transition on the break up India that will empower the people to influence their own destiny.'

The Coalition is working on a blue-print to bring about the practical formation of a Sikh homeland that will be an important strategic zone in both political and economic terms.

A Coalition spokesman said:

'We are in no doubt that if the Sikhs had their own homeland that all those that live their, Sikhs and non-Sikhs, will prosper and have a much higher standard of living. With the support, drive and ambition of Sikhs living across the globe and the assistance of the international community it is guaranteed the Sikh homeland will be economically successful and a strategically important player in the volatile Indian sub-continent. Our plans are for the Sikh homeland to be a role model state for others to emulate.'

The Sikh Federation (UK) one of the founding members of the Coalition has welcomed the wide exposure in the British media of the political corruption and hypocrisy in India that it believes will lead the UK Government to eventually concede to the demands from the public to re-examine and possibly stop aid to India. The Federation has for many years been challenging aid to India and making similar points about corruption and criminal politicians.

The Federation has been urging aid to be directed towards legitimate non-governmental organisations (NGOs), preferably British based NGOs working in Punjab. Meetings have taken place with the Department for International Development (DFID) to discuss aid to India.



India has also been one of the largest recipients of Canadian bilateral aid and although the US has cut aid to India it remains a big contributor. The UK, Canada and USA each has in excess of 500,000 Sikhs and organisations representing the Coalition in these three countries is saying to their respective governments that Punjab where most Sikhs live is suffering with lack of investment in education, has drugs and alcohol problems, major environmental issues etc.

A spokesman for the Coalition said:

‘Since we are taxpayers in the UK, Canada and USA we would like development aid (our taxes) to be directed by our governments to Punjab to tackle under-investment and social problems, such as drugs. Governments are being encouraged not to give money blindly to India.’

INDIA’S MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RIDICULED AT UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AS HE DELIVERS ANOTHER COUNTRY’S SPEECH

Imagine reading the wrong country’s speech at your first UN Security Council meeting. That’s what India’s minister of external affairs, S.M. Krishna did on Friday 11 February.

Krishna read out Portuguese Foreign Minister Luis Amado's speech for a full three minutes at the debate and he would have continued had India's Permanent Representative to the UN Hardeep Singh Puri not pointed out his blunder.

Krishna made his first and possibly his last appearance as India began its two-year temporary membership of the UN Security Council.

A spokesman for the recently established International Coalition for a Sikh Homeland (the Coalition) from the UK said:

‘If any more evidence was needed by the five permanent UN Security Council members, in particular the USA and China, why India is totally unfit to be a permanent member Krishna has provided it on a plate.’

A spokesman for the Coalition said:

‘It is gaffe’s such as this from Krishna at the UN that help demonstrate the incompetence of Indian politicians and allow Sikhs to point to what they collectively have to offer the international community.’

As soon as Krishna was introduced it started to all go wrong. Krishna should have realised his mistake a minute into the address when he hit the phrase, “I’d like to express my satisfaction regarding the happy coincidence of having two members of the Portuguese-speaking countries”.

Although quiet laughter could be heard, the minister demonstrated his incompetence as he continued. It was



India's minister of external affairs, S.M. Krishna at the UN with Hardeep Singh Puri behind

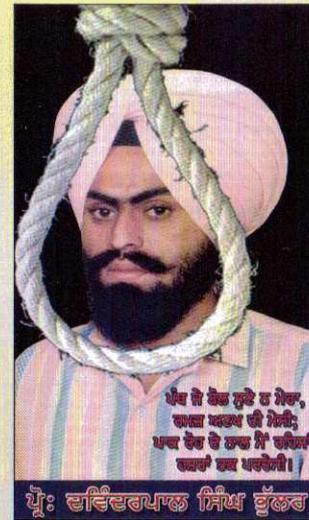


not until Krishna talked about the importance of increased coordination between the United Nations and the European Union, three minutes in, that Hardeep Singh Puri stepped in to inform the minister he was reading the Portuguese speech.

Krishna showed his ineptitude on the international stage by saying ‘Okay,’ before asking: ‘I have to start all over again?’ Contrast this with the foreign minister of Portugal, who had spoken before Krishna, and decided not to use his written speech.

India’s opposition parties have declared that the minister should be fired for bringing shame to his country.

SIKH FEDERATION (UK) LAUNCH LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN FOR PROFESSOR DAVINDERPAL SINGH BHULLAR



Following the announcement on 27 May that the Indian President had made a decision to give the go ahead to hang Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar the Sikh Federation (UK) immediately launched an extensive letter writing campaign aimed at UK MPs and UK MEPs.

UK politicians were urged to write to the Foreign Office and German authorities to work with other EU partners and governments to make a final attempt to secure the immediate release of Professor Bhullar before it is too late.

In April following a visit to Germany the Federation had already started a similar campaign aimed at German politicians that followed media reports that Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar had been moved to a mental hospital and his life was in danger.

At the same time the Sikh Federation (UK) also exerted considerable pressure on the Amnesty International Secretariat in London to launch an urgent action appeal.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WORLDWIDE URGENT ACTION APPEAL FOR PROFESSOR DAVINDERPAL SINGH BHULLAR

The Sikh Federation (UK) announced that following discussions and written exchanges with the Amnesty International Secretariat in London in early June that Amnesty International agreed to run a worldwide Urgent Action Appeal for Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar. Amnesty International normally takes up about 400 cases a year.

The Urgent Action Appeal was launched on 3 June and was shared with the Urgent Action Network, which is made up of 150,000 people around the world who are outraged by injustice and prepared to act swiftly at critical moments to stop it.

Urgent action appeals are based on a simple idea: when someone is in immediate danger the government responsible for perpetrating the abuse will receive thousands of faxes, telegrams, emails and air-letters from every part of the globe. Those messages tell the authorities that the world is watching, and create pressure to stop the abuse.



This is what has been happening with regards to Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar and the Indian authorities. Amnesty are targeting the Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh, the President of India, Pratibha Patil and the Minister of Home Affairs, P Chidambaram.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



The English version of the Appeal by Amnesty International states:

Devender Pal Singh is at risk of imminent execution in New Delhi, India, after the President of India rejected his mercy petition in May. This is the second petition rejected in the same month.

Devender Pal Singh (also known as Davinder Pal Singh Bhullar) was sentenced to death in August 2001 after being found guilty of involvement in a bomb attack in New Delhi in 1993 that killed nine. He was found guilty solely on the basis of an unsubstantiated confession he made to police and later retracted as being made under police pressure.

He was arrested under the subsequently-lapsed Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) at New Delhi Airport in January 1995, after being deported from Germany where he had sought political asylum. TADA is recognised as containing provisions that are incompatible with international standards for fair trial.

In March 2002, the death sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court, with two judges in favour and the senior judge acquitting Devender Pal Singh. In December 2002, a review petition challenging the legitimacy of the death penalty was rejected by the same three judges maintaining a difference of opinion. The two judges in favour of the death sentence observed that the non-unanimous sentence could be a factor considered in the mercy petition process. Although other mercy petitions appear to have been accepted on the same ground, Devender Pal Singh's petition was rejected by the President in May 2011.

In addition to concerns about the fairness of the trial, the eight-year delay in announcing the verdict of the mercy petition and the resulting prolonged stay on death row may amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

Devender Pal Singh was admitted into a New Delhi psychiatric facility in January and has reportedly attempted to commit suicide a number of times.

The Chief Justice of India has previously described the time spent by a condemned prisoner on death row as "living death". The Supreme Court of India has also ruled that delay in executing the death sentence is a factor in deciding on the commutation of a death sentence and has commuted death sentences in a number of cases due to long delays in deciding mercy petitions.

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 3 million supporters, members and activists in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.

Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK), said 'most countries have Amnesty International branches and Urgent Action Networks it is therefore important for Sikhs to ensure maximum pressure is exerted to help Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar. In addition we must alert politicians worldwide who oppose the death penalty and respect the work of Amnesty International. One simple method is to forward the Sikh Federation's press release quoting Amnesty International to politicians in the countries where you live.'



OVER 25,000 SIKHS EXPECTED IN LONDON TO COMMEMORATE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUNE 1984 MASSACRE

Significant announcements concerning the establishment of a separate Sikh Homeland to be made simultaneously in the USA, Canada and UK

On the eve of the 27th anniversary of the June 1984 massacre of Sikhs in Amritsar the Sikh Federation (UK) said it expected over 25,000 Sikhs from across the UK to take part in a Remembrance March and Freedom Rally in central London.

Sikhs will begin to gather at Reformers Tree in Hyde Park from 11am and the Remembrance March is expected to start at around 1pm and wind its way through the streets of London and end with a Freedom Rally in Trafalgar Square between 2-5pm.

Organisers are expecting the largest number of Sikhs since June 1984 with increased interest due to the announcement a few days earlier by the Indian President, that opens the way for the brutal Indian regime to send hundreds to the gallows who are currently on death row. This includes several high profile Sikhs, such as Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar who was illegally deported from Europe.

The message from those attending will be clear - Sikhs abroad will never give up on bringing justice until those guilty for crimes against humanity in 1984 are punished. Sikhs will only be able to draw a line under these events when the Sikhs have established an independent sovereign Sikh homeland.

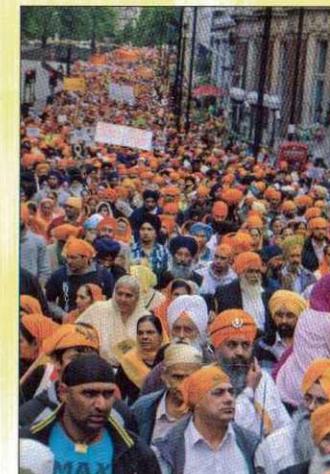
Captain Harcharan Singh Rode, the elder brother of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale will also make a special appearance at the Freedom Rally in Trafalgar Square, along with a number of British politicians who are expected to speak and show support for the Sikh freedom movement.

Support for a Sikh homeland has been growing over recent years and younger Sikh professionals are wanting to take the freedom struggle to a new level. There will be a number of significant announcements at the Freedom Rally on what the international Sikh community expect to achieve in the next 12 months as regards the establishment of a separate Sikh homeland.

Sikhs around the globe are eagerly awaiting these announcements, which will also be of interest to governments increasingly concerned in the future shape of the ever changing political make up in the Indian sub-continent.

REMEMBRANCE MARCH AND FREEDOM RALLY - ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE WAY FORWARD TO ACHIEVE A SIKH HOMELAND

A formal announcement was made at the Freedom Rally in Trafalgar Square in London about the setting up of the International Coalition for a Sikh Homeland. Similar announcements were made in Canada and the United States. The logo of the International Coalition is thoughtfully designed to start the process of promoting a positive image of a Sikh homeland.

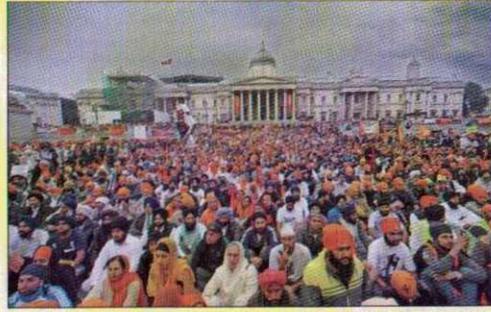


Sikhs taking part in the Remembrance March through central London





Impressive stage set up in Trafalgar Square



Sikhs gathered in Trafalgar Square for the Freedom Rally

The International Coalition comprises Sikh professionals drawn from the UK, Canada and the USA and a network of leading Sikh organisations and individuals around the globe dedicated to Sikh independence with the primary aim of making a Sikh homeland a reality. The International Coalition currently has representatives in 25 countries to liaise with different governments and the target is to double this number within 12 months.

The overall aim of the International Coalition in the next 12 months is to set out a definitive case for a Sikh Homeland and find new ways to gain political support for the Sikh homeland across the globe.

The International Coalition has set five objectives for the next 12 months:

1. Publish a comprehensive authoritative paper 'Sikh Homeland: The Case for Independence'

A Professor who is a worldwide expert on border disputes has been commissioned to write a comprehensive and authoritative case for the Sikh homeland drawing from history. The plan is for this publication to be published in Harvard and/or Oxford University. It will provide the academic blue print for engaging with academics, intellectuals, the political class and governments across the globe.

In particular, the International Coalition will be targeting the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and other interested nations that will look to the Sikh homeland to provide much needed stability in the Indian sub-continent.

2. Produce an associated marketing document called the 'Sikh Homeland: The way Sikhs live today and the way it could be'

This will blow away the many myths about a Sikh homeland and show to Sikhs and non-Sikhs alike that those living in the Sikh homeland will be better off economically, socially and spiritually. It will also

set out the advantages of a Sikh homeland to other states, especially our neighbours as well as Sikhs living throughout the world.

3. Develop a promotional video called the 'Sikh Homeland: What is possible'

This will visually demonstrate what a Sikh homeland will look like.

4. Conduct and publish the results from a worldwide poll of Sikhs, including the level of support for a Sikh homeland

A team of academics from leading universities in the USA, UK, Canada and Australia are being engaged to conduct and publish the results from a worldwide poll of Sikhs, including Sikhs that live in India. This will provide evidence on the level of support for a Sikh homeland and will be the barometer used by the International Coalition to push the case for a Sikh homeland on the international stage.

5. Continue to work with lawyers from across the globe to explore how the Sikh community can get justice on the international stage

Lawyers from the UK, US, Canada and Punjab will be encouraged to explore all avenues to secure justice for Sikhs whether this be through national courts or the International Court of Justice.



SIKHS RALLY IN LONDON OVER 1984 INDIA TEMPLE ATTACK

BBC News
5 June 2011

Sikh leaders called for the right to self-determination at the rally

About 25,000 Sikhs from across the UK attended a rally in Trafalgar Square to mark an attack on their holiest shrine in India, organisers have said.



Images of the Remembrance March in London that has India extremely worried about the strength of feeling for a Sikh homeland

Earlier Sikhs marched from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square to commemorate the 1984 attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab, north India.

Indian armed forces stormed the holiest Sikh shrine 27 years ago to flush out militants from the temple premises.

Sikh leaders called for the right to self-determination at the rally.

The Sikh Federation UK, which organised the event, said people travelled to London in coaches to attend the Freedom Rally at Trafalgar Square. Delegations also came from Europe for the event.

Operation Bluestar

Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes spoke at the rally alongside leaders and prominent personalities from the Sikh community in the UK, Europe and India.

The 1984 attack on the temple complex - Operation Bluestar - had been personally approved by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, to flush out militants who wanted an independent homeland of Khalistan.

There has never been agreement on the numbers killed, but Sikhs say thousands were massacred by Indian troops, many of them innocent bystanders.

Mrs Gandhi was assassinated four months later by her Sikh bodyguards. Following her death anti-Sikh rioting erupted in India which left about 3,000 Sikhs dead.

Events are also being held in Vancouver in Canada and in California to mark the 27th anniversary of the attack.

The following short video clips were shown publicly for the first time in Trafalgar Square on Sunday 5 June and were of particular interest :

Stop the Silence – views of non-Sikhs
2-minute video clip

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhMu0unw4I0>

Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar
4-minute video clip

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHg8FnXnycM>



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PASSES RESOLUTION AGAINST INDIA AND IN SUPPORT OF PROFESSOR DAVINDERPAL SINGH BHULLAR

The Sikh Federation (UK) which is recognised as the leading lobbying Sikh organisation in the UK and Europe is delighted to report that on Thursday 7 July a resolution was passed and adopted in the European Parliament in Strasbourg in support of Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar.



Baroness Catherine Ashton at the European Parliament

This followed the earlier success on 1 June when the Vice President of the European Commission, Baroness Catherine Ashton was convinced by MEPs, mainly from the UK and Germany, to write to the Indian authorities expressing the opposition of European Member States to the decision of the President of India to give the go ahead to execute Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar.

The text of the resolution that has been obtained by the Sikh Federation (UK) makes reference to United Nations General Assembly Resolutions and EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

In passing the resolution the European Parliament has also questioned India's ability to remain on 47-nation UN Human Rights Council as India before being elected in May 2011 pledged to uphold the highest standards in terms of promoting and protecting human rights.

What will be extremely worrying to India in terms of economic ties with the EU is that the resolution specifically refers to the 1994 Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and India that made respect for human rights an essential element of the Agreement.



European Parliament passing a resolution against India and in support of Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar

The resolution also refers to the circumstances surrounding the return of Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar to India from Germany.

The resolution that has been passed 'expresses grave concern' at the decision on the death penalty by the Government of India and refers to this 'bucking the worldwide trend towards the abolition of capital punishment'.

The European Parliament has urgently appealed to the Government of India not to execute Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar and to deal with his 'case in a ...transparent manner'.

The Parliament has instructed its President to forward the resolution to the President, Government and Parliament of India, India's Minister for Law and Justice, India's Home Minister, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

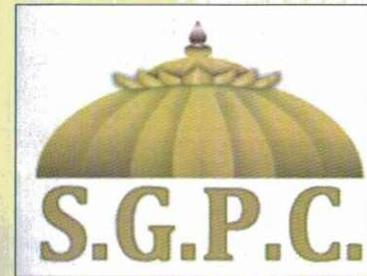


Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK), said:

'this a fantastic achievement for Sikhs lobbying not only for the removal of the threat of the death penalty against Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar, but also for his release as he is in his 17th year of confinement. India would be mad to ignore European Member States and the United Nations. We have already seen obtaining justice for Sikhs killed in November 1984 is proving impossible because the Indian authorities and the judicial system are masters at delay. Our challenge is for India not to be allowed to delay making decisions about Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar'.



Flags of European nations opposed to the death penalty flying outside the European Parliament



SIKH FEDERATION (UK) RESPONDS TO SGPC REGARDING JUNE 1984 MEMORIAL

The Sikh Federation (UK) that has over 180 affiliated member organisations, including Gurdwaras, local youth and women's groups, groups for the elderly and other local Sikh organisations in the UK has sent a letter via email to the SGPC regarding the June 1984 Memorial.

The SGPC web site: <http://www.sgpc.net/> has specifically requested Panthic organisations abroad to respond in writing by 28 July 2011.

The letter sent by Bhai Amrik Singh, Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK), dated 27 July requests the memorial to be:

- i) a constant reminder of the Indian army assault on the Akaal Takht in June 1984;
- ii) built in a prominent position next to the Akaal Takht
- iii) built by a specified target date i.e. June 2012 as the memorial is long overdue; and above all else
- iii) reflect the words of Sant Jarnail Singh Khalsa Bhindranwale, namely:

"Let it be known, when the Indian Army sets foot into the Golden Temple Complex, the foundation stone of Khalistan will be laid."

The Federation states it has also had many requests from Sikh Gurdwaras, organisations and individual Sikhs across Europe to respond to the SGPC on their behalf along these lines. It has also liaised with Sikhs in Canada and the USA.



SIKHS WORLDWIDE LAUNCH INTERNATIONAL SIKH CRIMEWATCH

The Sikh Federation (UK), which is the leading organisation in the UK that is part of the International Coalition for a Sikh Homeland announced in late July the launch of the International Sikh Crimewatch.

This is aimed at identifying and exposing those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and torture against Sikhs when they travel outside India.

The Sikh Federation (UK) reported that K S Brar had been seen in London near 9 Portman Square, London, W1A 3AL. He is reported as having entered a branch of Barclays Bank, where he confirmed his ID. This was mentioned by a Sikh Federation (UK) spokesman at the live launch of the Sikh Channel studio in London on 24 July and also covered on Sangat TV on Sunday 25 July.

The Sikh TV channels and other media will be used to expose when the likes of K S Brar, KPS Gill, Swaran Singh Gottna etc. travel to the UK, mainland Europe, USA, Canada etc. Organisations such as Redress, Human Rights Watch and a Special Unit in the Metropolitan Police (in the UK) that investigate such crimes will also be informed of their presence.

The Sikh Federation (UK) asked if K S Brar was temporarily living in the UK and exploring what actions can be taken against him?

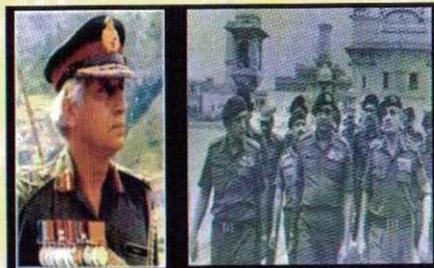


Foreign Secretary Rt. Hon. William Hague MP meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister S M Krishna in London

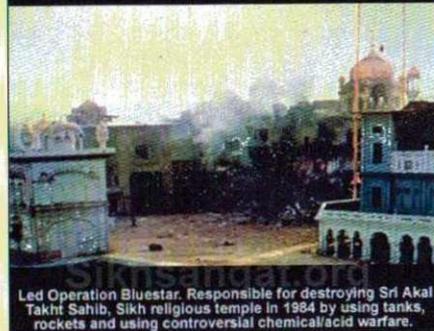
SIKH FEDERATION (UK) CHALLENGE FOREIGN SECRETARY OVER INDIAN PRESS REPORTS FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

On 30 June the Foreign Secretary Rt. Hon. William Hague MP met with Indian External Affairs Minister S M Krishna. The Indian Express reported the British Foreign Secretary William Hague had assured India that they will curb "anti-India demonstrations" by Sikhs.

This is almost certainly a direct response to the large peaceful protest by Sikhs in June 2011 to mark the 27th anniversary of the massacre at the Golden Temple Complex.



KS Brar - War Crime: Killing thousands of innocent civilians - some as young as 1 yrs old. (June 1984)



Led Operation Bluestar. Responsible for destroying Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Sikh religious temple in 1984 by using tanks, rockets and using controversial chemical/acid warfare.

The Sikh Federation (UK) immediately responded by contacting UK politicians within hours of the news report appearing in India. Emma Reynolds MP, Shadow Foreign Minister subsequently raised Parliamentary Questions and wrote to the Foreign Secretary asking him to clarify his position.

i) Did the Foreign Secretary raise the case of Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar at the meeting yesterday? If not, why not given many MPs have raised the Professor's case with the Foreign Office and this was an ideal opportunity.

ii) The Foreign Secretary / FCO must issue an urgent rebuttal against the Indian Express report that the Foreign Secretary agreed to 'curb' peaceful protests in the UK by the Sikh community against India.

The Sikh Federation (UK) has said it may launch a letter writing campaign from the Sangat through Gurdwaras and the Sikh media to put pressure on UK MPs to write to the Foreign Secretary to raise these issues.

Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) said "we are confident that with the support of the Sangat we can get well over 150-200 MPs to write to the Foreign Secretary to explain the UK position".

UK FOREIGN OFFICE CONTRADICTS INDIAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES AND PRESS REPORTS ON 'CURBING' SIKH DEMONSTRATIONS

On 30 June the Foreign Secretary Rt. Hon. William Hague MP met with Indian External Affairs Minister S M Krishna. The Indian Express on 1 July reported the British Foreign Secretary William Hague assured India that they will curb "anti-India demonstrations" by Sikhs.



Indian Express report based on Indian Government sources exposed as lies

The Sikh Federation (UK) immediately responded by contacting UK politicians within hours of the news report appearing in India. Emma Reynolds MP, Shadow Foreign Minister subsequently raised Parliamentary Questions and wrote to the Foreign Secretary asking him to clarify his position. She is still waiting for a response.

The Sikh Federation (UK) lodged a Freedom of Information (FOI) request with the UK Foreign Office on 5 July demanding copies of all documents, including emails, meeting reports, minutes and official communications between the Foreign Office and India where any reference was made to Sikhs. The formal response to an FOI request is usually within 20 working days. The Foreign Office response was received on 2 August and confirmed no information was held supporting the Indian Express report based on Indian Government sources.

On 3 August the Foreign Office officials that deal with India wrote to the Sikh Federation (UK) about press reports of the Foreign Secretary's meeting with Foreign Minister Krishna with regards to Sikh protests in the UK and reassured the Federation that the 'FCO respects the right of lawful protest.'

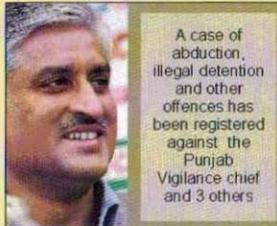


Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK), said:

'the information and reassurances we have received from the UK Foreign Office in the last 24-hours prove that Indian Government sources and press reports should not be trusted. The UK Government has confirmed in writing it respects our right to lawful protest and in effect contradicted false India propaganda against Sikhs who protest and are pushing for an independent Sikh State.'

FEDERATION PUT PRESSURE ON CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA TO STOP DELAYS INVESTIGATING KILLING OF INNOCENTS BY SUMEDH SAINI

On 7 September 2011 the Sikh Federation (UK) were approached at the eleventh hour to launch a 24-hour letter writing campaign to put pressure on the Chief Justice of India to allow the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to start another investigation into the killing of three innocent persons in Punjab by Sumedh Saini.

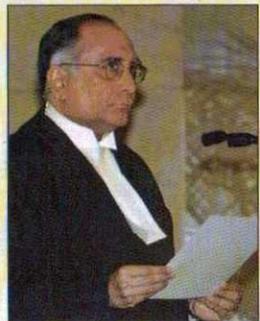


A case of abduction, illegal detention and other offences has been registered against the Punjab Vigilance chief and 3 others

A hearing was due to take place on 9 September and the Federation managed to get many organisations and Gurdwaras to write to S H Kapadia, the Chief Justice of India. Within hours the Sikh Federation (UK), Sikh Council UK, East Midlands Council of Gurdwaras, Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Gravesend and Guru Teg Bahadur Gurdwara, Leicester to name a few had sent letters via email to the Supreme Court of India. An appeal was also made by the Sikh Federation (UK) on the Sikh Channel to Gurdwaras and Sikh organisations across Europe to send letters within 24-hours.

The case in question has been pending before the Supreme Court of India for three years with continuous changes in judges. It involves the killings of Balwant Singh Multani, Manjit Singh Sohi and Balwant Singh Bhullar in December, 1991 and February, 1992.

Balwant Singh Bhullar and Manjit Singh Sohi (killed in February, 1992) were Gazetted Government Servants, each with more than 30 years of clean and unblemished service and had no connection with any form of illegal activities. They were killed because they happened to be father and uncle of Professor Davinder Pal Singh Bhullar respectively. Both were kept in illegal custody and were tortured on the orders of and in the presence of then SSP Sumedh Saini. Balwant Singh Bhullar was allegedly tortured to such an extent that he lost his mental balance. The third person Balwant Singh Multani was the son of an IAS officer in Punjab who was shown as escaped from custody and eliminated.



S H Kapadia, the Chief Justice of India

Even though the CBI, after a prolonged enquiry, concluded that there was foul play and all three persons were in the illegal custody of Chandigarh Police, there has been a stay on the CBI investigation for the last three years and is preventing justice from being delivered. The present Government of Punjab has also hired the best legal talent to defend this officer and is also desperately trying to carry out bench-hunting by getting the case fixed before a particular judge.

Sumedh Saini was a ruthless and controversial police officer who is already facing several criminal charges of kidnappings, torture and murders. Balwinder Singh Jatana's 95 year old grandmother, maternal aunt, her teen-aged daughter and his polio ridden cousin were allegedly murdered and set on fire by the suspected agents of Saini. Senior Superintendent of Police Ropar Mr Mustafa complained to Director General of Punjab Police that

Saini himself set his farm house on fire and blamed it on militants, allegedly murdered one Parminder Singh of Mohali in his custody and later threw his body in district Ropar and he ordered the elimination of Balwinder Singh's family.



INTERNATIONAL SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE SIKH FEDERATION

Membership: 31 members from 20 countries **Meetings:** At least twice a year
Responsibilities: Co-ordinate political activities worldwide and lead engagement with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and lobbying at the United Nations
Events: At least one annual event linked to its work at the United Nations.

NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE UK, CANADA AND USA

Membership: 15-member
National Boards of Directors (all Amritdhari) supplemented with advisers.
Local branches in major cities each having 5 members
Local Board of Directors (all Amritdhari).
Responsibilities: Ensure successful lobbying of their respective national governments with local branches engaging with local politicians. Maintain close links with those in Punjab, be the interface with the Sangat through local branches and direct engagement with the Sikh/Panjabi media.
National Management Team: 25 members headed by five Managing Directors who are part of the 15-member National Board of Directors.
Each Managing Director will have specific responsibilities in a particular area.

SET UP IN OTHER COUNTRIES

National branches: In around fifteen other countries.
Each branch having 11-member Boards of Directors.
Within each country there can also be local branches, each with 5-member Local Boards of Directors.
Responsibilities: To lobby their respective national governments and politicians. For those in Europe to join those from the UK to lobby the European Commission, MEPs and the Council of Europe and to join those from the UK, Canada and USA to lobby the United Nations.
Meetings: In Europe twice a year
Events: At least one annual event linked to European institutions.
Branches in mainland Europe to nominate 10 members with language skills to work with the 25-member National Management Team in the UK.