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**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022 - 2023**



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CELEBRATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIKH FEDERATION (UK)

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Just before the Convention last year Liz Truss had just become PM. Her implosion within weeks made her the shortest serving PM in the UK and allowed Rishi Sunak to move into No 10 without opposition. He has however failed to restore the Conservative's standing with the public and many are of the view the Conservatives are facing defeat in the next General Election as inflation has made it harder and harder for millions to make ends meet. Although public mood can shift with extraordinary speed many appear to be fed up and want a change.

Rishi Sunak is currently leading the Conservatives towards defeat. Many in government and political circles know the UK Government led by Rishi Sunak is weak and conflicted when it comes to standing up to the right wing Indian Government led by Narendra Modi. Since becoming PM the Indian authorities have been unashamedly exploiting Sunak's Hindu identity and family connections with India. The current UK Government is publicly all about Indian appeasement at the expense of the British Sikh minority that represents a serious threat and distraction for us until we get a change of government.

The global threat of the Hindutva ideology and the absence of any credible political opposition in India is being increasingly recognised by governments and authorities in the US, Canada and UK. This worrying direction of travel and protectionist policies chosen by the Indian government indicates the break-up of India is inevitable. Britain needs a strong UK Government prepared to publicly lead condemnation of the Indian government's systematic discrimination and promotion of violence towards religious and other minorities in India.

We may have a Labour Government by the time of the next Convention in September 2024 that will mark our 40th anniversary. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Sikh Federation (UK) and there is much we can be proud of in terms of our achievements, although much more can be achieved. At the next General Election we are expecting to increase Sikh MPs in a Labour Government from two to nine that could be in power for at least 10 years. This change will allow us to take forward many of the items in the Sikh Manifesto including better political representation of Sikhs, addressing anti-Sikh hate crimes, the release and return of Jagtar Singh Johal to be with his family in Scotland and an independent public inquiry into UK involvement in the events of June 1984 as well as anti-Sikh measures against the British Sikh community. We are hopeful a Labour Government can also deliver a statutory Code of Practice on the five Kakkars and Dastaar, recognise the 1984 Sikh Genocide and working with other governments take up the matter on the global stage.

In the last few years the demand for the re-establishment of a Sikh homeland have not only grown abroad in the Sikh Diaspora, but also in the Indian sub-continent where Sikhs from all walks of life and non-Sikhs have started to recognise the benefits Sikh sovereignty & independence can bring that promotes and lives the Sarbat Da Bhala (wellbeing of all) concept. Sikh-led opposition started with the farmers protest and the emergence of popular voices calling for freedom with their own global following and reach like Deep Sidhu and Sidhu Moose Wala who were both killed in India in February and May 2022. In the last 12 months we have seen the popular emergence in India of Bhai Amritpal Singh. He started a campaign encouraging youth to refrain from drugs, adopt Sikhi and strongly advocate for a sovereign Sikh State. Indian governments, past and present, understand Sikh history and teachings from the time of the Gurus and are always deeply worried where opposition is led by Sikhs. This in part explains the Indian government's tactics and brutal response targeting Sikh activists at home and abroad.

Sikh-led opposition and the revival in the demand for the re-establishment of a Sikh homeland is no coincidence and not gone unnoticed by foreign governments. Many countries are currently reassessing their relationship with India given the Hindutva ideology and political interference abroad. Canada has recognised and publicly called out the interference and paused trade talks ahead of the G20 summit in Delhi.

The same interference and threat of the Hindutva ideology exists in the UK but we can assume many in the UK Government will try and maintain their silence whilst Rishi Sunak remains in power until he becomes a sitting duck.

We will be entering a new era next year that will require us in the next 12 months to review the way we work and make positive changes to re-focus our efforts to ensure we achieve as much as we can in the next decade. We will be concentrating on international co-ordination with governments through like-minded Sikhs as the political role of Sikhs in the Diaspora continues to increase. Our focus will always be the promotion of Sikhi, the Sikh way of life and the goal of the re-establishment of a Sikh homeland that will come about with the break-up of India and Pakistan before they reach their centenary.

Bhai Amrik Singh

Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK)

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1. BUILDING A STRONGER POLITICAL VOICE IN THE UK AND ABROAD

SIKH COMMUNITY STARTS PREPARATION FOR GENERAL ELECTION AND GIVES NOTICE TO POLITICAL PARTIES



11 September 2022 - The annual National Sikh Convention organised by the Sikh Federation (UK) took place at Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Smethwick at the weekend and came at an interesting time in terms of politics in the UK.

Following Boris Johnson's resignation Liz Truss has become Prime Minister this week and has a new Cabinet that faces some massive challenges, such as energy costs and the cost-of-living crisis, spiralling inflation, the war in Ukraine and the possibility of a trade war with EU countries over the Northern Ireland protocol.

The Sikh Federation (UK) signalled today, the final day of the Convention that it has started preparations for the General Election and will give notice to political parties.

The 15,000 that took part in the three-day Convention were told the Government under new leadership, with the departure of Johnson, Patel and other senior figures, gives the Conservatives an opportunity to address several key issues that have been neglected for Sikhs, particularly in the run up to the next General Election.

The Sikh Federation (UK) has written to Liz Truss congratulating her, the need to hit the reset button in terms of Sikh community engagement and highlighting some of the key community issues that need to be addressed. These include seeking the immediate release and return to the UK of Jagtar Singh Johal who has been tortured and held in arbitrary detention in an Indian jail for nearly 5 years.

Other issues are for the government to acknowledge and take actions to address anti-Sikh hate where Home Office figures to be released next month are expected to show a massive four-fold increase in attacks against Sikhs. The Federation had predicted this outcome a year ago. Tackling discrimination and inequalities against Sikhs is another area where progress could be made.

The Sikh Federation (UK) has also written to Keir Starmer reminding him of some of his promises and that of his party and not to take the Sikh vote for granted. The Federation has kept the Labour Leader informed of the strategy the Sikh community has been developing for the next General Election.



The Labour Leader has been told by the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) this week that discussions have started with other minority communities over the summer on a voting strategy for the next General Election. A coalition between different communities could mean they hold the balance of power to decide the outcome in 60-80 constituencies in the next General Election that Labour hope to win or retain.

If the Labour Party is to form the next government, it will need to take this strategy seriously and engage with community expectations. Those gathered were told by Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) that political parties will not be allowed to ignore or pay lip-service to British Sikhs.

More difficult messages shared at the Convention were the need for Britain to deal with its colonial past, including the mess it left 75 years ago during Partition and the creation of India and Pakistan at the expense of the Sikh Nation. The UK Government must also address historic injustices and the current negativity towards British Sikh activism driven by the desires of the current right wing Indian Government.

The organisers urged the current and future UK Governments must work with like-minded countries to publicly oppose the Indian Government where they promote extremism and discrimination and perpetrate human rights abuses against minorities knowing that the political opposition to the far-right BJP government is very weak.

Those in attendance were told the Indian authorities are increasingly worried with the growing support for Sikh independence across the globe, including in India itself. The Convention will be used to promote a two-stranded approach across the globe of highlighting the benefits of Sikh independence and the dangers of the direction of travel by far-right Indian political leaders.

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

ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਯੂ. ਕੇ. ਦੀ 39ਵੀਂ ਕਨਵੈਨਸ਼ਨ ਮੌਕੇ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਮੇਂਦਿਕ ਵਿਖੇ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਾਲ ਇਕੱਠ

ਲੰਡਨ, 11 ਸਤੰਬਰ (ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੰਧਨੀ ਕਲਾਂ)- ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਯੂ. ਕੇ. ਵਲੋਂ 39ਵੀਂ ਸਾਲਾਨਾ ਅੰਤਰਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਕਨਵੈਨਸ਼ਨ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਮੇਂਦਿਕ, ਬਰਮਿੰਘਮ ਵਿਖੇ ਹੋਈ, ਜਿਸ 'ਚ ਦੇਸ਼ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ ਤੋਂ ਹਜ਼ਾਰਾਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੇ ਭਾਗ ਲਿਆ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਆਗੂਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਸਥਾਨਕ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਕ ਪਾਰਟੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਆਗੂਆਂ ਨੇ ਵੀ ਸੰਬੰਧਨ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਭਾਈਚਾਰੇ ਵਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਜਾਂਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਲਾਘਾ ਕੀਤੀ।



ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਿੱਲ ਅਤੇ ਐਮ.ਪੀ. ਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਗਿੱਲ ਸੰਬੰਧਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ।



ਤਾਰੀਖ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਸਿੱਖ ਵੱਕੀਲਾਂ

1947 ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਹੋਂਦ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਿਕਾਰ ਹੋ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ, ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਨਾ ਆਪਣਾ ਮੁਲਕ ਮਿਲਿਆ ਅਤੇ ਨਾ ਹੀ ਉਹ ਸੰਤਕਾਰ ਜਿਸ ਦਾ ਵਾਅਦਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਇਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਜਗਤਾਰ ਸਿੱਖ ਜੰਗੀ ਜੋਹਲ ਦੀ ਭਾਰਤ 'ਚ ਗ੍ਰਿਫ਼ਤਾਰੀ 'ਚ ਬਰਤਾਨਵੀ ਖੁਫ਼ੀਆ ਏਜੰਸੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਡੂਮਿਕਾ ਦੀ ਆਲੋਚਨਾ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਕਿ ਬਰਤਾਨੀਆ ਦੀ ਨਵੀਂ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਜੰਗੀ ਦੀ ਘਰ ਵਾਪਸੀ ਨੂੰ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਬਣਾਵੇ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਮੁੱਦਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਰਣਨੀਤੀ, ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਖਿਲਾਫ਼ ਨਫਰਤੀ ਅਪਰਾਧ, ਬਰਤਾਨਵੀ ਸੰਸਦ 'ਚ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੀ ਨੁਮਾਇੰਦਗੀ ਵਰਗੇ ਅਹਿਮ ਮੁੱਦਿਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਚਰਚਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਅਤੇ ਕਨਵੈਨਸ਼ਨ 'ਚ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਸਿੱਖ ਜਥੇਬੰਦੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਨੁਮਾਇੰਦਿਆਂ ਨੇ ਆਜ਼ਾਦ ਸਿੱਖ ਰਾਜ ਦਾ ਸੰਕਲਪ ਲਿਆ।

“We are sending a clear message to political parties at the Convention that we have started our preparations for the General Election.”

“A year ago we began a campaign to have Priti Patel removed as Home Secretary for her anti-Sikh actions. Her resignation at the start of this week before she was fired by Liz Truss has been widely welcomed by the Sikh community.”

“The government and opposition parties need to hit the reset button in terms of engagement with grassroots Sikh organisations and address some of our key concerns”.

“We are putting in place a voting strategy with other minority communities that all political parties need to take seriously as we can have a major influence on the outcome of the next General Election.”



UK SIKH REPRESENTATIVES PAY RESPECTS TO HM QUEEN LAYING IN STATE IN WESTMINSTER HALL WITH SIKH SALUTATION

15 September 2022 - Leaders around the world offered their condolences following the passing away of Queen Elizabeth II. Millions in this country are paying tribute to the Queen given her immense humility and life-long service.

Three representatives of the Sikh Federation (UK) were invited as special guests to attend the Lying in State of HM Queen Elizabeth II today.



Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair, Bhai Narinderjit Singh, the General Secretary and Bhai Dabinderjit Singh OBE, the Principal Adviser passed through Westminster Hall as special guests at around 1pm.

All three met HM Queen when she made her first visit to a Gurdwara to mark her Golden Jubilee. The historic visit was to Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Leicester.

All three have also met King Charles III on several occasions at events he has attended to pay tribute to the contribution of Sikhs.

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

“It was our duty to ensure the Sikh community was represented at Westminster Hall at this important moment in history.”

“As the three of us paid our respects we simply and quietly repeated the Sikh salutation of ‘Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh’ — the Khalsa belongs to Waheguru; Victory is gifted by Waheguru.

“This two-fold affirmation of faith signifies the special relationship between God and those who dedicated their entire life to God’s service and that faith triumphs over forces of evil.”

Both BBC News and ITV News provided TV coverage of the Sikh Federation (UK) representatives paying their respects.

King Charles and faith communities

Asia Samachar – 6 October 2022

King Charles appreciates the government must radically improve its engagement with faith communities

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II and 10 days of mourning it should have allowed everyone, especially UK politicians and those in government time to reflect on the continued importance of faith in Britain. A different approach to faith communities was widely expected from the new monarch.

We did not have long to wait as King Charles signalled during the period of mourning and before the funeral of his mother that he would be

championing diversity and will have closer links with different faiths and communities, despite his constitutional role with respect to the Church of England.

At the weekend discussing the new monarch’s approach to different faiths, I reminded those listening to a popular religious flagship programme on BBC Radio 4, that successive governments have been neglecting proper engagement with faith communities. The government machinery is not fit for purpose and operates a discriminatory approach to minority faiths, especially those who do not have the backing of one or more foreign governments.

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Parts of government, including those who advise the Royal Household are deliberately lazy and fixated on the concept of a single faith leader as it makes their job easier. Whilst this may work for some faiths a hierarchical approach is an alien concept to the Sikh faith that prides itself on equality. The only ask is Sikh representation on religious matters must be by suitably qualified Amritdhari (fully practising) Sikhs.

All Sikh men and women can freely choose to become Amritdhari and most of those born in Britain in the last 40-50 years who have made this choice will be proud of their visible identity. Some who may try and blend in and hide or compromise aspects of their religious identity or give an Anglicised and warped view of Sikhi (the Sikh way of life) should not be those who government choose to select to represent Sikhs.

There are thousands of British born Amritdhari Sikhs proud of their religious identity who are suitably skilled and competent to play a much better representation role at civic events like Commonwealth Day and Remembrance Day or at weddings and funerals of members of the Royal family. It is remarkable they have for decades been totally denied this role by the establishment who have continued to invite the same individual.



It is inevitable there will sooner or later have to be change, but it would be better if government with

a new monarch took a fresh look at its approach of engaging with the Sikh community. This must start with a better understanding of how different faith communities, like Sikhs operate and only engage on faith matters with Amritdhari Sikh representatives and ideally those born, went to school, worked and lived their entire lives in the UK as they will be better able to relate to the full range of challenges faced than those living in their ivory towers.

To improve Sikh community engagement, government and officials have at times experimented with moving away from single community leaders by setting up roundtables with representatives from leading Sikh organisations to discuss matters impacting on the Sikh community. However, to water down the significance of Sikh representation and to make their lives easier officials have gone out of their way to unilaterally invite those choosing not to practise their Sikh faith, Sikh academics working closely with government and Sikh civil servants who are conflicted.

After a two-year experiment with a Sikh Roundtable government decided to refresh the membership and ask for applications as Sikh representatives connected with the grassroots of the community were organised, co-ordinated and prepared to challenge. Unacceptably, four years later despite the excuse of the pandemic the government are still to make appointments or officially convene a Sikh Roundtable with representatives from leading Sikh organisations.

Meanwhile government and officials have tried with their unofficial boycott of Sikh representatives to become largely oblivious to numerous issues of concern to the Sikh community like bullying in schools, increased anti-Sikh hate crimes, discrimination against the Sikh identity, the farmers protest that received worldwide attention and the torture and arbitrary detention of Jagtar Singh Johal in an Indian jail to name a few. Ministers and civil servants are not ignorant of these sorts of concerns as the Sikh community knows how to lobby and has been raising similar concerns over many years.

In a related matter three years ago in October 2019 the Government announced that Colin Bloom had been appointed as the Faith Engagement Adviser to the Communities Secretary and he would be leading a review into how the Government should best engage with faith groups in England.



A year later, in October 2020 Colin Bloom launched a Call for Evidence, posing a series of questions about the Government's engagement with faith groups that closed on the 11 December 2020. In response to a Parliamentary Question by a Conservative MP the Minister responsible confirmed in February 2021 that the review was ongoing, but it would be published in summer 2021.

More than a year later the review still remains unpublished. Officials have blamed the pandemic and a constant change of Ministers for the delay in both reconvening a Sikh roundtable and publishing the results of the review, let alone acting on the recommendations of the review.

During the pandemic government engagement with the Sikh community reached an all-time low when a faith leaders task force looking specifically at places of worship was appointed in May 2020. The person appointed by government representing Sikhs as a faith leader, alongside the likes of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbi was a non-practising Sikh who has never been involved in the running and management of Gurdwaras.

This was deemed by the Sikh community as a deliberate move by government to select an individual without the required religious competence, relevant experience and knowledge of running Gurdwaras to represent Sikhs on the taskforce. Government tried to use the individual to impose a totally inappropriate church type model of prayer and service on Gurdwaras during the pandemic. Within a week there was a massive outcry by those running Gurdwaras, Sikh organisations and on media that the person was forced to resign from the taskforce and was never replaced.

There is a new Prime Minister with a new Cabinet who are facing many massive economic and political challenges. However, this is one area where the government does not want to repeat mistakes and is in a position to acknowledge the direction given by the new monarch and indicate they want a better understanding of faith communities and make a stepped change in its approach.

Dabinderjit Singh is the principal adviser to the Sikh Federation (UK) and recently took early retirement as a Director at the National Audit Office

POTENTIAL MASSIVE FALLOUT OF DABINDERJIT'S NAME MISSING FROM TODAY'S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF LIFE PEERAGES

14 October 2022 - Dabinderjit has just put out a private message to friends and family coinciding with today's public announcement of life peerages. He intends to make public his appalling treatment over the last two years and the actions he is planning to take.

This includes:

- the massive cover up by the Cabinet Office and Labour Party over the public announcement of his life peerage that HM Queen approved for 22 December 2020;
- the leaking of his name and the hate campaign orchestrated by the Indian authorities to prevent the public announcement;
- the devastating impact on his career, professional reputation and mental health; and
- the outrageous actions of the Labour Leader's office, including stringing this out for two years worried that the truth of his treatment will emerge and the inevitable community backlash.

Actions Dabinderjit has set in motion are designed to get to the truth and include:

- reporting the hate campaign to the Metropolitan Police so they can investigate;



- referring the Labour Party to the Information Commissioners Office for failing to respond for the last 6 months to a Subject Access Request for his personal information; and
- the possibility of legal action against the Labour Party that could cost millions for their shocking handling of the matter, impact on his career, professional reputation and mental health.

Dabinderjit's treatment demonstrates a foreign government has been successful in blocking a peerage when the process had been completed, including the approval by HM Queen of the public announcement of Dabinderjit's life peerage on 22 December 2020.

The Sikh Federation (UK) has therefore raised the matter with Buckingham Palace and King Charles to look into Dabinderjit's peerage and raise it with the current PM as it brings the peerage process into disrepute and compromises the constitutional role of the monarch in approving peerages.

Only time will tell what political fallout there is for the Labour Party of the Leader's office handling of the matter.

OVER 250 SIKH ORGANISATIONS DEMAND PRITI PATEL'S RESIGNATION

9 February 2022- Over 250 UK Gurdwaras and organisations are later today sending an open letter to the PM complaining about Number 10 and Ministers completely forgetting to recognise the Gurburb (Birthday) of Guru Nanak Dev Ji on 19 November 2021.

The letter is being copied to other party leaders and all 650 MPs. Within 24 hours of the letter being posted online nearly 5,000 constituents covering over 300 MPs had added their signatures.

The oversight of Gurburb is highly embarrassing for Boris Johnson, Number 10, the PM's faith adviser Jonathan Hellewell, the Communities Secretary and the Faith Minister who all forgot to acknowledge one of the most important days in the Sikh calendar.



To make matters much worse on the same day Priti Patel, the Home Secretary gave a hard-hitting speech on terrorism in Washington DC. In her address to the Heritage Foundation that we have shared on social media she spoke about banning Hamas in the UK and proscribing four extreme right-wing groups but extraordinarily stated:

“Sikh separatist extremism has also caused considerable tensions in recent years.”

Over the last 12 weeks in local meetings with Conservative MPs, including several Ministers, Sikh representatives have patiently requested clarification of Priti Patel's general reference to Sikhs and what specific events in recent years she had in mind when making her controversial and offensive reference to Sikhs.

Conservative MPs have embarrassingly been unable to provide any justification for her general reference to Sikhs that has caused huge offence.

The open letter that has massive support not only asks for an apology, but that the Home Secretary should be sacked for her offensive comments and actions towards the Sikh community.

The open letter provides two specific examples where the Sikh community believe Priti Patel has demonstrated in “recent years” she is unfit to remain Home Secretary and is conflicted in her important role given her known connections to the right wing BJP Indian government.

The first is the failed extradition in September 2021 of three innocent British born Sikhs to India. The case collapsed on the first morning in Westminster Magistrates Court. In December 2020 Priti Patel sanctioned the extradition the day after Dominic Raab, the Foreign Secretary at the time, returned



from discussions with Ministers in Delhi. District Judge Michael Snow was highly critical of the dubious role played by Priti Patel. The three British Sikhs would have faced torture and the death penalty if they had been extradited to India.

The second is in relation to the wife of Jagtar Singh Johal. Jagtar a British born Sikh who went to India to get married but was abducted and tortured by Indian police and has spent his 5th consecutive Birthday in an Indian jail although no evidence has been presented in court. Legal experts have concluded he is being held in arbitrary detention and the UK Government is duty bound by its own policies to secure his release and return to the UK to be with his family.

Priti Patel stands accused of blocking any efforts to get Jagtar back to the UK and having open hostility towards the Sikh community. Last year she unashamedly had the audacity to try and deport Jagtar Singh Johal's wife to India. Priti Patel however failed in her endeavour but continuously exhibits serious misjudgement and bias against the Sikh community.

Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) that is leading the campaign and political lobbying against Priti Patel said:

“The PM often points to the diversity in his Cabinet however his actions and those of his Cabinet Ministers towards the Sikh community is how they will always be judged.

Number 10 has made a pathetic attempt to defend the blunder of the PM and his Ministers forgetting to acknowledge Gurburb.

Priti Patel has since she became Home Secretary deliberately gone out of her way to target and smear the minority British Sikh community to appease her paymasters in Delhi. Her actions are deeply offensive and indefensible.

The PM has been unable to reign in and control Priti Patel who is conflicted by her connections with the right wing Indian government.

The open letter being sent to the PM has massive support and there is also a separate petition signed by 30,000 calling for the sacking of Priti Patel.”

Sikhs return to Parliament to mark 553rd Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurburb event

**ASIAN
CONNECT**



The Asian Connect – 16 November 2023

After a two year break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sikhs and politicians were back in

Parliament on Tuesday, 15 November, to mark the 553rd Gurburb, birth anniversary of the founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak Dev Ji.



The event was co-hosted by The Sikh Network, the Sikh Federation (UK) and the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Sikhs. As with previous Gurburb events, the organisers combined the celebration of the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji with providing some much-deserved recognition to individuals who have carried out great work on behalf of the Sikh community.

Opening and welcome speeches were delivered by MP Preet Kaur Gill, MP Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, and Sikh Network Board Member Manchandan Kaur Sandhu. Attendees were told about the significance of living Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings of Naam Japo, Kirt Karo and Vand ke Chako in today's society. The speakers talked of the revolutionary spirit of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and how they are each driving this message forward in the UK today.

This year's keynote speaker was Manmugan Singh, Executive Committee Member of the Sikh Council UK. Manmugan led the congregation in a warming recital of the Mool Mantar and heeded the importance of individual accountability to living Guru Ji's message. He implored audience members to crystallise their personal connections with the Sikh message and bring them to fruition in their everyday lives.

The core message of the evening, that of truth, justice and unity, reverberated in the repeated calls for Jagtar Singh Johal's release from each MP that spoke and through the passionate words of MP Martin Docherty Hughes, Reprieve's Dan Dolan and world renowned solicitor Gareth Peirce. Each called the Indian and British Governments to account, voicing the community's frustration at the UK Government's lack of action and the Indian Government's brazen disregard for truth and the legal process. Johal has been arbitrarily detained for over five years and the single message to the Government and Rishi Sunak from the evening was to now call for his immediate release.

Rev Dr Richard Sudworth, Secretary for Inter Religious Affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury and National Inter Religious Affairs Adviser for the Church of England, highlighted the importance of Sikh values in today's world, and underlined the need for us each to bring our whole selves forward as we build stronger connections with our neighbours of all faiths.

The audience was treated to a special Kirtan performance from Harmanpreet Singh on vocals

and the harmonium, accompanied by Juginder Singh on the violin. The duo took the evening to a new level of "Chardi Kalla" with Waheguru Simran and their rendition of "Sat Guru Nanak Pargateya", beautifully sung by them and the attending audience.

In line with previous events, a small award ceremony was held to provide recognition to various individuals and organisations who have gone above and beyond in the last year in their work for the Sikh community. The following were awarded for their contribution in their own fields of work.

- to Politics – *Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi*
- to Sports – *Dylan Singh Cheema, Boxer*
- to Education – *Navleen Kaur*
- to Business – *Amritpal Singh Mann, Punjab Restaurant*
- to Media – *Balvinder Kaur Sidhu*
- in Charity Selfless Seva – *Reprieve*
- to Human rights – *Sukhdev Kaur Reel*
- Recognised Organisation – *Gareth Peirce Solicitors*
- Recognised International Contribution – *Deep Singh Sidhu*
- Recognised Lifetime achievement – *Dabinderjit Singh*



Mankamal Singh from the Sikh Network commented on the event, "The theme of this year's Gurburb event was very much centred



around truth and justice where we heard from campaigners involved in the #freejagginow campaign as well as justice for Ricky Reel. As Sikhs, our core belief is in upholding truth and justice, as taught to us by Guru Nanak Dev Ji and the succeeding Gurus.

“Guru Nanak Dev Ji started a great revolution 553 years ago. A revolution that was born to embrace solutions for humanity and today we share that message with everyone.

“To learn more about the Sikh Network and the key issues we are pursuing on behalf of the Sikh community in the UK, such as the release of Jagtar Singh Johal, better representation in parliament, prevention of hate crime and support of religious freedoms, and standing for truth and justice for the Sikh Genocides of 1984, please subscribe to the Sikh Network podcast and contact us to get involved.”

All the organisations involved in the event extended their thanks to the MPs and Lords who

attended and contributed to the evening. These included Clive Betts (Labour), Deidre Brock (SNP), Fiona Bruce (Conservatives), Ruth Cadbury (Labour), Bambos Charalambous (Labour), Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour), Martin Docherty-Hughes (SNP), Preet Kaur Gill (Labour), Mary Glendon (Labour), Emma Hardy (Labour), Eddie Hughes (Conservatives), Afzal Khan (Labour), Lord Wajid Khan (Labour), Khalid Mahmood (Labour), John McDonnell (Labour), Kirsten Oswald (SNP), Tom Tugendhat (Conservatives), Valerie Vaz (Labour), Claudia Webbe (UK Independence), Catherine West (Labour) and Matt Western (Labour).

The event was recorded by Akaal Channel (Sky770) and was broadcast on social media pages as well as at 18:00 GMT on Thursday, 17 November on Sky channel 770. The Sikh Network and the Sikh Federation (UK) have thanked everyone who supported this remarkable event, in particular, Punjab Restaurant, London and our media partners Akaal Channel and Punjab 2000.

Open letter to Rishi Sunak from over 350 gurdwaras and Sikh organisations

**ASIAN
CONNECT**

The Asian Connect – 24 April 2023

The Sikh Federation UK has expressed concerns on behalf of over 350 gurdwaras and Sikh organisations over the “demonisation” of the British Sikh community, in light of recent protests and the rising demand for separate Sikh

homeland called Khalistan. The letter has highlighted key issues and the lack of the effort of the UK government to protect the rights of the Sikhs. Read the full letter below:

Dear Prime Minister,

As representatives of gurdwaras and Sikh organisations throughout the UK, we write on behalf of the British Sikh community to express grave concern over the increasing and unacceptable demonisation of British Sikhs as “extremists” and “terrorists”. These labels are being regularly used as the Indian authorities are nervous that most Sikhs support the right to self-determination and the re-establishment of a Sikh homeland referred to as Khalistan.

On 9 February 2022, we issued an open letter to the UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, following offensive comments by the Home Secretary, Priti Patel in a speech in the US, where she falsely labelled British Sikhs as extremists. On 7 July 2022 Boris Johnson as PM responded to the open letter with an apology and expressing regret to the British Sikh community on behalf of the UK Government. Boris Johnson’s letter to Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) is attached for information.

As PM he personally committed to ensure important days in the Sikh calendar are properly acknowledged by the UK Government in future and specifically confirmed to the British Sikh community that Jagtar Singh Johal has been in arbitrary detention in India since November 2017. Despite his apology and commitments to the British Sikh community we are now having to fathom your actions towards the British Sikh community since you became PM in October 2022.

You have reneged on the specific assurances given by Boris Johnson to the British Sikh community to properly acknowledge important days in the Sikh calendar i.e. you issued no video



message to the British Sikh community on Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburb in November 2022 or Vaisakhi in April 2023. Alongside this, you have made an ill-founded and unexplained U-turn on the arbitrary detention of Jagtar Singh Johal in an Indian jail for nearly five and half years since November 2017. These developments are deeply disturbing as it has publicly emerged there may have been British collusion in the kidnapping, torture and his continued arbitrary detention in India.

UK Sikhs say PM Rishi Sunak demonising them as 'extremists' and 'terrorists'



Your actions as the first British Hindu PM are extremely worrying set in the backdrop of a pattern of suspicion towards the British Sikh community from the UK Government, evidently under pressure from the Indian Government. This has included very aggressive policing of entirely peaceful protests, outside the Indian High Commission prior to the November 2015 UK visit of Narendra Modi and more recently the attempted extradition to India of three British born Sikhs following Indian pressure.

We are all too conscious of the fact that praise is readily afforded when Sikhs serve others, such as during the pandemic or the cost of living crisis when gurdwaras provide Langar (free food) to the vulnerable. Yet when we raise our voices against injustices faced by Sikhs in India we are vilified, all at the apparent price of hypothetical trade deals with India.

The UK Government under your watch is enabling a narrative that is not only factually wrong by mis-labelling British Sikhs as extremists, they are abdicating themselves from any responsibility they should carry as a result of the past actions of the British Empire against Sikhs:

- The annexation of the last Sikh Kingdom in 1849;
- The massacre of thousands of innocents at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar in April 1919 and Nankana Sahib (the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev Ji) in February 1921 for which there have been no UK Government apologies more than 100 years later;



• *Calling upon Sikhs to make up the largest volunteer army for the two World Wars through which 83,005 turban wearing Sikhs laid down their lives for the British Indian Army, with a further 109,045 being wounded; and*

• *Offering Sikhs a separate homeland during the partition of India in 1947, then in haste drawing a line through the Sikh homeland of Panjab to create a Hindu-dominated India and Muslim-dominated Pakistan to exit India.*

Clearly, the UK Government has a responsibility to recognise and defend the legitimacy of self-determination as a human right and given the treatment of Sikhs since 1947 the movement to secure the re-establishment of a Sikh Kingdom.

Governments in countries where Sikhs live and in our case the UK need to understand and accept "Raj Karega Khalsa" is a phrase that is part of the anthem recited by the entire congregation after Ardaas at the end of every service at all gurdwaras across the globe. This phrase can be traced to the 10th Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji. It refers to the Khalsa becoming sovereign, or the Pure will Rule. The word "Khalistan" has been demonised by the Indian authorities but literally translates to "Land of the Khalsa".

Following the desecration of the Sikhs holiest shrine Sri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple), Amritsar in 1984, by the Indian authorities and the Genocide of Sikhs in June and November 1984, UK Sikh organisations and gurdwaras have been highlighting human rights violations against them in India and peacefully exerting their legal right to support a Sikh homeland for some 40 years now.

The Genocide of Sikhs in 1984 after the Indian Army desecrated Harmandir Sahib, killing thousands of Sikhs remains heavily traumatic for Sikhs in Britain. Many have been triggered by the parallels of the Indian Government today, namely:

- 1. Media blackouts for news outlets who reported human rights violations;*
- 2. Mass arrests and innocent Sikhs detained by the Indian police, in a system that is infamous, and documented by the UN as state sponsored torture;*
- 3. Forced internet and SMS outage in Panjab akin to the 1984 telephone lines being cut; and*
- 4. UK citizens visiting Panjab during March 2023 being unreachable by their families.*

Following these barbaric acts by the Indian authorities on 18 March 2023, a small group of British Sikhs who protested spontaneously outside the Indian High Commission the next day were labelled "terrorists" for a single act of lowering the Indian flag. Senior UK politicians condemned these protesters without referring to the reason why they were protesting following a massive overreaction by the Indian Government.

However, the same UK politicians have been silent about the provocation and attacks on Sikhs who peacefully protested in their thousands outside the Indian High Commission a few days later on 22 March 2023. Metropolitan Police officers described the provocation, incitement and attacks on peaceful Sikh protesters by those inside the Indian High Commission as unacceptable and have communicated this to senior UK politicians.

Self-determination is a basic human right and not a crime. As you will be aware, there are SNP, Plaid Cymru and Sinn Fein MPs. Self-determination is enshrined within international law and the UN charter of human rights. Which makes it even more unacceptable for any UK MP (i.e. Bob Blackman), to abuse Parliamentary privilege to propagate #AntiSikhHate by calling all Sikhs who exercise their right to self-determination "terrorists" to appease the Indian Government.

We urge you as Prime Minister to explain why you have reneged on the assurances given by Boris Johnson to the British Sikh community in July 2022, including the unexplained U-turn on the arbitrary detention of Jagtar Singh Johal in an Indian jail since November 2017.

The UK Government, political parties and all Parliamentarians should:



1. Condemn outrageous and dangerous commentary about British Sikhs being labelled as extremists or terrorists without evidence or substance. Especially as evidence shows that the CTU have zero open cases relating to Sikhs and data from the Commission on Counter Terrorism states that Sikhs pose no threat to the UK.



2. Call out human rights violations against minorities and women in India and recognise the Sikhs basic human right of self-determination.

Putting human rights violations perpetrated in India on the backburner for the purposes of trade is dishonourable as a foreign policy approach by the UK Government with regards to India. Silence regarding state sponsored atrocities in India as a strategy is not befitting of successive UK Governments and has not worked for decades and is no longer acceptable

As British Sikhs, we are the most visible minority in this country, our presence, as with many minorities, is the legacy of British colonialism. We do not ask for special treatment, but we do demand equal treatment. We look forward to your response to the points raised and are arranging a lobby of Parliament for mid-May 2023 on the Sikhs right to self-determination to demonstrate the strength of feeling of the British Sikh community.

This letter is being copied to all MPs and constituents will be writing separately attaching this letter to ask their MPs to show solidarity and support for the British Sikh community.

British Sikh groups to Rishi Sunak: 'Actions extremely worrying'



Times of India – 25 April 2023

Amritsar: Representatives of over 350 Gurdwaras and Sikh organisations based in the United Kingdom (UK) have written to the country's first India-origin prime minister (PM), Rishi Sunak, to express what they described as "the community's concerns".

According to a spokesperson for Sikh Federation, UK, in an open letter, the Sikh organisations have described Sunak's "actions" as "extremely worrying set in the backdrop of a pattern of suspicion towards the British Sikh community from the UK government, evidently under pressure from the Indian government". "This has included aggressive policing of peaceful protests outside the Indian high commission prior to the November 2015 UK visit of PM Narendra Modi and, more recently, the attempted extradition of three Britain-born Sikhs following Indian pressure," reads the letter.

The open letter adds: "We urge you as PM to explain why you have reneged on assurances given by (former British PM) Boris Johnson to the British Sikh community in July 2022 including the unexplained U-turn on the alleged detention of Jagtar Singh Johal in an Indian jail since November 2017."

Johnson, in a July 7, 2022 letter to **Sikh Federation chair Amrik Singh**, had promised to continue to work with the Indian government to resolve Johal's case.

The Sikh organisations added that they did not ask for special treatment, equal treatment. "We look forward to your response to the points raised and are arranging a lobby of Parliament for mid-May 2023 on Sikhs right to self-determination to demonstrate the strength of feeling of the British Sikh community," the organisations wrote.



Sikh Federation (UK) responds to the Bloom Review's controversial reference to British Sikhs

The Asia Connect – 1 May 2023

The Sikh Federation (UK) has produced a detailed response to the Bloom Review's controversial reference to British Sikhs that was published last week.



According to the Sikh NGO & political lobby group, the briefing note attached challenges the UK's Independent Faith Engagement Advisor Colin Bloom's approach and deliberate targeting of those who have legitimately challenged the Conservative government since 2010 on a range of issues.

The organisation has questioned Colin Bloom's motivations as regards the disproportionate and negative focus on British Sikhs, and rejected his personal opinions that ignore the ground reality of the law-abiding British Sikh community, it has said.

As the Sikh organisation that has led on political lobbying for more than two decades and has

Sikh lawyers: Bloom Review not independent and fundamentally flawed

The Asian Connect – 19 July 2023

Sikhs in Law on Wednesday, 19 July presented their 28-page report on the Bloom Review at the House of Lords.

They concluded that the Bloom Review represents nothing more than the personal views of Colin Bloom who is not independent given his active role in the Conservative Party and strongly held religious views as a devout Christian.

always campaigned for the re-establishment of a Sikh homeland, it is taking the debate on the arguments for the re-establishment of a Sikh homeland to the UK Parliament later this month.

Sikh Federation (UK) is sending the briefing note on the Bloom Review to all MPs and urging Gurdwaras, Sikh organisations and constituents to use the briefing note to lobby their own MPs.

MPs will be asked at the mass lobby of the UK Parliament later this month to confirm if they have challenged the Bloom Review with regards to British Sikhs.

The open letter sent to prime minister Rishi Sunak on 24 April by over 350 UK Gurdwaras and Sikh organisations and the response to the Bloom Review are expected to impact the way Sikhs vote on local elections on 4 May.

Unless the Conservative Government starts to change how it engages with British Sikhs it will impact in dozens of marginal seats at the next General Election in places like West Bromwich, Wolverhampton and Derby, the organisation has asserted.



Colin Bloom author of the Bloom review

His references to subversive and extremist activities by Sikhs make absolutely no sense, reveal his bias and are backed up by zero evidence. It is obvious he does not understand these terms from a UK government perspective as Sikhs present no threat.

Colin Bloom has demonstrated he lacks the very 'faith literacy' which he recommends those in government should possess by failing to understand the Sikh faith focuses on a 'way of life' with an emphasis on practices and traditions.



The Sikhs in Law report states the Bloom Review is fundamentally flawed both in its methodology and in its outcome with respect to the Sikh community.

Preet Kaur Gill as Chair of the APPG for British Sikhs raised a series of Parliamentary Questions on 6 July about the Bloom Review and the response from the Minister on 14 July confirms the way Colin Bloom conducted the review and reached his conclusions was much to be desired.

The Minister has been forced to disclose the number of respondents by faith that reveals a surprising number of responses from the Hindu community compared to all other faiths. There is speculation the BJP Indian Government may have used its right-wing networks to increase the number of negative responses attacking Sikhs that should be investigated.

The Sikhs in Law report is very critical of Chapter

6 on 'Faith-Based Extremism' and described the report as 'not fit for purpose' as far as it relates to Sikhs.

Bhai Amrik Singh, Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) said: "The Bloom Review expresses the personal opinions of Colin Bloom who was not qualified to conduct the review.

"The Sikhs in Law report highlights Colin Bloom lacked independence and impartiality that totally undermines the credibility of the Bloom Review.

"It is scandalous that Colin Bloom has been allowed to write what he likes and offend Sikhs although there is no evidence to back up his conclusions.

"The Sikhs in Law report underlines the total lack of transparency on how conclusions were reached in the Bloom Review with regards to the Sikh community."



ਬਰਤਾਨਵੀ ਸੰਸਦ 'ਚ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਾਨੂੰਨੀ ਮਾਹਿਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਬੁੱਧੀਜੀਵੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਇਕੱਤਰਤਾ ਦਾ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼। ਤਸਵੀਰ: ਬੱਧਨੀ ਕਲਾਂ

ਬਲੂਮ ਸਮੀਖਿਆ ਸੁਤੰਤਰ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਰਪੱਖ ਨਹੀਂ-ਸਿੱਖ ਕਾਨੂੰਨੀ ਮਾਹਿਰ ਅਤੇ ਬੁੱਧੀਜੀਵੀ

ਲੰਡਨ, 20 ਜੁਲਾਈ (ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੱਧਨੀ ਕਲਾਂ)-ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਸਥਿਤ ਇਕ ਸਿੱਖ ਸਮੂਹ ਨੇ ਬੁੱਧਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਬਰਤਾਨਵੀ ਸੰਸਦ 'ਚ ਬਲੂਮ ਸਮੀਖਿਆ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਬਾਰੇ ਕੀਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਵਟਾਂਦਰੇ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਬਲੂਮ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ 'ਤੇ ਸਵਾਲੀਆਂ ਚਿੰਨ੍ਹ ਲਗਾਉਂਦਿਆਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਬਲੂਮ ਸਮੀਖਿਆ ਸੁਤੰਤਰ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਰਪੱਖ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਸਿੱਖ ਬੁੱਧੀਜੀਵੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਕਾਨੂੰਨੀ ਮਾਹਿਰਾਂ ਪ੍ਰੋ: ਸਤਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੱਸ, ਡਾ: ਗੁਰਨਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ, ਡਾ: ਬਲਵੀਰ ਕੌਰ ਗਿੱਲ, ਹਰਜਾਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਭੰਗਲ ਅਤੇ ਬਲਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੀ ਸਲੈਕਟ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਲਾਰਡ ਕੁਲਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਹੋਤਾ ਦੀ

ਮੌਜੂਬਾਨੀ ਹੇਠ ਹੋਈ ਸਿੱਖ ਚਿੰਤਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ 'ਚ ਲਾਰਡ ਇੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ,

ਬਰਤਾਨਵੀ ਸੰਸਦ 'ਚ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਲੈਕਟ ਕਮੇਟੀ, ਸੰਸਦ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਭਾਈਚਾਰੇ ਨੇ ਕੀਤੀ ਚਰਚਾ

ਐਮ. ਪੀ. ਤਨਮਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਢੇਸੀ, ਐਮ. ਪੀ. ਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਗਿੱਲ, ਐਮ. ਪੀ. ਮਾਰਟਿਨ ਡੋਚਰਟੀ ਹਿਊਜ਼, ਮਨਕੰਮਲ ਸਿੰਘ, ਭਾਈ ਜੋਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ, ਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ

ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਮੇਂਦਿਕ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਕੁਲਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਿਓਲ, ਡਾ: ਸੁਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੰਘਾ ਆਦਿ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਸਨ। ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਜਾਰੀ ਬਿਆਨ 'ਚ ਕਿਹਾ ਗਿਆ ਕਿ ਬਲੂਮ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਬੁਨਿਆਦੀ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਇਸ ਦੀ ਕਾਰਜਪ੍ਰਣਾਲੀ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਦੇ ਨਤੀਜੇ ਦੋਵੇਂ ਨੁਕਸਾਨਦਾਇਕ ਹਨ। ਬਲੂਮ ਸਮੀਖਿਆ ਗਲਤ ਧਾਰਨਾਵਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਅਧਾਰਤ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਭਾਈਚਾਰੇ ਬਾਰੇ ਘੱਟ ਸਮਝ ਹੋਰ ਵੀ ਚਿੰਤਾਜਨਕ ਹੈ, ਜੇ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਭਵਿੱਖ 'ਚ ਅਪਣਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਸਿਫਾਰਸ਼ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਸਿੱਖ ਭਾਈਚਾਰੇ ਦੇ ਯੂ.ਕੇ. 'ਚ ਰਿਸ਼ਤਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਖਤਰਾ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੋਣ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਭਾਵਨਾਵਾਂ ਹਨ।





LABOUR LEADER MUST ADDRESS DELAY IN LIFE PEERAGE OF LEADING BRITISH SIKH IN RUN UP TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

1 September 2022 - One of the issues that Sue Gray will need to pick up as the new Chief of Staff of the Labour Leader as she takes up her role is the appalling handling by her predecessors of the life peerage of Dabinderjit Singh.

HM Queen approved the life peerage of Dabinderjit, a well know Sikh activist and former senior Director at the National Audit Office (NAO) on 21 December 2020. A public announcement by the Cabinet Office was expected the next day.

What has emerged in the last 12 months is there has been a cover up by the Cabinet Office and Labour Leader's office on their appalling handling of the matter. They contacted Dabinderjit on 22 December 2020, several hours before the public announcement to notify him to immediately resign from his senior role at the NAO. This was something they agreed with Dabinderjit in late November 2020 was necessary to protect the political independence of the NAO. However, following pressure from the Indian government they side lined HM Queen's approval and pulled Dabinderjit's name at the last minute from the public announcement.

The public announcement was the final stage that would have allowed Dabinderjit to take his seat in the House of Lords in January 2021 as the first British born Amritdhari (fully practising) Sikh.

Dabinderjit's treatment after his name was leaked and the hate campaign that followed is controversial as it demonstrates how the right wing Indian government targeted a minority and successfully used its influence to block or at least delay the life peerage of a leading British Sikh when the peerage process had been completed. This included his nomination by the Leader of the

Opposition (Keir Starmer), successful vetting by the House of Lords Appointments Commission, recommendation by the PM (Boris Johnson) to HM Queen and her approval.

Sue Gray will need to look into the matter and given her reputation for high standards for conduct she will want to ensure a fair outcome. She will also want a solution for the Labour Leader that does not risk a damaging and expensive legal challenge that will expose foreign interference and racism. Legal action will require disclosures from the Cabinet Office and Labour Leader's office with embarrassing press coverage for the Labour Leader in the run up to the General Election.



What very few know that the Cabinet Office agreed to hold over the 6th Labour peerage slot from December 2020 and those in Sue Gray's role told Dabinderjit his name was only being temporarily pulled to protect him from the hate campaign by the Indian authorities. Meanwhile, in January 2021 in a unprecedented move a separate internal vetting and due diligence process after the official approval process for the life peerage had been completed was conducted by Morgan McSweeney, the Chief of Staff at that time. He confirmed to Dabinderjit in writing in mid-January 2021 there were no matters to address and he should simply wait for the next public announcement by the Cabinet Office. This was repeated in writing for the next 20 months by Morgan Sweeney and Sam White who took over as Chief of Staff in September 2021.

On the eve of the public announcement of life peerages in October 2022 and after Keir Starmer had announced the departure of Sam White as his Chief of Staff it was Morgan McSweeney who was tasked to call Dabinderjit to inform him his name would not appear on the Cabinet Office list. Morgan McSweeney was however totally lost for words in the 30-minute call to explain what Dabinderjit had been put through for nearly two years, including the devastating impact on his career, professional reputation and mental health.

It is understood several senior Shadow Cabinet Members who know and have met Dabinderjit have been approached to speak to the Labour Leader to meet Dabinderjit to try and resolve the matter to avoid legal action for their shocking handling of the matter and the inevitable negative publicity for the Labour Leader. Sue Gray will need to get up to speed on the issue and advise Keir Starmer how best to resolve the matter.

We can reveal Dabinderjit as our principal adviser has had recent meetings with Wes Streeting, David Lammy, Bridgette Phillipson, Lisa Nandy and Yvette Copper. He has previously met and is known by several other Shadow Cabinet Members as well as many junior Shadow Ministers.

ਵਾਇਸ ਮਾਫ਼ ਪੰਜਾਬ

INTERNATIONAL LATEST NEWS PUNJAB

ਯੂਕੇ ਵਿਚ ਹਿੰਦੁਸਤਾਨੀ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਖਿਲਾਫ਼ ਜ਼ੋਰਦਾਰ ਨਫ਼ਰਤੀ ਮੁਹਿੰਮ ਚਲਾ ਕੇ ਲਾਰਡ ਬਣਨ ਤੋਂ ਰੁਕਵਾਇਆ

October 17, 2022 / editor

ਯੂਕੇ ਵਿਚ ਹਿੰਦੁਸਤਾਨੀ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਖਿਲਾਫ਼ ਜ਼ੋਰਦਾਰ



ਬਰਤਾਨੀਆਂ ਅੰਦਰ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੇ ਹਕਾਂ ਲਈ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਕੰਮਕਾਰ

ਨਵੀਂ ਦਿੱਲੀ 17 ਅਕਤੂਬਰ (ਮਨਮੁਹਿਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਖਾਲਸਾ):- ਯੂਕੇ ਦੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੰਧੂ ਨੇ ਮੀਡੀਆ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰੈਸ ਨੋਟ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਇਥਿਆ ਕਿ ਐੱਜ ਲਾਰਡਜ਼ ਦੇ ਨਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਜਨਤਕ ਘੋਸ਼ਣਾ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਉਹ ਪਿਛਲੇ 2 ਸਾਲਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਾਲ ਹੋਏ ਦੁਰਵਿਹਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਜਨਤਕ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਹੀ ਉਹ ਚੋ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਯੋਜਨਾ ਦਾ ਵਿਚਾਰਾ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦਸਿਆ ਕਿ 22 ਦਸੰਬਰ 2020 ਲਈ ਐਚ ਐਮ ਰਾਣੀ ਨੇ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਦੀ ਲਾਰਡਜ਼ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਮਨਜ਼ੂਰੀ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਸੀ। ਪਰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲੀਕ ਹੋਣ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਹੀ ਹਿੰਦੁਸਤਾਨੀ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਖਿਲਾਫ਼ ਜ਼ੋਰਦਾਰ ਨਫ਼ਰਤੀ ਮੁਹਿੰਮ ਚਲਾਈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿ ਉਸਨੂੰ ਲਾਰਡ ਬਣਨ ਤੋਂ ਰੋਕਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕੇ ਇਸ ਸਭ ਕੁਝ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਅਨਿਟ ਆਫ਼ਿਸ ਅਤੇ ਲੇਬਰ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਬਹੁਤ ਖੋਫ਼ ਪੈਰ ਤੇ ਕਵਰੇਜ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ।

ਲੇਬਰ ਲੀਡਰ ਦੇ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਖਿਨਾਉਣੀਆਂ ਕਾਰਵਾਈਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਪਿਛਲੇ ਦੋ ਸਾਲਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਉਸ ਨਾਲ ਹੋਏ ਦੁਰਵਿਹਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਛੁਪਾ ਕੇ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਸੰਸਦੀ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਆਉਣ ਤੇ ਲੇਬਰ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖ ਭਾਈਚਾਰੇ ਦੀ ਨਤਾਹਗੀ ਦਾ ਸਾਹਮਣਾ ਕਰਨਾ ਪੈ ਸਕਦਾ ਸੀ।

ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸੰਸਦੀ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਣ ਲਈ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਮੁਹਿੰਮ ਵਿਚ ਮੈਟਰੋਪੋਲੀਟਨ ਪੁਲਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਕਰਨੀ ਤਾਂ ਕਿ ਉਸ ਸਾਰੇ ਮਾਮਲੇ ਦੀ ਜਾਂਚ ਕਰ ਸਕਣ। ਥੀਤੇ 6 ਮਹੀਨੇ ਤੋਂ ਜੇ ਨਿੱਜੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਈ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਸੀ ਉਸਦਾ ਜਵਾਬ ਦੇਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਸਫ਼ਲ ਰਹਿਣ ਲਈ ਲੇਬਰ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਬਾਰੇ ਸ਼ੁਚਨਾ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਕਰਨੀ।

ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ 22 ਦਸੰਬਰ 2020 ਦੇ ਲਾਰਡ ਬਣਨ ਦੇ ਐਲਾਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਮਾਮਲੇ ਨੂੰ ਸੰਭਾਲਣ ਉਸਦੇ ਕਰੀਅਰ 'ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ, ਪੇਸ਼ੇਵਰ ਪ੍ਰਤਿਸ਼ਠਾ ਅਤੇ ਮਾਨਸਿਕ ਸਿਹਤ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਨ ਲੇਬਰ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਦੇ ਖਿਲਾਫ਼ ਕਾਨੂੰਨੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਦੀ ਸੰਭਾਵਨਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਨਾਲ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਲੰਬਾ ਪੱਛਾ ਦਾ ਖਰਚਾ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਾਲ ਹੋਏ ਦੁਰਵਿਹਾਰ ਤੋਂ ਪਤਾ ਲੱਗਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਕਿਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਉਸਦੀ ਲਾਰਡ ਦੀ ਨਿਯੁਕਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਾਮਯਾਬ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ ਜਦੋਂ ਕਿ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਿਆ ਪੂਰੀ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਸੀ, ਜਿਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਨਤਾ ਦੀ ਐਚ ਐਮ ਰਾਣੀ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਫ਼ਾਣਗੀ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੈ।

ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ (ਯੂ.ਕੇ.) ਨੇ ਇਸ ਲਈ ਬਕਿੰਘਮ ਪੈਲੇਸ ਅਤੇ ਕਿੰਗ ਚਾਰਲਜ਼ ਕੋਲ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਮਾਮਲਾ ਉਠਾਇਆ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਇਸ ਮਸਲੇ ਨੂੰ ਮੌਜੂਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਨਾਲ ਵਿਚਾਰਨ ਵਿਉਂਕਿ ਇਹ ਪੀਅਰੇਜ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਿਆ ਨੂੰ ਬਦਨਾਮੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਤੇ ਸਾਬੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਨਜ਼ੂਰੀ ਦੇਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਾਦਸ਼ਾਹ ਦੀ ਸੰਵਿਧਾਨਕ ਭੂਮਿਕਾ ਨਾਲ ਸਮਝੌਤਾ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਸਿਰਫ਼ ਸਮਾਂ ਹੀ ਦੱਸੇਗਾ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਮਾਮਲੇ ਦੀ ਦੇਖ- ਰੇਖ ਲਈ ਲੇਬਰ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਦੇ ਨੇਤਾ ਦੇ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਿਹੜੀ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਿਕ ਗਿਰਾਵਟ ਆਈ ਹੈ।

ਜਿਕਰਯੋਗ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਜਨਤਕ ਐਲਾਨ ਦਾ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਕੈਰੀਅਰ, ਪੇਸ਼ੇਵਰ ਪ੍ਰਤਿਸ਼ਠਾ ਅਤੇ ਮਾਨਸਿਕ ਸਿਹਤ 'ਤੇ ਵਿਨਾਸ਼ਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਪਿਆ ਹੈ।





Guru Nanak Gurdwara

130 High St, Smethwick B66 3AP

Phone: 0121 558 2527 | info@gngsmethwick.com



Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick is one of the oldest and busiest Gurdwaras in the UK. Established in 1961, it remains one of the most prominent and influential Sikh Gurdwaras in the world with a weekly congregation of approximately 10,000. GNG Smethwick has had a long standing connection with the Sikh Federation (UK) and the ISYF before that.

We congratulate SFUK on marking its 20th Anniversary and are committed to supporting their work and efforts on behalf of the UK Sikh community for years to come.



Guru Nanak Gurdwara Management Committee

President: Bhai Kuldeep Singh Deol

Gen Secretary: Bhai Bhevinder Singh



THE SIKH TEMPLE LEEDS GURDWARA

192 CHAPELTOWN RD, LEEDS LS7 4HZ

T: 0113 262 9073 | M: 07541 594 188 | E: INFO@THESIKHTEMPLE.CO.UK



The Sikh Temple Leeds Gurdwara is one of the oldest and largest Gurdwaras in the north of England.

All the Gurdwara management committee and Leeds Sikh Sangat offer our congratulations and support to the Sikh Federation (UK) on marking its 20th Anniversary. We all benefit and appreciate the dedication, achievements and hardwork of all those connected to the SFUK.



Sikh Temple Leeds Gurdwara Management Committee

President: Bhai Nirmal Singh Sangha

Gen Secretary: Bhai Harpal Singh





GURU NANAK DARBAR GURDWARA GRAVESEND GURUNANAKMARG DA121AG



One of the biggest and most iconic Gurdwaras in Europe hosting fantastic facilities for Sikhs and the wider community, including 3 Diwan halls, 2 langar halls, large lecture theatre, Library, and Shaheedi gallery acknowledging the Quami Shaheeds since 1984. All around there is reference to Gurbani, Sikh history, and Martyrdom. The complex also includes Sports fields and Sports Hall.

Congratulations to The Sikh Federation (UK) on marking its 20th Anniversary and we are committed to supporting their work and efforts on behalf of the UK Sikh community for years to come.

Tel: 01474 350611 | Email: info@gurunanakdarbar.org | Web: www.gurunanakdarbar.org



Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara Management Committee

President: Bhai Manpreet Singh

Gen Secretary: Bhai Davinder Singh Mathada

Gurdwara Dasmesh Darbar East Ham

97-101 Rosebery Avenue, Manor Park, London, E12 6PT

T: 020 8471 2204



Gurdwara Dasmesh Darbar East Ham is located in the residential area of East London. This Gurdwara and its sevadaar's have been staunch supporters of both the Sikh struggle and the Sikh Federation (UK). We have held a long standing tradition of providing Guru Da Langar seva on all Sikh protests held in London for nearly 40yrs. We therefore continue to offer our congratulations and support to the Sikh Federation (UK) on marking its 20th Anniversary.



Gurdwara Dasmesh Darbar Management Committee

President: Harjinder Singh



2. DEFENDING AND PROMOTING THE SIKH IDENTITY

WAKE UP CALL FOR UK GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE AND URGENTLY ADDRESS ANTI-SIKH HATE CRIME

6 October 2022 - Today the Home Office has reported a 38% overall increase in reported religious hate crimes.

There has been a massive 169% increase in reported hate crimes against Sikhs.

However, over 91% of the cases reported have come from the Metropolitan Police in relation to London. This suggests a massive level of underreporting across the rest of England and Wales where over 70% of Sikhs live.



The UK Government refuse to recognise Anti-Sikh hate crimes or provide any resources to Sikh community organisations wanting to address underreporting.

The police and Home Office continue to keep resources themselves earmarked by government more than 5 years ago to address anti-Sikh hate. Sajid Javid as Communities Secretary made this announcement in February 2017.

Government has for decades deliberately focused on the Muslim and Jewish community. In comparison there has been a 28% increase against the Muslim community (Islamophobia) and 49% increase against Jewish community (Antisemitism).

The UK Government has thrown millions at increasing the level of reported hate crimes against the Jewish community via funding of the Community Security Trust and Tell MAMA for the Muslim community.

In more recent times the Indian Government and Hindu organisations in the UK have introduced the phrase “Hinduphobia” to raise the international profile of hate crimes directed towards the Hindu community. Today’s Home Office data with a 3% reduction of hate crimes against the Hindu community when records were uncovered it showed “Hinduphobia” is a complete red herring.

Meanwhile, two years later the UK Government is still considering the three recommendations made by the All Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs.

In April 2022 Keir Starmer, the Labour Leader in a video message promised a Labour Government would recognise Anti-Sikh hate crimes alongside Islamophobia and Antisemitism.

British Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill seeks 'urgent action' on rising hate crimes **Business Standard**

Business Standard - 10 October 2022

Preet Kaur Gill, an Indian-origin British Sikh MP, in a letter to Home Secretary Suella Braverman, has sought protection and urgent action against rising crimes against the community in the UK.

Quoting hate crime statistics 2021-22, Gill, an MP from Birmingham, said hate crimes against Sikhs

rose by 169 per cent in comparison to a 38 per cent increase in reported religious hate crimes overall.

"I am deeply concerned by these new statistics. 301 hate crimes against Sikhs were reported in 2021-22, up from 112 in 2020-21. The 169 per cent increase is compared to a 38 per cent increase in reported religious hate crimes overall",



Gill said in the letter, which she released on Twitter on Monday.

The 2001 census recorded 336,000 Sikhs living in Britain. Gill said 301 hate crimes against Sikhs were reported in 2021-22, up from 112 in 2020-2021.



The letter, which was also addressed to Simon Clarke, secretary of the department for levelling up, housing and communities (DLUHC), comes as 28 year-old Claudio Capos from Manchester was awarded a three year jail term recently for

attacking 62-year-old Avtar Singh in broad daylight this June.

Singh had suffered a severe traumatic brain injury, a stroke caused by bleeding on the brain and multiple fractures to his cheek, jaw and eye socket as a result of the attack, the BBC reported.

Gill, in her letter, urged Braverman to implement the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) report on British Sikhs, which was published in 2020.

The report found that the lack of an official term was a contributing factor as to why crimes against Sikhs go largely "unnoticed, unreported and unrecorded".

This report, Gill said, was shared with both the home secretary and communities secretary at the time and was an attempt to consult the government on the definition of Anti-Sikh hate.

"However, despite multiple promises of substantive response and offers of a meeting, the home office and DLUHC, between them, have failed to respond," she added.

WHY IS THE LABOUR PARTY SILENT ON RACIST COMMENTS BY EALING SOUTHALL MP AGAINST SIKHS?

The Labour leader by failing to take any action against the MP when video evidence has been provided to the party stands accused of being weak on racism within the Labour Party

"It is absolutely appalling the Labour Party and its leader has taken no action on these racist comments by one of its MPs a week after he was caught on video."

"The MP has not been forced to apologise or be suspended from the party. By failing to act the Labour leadership is endorsing racism against the Sikh community is acceptable."

9 October - On Monday 3 October a video started to be shared of Virendra Sharma the MP for Ealing Southall after he was challenged when taking part in the Gurdwara election at Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Southall the day before.

The MP failed to properly handle the situation when he was called out for not taking up issues on behalf of Sikh constituents with the Indian government. He responded to being challenged by becoming confrontational and stepped over the mark by making deeply offensive comments about the Sikh identity.

The Sikh Federation (UK) raised the matter in writing with the Labour Party on 3 October as soon as the video was shared and followed up by warning the Labour Party of the reaction of the Sikh community to Virendra Sharma's comments. On Thursday the following was sent to Keir Starmer urging him to take action in the next 48 hours.



Dear Keir

On Sunday 2 October Virendra Sharma, the Labour MP for Ealing Southall was videoed getting into an altercation with a Sikh man from East London. Virendra Sharma was being challenged on not taking up issues on behalf of Sikh constituents with the Indian government.

Virendra Sharma could have handled the situation much better by pointing out issues he has taken up for the Sikh community. He however chose to adopt a different and confrontational approach by telling the man to stick to UK issues. For any UK MP to adopt this stance is very odd as they all take up issues across the globe that concern their constituents.

If this was not bad enough Virendra Sharma was clearly upset at being challenged and made a very offensive comment about the Sikh identity. He then repeated the same comment that has outraged many Sikhs. The video shows things got ugly as his offensive comments got a reaction.

On Monday 3 October we shared the video and raised the matter with the Labour Party to intervene and get Virendra Sharma to issue an immediate apology for any offence caused to Sikhs. We have followed this up including pointing out Rupa Huq despite her apology was suspended from the Parliamentary Labour Party after an "ill judged" remark during a fringe meeting describing the Chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng as "superficially" black.

Rupa Huq was suspended as her comment was racist. Virendra Sharma has been caught on video making a racist comment and gesture not once, but twice towards a Sikh man about his beard. In the absence of an apology Virendra Sharma must now have the party whip suspended. It will be absolutely appalling if the Labour Party takes no action as it will be endorsing racism against Sikhs is acceptable.

We will be making this communication and video public if no action is forthcoming by Virendra Sharma and the Labour Party in the next 48 hours.

A week after the incident the Labour Party and its leader has failed to take any action against Virendra Sharma. Only the party and leader can explain why they have failed to act against racism against Sikhs when they have been provided video evidence.

Sikh Federation (UK) challenges Census 2021 data declaring majority have stated that they follow "no religion"

**ASIAN
CONNECT**

People of faith and politicians have been hoodwinked by ONS in the last UK Census

The Asia Connect – 30 November 2022

The Sikh Federation (UK) were not surprised with the results of the Census 2021 for England and Wales, when it was revealed this week. The organisation had predicted one of the largest groups would be those stating "no religion".

In a statement, it said that with 25.8 million or 43.2% either stating no religion or not answering the optional religious questions, those at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have ensured at a practical level public bodies do not need to consider discrimination on the basis of faith.

The ONS, Sikh Federation (UK) says, has allowed public bodies to get off the hook when it comes to inequalities by arguing that because of a major data gap on religion at a national level, they can

make decisions and ignore whether they are discriminating on the basis of faith.

The ONS may have permanently hoodwinked people of faith and politicians as this may have been the last census and trends showing that this was the likely outcome, especially if the first option ONS provide to an optional religious question is "no religion", it said.

Based on those who declared their faith when responding to the religious question, Sikhs have seen a 24% increase as they campaigned to encourage Sikhs to declare their faith. Sikhs and Jews who only saw a 2% increase are also legally recognised ethnic groups and public bodies could be legally challenged if these two groups are not fully considered when making decisions.





Dabinderjit Singh, the principal adviser to the Sikh Federation (UK) said, “The Sikh Federation (UK) has been a lone voice in warning all faiths about the lack of usefulness of the optional religious question where the first option is no religion.

“People of faith should ask why have MPs allowed the ONS in 2001, 2011 & 2021 to have the first option as “no religion” to an optional religious question.

“Over 100,00 Sikhs responding to the ethnic group question chose to protest & reject the

existing 19 ethnic group options & wrote Sikh. The number protesting is bigger in number than two of the ethnic group options. “If you adjust figures for the optional religious question on a pro rata basis for those who did not answer or chose the first option of no religion this suggests the number of Sikhs in England and Wales may be around 925K. This is higher than 13 of 19 ethnic group categories.

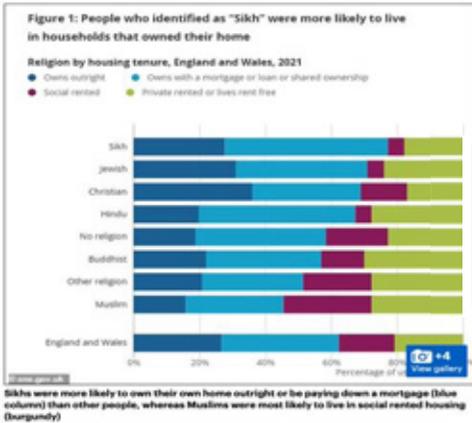
“The key question for ONS and Cabinet Office is given 25.8 million (or 43.2%) chose no religion or chose not to answer the optional religious question how do decision makers use the Census 2021 data to work out the number who have an ethnicity that is Sikh.

“Will public bodies and decision makers fail in their equality duty if they are unable to establish the number of people they employ or provide a service to that have a Sikh ethnicity recognised and established in case law when considering discrimination?”

Sikhs are most likely to own their own homes



Daily Mail – 24 March 2023 (extract)



Sikhs are the most likely to own their own homes and Muslims to live in social rented housing, census data shows. People who identify as Muslim are nearly four times more likely to live in overcrowded homes than the overall population and are also more likely to live in social rented accommodation.

census 2021

London Letters: Church cancels conversion event after Sikhs complain



Indian Express – 10 June 2023

The Sikh Federation UK has asked people to come forward and notify if they come across similar events happening in the future.

An East London Church that had planned to organise a ‘National Sikh Consultation’ event has

had to cancel it after complaints were raised by the members of the Sikh community.

The Ilford High Road Baptist Church had scheduled the consultation event “calling Sikhs to Christ” for June 15 from 9.30am to 4.30pm where plenary presentations and discussions were going



to held on topics: New Beginnings, New Challenges, New Horizons.

The speakers listed for the occasion were Dr Ram Gidoomal CBE, Chairman, South Asian Concern, Sutton; Pastor Kuldip Rajo of Lighthouse International Church, Southampton and Rev. Dr. T.V. Thomas, Chairman, Lausanne Global Diaspora Network, Canada. Notably, the church comes under the authority of London Borough of Redbridge, where Sikhs have a visible presence.



Leader of the Redbridge Council Councillor Jas Athwal, in his public statement said, “I am pleased to hear that following our discussions with Ilford High Road Baptist Church, the National Sikh Consultation event due to take place in Ilford on Thursday 15 June has now been cancelled. Our community prides itself on embracing and celebrating diversity. We firmly believe that all individuals, regardless of their faith, should have freedom to practice their faith without fear of coercion or undue influence from external sources.

“Events that target specific religious communities with the intention of converting them to another faith not only disregard this fundamental principle but also undermine the spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation that has been carefully nurtured in Redbridge.” He said he had requested the organisers to reflect and reconsider going ahead and that the host venue, should instead engage in activities that foster harmony,

respect and dialogue between different faith communities.

Jasveer Singh of Sikh Press Association said, “Whilst every faith group will consider their own faith superior, to present this belief so confrontationally in face of one specific group was always going to cause rifts, and those behind the event would be aware of this, making it a direct attempt to provoke the Sikh community. There is also a long history of Christian missionaries acting in a predatory fashion, targeting those perceived as vulnerable, promising them miracles and sometimes even money.

In the UK, such Christian conversion events prey on insecurities minority communities like Sikhs can have, which can stem from being the ‘other’ whilst living in a Christian country. Cancelling the event was the right thing to do. However, there remains an ongoing issue of this agenda to target Sikhs, for whatever reasons, and this will be explored and resisted by the panthic community.”

Renowned Sikh faith group Basics of Sikhi, in response to the event, have made a video on the issue of Sikh conversion and it has gone viral. “Calling all Christians to Sikhi, that sounds quite rude right? But this is something we would never do as Sikhs. But recently, a post has been circulating, calling all Sikhs to Christ, intended to convert and target Sikh population in the UK. We find it very disrespectful to scheme and target a community with an agenda to convert them,” says a presenter, in a three-and-a-half minute-long video that is being widely shared on various social media networks.

“I mean why the specific targeting of Sikh in particular? By all means attract people to your faith but by specifically targeting to convert from one faith to another will antagonise and create rifts,” tweeted, UK Immigration lawyer and TV presenter Harjap Bhagwal.

Meanwhile, the Sikh Federation UK has asked people to come forward and notify if they come across similar events happening in the future. They have lauded the local community leaders, including the leader of the Redbridge Council, for “supporting the Sikh communities concerns and working with all parties to ensure that this controversial event targeting Sikhs was cancelled.”

The organisers of the event have been contacted but no response was received till the filing of this report.



Sikhs warn distrust of police 'irreparable' as cop cleared of misconduct for removing Patka

BirminghamLive

Sikh man in Birmingham's Perry Barr had Patka headwear forcibly removed by West Midlands Police Officer sparking protests and a conduct hearing

Birmingham Mail - 11 August 2023

Leading Sikh officials have warned that their community's trust in West Midlands Police is in tatters after a hearing cleared a cop of any gross misconduct. One of the force's police Sergeants went before an independent disciplinary panel this month (August) for removing a Sikh man's religious Patka headwear when he was in custody at Perry Barr Police Station.

After a two-day hearing, the panel ruled that the police officer had not fallen short of any police standards including in regards to respect, use of force and diversity issues. They also made an order that the sergeant was to remain anonymous and would not be named in public documents.

That decision came despite the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) recommending there was a case of gross misconduct to answer for the Sergeant. The IOPC had reviewed West Midlands Police's treatment of the Sikh man in custody, which included video evidence.

The IOPC had also said four police officers would benefit from taking part in "reflective practice to learn from the incident", but West Midlands Police did not say whether this had yet happened when Birmingham live asked the force about it this week.

Cops had forcibly removed the Patka - a smaller version of a turban and a religious symbol for Sikhs - back in October 2021.

Jas Singh, spokesperson for the Sikh Federation, hit out at the force saying: "This result is very disappointing and the Sikh community is angry about it. We didn't expect West Midlands Police to show this level of disregard.

"It does nothing to rebuild trust with our community. All this does is cement the distrust in the police and it feels as though they have nothing but contempt for us.

"Cases like this are make or break to a relationship and this could irreparable now, we'll see. The police know what a turban means to



Sikh people and any disrespect to it should have seen action of some sort.

"To dismiss misconduct charges completely when there was video evidence is the most disappointing and then to hide the officer's name from the public. It feels like there is no transparency and no outreach either. The Sikh community hasn't heard anything back from the police.

"The real concern is that West Midlands Police is relying on community engagement with its own officers who are Sikh, which isn't the same as going out to the wider public. Those officers may be Sikh but they work for the police and are conflicted."

West Midlands Police responded to the criticism from the Sikh community saying that the hearing was held by an independent legally qualified chair. The force also acknowledged that Sikh police officers had been used as part of their engagement.

A force spokesperson said: "We do not underestimate the impact this incident had on the man as well as the Sikh community, both locally and further afield. "I would like to acknowledge the valuable support of our Sikh police officers who provided a perspective to this sensitive case.

"We are grateful for the on-going input from the numerous community groups and individuals who continue to assist West Midlands Police to improve the experiences of people going through our custody suites to ensure they are treated with dignity and respect..."





GURU ARJAN DEV JI GURDWARA DERBY



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GAD Gurdwara is Derby's oldest and largest Gurdwara. It has played a major role in the Sikh freedom struggle post 1984 and was one of the first to raise a Nishan Sahib for Khalistan. GAD Gurdwara is also known for its commitment to Sikh sports in the city and now is houses one of the finest Sikh gyms in the country.

All the Gurdwara management committee and Derby Sikh Sangat offer their congratulations and support to the Sikh Federation (UK) on marking its 20th Anniversary.



Guru Arjan Dev Gurdwara Management Committee

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Gen Secretary: Bhai Lember Singh

Gurdwara Shri Guru HarKrishan Sahib Ji

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Gurdwara Shri Guru HarKrishan Sahib Ji is one of the newest Gurdwaras in Leicestershire and was established with the support from the Sikh Federation (UK)

All the Gurdwara management committee and Oadby Sikh Sangat offer our congratulations to the Sikh Federation (UK) on marking its 20th Anniversary. We offer our full commitment and support to the Federation for all its many projects and achievements.

Gurdwara Shri Guru HarKrishan Sahib Ji Management Committee

President: Bhai Harjinder Singh Rai

General Secretary: Bhai Gurjeet Singh Samra

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Gurdwara Guru Nanak Parkash is the first and oldest Gurdwara in Coventry, set up in 1965. Today the Gurdwara represents the determination and dedication of the local Sikhs.

On behalf of the Sikh Federation (UK) Coventry branch members we offer our congratulations and support to the Sikh Federation (UK) on marking its 20th Anniversary.



Sikh Federation (UK) Coventry Branch Members



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Gurdwara Khalsa Darbar is one of the newest Gurdwaras in Southampton and was established with the support from the Sikh Federation (UK)

All the Gurdwara team, youth groups and Southampton Sikh Sangat offer our congratulations to the Sikh Federation (UK) on marking its 20th Anniversary. We offer our full commitment and support to the Federation for all its many current and future projects and achievements for the Sikh community.



Gurdwara Khalsa Darbar Trustees

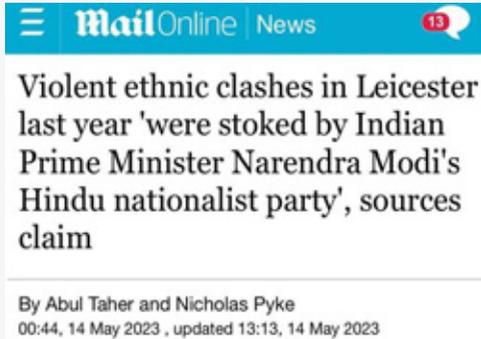
Bhai Amrik Singh Sandhu
Bhai Jasbir Singh Mandair
Bhai Amrik Singh Gill



3. RAISING AWARENESS & CAMPAIGNING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

REVIEW OF PREVENT FAILS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CURRENT AND GROWING THREAT FROM HINDUTVA

8 February 2023- Headlines from the Independent Review of Prevent and the Government's response published today is that Islamist terrorism remains the primary terrorist threat to the UK.



reference to a "false narrative" that the UK government "is colluding with its counterpart in India to persecute Sikhs."

"There is already proof the UK government led by Margaret Thatcher colluded with Indira Gandhi in the massacre of Sikhs at the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) Complex in June 1984.

"In more recent times the UK government is being legally challenged that it provided intelligence information to India that led to the abduction and torture of British national, Jagtar Singh Johal that is currently being examined by the courts.

"This reference to Sikhs contrasts with a deliberate oversight by William Shawcross of Hindu nationalism, known as Hindutva, in Britain that recently reared its ugly head in widespread violence and terror in Leicester.

"The authorities in Britain have proof of the growing influence of the Sangh Parivar ideology across the globe, including in towns and cities in Britain like Leicester. The core of the Sangh Parivar are the extreme Rashtrya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP).

"Many British politicians are simply burying their heads in sand and completely ignoring this growing and sophisticated threat from the Sangh Parivar because of the pressure being applied by the BJP Indian Government."

The Sangh Parivar's form of organisation is best understood as an unincorporated network made up of bodies pursuing the same political agenda as the BJP Indian Government and drawing inspiration



from the same sources. There is overlapping membership and affiliations, but also no formal membership at all in some cases.

This allows for the sudden appearance of new campaigning groups, apparently out of thin air, enabling a sophisticated and systematic targeting of individuals and minority groups, like Sikhs. Both Sikh MPs, Tanmanjeet Singh Dhese and Preet Kaur Gill have been targeted by these right wing Hindu groups.

UK SIKHS MARK THE 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SHAHEED BHAI DEEP SINGH SIDHU AT SRI GURU SINGH SABHA SOUTHALL

19 February 2023 - Sikh Federation (UK) in co-ordination with Waris Punjab De & UK Panthic Organisations, Groups & Gurdwaras organised and held a mahan shaheedi smagam to mark the 1st year Shaheedi barsi of Bhai Deep Singh Sidhu and other mahan quami Shaheeds including Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke, Bhai Satwant Singh & Bhai Kehar Singh ji and the Nakodar Saka Shaheeds. The programme was held at Sri Guru Singh Sabha Southall.



ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਭਾ ਸਾਊਥਾਲ ਵਿਖੇ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਸਮਾਗਮ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ

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ਲੰਡਨ, 21 ਫਰਵਰੀ (ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੱਧਨੀ ਕਲਾਂ)-ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਭਾ ਸਾਊਥਾਲ ਵਿਖੇ ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਭਾਈ ਸਤਵੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ, ਭਾਈ ਕੇਹਰ ਸਿੰਘ, ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ ਤਖ਼ਤ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੇ ਜੱਥੇਦਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੱਥੇਦਾਰ ਗੁਰਦੇਵ ਸਿੰਘ ਕਾਊਂਕੇ, ਨਕੋਦਰ ਸਾਕਾ, ਦੀਪ ਸਿੱਧੂ ਸਮੇਤ ਸਮੂਹ ਸ਼ਹੀਦਾਂ ਦੀ ਯਾਦ ਵਿਚ ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਯੂ. ਕੇ., ਵਾਹਿਸ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ ਐਮਿਤਸਰ, ਸਿੱਖ ਯੂਥ ਯੂ. ਕੇ., ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਂਸਲ ਯੂ. ਕੇ. ਆਦਿ ਸੰਸਥਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੇ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਨਾਲ ਸਾਂਝੇ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਸਮਾਗਮ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ। ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਖੰਡ ਪਾਠ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੇ ਭੋਗ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਕੀਰਤਨ, ਕਥਾ ਅਤੇ ਢਾਡੀ ਵਾਰਾਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਨਿਹਾਲ ਕੀਤਾ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਬੋਲਦਿਆਂ ਭਾਈ ਗੁਰਪ੍ਰਤਾਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਿਲੋਂ, ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਿੱਲ, ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ

ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਸਮਾਗਮ ਨੂੰ ਸੰਬੰਧਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਬੁਲਾਰੇ। ਤਸਵੀਰਾਂ: ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੱਧਨੀ ਕਲਾਂ

ਖਾਲੜਾ, ਭਾਈ ਹਰਦੀਸ਼ ਸਿੰਘ, ਭਾਈ ਨਰਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਥਾਂਦੀ, ਭਾਈ ਕੁਲਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਚਰੇਤੂ, ਹਰਭਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ, ਭਾਈ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਖੰਡਾ, ਮੀਤ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਕੁਲਵੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਭਿੰਡਰ ਆਦਿ ਨੇ ਸੰਬੋਧਨ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਯੋਧਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਕੌਮ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਆਪਣੇ ਹੱਕਾਂ ਲਈ ਅੱਜ ਵੀ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਕਰ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ। ਸਮੇਂ-ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਰਕਾਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਦਬਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਨਾਕਾਮ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਦੇ ਮਹਾਨ ਸ਼ਹੀਦਾਂ ਨੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸ਼ਾਨ ਨਾਲ ਜਿਉਣਾ ਸਿਖਾਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਅਜ਼ਾਦੀ ਤੱਕ ਆਪਣੇ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਰੀ ਰੱਖੇਗੀ।



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡੇ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਦੀ ਆੜ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਨਾਗਰਿਕ ਸੁਤੰਤਰਤਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮੁਅੱਤਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਯੂਕੇ ਦੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਖ਼ਤ ਨਿਖੇਧੀ

ਬਰਤਾਨਵੀ ਸਿੱਖ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਹਿਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਜ਼ਦੀਕੀ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਬਾਰੇ ਚਿੰਤਤ ਹਨ

ਨਵੀਂ ਦਿੱਲੀ 19 ਮਾਰਚ (ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਖਾਲਸਾ) - ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ (ਯੂ.ਕੇ.) ਨੌਜਵਾਨ ਆਗੂ ਭਾਈ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਕਥਿਤ ਦੋਸ਼ਾਂ ਤਹਿਤ ਗ੍ਰਿਫਤਾਰ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡੇ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਬਲਾਂ ਦੀ ਨਿੰਦਾ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਉਸ ਦੇ ਕਰੀਬ 100 ਕਰੀਬੀ ਸਾਥੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਗ੍ਰਿਫਤਾਰ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਘਾਟੋ-ਘਾਟੋ 500 ਦੇ ਕਰੀਬ ਹੋਰ ਹਿਰਾਸਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਲਏ ਗਏ ਹਨ। ਭਾਈ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਾਲ ਕੀ ਵਾਪਰਿਆ ਹੈ ਇਸਦੀ ਹਾਲੇ ਕੋਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਸੁਰੁਆਰੀ ਰਿਪੋਰਟਾਂ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਭਾਈ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਪੁਲਿਸ ਹਿਰਾਸਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਅਣਦਾਸੀ ਥਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਭੇਜ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪੁਲਿਸ ਨੇ ਦਾਅਵਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਭੜੋੜਾ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਸ ਦੀ ਵੱਡੀ ਭਾਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਸੀ। ਕਈਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਭਰ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਸ ਦੀ ਕੈਰ-ਨਿਆਇਕ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਹੱਤਿਆ ਨਾ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਪੂਰੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਵਸੋਂ ਵਾਲੇ ਰਾਜ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੰਟਰਨੈੱਟ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਪੂਰੀ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਮੁਅੱਤਲ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਚਾਰ ਜਾਂ ਵੱਧ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਇਕੱਠੇ ਹੋਣ 'ਤੇ ਪਾਬੰਦੀ ਲਗਾ ਕੇ ਵਿਧਾਨ ਸਭਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਪ੍ਰਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਦੀ ਨਾਗਰਿਕ ਆਚਾਰੀ



ਨੂੰ ਮੁਅੱਤਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਫੌਜਦਾਰੀ ਪੁਕਿਰਿਆ ਕੇਂਡ ਦੀ ਧਾਰਾ 144 ਲਾਗੂ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਯੂ.ਕੇ., ਕੈਨੇਡਾ, ਅਮਰੀਕਾ, ਆਸਟ੍ਰੇਲੀਆ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਰਪੀ ਸੰਘ ਵਰਗੇ ਦੋਸ਼ਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਭਾਇਸਪੋਰਾ ਦੇ ਹਜ਼ਾਰਾਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਇਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦਾ ਦੌਰਾ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ। ਦੁਨੀਆ ਭਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਰਕਾਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਯੁਕਤ ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰ ਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਸਮਝਣਾ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਨਾਗਰਿਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਜਾਨ ਗੰਭੀਰ ਖਤਰੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਉਹੋ ਜਿਹੀਆਂ ਚਾਲਾਂ ਹਨ ਜੋ 1980 ਦੇ ਦਹਾਕੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਤਸ਼ੱਦਦ ਅਤੇ ਝੂਠੇ ਪੁਲਿਸ ਮੁਕਾਬਲਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਇਜ਼ ਠਹਿਰਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਵਰਤੀਆਂ ਸਨ। ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ (ਯੂ.ਕੇ.) ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ

ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ "ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਹਜ਼ਾਰ ਤੱਕ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਾਰਕੁਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਗ੍ਰਿਫਤਾਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਨਜ਼ਰਬੰਦੀ ਅਤੇ ਨਾਗਰਿਕ ਸੁਤੰਤਰਤਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮੁਅੱਤਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡੇ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਕਰੈਕਡਾਊਨ ਨੇ ਦੁਨੀਆ ਭਰ ਦੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚਿੰਤਤ ਅਤੇ ਖੋਏਨ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ। ਭਾਰਤੀ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਅਤੀਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੈਰ-ਨਿਆਇਕ ਕਤਲਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਜਬਰੀ ਲਾਪਤਾ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਚਾਲਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ।" "ਅਸੀਂ ਯੂਕੇ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਸਰਕਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਖ਼ਤ ਕਾਨੂੰਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ, ਨਾਗਰਿਕ ਸੁਤੰਤਰਤਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮੁਅੱਤਲ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਮੌਜੂਦਾ ਸਮੇਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦਾ ਦੌਰਾ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਨਾਗਰਿਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਨੂੰ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਤੁਰੰਤ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਕੋਲ ਇਸ ਚਿੰਤਾਜਨਕ ਮਾਮਲੇ ਨੂੰ ਉਠਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ।" "ਪੰਥਕ ਸਿੱਖ ਜਥੇਬੰਦੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਿਆਂ ਨੇ ਅੱਜ ਸ਼ਾਮ ਨੂੰ ਲੰਡਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਹਾਈ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰ 23 ਮਾਰਚ 2023 ਭੁੱਧਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 1:30 ਤੋਂ 3 ਵਜੇ ਦਰਮਿਅਨ ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਦਾ ਐਲਾਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਚਿੰਤਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਜਾਗਰ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਇਜਾਜ਼ਤ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕੇ।

SIKHS CONDEMN MASSIVE SECURITY CRACKDOWN AND SUSPENSION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN PUNJAB

British Sikhs fear for loved ones visiting and living in Sikh-dominated Punjab and appeal to UK Government to raise concerns with Indian authorities

18 March 2023 - The Sikh Federation (UK) condemns the massive security crackdown in Punjab to arrest youth leader, Bhai Amritpal Singh on trumped up charges. Nearly 100 of his close associates have been arrested and at least a further 500 detained.

The fate of Bhai Amritpal Singh remains unknown. Initial reports suggested Bhai Amritpal Singh was taken into police custody and moved to an undisclosed location. Later Punjab Police claimed he was a fugitive and a massive manhunt was underway. Many fear he will be extrajudicially murdered.

Internet services have been totally suspended across the Sikh-dominated state and section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code has been imposed suspending civil liberties of assembly and protest by prohibiting the assembly of four or more people. Travel within the state has come to a complete halt.

Tens of thousands of Sikhs from the Diaspora from countries like the UK, Canada, USA, Australia and the EU are currently visiting Punjab. Governments across the globe and the United Nations must recognise the lives of their Sikh citizens are in grave danger. These are the same types of tactics used by the Indian authorities in the 1980s to justify torture and fake police encounters.

Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) said: "The massive security crackdown in Punjab with the arrest and detention of up to a thousand Sikh activists and the suspension of civil liberties has alarmed and unsettled Sikhs across the globe."



“Tens of thousands of Sikhs from the Diaspora, including several thousand from the UK are currently visiting the Sikh-dominated State of Punjab. Friends and family in the UK are deeply disturbed by these worrying developments and concerned for their loved ones.”

“The Indian authorities have used these tactics in the past for extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.”

“We call on the UK and other governments to immediately raise concerns with the Indian authorities on the use of draconian laws, the suspension of civil liberties and the safety of their Sikh citizens who are currently visiting Punjab.”

“Panthic Sikh organisations and Gurdwaras have this evening announced a national protest outside the Indian High Commission in London between 1-3pm on Wednesday 22 March 2023 to allow Sikhs to highlight their concerns.”

Amritpal Singh: Punjab state on high alert as separatist preacher remains on the run

The 30-year-old has been on the run since Saturday and dozens of his supporters have been arrested.

Sky News - 20 March 2023

The state of Punjab in India remains on high alert as police continue their hunt for Amritpal Singh, a separatist leader who supports the Khalistan movement for a separate Sikh homeland.



The 30-year-old has been on the run since Saturday and over the weekend his supporters staged protests in the majority Sikh state.

The Punjab Police India Twitter account states that 112 people have been arrested so far.

They also said a vehicle allegedly used by Singh and abandoned during a police chase in a rural area of Jalandhar had been seized. The search for Singh is having a widespread impact on the whole state with the Times of India and CNN reporting that authorities have blocked internet access for a third day.

Police reportedly justified the shutdown by saying it was to keep the peace and prevent the spread of fake news.

The Khalistan movement is banned in India, where officials see it and affiliated groups as a national security threat.

But the movement still has some support in the state, as well as in countries with a sizeable Sikh diaspora such as Canada and the UK.

Many Sikh organisations have expressed concern and denied that Amritpal Singh is a fugitive, claiming there are online videos showing his arrest.

Sikh Federation UK told Sky News there are fears he has been killed or that his extrajudicial murder is being planned.

The crackdown comes after Singh's supporters stormed a police station in February, demanding the release of an aide who had been arrested.

Several police officers were injured and police vehicles were damaged.

On Sunday a man was arrested on suspicion of violent disorder after a crowd incident saw windows smashed at the Indian High Commission in London.

Footage posted on social media showed a man detach the Indian flag from the first-floor balcony of the building while a crowd of people below waving bright yellow "Khalistan" banners appeared to encourage him.



WHO IS AMRITPAL SINGH?

Amritpal Singh is the 30-year-old leader of the organisation Waris Punjab De (Heirs of Punjab).

Not much is known about his early life but he moved to Dubai in 2012 to work for his family's transport business.

He came back to India in 2022 to take over leadership of the group from the actor-turned-activist Deep Sidhu who died in a car accident.

Before his death Sidhu is believed to have led a group of farmers to storm the Red Fort in Delhi on the Republic Day of 2022. He was arrested for the action and spent a few months in prison.

Once he was back in Punjab, Singh changed his appearance and started wearing a blue turban, traditional robes and has a long, unshorn beard.

Singh has been accused of using hate speech and his armed supporters have been accused of violence.

He has been outspoken about his support for the cause of Khalistan, the separatist movement calling for a separate homeland/country for people of Sikh faith. As a result of this, his Twitter account was suspended by authorities who have also been watching his activities carefully.



Name - Amritpal Singh

Murders - 0
Robberies - 0
Hijackings - 0
Rape - 0
Criminal Activities - 0

So what is his crime ??

Traitors of the Sikh Panth say-
'He brought Guru Granth Sahib Ji to Ajnala protest'

'His speeches are incendiary, telling the youth to give their head to Guru Sahib'
'He keeps licensed weapons'
'He talks about Sikh Rights'

The Indian government says-
'He is fighting the drug epidemic in Punjab and helping thousands'
'Inspiring Sikhs to take Amrit connect to Sikhs'
'His Parchar will revive Sovereign Punjab'

**His only crime -
Fearlessly Advocating for Sikhs**

They are believed to be supporters of the Sikh separatist movement but UK foreign office minister Tariq Ahmad said he was "appalled" by the incident.

"This is a completely unacceptable action against the integrity of the Mission and its staff," he wrote on Twitter. "The UK government will always take the security of the Indian High Commission seriously."

UK Sikhs call national protest over Punjab Internet blackout

Birmingham Mail – 20 March 2023

Thousands of Sikhs head to London to protest mass arrests in Punjab and the shutdown of Internet and texting in the country. Coaches will leave from Gurdwaras in Smethwick and Willenhall with many locals heading to protest on Wednesday March 22, outside the High Commission of India in London.



BirminghamLive

Indian authorities have blocked Internet access for about 27 million people in the state of Punjab for a third day in a row – one of the country's most extensive blackouts in recent years. Punjab Police have released a statement confirming 78 arrests have been made amid a "crackdown". It comes amid a furore over preacher Amritpal Singh.

We spoke with the organisers of the protest to better understand why the protest will be taking place. **Jas Singh from Sikh Federation UK said:** "Sikhs around the world have been shocked and deeply concerned about the unlawful and anti democratic actions of the Indian police in Punjab over the past 48hrs." He also claimed: "Hundreds of Sikh youth have been abducted, arrested and detained without cause or legal basis. Many have been taken to undisclosed locations for torture interrogation, all under a state wide internet shutdown and blackout."



"To challenge this oppressive and illegal action of the Indian authorities, UK Sikh organisations and Youth Groups have called a mass National Protest outside the Indian Embassy on Wednesday 22 March, from 1-3pm and call on all those who stand up for human rights and democracy to attend and support."

Deepa Singh from Sikh Youth UK added: "We stand against the heavy handed tactics deployed in Punjab on the Sikh youth. We have collectively worked with our senior and national Sikh Youth organisations and coordinated a national protest in Central London at the Indian high Commission to express our concerns, and we urge all Sikhs to come and stand with the Sikh Panth (congregation) and unite against this oppression."

40TH MARCH AND RALLY IN LONDON TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1984 SIKH GENOCIDE IN AMRITSAR

4 June 2023- Thousands of members of the British Sikh community gathered today in central London to mark the anniversary of the 1984 Sikh Genocide in Amritsar. The march and rally commemorate victims of the attack on Sri Harmandir Sahib (popularly known as the Golden Temple) in Amritsar by the Indian authorities.



ਭਾਰਤੀ ਹਾਈ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਲੰਡਨ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਪ੍ਰਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਸਿੱਖ ਭਾਰਤੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਨੇੜੇ। ਸ਼ਾਬੀਕ: ਅਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੰਧਨੀ ਕਲਾ

ਭਾਰਤੀ ਹਾਈ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਲੰਡਨ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਜ਼ੋਰਦਾਰ ਰੋਸ ਵਿਖਾਵਾ

ਲੰਡਨ, 22 ਮਾਰਚ (ਅਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੰਧਨੀ ਕਲਾ)- ਲੰਡਨ 'ਚ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਹਾਈਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਵੱਡੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ 'ਚ ਪ੍ਰਚੋਰ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੇ ਭਾਰਤ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਵਲੋਂ ਭਾਰੀ ਅੱਧਿਕਾਰਤਾ ਸਿੱਖ ਅਤੇ ਯੂਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਾਥੀਆਂ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਕੀਤੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਨੂੰ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਕੋਰਟਕਨ ਆਫ ਸਿੱਖ ਆਡਰਨਾਈਜ਼ੇਸ਼ਨ ਦੇ ਸੰਦੇ 'ਤੇ ਰੋਸ ਮੁਜ਼ਾਹਰਾ ਕੀਤਾ। ਸਿੱਖ 'ਚ ਬਲਦਿਲਾ ਸੱਚੇ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਮੁਜ਼ਾਹਰਿਆਂ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੂੰ ਚੋਣਕਾ ਸੱਚੇ ਵੱਖਿਆ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਦੇ ਖੁੱਬ ਦੇਣ ਦੀ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ। ਸਿੱਖ ਆਗੂਆਂ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੀ ਨੌਜਵਾਨੀ ਨੌਜਵਾਨੀ ਦੀ ਸਲਾਹ 'ਚ ਫਲਸੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ, ਸਿੱਖ 'ਚ ਬਾਹਰ ਕੋਰਟ ਲਈ ਇਕ ਆਸ ਦੀ ਫਿਕਨ ਵਿਖਾਈ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਸੀ, ਜੋ ਮੌਜੂਦਾ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਖਰਮ ਕਰਨ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਹੈ। ਪ੍ਰਦਰਸ਼ਨਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਰੁਕੋਰ ਰਿਹਾਮ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇ। ਭਾਰਤੀ ਹਾਈਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਪੁਲਿਸ ਵਲੋਂ ਸਖ਼ਤ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਸਨ। ਪ੍ਰਦਰਸ਼ਨਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਇਤੀਆਂ ਹਾਜ਼ਿਰ ਤੋਂ ਦੂਰ ਰੋਕਦਿਆਂ, ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਵਾਲੇ ਖਾਸੇ ਦੇ ਫੁੱਟ-ਪਥ ਤੱਕ ਸ਼ੇਰਤਰ ਕੀਤਿਆਂ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਭਾਰੀ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਿਨ, ਭਾਰੀ ਜੋਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ, ਭਾਰੀ ਲਖਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਭੋਲੋਵਾਲ, ਦਕਿਦਮਜੋਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਕੁਲਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੌਹੜ, ਹਰਜੋਧ ਸਿੰਘ, ਕੁਲਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੁਨੰਡਾ ਆਦਿ ਲਮਤਰ ਸਿੱਖ ਆਗੂਆਂ ਸਮੇਤ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਭੰਡਾਰਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਪ੍ਰਚੋਰ ਹੋਏ ਸਨ।

The Telegraph News

Memorial march

Members of Britain's Sikh community gather for a march to London's Trafalgar Square yesterday to take part in a rally to mark the 39th anniversary of the 1984 Amritsar massacre in which many civilians and soldiers died when the army stormed the Golden Temple to flush out separatists.



The first march and rally took place on 10 June 1984. UK government papers released after more than 30 years showed how the Indian authorities urged Home Office Minister, Douglas Hurd to arrest the Presidents of all UK Gurdwaras to sabotage the first protest. Special Branch told Home Office Ministers this was not possible. The Indian Home Minister then suggested to the British High Commissioner in Delhi that Sikh protesters should be shot in London.

British Sikhs were told at the rally in Trafalgar Square that a Labour Government, if elected next year, will launch an independent public inquiry into the 1984 British Government involvement in the run-up to the massacre and anti-Sikh measures against British Sikhs at the request of the Indian authorities.

The push for an independent public inquiry follows publication of classified documents under the 30-year rule in January 2014 that showed the Indian authorities sought British advice and assistance prior to the attack. The Heywood review



immediately commissioned by then Prime Minister David Cameron was widely recognised as limited in scope and a whitewash.

The Labour Party has made manifesto commitments to hold an independent public inquiry and Keir Starmer has confirmed this commitment. It is expected a Labour Government would commence an inquiry within the first 100 days of coming to power.

The Sikh Federation (UK) has also published the highly acclaimed Sacrificing Sikhs report setting out the need for an investigation. The Sikh Network has recently released this as an audiobook.

Following a three-and-a-half-year legal battle a tribunal unanimously ruled in June 2018 against the Cabinet Office. Judge Shanks having heard arguments from Foreign Office officials, often in secret sessions, acknowledged in his judgement the limitations of the Heywood review, the speed with which it was carried out and the limited time period of the files that were looked at.

The UK Government decisively lost the arguments on public interest in the tribunal and not surprisingly failed to appeal against the judgement. However, when only 40 pages were released from three Cabinet Office files relating to India covering the 1984 period without any mention whatsoever of the 1984 Sikh Genocide it was clear to all concerned that a judge-led public inquiry that would have complete access to secret papers was the only way to get to the truth.

The Sikh Federation (UK) announced at the rally there would be a lobby of the UK Parliament on 28 June 2023 that will be focused on challenging MPs to support the right to Sikh self-determination and set out the arguments for the re-establishment of an independent Sikh homeland given the British annexation of the Sikh Kingdom in 1849 and the British offer of a Sikh homeland in 1947 before Partition.

ਜੂਨ '84 ਘੱਲੂਘਾਰੇ ਦੀ ਵਰ੍ਹੇਗੰਢ ਮੌਕੇ ਲੰਡਨ 'ਚ ਰੋਸ ਪ੍ਰਦਰਸ਼ਨ

ਲੰਡਨ, 4 ਜੂਨ (ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੰਧਨੀ ਕਰਨਾ)- ਭਾਰਤੀ ਹਕੂਮਤ ਅਤੇ ਫੌਜ ਵਲੋਂ ਜੂਨ 1984 'ਚ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਸਮੇਤ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਅਣਗਿਣਤ ਕੁਰਬਾਨਿਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਕੀਤੇ ਹਮਲੇ, ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ ਤਖਤ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਨੂੰ ਖਹਿ ਖੋਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਵੱਡੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ 'ਚ ਖੇਦੋਕੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਰਨ ਦੇ ਰੋਸ ਵਜੋਂ ਥੋੜੇ 39 ਸਾਲਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਲੰਡਨ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੜਕਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਸਿੱਖ ਵਲੋਂ ਭਾਰੀ ਰੋਸ ਮੁਜ਼ਾਹਰਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਭਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਰਕਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਭਾਰਤ 'ਚ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਹੋਈ ਇਸ ਅਣਹੋਈ ਦਾ ਇਨਸਾਫ ਅਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਿਲਿਆ। ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੇ ਜਾਪਨਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਮਨ ਮ ਲਗਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਅਜੇ ਵੀ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੇ ਜ਼ਖਮਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਲੂਣ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਰਹਿੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਸਲਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਹੱਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਗੰਭੀਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਹਮਲੇ ਦੀ ਪੈਂਡ ਅੱਜ ਵੀ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੇ ਹਿਰਦਿਆਂ ਅੰਦਰ ਤਾਜ਼ਾ ਹੈ। ਖ਼ੁਫ਼ੇ ਦੇ ਵੱਖ-



ਲੰਡਨ ਰੋਸ ਮਾਰਚ 'ਚ ਇਕੱਤਰ ਵੱਡੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਸਿੱਖ ਭਾਈਚਾਰੇ ਦੇ ਲੋਕ।

ਤਸਵੀਰ : ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੰਧਨੀ ਕਰਨਾ

ਵੱਖ ਖ਼ਿੱਤਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਡੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ 'ਚ ਸਿੱਖ ਲੰਡਨ ਪਹੁੰਚੇ, ਜਿੱਥੇ ਜਲੂਸ ਦੀ ਛਕਲ 'ਚ ਪੰਜਾਂ ਪਿਆਰਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਅਗਵਾਈ 'ਚ ਟਰੇਫ਼ਰਲਰ ਸੁਕੋਅਲ ਵਿਖੇ ਪਹੁੰਚੇ। ਫਸਤੇ 'ਚ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੁਰਬਾਣੀ

ਜਾਪ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਨਾਲ ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਖਿਲਾਫ਼ ਨਾਅਰੇਬਾਜ਼ੀ ਕਰਦੇ ਰਹੇ। ਸੰਤ ਜਰਨੈਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਭਿੰਡਰਾਂਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਅਰਿਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੰਡਨ ਗੂੰਜਦਾ ਰਿਹਾ। ਰੋਸ ਮਾਰਚ ਲਈ ਪੁਲਿਸ

ਪ੍ਰਫ਼ਾਸਨ ਵਲੋਂ ਕਈ ਸੜਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬੰਦ ਕਰਕੇ ਆਵਾਜਾਈ ਦੇ ਰੁਖ਼ ਖ਼ਤਲੇ ਹੋਏ ਸਨ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਕੋਲ ਦਿਆਂ ਮੁਲਾਜ਼ਮਾਂ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੂੰ 39 ਸਾਲ ਬਾਅਦ ਵੀ ਇਨਸਾਫ਼ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਿਲਿਆ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੀ ਸਿੱਖ ਜਥਾ ਨੂੰ ਖ਼ਤਮ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਜਾ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ। ਸਿੱਖ ਹੱਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਕਰਨ ਤਾਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਅੰਤਰਾਦੀ ਨਹਿਰਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਹਰ ਹੱਲਾ ਵਰਤਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਮੁਲਾਜ਼ਮਾਂ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਜੂਨ 1984 ਦੇ ਘੱਲੂਘਾਰੇ 'ਚ ਭਰਤਾਨਵੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਕੁਮਿਕਾ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਦੇ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਉਠਾਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਰਪੈਖ ਜਾਂਚ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਮੁੜ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਿੱਲ, ਭਾਈ ਦਵਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ, ਭਾਈ ਕੁਲਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਚਰੋੜੂ, ਲਵਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਭੱਲਵਾਲ, ਭਾਈ ਜੋਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ, ਭਾਈ ਨਰਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ, ਭਾਈ ਹਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ, ਭਾਈ ਹਰਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੇਹਤ ਵੰਡੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ 'ਚ ਸ਼ੇਰਾਤਾਂ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਸਨ।





15 June 2023 - It is with the greatest sadness that we share the shocking news that the young Panthic Activist Bhai Avtar Singh Khanda (35) has passed away in a Birmingham hospital this morning.

Like his father Shaheed Bhai Kulwant Singh, Bhai Avtar Singh dedicated himself to the Sikh struggle. He was a well-known activist who never refrained from speaking the truth about atrocities committed by the Indian authorities and was a staunch campaigner for a Sikh homeland, Khalistan.

It has been reported he has been on the Indian radar since 2015 when Narendra Modi handed a “dossier” to David Cameron on Sikh organisations and activists in the UK who were raising concerns about the atrocities committed by the Indian authorities.

However, in the last three months the Indian authorities became obsessed with him and began a vindictive hate campaign against him and his family, spreading lies that were promoted by the Indian media because of close family ties with both Deep Sidhu and Bhai Amritpal Singh.

At the same time, his family in India were targeted by the Indian police. These lies, false media reports and his family being targeted would have caused immense mental and physical strain, especially to someone terminally ill with blood cancer which is now being reported by the same Indian media.

ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਖੰਡਾ ਦੀ ਦੁਖਦਾਈ ਮੌਤ ਲਈ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਠਹਿਰਾਉਣਾ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ: ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਯੁਕੇ

ਨਵੀਂ ਦਿੱਲੀ, 16 ਜੂਨ (ਮਨਮੁਖੀ ਸਿੰਘ ਖਾਨਸਾ):— ਭਰੂਚ ਦੀ ਦੁੱਖ ਨਾਲ ਇਹ ਖਬਰ ਸਾਂਝੀ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਨੌਜਵਾਨ ਪੰਥਕ ਕਾਰਕੁਨ ਭਾਈ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਖੰਡਾ (35) ਦਾ ਕੀਤੇ ਹਿਨ ਕਰਮਿਕਮ ਦੇ ਹਸਪਤਾਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਿਹਾਂਤ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਆਪਣੇ ਪਿਤਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਭਾਈ ਕੁਲਵੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਂਗ ਭਾਈ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਅਪ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਗਠਨ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਰਪਿਤ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ। ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਡਰੋਲਨ ਯੁਕੇ ਦੇ ਮੁਖੀ ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ



ਭਾਰਤੀ ਪੁਲਿਸ ਨੇ ਨਿਰਾਨਾ ਬਣਾਇਆ। ਇਹ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਮੀਡੀਆ ਰਿਪੋਰਟਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਸ ਦੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਨਿਰਾਨਾ ਬਣਾਇਆ ਜਾਣਾ ਭਰੂਚ ਵਿਖਾਵਾ ਮਾਨਸਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਸਰੀਰਕ ਤਣਾਅ ਦਾ ਕਾਰਨ ਬਣਦਾ ਸੀ, ਖਾਸ ਕਰਕੇ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਜਦੋਂ ਯੁਵ ਦੇ ਕੌਸਲ ਨਾਲ ਕੰਬੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਿਮਰ ਹੈ ਸਿਰਧੀ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਹੁਣ ਉਸੇ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਮੀਡੀਆ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ। ਉਸ ਦੀ ਅਚਾਨਕ ਅਤੇ ਦੁਖਦਾਈ ਮੌਤ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਭਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਭਰੂਚ ਸ਼ਹੀਦਾਂ ਅਣਕਠਾਂ ਨਰਾਈਆਂ ਜਾ ਰਹੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਅਤੇ ਇਹ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਕਰਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਕਿਸੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਕਤਲ ਦਾ ਸਿਕਾਰ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ ਇਸ ਲਈ ਉੱਠਕਾਂ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਸਾਂਝ ਏਜੰਸੀ (ਐਨ.ਆਈ.ਏ.) ਵੱਲੋਂ ਉੱਠਾਈਆਂ ਜਾ ਰਹੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਖੰਡਾ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਦੇ ਅਗਲ ਕਾਰਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਅਤੇ ਤੱਥ ਪਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਲੱਭ ਸਕਿਆ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਇਸੇ ਵੀ ਭਰੂਚ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਸਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਲਈ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਠਹਿਰਾਉਣਾ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ।



ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਇੱਕ ਜਾਣਿਆ-ਪਛਾਣਿਆ ਕਾਰਕੁਨ ਸੀ ਜਿਸ ਨੇ ਕਦੇ ਵੀ ਪੰਥ ਉੱਤੇ ਕੀਤੇ ਅਤਿਆਚਾਰਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਸਾਂਝ ਕੋਲਣ ਤੋਂ ਕੁਝੋਝ ਨਹੀਂ ਠੀਰਾ, ਭਾਰਤੀ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਲਈ ਓਹ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੋਲੋਂ, ਮਾਨਸਤਾਨ ਲਈ ਇੱਕ ਕੱਟੜ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨਕ ਸੀ। ਉਹ 2015 ਤੋਂ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਰਾਜਧਾਨੀ ਨਵੀਂ ਦਿੱਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਆ ਰਿਹਾ ਸੀ। ਇਸ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਹੀ ਭਾਰਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਸਦੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ



There is much speculation across the globe about the cause of his sudden and sad demise. Some are concluding he may have been the victim of a political assassination by the Indian authorities with fingers being pointed to the Indian National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The NIA recently sent a team to the UK who have been working with Scotland Yard. They have controversially been releasing CCTV footage and photographs to target law-abiding Sikh protesters. The Indian authorities should be aware that British courts have ruled the use of edited CCTV footage by the police proves nothing other than participation in a protest and represents an abuse of power.

The exact cause of Avtar Singh Khanda's death is yet to be determined, but either way, the Indian authorities must carry the blame for causing his death. It may prove impossible for the wider Sikh community to get closure unless the full facts surrounding his death emerge. We must however, respect the privacy of Avtar Singh's friends and family at this sad time.

Pro-Khalistani activist Avtar Singh dies in UK

EasternEye

Eastern Eye - 16 June 2023 (extract)

Avtar Singh Purba alias Khanda, a prominent pro-Khalistani activist, died at a hospital in Birmingham on Thursday (15) morning after a prolonged illness, a UK-based Sikh organisation said in a statement.

Sikh Federation UK said Avtar Singh was terminally ill with blood cancer. He was on a life support system for the last few days.

Avtar Singh, who initially went to UK in 2007 on a study visa, but later took asylum there in 2012, and never returned, was linked to anti-India activities including the attack on the tricolour at the High Commission of India in London earlier this year – allegations that he had denied. His family still resides in Purana, Moga district.

On Wednesday (14), India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) released five videos of suspects they believe were involved in the violent protest at the Indian High Commission in London by pro-Khalistani supporters.

The central agency had taken over the probe after home ministry officials met UK representatives in the wake of the attack on March 19.



BRITISH SIKHS SET OUT DEMAND FOR SIKH HOMELAND TO MPS IN UK PARLIAMENT

28 June 2023 - Dozens of UK MPs from across the political spectrum have confirmed participation in the Sikh homeland lobby later today.

Rishi Sunak faced major criticism of his attitude towards British Sikhs since he became Prime Minister, including his handling and lack of action on the arbitrary detention of Jagtar Singh Johal. A particular focus of the lobby was the UK Government appeasement of the right-wing Indian authorities with restrictions on the civil liberties of British Sikhs.

MPs condemned and dismissed the Bloom Review as biased and disproportionate. It is understood the Sikh community is considering legal action as Colin Bloom has chosen to use quotes in his report that promote hate against the Sikh community and deliberately target UK Gurdwaras, Sikh organisations and religious practices.





The primary purpose of the lobby and associated briefing was to make sure UK MPs appreciate, understand and be sensitive to any position they take on a Sikh homeland remembering the Anglo-Sikh history over the last 200 years and the treatment of the Sikh minority in the Indian sub-continent since 1947.

Many MPs were also interested to learn more about the revelations by an Indian external intelligence officer that undermine and cast serious doubts on the Heywood Review commissioned by David Cameron as PM in January 2014.

India's National Investigation Agency faces international criticism for putting out a hit list of 20 Sikhs in the Diaspora on Indian



The Asian Connect – 17 July 2023

On the evening of Sunday, 18 June, 45-year old Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the President of Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada was assassinated by two unidentified gunmen as he was leaving the Gurdwara.



Two weeks earlier, the Canadian Prime Minister's National Security Adviser, Jody Thomas stated India was among the top sources of foreign interference in Canada. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CISIS) is reported as having reached out to Hardeep Singh Nijjar and others to inform them they had intelligence that they could be targeted days before he was shot dead.

Although the two gunmen who assassinated Hardeep Singh Nijjar have not been tracked down, and nor have those who ordered his killing

on Canadian soil, most have concluded the killing is the work of the Indian authorities. Indian intelligence and the Indian Foreign Minister have more or less taken responsibility and admitted they were behind the assassination.

A new controversy has now started with India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) putting out a "hit list" of 20 Sikhs in the Diaspora on Indian TV. This includes Sikhs living in the UK, USA and Canada. There are six Sikhs from the UK and some of them have reported threats, harassment, intimidation and now death threats to the police and contacted their MPs. The MPs are Pat McFadden, Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, John Spellar, Seema Malhotra, Claudia Webbe and Shaun Bailey (updated).

It is understood, Counter Terrorism officers were already looking into the activities of the NIA in relation to their activities on social media by publicly targeting Sikh protesters in the UK. These activities are deemed "hostile activities" by a foreign government and in their own words amount to criminal activity and "state repression".

The publishing of a "hit list" of 20 Sikhs in the Diaspora on Indian television poses a massive challenge for the US, UK and Canadian administrations and law enforcement agencies.

Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) said, "This represents a public challenge to the US, UK and Canadian



Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) has not been to India for over 40 years and it is outrageous his family members have been ordered to appear before the NIA court on 7 August.

Bhai Kuldip Singh Chaheru, the Vice Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) came to the UK around 35 years ago after his father and other close family members were tortured and killed by the Indian police. He was granted political asylum and has not visited India since coming to the UK. Bhai Kuldip Singh's family members have also been ordered to appear before the NIA court in the next few days.

The families of others from the UK belonging to the Federation of Sikh Organisations (FSO) and Sikhs For Justice in the UK, who have also been targeted suggests the NIA have recently been given information on who the NIA should focus on from the UK and those who they should leave alone.

The NIA also raided the premises of Khalsa Aid in Patiala that adds to the suspicion these NIA raids are based on information that has recently been given to the NIA by individuals from the UK who do not* like the work of organisations like the Sikh Federation (UK), FSO, Sikhs For Justice and Khalsa Aid.

Sikhs living abroad accuse India of intimidating families

Sikh group says family homes in India of Amrik Singh, Kuldip Singh Chaheru raided by NIA



The News International – 2 August 2023 (extract)

LONDON: The Sikh community has accused India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) of threatening and targeting relatives of prominent pro-Khalistan leaders who left India decades ago and hold British or other nationalities.

The Sikh Federation (UK) said that families of its two prominent leaders in India have come under attack by the Indian authorities.

The UK-based pro-Khalistan group said that family homes in India of its leaders Amrik Singh, the chair of the Sikh Federation (UK), and Kuldip Singh Chaheru, the vice chair of the Sikh Federation (UK), were raided by the NIA and their family members were interrogated for many hours.

The Sikh body said: "This is outrageous. The families of others from the UK belonging to the Federation of Sikh Organisations and Sikhs For Justice in the UK, who have been targeted suggests the NIA have recently been given information about who the NIA should focus on



from the UK and those who they should leave alone.

Last month, right-wing Hindu Youtuber and retired army officer Gaurav Arya demanded the Indian state hire hitmen to attack American Sikhs. He called on the Indian state to hire "the underworld" and "mafia" in American cities to target Khalistanis.

Thousands to attend funeral of Sikh activist - but not one family member will be present



The 35-year-old played a centric role in Sikh activism in the UK and followed in the footsteps of his father who was shot and killed in 1992.

Sky News - 12 August 2023

Thousands of friends and supporters will attend the funeral of a man who campaigned for a

separate Sikh state - but not a single blood relative will be there.





Sikh activist Avtar Singh Khanda was admitted into Birmingham City Hospital on 11 June 2023 with a sudden illness.

He was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia, a form of blood cancer and pulmonary embolisms (blood clots) and died in the early hours of 15 June, his family said.

The funeral and memorial service will take place at Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick near Birmingham today with Mr Khanda's closest friends and supporters expected to attend - but his immediate family will be watching from a television screen thousands of miles away.

Mr Khanda's mother and sister - who live in India - were refused visas to attend his funeral by the Home Office.

The refusal letter - which has been sent exclusively to Sky News - mentions an incident from 19 March 2023 which saw vandalism of the Indian High Commission building in London and the yanking of the Indian flag to replace it with a separatist flag.

As one of the reasons to refuse the visa, the Home Office letter included links to three Indian media articles which claimed Mr Khanda was arrested for pulling down the Indian flag.

The Metropolitan Police told Sky News that Mr Khanda was not arrested or charged as part of this investigation.

The media articles in India led to Mr Khanda's mother and sister being detained for questioning by police in the country - which was also referenced in the refusal letter.

Other reasons for refusal in the letter to Mr Khanda's mother and sister included discrepancies to previous applications and a risk they would both overstay and not return home to Punjab.

Responding to the claims, a Home Office spokesperson told Sky News: "All visa applications are carefully considered at the time

on their individual merits, on the basis of the evidence provided and in accordance with the immigration rules."

They refused to give any further comment on the citing of Indian media articles, after being asked about the Met Police statement sent to Sky News.

Jas Singh, adviser to the Sikh Federation UK - which is supporting Mr Khanda's family - said: "The Home Office have clearly neglected their duty to Avtar and in upholding basic humanitarian principles and standards. They have adopted the line and narrative of the Indian government and its fake news ahead of the truth and death of a Sikh youth.

"There is still a huge amount of concern and anger within the community for the way they have handled this tragic case."

Sky News understands Mr Khanda last saw his mother and sister in 2010, which is when he moved to the UK on asylum due to what he claimed was persecution for his activism on Khalistan - the title given to the separatist movement seeking to create a homeland for Sikhs.



Mr Khanda's father - Kulwant Singh Khukhrana - was shot and killed for his campaigning of the movement in India in 1992.

Mr Singh added: "Avtar was a very intelligent and popular Sikh youth activist and leader, he was loved and respected by many in the community from all different sections.

"His loss is immeasurable and will leave a large void in the community. But we are a community born out of sacrifices and his contributions and actions will leave a legacy that will inspire generations, that will forever continue the Sikh struggle for truth, justice and freedom".





Sikh Federation (UK) pay homage and honour Shaheed Bhai Avtar Singh Khanda 10/05/88 - 15/06/23

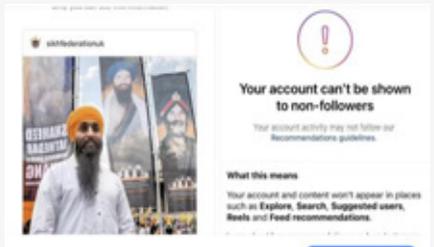
SIKH FEDERATION (UK) AND OTHER SIKH GROUPS CONTINUE TO FACE UNPRECEDENTED SOCIAL MEDIA CENSORSHIP

15 August 2023 - The level of censorship of Sikh voices across all social media platforms is on a very worrying increase. The Sikh Federation (UK) has seen its public pages be restricted and banned on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and Twitter. Many other Sikh activists and organisations who challenge India on its human rights record and self determination rights, have also experienced restrictions and bans. This is nothing short of censorship and silencing of minority voices.

The Sikh Federation (UK) Facebook page had over 23k followers and was banned in November 2020, following a lengthy appeal and escalation, the page was restored in April 2021, however it has since been experiencing a significant shadow ban and limitation of its reach and following.

In November 2022, the recently opened TikTok page was permanently deleted without warning or notice, this coincided with the rise of Bhai Amritpal Singh in Punjab and the launch of the Khalsa Vahir. The page was taken down the day after a video receiving over half a million views was posted.

In June 2023, the Sikh Federation (UK) Instagram page was also banned and removed without notice and with no reply or response to the formal appeal. This action was taken following posts about the deaths of Khalistani activists Bhai Avtar Singh Khanda and Hardeep Singh Nijjar. When the Federation contacted and escalated this action to the Policy team at Meta, it was completely ignored and they ceased all communication. Due to the ban a new page as been created **@SikhFederation.UK**



The Indian govt and its BJP IT Cell have gone into overdrive with trolling, reporting and issuing legal notices against Twitter pages in India. This attack on free speech has targeted Sikhs across the





globe. Jas Singh, advisor to the Sikh Federation (UK) joined SALDEF (Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund) on their Twitter space conversation on Sikh Censorship, highlighting how Sikh narratives are silenced and distorted through social media and beyond. Recording is accessible here: <https://twitter.com/i/spaces/1yNGaNgBmDXJ?s=20>. SALDEF have also published a detailed report into Sikh censorship available at <https://saldef.org/sikhcensorship/>

Sikhs are a minority in every country where they live and are targeted and persecuted in India where the majority of Sikhs live. For social media platforms based in the West to adopt this approach to appease India, over its own values and principles, demonstrates a very concerning level of influence and interference in democratic foundations.

GB News is spreading lies about those campaigning for the re-establishment of a Sikh homeland

**ASIAN
CONNECT**

The Asia Connect - 24 August 2023

Without any evidence Nigel Farage controversially stated on GB News on 22 August that the “finger of blame” for the gang violence at the Punjabi Kabaddi Sports tournament in Derby two days earlier was the work of those linked to the Khalistan movement i.e. those legitimately campaigning for the re-establishment of a Sikh homeland.



The England Kabaddi Federation clarified in a video message that the gang violence that took place in Derby involved a personal dispute between two groups and had nothing whatsoever to do with the Khalistan movement. Nigel Farage wrongly and irresponsibly links the gang violence that the police are still investigating to the Khalistan movement to fit a right wing narrative and harmful stereotype without presenting any evidence to back up his claim.

Nigel Farage’s guest, Wasiq Wasiq of the Henry Jackson Society, that is well-known for its right wing views, worryingly introduces a political motive for the gang violence without providing any evidence. This was an attempt to deliberately

demonise those campaigning for the re-establishment of a Sikh homeland and absurdly suggests there is too much focus by the Home Office on right wing extremism. However, the only vague link he presents to back up his assertion in the GB News broadcast is the appearance of flags in support of a Sikh homeland next door to the location of the Kabaddi tournament.

We understand the adjoining venue is owned by The Panjab Times newspaper.

Towards the end of the GB News segment on the gang violence in Derby Nigel Farage states “a much larger number of Sikhs” have been crossing the channel this year in dinghies (small boats) in clear anti-Sikh rhetoric. In the first quarter of 2023, the largest group of arrivals crossing in small boats were Afghans (23.7%), followed by Indians (17.7%) and Iranians (14.1%). Sikhs are a tiny minority in these countries. Even in India where the vast majority of Sikhs live, they comprise less than 2% of the Indian population. We have confirmed there is no official information available or collected to suggest how many crossing the channel in small boats are Sikhs and if there has been an increase.

Wasiq Wasiq of the Henry Jackson Society, speaking about those crossing the channel in small boats goes further by stating: “It is not only Khalistani extremists we are dealing with”. He makes this baseless statement without any information available of the number of Sikhs crossing the channel in small boats, let alone those he offensively describes as “Khalistani extremists”.



The Sikh Federation (UK) has written to GB News to point out the segment on gang violence in Derby on the Farage programme was inaccurate and biased, misrepresented the facts, was offensive, misleading, discriminatory, spread hate and was unfair.



Dabinderjit Singh, the Principal Adviser to the Sikh Federation (UK) said:

“We have pointed out there was an absence of an alternative viewpoint to that given by Nigel Farage and Wasiq Wasiq from the Henry Jackson Society.”

“No attempt has been made to date to check the facts of the Derby incident with the police and correct the inaccuracies broadcast on GB News.”

“We have publicly and via email requested an opportunity to respond on GB News to the false information and allegations made.”

We understand dozens of complaints have been sent to Ofcom about the segment aired on

Tuesday on the Farage programme about the gang violence in Derby. The Sikh Federation (UK) has submitted a complaint accusing GB News of defaming those campaigning for the re-establishment of a Sikh homeland by making false assertions.

Dabinderjit Singh added:

“The GB News segment was deeply concerning and has been reported for multiple breaches of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code.”

“We have reported GB News to Ofcom as what it has broadcast is offensive (2.1), materially misled the audience (2.2), discriminatory (2.3), amounts to hate speech (3.2), contains abusive material (3.3), is inaccurate and biased (5.1), not been corrected (5.2), is misrepresentation of facts (5.7), there is an absence of alternative viewpoints (5.9), it was unfair (7.1) and no opportunity has been given to respond to the false information and allegations made (7.11).”

We understand Sikh lawyers are considering the possibility of legal action for defamation. GB News, Nigel Farage and Wasiq Wasiq from the Henry Jackson Society will need to produce proof to back the allegations made on the Farage programme with regards to those campaigning for the re-establishment of a Sikh homeland being responsible for the gang violence. They will also need to prove “a much larger number of Sikhs” or “Khalistani extremists” have been crossing the channel this year in dinghies” when no official information of this kind is available.

Nigel Farage’s GB News show sparks hundreds of Ofcom complaints for spreading ‘deeply concerning’ misinformation

The Metro - 30 August 2023

GB News has been hit with over 400 complaints in a single week, with three of the broadcaster’s programmes being singled out to Ofcom.

On Wednesday, the watchdog released its weekly complaints wrap-up from Tuesday 22 August to Monday 28 August 2023.

All three shows that were listed were GB News ones – presented by Nigel Farage, Dan Wootton and Mark Dolan.

Between them, the shows received 422 complaints, with the majority coming from Farage’s August 22 show, which received 247



Weekly audience report

Report covers complaints received from:

Tuesday 22 August to Monday 28 August 2023

Programme	Service	Transmission date	Number of complaints
Nigel Farage	GB News	22 August 2023	247
Dan Wootton Tonight	GB News	24 August 2023	101
Mark Dolan Tonight	GB News	25 August 2023	74

Notes

Programmes that attracted fewer than 50 complaints are not recorded on this list.

Inclusion or omission of a programme on this list is not indicative that Ofcom is investigating the broadcast.

The number of complaints received is not an indication of how serious an issue is.

All complaints are assessed against the [Broadcasting Code](#).





Guru Nanak Gurdwara

Cultural & Recreational Centre

2-10 Tunbridge Street, off New Hall Lane, Preston PR1 5YP
Tel: 01772 798395



Guru Nanak Gurdwara is the only Gurdwara in Preston

All the Gurdwara team, youth groups and Preston Sikh Sangat offer our congratulations to the Sikh Federation (UK) on marking its 20th Anniversary. We offer our full commitment and support to the Federation for all its many projects and achievements for the Sikh community.



Guru Nanak Gurdwara Management Committee
President: Bhai Bagh Singh

GURDWARA SIRI GURU SINGH SABHA

Cottenham St, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5QU

T: 0191 273 8011 | E: gurdwaranewcastle@hotmail.com | W: www.gurdwaranewcastle.co.uk



Gurdwara Siri Guru Singh Sabha first and largest Gurdwara in the North East. It has always had a very strong and close affiliation to both the Sikh Federation (UK) and ISYF since 1984.

We congratulate the Federation on marking its 20th Anniversary and are committed to supporting their work and efforts on behalf of the UK Sikh community for years to come.



Gurdwara Siri Guru Singh Sabha Management Committee





GURU NANAK GURDWARA

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Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Holy Bones, is the oldest and most prominent Gurdwara in Leicester. The Gurdwara sahib has received Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and The First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval staff, as well as various senior political and judicial dignitaries.

All the Gurdwara management committee Youth Groups and Leicester Sikh Sangat offer their congratulations and support to the Sikh Federation (UK) on marking its 20th Anniversary and for its future work.



Guru Nanak Gurdwara Management Committee

President: Bhai Ajmer Singh Basra
Gen Secretary: Bhai Gurvinder Singh



GURDWARA SRI GURU SINGH SABHA

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Sri Guru Singh Sabha Southall, founded in the 1950s, is a prominent Gurdwara organisation based in Southall, West London which manages the Park Avenue and Guru Nanak Road Gurdwara's.

The Sabha sends its congratulations to the Sikh Federation (UK) on its 20th Anniversary and are always ready to support any Panthic endeavour's.



Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Management Committee

President: Bhai Himmat Singh Sohi
General Secretary: Bhai Harmeet Singh Gill
Vice President: Bhai Kulwant Singh Bhinder



complaints relating to comments about an incident at a Kabaddi tournament in Derbyshire, as Ofcom confirmed to Metro.co.uk.

During a discussion on his show about recent violence at a Kabaddi Tournament in Alvaston, Derbyshire, Farage said the 'finger of blame' lay with those linked to the Khalistan movement, who are seeking to create a homeland for Sikhs by establishing an ethno- religious sovereign state in the Punjab region.

However, his claims were quickly slammed by many, with organisations such as the **Sikh Federation UK** saying the comments were 'inaccurate and biased, misrepresented the facts, were offensive, misleading, discriminatory, spreading hate and were unfair'.

Dabinderjit Singh, the Principal Adviser to the Sikh Federation said the segment was 'deeply concerning' and had sparked the organisation reporting the programme to Ofcom.

4. CAMPAIGN TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF JAGTAR SINGH JOHAL

The #FreeJaggiNow campaign has seen some significant developments in the last 12 months. This section of the booklet provides some key highlights of the campaign with the support of the Sikh Federation (UK).

UK Minister silent on claims spy agencies' information led to abduction of Sikh



INDEPENDENT

Jagtar Singh Johal, from Dumbarton, was in Punjab in northern India for his wedding in 2017 when his family say he was arrested.

Independent - 7 September 2022

A Foreign Office minister has refused to comment on claims MI5 and MI6 supplied information that led to the abduction and alleged torture of a Scottish Sikh.

Jagtar Singh Johal, from Dumbarton, was in Punjab in northern India for his wedding in 2017 when his family say he was arrested and bundled into an unmarked car.

The 35-year-old said he has been detained and subjected to torture, including electric shocks, and faces the death penalty over his activism and campaigning for Sikh human rights.

His lawyers have lodged a complaint after human rights group Reprieve identified his case among anonymised details published in the annual report by the UK's investigatory powers commissioner.

The report sets out how MI5 and MI6 passed information about a British national to foreign authorities who then detained and tortured them, which matches details in Mr Johal's case.

Minister Rehman Chishti, replying to an urgent question on the case in the Commons, said: "The



first priority of the Government is the welfare of Mr Johal."

He said: "With regards to any civil litigation with regards to concerns on the intelligence agencies, I cannot and will not comment in this House on that."



He added: "We must let the legal process take its course, and I will therefore not comment on this matter in line with long-established practice."

The urgent question was raised by SNP MP Martin Docherty-Hughes (West Dunbartonshire), who told the Commons how Mr Johal, his constituent, "has now had his 188th pre-trial hearing suspended today because the courts in India couldn't make their mind up".

He added: "Lawyers representing my constituent submitted a motion at the Royal Courts of Justice seeking redress after compelling evidence emerged linking the United Kingdom Government directly to his arrest and torture almost five years ago."

Mr Docherty-Hughes said the information has "posed a multitude of hard questions" for the UK Government and new Prime Minister Liz Truss, given she was formerly foreign secretary.

He said: "Like hundreds of thousands of UK citizens of Sikh ethnicity, the Singh Johal family travel to India every year, yet now they must wonder if it's safe for them to continue to do so."

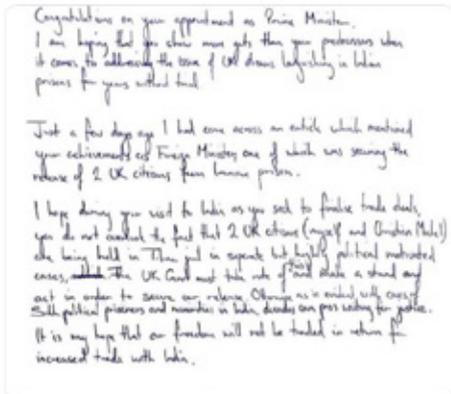


David Lammy @DavidLammy

Jagtar Singh Johal is a British national who has been arbitrarily detained with no legal basis, and is now facing the death penalty in India.

Today in a letter Jagtar has called on @TrussLiz to 'show more guts than her predecessors'.

She must secure his release.



1:47 PM - Sep 7, 2022

Mr Docherty-Hughes suggested the difficulties experienced by Mr Johal have been "caused directly, at least for me, by the intervention of the state which is meant to protect him".



Martin Docherty-Hughes @MartinDocherty · Follow

#Jagters #family his #MP & @HouseofCommons requires answers as to the role of the UK Security Services in his detention ... this Son of the Rock deserves better #FreeJaggiNow



3:54 PM - Sep 7, 2022

He went on: "We have a family, an MP and a House of Commons who want answers on who knew what and when."

As MPs discussed the case, shadow foreign secretary David Lammy posted on Twitter a picture of a handwritten letter by Mr Johal, in which he called the new Prime Minister to "show more guts than her predecessors".

In the letter, Mr Johal asked Ms Truss if she will do anything for him and another prisoner, Christian Michel, who has been held in India since 2018.

He went on: "It is my hope that our freedom will not be traded in return for increased trade with India."

A panel of UN legal experts has found that Mr Johal's detention is arbitrary, that it "lacks legal basis" and was based on "discriminatory grounds" owing to his Sikh faith and his "status as a human rights defender".

The UN concluded that the appropriate resolution would be to release Mr Johal immediately and accord him an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations, in accordance with international law.

Labour MP for Rotherham Sarah Champion asked Mr Chisti why the Foreign Office has not called for the release of Mr Johal when "it has always been the Foreign Office policy to call for the release of arbitrarily detained British nationals".



Congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister.
I am hoping that you show more guts than your predecessors when it comes to addressing the issue of UK citizens languishing in Indian prisons for years without trial.

Just a few days ago I had come across an article which mentioned your achievements as Foreign Minister, one of which was securing the release of 2 UK citizens from Iranian prison.

I hope during your visit to India as you seek to finalise trade deals, you do not overlook the fact that 2 UK citizens (myself and Christian Michel) are being held in Tihar jail in separate but highly political motivated cases, ~~which~~ ^{this}. The UK Govt must take note of ^{this} and make a stand and act in order to secure our release. Otherwise as is evident with cases of Sikh political prisoners and minorities in India, decades can pass waiting for justice. It is my hope that our freedom will not be traded in return for increased trade with India.

Hand written letter from Jagtar Singh Johal to former Prime Minister Liz Truss

She said: "The outgoing prime minister accepted Jagtar Singh Johal is arbitrarily detained. The minister says that the Foreign Office does not give a blanket approach, but that's not correct. It has always been the Foreign Office policy to call for the release of arbitrarily detained British nationals.

"Yet, the Government has not done that in this case. Can the minister explain why the Government has not acted in line with its own policy?"

The Foreign Office minister conceded the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and Conservative prime minister Boris Johnson issued their opinion on Mr Johal, adding: "And that is the point with regards to the new Foreign Secretary and the new Prime Minister will have to make a determination for themselves on this matter."

Commenting on the Commons debate, **Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) said:**

"It was disgusting how the minister tried to backtrack today in the Urgent Question debate when challenged in Parliament by MPs on all sides.

"The Minister eventually accepted that Boris Johnson came to this conclusion and admitted Jagtar was in arbitrary detention. However, he said Liz Truss and James Cleverly would come to their own judgment.

"This is totally unacceptable and not the way the Government should operate now a case has been lodged in the High Court.

"Next week when we protest outside Downing Street, we will demand that the UK Government confirm Jagtar is in arbitrary detention and call for his immediate release."



Jagtar Singh Johal: Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and her husband join protest calling for return of British national detained in India



Blogger Jagtar Singh Johal, 35, says he faces the death penalty over his activism and campaigning for Sikh human rights, something "the UK strongly opposes", the Foreign Office has told Sky News.

Sky News - 3 November 2022 (extract)

Hundreds of people, including Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and her husband Richard, have marched on Downing Street demanding the government calls for the release of a British Sikh man imprisoned in India.



Blogger Jagtar Singh Johal was detained in Punjab in 2017 and says he faces the death penalty over his activism and campaigning for Sikh human rights.

The 35-year-old from Dumbarton has claimed he was beaten and electrocuted by the Punjab Police and was forced to sign blank documents.

The protest, on the eve of the fifth anniversary of his detention, comes after claims MI5 and MI6 spies supplied information that led to the torture of Mr Johal.

If confirmed, it would be a breach of Britain's commitment to human rights.

Among the protesters today were Richard Ratcliffe and his wife Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, the British-Iranian woman who was detained in Iran for six years after being accused of plotting to overthrow the government.

Mr Ratcliffe, who called the UK government's handling of Mr Johal's case "disingenuous", said: "While Foreign Office officials have been looking the family in the eye and promising them they are

doing all they can, ministers have been prioritising fancy dinners and trade deals."

He told Sky News: "It is really cold when you see it close up. They advise families to keep quiet so the rest of us don't see."

"The government talks about its support for the family, and about protecting British citizens. Yet here is a case, someone has been held illegally and tortured for five years, where it looks as though the UK had a role in enabling that," he added.

Gurpreet Singh Johal, Mr Johal's elder brother, said in the past five years "we've heard so many empty words from the UK government".

He told Sky News: "They say they're concerned, that his case is a priority, that they've raised it at the highest level, but they won't do the one thing that could make a difference, which is to demand his release.

"We will never give up campaigning for Jagtar until he's on a flight home to his family."

Earlier this year, a panel of UN legal experts said Mr Johal's detention was arbitrary, lacked "legal basis" and was based on "discriminatory grounds" owing to his Sikh faith and his "status as a human rights defender".

A Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) spokesperson said it has consistently raised concerns about Mr Johal's case, including his allegations of torture.

They said: "The UK strongly opposes the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle and we will continue to make this clear to the government of India."

Sky News has been told that during his trip to India last week, Foreign Secretary James Cleverly raised Mr Johal's case with his Indian counterpart, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Lawyers for Mr Johal have launched legal action against the Home Office, the Foreign Office and the attorney-general over claims that the British





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Guru Nanak Gurdwara Sedgley St Wolverhampton is one of the most prominent Gurdwaras in the UK. It has been home to the National Sikh Convention for many decades.

The Gurdwara Sahib and Wolverhampton Sikh Sangat offer our congratulations to the Sikh Federation (UK) on marking its 20th Anniversary. And we remain committed to supporting Panthic campaigns and programmes.



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Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Prakash Singh Safa and Siri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara represent the largest Gurdwaras in Bristol.

The management committees of both Gurdwaras and the Bristol Sikh community congratulate the Sikh Federation on marking its 20th Anniversary and are committed to supporting their future work and efforts for the community.



government was implicated in supplying information to the Indian authorities.

The allegations on the UK's intelligence agencies will be explored fully during the litigation, "which is

the right place to do so", say FCDO.

The Indian government has been contacted for comment.



Protest outside 10 Downing Street calling for PM to get Dumbarton man detained in India released



The family of Jagtar Singh Johal marked the five year anniversary of the Dumbarton man's detention in India on November 4 by protesting outside the residency of the Prime Minister, calling on him to 'bring Jaggi home'.

Daily Record – 17 November 2022 (extract)

A protest calling on the Prime Minister to secure the release of a Dumbarton man detained in India took place outside 10 Downing Street.

Jagtar - known as Jaggi – was arrested in India after his wedding in November 2017, accused of helping to fund a Sikh-on-Hindu assassination plot – something he and his family strongly deny.

An investigation by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ruled in May that there was no legal basis for Jagtar's detention in India, citing multiple violations of his human rights – including claims he was tortured into signing a false 'confession', through electric shocks to his ear lobes, nipples, and genitals.

Hundreds of protesters marched on Downing Street, alongside Jagtar's family and local MP Martin Docherty-Hughes, demanding the UK government calls for Jaggi's release amid fears he faces the death penalty.

SNP MP Martin Docherty-Hughes joined Jagtar's family on the steps of 10 Downing Street to hand over a letter and petition pressing PM Rishi Sunak to act.

He said: "It is a horrendous, and quite frankly, a pathetic scenario in which the British government finds itself when it deals with my constituent's case.

"It's time for Rishi Sunak and the UK Foreign Secretary to defend Jagtar's rights to a free and fair trial. Trade is important, but it should not be at

#FREEJAGGINOW
PROTEST
THURSDAY 3RD NOVEMBER
12:00 TO 15.00
OUTSIDE
10 DOWNING STREET,
LONDON,
SWIA 2AA
PROTEST LED BY THE OFFICIAL
FREE JAGGI NOW CAMPAIGN
TEAM ANY ENQUIRIES:
07985695537
UK GOVERNMENT EXPOSED IN THE COLLUSION AND
TORTURE OF JAGTAR SINGH JOHAL



the expense of the human rights of a young Scot from Dumbarton.

“Jagtar’s family here in West Dunbartonshire have campaigned tirelessly for his release. We

dedicate ourselves to continuing the campaign for Jaggi - to secure justice and bring him home to his family.”

UK GOVERNMENT MUST SHOW THE COURAGE TO PUBLICLY CALL FOR JAGTAR'S IMMEDIATE RELEASE IN TODAY'S DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT

19 January 2023 - Many will be closely following the debate this morning in Parliament on the imprisonment and arbitrary detention of Jagtar Singh Johal in India for over 5 years.



In one of Boris Johnson’s last acts as Prime Minister he wrote to Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) on 7 July 2022.

He admitted Jagtar “has been detained arbitrarily in India, for the past four years” since his abduction on 4 November 2017 and subsequent torture at the hands of Indian police. Jagtar remains in arbitrary detention and at risk of further physical and mental torture.

Jeremy Hunt as Foreign Secretary told Jagtar’s wife when he met her in April 2019 that Jagtar would not get a fair trial. He

now faces the possibility of being given the death penalty on the basis of a confession obtained while he was tortured.

Rishi Sunak and James Cleverly must use the opportunity in today’s debate to ensure the UK Government publicly calls for Jagtar’s immediate release. This is government policy with regards to arbitrarily detained British nationals.

Rishi Sunak and James Cleverly will show weakness if they fail in today’s debate to call for Jagtar’s immediate release. It will also call into question if the UK Government led by Rishi Sunak is conflicted because of his close family ties with Narendra Modi, the Indian PM if the UK Government is not prepared to stand up to India on behalf of innocent British citizens.

Calls for release of Dumbarton man Jagtar Singh Johal grow as he marks 2000 days behind bars



Daily Record – 26 April 2023

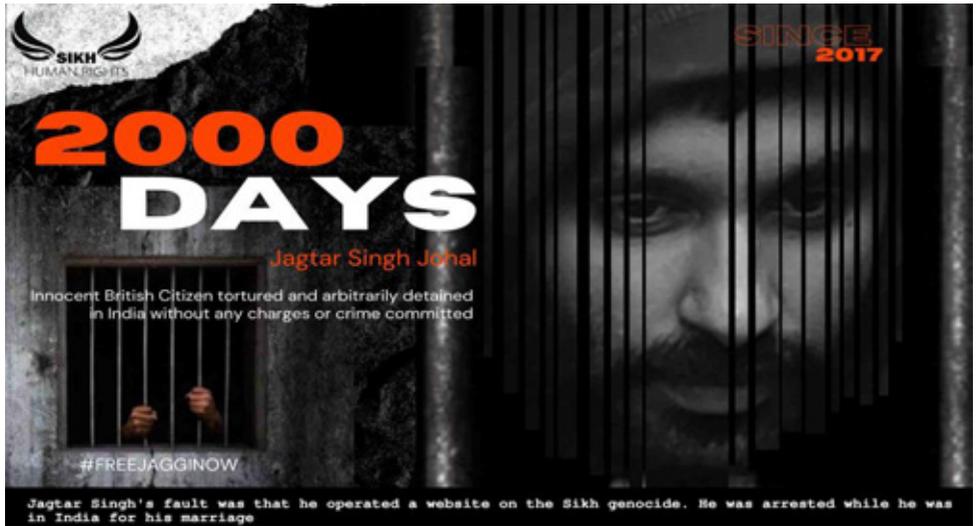
Today (April 26) marks 2000 days since Jagtar Singh Johal, known as Jaggi, was locked up amid accusations he was involved in a political murder plot in Punjab, northern India, which he and his family have always strongly denied.

But with the lengthy time prosecutors take to investigate – and more than 200 witnesses to speak to – his family estimate the 36-year-old will be in his 70s before the case is resolved.

His brother Gurpreet Singh Johal said just one witness out of 200 has been questioned so far and hearings are only taking place one day every eight weeks.

As there are eight charges, each witness must be cross-examined eight times which means the whole process could take up to 40 years under the current timescales.





Speaking as the 2000 day anniversary was reached, Gurpeet - who serves as a councillor for Dumbarton - said: "I miss my brother every single day. The whole family does.

"There's an empty space at the dinner table and part of our hearts is missing, too.

When we first started campaigning to bring him home, we thought the UK Government would act right away, because the evidence of his torture is so strong and the case against him so weak and so obviously politically-motivated.

We didn't think it would take 100 days, let alone 2,000.

It doesn't get any easier, and the longer it goes on, the greater the damage - to Jagtar, to our family, and to the UK's reputation as a country that will act to protect its own citizens."

Jagtar's case is being supported by human rights charity Reprieve.

Their director of policy and advocacy, Dan Dolan, said: "If you look at Jagtar's case by the numbers, it's easy to understand how absurd it is."

"He was abducted and tortured by Indian police 18 days after his wedding, and for the last 2,000 days he's been locked up in an Indian prison, while almost 300 pre-trial hearings have come and gone without any admissible evidence being produced against him."

"In that time there have been five UK Foreign Secretaries and four Prime Ministers – they have all failed to bring him home."

"Each day that Ministers fail to act to end Jagtar's arbitrary imprisonment shames the UK Government."

"Even one day of abandoning a British citizen unjustly detained overseas is a day too many."

"That we are still here, counting the days, five years and five months after Jagtar was snatched off the street, goes to show how badly his government has failed him."

"Will they wait another 1,000 days before they act?"

Jaggi, a former pupil at OLSP, was imprisoned in Punjab after travelling there from Scotland for his wedding in 2017 and is currently suffering in awful prison conditions in Delhi.

His family insist he was detained and tortured over his activism and campaigning for Sikh human rights.

But Indian officials have accused him of being involved in a murder plot and charged him under the country's Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

His case was last year raised in Westminster but his family are urging them to do more.



Urging action, West Dunbartonshire MP Martin Docherty-Hughes said: "As we mark the 2,000th day of Jagtar's imprisonment, the UK government has massive questions to answer on why it's going soft on the case when this UK citizen needs them the most."

"Their recent submissions stating that they didn't believe Jagtar to have been tortured was a slap in the face for his family, who they have strung along for these five and a half years."

"Promises of 'extreme action' by Tory Ministers have been unfulfilled and their representations have been weak and predictable."

"As the UN report clearly stated, Jagtar has been arbitrarily detained – yet the UK and Indian governments remain seemingly the only two actors in the case unable to acknowledge this fact."

Jagtar Singh Johal: Humza Yousaf pledges to fight for release

The Herald

The Herald- 7 June 2023 (extract)

Scotland's First Minister has vowed to keep lobbying for the release of a Scottish Sikh blogger who has been jailed in India for more than five years.

Humza Yousaf made the pledge during a meeting with the brother of Jagtar Singh Johal at the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday afternoon.



JAGTAR SINGH JOHAL (JAGGI)
FROM DUMBERTON
SCOTLAND

ABDUCTED ON 4th NOVEMBER BY PLAIN CLOTHED POLICE OFFICERS IN PUNJAB, INDIA. DENIED ACCESS TO FAMILY AND LAWYERS FOR 16 DAYS. STRIPPED NAKED AND SUBJECTED TO PHYSICAL TORTURE VIA ELECTROCUTION ALL OVER BODY. DENIED INDEPENDENT MEDICAL IN POLICE CUSTODY SINCE NOVEMBER 4th WITHOUT BEING CHARGED.

#JaggiSingh #JaggiSingh #JaggiSingh #JaggiSingh

Following his meeting with Gurpreet Singh Johal on Tuesday, Mr Yousaf said the Scottish Government has raised the case directly with the Indian Government on numerous occasions and would continue lobbying the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and UK Government "to use every lever at their disposal to call for Jagtar's release".

"It's appalling that while Ministers prioritise a trade deal, my constituent is left languishing in prison with no resolution in sight."

Gurpreet was in attendance at a full meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council this afternoon, where Jagtar's plight was raised by Provost Douglas McAllister.

Provost McAllister said: "Today marks 2000 days since Jagtar's arrest."

It's worth reflecting on this unwanted milestone. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention have ruled that Jagtar's detention is clearly arbitrary and lacks any legal basis.

We call again for his immediate release.

He has suffered 2000 days of wrongful imprisonment, 2000 days deprived of basic human rights in appalling conditions."

"Jagtar Singh Johal has now been imprisoned for more than 2,000 days, and I remain gravely concerned at his continued detention and allegations of his mistreatment and torture in custody," the First Minister said in a statement.

"I know this has been an extremely difficult and distressing time for his family, and their resilience in the face of this ordeal has been extraordinary.

We continue to call for Jagtar's immediate release in line with the recommendations of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention."

The Government has been criticised for taking a "very long time" to resolve Mr Johal's case, with the husband of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe accusing MI5 and MI6 of supplying information that led to the Scottish Sikh blogger's abduction and torture.

Ms Zaghari-Ratcliffe, who was released from prison in Iran in March 2022, joined a protest in central London last year to call on the UK Government to do more for Mr Singh Johal.

"There are a number of British citizens being held unlawfully overseas," he told those in attendance.

"There are approximately 100 British citizens tortured by foreign governments each year and how many of them have you heard of?"

"You've heard of Jaggi, you've heard of Nazanin – most of them you haven't."



Earlier this year, SNP MP Martin Docherty-Hughes (West Dunbartonshire) told a House of Commons debate: “I want the Government to see through the speeches and interventions made in the House today that members across this House, across parties and across the nations of these islands have no intention of forgetting Jagtar Singh Johal.

I want the UK Government to see that the choice they made not to deem his continued detention an arbitrary one, until recently, to not be without consequences.

To see that even five years on we will be here and for another five years if that is indeed

necessary. And, to once again, ask them through the minister to call for his immediate release.”

A panel of UN legal experts has said Mr Singh Johal’s detention is arbitrary, “lacks legal basis” and is based on “discriminatory grounds” owing to his Sikh faith and his “status as a human rights defender”.

The UN said the appropriate resolution would be to release Mr Singh Johal immediately and accord him an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations, in accordance with international law.



Gurpreet Singh Johal meeting with Scotland’s First Minister Humza Yousaf



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SIKH LEGAL ASSISTANCE BOARD

PO Box 5216, Dumbarton, G82 9AZ

Scottish Charitable Incorporate Organisation Number: SC048790

info@sikhlegalboard.org | www.sikhlegalboard.org



The Sikh Legal Assistance Board (SLAB) is a Scottish registered charity that was set up in April 2019 by Gurpreet Singh Johal, a solicitor by profession and the elder brother of Jagtar Singh Johal (Jaggi). SLAB works closely with Jaspal Singh Manpur & Panjab Lawyers to provide much needed legal representation for Sikh prisoners.

SLAB's fantastic representation work has led to the direct release of 70 Sikh political prisoners and SLAB is supporting on approximately 120 cases overall.

To get the charity off the ground the Sikh Federation (UK), its members and supporters have been providing regular monthly donations for the five years. The Sikh Federation (UK) its members and supporters have directly provided over 75% of the financial support to secure the release of political prisoners held in Indian jails.



SLAB's excellent reputation and results now means it is inundated by those still in prison who have been let down and require support so they can be released. To enable SLAB to meet this increased demand individuals, organisations and Gurdwaras are requested to set up monthly donations to help secure the release of Sikh political prisoners.

£10

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