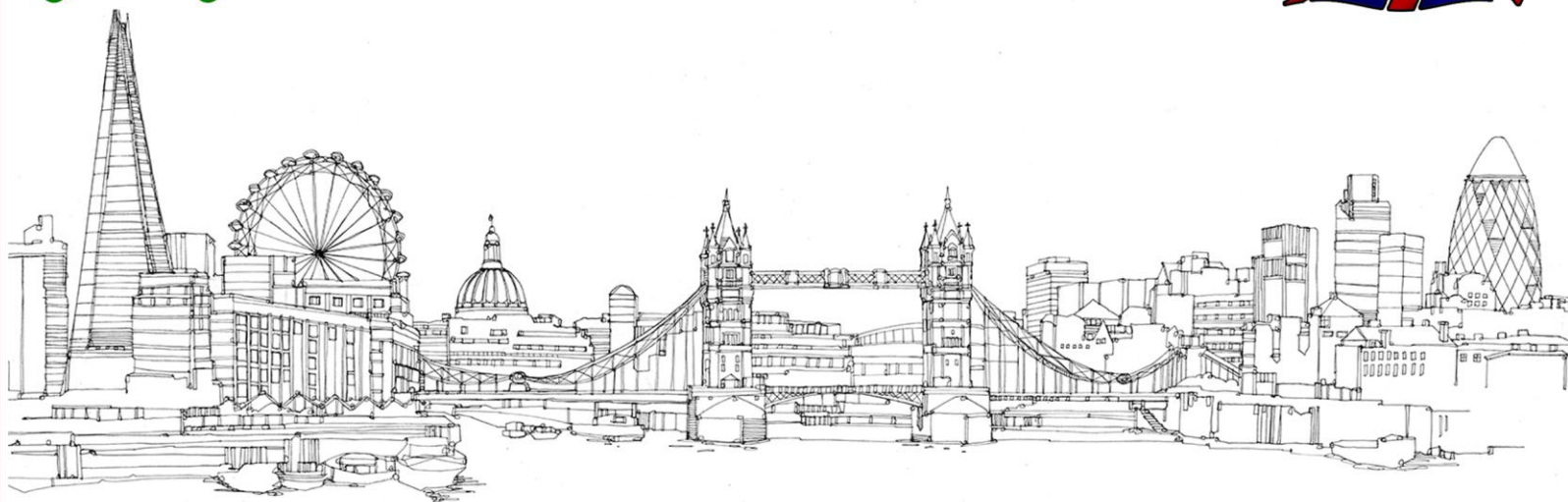




MODI VISIT UK

Briefing for UK Government & Politicians



Narendra Modi the Prime Minister of India has clear Hindutva objectives and trained with the ultranationalist right wing Hindu group, the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS). The RSS is involved in extreme violence, including acts of terrorism & been banned several times in India. This includes when RSS member Nathuram Godse assassinated Mahatma Gandhi in 1948. The most recent ban was in 1992 after the demolition of the Babri Masjid.

Oppression of religious and ethnic minorities in India

RSS is driving a campaign to convert Muslims and Christians to Hinduism by force. There have been numerous examples of forced conversions since Modi came to power in May 2014. These groups have an objective of attacking the Sikh faith so it leads to its eventual assimilation. RSS has declared that it will ensure India becomes a HINDU RASHTRA by 2021. Successive Indian Governments have refused to amend article 25 & various laws concerning the Sikh way of life (i.e. marriage, inheritance, adoptions etc). In January 2015 US President Obama while speaking in Delhi criticised the Modi led BJP govt. by making a plea for freedom of religion to be upheld in India, a country with a history of strife between Hindus and minorities.

Narendra Modi blamed for Gujarat 2002 Massacre of at least 2000 Muslims

In 2002 Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat and was severely criticised for not doing enough to stop Hindu mobs who went on a spree of raping, burning & murdering. Three of those killed were British Muslims visiting India on holiday. Britain imposed a 10 year diplomatic boycott of Modi after he was accused of failing to stop the sectarian murder of at least 2000 Muslims and led to a travel ban on Modi by the UK, US and some European nations. In 2005 Modi was refused a US visa as someone held responsible for a serious violation of religious freedom. Human Rights Watch earlier this year accused the Gujarat authorities of harassing rights activists rather than pursuing justice for the victims.



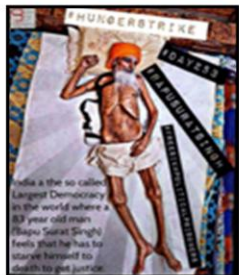
UN-led inquiry into the 1984 Sikh Genocide

The Indian state ordered the army to attack the Sri Harmandir Sahib Complex in June 1984. The BJP who are now in power in India are on record as supporting and even encouraging and wanting that attack sooner. This was set out by L K Advani in his book 'My Country, My Life'. There is a need for a UN-led inquiry into the atrocities committed in June 1984, the killings and disappearances in the months that followed and the systematic and deliberate killing of innocent Sikhs in November 1984. The UN inquiry should also look into the use by the police of criminals, goons, gangsters and smugglers to impersonate Sikh 'militants', widely known as Black Cats.

Prosecution of police officers involved in human rights violations

To resolve the political conflict with the Sikhs international admission of the truth around widespread human rights violations by India is essential. For over 30 years UN rapporteurs and independent experts as well as Amnesty International have been denied access to Punjab to investigate widespread allegations of torture, disappearances, false encounters and extra-judicial executions. If India wishes to be taken seriously it must allow the truth to emerge by removing such restrictions, allowing independent investigations followed by prosecutions.





Release of Sikh political prisoners

There are 84 known Sikhs political prisoners languishing in India's prisons some have been in prison for over 25 years. The list consists of 1 death row conflict, 20 life term prisoners who are mainly in Punjab's prisons and many have served their minimum terms, 8 senior citizens whose health has deteriorated and 55 other Sikhs held in various states around India, such as UP, Haryana, Jammu, and Jaipur. One of the first steps for resolving political conflict is the release of all political prisoners and a general amnesty for those that have cases pending.

Justice for the Sikh Genocide of November 1984

The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in late December 2014 referred to what happened to the Sikhs in November 1984 as 'Genocide' and that 'justice would be meted out to the victims only when the perpetrators of the crime are punished' and 'that until these persons are punished, victims will not get relief'. This is at odds with the recent decision in September 2015 by the Central Bureau of Investigation to give a clean chit to Jagdish Tytler.

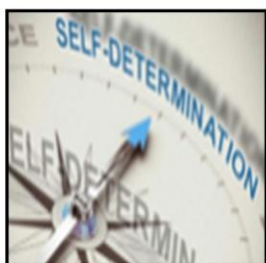


Returning rare and priceless items stolen by the Indian Army in June 1984 from the Sikh Reference Library

These included rare and priceless manuscripts of Guru Granth Sahib Ji, Hukamnamas carrying signatures of the Sikh Gurus, documents related to the Sikh Raj and Sikh contribution during the independence movement and books on Sikhi and our history.

Compensation for Sikh farmers in Gujarat forced to leave and prosecution of those responsible for violent attack against them

In 2010, the Narendra Modi-led Gujarat government had over 20,000 acres of land belonging to Sikh farmers in Gujarat confiscated. These Sikh farmers migrated there about five decades ago. They were being uprooted under a law enacted by the Gujarat government that stopped Sikhs from owning land in the state. The Sikh farmers won their case in the Gujarat High Court but the state government challenged the order in the Supreme Court. In the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls, Narendra Modi had assured that no Sikh farmer in Gujarat would ever be evicted. However, since the May 2014 elections attacks by and mafia and goons have increased and charges have brought against Sikh farmers for defending themselves. These attacks have forced many to flee the land they had successfully made their home.



Application of self-determination to the Sikhs

Acceptance by India of the general principle that self-determination is a basic human right founded in international law and it applies to the Sikhs. Withdrawal of India's 'reservation' at the UN Human Right Council that self-determination does not apply to the people of India. Internal self-determination by Sikhs since 1947 has been violently rejected and crushed with state terror so remedy via external self-determination is possible. The persecution of Sikhs in 1984 and in the years that followed and the lack of justice is the basis on which the Sikhs continue to raise the legitimate demand for an independent Sikh homeland.

Recent attacks on the Sikh faith and killing of peaceful Sikh protesters

In recent weeks we have seen the desecration of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, the Sikh Holy scriptures and the eternal living Guru of the Sikhs. Following an incident at Bargari village in Faridkot district tens of thousands of peaceful Sikh protesters pitched their tents in Kotkapura demanding the arrest of those responsible for tearing off more than 100 pages of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. In shocking scenes on the morning of 14 October 2015 the Punjab Police used lethal force against the peaceful Sikh protesters without warning while they were undertaking their morning prayers. The police initially used batons to attack the peaceful protesters and then resorted to use of water cannons full of sewage water to try and disperse protesters.

Later they opened fire with live ammunition killing two unarmed Sikh protesters and injuring dozens of others. In appalling & horrific scenes hundreds of Sikhs exercising their democratic right to peacefully assemble and protest were beaten, dragged away and arrested reminding everyone little appears to have changed since 1984 in terms of a disregard for Sikh lives and police brutality. These shocking scenes have caused global outrage within the Sikh Diaspora. Tough and speedy action is needed against police officers responsible for the killings and brutality and arrests and prosecution of those who desecrated Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, our living Guru.



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