Sikh Federation (UK)

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Court of Appeal increases Digwa sentence to a minimum of 25 years

London – 5 November 20026

Today, the Court of Appeal increased Vikrum Digwa's sentence after hearing submissions from both his lawyers and the Attorney General.

Digwa's legal team argued that the original minimum term of 21 years imposed for the murder of 18-year-old Henry Nowak was too severe. The Attorney General, however, argued that the sentence was too lenient.

After considering the facts, the law and established sentencing principles, the Court determined that a longer minimum term of 30 years was justified.

The Court accepted that a life had been intentionally taken and that the original minimum term did not properly reflect the seriousness of the offence. It also accepted that this was a case which outrages and horrifies the collective conscience.

The Court ruled that the original sentence fell outside the range of sentences a judge could reasonably have imposed. Digwa's arguments that the sentence was lawful and proportionate were not accepted.

Dabinderjit Singh OBE, Chief Executive for Political Engagement at the Sikh Federation (UK), said:

"Digwa's punishment has been increased after attempts to pervert the course of justice and make false allegations to mislead first responders.

"Digwa has received a longer sentence because he has foolishly continued to argue the murder weapon was a Kirpan in an effort to save himself.

"We were surprised that lawyers for the Attorney General did not make it absolutely clear in the Court of Appeal that the murder weapon was not a Kirpan and has no ceremonial or religious significance.

"It should be obvious to all concerned that the origins, design and purpose of the murder weapon are entirely inconsistent with the sacred Sikh Kirpan.

"We are shocked and disappointed in the Court of Appeal ruling there was repeated incorrect reference to the murder weapon being a Kirpan.

"In the independent review by Alec Chalk, we will expose the cover-up, incompetence and mistakes by the Home Office, police, IOPC, CPS and the courts."

ENDS

Kuldeep Singh
Chief Executive (Administration)
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