



Sikh Federation (UK)

Never flinch from performing righteous deeds

What will it take for the UK Government to come clean about India's transnational repression targeting Sikh activists campaigning for Khalistan

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New evidence has come to light on India's transnational repression under Narendra Modi with Ajit Doval as his National Security Adviser.

This has been revealed in a book about covert operations of Indian intelligence agents targeting opponents abroad called **The Delhi Directive: Once You're Marked. There's no Escape** written by Aanirydhya Mitra.

The author and national security expert has also given television interviews and has been specifically asked about the assassination of Avtar Singh Khanda in the UK in June 2023. He confirms the talk in the corridors of power in India, whilst it is "hush, hush" is that people are saying he was poisoned.

[Please listen and watch the following we have posted on social media.](#)

In early November 2025 Bloomberg produced a detailed report stating GCHQ had gathered intelligence on agents of the Indian government plotting the assassination of Sikh activists in Canada, US and UK, including the targeting of Avtar Singh Khanda in the UK.

The Bloomberg revelation was that the UK, with Rishi Sunak as PM, secretly hand delivered sensitive intelligence to a small pre-approved group of Canadian officials in July 2023 soon after the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada on 18 June and the suspicious death of Avtar Singh Khanda three days earlier on 15 June in a Birmingham hospital.

Dabinderjit Singh OBE, Lead Executive at the Sikh Federation (UK) said:

"We wrote to Dan Jarvis, the Security Minister on India's transnational repression targeting Sikh activists in the UK following the Bloomberg revelation."

"We understand the Indian authorities were shocked and angry by the secret UK actions from July 2023, although they were aware and remained silent on an India intelligence officer, Sarvesh Raj, being expelled from the UK at the same time."

"The information directly from Indian intelligence sources that agents of the Indian government, possibly assisted by Russian operatives poisoned and killed Avtar Singh Khanda will increase pressure that there should be an inquest and public inquiry into his death ."

Dan Jarvis in his reply to the Sikh Federation (UK) states:

"I would like to make clear that the Government takes this matter very seriously. I can assure you that the safety and security of British Sikhs is of the utmost importance, and we will not tolerate any attempts by any foreign government to coerce, intimidate, harass, or harm their critics in the UK."

Commenting on the Bloomberg revelation he states: "I know you will understand, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on an ongoing legal matter but as you have noted, the Government has been clear that we expect India to fully cooperate with both the US and Canadian investigations."

He continued: "On the specific reports you highlight of intelligence sharing between countries, again you will understand that it would not be appropriate for me to comment on such matters."

He concluded the letter by stating "Please be assured that the safety and security of British Sikhs is something this Government takes very seriously, and we will not hesitate to use all the powers available to us to keep our citizens safe."

Michael Polak, the barrister from Church Court Chambers acting for the family of Avtar Singh Khanda following the Bloomberg report wrote to the Home Secretary, Shabana Mahmood requesting she open an inquiry into the suspicious death of the 35-year old in a Birmingham hospital on 15 June 2023.

Michael Polak also made reference to new evidence in his letter to the Home Secretary concerning an Indian intelligence officer, Amanat Mann based in Birmingham, contacting Avtar Singh Khanda and making threats. It was her husband, Sarvesh Raj, who was expelled from the UK and it has never been explained why he was expelled.

However, it is a fact the Indian authorities did not publicly complain or expel anyone from India in a tit-for-tat response strongly suggesting the two countries wanted to deal with this quietly and not alert the public on what Indian intelligence agents and their operatives were doing in the UK.

The West Midlands police did not take statements from friends and family after Avtar Singh Khanda's death, did not speak to his employers or work colleagues, did not retrace his steps on the days before his sudden illness, did not visit his residence or study threats made against him, and did not issue a case number, which would indicate the matter had been properly investigated.

When the Guardian asked about these concerns, the West Midlands Police force distanced itself from its own original statement to the press, when it said the matter had been "thoroughly" investigated. In a new statement in December 2023, the force said the matter had been referred from the coroner and it was "satisfied that there are no suspicious circumstances".

However, there were suspicious circumstances before Avtar Singh Khanda's death, including evidence of death threats and warnings. Other evidence emerged immediately after his death and

before his body was cremated on 12 August 2023 that should have resulted in a thorough investigation by the police that should have asked the coroner to carry out a post-mortem.

Michael Polak also wrote to the coroner in December in light of the new evidence to request an inquest and has been informed of this latest development that he will no doubt take up. More than eight weeks ago the Sikh Federation (UK) submitted a formal complaint to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) on the way in which the West Midlands Police handled the investigation into Avtar Singh Khanda's death that could also increase pressure for an inquest.

We had three lengthy meetings with the former Chief Constable, Craig Guildford in 2024 and this only confirmed our suspicion that there had been some sort of cover up by the British authorities as they did not want to ruin relations with India in the same way as Canada.

Dabinderjit Singh OBE, Lead Executive at the Sikh Federation (UK) said:

"When we submitted the complaint the IOPC indicated the West Midlands Police should provide an initial response in around three weeks."

"More than eight weeks later we have not heard anything and written today to the West Midlands Police to provide an update and alerted them of the new information in the public domain from Indian intelligence sources on the poisoning of Avtar Singh Khanda that has emerged."

ENDS

Jaspal Singh
Lead Executive
Sikh Federation (UK)