

NEVER FLINCH FROM PERFORMING RIGHTEOUS DEEDS



ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

WORKING FOR:
TRUTH
JUSTICE
FREEDOM



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The convention this year comes at an interesting time in terms of the political environment in the UK and abroad. Here Boris Johnson has been forced out of office and we have a new PM and Cabinet with changes in many key positions. The UK Government faces some massive challenges, like the cost of living crisis and spiralling inflation that impacts on us all.

It is however important we get relevant Sikh issues in the minds and manifestos of the Government and the Opposition in the run up to the General Election expected to take place in 2024. Just before Boris Johnson resigned, he wrote to me in response to the open letter from over 300 Gurdwaras and Sikh organisations that demonstrated we can get the government to take notice of our concerns. The PM was forced to write and apologise for not acknowledging the Gurburb of Guru Nanak Dev Ji in November 2021 and promised it would not happen again. He also categorically confirmed he accepted that Jagtar Singh Johal was in arbitrary detention in India.

We are at a crucial stage in the #FreeJaggiNow campaign and need widespread support in the coming weeks and months to get him released and re-united with his family in Scotland. Data on reported anti-Sikh hate crimes is expected to be released by the Home Office in October and is expected to show a massive four-fold increase.

The Government with new leadership and the Opposition cannot be allowed to ignore or pay lip-service to British Sikhs and the issues we raise. In recent years the way the UK Government has decided to engage with the British Sikh community and grassroots organisations has been disgraceful. More Sikhs are taking an active part in British politics, including the possibility of three or four new Sikh Labour MPs and the first Amritdhari Labour Sikh peer. A reset button can be pushed in the run up to the General Election and a permanent change made for the betterment of Sikhs.

As far as Sikhs are concerned Britain needs to deal with its colonial past, including the mess it left 75 years ago during Partition, historic injustices and the current negativity towards British Sikh activism driven by the desires of the current right wing Indian Government and their supporters in the UK.

The UK Government after EU Exit must learn to show courage and work with other nations to take a tough public stance against the right-wing Indian authorities and not turn a blind-eye. They must tirelessly work with the US, EU partners and other like-minded countries to publicly oppose the right wing Indian Government where they promote extremism and discrimination and perpetrate human rights abuses against minorities. They must also accept that political opposition in India to the right wing BJP is weak and this will be the case for many years.

India is at a crossroads in terms of its standing on the world stage given its extremely poor handling of the farmers protest, increasingly poor human rights record with respect to religious freedoms and with its open support for Russia's crimes against humanity in Ukraine. A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India without appropriate benefits for Britain will not be coming anytime soon given India's highly protectionist policies. The proposed FTA also needs to be put into context as it will at best be a tiny fraction of GDP. The Department for International Trade's modelling estimates that an FTA with India will only lead to between a 0.12% and 0.22% increase in GDP by 2035.

India is increasingly worried with the growing support for Sikh independence across the globe, including in India itself. This has not just come from the massive unity shown by Sikhs in the UK for the Referendum 2020, but also the leadership shown by Sikhs in the farmers protest, the fallout for the Indian authorities who are held responsible for the killings of Deep Sidhu and Sidhu Moose Wala and the recent Lok Sabha election victory in Panjab for Simranjeet Singh Mann, a self-confessed Khalistani.

In the last 12 months there have been some significant victories that are documented in this booklet. It started with the legal victory by the #WestMidlands3 that was a slap in the face for Priti Patel and the Indian authorities who made an attempt to extradite them to India. This was followed by the victory by farmers protesting outside Delhi when the Indian PM Narendra Modi was forced to announce the repeal of three controversial farm laws on the Gurburb of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Other notable achievements have been the release of helpful statutory guidance on the Sikh Kirpan in relation to the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 in April 2022 and the boost for the #FreeJaggiNow campaign in terms of the judgement by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and support from the Leader of the UK Labour Party that forced the UK Prime Minister to accept Jagtar is in arbitrary detention. This has resulted in unprecedented media coverage for Jagtar's predicament, especially when it was recently made public that British intelligence shared information with the Indian authorities resulting in his arrest and torture.



Bhai Amrik Singh
Chair of the Sikh Federation

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Sikh Federation (UK)

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

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ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ (ਯੂਕੇ) SIKH FEDERATION (UK)
ਸਲਾਹਾ ਠੈਕਨਲ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਨਵੈਨਸ਼ਨ
SUNDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2021
NATIONAL SIKH CONVENTION 2021
 HIGHLIGHTING THE ISSUES FACING THE SIKH COMMUNITY IN THE UK AND INTERNATIONALLY

ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ (ਯੂਕੇ) ਦੀ ਸਲਾਹਾ ਕਨਵੈਨਸ਼ਨ 12 ਸਤੰਬਰ ਦਿਨ ਮੀਰਥਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ, ਹਾਈ ਸਟਰੀਟ, ਸਮਥਿਥ ਰੋਡ ਵਿਖੇ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ

GURU NANAK GURDWARA, HIGH ST, SMETHWICK B66 3AP
 Sat Akhand Paath Sahib Arambh: Friday 10th - 8:45pm; Sunday 12th at 10am
 • Open invitation to all Panthic Organisations and Gurbans
 • London Public and Free will of the open all Indian Panth
 • Release of the 2020-21 2021 Annual Report

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
 Vivek Singh, Chairperson
 Gopal Singh, Vice Chairperson
 info@sikhfederationuk.com | www.sikhfederationuk.com | @SikhFederationUK

Live Broadcast: 11:30-3:00pm, UK time
 #SikhGenocide84 #NeverForget84



TRUTH > JUSTICE > FREEDOM
 1984 REMEMBRANCE MARCH & FREEDOM RALLY
SUNDAY 19TH JUNE 2022
LONDON

Programme:
 12pm: Gather at Wellington Arch
 1:30pm: Remembrance March
 2:30pm: Rally at Trafalgar Square

For more information:
 Email: info@fso.org.uk
 Kuldeep Singh 07938 639594
 Lovhinder Singh 07585 409322
 Joga Singh 07968 335888

Organised by Federation Of Sikh Organisations (FSO)



FEDERATION OF SIKH ORGANISATIONS (FSO)

DATE:
 Sat 30 Oct 2021
 12pm-3pm

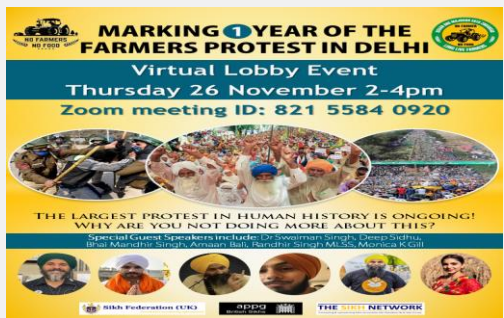
LOCATION:
 George Square
 Glasgow City Centre
 G2 1BH

JUSTICE FOR LAKHMEER
 #FREE LAKHMEER NOW

NO FARMERS NO FOOD

REPEAL LAWS

CONVICTS: KULDIP SINGH, LOVHINDER SINGH, JOGA SINGH



MARKING 1 YEAR OF THE FARMERS PROTEST IN DELHI
 Virtual Lobby Event
 Thursday 26 November 2-4pm
 Zoom meeting ID: 821 5584 0920

THE LARGEST PROTEST IN HUMAN HISTORY IS ONGOING! WHY ARE YOU NOT DOING MORE ABOUT THIS?
 Special Live Broadcast from the largest protest in human history
 (Bhai Mandhir Singh, Aman Singh, Bhai Randhir Singh, M.S.S, Monica K Coll)

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The information and articles in this annual report represent the work of the Sikh Federation (UK), they include our press releases and mainstream media coverage of our activities and campaigns through our outreach.

BUILDING A STRONGER POLITICAL VOICE IN THE UK AND ABROAD

SIKH FEDERATION (UK) ANNUAL CONVENTION COINCIDES WITH 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11



13 September 2021 - The Sikh Federation’s annual National Sikh Convention at Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Smethwick attracted over 15,000 Sikhs over three days and coincided with the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

The 9/11 terror attack and the emergence of the Taliban gave rise to a worldwide phenomenon of hate and attacks towards turban wearing Sikhs, this is sometimes referred to as “mistaken identity”.

On the morning of 15 September 2001, Balbir Singh Sodhi donated the contents of his wallet to the victims of the attacks. He then went to the gas station he owned in Mesa, Arizona and began planting a garden out in front. A man who was seeking retaliation for 9/11 drove by in his pickup truck and shot him five times and killed him assuming he was a Muslim. He was the first person to be murdered in a hate crime in the wake of the 11th September terrorist attack.

9/11 set off a backlash against the Sikh identity across the globe. In the UK we have led on some notable successes in defending the Sikh identity. But for reasons of political correctness the UK Government refuses to see “anti-Sikh hate” in the same way as Antisemitism and Islamophobia.

Following the EU Referendum Sikhs were almost totally overlooked in the government’s plan for tackling hate crime, Action Against Hate, published in July 2016. The plan focused on Islamophobia, Antisemitism and attacks against Christians. Subsequently, it emerged that 10 Downing Street had removed from the plan a case study of the attempted beheading of a Sikh dentist in a racially-motivated machete attack by far-right extremist, Zack Davies. Davies said it was a revenge attack for the murder of Lee Rigby by Islamic extremists. This hate crime, like many others against Sikhs was



recorded as a hate crime against Muslims, leaving the Sikh victims and Sikh community widely ignored in hate crime data and policies.

Recent events in Afghanistan and the re-emergence of the Taliban will almost certainly result in increased hate and attacks on turban wearing Sikhs that need to be acknowledged by the UK Government.

Another key focus at the Convention was the attempted extradition of three young Sikhs from the West Midlands who would face torture, not get a fair trial and could if extradited be given the death penalty.

Better political representation of Sikhs and the issues important to Sikhs in the UK remained an area of focus at the Convention. It was emphasised it was important to turn increased political activism by younger Sikhs into more Sikh MPs. Speakers touched upon the Labour Party having no Sikh in the House of Lords and the Labour leader being under intense pressure and expected to confirm its first Amritdhari (fully practising Sikh) in Parliament when the next round of political peerages are announced.

ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਦੀ 38ਵੀਂ ਵਰ੍ਹੇਗੰਢ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਮੈਂਟਿਕ ਵਿਖੇ ਮਨਾਈ

ਲੰਡਨ 12 ਸਤੰਬਰ (ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੱਧਨੀ ਕਲਾਂ)-ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਦੀ 38ਵੀਂ ਵਰ੍ਹੇਗੰਢ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਮੈਂਟਿਕ ਵਿਖੇ ਮਨਾਈ ਗਈ। ਜਿਸ 'ਚ ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਭਰ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਡੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਵਿਚ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਗਤ ਅਤੇ ਵੱਖ ਵੱਖ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਪਾਰਟੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਨੁਮਾਇੰਦਿਆਂ ਨੇ ਹਿੱਸਾ ਲਿਆ। ਭੋਗ ਤੋਂ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਅਤੇ ਕਥਾ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋਈ ਕਾਨਫਰੰਸ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਬੀਤੇ ਦੋਹਾਨ ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ

ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਵਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੇ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਦਾ ਲੇਖਾ-ਜੋਖਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ। ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਿੱਲ, ਭਾਈ ਕੁਲਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੌਹੂ, ਭਾਈ ਹਰਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ, ਭਾਈ ਨਰਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਖਾਂਦੀ, ਭਾਈ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ, ਗੁਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੌਹਲ, ਭਾਈ ਲਵਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਡੱਲੋਵਾਲ ਸਮੇਤ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਆਗੂਆਂ ਨੇ ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਵਲੋਂ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾ ਰਹੇ ਵਿਵਹਾਰ ਦੀ ਸਖ਼ਤ ਨਿੰਦਾ ਕੀਤੀ। ਭਾਰਤ 'ਚ ਨਜ਼ਰਬੰਦ ਜਗਤਾਰ

ਸਿੰਘ ਜੱਗੀ ਜੌਹਲ ਦੀ ਰਿਹਾਈ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਭਾਰਤ ਹਵਾਲਗੀ ਦਾ ਸਾਹਮਣਾ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਤਿੰਨ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੇ ਹੱਕ 'ਚ ਆਵਾਜ਼ ਬੁਲੰਦ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਅਪੀਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖ ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬੂਠੇ ਕੇਸਾਂ 'ਚ ਫਸਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਭਾਰਤ ਹਵਾਲਗੀ ਤੋਂ ਰੋਕ ਲਗਾਉਣੀ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ। ਐਮ.ਪੀ. ਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਗਿੱਲ ਅਤੇ ਕੌਸਲਜ ਰਾਜਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਵੀ ਸੰਬੰਧਨ ਕੀਤਾ।



13-Sep-2021
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HISTORIC EVENT IN UK PARLIAMENT - ANGLO-SIKH HISTORY AND ISSUES OF CONCERN TO BRITISH SIKHS TODAY

14 September 2021- Preet Kaur Gill MP, the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Sikhs hosted a parliamentary reception at the Speaker's House at the Palace of Westminster yesterday.

This historic event was used to reflect on Anglo-Sikh history and explore issues of concern to British Sikhs today. The Speaker spoke passionately about Sikhs and their contribution while welcoming around twenty parliamentarians and nearly sixty prestigious guests and leaders of the Sikh community gathered in the State Rooms in the Speaker's House.

Preet Kaur Gill MP and Dabinderjit Singh OBE, the principal adviser of the Sikh Federation (UK) explained the political significance of the Akal Takht as an institution founded by the 6th Sikh Guru more than 400 years ago as the place from which the spiritual and temporal concerns of the Sikh community should be acted upon.



All those gathered were told about the Khalsa rule first established in 1710 by Banda Singh Bahadur when ordinary farmers were first granted property rights giving a historical context to the current farmers protest in India.



Both Preet and Dabinderjit referred to the larger sovereign Sikh state established in 1799. Those gathered were reminded the Sikh Kingdom was annexed by the British in 1849 and subject to Anglo-Sikh treaties.

Reference was also made to Maharajah Duleep Singh the last ruler of the Sikh Kingdom, and the son of Maharajah Ranjit Singh, the ruler of the formidable Sikh empire, who was forcibly exiled in Britain at a young age and became the first recorded Sikh settler.

Several of those who spoke, including the Speaker mentioned Princess Sophia Duleep Singh the granddaughter of Maharaja Ranjit Singh who was one of the most prominent suffragettes who fought for women to have the right to vote in Britain over 100 years ago.

Dabinderjit commented that the British rulers of India after the two Anglo-Sikh wars carefully studied the Sikhs. British military commanders, politicians and scholars respected the Sikhs courage and understood the significance of the Sikh identity given by Guru Gobind Singh Ji and the spiritual powers of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. The British therefore promoted the need for Sikh soldiers and the requirement of the Sikh identity of those serving in the army.

Tom Tugendhat MP, the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee and Pat McFadden MP spoke of the Battle of Saragarhi on 12 September 1897, when tens of thousands of Afghan tribesmen attacked the outpost of Saragarhi. 21 Sikh soldiers refused to surrender and died in battle, in what is considered by some military historians as one of the greatest last stands in history.

Dabinderjit Singh spoke of Sikhs' sacrifices for Britain for 100 years following the annexation of the Sikh Kingdom. Hundreds of thousands of Sikhs answered the call of Britain and the Allies in both World Wars with over 83,000 turban-wearing Sikhs sacrificing their lives, with over 109,000 wounded.

Alongside this the Sikhs also played a leading role in the struggle for independence from the British. Specific reference was made to the turning point in the independence struggle with the Jallianwala Bagh massacre by the British in Amritsar in April 1919.



In February this year we also marked the 100th anniversary of the Nankana Sahib Saka (massacre) in Pakistan at the Birthplace of the founder, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. A lack of an apology by the UK Government for such atrocities under British rule has become more significant in recent years.



During the struggle for independence, Sikhs made up only around 1.5% of the Indian population out of 2,125 killed, 1,550 (73%) were Sikhs, out of 2,646 deported for life to the Andaman Islands, 2,147 (80%) were Sikhs and out of 127 sent to the gallows, 92 (80%) were Sikhs.

The UK Government acknowledged their admiration and appreciation of the Sikhs as well their sacrifices in the independence struggle. Clement Attlee's Labour Government therefore offered Sikhs a separate Sikh homeland and a ten-year agreement of military assistance and support for the



Sikh administration. For these reasons the Indian authorities should not demonise and hoodwink the UK and other governments about law-abiding Sikhs across the globe calling for the re-establishment of a sovereign Sikh State.

Gurpreet Singh Anand, the President of the first Sikh Gurdwara (Central Gurdwara, London) established in 1911 and the current Secretary General of the Sikh Council UK spoke before many politicians about issues of concern to British Sikhs today.

As the event took place two days after the 20th anniversary of 9/11 the issue of hate crime and how the Sikh identity has come under attack in the last 20 years were raised by several speakers. Kate Green MP, the Shadow Secretary of State for Education spoke of her immense appreciation of the Sikh community and it being a role model community setting an example to others through the pandemic.

Several speakers touched upon the Census 2021 failing to have an “ethnic” group category for Sikhs. Despite the Census 2021 categorisation there is a need for public bodies to collect data on Sikhs from an ethnicity perspective or Sikhs will remain invisible to public bodies. Balvinder Kaur Saund said:

“We are visible by our turbans for hate crimes, but in statistics, we are invisible. We don’t count, we are ignored, we are the quiet child who gets on with their lives working hard and feeding the world at crisis times.”

Balvinder Kaur Saund the Chair of the Sikh Women’s Alliance delivered an excellent speech under the theme “Sikh lives do matter”. She spoke about the UK Government not recognising Sikh sacrifices whether it be the Battle of Saragarhi or the sacrifices in the two world wars. She said the UK Government had built monuments to remember the horses and dogs who died in the wars, but Sikhs were still waiting for a monument to recognise Sikh sacrifices in central London that was promised by Ministers nearly four years ago in Parliament at a meeting presided by a former Speaker of the House with party political leaders present.

Balvinder Kaur spoke about the British “Brexiteer” in 1947 and the failure to return the Sikh Kingdom to the Sikhs. Stating, Sikhs are in exile across the globe and criticised the treatment of Sikhs by successive Indian governments.

Speaking about Maharaja Duleep Singh she said the British never allowed him to return home to his kingdom and claim the Kohinoor Diamond or the Sikh State. She applauded the work of Preet for her ongoing work to get Princess Sophia Duleep Singh recognised.

Given the event started with reference to the political significance of the Akal Takht it was not lost on those present that the UK assisted in the Indian army assault on the Sri Harmandir Sahib Complex in Amritsar in June 1984. The Indian Army destroyed the sanctity of Akal Takht using tanks and reduced it to rubble in Operation Blue Star.

The unfinished matter of the advice and assistance given to the Indian authorities in the 1984 Sikh Genocide was contrasted with India using the colonial past to hinder Britain taking up human rights concerns with India. Sikhs will continue to push politicians for an independent judge led inquiry into the UK role in the events of 1984 and the aftermath.



Having discussed Britain's colonial past and the events of 1984 reference was made to the UK Government having the courage to publicly raise human right concerns with India, including the treatment of religious minorities, women and the farmers' protest.

This was highlighted by Martin-Docherty Hughes MP who spoke about the failure of the UK Government in the case of his constituent Jagtar Singh Johal who has been tortured and has now been arbitrarily detained in India for nearly four years. The attempted extradition of three young British Sikhs from the West Midlands to India was also raised at the event.

Joy Morrissey MP, a PPS in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Vice Chair of the APPG also spoke of working with Preet to ensure the safety of Afghan Sikhs. This was a tireless cross-party effort working with other governments behind the scenes and Joy emotionally spoke of her unflinching admiration and support for Sikhs and her backing to secure Sikhs' freedom.

Preet asked Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) to say a few words of thanks at the end. He thanked all those who attended with special thanks to Sital Singh Maan and Amrit Singh Maan of Punjab Restaurant in Covent Garden. He also thanked Preet Kaur Gill for being an excellent host and making Sikhs proud and thanked all the speakers, especially Balvinder Kaur Saund who spoke from the heart.

Preet Kaur Gill MP, the host and Chair of the APPG for British Sikhs said: "It is a great honour to have held this event in the Speaker's House, to gather community leaders and Parliamentarians to celebrate British Sikh heritage and reflect on the issues affecting our communities today.

Sikh history is British history. To move forward we must acknowledge and understand the historic injustices and challenges Sikhs have faced while building on the great successes in Anglo-Sikh history over the past 200 years. That starts with open engagement and an honest reckoning with our country's past.

Across the globe, Governments should appreciate the enormous contribution Sikhs make to the world, working in collaboration with them to realise their ethos for the betterment of all."

Bhai Amrik Singh, Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) added: "Lessons must be learnt from the Anglo-Sikh history and the global Sikh community need and deserves closure on historic injustices.

The UK Government must also have the courage to tackle human rights abuses in India and not be seen to be turning the other way when it comes to the human rights of British Sikhs, like Jagtar Singh Johal or the three British Sikhs facing extradition."

ਬਰਤਾਨੀਆ ਦੀ ਸੰਸਦ 'ਚ 'ਐਂਗਲੋ ਸਿੱਖ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਅਤੇ ਬਰਤਾਨਵੀ ਸਿੱਖ' ਵਿਸ਼ੇ 'ਤੇ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਸਮਾਗਮ

ਲੰਡਨ, 14 ਸਤੰਬਰ (ਮਨੁੱਖੀਤ ਸਿੱਖ ਬੱਧਨੀ ਕਲਾਂ)-ਬਰਤਾਨੀਆ ਦੀ ਸੰਸਦ ਵਿਚ 'ਐਂਗਲੋ ਸਿੱਖ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਅਤੇ ਬਰਤਾਨਵੀ ਸਿੱਖ' ਵਿਸ਼ੇ 'ਤੇ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਸਮਾਗਮ ਆਲ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਪਾਰਲੀਮੈਂਟਰੀ ਗਰੁੱਪ ਫਾਰ ਸਿੱਖਸ ਵਲੋਂ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ। ਸਮਾਗਮ ਦੀ ਸ਼ੁਰੂਆਤ ਕਰੀਦਿਆਂ ਚੇਅਰਪਰਸਨ ਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਗਿੱਲ ਨੇ ਮਹਿਮਾਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਜੀ ਆਇਆਂ ਆਖਿਆ ਅਤੇ ਸਪੀਕਰ ਸਰ ਲਿੰਡਸੇ ਹੌਇਲ ਦਾ ਪੰਨਵਾਦ ਕੀਤਾ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਮਾਗਮ ਵਿਚ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ ਤਖਤ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੇ ਜਥੇਦਾਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਕਾਰਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਸਕੇ। ਸਪੀਕਰ ਹੌਇਲ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਬਰਤਾਨੀਆ ਦੀ

ਲੋੜੀਂ ਸਾਂਝ ਦਾ ਲੋਮਾ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਹੈ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖ ਭਾਈਚਾਰੇ 'ਤੇ ਮਾਣ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ

□ ਜਥੇਦਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋ ਸਕੇ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ

ਭਾਈ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੱਖ, ਗੁਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੱਖ ਅਨੰਦ, ਐਮ. ਪੀ. ਟੌਮ ਟ੍ਰਗੋਡਟ, ਕੇਟ ਗ੍ਰੀਨ, ਐਮ. ਪੀ. ਪੇਟ ਮੈਕਵੈਡਨ, ਐਮ. ਪੀ. ਮਾਰਟਿਨ ਡੇਚਰਟੀ ਹਿਊਜ਼, ਐਮ. ਪੀ. ਜੋਐ ਮੋਰਸੀ ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੱਖ ਗਿੱਲ, ਬਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ ਸੋਧ ਆਦਿ ਨੇ ਸੰਬੰਧਨ

ਕੀਤਾ। ਬਲਾਰਿਆਂ ਨੇ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ ਹਕੂਮਤ ਵਲੋਂ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਕੀਤੇ ਵਾਅਦੇ ਪੂਰ ਨਾ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਮੌਜੂਦਾ ਸਮੇਂ 'ਚ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਹੋ ਰਹੀਆਂ ਵਧੀਕੀਆਂ ਥਾਰੋ ਵੀ ਸ਼ਿਕਵੇ ਕੀਤੇ। ਸਿੱਖ ਪਹਿਚਾਣ ਨੂੰ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਹੋਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਹਮਲਿਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਵੀ ਚਿੰਤਾ ਪ੍ਰਗਟ ਕੀਤੀ। ਅਮਰੀਕਾ ਤੋਂ ਆਏ ਪ੍ਰਤਾਪ ਭਰਾਵਾਂ ਨੇ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਰਾਇਣਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀ ਭਰੀ। ਸਮਾਗਮ 'ਚ ਐਮ. ਪੀ. ਤਨਮਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੱਖ ਚੌਸੀ, ਕੌਸਲਰ ਲੀਡਰ ਜੱਸ ਅਠਵਾਲ, ਕੌਮਲ ਲੀਡਰ ਰਾਜਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੱਖ, ਮਨੁੱਖੀਤ ਸਿੱਖ ਧਾਲੀਵਾਲ, ਨਰਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੱਖ ਬਾਦੀ, ਕੌਸਲਰ ਗੁਰਚਰਨ ਸਿੱਖ, ਜਸਪਾਲ ਸਿੱਖ ਆਦਿ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਸਨ।



Cross-party event held in UK Parliament to reflect on Anglo-Sikh history

EasternEye

Eastern Eye - 16 September 2021

A historic cross-party event was held in the UK Parliament to reflect on Anglo-Sikh history and to explore issues connected to British Sikhs, a statement has said.

Preet Kaur Gill MP, the chair of the all-party parliamentary group for British Sikhs hosted the reception on Monday (13) in the Speaker's House at the Palace of Westminster.

Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP welcomed parliamentarians, guests and leaders of the Sikh community during the event.

Preet Kaur Gill MP and principal adviser of the **Sikh Federation (UK) Dabinderjit Singh OBE** have reflected on key moments from throughout Anglo-Sikh history over the last 200 years.

"Sikh history is British history. To move forward it is important to acknowledge and understand the historic injustices and challenges Sikhs have faced while building on the great successes in Anglo-Sikh history over the past 200 years. That starts with open engagement and an honest reckoning with our country's past," said Preet Kaur Gill MP.

"Across the globe, Governments should appreciate the enormous contribution Sikhs make to the world, working in collaboration with them to realise their ethos for the betterment of all."

Coinciding with Saragarhi Day, which remembers the sacrifice of 21 Sikh soldiers in the battle of Saragarhi in 1897, as well as the 20th anniversary of 9/11, speakers touched on both the present day and historic contributions and challenges facing the Sikh community.

President of the first Sikh Gurdwara and the current Secretary General of the Sikh Council UK Gurpreet Singh Anand, Chair of the Sikh Women's Alliance Balvinder Kaur Saund, foreign affairs select committee chair Tom Tugendhat MP, shadow secretary of state for Education Kate Green MP, parliamentary private secretary to the FCDO Joy Morrissey MP, MPs Martin Docherty-Hughes and Pat McFadden also spoke during the event.

Preet Kaur Gill MP and Tom Tugendhat MP have discussed the Hidden Heroes campaign which they have championed with We Too Built Britain, the statement added.

OVER 250 SIKH ORGANISATIONS DEMAND PRITI PATEL'S RESIGNATION

 Sikh Federation (UK)
@SikhFedUK

>160 UK Gurdwaras & Sikh orgs have signed open letter to @BorisJohnson demanding @pritipatel sacking for her appalling targeting of Sikh community on #Gurpurb. Letter has gone online for more Gurdwaras/orgs to sign. Thousands of individuals also signing sikhfeduk.com/campaigns/Open...



February 7th 2022

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 Gurpurb (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 Gurpurb is highly embarrassing for Boris Johnson, Number 10, the PMs 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 of 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 Gurpurb.

ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਦੀ ਗ੍ਰਹਿ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਪ੍ਰੀਤੀ ਪਟੇਲ ਦੇ ਬਿਆਨ ਤੋਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਭਾਈਚਾਰਾ ਨਾਰਾਜ਼

ਲੰਡਨ, 4 ਫਰਵਰੀ (ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਟਿੱਪਣੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਬੱਧਨੀ ਕਲਾ)- ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਦੀ ਗ੍ਰਹਿ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਵਿਆਖਿਆ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕਹਿ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ ਪ੍ਰੀਤੀ ਪਟੇਲ ਉੱਤੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬਦਨਾਮ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਦੋਸ਼ ਲਗਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਉਸ ਨੇ ਪਿਛਲੇ ਨਵੰਬਰ 'ਚ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਇੱਕ ਭਾਸ਼ਣ ਵਿਚ ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਵਲੋਂ ਅਮਰੀਕਾ ਨਾਲ ਸਿੱਖ ਵੱਖਵਾਦੀ ਕੱਟੜਪੰਥ ਨੂੰ 'ਸਾਡਾ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਖਤਰਾ' ਦੱਸਿਆ ਸੀ ਤੇ ਇਹ ਭਾਸ਼ਣ ਹੁਣੇ ਹੀ ਸੋਸ਼ਲ ਮੀਡੀਆ 'ਤੇ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਆਇਆ ਹੈ ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ (ਯੂ.ਕੇ.) ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਮੁੱਖ ਸਲਾਹਕਾਰ ਦਾਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਨਵੰਬਰ ਮਹੀਨੇ ਤੋਂ ਮੰਤਰੀਆਂ ਕੋਲ ਇਸ ਮੁੱਦੇ 'ਤੇ

ਟਿੱਪਣੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਪਰ ਹਾਲੇ ਤੱਕ ਕੋਈ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰ ਸਕਿਆ ਹੈ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਭਾਸ਼ਣ ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਨਸ਼ਰ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ। ਜੇਕਰ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੇ ਬਰਤਾਨੀਆ ਵਿਚ ਕੁਝ ਹਿੰਸਕ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਤਾਂ ਸ਼ਾਇਦ ਇਹ ਕਹਿਣਾ ਜਾਇਦ ਸੀ। ਅਸੀਂ ਹੈਰਾਨ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਗ੍ਰਹਿ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਨੇ ਅਜਿਹੀ ਟਿੱਪਣੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ। ਬਰਤਾਨੀਆ ਦੀ ਕਿਹੜੀ ਘਟਨਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਗ੍ਰਹਿ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਨੇ ਇਹ ਕਹਿਣਾ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਸਿੱਖ ਵੱਖਵਾਦੀ ਕੱਟੜਪੰਥੀਆਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਚਿੰਤਤ ਹੈ।



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."

Sikh groups call on PM to sack Priti Patel over her 'deeply offensive' remarks about the community



Morning Star – 16 February 2022

Claudia Webbe joined hundreds of organisations today in calling on Boris Johnson to sack Priti Patel for her "deeply offensive and indefensible" remarks about Britain's Sikh community.

The MP for Leicester East joined more than 250 gurdwaras, Sikh organisations and non-Sikh groups in a renewed call for the Home Secretary to be dismissed after she failed to recognise the birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji on November 19, which is an important day for the Sikh community.

Ms Patel has been condemned for instead using the day to make "offensive remarks" about "Sikh separatist extremism."

All MPs have been asked to publicly respond to the letter, saying what actions they are taking against Ms Patel to support the campaign.

On Tuesday, Ms Webbe became the first MP to publicly write to the Prime Minister, saying that

Ms Patel's speech came just months after a failed and flawed attempt to extradite three innocent British-born Sikhs to India, where they may "have faced torture or the death penalty."

Campaigners have also criticised the Home Secretary for allegedly blocking efforts to return British Sikh Jagtar Singh Johal to this country.

Mr Johal went to India five years ago to marry but was allegedly abducted and tortured by Indian police in prison, where he still remains.

Bhai Amrik Singh, chairman of the Sikh Federation (UK), who is co-ordinating the campaign, said that since becoming home secretary, Ms Patel has "deliberately gone out of her way to target and smear" the British Sikh community.

Mr Singh described her actions as "deeply offensive and indefensible."

Scottish Sikh groups in 200-plus call for PM to sack Priti Patel



The National - 11 February 2022

More than 20 Sikh Gurdwaras and organisations have called for Home Secretary Priti Patel to go

Sikh leaders from around Scotland have signed up to an open letter calling on Boris Johnson to sack Priti Patel "immediately" over "offensive" remarks.

Scottish centres and charities are amongst 200 Sikh organisations from around the UK to sign the letter that was sent to Johnson on Wednesday.

Gurdwaras in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow are amongst the signatories, as are charities including women's organisation Sikh Sanjog and

Sikhs in Scotland, whose food bank has been praised by the Prime Minister.

All now call on him to remove Patel as Home Secretary over comments she made in a US speech in which she referenced Daesh, spoke about proscribing four extreme right-wing groups spreading antisemitic propaganda and stated that "Sikh separatist extremism has also caused considerable tensions in recent years".

The speech, given to the Heritage Foundation conservative think tank, coincided with one of the holiest dates in the Sikh calendar and just months after the Indian government dropped its bid to



extradite three men from the West Midlands on terror charges.

They could have faced the death penalty if the bid had succeeded. It was based on evidence provided by Indian police officers who themselves had been convicted of involvement in disappearances, torture and murder and Gareth Peirce, who helped clear the Guildford Four, called the matter "extraordinary".

The letter, coordinated by the Sikh Federation UK, has described Patel's stance as "deeply offensive", claiming the content of her speech has "alarmed the law-abiding British Sikh community".

It further criticises the UK Government's handling of the Jagtar Singh Johal case, which has not been designated as an arbitrary detention despite calls from MPs, and hits out at Patel for the Home Office's refusal to allow the Scot's Indian wife permission to live with his family. That decision has been overturned after a legal battle.

The letter, coordinated by the Sikh Federation UK, has also been signed by members of the public in areas including Inverclyde, East Dunbartonshire, East Lothian and Argyll and Bute.

Stating that signatories are "appalled with the Home Secretary's warped view of the British Sikh community", it goes on: "The Home Secretary and those who wrote her speech must immediately apologise and she should resign or be sacked for her offensive comments and

actions towards the Sikh community or point out the specific incidents in recent years that led her to refer to Sikhs alongside Hamas and banned right wing groups."

At least one Sikh Conservative Party office bearer – Rashpal Hullaith, the chair of Stoke Poges and Wexham Conservatives and treasurer of the Beaconsfield Constituency Conservative Association – has publicly condemned Patel's comments as "ill-judged, baseless [and] inflammatory". He described them as "unbefitting the role of the Home Secretary".

The UK Government says it is "committed to tackling those who spread views that promote hatred against individuals and communities and work closely with international partners to tackle extremism in all its forms".

On Patel's reference to extremism, a spokesperson said: "The Government supports the universal right to freedom of expression. However, there is a balance to be struck and we are clear that this must be done within the law."

The National asked the Home Office for its reaction to the claims. However, no response was provided.

There are an estimated 700,000 Sikhs living in the UK including around 20,000 in Scotland, where the community is concentrated in and around Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee.

CALLS GROW FOR PRITI PATEL TO BE SACKED FOR HER ANTI-SIKH ACTIONS

"As a self-confessed backer of the right-wing BJP Indian Government Priti Patel is conflicted and dangerous in her role as Home Secretary. The actions she continues to take against the minority Sikh community shows her obvious bias and her latest attempt to defame British Sikhs stands fully exposed." - Bhai Amrik Singh, Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK)

18 March 2022 - Over 300 Gurdwaras and organisations signed up to an open letter to Boris Johnson calling for Priti Patel to be sacked for her anti-Sikh actions.

The Sikh Federation (UK) has written to Boris Johnson again today requesting a response to the three interrelated issues set out in the open letter sent to him more than five weeks ago on 9 February 2022.

In recent months we have had written exchanges and meetings with Conservative MPs, including Ministers who have been unable to defend the absence of a written or video message from the Prime Minister on the Gurburb (Birthday) of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.



Most agree he should simply apologise for this blunder and make sure this never happens again. Some have blamed Jonathan Hellewell, his faith adviser at Number 10 and others have laid the blame for the gaffe with Michael Gove, the Communities Secretary and Kemi Badenoch, the Faith Minister.

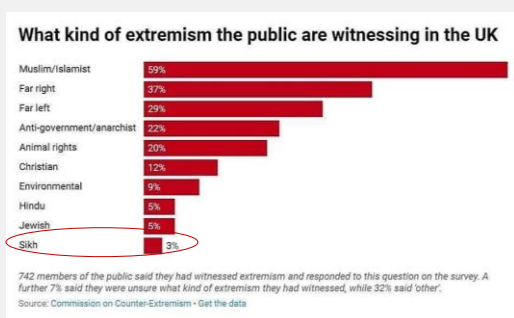


The main concern in the Sikh community has been the speech delivered by Priti Patel to the Heritage Foundation in Washington DC on Gurburb Day on 19 November 2021. In which she stated: “Sikh separatist extremism has also caused considerable tensions in recent years.” This raised many eyebrows as it was deliberate and pre-planned to smear British Sikhs calling for self-determination and the re-establishment of an independent sovereign Sikh State.

Following meetings with Conservative MPs, including Ministers, we have today written to the PM to suggest there should be an urgent investigation into Priti Patel’s appalling and inappropriate reference to Sikhs that is not supported by any evidence in the public domain.

Assistant Commissioner Matt Jukes, the Head of Counter Terrorism Policing at Scotland Yard, said at a briefing yesterday there were around “800 live investigations running at the moment”. He confirmed about 80% of these are linked to Islamist extremism and that “remains the predominant ideological threat we face in our work.”

Today we have confirmed in writing with the Counter Terrorism Policing HQ that approximately another 18% relate to extreme right wing terrorism and the remaining cases are less than 2% and classified as LASIT (Left, Anarchist and Single Issue Terrorism).



This evidence based on the Counter Terrorism Policing network that works alongside MI5 and other partners makes Priti Patel’s assertion about Sikh separatist extremism totally absurd. On 3 March 2022 Priti Patel published a transparency report on a range of disruptive powers targeting extremists involved in terrorism. data in this report is consistent with the data on live investigations shared by the Head of Counter Terrorism Policing at Scotland Yard. It confirms that Priti Patel was intentionally dishonest to refer to “Sikh separatist

extremism” being a problem in the UK in recent times.

We can only conclude Priti Patel made her assertion in Washington DC to appease the right-wing BJP Indian Government lobby and demonstrates she is conflicted and once again in breach of the Ministerial Code. She was probably not expecting her statement in Washington DC to a right wing think tank backing Trump would be picked up and highlighted in the UK where those responsible for counter terrorism know her assertion is offensive to British Sikhs as well as a total lie.



The third issue in the open letter is the arbitrary detention in an Indian jail of British citizen Jagtar Singh Johal for over four years. On Wednesday Liz Truss, the Foreign Secretary agreed at the dispatch box to meet his MP Martin Docherty-Hughes and Jagtar's family. This came the same day as news of the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a British-Iranian woman held in jail in Iran for six years.

Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) said: "Our letter to Boris Johnson today points out the Indian government has sided with Russia against Western democracies with regards to the attack on Ukraine. We have called on the UK Government to apply its own stated policy on arbitrary detention by increasing diplomatic pressure on India and securing the immediate release and return of Jagtar to his family in Scotland."

INCREASING NUMBER OF YOUNGSTERS AND FEMALES BECOMING SIKH COUNCILLORS



6 May 2022 - The local elections on 5 May resulted in more than a 10% increase in the number of Labour Sikh councillors that currently stand at 115. What was noticeable was the increase in the number of younger aged Sikh councillors and Sikh women being elected. One of these was Gurpreet Singh Johal, brother of Jagtar Singh 'Jaggi' Johal a UK national arbitrarily detained in India since 2017.

They see role models like Preet Kaur Gill and Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi as MPs and others like Jas Atwal and Satvir Kaur serve as council leaders and others serve as deputy leaders. Some of these will progress to become MPs.

Sikhs have not been able to make the same breakthrough with the Conservatives with the number of Sikh councillors barely reaching double figures. The growth in the number of younger Sikh councillors and greater female representation bodes well for Sikh political representation.

BORIS JOHNSON AND PRITI PATEL DEMONSTRATING CONTEMPT TOWARDS BRITISH SIKHS

9 June 2022 - Over 300 Gurdwaras and organisations sent an open letter to Boris Johnson exactly four months ago and have still not had a response despite Number 10 indicating to Sky News more than 10 weeks ago that a response would be sent.

The Sikh Federation (UK) is demanding a response from the PM to the three issues set out in the open letter. The letter was also signed by over 10,000 constituents in 48 hours covering nearly 450 MPs.

On the first issue in the letter the PM should show some humility and accept he made a mistake and apologise for completely forgetting to acknowledge the Gurburb or Birth of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak Dev Ji in November 2021. The US President, Canadian PM, Australian PM, Pakistani PM and Indian PM as well as the Labour Leader issued letters and video messages to show



Sikh community open letter calling for PM Boris Johnson to sack Priti Patel passes 230 Gurdwaras and Orgs & over 10,000 individuals in just 48Hrs



their appreciation and contribution of Sikhs across the globe on Gurburb day.

Boris Johnson has however issued a Vaisakhi video message in April 2022 and we have been told by Conservative MPs lessons have been learnt to ensure the same mistake is not repeated at Number 10 and there will be a message for the Gurburb of Guru Nanak Dev Ji later this year.

The other issue in the letter where Boris Johnson can now respond is the arbitrary detention and torture in an Indian jail for over four and half years of British citizen Jagtar Singh Johal. Boris Johnson supposedly raised Jagtar's case directly with Narendra Modi when he visited India in late April.

Liz Truss, the Foreign Secretary earlier today met Jagtar's family and his constituency MP to explain the UK government position given one of her predecessors (Jeremy Hunt) told Jagtar's wife more than three years ago that the UK Government had concluded Jagtar would not get a fair trial in India. However, Keir Starmer wrote to Boris Johnson on 31 May increasing pressure on him to act to seek Jagtar's release and return to the UK following the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions ruling that Jagtar must be immediately released.



The main concern of the British Sikh community has been the speech delivered by Priti Patel to the Heritage Foundation in Washington DC also on Gurburb Day on 19 November 2021. Speaking about the UK she referred to banning four extreme right-wing groups and laying an order in the UK Parliament banning Hamas. However, in between she stated: "Sikh separatist extremism (in Britain) has also caused considerable tensions in recent years."

When we highlighted this, it raised many eyebrows as it was false and a deliberate smear of British Sikhs calling for self-determination. Not a single Conservative Minister or MP has

been able to defend the Home Secretary's offensive comments since they were made. Some Conservative MPs have privately suggested she probably made the comments to appease the Narendra Modi led Indian Government and has been caught out.

Priti Patel's assertion about British Sikhs is totally absurd. She has smeared British Sikhs to appease the Indian Government and in a recent letter sent to Jeremy Wright QC she demonstrated her allergy to UK Gurdwaras and Sikh organisations or her incompetence by referring to the open letter sent by the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandakh Committee (SGPC) based in Amritsar, Punjab.

Every MP knows the letter was sent by the Sikh Federation (UK) and not the SGPC who are not even signatories. Home Office officials told a Sky News journalist that this was a Sikh Federation (UK) personal vendetta against Priti Patel. It was a Conservative, Shadow Home Secretary (Oliver Letwin) in opposition who announced the setting up of the Sikh Federation (UK) in September 2003 and we are the best known and most active Sikh organisation in Britain.

Conservative Ministers have confirmed in private the Home Secretary has pushed for the Sikh Federation (UK) and other grassroots Sikh organisations to be unofficially blacklisted and not to engage with us on any issues of concern to British Sikhs. We have substantiated this with FOI requests with several Government Departments. The most blatant example is blocking meetings with the Secretary of State for Education to discuss bullying and hate crimes targeting Sikh children.

Boris Johnson and Priti Patel are demonstrating their contempt and disrespect towards British Sikhs.



COMMITTEE UNDER PRESSURE TO INVESTIGATE MYSTERY OF DABINDERJIT'S LIFE PEERAGE NOT BEING HONOURED AFTER BEING APPROVED BY HM QUEEN IN DECEMBER 2020

23 April 2022 - The Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC) on 20 April took evidence from Lord Bew, the Chair of the House of Lords Appointments Commission (HOLAC) on the process of appointing peers.



Whilst the focus of questioning was supposed to be on Evgeny Lebedev and Peter Cruddas the first name raised by a Committee member was that of Dabinderjit Singh Sidhu. John McDonnell, the Labour MP for Hayes and Harlington who is a member of PACAC raised the case of Dabinderjit Singh Sidhu due to the lack of representation of Sikhs in the House of Lords. He questioned Lord Bew on a leak of Dabinderjit's name just before the public announcement that resulted in the announcement not taking place.

Lord Bew said he knew of the case and he has a "sense of what happened" and it was a "complicated case". He said the leak had nothing to do with HOLAC but confirmed there had not been a subsequent inquiry. Later Lord Bew was asked by David Jones the Conservative MP for Clwyd West if there had been any cases where HOLAC has approved a nomination, but the Prime Minister has not subsequently proceeded with the appointment?

Lord Bew after a long hesitation in response said this was extremely rare, but one case "came up earlier" in a clear reference to Dabinderjit. He confirmed the Prime Minister did not inform HOLAC as to what happened—the public announcement "just didn't happen". Lord Bew has been approached to clarify in writing to PACAC what he does know as he is aware the PM recommended Dabinderjit for a life peerage and HM Queen gave her approval.

PACAC members are understood to be deeply concerned to know why the public announcement of Dabinderjit's peerage did not take place if HM Queen had given her approval. Details from Dabinderjit's treatment by the political class could bring the entire peerage process into disrepute. It will highlight the system is corrupt and favours the powerful and influential.

Dabinderjit is hugely respected with an impeccable record of public service extending over 30 years. He is well known by the Sikh community across the globe as a human rights activist speaking up for the minority Sikh community. His case shows the odds are stacked against those from an underrepresented minority community who are prepared to raise their voice to criticise governments on their human rights record.

PACAC are expected to discuss Dabinderjit's life peerage when they next meet and will be looking for the Cabinet Office to make the public announcement at the first opportunity available. If this fails to happen there is a high risk of legal action that could show Cabinet Office officials and others acted unlawfully following pressure from the Indian Government.

Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) said: "Dabinderjit and the Sikh community have been patiently waiting for the public announcement of the life peerage.

Lord Bew's evidence suggests there has been a massive scandal and cover up of the delay of Dabinderjit's peerage.



We are confident PACAC will ask questions of the Cabinet Office who can put matters rights with a public announcement of Dabinderjit's life peerage.

If this does not happen many will be exposed within the government and the opposition for ignoring the wishes of HM Queen and bowing to the pressure of the Indian government who strongly opposed and lobbied against Dabinderjit's peerage when it was leaked."

ਮਹਾਰਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਦੇ ਬਾਵਜੂਦ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਆਖਰੀ ਸਮੇਂ ਲਾਰਡ ਸੂਚੀ 'ਚੋਂ ਹਟਾਉਣਾ ਬਣਿਆ ਚਰਚਾ ਦਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਾ



ਭਾਈ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਧੂ

ਲੰਡਨ, 25 ਅਪ੍ਰੈਲ (ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੱਧਨੀ ਕਲਾਂ)- ਦਸੰਬਰ 2020 'ਚ ਮਹਾਰਾਣੀ ਐਲਿਜ਼ਾਬੈੱਥ ਵਲੋਂ ਮਨਜ਼ੂਰੀ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਵੀ ਸਿੱਖ ਆਗੂ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਧੂ ਓ.ਬੀ.ਏ. ਨੂੰ ਲਾਰਡ ਨਾ ਬਣਾਏ ਜਾਣ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਨਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਨਵੀਂ ਚਰਚਾ ਛਿੜ ਗਈ ਗਈ ਹੈ । ਬੀਤੇ ਦਿਨੀਂ ਸੰਸਦ 'ਚ ਪੀ.ਏ.ਸੀ.ਏ.ਸੀ. (ਪਬਲਿਕ ਐਡਮਿਨਿਸਟਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਐਂਡ ਕੰਸਟੀਟਿਊਸ਼ਨਲ ਅਫੇਅਰ ਕਮੇਟੀ) ਨੇ ਐਚ.ਓ.ਐਲ.ਏ.ਸੀ. (ਹਾਊਸ ਆਫ਼ ਲਾਰਡਜ਼ ਅਪੁਆਇੰਟਮੈਂਟ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ) ਦੇ ਚੇਅਰਮੈਨ ਲਾਰਡ ਬੇਵ ਤੋਂ ਲਾਰਡ ਦੀ ਨਿਯੁਕਤੀ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਿਆ ਬਾਰੇ ਚਰਚਾ ਕੀਤੀ । ਪੀ.ਏ.ਸੀ.ਏ.ਸੀ. ਦੇ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਹੇਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਹਾਰਲਿੰਗਟਨ ਦੇ ਲੇਬਰ ਐਮ.ਪੀ. ਜੌਹਨ ਸੈਕਡੇਨਲ ਨੇ ਹਾਊਸ ਆਫ਼ ਲਾਰਡਜ਼ 'ਚ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੀ ਢੁਕਵੀਂ ਨੁਮਾਇੰਦਗੀ ਨਾ ਹੋਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਧੂ ਦਾ ਮਾਮਲਾ ਉਠਾਇਆ । ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਲਾਰਡ ਬੇਵ ਨੂੰ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਲੀਕ ਹੋਣ ਬਾਅਦ ਜਨਤਕ ਐਲਾਨ ਨਾ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਨਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛਿਆ ਤਾਂ ਲਾਰਡ ਬੇਵ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਕੇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਗੁੰਝਲਦਾਰ ਕੇਸ ਦੱਸਿਆ । ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਹੀ ਸਪੱਸ਼ਟ ਕੀਤਾ ਕਿ ਨਾਮ ਲੀਕ ਹੋਣ ਨਾਲ ਹਾਊਸ ਆਫ਼ ਲਾਰਡਜ਼

ਅਪੁਆਇੰਟਮੈਂਟ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਲੈਣਾ-ਦੇਣਾ ਨਹੀਂ, ਪਰ ਬਾਅਦ 'ਚ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਕੋਈ ਜਾਂਚ ਨਾ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਦੀ ਵੀ ਪੁਸ਼ਟੀ ਕੀਤੀ । ਜ਼ਿਕਰਯੋਗ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਨੂੰ ਲਾਰਡ ਬਣਾਏ ਜਾਣ ਲਈ ਬਰਤਾਨੀਆ ਦੀ ਮਹਾਰਾਣੀ ਵਲੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਦੇ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ, ਪਰ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਲੀਕ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਕੁਝ ਘੱਟਿਆ 'ਚ ਹੀ ਰੋਕ ਲਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ । ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਉਕਤ ਮਾਮਲੇ 'ਚ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਕਿਹੜੇ ਕਾਰਨ ਹਨ, ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਰ ਕੇ ਮਹਾਰਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਦੇ ਬਾਵਜੂਦ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਨੂੰ ਲਾਰਡਸ਼ਿਪ ਲਈ 16 ਮਹੀਨਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਰੋਕ ਕੇ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ ।

SIKH POLITICAL LOBBY OF UK PARLIAMENT CALLED FOR TUESDAY 12 JULY 2022 FROM 12 TO 3PM

July 2022 - A Sikh political lobby has been called to challenge Boris Johnson and Number 10's failure to respond to key Sikh community issues;

- Jagtar Singh Johal - securing his immediate release and return to the UK
- Priti Patel - action for her offensive & inappropriate comments about British Sikhs as extremists
- Acknowledging & recognising #AntiSikhHate as per the APPG Hate Crime report
- Failure to appropriately tackle bullying & discrimination of Sikh children in school

Regrettably more than 20 weeks after the open letter was sent to the PM and copied to other party leaders and all MPs the PM has struggled and failed to respond to the issues raised. Sikhs from across the UK are disappointed and have decided to lobby their



MPs in Parliament on Tuesday 12 July from 12 noon to 3pm if a response is not received by 8 July 2022. MPs will be asked what they have done to secure a response from the PM to the issues in the open letter.

SIKH POLITICAL LOBBY CANCELLED FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PM THIS MORNING AND HIS RESIGNATION

7 July 2022 - Thirty minutes before Boris Johnson resigned today, he wrote to Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK), with a response to the open letter sent to him on 9 February 2022 from over 300 UK Gurdwaras and Sikh organisations.

In recent communications with 10 Downing Street the Sikh Federation (UK) indicated Boris Johnson needed to respond to the open letter by Friday 8 July or a mass Sikh lobby would take place on Tuesday 12 July.

In the letter he has apologised as Prime Minister for the UK Government not acknowledging the Gurburb of Guru Nanak Dev Ji in November 2021 and promised it would not happen again.

Boris Johnson has also expanded and gone further than his letter to Keir Starmer about the arbitrary detention of Jagtar Singh Johal and admitted Jagtar "has been detained arbitrarily in India, for the past four years".

Boris Johnson has stated: "Ministers and officials have raised our concerns directly with the Government of India, regarding Mr Johal's treatment and right to a fair trial, on almost a hundred occasions since November 2017."

Boris Johnson has however completely avoided addressing the need for action against Priti Patel for her actions against the British Sikh community. He has made no attempt to defend her actions and her offensive, disgraceful and unsubstantiated comments labelling British Sikhs as extremists.

Bhai Amrik Singh said:

"Given Boris Johnson's letter sent this morning, his subsequent resignation and the turmoil caused by dozens of Ministerial resignations, we have decided to cancel the Sikh political lobby for next Tuesday.

We have however written back to the PM requesting he urgently meet Jagtar Singh Johal's family and reassure them he will use his remaining term in office to secure his release and return to the UK.

In writing back to him we have noted the Prime Minister has made no attempt to defend Priti Patel's actions and remarks so we will continue to campaign to have her removed as Home Secretary.

It is unclear who will become the next Prime Minister, but many politicians are aware of the concerns we have raised about Priti Patel and the issues we would have raised at the lobby next week.

We will look to the new Prime Minister and a new Ministerial team to hit the reset button and have a different relationship with grassroots Sikh organisations, like the Sikh Federation (UK)."



ਬੌਰਿਸ ਜੌਹਨਸਨ ਨੇ ਅਸਤੀਫ਼ੇ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਪੱਤਰ ਲਿਖ ਕੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਮੰਗੀ ਮੁਆਫ਼ੀ

12 ਨੂੰ ਪਾਰਲੀਮੈਂਟ 'ਚ ਹੋਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਸਿੱਖ ਲਾਬੀ ਮੁਲਤਵੀ

ਲੰਡਨ, 8 ਜੁਲਾਈ (ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੱਧਨੀ ਕਲਾਂ)-ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਬੌਰਿਸ ਜੌਹਨਸਨ ਨੇ ਅਸਤੀਫ਼ਾ ਦੇਣ ਤੋਂ ਅੱਧਾ ਘੰਟਾ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਮਸਲਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਸੰਬੰਧ 'ਚ ਇਕ ਪੱਤਰ ਲਿਖ ਕੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਮੁਆਫ਼ੀ ਮੰਗੀ, ਇਹ ਪੱਤਰ ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਯੂ. ਕੇ. ਦੇ ਚੇਅਰਮੈਨ ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਿੱਲ ਨੂੰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਤਿੰਨ ਮੁੱਦਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਜਵਾਬ 'ਚ ਭੇਜਿਆ, ਜੋ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ 9 ਫਰਵਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਪੱਤਰ ਲਿਖ ਕੇ ਉਠਾਏ ਸਨ, ਜਿਸ



ਬੌਰਿਸ ਜੌਹਨਸਨ ਨੇ ਅਸਤੀਫ਼ੇ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਪੱਤਰ...

(ਸਫ਼ਾ 1 ਦੀ ਬਾਕੀ)

ਵਿਚ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਗੁਰਪੁਰਬ ਮੌਕੇ ਨਵੰਬਰ 2021 'ਚ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਵਲੋਂ ਕੋਈ ਸੰਦੇਸ਼ ਜਾਰੀ ਨਾ ਕਰਨਾ, ਜਗਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੱਗੀ ਜੋਗਲ ਦੀ ਰਿਹਾਈ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਬਰਤਾਨਵੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਤੋਂ ਸਿੱਧਾ ਦਖਲ ਦੇਣ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ, ਗ੍ਰਹਿ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਪ੍ਰੀਤੀ ਪਟੇਲ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਸਿੱਖ ਖਿਲਾਫ਼ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ਯੋਗ ਟਿੱਪਣੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਬਣਦੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਬੌਰਿਸ ਜੌਹਨਸਨ ਨੇ ਜਵਾਬੀ ਪੱਤਰ 'ਚ ਗੁਰਪੁਰਬ ਮੌਕੇ ਸੰਦੇਸ਼ ਜਾਰੀ ਨਾ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮੁਆਫ਼ੀ ਮੰਗਦਿਆਂ ਅੱਗੋਂ ਅਜਿਹਾ ਨਾ ਹੋਣ ਭਰੋਸਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ। ਜੱਗੀ ਜੋਗਲ

ਦੇ ਮਾਮਲੇ 'ਚ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਾਡੇ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਵਾਰ-ਵਾਰ ਭਾਰਤ ਕੋਲ ਮੁੱਦਾ ਉਠਾ ਚੁੱਕੇ ਹਨ। ਜਦਕਿ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਪ੍ਰੀਤੀ ਪਟੇਲ ਦੇ ਮਾਮਲੇ 'ਚ ਕੋਈ ਜਵਾਬ ਨਹੀਂ ਦਿੱਤਾ। ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਿੱਲ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਬੌਰਿਸ ਜੌਹਨਸਨ ਵਲੋਂ ਅਸਤੀਫ਼ਾ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਕੇ 12 ਜੁਲਾਈ ਨੂੰ ਹੋਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਸਿੱਖ ਲਾਬੀ ਮੁਲਤਵੀ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ, ਪਰ ਉਹ ਗ੍ਰਹਿ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਪ੍ਰੀਤੀ ਪਟੇਲ ਨੂੰ ਅਹੁਦੇ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਖ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਰਕਾਰ 'ਤੇ ਦਬਾਅ ਬਣਾਈ ਰੱਖਣਗੇ। ਭਾਈ ਗਿੱਲ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖ ਲਾਬੀ ਅਗਲੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਦੀ ਚੋਣ ਹੋਣ ਤੱਕ ਮੁਲਤਵੀ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ।

NEXT UK PM: LEADERSHIP HOPEFULS ASKED TO CLARIFY VIEWS FOR SIKH CONSERVATIVE VOTE

1 August 2022 - The Sikh Federation (UK) was set up in September 2003 in a well-publicised event where the Conservative Shadow Home Secretary at that time announced the launch of the organisation.

The Sikh Federation (UK) has thousands of members across the UK that are politically active and tens of thousands of Sikh supporters that attend events and join campaigns. There are estimated to be around 1,000 Sikh Conservative party members who will be voting to select the next Conservative Leader and next Prime Minister.

The Sikh Federation (UK) has written to Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak to clarify their views on three specific issues of concern to British Sikhs. It hopes to get responses from both candidates so they can be shared with the British Sikh community and those in the community who will be casting their vote in the leadership contest in the coming few weeks.

The three issues are:

1) The release and return of Jagtar Singh Johal who has been tortured and is in arbitrary detention in an Indian jail for nearly 5 years

Boris Johnson wrote to Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) on 7 July 2022 just before he resigned apologising to the Sikh community and clarifying the UK Government's position on the arbitrary detention of Jagtar Singh Johal.

The letter to both leadership hopefuls asks:



“Given Jagtar now faces the risk of the death penalty in India will you increase efforts to secure the immediate release and return of Jagtar to his family in Scotland in line with UK Government pronouncements on the arbitrary detention of British nationals?”

2) Priti Patel's offensive and unsubstantiated comments labelling British Sikhs as extremists

Boris Johnson in his letter of 7 July 2022 in response to an open letter from over 300 UK Gurdwaras and Sikh organisations sent 5 months earlier completely avoided addressing Priti Patel's actions against the British Sikh community, including the failed extradition of those associated with Jagtar Singh Johal and the attempted deportation of Jagtar's wife. He found it impossible to defend Priti Patel's actions and her offensive and unsubstantiated comments labelling British Sikhs as extremists.

The letter to both leadership hopefuls asks:

“If you become the next Prime Minister, will you have a new Home Secretary who is competent to tackle the many challenges facing the proper administration of the Home Office where Priti Patel has clearly failed and hit the reset button to have a different relationship with grassroots Sikh organisations?”

3) Addressing Anti-Sikh hate in the same way as Antisemitism and Islamophobia

The Metropolitan Police recently provided the Sikh Federation (UK) with data on reported anti-Sikh hate crimes in the last 12 months up to 31 March 2022. This suggests when the Home Office releases nationwide data in October 2022 it will show a four-fold increase in Anti-Sikh hate across the UK in the last 12 months. The increased reporting is a direct result of Sikh community action to encourage increased reporting.

The letter to both leadership hopefuls asks:

“Will you as Prime Minister acknowledge and address Anti-Sikh hate in the same way as Antisemitism and Islamophobia by providing resources to tackle the massive increase in reported Anti-Sikh hate crimes and support a community-led solution to increased reporting so law enforcement agencies are better able to understand and confront the issue?”

Many are of the view that Liz Truss, the frontrunner will have much more to say and make a commitment in response to the Sikh community while Rishi Sunak may struggle as he has previously not had to address any of these issues.

ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਨੇ ਰਿਸ਼ੀ ਸੁਨਾਕ ਅਤੇ ਲਿਜ਼ ਟਰੱਸ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖ ਮੁੱਦਿਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਪੱਤਰ



ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਿੱਲ

ਲੰਡਨ, 31 ਜੁਲਾਈ (ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੱਧਨੀ ਕਲਾਂ)- ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਦੀ ਦੌੜ ਦੇ ਆਖਰੀ ਪੜਾਅ 'ਚ ਕੰਜ਼ਰਵੇਟਿਵ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਦੇ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਲੁਭਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ 'ਚ ਰੁੱਝੇ ਰਿਸ਼ੀ ਸੁਨਾਕ ਅਤੇ ਲਿਜ਼ ਟਰੱਸ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖ ਮਾਮਲਿਆਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਨੇ ਪੱਤਰ ਲਿਖ ਕੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਜਾਣਨ ਦੀ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ। ਚੇਅਰਮੈਨ ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਿੱਲ ਵਲੋਂ ਲਿਖੇ ਪੱਤਰ 'ਚ ਤਿੰਨ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੁੱਦਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਠਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ, ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਪੱਛਿਆ ਕਿ ਭਾਰਤ 'ਚ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਸ਼ਾਸਿਤ ਸਿੱਖ ਜੱਗੀ ਜਾਂਹਲ ਦੀ ਰਿਹਾਈ ਲਈ ਉਹ ਕੀ ਕਰਨਗੇ, ਗ੍ਰਹਿ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਪ੍ਰੀਤੀ ਪਟੇਲ ਵਲੋਂ ਅਮਰੀਕਾ 'ਚ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਅਪਮਾਨਜਨਕ ਟਿੱਪਣੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਲੈ ਕੇ, ਕੀ ਨਵੇਂ ਗ੍ਰਹਿ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਦੀ ਨਿਯੁਕਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਕਰਨਗੇ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਤੀਜਾ ਮਾਮਲਾ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਨਫਰਤੀ ਅਪਰਾਧਾਂ ਦਾ ਉਠਾਇਆ ਹੈ, ਜਿਸ 'ਚ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਪੁੱਛਿਆ ਕਿ, ਕੀ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਹੋਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਨਫਰਤੀ ਅਪਰਾਧਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਯਕੂਦਿਆਂ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਹੋਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਨਫਰਤੀ ਅਪਰਾਧਾਂ ਵਾਂਗ ਹੀ ਗੰਭੀਰਤਾ ਨਾਲ ਲਿਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ

2016 'ਚ ਜਦੋਂ ਨਫਰਤੀ ਅਪਰਾਧਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਵਾਰ ਭਾਈਚਾਰਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਅਧਾਰ 'ਤੇ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਿਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ, ਉਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਨਫਰਤੀ ਅਪਰਾਧਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਯਕੂਦਿਆਂ ਵਾਂਗ ਤਰਜੀਹ ਨਹੀਂ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਭਾਈ ਗਿੱਲ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਕੰਜ਼ਰਵੇਟਿਵ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਦੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੋਵੇਂ ਆਗੂਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਸਵਾਲਾਂ ਦੇ ਜਵਾਬ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਹੀ ਆਪਣਾ ਫੈਸਲਾ ਬਣਾਉਣਾ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ।



NUMBER OF SIKH LABOUR MPs EXPECTED TO AT LEAST DOUBLE IN NEXT GENERAL ELECTION

July 2022 - In June 2017 Preet Kaur Gill, the first Sikh woman MP was elected from Birmingham Edgbaston and Tanmanjeet Singh Dhese, the first turban wearing Sikh MP was elected from Slough.

Preet and Tan manjeet are Labour MPs and having been unanimously re-selected by local Labour Party members they are expected to be joined by at least two other Sikhs as Labour MPs.

Satvir Kaur, the current Labour Council Leader in Southampton has been selected by Labour Party members to replace Dr Alan Whitehead from Southampton Test where Labour has a majority of 6,213.

Harpreet Kaur Uppal has been selected by Labour Party members to replace Barry Sheerman from Huddersfield where Labour has a 4,937 majority.

Selections are continuing and at least two other Sikhs have good chances of being selected in existing safe Labour seats in Ilford South and Derby South. Sikhs in the Conservative Party have struggled in recent years being put forward to contest from existing Conservative seats or winnable seats.

SIKH FEDERATION (UK) WELCOME THE HISTORIC ELECTION VICTORY OF LONG STANDING KHALISTANI POLITICAL LEADER SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN TO THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT

27 June 2022 - Sikh Federation (UK) congratulate Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann, head of Akali Dal Amritsar Mann for his historic election victory as a Member of Parliament for Sangrur district Punjab, to the Lok Sabha Indian Parliament, as a staunch advocate and campaigner for an independent Sikh state Khalistan.



ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਿੱਲ, ਭਾਈ ਕੁਲਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਚਹੜੂ, ਭਾਈ ਹਰਦੀਸ਼ ਸਿੰਘ, ਭਾਈ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਧੂ, ਭਾਈ ਨਰਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਥਾਂਦੀ।

ਸਿਮਰਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਮਾਨ ਦੀ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਕ ਜਿੱਤ 'ਤੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਵਲੋਂ ਖੁਸ਼ੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਾਵਾ

ਅਜੀਤ
http://epaper.ajitlandhar.co

ਲੰਡਨ, 27 ਜੂਨ (ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੱਧਨੀ ਕਲਾਂ)- ਸਿਮਰਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਮਾਨ ਦੀ ਹੋਈ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਕ ਜਿੱਤ ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਦੇ ਆਗੂਆਂ ਨੇ ਮਾਨ ਨੂੰ ਵਧਾਈ ਦਿੰਦਿਆਂ ਖੁਸ਼ੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਾਵਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਗਰੂਰ ਦੇ ਹਲਕੇ ਦੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦਾ ਪੰਨਵਾਦ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ। ਸਿੱਖ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਦੇ ਚੇਅਰਮੈਨ ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਿੱਲ, ਭਾਈ ਕੁਲਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਚਹੜੂ, ਭਾਈ ਨਰਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਥਾਂਦੀ, ਭਾਈ ਦਬਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਧੂ, ਭਾਈ ਹਰਦੀਸ਼ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸ਼ੁੱਠੀ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ

ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਸ: ਮਾਨ ਦੀ ਜਿੱਤ ਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਸੋਚ ਨੂੰ ਨਵਾਂ ਮੋੜ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ। ਸ: ਮਾਨ ਨੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਹੱਕਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਆਜ਼ਾਦੀ ਲਈ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਆਵਾਜ਼ ਬੁਲੰਦ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ। ਸੰਗਰੂਰ ਦੇ ਨਿਪੜਕ ਵੋਟਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਾਰੀਆਂ ਧਿਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਲਾਂਭੇ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਿਮਰਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਮਾਨ ਨੂੰ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਭਵਿੱਖ ਦੀ ਵੱਡੀ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਸੌਂਪੀ ਹੈ, ਆਸ ਹੈ ਮਾਨ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਵਾਂਗ ਆਪਣੇ ਹਲਕੇ ਦੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਹੋਰ ਮਸਲਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਨਾਲ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਅਤੇ ਪੱਥਕ ਮਸਲਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਆਵਾਜ਼ ਬੁਲੰਦ ਕਰਦੇ ਰਹਿਣਗੇ।



DEFENDING AND PROMOTING THE SIKH IDENTITY

Twenty years after 9/11, Sikhs still feel more to do to stop victimization of mistaken identity

ZEE NEWS

Immediately after the 9/11 attack, Sikh males were targeted, especially by white supremacists, who would taunt them for their turban, beard and similar looks to that of Islamist terrorists.

- In India, the key Sikh organisations have been doing relentless work to inform the world about the distinct Sikh identity
- Their efforts, however, appeared to have borne no fruits given the incessant hate crime against Sikhs.

Zee News – 13 September 2021

New Delhi: 9/11 (terrorist attacks against the US carried on September 11, 2001) had nothing to do with Sikhs, but the community inadvertently became victim to one of the ghastly attacks on the US soil carried out by Islamist terror group al-Qaeda.

Immediately after the attack, the Sikh males were targeted, especially by white supremacists, who would taunt them for their turban, beard, and similar looks to that of Islamist terrorists. The young Sikh children were bullied in schools and marketplaces and often subjected to hate crimes of varied natures.



Michael Scharmann/The Arizona Republic

Various Sikh bodies across the world claim to have worked tirelessly to acquaint the world with the distinct Sikh identity post 9/11 and even during the coronavirus pandemic but have not been completely successful in achieving their target owing to which Sikhs still become victims to hate crimes.

The international Sikh leadership had also been endeavouring to lobby politicians and use technology and their contacts across the globe to ensure that those in power understand their concerns. **Bhai Amrik Singh, Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK)**, said at National Sikh Convention at Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Smethwick on September 12.

"Twenty years earlier we had the vision to develop the first-ever Sikh Agenda for the UK Government that was launched at the convention in September 2001 within days of the 9/11 terror attack. Since then we have had new global challenges, especially linked to discrimination and attacks on our Sikh identity. We have however had some notable successes in defending our Sikh identity and have come a long way, although the re-emergence of the Taliban will create further difficulties" he told Zee Media.

"Post attack at twin tower on September 11, 2001, there has been strong sentiment against the perpetrators of this attack in the United States but at many places in the US, Sikhs were targeted because of mistaken identity. From verbal to physical attacks reported at many places, even places of worship were targeted and the first casualty was a Sikh, Balbir Singh Sodhi with a fatal shooting. But gradually efforts were made to educate the American people to let them know about Sikhs," said Pritpal Singh, coordinator American Gurdwara Parbhandhak Committee (AGPC).

This was one of the main reasons for the inception of the American Sikhs Congressional



caucus, Which is supported by bipartisan Congressmen of the United States of America claims Pritpal Singh. community performs or even outperforms others in the humanitarian services across the globe.

Many Sikh organisations including Sikh Coalition, United Sikhs, AGPC, Eco Sikh like Sikh bodies contributed, and cases of hate crime were put onto trials and punished by the courts, yet there is still a gap to fill however we were able to bring the law of hate crime in force.

The hate crimes against Sikhs have been largely due to their outlook no matter how much the

Here in India both the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, the key Sikh organisations, have been harping on their voice of doing relentless work to inform the world about the distinct Sikh identity through Indian embassies abroad but their efforts appeared to have born no fruits given the incessant hate crime against Sikhs.

71-YEAR OLD SIKH STROKE VICTIM HAS FACIAL HAIR ILLEGALLY REMOVED IN HOSPITAL IN PMs CONSTITUENCY WITHOUT ANY CLINICAL REASONING

4 October 2021 - A family living in Southall is furious with staff at Hillingdon Hospital after a 71-year old Sikh who had a stroke and was unable to speak had his moustache and beard cut without obtaining his permission or seeking the consent of his family. Staff subsequently tried to hide their actions from his family.



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

A 71-year old Sikh stroke victim has had his facial hair illegally removed in Hillingdon Hospital without any clinical reasoning.

Mr Singh was admitted to Hillingdon hospital, which is in Boris Johnson's constituency, after suffering a stroke. The hospital then insisted on Covid measures and only allowed access via facetime. The family was shocked to see their fathers beard and moustache had been cut and trimmed!

The Sikh family have been left distraught with no explanation or investigation. Instead the Mr Singh's daughters faced abuse and their concerns ignored.

WHY DOES SUCH IGNORANCE AND DISREGARD TO THE SIKH IDENTITY STILL EXIST?

Raise your voice and concerns with the Hillingdon Hospital @HillingdonNHSFT, @NHSuk and with the Department for Health @DHSCgovuk, @SajidJavid, @BorisJohnson

@SikhFedUK | info@sikhfeduk.com

The 71-year old being a Sikh is not permitted to cut any of his hair and this would have been well known to staff at Hillingdon Hospital given the local demographics and high proportion of Sikhs living and working at the hospital. Hillingdon Hospital is in Boris Johnson's constituency and has a reputation for poor health care.

The 71-year old's daughter last week during a video call noticed her father was unusually wearing a normal mask and was told this was because of Covid. In a follow up video call the next day nurses would only show the eyes of the 71-year old.

A complaint was made the following day to the Ward Manager and a video call showing his full face was permitted. His family members were shocked to note their father's moustache and beard had been trimmed by staff and they offered no clinical reasoning for cutting his facial hair.

The family met the Ward Manager early the next day and they were only given a verbal apology knowing what they had done to comprise Mr Singh's faith was a major mistake and unforgivable. Staff at the hospital have declined to provide a written apology and stopped the family from having all video calls.

The 71-year old's daughter has reached out to the Sikh Federation (UK) who wrote to Sajid Javid, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and his Labour counterpart Jon Ashworth. Both have large numbers of Sikh constituents and will be appalled to learn of the incident.



The Sikh Federation (UK) has also written to Patricia Wright, the Chief Executive of Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust demanding answers. Why was the hair cut unnecessarily of the 71-year old stroke victim, why was consent from his family not obtained given his mental capacity following his stroke, why was there an attempted cover up of his abuse and why has a written apology to the family not been forthcoming.

Chief Executive of Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust apologises and calls for full investigation

Family to raise formal complaint referring to racism, ignorance and insensitivity

The Sikh Federation (UK) wrote to Patricia Wright, the Chief Executive of Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust late Sunday and to her credit she responded within 24 hours apologising for any distress caused to the 71-year old and his family.

She continued: "The Trust has a strong commitment to recognising the needs of our diverse population and I will ensure that we undertake a full investigation and get back to the family as soon as possible."

The family has been inundated with messages of support and will be making a formal complaint that is expected to refer to racism, ignorance and insensitivity.

The Chief Executive also stated she cannot see any reason why the family was being denied video calls with the 71-year old and that she would follow this up with the ward.

She continued "I am very sorry that the first interaction I have had with the Sikh Federation is via a complaint" and has arranged to meet with representatives of the Sikh Federation (UK) to discuss broader concerns we raised.



The Sikh Federation (UK) has called for a full investigation on how the incident took place, what disciplinary action will be taken against those named in the medical records and the lessons learnt to prevent a similar incident happening in the future. The family has been advised it may sue Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for failing to observe the law that protects patients from such abuse.

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

"It is impossible to describe in words the impact on a Sikh of his hair being removed without consent and with no clinical reasoning. This is a gross violation of the patients' human rights and his right to practice his faith for which heads must roll.

We can only imagine the trauma of this outrageous act on the mental well-being of the 71-year old stroke victim who has already been suffering for over 6 weeks. His family are deeply upset by the actions of staff at Hillingdon Hospital who firstly completely disrespected their father's faith followed by an attempted cover up that makes the situation even worse."

Family of Sikh man, 71, furious as hospital cuts beard off in 'gross violation'



The man from Ealing, West London was admitted to Hillingdon Hospital after suffering a stroke where they cut his beard without obtaining his permission or seeking the consent of his family

Daily Mirror – 7 October 2021

A hospital breached a 71-year-old Sikh stroke victim's religious beliefs by removing his beard without family consent.

Mr Singh, whose family don't want him to be named for safety reasons, was left unable to speak after suffering a stroke.

The man from Ealing, West London was admitted to Hillingdon Hospital where they cut his beard without obtaining his permission or seeking the consent of his family.

In the Sikh religion, a beard signifies their commitment to the religion. The Rehat Maryada

explicitly forbids cutting or shaving any body hair for initiated Sikhs.

The family claim this would have been well known to staff at Hillingdon Hospital given the local demographics and high proportion of Sikhs living and working at the hospital.

They believe the staff subsequently tried to hide their actions from them by covering his chin with a face mask during video calls, reports MyLondon.

His daughter last week during a video call noticed her father was unusually wearing a normal mask and was told this was because of Covid. In a follow up video call the next day nurses would only show the eyes of the 71-year old.



A complaint was made the following day to the ward manager and a video call showing his full face was permitted.

His family members were shocked to see that their father's moustache and beard had been trimmed by staff and they offered no clinical reasoning for cutting his facial hair.

His daughter Manpreet told MyLondon: "I broke down and started crying because I've never seen him like that, he always had a beard when I grew up.

"The way they covered up their mistake made it even worse. All we wanted as a family was a written apology but they refused. The staff were really rude and now they have stopped us from having any video calls with him.

"We are unhappy with the NHS and we want to take it further. I would encourage anyone else that this has happened to, to do the same. This is not right."

The Sikh Federation (UK) has also written to Patricia Wright, the Chief Executive of Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, demanding answers.

Mr Singh's daughter has now reached out to the Sikh Federation (UK), who has written to Sajid

Javid, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

The Sikh Federation (UK) has also written to Patricia Wright, the Chief Executive of Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, demanding answers, and called for a full investigation on how the incident took place.

The family has been advised it may sue Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for failing to observe the law that protects patients from such abuse.

Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) said: "It is impossible to describe in words the impact on a Sikh of his hair being removed without consent and with no clinical reasoning.

"This is a gross violation of the patients' human rights and his right to practice his faith for which heads must roll.

"They knew what they had done to compromise Mr Singh's faith was a major mistake and unforgivable."

He added: "We can only imagine the trauma of this outrageous act on the mental well-being of the 71-year old stroke victim who has already been suffering for over 6 weeks.

SIKH FEDERATION (UK) HOLDS ITS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, WHICH COINCIDES WITH THE SIKH NEW YEAR

13 March 2022 - The Sikh Federation (UK) has since March 2016, when the UK Government officially lifted the ban on the International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) been holding an Annual General Meeting to coincide with the Sikh New Year. The 2022 AGM took place at Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Smethwick.



The AGM is very different to the September Convention and monthly programmes in that it is open to members to get an update on activities and developments over the last 12 months and raise questions. This year the focus was on reorganisation at the national and local level and an update on key projects and campaigns.

Leicester: Boys arrested after 'hate crime' on Sikh boys



BBC News Online - 23 March 2022 (extract)

Three schoolboys have been arrested after an alleged hate crime on two Sikh teenagers in Leicester.

A video posted on social media shows the pupils wearing turbans being followed by a group before one is punched and a turban is pulled off.

Police said the attack happened in Marydene Drive, Leicester, on Friday, near Judgemeadow Community College.

The force confirmed it was investigating this as a hate crime and were taking the matter seriously.

Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews confirmed three 14-year-old boys were arrested and have since been released on police bail while officers carry out further inquiries.

He thanked police for their "swift action" in responding to the attack.

"Leicestershire Police works hard to eliminate any form of hatred and is focussed on promoting cohesion amongst Leicester's diverse communities," said Mr Matthews.

"I would like to thank officers for their robust and swift response in dealing with this issue and their efforts to reassure and update the local Sikh community who are understandably concerned by this incident.

"There is absolutely no place for hatred or violence of any kind in society and I fully support Leicestershire Police's determined and consistent approach to ensure Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland remains a safe and welcoming place for all."

Following a meeting at a Leicester gurdwara on Tuesday, Insp Yakub Ismail, said: "I just want to give you the assurance that Leicestershire Police are treating this as a serious matter."

Judgemeadow principal, Jason Smith, apologised to the families of the Sikh pupils during the public meeting which was broadcast on Channel Punjab.

"They sent their children to school on Friday morning and those children should have come home safe," he said.

"I have a responsibility to safeguard children at Judgemeadow and that extends beyond the school gates.

"We are looking into the incident, working closely with the police and will speak to the families with more detail.

"But we are taking it really seriously and we will respond appropriately, and I want the community to be assured that we do take a zero tolerance to hate crime at Judgemeadow."



Sikh Federation (UK)
@SikhFedUK

...

Leicester: Boys arrested after 'hate crime' on Sikh boys

[@ukhomeoffice](#) [@luhc](#) [@educationgovuk](#) refusing to recognise anti-Sikh hate in same way as Islamophobia & Antisemitism [@YvetteCooperMP](#) [@lisanandy](#) [@bphillipsonMP](#) can't be bothered to meet us & challenge



HEALTH MINISTER REVEALS INSTITUTIONAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SIKHS BY PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND AND HEALTH BODIES FOR AT LEAST THE LAST TWO DECADES WHEN QUESTIONED ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE SIKH COMMUNITY

9 April 2021 - On 8 April 2021 Jon Ashworth, the Shadow Secretary of State for Health received a letter from Jo Churchill MP the Minister responsible for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care. The letter was in response to concerns raised about the impact of COVID-19 on the Sikh community.





With regards to data the Minister categorically draws attention to the focus on ethnicity rather than religion and as the census does not have a Sikh ethnic tick box she admits “data has not been collected routinely” for Sikhs. She continues: “Public Health England does not collect data relating to religion in any of the datasets that it is responsible for.”

The Sikh Federation (UK) has today written to challenge the Minister to explain how evidence has been gathered with regards to Sikhs that are an ethnic as well as a religious group in the last two decades by Public Health England (its predecessor) and health bodies to fulfil its legal obligations.

Series of constructive meetings with senior Shadow Cabinet Members

Earlier this year the Sikh Federation (UK) held several constructive meetings with David Lammy, Bridget Phillipson, Lisa Nandy, Yvette Cooper and Wes Streeting to discuss a range of issues impacting on their respective portfolios. Several junior Shadow Ministers were also at these meetings.

Following the meeting with Wes Streeting, the Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care he wrote to his counterpart Sajid Javid on two specific issues.

The first related to data held about Sikh employees and patients by health bodies to highlight any discrimination or inequalities and to assist in decision and policy making to demonstrate compliance with the Equality Act 2010. He pointed out Sikhs are protected and recognised as a religion and ethnic group for the purposes of equalities legislation.

The letter emphasised the importance of having good quality data about different communities and that was highlighted during the pandemic. He indicated Health Ministers in correspondence with my predecessor in April 2021 admitted data collected has focused on ethnicity rather than religion and data has therefore not been routinely collected for Sikhs.

Given the importance of the Equality Act 2010 and the protected characteristics he said Sikh community representatives were keen to learn what progress has been made in the health and social care sectors to develop a strategy to systematically collect data for Sikh employees and patients to address any discrimination or inequalities.

He said Sikh community organisations would be happy to work with civil servants to ensure health bodies collect data relating to them and to advise on any policies to address any discrimination or inequalities.

The second matter is one Sajid Javid will be familiar with. Previously in his role as Home Secretary he worked closely with the APPG for British Sikhs in 2018 to successfully address concerns in the Offensive Weapons Bill regarding the Kirpan. At that time the APPG and Sikh community organisations were working on a Code of Practice on the five Kakaars and Sikh turban that he agreed to support.

During the pandemic some Sikh employees in the health sector faced discrimination because of their uncut hair or Kesh with the requirement to wear masks and when wearing their Karas. In October 2012 the Sikh Federation (UK) assisted a 71-year old stroke victim and his family after he unacceptably had his beard and moustache cut at Hillingdon hospital without his or his family's consent.

He indicated these incidents highlight the desperate need for a Statutory Code of Practice on the five Kakaars and Sikh turban. The APPG has already done much of the hard work in producing a draft and consulting about it. However, he suggested to Sajid Javid a cross departmental team should



take this project over working with the APPG and Sikh community organisations to deliver statutory guidance that is long overdue.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON THE KIRPAN IN OFFENSIVE WEAPONS ACT 2019

April 2022 - Following the approval of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 the Home Office on 15 August 2019 issued the Offensive Weapons Act 2019: draft statutory guidance for consultation that specifically refers to the Sikh Kirpan.

In April 2022, more than two and half years after the consultation closed the Home Office eventually released the statutory guidance relating to the Offensive Weapons Act 2019. For Sikhs this is significant as statutory guidance for the first time refers to the Sikh Kirpan.

The guidance was primarily about Sikhs being able to possess and carry large Kirpans defined in legislation as those with blades in excess of 50cm for religious reasons and not the narrow reference to religious ceremonies.

However, the guidance also helpfully mentions there is already a defence under section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 for Sikh Kirpans with blades less than 50cm to be possessed in public for religious reasons to ensure that a person of Sikh faith can possess a Kirpan.

In effect the statutory guidance has now defined a large Kirpan as one with a blade in excess of 50cm and a smaller Kirpan is one with a blade less than 50cm. The statutory guidance can be used sensibly to overcome those who challenge the possession of smaller Kirpans based on size and if the matter ends up in court.

Those in the Sikh community who claim to be representatives that went “missing in action” to get the government to make the amendment to the Offensive Weapons Bill to protect the possession and carrying of the large Kirpan and failed to get an ill-thought through amendment through the House of Lords via the Opposition to get greater protection for the smaller Kirpan have been silent since the statutory guidance was released.

Towards the end of 2017 and start of 2018 a rag bag of so-called community leaders came out and backed the ill-thought through amendment and showed their political naivety. They used the failed amendment to try and criticise the Sikh Federation (UK), Sikh Council UK and the APPG for British Sikhs for missing an opportunity and not thinking about the smaller Kirpan. Not a single one of them have had the humility since April 2022 to recognise the significance of the statutory guidance and praise those who showed much better political nous to deliver better protection for the Sikh Kirpan.



RESULTS OF 2021 CENSUS DELAYED



June 2022 - The results of last year's Census in England and Wales have been delayed, and won't now be published in detail until this summer or even later. The delay comes after 97% of households responded to the survey and despite 89% of them completed it online.

The original plan was to share the aggregate, anonymised provisional data, under controlled access, at the end of February 2022, but now says we will have to wait longer.



Sikh organisations that collectively campaigned before the Census took place in March 2021 in England and Wales for Sikhs to reject the existing ethnic group tick boxes and select other and type Sikh must now wait to see the size of protest. In 2011 over 83,000 Sikhs protested by writing "Sikh". Campaigners expect the numbers protesting to double when the results are released.

Police sergeant to face gross misconduct hearing over 'forcible' removal of Sikh head dressing

BirminghamLive

Birmingham Live - 22 August 2022



A police sergeant accused of forcibly removing a Sikh head dressing at a Birmingham police station is to face a misconduct hearing. It comes after the police watchdog found he had a case to answer for gross misconduct.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) launched an investigation into seven officers after a man complained his religious head covering was forcibly removed in a custody suite in Perry Barr. The Sikh man said he was left traumatised and felt disrespected following the incident in

October last year, labelling it as a "racial hate crime".

A West Midlands Police sergeant may have breached professional police standards relating to equality, diversity, authority, respect, courtesy and the use of force in the handling of the situation and decision to remove the man's head covering, the investigation concluded. The IOPC said they determined there was no case to answer for misconduct for the other six officers, but that four of them would benefit from taking part in reflective practice to learn from the incident.

West Midlands Police will now conduct a misconduct hearing for the police sergeant. IOPC regional director Derrick Campbell said: "This incident caused significant unrest within the local community at the time and false videos shared on social media did understandably cause some major concern. However, we established early on in our investigation, having viewed the custody suite CCTV, that the man's head covering was not stamped on at any stage.

"We carried out a thorough investigation which looked into the actions of all officers involved and concluded that a police sergeant had a case to answer for gross misconduct. It will be a decision for a misconduct panel, chaired by a legal qualified chair, to determine whether the allegations are proven.

"We have advised the complainant of the investigation outcome and a misconduct hearing for the police sergeant will now be organised and carried out by West Midlands Police."

Sikh PA reported on 28 October 2021 when the incident took place that the West Midlands Police issued a formal apology for the incident. However, the Sikh Federation (UK) led responses from the Sikh community saying the apology was not enough and that a full dismissal of the officer involved is the only acceptable resolution.



RAISING AWARENESS & CAMPAIGNING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

THOUSANDS SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH #WESTMIDLANDS3 OUTSIDE WESTMINSTER MAGISTRATES COURT AS EXTRADITION TRIAL BEGINS



22 September 2021 - The Indian authorities claim the #WestMidlands3 were involved in an attack on a member of the Hindutva extremist militant group, the RSS in 2009, when the three men were in their 20s - even though they were not in the country when the incident happened.

The #WestMidlands3 were originally investigated by the British authorities, based on the Indian State's allegations more than a decade earlier. The investigation concluded no further action was required against them, clearing them of any wrongdoing.

There was concern among the British Sikh community that the attempted extradition was politically motivated and aimed at silencing Sikh activists.

The #WestMidlands3 case was believed to be the first time British Sikhs – born and raised in the UK have been targeted in such a fashion by India. Two of the three were targeted in September 2018 when five Sikhs associated with the #FreeJaggiNow campaign had their homes raided.

The raids were, according to Indian media, due to “diplomatic pressure” from India. Laptops, phones, and other personal items – including those belonging to the children of the men – were confiscated and kept for investigation for over a year. There were no arrests or charges following the raids that were assumed to try and find anything that could be used by the Indian authorities to incriminate Jagtar Singh Johal who is in arbitrary detention in an Indian jail.





The September 2018 raids were said to show a “paper trail” to Jagtar Singh Johal’s detention in India, according to Gareth Peirce, the highly respected human rights lawyer acting for those facing extradition.

The fact that the #WestMidlands3 were again targeted was believed to be linked to their work in providing support for the #FreeJaggiNow campaign. It is believed – as suggested by Gareth Peirce – that during his torture, Jagtar Singh Johal was shown photographs of UK-based Sikh activists he had worked with.

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

“We have been assisting the #WestMidlands3 since the raids on their homes in September 2018, arrests in December 2020 and in their legal challenge against extradition.

On the basis of human rights there is absolutely no way a British court could sanction their extradition to India where they will be tortured and face the death penalty.

However, we have a Home Secretary, in Priti Patel who is very close to the right wing BJP government in India and she will bend over backwards to assist India, especially if it helps in trade negotiations.”

INDIA’S EXTRADITION CASE AGAINST THREE BRITISH SIKHS COLLAPSED IN HUGE EMBARRASSMENT TO PRITI PATEL - SIKHS CALL FOR THE HOME SECRETARY TO RESIGN

22 September 2021 - Over a thousand Sikhs from across the UK gathered outside Westminster Magistrates Court to show solidarity with three British Sikhs from the West Midlands facing extradition to India.

At the start of the initial trial to establish if there was a prima facie case against the three British Sikhs Daniel Sternberg, representing the Indian government, admitted to District Judge Michael Snow that the evidence was not sufficient to make a case. He accepted the court should discharge each of the men.

Edward Fitzgerald QC, representing one of the three Sikhs, said the extradition request was "made on the basis of wholly unsubstantiated allegations".

District Judge Michael Snow was far from impressed that the case had come to court nine months later and discharged all three British Sikhs stating they were innocent.

He questioned why the Home Secretary, Priti Patel in December 2020 had certified the extradition request and ordered a judge to issue arrest warrants.

Daniel Sternberg had no answers on behalf of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) or Priti Patel and simply shrugged his shoulders and sat slumped on the bench with his head bowed.





Outside the court, solicitor Gareth Pierce described the case as exceptional and accused the Indian government of requesting the extradition of the three British Sikhs that they knew were innocent.

She said it was a very serious matter and it was not only a lack of evidence, but the prosecution had failed to tell the court that there had already been trials of other men in India in the same case and all had been acquitted. She accused the CPS of trying to use the same fabricated evidence where witnesses had been coerced.

She expressed some disappointment that the case had finished without the defence being able to present its evidence. Had it been heard it would have provided a convincing history of the behaviour of Indian police towards Sikhs and highlighted how India's draconian and repressive laws are used to target the Sikh minority.

In an important development she referred to Jagtar Singh Johal and how police officers who have been convicted for disappearances, torture and murder were permitted to provide evidence in such cases. She pointed out one of the police officers involved in this case had been identified by Jagtar Singh Johal as his torturer.

She pointed out everything emerging from this case was relevant to the UK Government in the case of Jagtar Singh Johal as she expressed hope the new Foreign Secretary would "take up arms" against human rights abuses for those detained in India and do something for Jagtar.

Outside court a representative of the family hailed this as a "victory for the Khalsa Panth" with chants of "the Khalsa will prevail".

Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) said: "We have maintained all along that Priti Patel started extradition proceedings to simply appease the right wing Indian government that she enthusiastically supports.

When the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab visited India in December 2020 to discuss a trade deal it was too much of a coincidence that Priti Patel disgracefully sanctioned the extradition process and ordered the arrests the next day.

This was an entirely politically motivated course of action for which Priti Patel must be held to account. She certified the extradition request and ordered the arrest of the three British Sikhs without any new evidence that would stand up in a British court.

Priti Patel should resign for failing to follow due process and doing India's dirty business of trying to silence British Sikhs.

She has wasted hundreds of thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money to play roughshod with the lives of three innocent British Sikh men, their wives and children in a shocking ordeal over the last nine months and held the Sikh community to ransom."



India extradition case against three British Sikh men collapses

Times of India – 23 September 2021

LONDON: Three British Sikhs walked free from Westminster magistrates' court on Wednesday to chants of "the Khalsa will prevail" after an extradition case brought by India collapsed.



Gursharanvir Singh Wahiwala and his brother Amritvir Singh Wahiwala from Coventry, and Piara Singh Gill, from Wolverhampton, raised their fists as they were mobbed by a jubilant crowd of around 1,000 British Sikhs who had been protesting outside the court building.

The three men, dressed in suits, had earlier sat in the dock and watched as the case against them was dropped.

Daniel Sternberg, representing the Indian government, told the judge: "We accept the court is not going to be satisfied to a criminal standard that this extradition request has a case to answer and it is accepted the court will discharge each of the men, without prejudice to the fact India may in future seek the extradition of these requested persons for these offences or other matters. The totality of evidence served is not sufficient to make a case requiring a case to answer to any of the charges in the extradition request. There would need to be new or further evidence in order for that position to be reconsidered."

The men, all born and raised in the UK, all married with children, had been arrested at their homes in December 2020 based on extradition warrants following an extradition request from India accusing them of conspiracy to murder Rashtriya Sikh Sangat leader Rulda Singh in India in 2009.

Mark Summers QC, representing Piara and Gursharanvir, told the court: "This vindicates the defendants who have been pursued for 11 years without evidence." He said the "threat in the note" that India may want to start again is "frankly disturbing". "Not only does it involve the prospect this 11-year ordeal may not be at an end for my clients, but it may be abusive," he said.

Edward Fitzgerald QC, representing Amritvir, said the extradition request was "made on the basis of wholly unsubstantiated allegations", that his client was not even in India at the time of Rulda's murder, and that he "has always maintained his innocence right from the start".

District judge Michael Snow said: "I discharge all of you. Nothing has been proved against you and you remain innocent of the charges." He said any further extradition request would need to come back before him so he could see if there was further evidence before any warrant was issued.

Outside court a representative of the family read out a statement hailing it as a "victory for the Khalsa Panth" and called for an independent inquiry "into why the Home Office accepted India's extradition request into a case which the UK authorities already investigated 10 years ago and concluded no further action was required".

"It is a disgrace to the British judicial system that the Home Office allowed this fabricated case to reach this stage. We never thought an extradition request against British-born Sikhs would be accepted — but it was. It is shocking that our extradition papers were signed a day after Dominic Raab returned from India after securing a trade deal with India," the representative of the family said.

Dabinderjit Singh, principal adviser to the Sikh Federation (UK), questioned why Home Secretary Priti Patel had certified the extradition request. He called for her resignation.

Sukhjavean Singh, senior adviser to the Sikh Council UK, said: "This is something for our community to celebrate as UK-born Sikhs have faith in the judicial system in the UK. Today is really a test of that faith and we are glad that this case, which did not have significant merit, was dropped."



Sikhs react to failed extradition trial of three UK Sikhs



Indian Express Extract 23 September 2021

The courtyard outside the Westminster Magistrates Court in London, Wednesday, reverberated with 'Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akal', 'Panth Ki Jeet', as soon as the news trickled out about the Crown Prosecution Service dropping charges against the three British Sikh men facing extradition to India reached the hundreds of Sikh men and women gathered outside the court complex.

Talking to The Indian Express, **Sikh Federation (UK) Principal advisor Dabinderjit Singh said**, "It is fantastic news for the Sikh community today. India had fabricated evidence in the case. It should never have come to this stage. We are not going to stop here. We will make sure Home Secretary Priti Patel understands what she did

was wrong. We call for her resignation and will start a community campaign for it."

Gurpreet Singh Johal, brother of British national Jaggi Johal detained in India, told the Indian Express, "Today, the desperation and farce which was the attempted extradition of #WestMidlands3 only took 10 minutes for the prosecution to confirm there is no prima facie case. Today's victory does not compensate for the constant harassment Sikh activists have faced in the UK."

Birmingham Edgbaston MP Preet Kaur Gill tweeted: "This is a huge victory for the #WestMidlands3 and the Sikh community. Gareth Peirce's statement raises serious questions for the government. Why did the Home Secretary sign extradition orders, why she wasted taxpayers money and put British families and Sikh community under immense distress.

Sikh Federation (UK) lead calls for Priti Patel to be sacked following #WestMidlands3 outcome and question role of Sikh Police group



Sikh PA – 27 September 2021 (Extract)

British Sikh legal and political advocacy group Sikh Federation (UK) have called for UK Home Secretary Priti Patel to be sacked after an Indian government appeal for the extradition of three Sikh men – known as the #WestMidlands3

– was dismissed by Westminster Magistrates Court.

A petition calling for Patel's resignation or sacking generated over 35,000 signatures. Patel has been criticised by the Sikh community for her role in the case and Sikh Federation (UK) has said that she is conflicted in her role as the Home Secretary due to her "special relationship" with Narendra Modi and his nationalist Indian government.

Patel, who has openly supported the UK based HSS, an organisation that were recently exposed in a TV documentary for their extremist Hindu views, signed the extradition order in December 2020, the day after Foreign Secretary at the time Dominic Raab returned from his visit to India to negotiate a post-Brexit trade deal with India. Calls for her resignation/sacking seem to be growing as discussion about her role in the #WestMidlands3 case spreads.

"What the Home Secretary should have done is to say: What new evidence has come up in the last decade in relation to that case 12 years ago. It has put the community in this position, it has put those individuals, their families and their children through this for 10 months – it should never have come to court," Dabinderjit Singh, advisor to the Sikh Federation (UK), told Sikh PA.



“And we must campaign for either the Home Secretary to resign or admit she was wrong, because she has wasted not just community efforts, but another question has been raised about how she is already very close to the BJP government.”

He added that there are also many Conservative politicians who do not like the way Patel has carried out her role.

“This is just another example involving Patel putting our community and our youth through something like this. This should not be happening in the UK,” he said.

The Sikh Federation (UK) has also called for the National Sikh Police Association UK (NSPA UK) to be disbanded. Some Sikh organisations have

accused the NSPA of being complicit with the Indian government in its pursuit of innocent Sikhs, whilst many more believe the organisation works only to try to hide complaints about the UK Police’s targeting of Sikh activism. The NSPA issued a statement two days after the charges were dropped, which Sikh Federation (UK) branded “self-serving” and “a disgrace”.

The Sikh Federation (UK) stated that there is a complete breakdown of trust between West Midlands Police and the Sikh community because of the actions of the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit, and that if Dave Thompson, Chief Constable of West Midlands Police, wants to start to build back trust, the first thing would be to disband NPSA UK.

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ਨਵੀਂ ਦਿੱਲੀ, 22 ਸਤੰਬਰ (ਸੁਖਰਾਜ ਸਿੰਘ): ਯੂ.ਕੇ ਵਿਚ 2009 ਸਾਲ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਹਿੰਦੁਸਤਾਨ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਕਹਿਣ ਤੇ ਕੁਲਦਾ ਕੇਸ ਵਿਚ ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਗੁਰਸ਼ਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਵੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਪਿਆਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਪਿਛਲੇ ਕੁੱਝ ਮਹੀਨੇ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਯੂ.ਕੇ ਗ੍ਰਹਿ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਪ੍ਰੀਤੀ ਪਟੇਲ ਵਲੋਂ ਮੁੜ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਹਿੰਦੁਸਤਾਨ ਹਵਾਲੇ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਕੇਸ ਚਲਵਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ ਜਿਸ ਕਰ ਕੇ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਯੂ.ਕੇ ਪੁਲਿਸ ਵਲੋਂ ਗ੍ਰਿਫਤਾਰ



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◀ ਬਾਕੀ ਸਫ਼ਾ 8 'ਤੇ

BORIS JOHNSON PRESSED TO TAKE UP HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS WITH NARENDRA MODI AHEAD OF COP26

1 October 2021 - Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) sent a lengthy letter to the British Prime Minister imploring him to take up human rights issues with Narendra Modi during his next visit to India, and Modi’s attendance at COP26 in Glasgow.

The letter made three specific demands and set out details on each of the issues. The three demands were:

- 1) Seek the immediate release of Jagtar Singh Johal who is being arbitrarily detained in India**
- 2) Speak up for the farmers protest calling for the repeal of three agricultural reform laws that threatened their livelihoods**
- 3) Have the courage to raise human rights violations in India and not be blackmailed by the Indian authorities using Britain’s colonial past and atrocities**

The letter pointed out hundreds of MPs had received letters from constituents and several debates had taken place in both Houses of Parliament on all three human rights issues. It continued by



stating the Prime Minister was duty bound to reflect the views raised by British Parliamentarians from all political parties on these human rights issues and it would be a dereliction of duty and a sign of weakness if the Prime Minister avoided raising these serious concerns.

PROTEST IN GLASGOW ON EVE OF COP26 VISIT BY INDIAN PM, NARENDRA MODI

30 October 2021 - Hundreds of Sikhs from across the UK took part in a protest in George Square, Glasgow between 12-3pm on the eve of COP26 where over 100 world leaders had started to gather.



Narendra Modi was due to arrive with other world leaders in the UK on 31 October following a G20 Summit in Rome and would face criticism as India alongside China, two of the world's largest polluters had rejected the net zero emissions target and totally undermined the Climate Summit and the global fight against climate change.

Narendra Modi wanted to meet Boris Johnson on the side lines of COP26, but that did happen as Boris Johnson was reported to be furious with the Indian Government's attitude to climate change and the Indian Government's announcement.

The protest in Glasgow sent several clear messages to both leaders:

- a) Sikhs will Never Forget the 1984 Sikh Genocide carried out by the Indian State for which there has been no justice nearly four decades later.
- b) Sikhs and environmentalists were in support of the Farmers Protest against the three farm laws that took place on streets outside Delhi, which were nearing their 1st anniversary at the time.
- c) Sikhs and others demand the release of Jagtar Singh Johal from Dumbarton who has been arbitrarily detained and where Boris Johnson is duty bound to follow UK policy and demand his release.

Bhai Amrik Singh the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) said: "India's reputation on the world stage continues to deteriorate and world leaders need to publicly challenge the Indian Government on climate change, treatment of farmers peacefully protesting across India calling for the repeal of three agricultural reform laws that threaten their livelihoods, and its' appalling human rights record.

World leaders must publicly raise human rights violations in India, especially against minorities and not hide behind diplomatic efforts that have failed to influence the Indian authorities.

The protest was also designed to ensure Boris Johnson in exchanges with Narendra Modi demanded the immediate release of Jagtar Singh Johal from Dumbarton. It is unacceptable a British citizen has been arbitrarily detained for nearly 4 years."



Farm laws: India PM Narendra Modi repeals controversial reforms

BBC NEWS

BBC News - 19 November 2021 (Extract)

Indian PM Narendra Modi has announced the repeal of three controversial farm laws after a year of protests.



Thousands of farmers had camped at Delhi's borders since last November and dozens died from heat, cold and Covid.

Farmers say the laws will allow the entry of private players in farming and that will hurt their income.

Friday's surprise announcement marks a major U-turn as the government had not taken any initiative to talk to farmers in recent months.

And Mr Modi's ministers have been steadfastly insisting that the laws were good for farmers and there was no question of taking them back.

Farm unions are seeing this as a huge victory. But experts say the upcoming state elections in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh – that both have a huge base of farmers - may have forced the decision.

The announcement on Friday morning came on a day Sikhs - the dominant community in Punjab - are celebrating the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.

In his nationally-televised address, Mr Modi said the farm laws were meant to strengthen the small farmers. "But despite several attempts to explain the benefits to the farmers, we have failed. On the occasion of Guru Purab, the government has decided to repeal the three farm laws," he added.

What has the reaction been?

Farmers in Punjab and Haryana are celebrating the news, raising flags of victory and distributing sweets. But they say the fight is not over.

"We have no faith in a verbal promise. Unless we see it in writing that the laws have actually been repealed, we will stay here," Raj Singh Chaudhary, a 99-year-old protester, told the BBC's Salman Ravi.

Mr Chaudhary is among hundreds of farmers who have been striking at the Delhi-Ghaziपुर border for a year.

His view was echoed by Rakesh Tikait, a prominent farmer leader who said they would call off the protest only after the laws were repealed in the winter session of parliament.

Another farmer leader said they needed additional promises from the government around assured prices for their crops to end their protest.

The announcement has stunned political observers as well as those who both support and oppose the laws - many tweeted saying it was a huge victory for the farmers and a "major climbdown" for Mr Modi.

BJP members said the decision to repeal the laws had nothing to do with the polls. They did not say if there were plans to bring back the laws in another form later.

Narendra Modi's decision to repeal the contentious farm laws is, at once, a strategic and political move and a belated admission of the



government's haste and high-handedness.

The laws had whipped up an unprecedented firestorm of protests in the states of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh and posed a real challenge to Mr Modi. They had mobilised farmers and civil society in Sikh-majority Punjab and spread to parts of Uttar Pradesh, states which will see key elections early next year.

By repealing the laws, Mr Modi hopes to regain the confidence of the farmers in general and Sikhs in particular. It would also boost the BJP's chances in the polls.

What led to the repeal?

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella group of some 40 farmers' unions, had refused to back down despite appeals from the government to end their protest.

Farmers continued to block motorways to Delhi through harsh winter and summer months and even through deadly Covid waves. They called for strikes across the country and dozens of them even died due to cold, heat and Covid.

The government initially engaged with them and offered to put the laws in abeyance for two years. But after farmers rejected their overtures, the authorities retreated, preferring to go with the wait-and-watch attitude.

But two things changed in the last few months.

First, the son of a federal minister allegedly drove his car into a group of protesting farmers in Lakhimpur in Uttar Pradesh in early October. He denied the allegation, but was arrested. Eight people, including four farmers and a journalist, were killed in the incident which sparked outrage across the country and put the government on the back foot.

Second, PM Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is up against strong regional parties in the upcoming elections in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and the government knows that angry farmers would hurt the BJP's chances of winning the crucial polls.

Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) responding to news of the announcement by the Indian government of the repeal of three controversial farm laws after a year of protests said:

"The Indian government should never have



Back down by [@narendramodi](#) is a huge victory for farmers who have fought to see off "black laws" **#FarmLawsRepealed**

Timing on **#GuruNanak #Gurpurab** acknowledges victory led by **#Sikh** farmers

🙏 Thank you to all who supported **#FarmersProtest** 🙏



enacted these controversial laws and taken on the farmers. This is a major U-turn that has been forced upon Narendra Modi through people power.

The Indian government underestimated the resolve of farmers and the worldwide support they would receive.

Sikhs are a proud and freedom loving people who have led the farmer protests in India and abroad as we always stand against injustice. The timing of the U-turn on Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurpurab has not gone unnoticed.

Modi could see the writing on the wall and realised the farmers would not back down. He also recognised the continued global damage to India's reputation.

Modi and the BJP government have lost the battle and realised these laws have been the biggest boost to demands for the re-establishment of a Sikh homeland."

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-FARM LAWS HAVE BEEN REPEALED



THE BATTLE MAYBE WON BUT THE WAR IS NOT OVER



A network of fake social media profiles of people claiming to be Sikhs, and promoting divisive narratives, has been exposed.

BBC News - 24 November 2021 (Extract)

A new report shared exclusively with the BBC ahead of its publication on Wednesday identified 80 accounts in the network, which have now been suspended because they were fake.



The influence operation used accounts across Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to promote Hindu nationalism and pro-Indian government narratives.

The aim of the network appears to have been to "alter perceptions on important issues around Sikh independence, human rights and values", according to the report's author, Benjamin Strick.

There is no evidence linking this network directly with the Indian government, which has yet to respond to a BBC request for comment.

The network used so-called "sock puppet" accounts, which are fake ones controlled by real people posing as independent individuals, rather than automated "bots".

The fake profiles used Sikh names and claimed to be "Real Sikhs". They used the hashtags #RealSikh to endorse, and #FakeSikh to discredit, different political viewpoints.

The report, from non-profit organisation the Centre for Information Resilience (CIR), found many of the accounts in the network used the same fake profiles across several platforms. These accounts shared the same names, profile pictures and cover photos, and published identical posts.

Many of the accounts used profile pictures of celebrities, including actresses in the Punjabi film industry.

Using a celebrity profile picture does not in itself prove an account is fake. However, the report says that combined with the co-ordinated messaging, frequently used hashtags, similar biography descriptions and follower patterns, the pictures added to the evidence that each of these accounts was not genuine.

The BBC attempted to contact eight of the celebrities whose images had been used, requesting comment. One replied via their management to confirm they were not aware their image had been used in this way, and said they would take action.

The management of another celebrity said there are thousands of such fake accounts associated with their client, and there wasn't much they could do about it.

On Friday, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the repeal of three controversial farm laws after a year of farmers protesting against them.

The farmers' protests, which started a year ago this week, and the decades-old Khalistan independence movement were the two discussion topics most frequently targeted by the network.

According to the report, the accounts sought to label any notion of Sikh independence as extremist, and delegitimise the farmers' protests, claiming they had been hijacked by "Khalistani terrorists".

But before that, the Indian government had also claimed that the farmers' protest had been "infiltrated by the Khalistanis".

The farmers who continue to protest believe this may have been a deliberate political move.

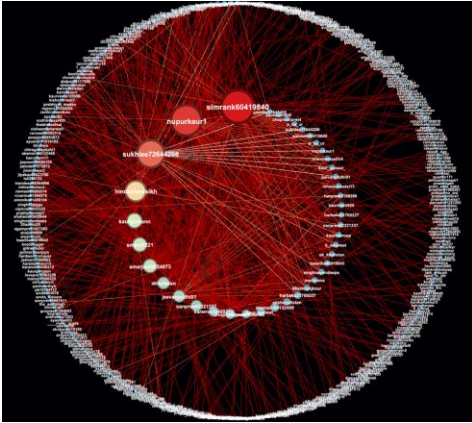
"We believe these accounts were set up at the behest of the government and it was done to set a narrative against the protests" said Jagjit Singh Dalewal, leader of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, one of about 30 unions sitting in protest.

Some accounts painted diaspora communities in the UK and Canada as harbouring the Khalistani movement.

The accounts had thousands of followers, and posts from the network have been liked and



retweeted by real influencers and quoted on news sites.



Many influence operations fail to get real people to interact with the fake accounts they create. In the case of this network though, the research identified posts which were interacted with and endorsed by the verified accounts of public figures.

The report also identified content from the fake profiles embedded on news blogs and commentary sites.

Experts on influence operations describe this as "amplification", and the more the network receives, the more impact it can have.

The BBC contacted some of the verified accounts which had interacted with posts in the network.

Rouble Nagi, who on Twitter describes herself as a humanitarian and social worker, had responded to one of the fake accounts' tweets with two clapping hands emojis. She said she is "sad that it was a fake account".

Col Rohit Dev, who calls himself a geopolitical military analyst, had responded to one of these accounts' posts with thumbs-up emojis, but told us he did not know the person behind the handle.

Nikhil Pahwa, a digital rights activist and editor of technology policy website MediaNama, says that these influence networks target individuals with a particular point of view.

"These 80-odd accounts will not necessarily make something trend, but with consistent posting, they try to discredit a point of view," he said.

"This seems to be a sophisticated approach, and seems to be a part of a larger operation."

Very little of the content included text in Punjabi - the biggest language for Sikhs in India - and nearly all the content was in English.

Mr Pahwa points out that there was political activity around the farmer's protests from all sides, with people trying to support and discredit them.

"It's all a part of the game to win the political narrative war."

The BBC shared the report with Twitter and Meta - the company which owns Facebook and Instagram - requesting comment.

Twitter suspended the accounts for violating their rules prohibiting "platform manipulation" and fake accounts.

A Twitter spokesperson said: "At this time, there's no evidence of widespread co-ordination, the use of multiple accounts by single people, or other platform manipulation tactics."

Meta also removed the accounts on Facebook and Instagram for violating its "inauthentic behaviour" policies.

A Meta spokesperson said the accounts "misled people about the origin and popularity of their content and used fake accounts to spam people and evade our enforcement".

Bhai Amrik Singh, Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK), responding to news that fake social media profiles promoting Hindu nationalism and pro-Indian government narratives are targeting Sikhs said:

"The report published today provides evidence of how accounts used across Twitter, Facebook and Instagram have been used to target those supporting Sikh independence, raising human rights issues and supporting the farmers protest and this needs further investigation.

In our view those behind the network that has been exposed will be directly or indirectly linked to the Indian government as there are clear political motives and the clear targeting of Sikhs in the Diaspora who the Indian government know are increasingly demonstrating they are in favour of the re-establishment of Sikh independence.

US, UK and other government intelligence agencies will know if what has been exposed by the Centre for Information Resilience (CIR) and the report's author Benjamin Strick can be linked to Indian intelligence agencies.



We believe this report has highlighted a small part of a larger operation targeting Sikhs in the Diaspora as the main language used is English.

The US administration, UK government, Canadian authorities and others must look into

this and take action against foreign elements targeting their Sikh citizens for simply raising their voice for Sikh independence, human rights issues and the farmers protest.”

Jailed in UK for 34 years, dera head assassin honoured at Akal Takht

hindustantimes

Hindustan times - 11 December 2021



Rajinder Singh, who served 34 year-jail in the United Kingdom for the assassination of Birmingham-based sect head Maharaj Darshan Das, was honoured at the Akal Takht in Amritsar on Friday.

The founder of the sect and two of his disciples were gunned down by two armed men during an assembly at Southall in 19 87.

A section of Sikhs was upset over the statements and activities of Maharaj Darshan who was also a trenchant critic of secessionism in Punjab and even organised rallies against it. Rajinder, who along with one Manjit Singh was convicted in the case, returned to India few days ago.

On Friday, Akal Takht acting jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh and the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) president Harjinder Singh Dhama honoured him and his family with siropas (robes of honour) during a special function.

“I am lucky to be honoured at the Takht,” said Rajinder.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Giani Harpreet Singh said, “The community remembers those who made sacrifices. Rajinder Singh also made an immense sacrifice. With the efforts of the sangat in the UK and other organisations, he was recently released from jail.”

Deep Sidhu's shock death and lasting impact

Baaz

Baaz News Ranveer Singh - 24 February 2022

When news of Deep Sidhu's passing erupted all over social media last week, there was an instantaneous outpouring of grief and pain. This was equally matched with a flood of anger and resentment from the global Sikh diaspora and from groups across Panjab. The flurry of varying emotions not only revealed the breadth and depth of Deep's reach, but also highlighted the unanimous feeling expressed by all that his death was orchestrated by the state.

The footage of his 4 x 4 caved in; the tire marks from the truck that he allegedly hit on an otherwise unobstructed freeway; the never before seen bottle of alcohol that lay motionless on the seat the day after the accident, perfectly intact

despite the carnage around it; the speed with which his body was cremated without a proper autopsy or toxicology report, plus all the other inconsistencies on show from the Indian police officers and reporters, only helped to intensify the initial suspicions which Sikhs and Panjabis felt, that this was a political assassination; a staged encounter.

When we look at Deep's death against the backdrop of his work, especially in relation to his advocacy for khudmukhtyari (self-determination) and Patshahi Dava (political rule) over the land of Panjab, it becomes increasingly clear why Sikhs believe he was killed. As Shamsher Singh wrote “Deep said Khalistan when he was asked not to.





When his fellow Sikhs were demonised and silenced, Deep shouted Khalistan louder.”

This was evident from the moment Deep took to the activist stage in 2020 during the initial assemblies across Panjab, in particular at the Shambu Morcha, before the #DilliChalo movement evolved into the Farmers Protest.

Deep expressed how the uprising across Panjab was less about the agricultural bills, but more about a fight for survival, a survival for Sikhs to exist as Sikhs in Panjab. This sentiment coming on the back of the Sikh Genocide, which itself was engineered to violently suppress Sikh political dissent, was one which Deep spoke about many times.

While other leaders in positions of power inevitably faltered, whether at the state or central government level, Deep led the movement headed towards Delhi from the front; withstanding the police water cannons, tear gas and barricades. He was a constant voice of reassurance and vitality in an otherwise convoluted space where unionist leaders often not only distanced themselves from his activism, but worked to undermine his endeavours. Despite this, he remained resolute because he understood the bigger picture; he understood the games that Delhi was playing with the livelihood of Sikhs in Panjab.

Deep raised the Kesri Nishan Sahib, endured jail time and advocated for a politics which upheld Panthic values and aspirations. He was passionate, intelligent and articulate with his

words, but what caught everyone’s attention was his constant reference to Sant Jarnail Singh ji Khalsa Bhindranwale and the Sikh martyrs of the Khalistan movement.

It was clear he understood the deeper conflicts between Panjab and the central government in Delhi which Sant Jarnail Singh ji spoke about and later exposed to the world with the spirited stand of defiance in 1984 which was the point of no return as Sikhs soon initiated the first phase of the Khalistan movement.

Deep not only understood the significance of this moment but he openly spoke about it, and for this he was unsurprisingly vilified by the Indian media. But for Sikhs, his words and actions were a breath of fresh air and he continued to be a popular and inspirational speaker in the weeks leading up to his death.

His last speech was befitting of his meteoric rise and goes down as a seminal moment in the fight for Khalistan for two main reasons.

The first is perhaps obvious – by waving the jharoo (broom) in one hand, he challenged the perception that Sikhs of Panjab were going to accomplish anything with the tools given to them by the state. It went beyond what many believed to have been a bipartisan jibe towards the AAP because the jharoo was both a literal and symbolic representation of how the Indian state has sought to suppress and consume Sikh political mobilisation since 1947. In the same speech he spoke about khudmukhtiyari and Patshahi Dava over the land of Panjab, as he had done during the Farmers Protest. He also expressed the futility of aspiring to meet officials in Delhi without any actual control over the social, economic and political wellbeing of Panjab.



The second reason, and perhaps the more significant, given what followed days after the speech, was that this mode of grassroots



awakening was a hallmark of those who he revered and constantly referred to.

Nobody can say he reached the levels of impact that Panthic mobilisation had established in the early 1980s under the stewardship of Sant Jarnail Singh, and he was the first to admit that, but it is no exaggeration to suggest that he was beginning to tread that path. There was talk of him aspiring to take Khande-Di-Pahul and become an initiated Khalsa, which leaves much to celebrate and admire about his political allegiance.

Prior to his activism in the Farmers Protest little was known about him outside of Panjab, but his popularity and pull were directly connected to how he advocated for the sovereignty of Panjab. The reason he was able to ground himself so effortlessly was because Sikh polity was at the nucleus of his activism.

What Deep Sidhu did more than anything else is demonstrate how the subsuming nature of the Indian state, interwoven within the demands of modernity and capitalism, is not absolute. No matter how intruding or suffocating it is for Panjab, or indeed the Sikhs, to exist within the

stranglehold of the Indian state, Deep's timely appearance is a flicker of hope amongst the darkness that has engulfed the land of Panjab. He dared to speak of another political reality, one founded upon the revolution started by Guru Nanak Sahib, and it was this radical move that instantly pitted him against the state.

This is why Sikhs across the globe believe Deep was killed. If he had advocated for anything less than khudmukhtyari and stayed clear of associating himself with Khalistan, there is a chance he may have been alive. But the moment he began to mobilise the people and speak about being armed, that is when the state acted.

Notwithstanding the decade long civil war that Sikh jujharoos (militants) fought against Indian authorities in the late 80s and early 90s, the last person to have directed Sikhs to recognise the value and significance of the Kirpan in such an open and public manner was Sant Jarnail Singh ji, which is why it is crucial for Sikh organisations to understand the wider politics which Deep spoke about and continue to organise on sovereign Sikh principles.

Khalistanis living in the UK to feel the heat as Boris Johnson confirms an anti-extremist task force to help India



OplIndia – 22 April 2022 (Extract)

On Friday, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson during his India visit said that the United Kingdom would not welcome people who planned to use the UK's legal systems to evade the law in India.



Johnson was speaking about the Khalistani extremists living in the UK along with financial criminals like Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya. The British Prime Minister added that his country had set up an anti-extremist task force to help India.

“The UK is sensitive to India's concerns and there will be zero tolerance. We've set up an anti-extremist task force to help India”, he said on April 22 during his visit to India. India has been repeatedly seeking action against Sikh radicals operating from the UK.

Meanwhile, the two countries also exchanged views on several key issues, including the India-UK defence partnership and a free trade agreement (FTA) that is expected to be finalized by Diwali this year. “The agreement could double our trade and investment by the end of the decade”, he noted. According to the reports, the duo exchanged a total of two Government-to-Government MoUs and four non-governmental MoUs.

The issue of the Russia-Ukraine war was also raised on the occasion. The UK Prime Minister did not pressure India and stated that India's position on Russia was well known and was not going to change. He also said that the whole world is obliged to do more with all that is happening around the world and in Ukraine.



“India has a historic relationship with Russia and everybody respects it”, he added.

The meeting between the two leaders in Delhi came on the final day of Johnson’s two-day trip to India, which had been delayed due to COVID.

Bhai Amrik Singh the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) responding to what was said during Boris Johnson’s visit to India said:

“Boris Johnson has completely lost the plot while on his visit in India and is showing signs of desperation to deflect attention away from Partygate.

He has compromised left and right and centre in appeasing Narendra Modi.

He should have been much tougher on India’s support for Russia’s crimes against humanity in Ukraine and not let human rights concerns be left to private discussions.

The public announcement of an Anti-Extremist Task Force targeting Sikhs calling for the right to self-determination and the re-establishment of a Sikh homeland (annexed by Britain in 1849) is an

affront to international human rights treaties to which Britain are signatories.

We predict there will not be a Free Trade Agreement with India for many years let alone by Diwali in 6 months because of India’s protectionist policies.

We also predict Boris Johnson will be fined for breaking the law and will be removed as PM following the Sue Gray report for incompetence or deliberately misleading Parliament over Partygate.”



MARCH AND RALLY IN LONDON TO MARK 38TH ANNIVERSARY OF 1984 SIKH GENOCIDE IN AMRITSAR



Public inquiry expected to commence within 100 days of a Labour Government that could coincide with the 40th anniversary of the 1984 Sikh Genocide

19 June 2022 - Around 15,000 members of the Sikh community from across the UK gathered in London to mark the 38th anniversary of the 1984 Amritsar massacre. The numbers taking part in the last two years have had to be kept lower due to the pandemic and the event this year is slightly later than normal with the Jubilee.

The annual march and rally commemorate victims of the attack on Sri Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar by the Indian authorities. The event in London has had more of a focus since January 2014 when British documents released under the 30-year rule showed the Indian authorities sought and obtained British advice and assistance prior to the attack.





During the event those gathered heard about progress with calls for an independent public inquiry into the 1984 British Government involvement in the run-up to the massacre and anti-Sikh measures against UK Sikhs at the request of the Indian authorities. The internal review commissioned by then Prime Minister David Cameron was widely condemned as deliberately limited in scope and a whitewash.

The Labour Party has made manifesto commitments in 2017 and 2019 to hold an independent public inquiry. The Sikh Federation (UK) has also published the highly acclaimed Sacrificing Sikhs report setting out the need for an investigation.

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 the current Permanent Secretary at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), often in secret session acknowledged in his judgement the limitations of David Cameron's internal 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, in July 2018 only 40 pages were released from three Cabinet Office files relating to India covering the 1984 period without any mention of the 1984 Sikh Genocide. This made it clear that the only way to get to the truth was a judge-led public inquiry that would have complete access to secret papers.

The Sikh Federation (UK) has recently had meetings with David Lammy, the Shadow Foreign Secretary and Yvette Cooper, the Shadow Home Secretary and discussed when it may be possible to commence the public inquiry. A public inquiry may commence within 100 days of a Labour Government that could coincide with the 40th anniversary of the 1984 Sikh Genocide.

The Sikh Federation (UK) calls for the right to Sikh self-determination and the re-establishment of an independent Sikh homeland have grown stronger in recent years across the globe and slogans are now regularly raised by Sikhs in India.

Those gathered in Trafalgar Square also heard from the brother of 35 year-old Scot Jagtar Singh Johal who has been arbitrarily detained in an Indian jail for over four and half years. Unseen Indian Army footage of the aftermath of the June 1984 massacre was shown on a large screen in Trafalgar Square.



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.

DISTRAUGHT WIFE APPEALS TO BORIS JOHNSON FOR PERSONAL INTERVENTION TO SECURE RELEASE AND SAFE RETURN OF TORTURED SCOTTISH HUSBAND ON 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARBITRARY DETENTION IN INDIAN JAIL

4 November 2021 - 4 November 2021 marked the 4th anniversary of the torture and arbitrary detention in an Indian jail of Jagtar Singh Johal from Dumbarton.

MISSING

HAVE YOU SEEN MY HUSBAND?

JAGTAR SINGH JOHAL

LAST SEEN:
SHOPPING WITH WIFE

DATE:
NOV 04, 2017

CURRENT KNOWN LOCTION:
TIHAR JAIL, INDIA

PLEASE HELP BRING HIM HOME

#FREEJAGGINOW

Gurpreet Kaur Johal, the wife of the imprisoned Scot wrote and made an emotional appeal to Boris Johnson asking for his personal intervention to secure Jagtar's release and safe return.

4 years earlier plain clothes Indian police officers abducted Jagtar, by putting a hood over his head and bundling him into a van while he was out shopping with his wife in Punjab. This was barely two weeks after they were married.

She initially thought he had been kidnapped as he was from the UK. She had no idea of the identity of the perpetrators and where her husband had been taken.

Later it emerged these were Indian police officers and her husband was taken to an undisclosed location and subjected to third degree torture for several days.

At one point during his torture kerosene was brought into his prison cell where police threatened to burn him alive.

Police officers also warned Jagtar they would brutalise his newly wedded wife unless he provided information or confessed to crimes he did not commit.

Mrs Johal joined protesters in Glasgow on the eve of COP26 and emotionally appealed to Martin Docherty-Hughes her MP for West Dunbartonshire and Sikh community leaders from across the UK who were present to escalate the campaign for her husband's release and safe return.

Speaking to representatives of the Sikh Federation (UK), including the Chair, Bhai Amrik Singh, Gurpreet asked why the UK government had forgotten her husband, did his life not matter to them and do they treat all their citizen's this way if they end up in countries like India where torture is commonplace and the legal system is corrupt?

She asked "why won't the UK Government help him? Why won't they bring him back home to me? How long will I be alone? I can't take this loneliness anymore, no one knows how it feels for me to have lost 4 years at the start of our married life and be unable to start a family until my husband returns".

She went on to question why Dominic Raab refused to meet with her and Jagtar's family while he was Foreign Secretary for over two years and used the opportunity to criticise the Home Office for trying to have her deported.



She explained she had no faith in the Indian judicial system or Indian politicians, but she had higher hopes of UK politicians.

Martin Docherty Hughes MP and others like Preet Kaur Gill MP, Nicola Sturgeon and Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar have all been very supportive.

However, the inaction and lack of progress by Government Ministers in the last 4 years has left her thinking the UK government ignores the plight of its own citizens when it comes to India.

Martin Docherty-Hughes MP raised the issue at Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) the day before Jagtar's 4 year anniversary. He said: "The Prime Minister is very much aware of my constituent Jagtar Singh Johal, who was abducted by plainclothes officers while shopping with his new wife in the city of Jalandhar, Punjab on the 4th of November".

"The intervening years, Mr Speaker, have seen allegations of torture overlooked and ostensibly strong words from his government about the case overshadowed by excitement over a trade deal with the Republic of India."

"Therefore, Mr Speaker, as we approach the fourth anniversary of Jagtar's arrest tomorrow, with no charges having been brought in the case by the government of India, will this government be able to grant the smallest of favours to Jagtar's wife and his family in Dumbarton and declare his detention an arbitrary one?"

Boris Johnson replied: "Mr Speaker, I thank him for the campaign that he's been running for a long time. And what I would say to him is that the closeness of our relationship with India in no way diminishes our willingness to raise that case with the government of India. Indeed, the Foreign Secretary raised it only the last time she was in India."



In April 2019 Gurpreet Kaur Johal came to the UK to meet the Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt. He told her and Jagtar's brother in confidence that Jagtar would not get a fair trial in India.

Two and a half years later and after Boris Johnson's response at PMQs on 3 November 2021, she wrote to him appealing for him to intervene as it is UK policy to act where British nationals are being arbitrarily detained abroad. She is also facing the additional trauma that Jagtar is facing the death penalty.

In her letter to the PM, she requested that Liz Truss, who became Foreign Secretary six weeks prior, urgently meet with her as the PM stated at

PMQs that she had raised her husband's case when she was in India last week.

Gurpreet Kaur Johal said:

"Today marks 4 years since that terrifying day when the police snatched and kidnapped Jaggi from my arms. I still have nightmares of that day and the subsequent torture of Jaggi.

I need Liz Truss as the Foreign Secretary and as a wife to look me in the eye and tell me when I will be reunited with my husband. I am suffering in silence and finding it difficult to continue. I want her to meet with me so she can hear about my pain.

Jeremy Hunt told me two and half years ago Jagtar would not get a fair trial and this has proved true. No evidence has been presented in court and the case has been repeatedly adjourned.



United Nations special rapporteurs, Redress and Reprieve have taken on the case and called for Jagtar's immediate release.

The UK government must listen and act to secure the release and return of my husband after 4 years of incarceration.

We were hopeful all charges would be dropped against Jagtar at the last hearing in October 2021, but the case was adjourned once again until January 2022 as the Indian authorities were unable to produce any evidence in court.

All I want and pray for is that my husband comes back home and we can start our life together, but I worry for his and my mental and physical health due to all this suffering.”

BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY ELIZABETH TRUSS TO VISIT INDIA ON 31 MARCH

31 March 2022 - British Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss's visit to India took place against the backdrop of the ongoing war in Ukraine. The unfolding situation in Ukraine was a topic for extensive discussion during Truss's talks with Jaishanka.

Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK) commenting on Liz Truss's visit to India said:

“It is only a matter of time before Boris Johnson is replaced.



Liz Truss is in India today and needs to show her strength to show she is PM material. She will be judged by what she can deliver in India. Top of her agenda should not be trade with India but India's support for Russia with regards to Ukraine.

Western countries know it is not simply India's abstention in votes in the UN against Russia's attack on Ukraine, but it is also the assistance India is providing to undermine Western sanctions.

We predict Liz Truss will fail as Sergei Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister is also in India and Narendra Modi's government rather than reduce its strategic dependency on Russia will almost certainly signal its growing support for Russia.

India will probably signal an increase in its purchase of discounted Russian oil and a rupee-ruble payment mechanism for bilateral trade between India and Russia, as a means of evading Western sanctions. This will force the US and Western nations to rethink their approach to India.

Social media trends and fake news in India against the West and in support of Russia and Putin guarantees this outcome so Liz Truss must come back with something else more concrete. Focusing on securing increasing trade with India but being shown two fingers on Ukraine will be a sign of weakness on the part of Liz Truss.

The British Sikh community will be looking to see if Liz Truss comes back with something positive on the release of Jagtar Singh Johal, a British citizen who has been in arbitrary detention in an Indian jail for over 4 years.

Liz Truss is on record for stating she made resolving the continued detention of British nationals one of her top priorities when she entered office in September 2021. After securing the release and return of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anousheh Ashoori she must now do the same for Jagtar, so he is reunited with his family in Scotland.”



Guardian - 8 May 2022 (Extract)



India

UK urged to act after UN panel rules detention of Briton in India 'arbitrary'

The UK is under pressure to insist India release Jagtar Singh Johal, a British citizen, after a UN working group ruled he had been arbitrarily detained by India and his detention lacked any legal basis.

Boris Johnson apparently raised the case when he met the Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi, last month and provided a written note of consular cases, but Foreign Office ministers have not confirmed whether they regard his detention as arbitrary.

Johal was arrested after his wedding in the Punjab in November 2017.

In what is being described as a watershed moment in the case, the UN panel on arbitrary detention concluded that the "continued pre-trial detention of Mr Johal lacks legal basis, and is arbitrary" because he was abducted by plainclothes officers without an arrest warrant, held incommunicado and denied consular assistance or access to a lawyer. They observe that there is "no judicially admissible evidence against Johal, despite intelligence agencies having over three years to investigate" and conclude that "the appropriate remedy would be to release Johal immediately".

Johal has claimed he was tortured and forced to sign blank confession statements, and then had extra charges laid against him that had now reached a total of nine cases. The UN report says that despite being in jail for more than four years

he has not been charged and no admissible evidence has been produced.

The report by the UN working group on arbitrary detention claims "Johal was targeted because of his activities as a Sikh practitioner and supporter and because of his activism writing public posts calling for accountability for alleged actions committed against Sikhs by the authorities".



It adds that he "was deprived of his liberty on discriminatory grounds, owing to his status as a human rights defender and based on his political activism, religious faith and opinions".

The Indian government denies torture, and says it is still compiling evidence in the cases. Jagtar's brother Gurpreet Singh Johal, who has been fighting for his release, was elected a Labour councillor in the Scottish local elections in Dunbarton last week.

He said: "We've known from the start that there's no good reason for Jagtar's imprisonment and in four years the Indian authorities haven't produced any evidence against him. The UK government hasn't listened to us, but perhaps it will listen to the UN and call for his release. There have been so many setbacks but on a day like this, we're dreaming of the moment my brother steps off a plane in Scotland to be reunited with his family."

REPRIEVE

The co-executive director of the human rights group Reprieve, Maya Foa, said: "This is a watershed moment. There is no longer any excuse for the government's continued failure to call for Jagtar's release and return. When a British citizen is tortured and held in pre-trial detention for four years, facing a potential death



sentence, the prime minister's responsibility is clear. What is Boris Johnson waiting for?"

The Foreign Office says it has raised the case more than 70 times at various levels and that the foreign secretary, Liz Truss, has offered to meet the family to discuss the case.

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

"Jagtar Singh Johal is a British born Sikh who went to India to get married but was abducted and tortured by Indian police. He has already spent his 5th consecutive Birthday in jail although no evidence has been presented in court against him.

Legal experts at Reprieve have concluded he is being held in arbitrary detention and now the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has given its definitive opinion.

The UK Government is now duty bound as a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council and by its own policies to secure Jagtar's immediate release and return to the UK to be with his family.

We now need action from Liz Truss and Boris Johnson as raising the matter with the Indian PM and Foreign Minister is not enough."

Boris Johnson says India arbitrarily detaining British Sikh activist



Letter from PM saying Jagtar Singh Johal is being arbitrarily held comes four and a half years after Johal's arrest

Guardian – 30 June 2022 (Extract)

Boris Johnson has for the first time said that the Indian government is arbitrarily detaining Jagtar Singh Johal, the British Sikh activist held in an

Indian jail for four and a half years.

In a letter to Keir Starmer seen by the Guardian, the prime minister says Singh has been arbitrarily detained without formal charges being laid against him.



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 June 2022

Dear Keir,

Thank you for your letter of 31 May about Jagtar Singh Johal, a British national who has been detained arbitrarily in India for the past four and a half years.

I am grateful for your interest in this matter. Ministers and officials of the Government have consistently raised the UK's concerns directly with the Government of India about Mr Johal's treatment and his right to a fair trial. We have done so on almost a hundred occasions since Mr Johal's detention in November 2017.

More recently, during her visits to India in October 2021 and March 2022, the Foreign Secretary raised Mr Johal's situation with India's External Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. When I visited Delhi in April, I raised Mr Johal's case personally with Prime Minister Modi as part of a wide-ranging discussion about bilateral and international affairs.

I am pleased that you recognise the deep and enduring bonds we have with India. We are continuing to work with its government to resolve Mr Johal's case. As recently as 9 June, the Foreign Secretary met Martin Docherty-Hughes, Mr Johal's MP for West Dunbartonshire, along with members of Mr Johal's family, to discuss our involvement in the case.

Thank you once again for writing, and please be assured that the Government is doing all it can diplomatically to assist Mr Johal.

*Yours ever
Boris*

The Right Honourable Sir Keir Starmer KCB QC MP

His brother Gurpreet Singh Johal, who had a meeting with the Labour leader and the shadow foreign secretary, David Lammy, on Thursday, hailed the admission as a breakthrough but asked why it had taken so long.

A UN panel on arbitrary detention last month also acknowledged that Jagtar Singh Johal has been arbitrarily detained, without any prosecution started.



Johnson defended the UK government's approach to the detention and added that ministers had consistently raised concerns about Johal's treatment and right to a fair trial.

He said the issue had been raised with the Indian government almost 100 times since Johal's detention in November 2017. In the letter, he said the case was raised by the foreign secretary, Liz Truss, with the Indian external affairs minister, Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, during visits to India in October 2021 and March 2022. Johnson added he had personally raised the case directly with the Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi, on his visit.

Gurpreet Singh Johal said: "I was grateful for Keir's intervention and for him to meet earlier today. He very quickly understood that time is of the essence and if the UK government do not act then a British national could be given the death penalty based on false allegations and manufactured charges".

"This is a breakthrough moment. I will never forget that it took the UK government almost five years to acknowledge that my brother is arbitrarily detained, or that they only did so after a nudge from the UN and the leader of the opposition, but at least they got there in the end. The next step is to demand his release and bring him home."

Jagtar Singh Johal, from Dumbarton, was arrested after travelling to the Punjab for his wedding. Several trial dates have since been postponed or cancelled and he is yet to stand trial.

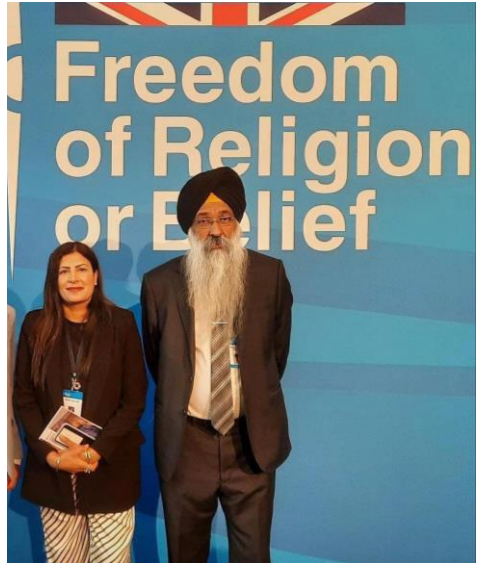
The degree of high-level cross-party interest in the case is now likely to put pressure on the wider British relationship with India. The UK has been pursuing a relationship based on closer trade, and trying to woo a reluctant India towards a defence alliance more hostile to China.

But with the UK government staging a two-day conference on religious freedom next week, some ministers are likely to want to raise the way in which Muslims and Sikhs are being treated by Hindu extremists in India.

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

"Finally, Boris Johnson has been forced to admit Jagtar Singh Johal is being arbitrarily detained in a jail in India.

The UK Government probably reached this conclusion within weeks of his arrest and torture in November 2017, but has failed to acknowledge this publicly fearing India's reaction.



Boris just met Narendra Modi at the G7 Summit, but only admitted this now in response to Keir Starmer's letter as he would have had pressure to call on Modi for Jagtar's immediate release and return to the UK.

We understand Liz Truss recently met her Indian counterpart in Rwanda and also failed to raise Jagtar's case.

We are aware of the religious freedoms conference being hosted by the UK Government in London next week and earlier this week had an opportunity to raise with the PM's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief the need for the UK Government to get tough with India despite trying to negotiate a trade deal.

We have decided to increase the pressure on the UK Government by calling a mass Sikh lobby of Parliament in mid-July so constituents for hundreds of MPs can raise Jagtar's plight."



Jagtar Singh Johal: Briton tortured after spy chiefs' tip-off



The Times – 22 August 2022 (Extract)

MI5 and MI6 spies supplied information that led to the torture of a British citizen in India, apparently in breach of Britain's commitment to human rights.

Jagtar Singh Johal has been arbitrarily detained in India for five years and faces the death penalty over his alleged role in a Sikh extremist group. His case has been shrouded in mystery since his arrest in Punjab in 2017.

Now lawyers for Johal have lodged a complaint at the High Court after identifying his case among anonymised details published in the annual report by the UK's investigatory powers commissioner. It lays out how MI5 and MI6 passed information to a foreign power about a British national who was detained and tortured.



Governments are created to protect their people, not subject them to torture and the death penalty.

The UK government has failed its citizens!

#freejaggiNow

The details precisely matched those of Johal's case, revealing what his lawyers had long suspected was the hand of British intelligence in his abuse at the hands of the Indian authorities.

In a letter to Sir Keir Starmer in June, Boris Johnson acknowledged that Johal's detention was arbitrary, reflecting the finding of a UN panel that concluded the same a month earlier.

Johnson defended the UK government's approach to the detention and said that ministers had consistently raised concerns about Johal's treatment and right to a fair trial.

The revelation that it was information passed from Britain to India that led to Johal's arrest returns

the focus to his own government. Johnson was the foreign secretary at the time of Johal's arrest. Insiders say the sign-off on the transfer of such information could only have been given by the Foreign Secretary.

Gurpreet Singh Johal, Jagtar's brother, said: "I never imagined the scenes I'd seen in horror movies of people being abducted by a foreign government and violently tortured could become a reality for someone in my family. When it did, I expected our government would do everything in its power to save my brother. The twist is that not only has our government abandoned one of its own citizens, it's actively betrayed him."

He said that his brother's only "crime" was writing blogs exposing the Indian government's "mistreatment" of Sikhs. He added: "The UK should be championing free speech around the

world, not assisting repressive regimes to torture and lock up British nationals who dare to criticise them. We need answers and accountability to make sure no other British family is put through this living hell."

Johal, who comes from Dumbarton, was arrested after travelling to Punjab in northern India for his wedding. Attempts to visit him in Delhi's Tihar jail have been rejected on Covid grounds.

Johal has filed with the High Court a petition challenging the intelligence services' decision to share his information in the knowledge of his likely treatment by the Indian security service, including torture and the death sentence.

Britain is bound by several international obligations not to surrender its citizens for torture. They include the UN Convention Against Torture and the European Convention on Human Rights, neither of which allow any exception.

Johal's legal complaint includes threats of execution, including a threat to burn him alive, and a threat for him to be taken outside and shot, along with threats to his family.

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

"Liz Truss, when she became Foreign Secretary in September 2021, made it a priority to ensure British nationals arbitrarily detained abroad are returned to the UK.



The charge levelled in the High Court against the UK intelligence agencies in the case of Jagtar Singh Johal is extremely serious and has much wider ramifications for British relations with India.

Our advice was sought at the outset by lawyers making the claim in the High Court against the Foreign Office, Home Office and Attorney General. We were in no doubt the specific reference and facts in the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO) report of

intelligence being shared could only relate to Jagtar Singh Johal.

Liz Truss is expected to become the Prime Minister in two weeks and must use all her efforts to redeem the situation by getting Jagtar immediately released and reunited with his family in Scotland.

The fallout for the Foreign Office, Home Office and intelligence agencies, if this case goes all the way and there is full disclosure, will be massive."

Case study: allegations of mistreatment

In the course of an investigation, MI5 passed intelligence to a liaison partner via SIS. The subject of the intelligence was arrested by the liaison partner in their country. The individual told the British Consular Official that he had been tortured.

The FCO led the response to this allegation and lobbied for further access to the detainee. The FCO continue to regularly access the individual throughout his detention.

With the detainee's consent, the matter was raised with the local law enforcement and relevant government departments in country. The FCO requested an independent and impartial investigation. The issue was also raised at a bilateral meeting by the Prime Minister.

Following a suggestion from the local government, consular staff have also made the individual and his family and legal representatives aware of how they could initiate a formal human rights complaint.



David Lammy @DavidLammy
These allegations are deeply concerning. Jagtar Singh Johal is a British national who has been arbitrarily detained with no legal basis.

Boris Johnson must come clean about whether he authorised sharing this intelligence when he was Foreign Secretary.



thetimes.co.uk
Jagtar Singh Johal: Briton tortured after spy



Sarah Champion @SarahChampionMP
Jagtar Singh Johal case: UK spy agencies accused of tip-off that led to torture. Hugely concerning, I'll be asking questions



bbc.co.uk
UK spy agencies accused of tip-off that led to torture



David Davis @DavidDavis... · 58m
This is a horrifying story, but not the first of its kind.

The public need to know the full facts, since the British Government stated it has stopped aiding states in carrying out torture.



thetimes.co.uk
Jagtar Singh Johal: Briton tortured after spy chiefs' tip-off



Steve Baker MP FRSA @SteveBakerHW
This appalling case, where UK intelligence sharing has been linked to brutal torture, illustrates vividly why the National Security Bill needs to be improved.

My speech on the Bill:
hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-0...

Reprive @Reprive · 2d
BREAKING: Our client, Jagtar Singh Johal, is taking the UK Government to court.
We've uncovered critical information that MI5 & MI6 might have shared information about Jagtar...
[Show this thread](#)



Martin Docherty-Hughes @MartinJDocherty
"If proven, these allegations risk destroying whatever confidence Britain's Sikh, and other minority populations, had in the security services."
Read more



bbc.co.uk
Jagtar Singh Johal: Tortured Scott's family astonished by tip-off claim



Marion Fellows MP @marionfellows
This is absolutely outrageous. #Jagtar's family (who have links to Motherwell) will understandably have many questions they deserve answers to now.
[#FreeJaggiNow](#)

Relations between minority communities and the security services/UK state will be further damaged by this.

#FreeJaggiNow @FreeJaggiNow · 13h
"MI5 and MI6 spies supplied information that led to the torture of a British citizen in India"
[#FreeJaggiNow](#)



Stewart McDonald MP @StewartMcDonald
If @trusslizz really believes in "an alliance of freedom loving democracies" - as she's been so keen to tell us these past few months - then she'll explain all of this to parliament and, more importantly, to Jagtar's family.



thetimes.co.uk
Jagtar Singh Johal: Briton tortured after spy chiefs' tip-off



Preet Kaur Gill MP @PreetKGillMP
The revelation that it was information passed from Britain to India that led to Johal's arrest is concerning. Boris Johnson was foreign secretary at the time. The sign-off on the transfer of such information could only have been given by him.



thetimes.co.uk
Jagtar Singh Johal: Briton tortured after spy chiefs' tip-off





SIKH LEGAL ASSISTANCE BOARD



PO Box 5216, Dumbarton, G82 9AZ

Scottish Charitable Incorporate Organisation Number: SC048790

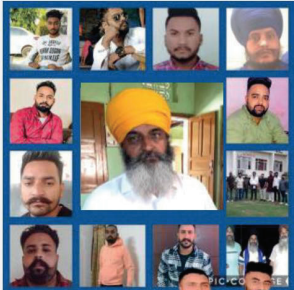
info@sikhlegalboard.org | www.sikhlegalboard.org



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 Manjpur and Panjab Lawyers.

SLAB's fantastic work has led to the direct release of 38 Sikh political prisoners and SLAB is supporting on approximately 50 other cases.

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



SLABs 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

£20

£50

£100

£250

£500

Bank A/C: Sikh Legal Assistance Board (SLAB)

Bank of Scotland: Acc: 18537362 Sort: 80-22-60



WORKING FOR **TRUTH JUSTICE FREEDOM**

The Sikh Federation (UK) is a volunteer-based organisation. Our members come from a range of backgrounds. Given the number of wide-ranging projects and challenges ahead, we are keen to attract professionals and welcome additional volunteers. Key skills and sector knowledge are needed in local & central government, politics & lobbying, human rights, legal, PR & media and web & social media.

For more information please email info@sikhfeduk.com

DONATE NOW

For monetary donations to support any of the initiatives,
please note the following bank details

HSBC: Sikh Federation (UK)

Sort Code: 40-43-03 Account No: 51692992

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