

April 25, 2011

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH DEMANDS PROSECUTION OF CONGRESS LEADERS FOR NOVEMBER 1984 KILLINGS OF SIKHS

Renowned international human rights organization Human Rights Watch (HRW) has issued a statement on April 25, 2011 demanding prosecution of Congress leaders who were involved in organizing attacks on Sikhs during November 1984.

According to Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia Direct at HRW, in November 1984 Sikhs were attacked and killed "with the complicity of senior members of Gandhi's then-ruling Congress party". The statement goes on to say that "Although there is evidence that at least some of the attacks were orchestrated by senior political figures, none have yet been convicted for the 1984 killings".

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/04/25/india-bring-charges-newly-discovered-massacre-sikhs>

This recent statement from HRW has been issued in the wake of startling discovery by Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) and All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF) of 26 year old Mass Graves, debris of ruined houses and Gurudwaras and sites where Sikhs were burnt alive during November 1984.

According to attorney **Gurpatwant Singh Pannun** legal advisor to SFJ, "HRW's statement demanding prosecution of Congress party leaders supports the case of victims of November 1984 against Congress party and its leaders."

The case against Congress (I) has been filed by "Sikhs For Justice" (SFJ) a US based human rights group along with several Sikh individuals from different states and cities of India who witnessed and survived attacks in November 1984. The class action lawsuit (SFJ v. Congress (I) SDNY (10 CV 2940)) has been filed under Alien Tort Claims Act (ATCA) and Torture Victim Protection Act (TVPA). Congress (I) has been charged with "conspiring, aiding, abetting and carrying out organized attacks on Sikh population of India in November 1984". Plaintiffs have asked for a "jury trial" and will have the right to call upon survivors and experts on Genocide as witnesses to prove that systematic killing of Sikhs in November 1984 was Genocide as defined Article 2 of the UN Convention on Genocide.

Attorney Pannun further stated that "SFJ has approached "The International Federation for Human Rights" (FIDH) which specifically helps victims of human rights violations and fights practice of impunity to intervene on behalf of the victims in the pending law suit against Congress party." FIDH has a permanent office at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Hague and is currently involved in many cases before domestic courts and the ICC where it is helping the victims of human rights violations.

April 15, 2011

CANADIAN SIKHS TO PUSH "GENOCIDE" MOTION IN PARLIAMENT VOW TO PRESENT NEW EVIDENCE OF MASS GRAVES IN CANADA'S 41st PARLIAMENT

Sikh votes shouldn't be taken for granted was the message that was delivered loud and clear at a conference held on April 9, 2011 by Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), a human rights group, backed by the Ontario Gurudwaras Committee and Ontario Sikhs and Gurudwaras Committee. Together, the three organizations agreed to pursue a Parliamentary motion to have the attacks carried out against Sikhs in November 1984 recognized as Genocide.

Hundreds of Sikhs attended the conference in which SFJ presented startling new evidence and eyewitness accounts of genocidal attacks on Sikhs that took place in India 26 years ago during November 1984. SFJ also announced a campaign to collect 100,000 signatures demanding Canadian MPs to bring forward a Genocide Motion and debate in the Canadian Parliament in November 2011.

NDP Leader Jack Layton's issued a written statement, which was read by Jagmeet Singh NDP candidate for Bramalea-Gore-Malton. According to Mr. Layton his party "has consistently demanded a clear explanation for why and how this community was targeted by organized mobs and officials in 1984."

Addressing the conference human rights lawyer and legal advisor to SFJ Gurpatwant Singh Pannun stated that, "the new evidence and eyewitness accounts in Hondh-Chillar, Patudi and other places proves that the November 1984 attacks were carried out with specific intent to destroy Sikh population of India. This justifies and requires a debate in the Parliament over the question of Sikh Genocide."

Previously, in June 2010, Liberal MPs Andrew Kania and Sukh Dhaliwal presented a petition regarding Sikh Genocide to which the Government responded by saying that there is no evidence of specific intent in the case of November 1984 attacks on Sikhs.

Jatinder Singh Grewal, SFJ Coordinator, urged youths to present this new evidence to the MP contestants from all parties and seek their support in bringing the Sikh Genocide debate to the new Parliament.

Sukhminder Singh Hansra, a senior Sikh Journalist and editor of Sikh Press stated that recently Canada has been shying away from raising the issue of human rights violations in India, while

being vocal about human rights violations in other countries. Canada should raise the issue of issue of human rights violations irrespective of any trade economic benefits.

The newly discovered evidence presented at the April 9 Conference consisted of:

1. Mass Grave of Sikhs at village Hondh-Chillar in Haryana State.
2. Discovery of debris and ruined houses in Pataudi, Haryana State.
3. Discovery of ruined houses and buildings in Gurgaon, Haryana State.
4. Indian Government records showing Sikhs filed 35,000 claims of deaths and serious injuries, following the November 1984 attacks. More than 20,000 claims were from attacks that took place outside Delhi and in the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

April 12, 2011

**MASS GRAVE OF 65 SIKHS BURNT ALIVE IN DELHI FOUND
AFTER 26 YEARS
RUINS OF DELHI GURUDWARAS BURNT IN NOVEMBER 1984 DISCOVERED**

A mass Grave of Sikhs killed in November 1984 has been discovered after 26 years at Gurudwara in 22 Block, Nagloi, No.1, Delhi where more than sixty five (65) Sikhs were burnt alive November 1984. The site where Sikhs were burnt alive killed is located in front of Gurudwara Udaseen Taran Ashram.

All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF), "National 1984 Victims Justice & Welfare Society" and "Sikhs for Justice" (SFJ) have also discovered burnt ruins and debris of several other Gurudwaras in Nangloi, Sultanpuri, Kalyanpuri and Mangolpuri areas of Delhi. A list of names of newly discovered ruins of Gurudwaras and list of victims from Gurudwara Udaseen has also been released.

In November 1984 Gurudwara Udaseen was run by Sikhs who migrated from Peshawar Pakistan. Today, there is a cemented square in front of the Gurudwara where sixty five (65) Sikhs along with Granthi of the Gurudwara and Sri Guru Granth Sahib, were burnt alive.

Gurdwara Udaseen, where sixty five Sikhs along with the Granthi of the Gurdwara and Sri Guru Granth Sahib were burnt alive

According to **Karnail Singh Peermohammad, President AISSF**, the victims at Gurudwara

Udaseen were targetted only because they were Sikhs. The newly discovered ruins of Gurudwaras across Delhi confirm that twenty six years after November 1984, Sikhs have still not received any justice. DSGMC has miserably failed to protect the Gurudwaras and has failed to prosecute the attackers during past 26 years. DSGMC have been repeatedly urged to file criminal complaint against Kamal Nath for leading the attack on Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Sahib but influential Sarna brothers who head DSGMC have been constantly shielding Kamal Nath and Congress (I).

According to **Advocate Navkiran Singh, Chief Legal Counsel to SFJ**, the startling discovery of mass grave of 65 Sikhs along with ruins of burnt Gurudwaras in Delhi and ruins of Hondh-Chillar, Pataudi and Gurgaon is an irrefutable evidence that in November 1984, Sikhs were targeted and attacked in a systematic and identical manner throughout India.

Babu Singh Dukhia, President "National 1984 Victims Justice & Welfare Society" whose relentless efforts have brought forth the discovery of mass grave at Udaseen, urged witnesses and survivors to come forward if they know of any hidden location where Sikhs were killed during November 1984.

According to **Legal Advisor to SFJ, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun** stated that the new evidence and eyewitness accounts in Hondh-Chillar, Pataudi and other places proves that the November 1984 attacks were carried out with specific intent to destroy Sikh population of India. Despite of hundreds of Gurudwaras having been burnt in Delhi alone, no one has been investigated, charged or prosecuted for attacking the place of worship. The scope and findings of inquiry commissions and committees set up by the Indian Government are grossly lacking and insufficient.

Newspaper Coverage:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article1692014.ece>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/speednewsshow/7961776.cms>

<http://www.sikhsiyasat.net/2011/04/12/mass-grave-of-65-sikhs-burnt-alive-in-delhi-and-ruins-of-gurudwaras-burnt-in-november-1984-discovered/>

<http://www.punjabnewslines.com/content/mass-grave-65-sikhs-burnt-alive-delhi-found-after-26-years/30265>

<http://yespunjab.wordpress.com/2011/04/12/now-mass-grave-of-65-sikhs-found-in-delhi/>

April 1, 2011

SFJ CONDEMNS BADAL GOVERNMENT' ACTION OF DESECRATING SIKH TURBAN

Will Campaign to Declare Punjab Police as 'Terrorist Organization'

In a disturbing incident in Mohali, a young Sikh man's turban was forcibly removed in broad day light by a police officer on the orders of another senior officer of Punjab Police. The incident proves that SAD (Badal) have not only failed to protect the dignity of Sikh articles of faith but they are also engaged in intentional desecration of Sikh turban.

The incident took place on March 28, 2011 when pharmacists from Punjab exercising their fundamental right gathered in Mohali for a peaceful sit-in to high light their demands. Punjab police on the orders of Badal Government first cane charged the gathering in which women were beaten mercilessly by Punjab Police. Not satisfied after beating the women, senior officers of Punjab Police then ordered the police to forcibly remove turbans of Sikhs who were present in the gathering. Footage with audio and video clearly showing a Sikh police officer order another police officer to forcibly remove a Sikh's turban has emerged.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONYV8hUKN3Y>

According to human rights lawyer and legal advisor to SJF Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, forcibly removing the turban of a Sikh is the worst form of religious persecution and violation of Sikh human rights, especially when it takes place in Punjab, the homeland of Sikhs under the government headed by a Sikh.

Concerned with the growing slogans of revenge for Mohali incident vocalized on the web, SFJ coordination committee appealed to the Sikh community not to take law into their hands and instead support SFJ and AISSF in perusing legal course of action over the Mohali incident.

SFJ will approach the governments of United States, Canada and European Union to declare Punjab Police as a "terrorist organization" for the recent incidents of torture in custody, extra

judicial killings and blatant desecration of Sikh articles of faith in Mohali, all of which establish a practice and policy of Punjab Police of violating Sikh human rights.

Newspaper Coverage:

- http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-03-31/news/29365195_1_sikh-articles-punjab-police-police-officer
- <http://www.pravasitoday.com/sikh-group-asks-for-terrorist-tag-for-punjab-police>
- <http://www.topnews.in/usa/terrorist-tag-punjab-police-demanded-after-turban-incident-28735>
- <http://www.epaper365.com/news/india-news/terrorist-tag-for-punjab-police-demanded-after-turban-incident-times-of-india/>
- <http://www.twocircles.net/node/245123>
- <http://my.news.yahoo.com/terrorist-tag-punjab-police-demanded-turban-incident-20110330-003521-437.html>
- http://www.india2020.com/news/punjab-turban-desecration-90?utm_source=recentnews
- <http://www.punjabstarnews.com/North-America/Terrorist-tag-for-Punjab-Police-demanded-after-turban-incident.html>
- <http://www.indiatalkies.com/2011/03/terrorist-tag-punjab-police-demanded-turban-incident.html>
- <http://www.sify.com/news/terrorist-tag-for-punjab-police-demanded-after-turban-incident-news-international-ld4nkiaedea.html>
- <http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-179106.html>
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- <http://headlinesindia.mapsofindia.com/india-and-world/united-states/terrorist-tag-for-punjab-police-demanded-after-turban-incident-79148.html>
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- http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/world-news/terrorist-tag-for-punjab-police-demanded-after-turban-incident_100520005.html
- <http://www.prokerala.com/news/articles/a211873.html>
- <http://maninblue1947.wordpress.com/2011/03/30/sikhs-for-justice-sfj-condemns-badal-government-action-of-desecrating-sikh-turban-will-campaign-to-declare-punjab-police-as-terrorist-organization/>
- <http://punjabnewsline.com/content/aissf-demands-badals-resignation-over-desecration-turban-punjab-police/29935>
- http://www.punjabspectrum.com/english/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2584:aissf-demands-badals-resignation-over-desecration-of-sikh-turban-by-punjab-police-in-mohali&catid=163:punjab&Itemid=46
- http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Desecration_of_Sikh_turban_by_Punjab_Police
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