

September 23, 2010

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP RAISED "SIKH GENOCIDE" ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA

In the wake of President Barack Obama's upcoming visit to India in November 2010 during which he will also visit Golden Temple, a delegation of "Sikhs For Justice", a human rights advocacy group met President Barack Obama on September 20, 2010 in Philadelphia to apprise him about the "Sikh Genocide". The Sikhs For Justice delegation requested the President Obama to raise the issue of "Genocide" and continued denial of justice to the victims, with the Indian Government during his upcoming visit to India.

During the meeting, Dr. Bakhshish Singh Sandhu Coordinator of Sikhs For Justice briefed the President Barack Obama with the details about the systematic killing of Sikhs in India focusing on November 1984 when more than 30000 Sikhs were murdered throughout India in just 3 days; continued denial of justice to the victims of November 1984; and policy of impunity openly practiced by Indian Government towards the killers of Sikhs.

According to Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, legal advisor to Sikhs for Justice, no other world leader is more capable to understand the plight of Sikhs in India than President Obama who himself comes from a minority community which had suffered a lot of discrimination and injustice in America, just like Sikhs in India. Attorney Pannun stated, Sikh community hopes that President Obama will use his position and influence to further of cause justice for the victims of Sikh Genocide and issues related to deteriorating human rights conditions in India.

According to attorney Pannun it is undisputed that successive Indian Governments have failed to prosecute the guilty and continue to shield them. Attorney Pannun added that instead of sacking Minister Kamal Nath from his cabinet position, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Government is paying millions of dollars to Law Firms in New York to defend Kamal Nath in a pending Genocide trial against him in New York court.



President Obama with SFJ Coordinator Dr Bakhshish Singh Sandhu

Sikhs for Justice has also submitted a memorandum to President Obama about the following demands of Sikhs:

Article 25 of the Constitution of India should be amended to restore the status of Sikhism as a separate religion.

As per Article 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), India should fulfill its obligation by providing opportunity to exercise and realize right of Self Determination to Sikh people of India.

Systematic killing of Sikhs (1984-98) in India should be recognized as "Genocide" under Article 2 of the UN Convention on Genocide.

India must stop practicing impunity towards human rights violators and punish the perpetrators of Sikh Genocide (1984-98).

International Human Rights Organization should be allowed to enter and work in India, particularly in the state of Punjab.

Newspaper Coverage:

- <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics/nation/Sikh-group-meets-Obama-on-anti-Sikh-riots/articleshow/6615899.cms>
- <http://news.outlookindia.com/item.aspx?694475>
- <http://onespot.wsj.com/indian-politics/2010/09/23/a/702512714-sikh-group-meets-obama-on/>
- <http://news.in.msn.com/international/article.aspx?cp-documentid=4420050>
- <http://sikhsangat.org/2010/09/human-rights-group-raised-sikh-genocide-issue-with-president-obama/>
- <http://punjabnewslines.com/content/human-rights-group-raised-sikh-genocide-issue-president-obama/24181>
- http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_sikh-group-meets-barack-obama-on-anti-sikh-riots_1442197
- <http://news.rediff.com/report/2010/sep/23/sikh-group-meets-obama.htm>
- <http://www.anhourago.in/show.aspx?l=6091093&d=502>
- <http://www.daylife.com/article/0gqWdLK7TgbXb?q=India>
- http://www.siliconindia.com/shownews/Sikh_group_meets_Obama_on_antiSikh_riots-nid-71913-cid-1.html
- <http://www.indiareport.com/India-usa-uk-news/latest-news/904305/National/1/20/1>
- http://in.buzz.yahoo.com/article/1:the_economic_606:1e489deca880944b882e915d9bcad12f/Sikh-group-meets-Obama-on-anti-Sikh-riots

September 21, 2010

TRAIL AGAINST SAJJAN KUMAR TO CONTINUE

SUPREME COURT REJECTS SAJJAN KUMAR'S PLEA

The sustained struggle for justice by Senior Advocate HS Phoolka for the victims of November 1984 Sikh Genocide, Human Rights Advocacy group Sikhs For Justice and All India Sikh Student Federation (AISSF) bore fruit when Supreme Court refused to quash the charges of murder and other offences against Congress Leader Sajjan Kumar in killing of Sikhs during the November 1984 Sikh Genocide.

The Supreme Court vacated the August 13, 2010 interim order staying the trial proceedings against Sajjan Kumar before a trial court. The Supreme Court directed the trial court to expedite the hearings of the case for its early disposal. And further stated that the trial judge is free to analyze, appreciate and evaluate the materials placed before it.

After reserving the judgment on September 13 on the appeal filed by Sajjan Kumar against the Delhi High Court decision of refusing to stay the trial against him on July 19, Supreme Court today finally rejected Sajjan Kumar's plea. The trial court had in May 2010 framed charges under Murder; Looting, Dacoity and Robbery; Spreading enmity between communities; Violation of curfew orders, Arson, burning of Gurudwara and burning of Houses.

This case relates to killing of five Sikhs in Delhi Cantonment area by a mob led by Sajjan Kumar and other accused during the November 1984 Sikh Genocide. On the basis of recommendations of Justice Nanavati Commission, this case was entrusted to CBI in 2005 for further investigation/ reinvestigation against Sajjan Kumar. Besides Sajjan Kumar, the other accused in the case are Balwan Khokhar, Mahender Yadav, Maha Singh, Capt Bhagmal, Santosh Rani, Girdhari Lal and Krishna Khokhar.

Senior Advocate HS Phoolka appearing for the victims stated this is a very important development and he is very hopeful that the perpetrators of the November 1984 Sikh Genocide will be punished. He further stated that the hopes of the victims and all others are now pinned on the Indian Judiciary.

Attorney Gurpatwant S Pannun, Legal Advisor of Sikhs for Justice stated that with this decision of Supreme Court now the trial against Sajjan Kumar will continue in the court and the witness Jagdish Kaur will be testified before the court.

AISSF President Karnail Singh Peermohammed stated that though delayed, he is hopeful that justice will be done. He stated that the wounds of the Sikh community will be healed only after the killers of the Sikhs are punished by law.

Newspaper Coverage

- <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/article701566.ece?homepage=true>
- <http://www.asianage.com/print/33729>
- <http://www.zeenews.com/news656327.html>

- <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/sc-refuses-to-quash-charges-against-sajjan/684312/>
- <http://www.hindustantimes.com/SC-rejects-Sajjan-Kumar-s-plea/H1-Article1-602354.aspx>
- <http://www.timesnow.tv/Trial-against-Sajjan-Kumar-to-go-on/articleshow/4354200.cms>
- <http://news.outlookindia.com/item.aspx?694023>
- <http://sify.com/news/1984-riots-supreme-court-rejects-sajjan-kumar-s-plea-news-national-kjumadeieei.html>
- <http://www.sikhsiyasat.net/2010/09/20/sikh-genocide-1984-trial-to-continue-against-sajjan-kumar-sci/>
- <http://news.oneindia.in/2010/09/20/trial-against-sajjan-kumar-will-continue-sc.html>
- <http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/trial-against-sajjan-kumar-in-1984-anti-sikh-riots-case-to-continue-supreme-court-53306>
- <http://www.dailypioneer.com/284387/SC-refuses-to-stay-trial-against-Sajjan-Kumar.html>
- <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/6590121.cms?prtpage=1>
- <http://truthdive.com/2010/09/20/Trial-against-Sajjan-Kumar-in-1984-riots-case-to-continue-Supreme-Court.html>
- <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/national/1984-riots-case-sc-rejects-sajjan-kumar%E2%80%99s-plea-577>
- http://www.thestatesman.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=342084&catid=35
- http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/uncategorized/supreme-court-rejects-sajjan-kumars-plea_100431299.html
- <http://www.newstrackindia.com/printnews/180474#>
- <http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20100920/1591124.html>
- http://www.mynews.in/News/apex_court_quashes_sajjan_kumars_plea_to_drop_charges_N91985.html
- <http://www.ajitjalandhar.com/20100921/>
- <http://rozanaspokesman.com/fullpage.aspx?view=main&yview=2010&mview=Sep&dview=21&pview=1>
- <http://www.punjabidaily.com/00print/210910.pdf>

September 9, 2010

U.S. COURT ORDERS TRIAL AGAINST INDIAN MINISTER KAMAL NATH FOR HIS ROLE IN 1984 KILLING OF SIKHS

TRIAL TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

On September 07, 2010, Honorable Judge Robert Sweet of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York issued an order in the case against Kamal Nath, Indian Minister for Roadways, asking the parties to appear in the court on September 22, 2010 for a pre-trial conference to discuss "settlement, exploring contemplated motions, stipulating facts, arranging a plan and schedule for all discovery and setting a time for trial". The case against Kamal Nath was filed in April 2010 by plaintiffs Sikhs for Justice(SFJ), a U.S.-based non-profit human rights advocacy group and victims Jasbir Singh and Mohinder Singh.

According to Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, legal advisor to Sikhs for Justice, the court's order dated September 07, 2010 is the start of trial against Kamal Nath for leading the mob that attacked Gurdawara Rakab Ganj Delhi on November 1, 1984 in which many Sikhs were burnt alive.

The plaintiffs have requested a "jury trial" during will plaintiffs will submit documentary evidence proving participation of Nath and many leaders of the Indian National Congress in the November 1984 Sikh Genocide. According to Pannun, SFJ has new evidence which proves Minister Nath also organized the massacre of Sikhs in different cities of Madhya Pradesh including his constituency Chhindwara. During November 1984, hundreds of Sikhs were killed in more than 43 cities of Madhya Pradesh and according to the official documents of the Indian Government, more than 3,500 hundred claims were filed by Sikhs from the state of Madhya Pradesh alone.

Attorney Pannun further stated that "Alien Tort Claims Act of United State, the law under which trial against Kamal Nath will be held is specifically created to provide remedy and forum to victims of genocide to vindicate their complaints and the trial against Kamal Nath is one such opportunity through which SFJ plans to put on the record of the court evidence related to Genocide of Sikhs and Kamal Nath's role in it".

Plaintiffs will also 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.

The lawsuit against Minister Nath is filed under ALIEN TORT CLAIMS ACT (ATCA) AND THE TORTURE VICTIM PROTECTION ACT (TVPA) asking the U.S. Court to grant compensatory and punitive damages for his role in leading an armed mob that attacked Gurdawara Rakab Ganj Delhi on November 1, 1984 in which many Sikhs were burnt alive.

Kamal Nath did not respond to the summons issued by the court on April 06, 2010 which resulted in entry of default against Kamal Nath on August 05, 2010.

Sikhs for Justice, is a U.S. based human rights advocacy group, which is striving to disseminate information regarding the Genocide of Sikhs in November 1984 and is mobilizing Human Rights Groups and the International Community on a common platform. Sikhs for Justice is pursuing the legal battle to get the justice for the victims of the November 1984 Sikh Genocide with the support of ALL INDIA SIKH STUDENTS FEDERATION, a social political organization headed by Karnail Singh Peermohammad.

Newspaper Coverage:

- <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/95431/us-court-orders-pre-trial.html>
- <http://www.sikhsangat.com/index.php?/topic/55467-kamal-nath-case-us-court-orders-pre-trial-conference/>
- <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article555950.ece>
- <http://sikhactivist.net/?p=1075>
- <http://www.n-net.com/news/Kamal-Nath.html>
- <http://www.indiareport.com/India-usa-uk-news/latest-news/895651/National/1/20/1>
- <http://www.ajitjalandhar.com/20100910/>
- <http://rozanaspokesman.com/fullpage.aspx?view=main&yview=2010&mview=Sep&dview=10&pview=1>
- <http://seneha.tumblr.com/post/1090984944/kamal-nath-us-trial-to-begin-september0ind>