



GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL
VOICE OF SIKHS WORLDWIDE

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THE VOICE OF SIKHS AROUND THE WORLD WIDE

PRESS RELEASE

Ref: Kirpan-Italy

Date: 10th July 2017

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Respected All

Waheguru ji ka Khalsa
Waheguru ji ki Fateh

Global Sikh Council congratulates the Italian Sikh community for outrightly rejecting the suggestion of a specially designed kirpan. Dr Dalbir Singh President of Gurdwara Singh Sabha Flero explained that, 'the Sikh who went to the Jathedar of Akal Takhat with the proposal of a modified kirpan did not consult any member of any Sikh organisation in Italy.' There are over 15 Gurdwaras in Italy and this Sikh did not feel the need to discuss this 'modified kirpan' with any of his coreligionists in Italy and went straight to the Jathedar of Akal Takhat for his approval.

Sad issue is that the Jathedar of Akal Takhat Sahib instead of totally rejecting it, has agreed to discuss the issue with other Jathedars and Professor Kirpal Singh Badungar President Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee. The very suggestion of this modified version of the kirpan is preposterous and has dangerous repercussion for the whole Sikh community spread worldwide. All the Sikh Gurdwaras in Italy have written emails to the Jathedar telling him that they reject the modified kirpan and will not accept it under any circumstances. **'We will defy any ruling in favour of the modified kirpan by the Jathedar'** stated Dr Dalbir Singh. Jathedars have no authority to rule on this.

We applaud the action of the Italian Sikh Community for standing up against this distortion of a Sikh article of faith- the kirpan. This modified version of the kirpan is of a flimsy material that can easily be bent and has a rounded tip. The outrageous suggestion is that each

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kirpan is to be made in Italy and to have a serial number. This will be issued to Sikhs by the Italian Government with a licence. We the Sikhs all over the world are thankful to the Italian Sikhs who had the foresight to reject any type of Government interference and any type of modification with our Sikh articles of faith.

We the Global Sikh Council are happy to be of any assistance needed by the Italian Sikhs.

Note: Sikhs in the UK have a legal right to wear their five articles of faith of which kirpan is one. Kirpans of 5 inches in length are accepted in all over UK, including the courts, armed forces, by airport staff, and can even be worn (under the clothes) by Sikh Prison Chaplains while meeting prisoners.

Sincerely Your
Kanwaljit Kaur

Lady Singh, Dr Kanwaljit Kaur OBE
President Global Sikh Council

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