



GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL

International Voice of The Sikhs

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VOICE OF SIKHS WORLDWIDE

Global Sikh Council Press Release

The Global Sikh Council strongly condemns the shameful, unprovoked violent attack on Bhai Amrik Singh at Singh Sabha Gurdwara Southall. The victim, Bhai Amrik Singh is a well-respected Sikh preacher from India who promotes the sovereignty of Guru Granth Sahib and condemns the un-Sikh like practices being taught by some saints, babas and deras.

I spoke with Bhai Amrik Singh on the morning of 12.5.18. He told me that he was invited by the Gurdwara Management Committee to do katha (Religious Discourse). While he was sitting on the stage during the reading of the hukamnama, a Sikh from the congregation got up and whispered in his hear not to do katha. After a few minutes the same man came and told him aggressively that he should not do katha. He was then asked by five Sikhs to discuss their concerns outside the gurdwara hall. At this Bhai ji giving importance to Panj Sikhs, along with the secretary of the Gurdwara came out of the prayer hall.

Bhai Amrik Singh recalled: 'The moment I stepped out of the hall, the five knocked my turban off, hit me on the head with a Kara, threw me on the floor and kicked me several times. They had some sort of a weapon with that I received a deep cut on my neck. These people were joined with 30/40 others. I was taken upstairs and asked to sit alone in a room for nearly two and half hours while discussions were going on in the other room. At the end, the members of the management committee came and asked me to apologise to the perpetrators. I had not even begun my Katha or done anything to upset them and I refused.'

GSC is appalled at this shameless behaviour of asking the victim to apologise to the attackers, no apology was given to Bhai Amrik Singh. The attempt to intimidate a respectable Sikh preacher from speaking in a gurdwara, and then, on the pretext of wishing to discuss issues, taking him outside the gurdwara hall and knocking off his

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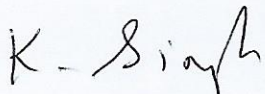
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turban and causing him actual bodily harm, is nothing but criminal. Those responsible cannot be called Sikhs and be urgently reported to the police.

Incidents like this damage the image of the whole Sikh Community at a time when all around the world Sikhs are trying to win the right to wear turbans and keep the five articles of their faith. Bhai Amrik Singh's crime was that he has consistently preached that Sikhs should always be true to the teachings of the Guru Granth Sahib and not to follow those who seek to distort Sikh teachings.

Talking to Bhai Amrik Singh I realised how hurt he was, not only with physical wounds but also his sense of dignity and self respect over his turban being knocked off. We owe him not only just verbal sympathy but must take action that this sort of violence never happens again in our gurdwaras.

All Sikhs should ensure that their Gurdwara management committees must commit themselves to follow the hukum of Guru Gobind Singh to be true to the guidance of the Guru Granth Sahib and no other cult. This must also be the basis of all preaching in gurdwaras.



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