



21-4-20

S Rana Singh Sodhi
Minister of Sports, Youth & NRI Affairs
Government of Punjab

Dear Rana Singh Sodhi ji,

It was good to speak to you yesterday. It was encouraging to hear of your readiness to assist in helping get safe passage for Sikh and Hindu families out of Afghanistan. As suggested by you, I am providing the details requested, I am writing to you as Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations UK, and at the request of the Global Sikh Council with representative bodies in more than 30 countries.

The Threat

Following the killing of Sikhs in the main gurdwara in Kabul on 25 March 2020 and the murder of Sikh families in Jalalabad 18 months back, remaining Sikh and Hindu families are fearful of further attacks by ISIS. It is a very real fear as there is little police protection and they are desperately in wishing to leave the country.

Numbers and location

The best information that we have is that approximately 650 Sikhs and Hindus are either trapped in their homes in Kabul, Jalalabad and Gazni, or are seeking refuge in gurdwaras there.

Hardship

Some mercenaries want to take over their properties and businesses. The threat to their lives is so real that they cannot think of stepping out for food or daily errands.

Request

India has previously been generous in giving them temporary stay. Afghan Sikhs are enterprising people and ask for nothing more than opportunity to join relatives in the UK and Canada, but it will take many months to get necessary sponsorship. Some have already submitted requests to the Indian Embassy in Kabul for travel visas but there seems to be an impasse. They are willing to stay in quarantine when they reach India and follow guidelines that the government may impose for health reasons due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We shall be grateful for your urgent assistance. The Global Sikh Council (GSC) currently headed by my wife Lady Singh, Dr Kanwaljit Kaur OBE is leading in this matter. I will be grateful if your reply is also copied to the GSC, at kaursingh3@aol.com and the WhatsApp number is +7716497376.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Indarjit Singh".

Indarjit
Lord Singh of Wimbledon