



BKK MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

House No 176, Gate No.7, Hakikat Nagar,
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Hon'ble Secretary General

United Nations Organization

New York, USA.

31 Mar 2020

Dear Sir,

RELOCATION OF SIKH COMMUNITY OF AFGHANISTAN

The recent mass massacre of Sikh devotees inside a Gurudwara in Kabul, Afghanistan has outraged the conscience of the world, more so as the victims were in the act of prayer at their sacred place of worship.

While the dastardly deed was the handiwork of extremist radical elements, it is rather too well-known that that geography is a hotbed of terrorism and religious fanaticism. This carnage has not been an isolated instance, as murderous attacks on leaders and members of the minority Sikh community has occurred with disturbing frequency. The community has not still come to terms with the killing of their leader Awtar Singh in a suicide bombing, along with 18 others, mostly Sikhs, and yet another bloodbath in July 2018 which had cost 18 Sikh lives. Both these tragic incidents occurred in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

Just thirty years ago, the Sikhs were a thriving 500,000 strong community in Afghanistan, but thanks to Talibanization, and the concomitant religious persecution, conversions on pain of death, loss of livelihood, threats to life and migration, their number has dwindled to 300 families. It is increasingly difficult for the Sikhs to feel safe in Afghanistan and live a life of dignity.

The Sikhs are a pious, industrious, proud and peace-loving people. The advent of Sikhism in India, the valour and sacrifice of the Sikhs, and their contribution to social and national life, mark a golden chapter in Indian history. Egalitarianism and service to mankind are the tenets basic to the Sikh philosophy.



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The Sikhs have since moved out and settled in other countries, created wealth and prospered, and added value to social and cultural life of the country of their adoption.

Sir, your intervention is now sought to move the Sikh families out of Afghanistan and resettle them in United Kingdom, Canada or USA. I hasten to add that the cost of their migration, rehabilitation and resettlement will be borne entirely by the local Sikh community in the country of their accreditation, and that there will be absolutely no financial burden either on the UNO or on the respective countries concerned.

Sir, it is pertinent to add that, over the years, Sikhs who were displaced from Afghanistan had sought shelter in India, and have since been granted full citizenship of India.

I take leave to approach you in view of the exigency of the situation, and to obviate further genocide.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(TRUSTEE)
(BHUPINDER SINGH KOHLI)