



21-5-20

Mr. Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
New Delhi

Dear Prime Minister

I write to you to request your urgent intervention to bring back to safety in India, 130 Sikh and Hindu Afghan families numbering 650 individuals by granting them long term visas and arranging their immediate evacuation.

Sikhs worldwide are deeply concerned about the life and safety of the Afghan Sikhs and Hindus. Parliamentarians, Senators and Congressmen, the UN chief, religious leaders of other communities and social activists have all expressed deep concern about the safety of these families.

As you know, two months ago, 25 Sikhs -men, woman and a child of 3 years were killed in a horrific attack on Gurdwara Har Rai Sahib in Kabul. The families of those killed and the remainder of the Sikhs in Afghanistan. totalling some 650, mostly in Kabul, Jalalabad and Ghazni, live in fear and fright having been told that if they do not leave the country they will be killed.

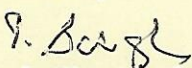
India has been a votary of protecting persecuted minorities, and, although it is after the official deadline for accepting refugees, the perilous plight of Hindus and Sikhs requires compassion. The numbers are comparatively few and many of these will want to join relatives in the diaspora as soon as they are able to do so.

Further to the announcement of restarting of domestic airlines in India by Dr Hardeep Puri, it should not now be difficult for India to arrange 2 or 3 relief flights by Air India to evacuate Sikhs and Hindus who are living in real fear.

Undoubtedly, India, with its friendship with Afghanistan should not face any problem whatsoever in this repatriation. Your contribution in kind to Afghanistan during the coronavirus pandemic would certainly have touched the leadership of the country, which itself is working under substantial strain.

I hope and pray that you will not let down the Afghan Sikhs and Hindus as they anxiously await a nod from the Ministry of External Affairs to the Indian Ambassador in Kabul.

Sincerely


Indarjit, Lord Singh of Wimbledon.

cc : 1.Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs Government of India
2. Lady Singh, Dr Kanwaljit Kaur OBE, President Global Sikh Council