



GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL
VOICE OF SIKHS WORLDWIDE

GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL

International Voice of The Sikhs

UK Registered Charity Number 1186311

JOINT PRESS RELEASE 31 JANUARY 2021

GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL & NETWORK OF SIKH ORGANISATIONS UK INDIAN FARMERS – DEFENDERS OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY



We are writing to express our admiration and full support for hundreds of thousands of Indian farmers and their supporters from all walks of life. Despite the winter cold, and police oppression, they have been demonstrating for the months against unjust laws that threaten their livelihoods. Their courageous stand against injustice gives hope for an end to the systematic erosion of democracy in India.

India's Abuse of Human Rights

The farmers' cause is just and is fully supported by leading figures in the judiciary, high-ranking civil servants, university and college lecturers, trade unionists, Indians abroad and government spokesmen in the UK and Canada. As a UK spokesman put it, 'the right to peaceful demonstration is a basic human right'. The response of the Modi government to this basic human right has been widespread use of tear gas, water cannons, and police brutality against peaceful protesters. There is now a call for India to be expelled from the Commonwealth for its flagrant abuse of human rights.

Many will be unaware that Narendra Modi is a supporter of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a fascist group modelled on the Hitler Youth Movement. In 2002, he was Chief Minister at the time of the infamous Gujarat 'riots', which led to the slaughter of thousands of Muslims. For some years he was barred from entry to the USA and UK. Today, RSS thugs or 'goons' are collaborating with rogue Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supporters and are being given a free hand to beat and maim peaceful protesters

President: Lady Singh (Dr Kanwaljit Kaur OBE)
Tel: +44 (0) 7716 497376
Email: kaursingh3@aol.com

Secretary: S Jagjit Singh LLB Hons Lon, CLP M'sia
Tel: +60 12 658 7456
Email: GSCsecretariat@yahoo.com

Member Organizations From:

Afghanistan Australia Bangladesh Bahrain Belgium Canada Dubai (UAE) France Germany Hong Kong
India Indonesia Ireland Italy Kenya Malaysia Myanmar Nepal New Zealand
Pakistan Portugal Spain Switzerland Thailand UK Uganda USA



GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL

International Voice of The Sikhs

GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL
VOICE OF SIKHS WORLDWIDE

including women and the elderly. The farmers' peaceful protest has captured the world's admiration in the way it looks to the wellbeing not only of the protesters, but also in the way food and medical assistance is offered to the attacking police.

On India's Republic Day (26 January), India's compliant police following orders, removed barricades and opened the large steel gates to the Red Fort to allow known BJP activists to enter as supposed farmer activists to enable the government to smear the protesters as anti-national. Brave reporters in India's tightly controlled media, who drew attention to this absurdity or questioned government action have been harassed and arrested. Many have had their social media accounts blocked and some have disappeared without trace.

The Farming Laws

India's farmers have long been exploited by greedy middlemen. The Modi government saw this an opportunity to 'reorganise' farming. These laws blatantly allow billionaire businessmen who are also party supporters to control the supply and distribution of agricultural produce throughout the country in a way that would leave farmers virtual serfs on their own land.

- The laws were rushed through Parliament with no time given for proper scrutiny or debate.
- They laws are clearly unconstitutional. The Constitution states that agriculture is a devolved responsibility of individual States, not the central government.
- The laws have been condemned as unconstitutional by senior members of the judiciary.
- The laws abolish the minimum support price given to farmers.
- The laws allow for no right of appeal.
- Two close billionaire friends of Modi, with a pre-knowledge of the government's intentions, brought huge sites in Punjab to build giant silos for the long-term storage of grain allowing for price rigging and manipulation.
- Today, in Modi's India, 1% of India's population owns nearly half the country's wealth.

Erosion of Democracy in Modi's India

We are deeply concerned by the government's dismissive attitude to the requirements of its secular constitution and the human rights of its people. The Citizens Amendment Act, in its appeal to majority bigotry, deprived more than a million Muslims of their citizenship with Home Minister Amit Shah referring to Muslim refugees as 'termites'. This was followed by the repeal of Article 370 placing Kashmir under military rule.

President: Lady Singh (Dr Kanwaljit Kaur OBE)
Tel: +44 (0) 7716 497376
Email: kaursingh3@aol.com

Secretary: S Jagjit Singh LLB Hons Lon, CLP M'sia
Tel: +60 12 658 7456
Email: GSCsecretariat@yahoo.com

Member Organizations From:

Afghanistan Australia Bangladesh Bahrain Belgium Canada Dubai (UAE) France Germany Hong Kong
India Indonesia Ireland Italy Kenya Malaysia Myanmar Nepal New Zealand
Pakistan Portugal Spain Switzerland Thailand UK Uganda USA



GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL
VOICE OF SIKHS WORLDWIDE

GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL

International Voice of The Sikhs

The highly respected human rights organisation Amnesty International has been expelled from India to prevent it reporting on the growing abuse of human rights. Amnesty commented:

'It is a dismal day when a country of India's stature, a rising global power and a member of the UN Human Rights Council, with a constitution which commits to human rights and whose national human rights movements have influenced the world, so brazenly seeks to silence those who pursue accountability and justice.'

Urgent action required

India's farmers' brave stand against injustice is fast becoming a people's movement for the restoration of democracy and human rights in India. We pledge them our full support. Those of us living abroad have a particular responsibility to support a movement that has at least 67 lives lost already through cold weather and lack of medical supplies.

While calling on governments around the world to condemn India's repressive behaviour, we urge Mr Modi to commence urgent talks with farmer's leaders to meet their genuine concerns.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE
Member of House of Lords UK Parliament
Director, Network of Sikh Organisations (UK)

Lady Singh, Kanwaljit Kaur
President Global Sikh Council

Global Sikh Council is a confederation of National Level Sikh Organisations worldwide, working together for the advancement of the Sikh religion guided by the Guru Granth Sahib and the socio-economic development of the Sikh community.

President: Lady Singh (Dr Kanwaljit Kaur OBE)
Tel: +44 (0) 7716 497376
Email: kaursingh3@aol.com

Secretary: S Jagjit Singh LLB Hons Lon, CLP M'sia
Tel: +60 12 658 7456
Email: GSCsecretariat@yahoo.com

Member Organizations From:

Afghanistan Australia Bangladesh Bahrain Belgium Canada Dubai (UAE) France Germany Hong Kong
India Indonesia Ireland Italy Kenya Malaysia Myanmar Nepal New Zealand
Pakistan Portugal Spain Switzerland Thailand UK Uganda USA