

**AN URGENT APPEAL TO THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
TO
SAFEGUARD THE SECURITY OF
THE SIKHS AND THEIR HOMELAND
AGAINST NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST**

The alarming risk of war between India and Pakistan is once again the subject of grave international concern. Many responsible world leaders have recently called for restraint, recognising the massive dangers such a conflict would pose in terms of the destabilisation of the region for generations, the possible involvement of other powers in a wider conflict, and the collapse of major economies in the region in the midst of an already serious global economic crisis. Above all, the use of nuclear weapons in the event of war is probable and the direct cost (according to Pentagon officials), in human lives, may easily exceed twelve million dead plus another seven million injured.

Former US President Bill Clinton in 2000 described the region as "the most dangerous place in the world". Since then the scope for misadventure and mass destruction has increased enormously. Following the attacks in Mumbai in November 2008, open hostility and talk of "surgical strikes" have become the currency of political rhetoric between the two sides. The Sikhs, as a nation, are not a party to the Indo-Pak dispute but their homeland in Indian-controlled Punjab is located directly in the line of fire. In the event of a nuclear attack the vast majority of Sikhs will face total annihilation. That is a crime against humanity the international community must not allow. We call upon the UN as well as India and Pakistan to take immediate steps to avoid a preventable holocaust on an innocent party.

The Sikhs suffered the most, both in terms of lives and property lost, in the bloody partition of the sub-continent in 1947 which saw the worst ethnic cleansing in history, when the British ended their colonial rule. They were then the innocent victims of a "two nation" theory (Muslim Pakistan and a Hindu India) which underpinned the partition process and which left them no political rights or the means to protect themselves against aggression. This outcome was forced upon the Sikhs despite once having their nationhood fully recognised by world powers, which entered in to several peace treaties with them prior to the annexation of Punjab by the British in 1849. Since 1947 the Sikhs, based in Indian-controlled Punjab, have again been denied their right to self determination in contravention of

international law. Resulting conflict with an Indian state, which has increasingly adopted a theocratic Hindu fundamentalist agenda, has resulted in the deaths of tens, if not hundreds of thousands of people. If the sovereign rights of the Sikh Nation had been respected then it may have been in a position today to avert this potential disaster. As it happens, it is now unable to effectively protect its homeland and people from the humanitarian catastrophe of an Indo-Pak nuclear exchange. Until those sovereign rights are restored, which we submit will help provide an enduring solution to the problems of the region as a whole, it is the duty of the international community to deliver that protection and prevent the potential annihilation of the world's fifth largest religion.

Expert military strategists who have conducted war games analyses agree that Punjab will be the likely theatre of an Indo- Pak war and that the use of nuclear weapons is almost inevitable. Neither country has been willing to sign up to the UN's non-proliferation regime or unilaterally renounce their nuclear weapons capabilities in order to create a nuclear weapons free South Asia, underlining their willingness to use such weapons. The Sikhs, for whom the consequences are unimaginable, therefore have no alternative but to appeal to the international community to take immediate steps to stop yet another calamity imminently befalling them. It is surely the duty of Indian and Pakistani leaders to positively respond in order to assure the Sikhs, as non-combatants, that the Sikh Homeland at least will not be used for any purpose associated with, nor targeted by, nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. In the event that they fail to do so, the United Nations should itself intervene and ensure that appropriate sanctions are imposed upon them. Such people should also be clearly warned that they will face criminal proceedings before an international court should weapons of mass destruction be used in the Sikh Homeland.

Accordingly, we call for the following steps to be taken and for the relevant parties to make clear and credible public statements setting out their actions in order to give the Sikh Nation the assurances needed at this critical time:

1. The Indian Government to forthwith remove from the Sikh Homeland all nuclear (or chemical or biological) weapons facilities, missiles, warheads and installations and to undertake to the Sikh Nation that it will not, in the event of war with Pakistan, detonate such weapons in the Sikh Homeland.
2. The Pakistan Government to undertake to the Sikh Nation that it will not, in the event of war with India, detonate such weapons in the Sikh Homeland.
3. The UN Security Council, pursuant to its primary function of maintaining international peace and security, to formulate and pass a binding resolution under Chapter VII of the UN Charter prohibiting the governments of India and Pakistan from locating in, or using on, the Sikh Homeland any such

weapons, installations or facilities. Compliance with the terms of the resolution should be monitored by specialist UN observers based in the Sikh Homeland who should establish a no-fly zone over the territory for planes and missiles carrying such weapons.

4. The UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Council and other UN bodies to establish a dialogue with Indian and Pakistani leaders to make them fully aware of their human rights obligations towards the Sikhs and to formally warn those leaderships that any breach of international law or mass rights violations in this context will result in action by a duly constituted criminal court.

In addition we appeal to the wider international community to use its influence with the Indian and Pakistani leadership to take the actions we have called for. These measures will protect not only the Sikhs but those Hindus, Muslims, Christians and others who live in the territory.

The Sikhs, whether they are in Punjab or in the Diaspora across the globe, at this anxious moment in the history of their nation are, for obvious reasons, hoping that peace will in any event prevail. However, should hostilities occur, the threat of a catastrophic nuclear tragedy in the Sikh homeland must be avoided. The Sikhs are not party to this dispute but, self-evidently, need to be engaged when it comes to their very survival and the protection of their own homeland.

26th January 2009

American Gurdwara Prabandakh Committee

Anti-defamation Sikh Council for Freedom of Khalistan, USA

Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Society Abbotsford, Canada

Council of Khalistan

Dal Khalsa International, UK

Daljeet Singh Bittu, Presidium Member, Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) (Panch Pardhani), Punjab

Dr Amarjit Singh, Director, Khalistan Affairs Centre, Washington DC, USA.

Gurdwara Sahib Kalgidhar Darbar, Abbotsford, Canada

Gurdwara Sahib Dasmesh Darbar, Surrey, Canada

International Sikh Youth Federation (Germany)

Italy Sikh Council

Justice (Ret'd) Ajit Singh Bains, Convenor, Punjab Human Rights Organisation

Kanwarpal Singh, Political Affairs Spokesman, Dal Khalsa International, Punjab

Kashmir Singh, Gen-Sec., British Sikh Federation

Khalistan Government in exile

Khalsa Human Rights, UK

Kulwant Singh Dhesi, British Sikh Council.

Mokham Singh, Convenor Khalsa Action Committee, Punjab

Narain Singh, Shiromani Sikh Council International, Punjab

National Council of Gurdwaras, UK

National Sikh Committee Italy

Navkiran Singh, Advocate, General Sec., Lawyers for Human Rights International, Punjab

Ontario Gurdwara Committee (OGC), Canada

Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar), UK

Shiromani Akali Dal (Punj Pardhani), Canada

Shiromani Akali Dal (Punj Pardhani), France

Shiromani Sikh Council, UK

Sikh Council of Belgium

Sikh Federation (UK)

Sikh Foundation Switzerland

Sikh Secretariat, UK

Sikh Youth of America

Simranjeet Singh Mann, President, Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar), Punjab

United Sikh Federation, Canada

Voices For Freedom

Young Sikhs (UK)

Delivered in the UK by the Federation of Sikh Organisations, UK comprising



**Amrik Singh Gill, President
Sikh Federation (UK)**



**Amrik Singh Sahota, OBE, President,
Council of Khalistan.**



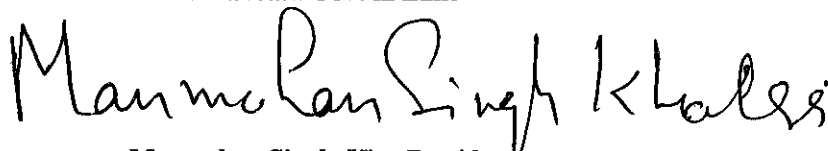
**Balbir Singh
Shiromani Sikh Council, UK**



**Councillor Gurdial Singh Atwal, Chairman,
Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar), UK and Co-ordinator SAD(A) International Committee**



**Gurmej Singh Gill, Prime Minister,
Khalistan Govt in Exile**



**Manmohan Singh, Vice-President,
Dal Khalsa International**