

Sikhs mark Sovereignty Milestones

And Defy Indian Posturing in South Asia

UK (Birmingham), Sunday 9th May 2010: An array of Sikh organisations has, while marking key historical anniversaries relating to Sikh sovereign rule, delivered an uncompromising message to India reaffirming their commitment to once again liberate the Sikh homeland, and to maintain friendly relations with China and Pakistan in order to protect the territory in the event of war in South Asia. They said the Sikhs would never again save India and suggested that the Indian army reconsider its foolish claim to be able to bring its neighbours to their knees within 96 hours.

The 300th anniversary of the first sovereign Sikh state, founded in May 1710, by Banda Singh Bahadur falls this week and the Sikh national hero's achievements were hailed as an inspiration to the current Khalistan struggle. Also commemorated was the Declaration of Khalistan made in 1986, pursuant to the decisions of the Sarbat Khalsa (national gathering), when the Sikhs set out their political goals following India's notorious armed assault on the Golden Temple in Amritsar in June 1984.

Citing the UN's own rejection of India's unlawful 'reservation' against the application of the right of self-determination to nations under its occupation, the resolutions adopted at the annual Khalistan Day Conference identified Indian imperialist policies as being the direct cause of bloody conflicts in the sub-continent. It extended support to the Kashmiri and Naga freedom struggles and called on the international community to bring India to book for carrying out genocide against Muslims, Christians and Sikhs in an attempt to suppress legitimate, democratic movements for self-rule.

Referring to a 'blacklist' of Indian politicians and security officials to be put before an international criminal tribunal for genocide, the Conference called for the UK Government to start the process by arresting Indian Trade Minister Kamal Nath, who is speaking at a public function in London on 12 May 2010. Nath has been identified in credible witness testimony as being personally involved in the massacres of Sikhs in Delhi in November 1984, in which some 20,000 Sikhs were brutally murdered in three days of pogroms. He has not been prosecuted by any Indian court, despite 25 years of efforts by human rights defenders in India to hold him to account for his alleged war crimes.

Barrister Sultan Mahmood, former prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, spoke of the need for Sikhs and Kashmiris to form an effective diplomatic front to expose Indian imperialism on the global stage. He said liberation of Khalistan and Kashmir would bring massive peace and security dividends in South Asia, which the international community cannot afford to ignore. A message from the Government of Nagalim's Foreign Minister, Rh. Raising, was delivered by Peter Davis (Naga Support group, UK) and referred to India as "the same force that tried to completely destroy Khalistan is doing the same to the Nagas today". It went on to say "We strongly believe that the people of Khalistan have every right to determine their future for themselves. To this effect the sole authority lies with the people of Khalistan and not with India".

In a reference to recent remarks by India's Home Minister PV Chidambaram, Amrik Singh Sahota, OBE, President of the Council of Khalistan, which organised the event in conjunction with Dal Khalsa, invited Chidambaram to recognise that sovereignty is hardwired in to the Sikh psyche and that he would do better to come to the negotiating table rather than issue futile requests through the media for Sikhs to abandon the freedom struggle. Other Sikhs speakers included Manmohan Singh (Dal Khalsa), Gurmej Singh Gill (Khalistan Govt in Exile), Sukvinder Singh (Sikh Federation, UK), Santokh Singh Saran (Akali Dal, Amritsar), Kashmir Singh (British Sikh Federation) and, by telephone link, Kanwarpal Singh (Dal Khalsa in Punjab, which is holding a freedom march in the Sikh homeland on 12 May).

In a message, Lord Ahmed noted how his support for Khalistan has led to India refusing him a Visa; he said a true democracy would allow political dissent and encouraged the Sikh to remain steadfast by democratically pursuing their international rights. In his message, recently re-elected Khaled Mahmood, MP backed the Sikh right of self-determination and supported the establishment of criminal tribunals to punish Sikh genocide perpetrators.



Resolutions for Khalistan Day 2010 Conference



held at Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Smethwick, UK on Sunday 9th May 2010

1. On the 300th anniversary of the establishment, in accordance with Guru Gobind Singh's instructions, of the first sovereign Sikh state by the national hero Banda Singh Bahadur in May 1710, this gathering salutes that glorious achievement. We honour the memory of a remarkable leader who, against all the odds, delivered justice by punishing the enemies of the Sikhs, and liberated an oppressed citizenry, so that it could live with security and self respect. He gave the Sikh nation perhaps the greatest period of self rule in its homeland and his political ideals remain, to this day, at the heart of the Sikh nation's aspiration to once again secure sovereign independence and justice.
2. This gathering calls on the entire Sikh nation, as the sincerest form of homage to the Guru's instructions and to Banda Singh's achievements, to redouble its efforts to liberate Indian-occupied Punjab and bring in to reality a sovereign Sikh state of Khalistan, in accordance with the historic decision of the Sarbat Khalsa (national gathering) held at Sri Akal Takht Sahib in Amritsar on 26 January 1986 and the ensuing Declaration of Khalistan made on 29 April 1986. Those freely determined wishes of the Sikh nation have been frustrated by force for nearly 25 years but history is witness to the fact that the Sikhs ultimately always prevail; it is now time for the Sikhs to realise their destiny and fulfil the dreams of the thousands of blessed martyrs of the Khalistan cause.
3. International law grants every nation the right of self-determination by which every nation determines its own political, economic, and cultural destiny. India's constitution brazenly categorises Sikhs as Hindus; India has carried out decades of political repression, forcible suppression and genocide against the Sikhs; India continues to illegally appropriate Punjab's precious river waters and has brought Punjab's economy to bankruptcy. It is changing the demographics so that Sikhs become a minority in their own homeland; it is promoting blasphemers to malign the Sikh religion. It has located nuclear weapons in the Sikh homeland, deliberately making it a target in any nuclear war with Pakistan or China with whom the Sikhs have no dispute. This Conference recognises that the need to liberate Khalistan is as legitimate and as necessary as ever.
4. At a time when the Indian state is aggressively seeking to divide the Sikhs so to weaken their national resolve, we appeal to all Sikhs to defeat the diversionary tactics of the Indian and Punjab governments and instead to focus on the single biggest challenge at this time – the freedom struggle.
5. This Conference invites India's Home Minister PV Chidambaram to reflect on the foolishness of his recent suggestion that the Sikhs abandon the struggle for Khalistan, in order to have their names removed from the 'blacklist' India operates to prevent Sikhs abroad from visiting Punjab. He should know that no true Sikh leader will ever do that. Anti-democratic, anti-free speech blacklisting of freedom campaigners flies in the face of international law; even Indian Supreme Court rulings that have had to acknowledge that it is no crime to call for the creation of Khalistan. India's blacklist is itself a black mark on India's claims to democratic credentials. The irony is that Chidambaram and many of his colleagues, such as Jagdish Tytler, Sajjan Kumar and Kamal Nath, have

themselves earned places on a Sikh blacklist of offenders to be put on trial, by international criminal tribunals, for war crimes against the Sikhs.

6. This Conference urges the UK Government to arrest and prosecute, on genocide charges, Indian Trade Minister Kamal Nath who is scheduled to make a public appearance in London on 12 May 2010. Nath's alleged personal involvement in the genocide of Sikhs in Delhi in November 1984 has been the subject of witness testimony and has been highlighted by several official investigations, but the Indian state has protected him for over 25 years. The UK Foreign Office has already been approached to take action so that justice is finally served and this gathering also calls on media organisations to highlight Nath's actions during one of the worst acts of genocide since the Second World War, in which 20,000 Sikhs were butchered in three days of state organised pogroms.
7. We call on the United Nations to impose punitive sanctions on India until it withdraws its unlawful 'Reservation' against Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1966, under which India has formally rejected the application of the right of self-determination to nations within territory it controls. That blatantly unprincipled position, which the UN's Human Rights Committee has formally required India to abandon, is the direct cause of the conflicts in Punjab, Kashmir, Nagalim, Assam, and elsewhere which have cost hundreds of thousands of lives in recent decades. Until India recognises and respects the right of self-determination, these conflicts will not be settled and the region as whole will remain dangerously unstable. In conjunction with India's record as a serial violator of human rights on a massive scale, this non-compliance with basic international law renders India's claim to a permanent seat on the UN Security Council untenable and the international community should respond accordingly.
8. This Conference expresses Sikh solidarity with Kashmiris, Nagas, Assamese and others who are also peaceably struggling to secure self-determination for their nations in the face of Indian imperialism. We condemn the repeated imprisonment and criminalisation of political leaders by the Indian state, as well as the continuing abuses of human rights by Indian forces. We urge the international community, including human rights defenders, to put pressure India to cease all rights violations and to release all political prisoners, so as to allow legitimate political activity in accordance with international standards of democratic values.
9. This gathering notes the serious provocation of India's Army Chief Deepak Kapoor's statement earlier this year to the effect that India could bring both China and Pakistan to their knees within 96 hours. India should note that the Sikhs will not again save India militarily, but will act in their own national interest in the event of Indian aggression against neighbouring states. This Conference calls upon Sikh soldiers and civilians to prepare to protect their homeland at all costs as it seems Indian misadventure in the region is likely to bring the threat of weapons of mass destruction to the Sikh homeland. Sikhs maintain friendly relations with both Pakistan and China and should work with them to maintain peace and security in the region.
10. This Conference congratulates the United States Commission for International Religious Freedoms which last August put India on its 'watchlist' of states that fail to protect minority groups and their places of worship. The world is witness to the fact that Muslims, Sikhs and Christians have been routinely targeted with mass violence, with the perpetrators invariably protected by both the Congress and the BJP leaderships. India's record is shameful and we call for the UN to suspend India from membership of all its human rights bodies until such time as it complies with civilised standards.