



प्रधान मंत्री
Prime Minister

New Delhi
6 June, 2013

Dear Dr. Ajaib Singh ji,

I have received your letter of 10 May, 2013 regarding the attack on an elderly Sikh of American nationality in California on 5 May, 2013.

I share your anguish at the fact that an elderly person was so brutally attacked outside a house of worship. Incidents such as this, involving members of the small but dynamic community of Sikh Americans over the past year, are a cause for concern to all right-thinking people in India and the United States of America. We have taken very seriously all these cases of assault upon minorities in the United States and Government has been in close contact with the United States Administration, as well as with Members of the US Congress, in every such case.

In the particular case of the attack on Shri Piara Singh, our Consulate in San Francisco had taken up this matter with the local police in the town of Fresno, and had assured the Sikh community in California that the Government of India was committed to their welfare and to extend all possible help. The local police have since arrested the assailant and are investigating the case as a possible hate crime. The charges against the assailant have been elevated to attempted murder and the local police have assured members of the Sikh community that the attack on Mr. Singh was an isolated incident.

Earlier, following the tragic attack on a Gurudwara in Oak Creek in Wisconsin in the United States last August, I had spoken with the President of the United States. I had requested President Obama to ensure the security of the Indian community and their places of worship in the United States. President Obama had conveyed that the tragedy was contrary to everything that America stood for, and had expressed his determination to prevent such incidents. Our External Affairs Minister had subsequently visited the site of the Gurudwara attack.

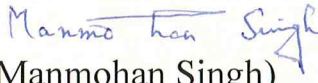
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I would like to assure you that Government remains committed to working closely with the United States Administration to ensure the safety and security of all minorities of Indian origin in that country, including the Sikh community and their places of worship. Both Governments share a commitment to tolerance and to the protection of minorities wherever they live. Our Embassy and Consulates remain vigilant and sensitive to such incidents, and are in close contact with the US Government as well as Congressional representatives to prevent attacks on minorities in the United States and ensure that there is no tolerance whatsoever for hate crimes.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Manmohan Singh)

Dr. Ajaib Singh
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