



**Resolution to Protect Sikh Activists on Campus in Light of Recent
Assassination of Prominent Leader**

Resolution 23-24-01

Whereas: as stated in the values of the University of San Francisco, “Come to USF and practice *cura personalis*, or care for the whole person. We believe that your mind, body, and spirit deserve equal attention and consideration.”; and ¹

Whereas: On June 18, 2023, the President of Guru Nanak Gurudwara (Sikh place of worship) in Surrey, Canada, Shaheed Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjer, was assassinated by two masked gunmen in the parking lot of Guru Nanak Gurudwara; and

Whereas: Shaheed Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjer ran a plumbing business in the city of Surrey, B.C., and was the loving father of two sons, the ages 20 and 21, and was overall acknowledged for his Sikh presence, leadership, and human rights activism; and

Whereas: The Canadian Security Intelligence Services (CSIS) had warned Bhai Hardeep Singh about receiving threats, as he was vocal about human rights in India. Hardeep Singh’s activism was protected free speech in Canada, and

Whereas: July of 2022, the National Investigation Agency of India declared Bhai Hardeep Singh a “wanted terrorist”, offered a cash reward of one million rupees for information about Bhai Hardeep Singh, and publicly published his home address for the world to know. If true, this is a clear violation of international law and Canada’s sovereignty.

Whereas: definition of Khalistan: Sikh political ideology for an autonomous and sovereign Sikh homeland²; and

Whereas: On September 18, 2023, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, while speaking in the Canadian House of Commons, stated: “Canadian agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the Government of India and the killing of a Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar.”; and

¹https://www.usfca.edu/who-we-are/reinventing-education/our-mission-and-values?gclid=CjwKCAjwjMiiBhA4EiwAZe6jQ9nvSXRGHseXrBGz1miSHEqYSM3Zhlxy1Mh3uQvPd5MO9a7zOI-fExoCe7QQAvD_BwE

² <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Khalistan>



Whereas: It is important to note that even if India is cleared of allegations of being involved in Bhai Hardeep Singh’s murder, which directly states the Indian Government as a participant, it is undeniable that the Indian government’s actions endangered Bhai Hardeep Singh’s life; and

Whereas: It is impossible to view Shaheed Bhai Hardeep Singh’s murder as an isolated incident as the government of India has a prolonged history of interference in the Sikh Diaspora’s affairs. Particularly seen in Sikh activism following the 1984 Sikh genocide, as well as the ongoing surveillance of Sikh activist groups, and the continued arrest without trial since 2017 for Jagtar Singh Johal, a UK citizen who advocated for Sikh sovereignty, and

Whereas: The FBI has warned Sikhs in the United States about death threats after the killing of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar; and ³

Whereas: as stated in Baaz Magazine by community leader Sukhwinder Singh: “I was told that there was a threat on my life and on a few other Sikhs, and whoever wanted to kill us would be using local gangs to make these hits”; and ⁴

Whereas: stated by community leader Bobby Singh: “They told me to move to a safe location if I could and to stay away from locations where I could be easily tracked.”; and ⁵

Whereas: “Both activists were involved in the organizing of the Khalistan Referendum in California and are active members of their local Sikh community.”; and ⁶

Whereas: If Prime Minister Trudeau’s allegations are proven true, then Sikhs who are or have been politically active about their community’s human rights in North America are at a high risk. Since many of the politically active Sikhs in the community are students who attend universities, until the time these allegations are resolved, the invitation and presence of such figures can only be seen as a clear disregard for the safety of Sikh students.

Whereas: as stated by the co-founder of the California Sikh Youth Alliance, Harjot Singh

³ <https://www.baaznews.org/p/fbi-warns-sikh-activists-hardeep-nijjar>

⁴ <https://www.baaznews.org/p/fbi-warns-sikh-activists-hardeep-nijjar>

⁵ <https://www.baaznews.org/p/fbi-warns-sikh-activists-hardeep-nijjar>

⁶ <https://www.baaznews.org/p/fbi-warns-sikh-activists-hardeep-nijjar>



“Bhai Nijjar was killed in one of the largest Sikh places of worship in North America to send a clear message to the Sikh world: stop your political activism for Punjab’s independence from India or it will be violently silenced. Sikh organizations worldwide, prominently including student groups, continue to face safety threats, intimidation, shadow-banning, and censorship from the Government of India for their advocacy efforts. Until the Canadian investigation is completed, the invitation and presence of Indian government officials will be seen as a visible disregard for the safety, protection and security of Sikh students engaged in raising awareness of India’s human rights violations. Undeniably, there should be no place for agents of transnational repression in college campuses.”; and

Whereas: as stated by a board director of the United Sikh Movement, Manshaan Singh

“It cannot be understated the seriousness of the allegations that Prime Minister Trudeau has put forward. India is said to have violated the territorial sovereignty of one of our closest allies, to kill a Sikh leader who dared to speak for self-determination. Within its own borders, the ruling party has continued to fan the flames of genocidal rhetoric aimed at all religious minorities, with a Prime Minister who was blacklisted from the United States for his role in the 2002 Gujarat pogroms before his current position. A complete halt on all officials associated with the current regime, and especially those connected to the paramilitary group the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh, is thus critical for The University of San Francisco to affirm its dedication to the values of inclusion and the very sanctity of human life. The presence of Indian officials on campus sends the message that the University is content to let a rogue state take advantage of its facilities to present a facade of normalcy. This is a message I hope the University will categorically reject by accepting the resolution’s asks.”; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Associated Students of the University of San Francisco Senate, representing all the undergraduate students of the University, that the following be enacted:

Resolved: We request that the University of San Francisco administration recognizes the importance of supporting and upholding the safety of Sikh students, activists, and allies at the University of San Francisco condemning the draconian measures and human rights violations that have recently been executed to their community, in Indian-administered Punjab and Canada; furthermore, be it



Resolved: The University of San Francisco issue a public statement expressing support for the Sikh community regarding the mistreatment and human rights violations of Sikh activists in the current and ongoing situation(s) in Canada; and; furthermore, be it

Resolved: University of San Francisco Sikh Student Association is calling on the University of San Francisco to take the safety of Sikh students seriously, as due to Western allies of Canada being more vigorously scrutinized by India and its far-right Hindu Nationalist Government

Resolved: The University of San Francisco administration practices proactive engagement with the Sikh Student Association by supporting initiatives through public statements, social media and awareness; furthermore, be it

Resolved: The undersigned Sikh organizations of America hereby support a thorough investigation into all allegations surrounding the murder of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar; furthermore, be it

Resolved: We appeal to the University of San Francisco and the people for increased oversight of India to ensure that its government upholds the international rules of law; furthermore, be it

Resolved: In light of these allegations, we lastly implore university organizations to conduct due diligence to ensure that no Indian government officials with ties to violence or hate speech be invited to the University of San Francisco campus.

Submitted By:

Sikh Student Association, USFCA branch

Supported By:

The California Sikh Youth Alliance

The United Sikh Movement

Jakara Movement

Jakara Movement Chapter UC Berkeley

Jakara Movement Chapter CSU Stanislaus

Jakara Movement Chapter CSU San Jose

Jakara Movement Chapter UCLA

Jakara Movement Chapter UC Merced

Jakara Movement Chapter Santa Clara University

Sikh Student Association UCLA



Sikh Student Association University of Georgia
Sikh and Companions of Harvard Undergraduates
Sikh Student Association University of Michigan
Sikh Cultural Association UC Davis
Sikh Student Association UC Berkeley
Sikh Student Association CSU Sacramento
Sikh Student Association University of Washington
Sikh Student Association UCSD
Sikh Student Association Walnut
Sikh Student Association CSU East Bay
Sikh Student Association UCSC
Sikh Student Association CSU San Jose
Sikh Student Association CSU SF
Sikh Student Association UCR
Sikh Student Association San Diego
Sikh Student Association UT Dallas

Presented To Advocacy:

October 10th, 2023

Presented To The Senate:

October 25th, 2023

Passed The Senate:

November 29th, 2023

Presidents Signature: