

A Resolution to Recognize the Sikh Genocide of 1984

Sponsors:

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WHEREAS, the University of California, Los Angeles has a sizable population of Sikhs, and each Spring, students join in celebrating Sikh Awareness Day to bring to light issues facing the Sikh community both on campus and the broader American context; and

WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world; and ¹

WHEREAS, there are over 700,000 Sikhs living in the United States, immigrating from Punjab, over 125 years ago; and ²

WHEREAS, The California State Assembly, on April 16, 2015, unanimously passed Assembly Concurrent Resolution 34, which recognizes the systematic and organized killings of Sikhs by the Indian government in New Delhi and remembers those who lost their lives during the 1984 Sikh Genocide; and ³

WHEREAS, Eyewitnesses, journalists, and human rights activists have compiled evidence showing that government and law enforcement officials organized, participated in, and failed to intervene to prevent the killings through direct and indirect means; and ⁴

WHEREAS, California is the first state legislative body in the nation to recognize the grave human rights violations that took place against Sikhs; and ^{4 5}

WHEREAS, The Sikh Genocide of 1984 took place in New Delhi, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and

¹ <http://www.religionfacts.com/sikhism/facts>

² <http://www.sikhfoundation.org/sikh-punjabi-language-studies/a-century-of-sikhs-in-california-by-bruce-la-brack/>

³ Assembly Concurrent Resolution 34 (ACR 34)

⁴<http://www.ensaaf.org/publications/reports/20years/20years-2nd.pdf>

<http://asmdc.org/members/a09/news-room/press-releases/california-becomes-first-state-to-recognize-the-anti-sikh-pogroms>

⁵http://www.indiawest.com/news/global_indian/california-state-assembly-resolution-calls-riots-sikh-pogrom/article_e8cc7628-e913-11e4-9747-db62847ebda1.html

Maharashtra beginning on October 31, 1984 and lasting four days, an estimated 5,000+ Sikhs were brutally murdered or died as they were hunted in their homes, hacked, and burned alive; and ^{6 7}

WHEREAS, more than 250 Sikhs were butchered by Indian security forces in staged encounters while participating in “the largest non-violent movement in the sub-continent (India), including both the colonial and independent periods, with over 150,000 volunteers courting arrest within a period of three years” to secure autonomy for Punjab and other states in India, and their just share of Punjab’s waters, as allocated by international riparian laws; and ⁸

WHEREAS, as recent as 2011, mass graves have been discovered in the villages of Hondh-Chillar and Pataudi in Haryana, and many more will continue to be discovered in the future with Indian government officials and police flouting impunity; and ⁹

WHEREAS, the Government of India, despite numerous resolutions by Special Investigation Teams convened by the Supreme Court of India, has never punished the Indian government officials and police that were complicit and orchestrated the violence and in some cases has elevated these perpetrators, such as to speaker of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of India’s parliament and other leadership positions; and ¹⁰

WHEREAS, the “Widow Colony” (the Tilak Vihar neighborhood in New Delhi) still houses thousands of Sikh women, who were subjected to mass rape and forced to witness the hacking, burning, and murder of their husbands, fathers, and sons, and are calling for justice against the perpetrators; and ¹¹

WHEREAS, many of the survivors of the Sikh Genocide eventually immigrated to the United States and established large Sikh communities in places such as Fresno, Yuba City, Stockton, Fremont, Glenrock and Los Angeles, among other places; and

WHEREAS, the 700,000+ strong Sikh community in America has recovered from the material damages of the Genocide, they continue to keep the memory of the Sikh martyrs alive and will never forget the Sikh Genocide of 1984; and

⁶ <http://www.ensaaf.org/publications/reports/20years/>

⁷ <http://www.sikhsforjustice.org/?q=content/know-the-facts>

⁸ http://www.panthkhalsa.org/raj/raj_1984.php

⁹ http://archive.tehelka.com/story_main49.asp?filename=Ne120311EXCLUSIVE.asp

¹⁰ <http://www.ensaaf.org/publications/reports/20years/>

¹¹ <http://www.thewidowcolony.com>

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) has been at the forefront in encouraging awareness and education surrounding human rights violations; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC solemnly commemorates the 1984 Sikh Genocide and condemns attempts made by the Indian government as well as the U.S. government, to distort the historical reality of the Sikh Genocide; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USAC supports the efforts of the Sikh American community at UCLA to establish November as Sikh Awareness Month and the official month of remembrance for the Sikh Genocide; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the USAC supports the efforts of members of the Sikh Student Association to continue to push for a Sikh studies course to be established on UCLA's campus and to be submitted as a course fulfilling the UCLA College of Letters and Science Diversity Requirement.