



March 21, 2003

Harvey Weinstein
President
Miramax Films Corp.
375 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10013

VIA FACSIMILE to 212-941-3949

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I represent the Sikh Coalition, a national coalition of Sikh organizations that seeks to protect the civil and human rights Sikh community and educate the broader community about the Sikh religion. The Sikh community across the globe is outraged at a preview of the film, *Dysfunktional Family*, in which the actor, Eddie Griffin refers to a Sikh man as “bin Laden.” Griffin points to a turbaned Sikh man and says, “Bin Laden, I knew you was around here!”

As you may be aware, the Sikh community endured dozens of violent hate crimes in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, by persons who associated the Sikh turban and beard with Al-Qaeda terrorist group. The Sikh Coalition was at the forefront of tracking these hate crimes for the Sikh community and working with the US Department of Justice and other government agencies to investigate and prosecute these crimes. The Sikh Coalition is concerned that the aforementioned preview, which directly associates the Sikh turban and beard with Osama Bin Laden is very likely to contribute to bigoted stereotypes against Sikhs in the United States and may even incite hate crimes and bias incidents against Sikh-Americans.

If this scene is part of the movie, as is our assumption, your company will play a major role in the misrepresentation of the Sikhs by linking them to a terrorist such as Osama Bin Laden. Almost all individuals in North America that wear turbans are Sikhs. Your movie may spark a wave of hate crimes against Sikhs, especially during a time when the Federal Bureau of Investigation has expressed concern about “vigilante attacks and other hate crimes” against Sikh-Americans and others as backlash to current world events. (FBI National Press Office, February 28, 2003.)

The timing of this preview is especially troubling given that the present war in Iraq has already caused bigoted persons to attack Arabs, Muslims and those like Sikhs, who are perceived to be Arab or Muslim. In short, right now Sikhs are in high danger of suffering hate crimes. The preview for your movie, only makes this dangerous situation much worse.

Last year, Eidos Interactive produced a video game, *Hitman 2*, depicting Sikhs as terrorists. The Sikh Coalition led a global campaign that persuaded Eidos to publicly apologize and to amend the game on all platforms. There are approximately one million Sikhs in North America alone. We would like to resolve the matter before us amicably and request a meeting. If we do not hear from you, we will be forced to take immediate action.



Please call me at (917) 771-4801 to arrange a meeting. I would be appreciative of your attention in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Harpreet Singh
Director, Office of Community Relations
The Sikh Coalition

Cc:

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CEO
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Amardeep Singh
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