



Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
US Senate
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6225

House Committee on Foreign Affairs
US House of Representatives
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2023

Subject: Call to Action to Address Transnational Repression in the United States

Dear Committee Chairs and Ranking Members,

On behalf of the Sikh Coalition and the following undersigned Sikh organizations, we are writing to express our grave concerns over transnational repression and its impact on the Sikh community in the United States. Our call to action is immediate and clear: We urge Congress to pass and President Biden to sign the Transnational Repression Policy Act (H.R. 3654/S.831), which is a vital step in protecting the rights and safety of all individuals, especially those targeted by malicious acts of foreign governments.

The Transnational Repression Policy Act offers critical protections against the reach of foreign governments into the United States, aiming to counteract actions that infringe upon the civil liberties of individuals within our borders. As organizations committed to civil rights and justice, we cannot emphasize enough the importance of this legislation. We also request an advisory opinion from the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. State Department to further assess the support for this bill and to advise Congress and the White House on appropriate measures to safeguard our communities.

Recent events have highlighted a disturbing pattern of behavior that threatens the fabric of our democratic society and safety of Americans, including the Sikh community:

- U.S. intelligence [assisted](#) the Canadian government in substantiating claims of India's involvement in the extrajudicial assassination of a Canadian Sikh activist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, at a gurdwara (Sikh house of worship) on Canadian soil in June of 2023.
- The FBI has deemed it necessary to [warn several Sikh community members about threats](#) against them, signaling a significant security concern.
- Public reporting has emerged regarding [suspicious activity in at least one gurdwara](#) in the United States, indicating a potential spread of this dangerous trend beyond Canadian borders.
- Members of the Sikh community, including an elected official, have courageously spoken out about threats that could be traced back to the government of India or may be the result of Hindu nationalist extremism stoked by India's industrial-scale disinformation campaigns



and open calls for the assassination of dissidents, including individuals in the United States.

Transnational repression is not exclusive to India, however it is a problem, affecting individuals from various national backgrounds living in the United States, and it must be addressed for all who are having their civil rights and civil liberties threatened. The Department of Homeland Security's [Homeland Threat Assessment for 2024](#) has also recognized transnational repression as a significant concern, underscoring the need for immediate federal action. The preservation of civil liberties and the protection against foreign interference are paramount to maintaining the strength and integrity of our nation. It is imperative that the response to this threat be consistent and impartial, irrespective of geopolitics, and aligned with America's commitment to keep us safe and uphold democracy.

In light of these developments, we respectfully urge swift action. It is crucial to recognize the urgency of this matter and the potential risks of harm if left unaddressed. By passing the Transnational Repression Policy Act and seeking advisory opinions from federal agencies, you can take a definitive stand against these threats and ensure the safety and security of all individuals within our nation—especially those who are vulnerable to such targeted actions.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical issue. We look forward to your response and stand ready to assist in any efforts to address this challenge.

Sincerely,

The Sikh Coalition
Ensaaf
Jakara
SALDEF

Cc: Secretary Antony Blinken, Department of State
Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Department of Homeland Security
Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, Department of Justice
Director Christopher A. Wray, Federal Bureau of Investigation

