

**House Foreign Affairs Committee
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission**

**Hearing on Transnational Repression
and the U.S. Response**

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Rayburn House Office Building

**STATEMENT SUBMITTED FOR THE
RECORD**

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The Sikh Coalition¹ respectfully submits this statement for the record in connection with the above-referenced hearing before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. As a U.S.-based civil rights organization that represents the Sikh community, we write to address our concern about the threats that Sikhs in the United States face from transnational repression perpetrated by the government of India.

Transnational repression is used to silence dissidents, human rights advocates, journalists, and minorities more broadly around the world—including American citizens. This is an area of concern that impacts diaspora communities targeted by Russia, Iran, India, China, Turkey, North Korea, and other countries.² To address the safety concerns and civil rights of our communities, the Commission has the ability to support existing bills and identify additional recommendations that can responsibly hold countries accountable for their actions while also ensuring that the civil rights and civil liberties of Americans are not violated and that no community in the United States is scapegoated for the acts of a foreign nation.

While the Sikh Coalition cannot speak to all of the lived experiences of every community targeted by transnational repression, we can corroborate and amplify credible concerns that the

¹ By way of background, the Sikh Coalition is the largest Sikh American civil rights organization in the United States. Our organization was founded in the immediate aftermath of September 11, 2001, in response to a torrent of hate crimes and acts of discrimination, both individual and institutional, against Sikhs throughout the United States. In the more than 20 years since, our mission has been to work towards a world where Sikhs and other religious minorities in America can freely practice their faith without bias, bigotry, and backlash.

² Mike Abramowitz and Nate Schenkkan, “The long arm of the authoritarian state,” The Washington Post, Feb. 3, 2021, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/02/03/freedom-house-transnational-repression-authoritarian-dissidents/>; and Yana Gorokhovskaia, Nate Schenkkan, and Grady Vaughan, “Still Not Safe: Transnational Repression in 2022,” Freedom House, Apr. 6, 2023, https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/FH_TransnationalRepression2023_0.pdf.



government of India has engaged in such behavior against the Sikh diaspora. These concerns add to mounting evidence of the country's alarming shift towards religious intolerance and authoritarianism in recent years.³ Recent events have confirmed longstanding community concerns about efforts to instill fear and silence within Sikhs in the United States. In November 2023, the Department of Justice indicted an Indian national who allegedly attempted to coordinate the assassination of a Sikh American on U.S. soil at the direction of an unnamed employee of the government of India.⁴ That indictment also alleges that the government of India had a list of additional Sikhs—in the words of one conspirator, “so many targets”—they planned to kill between the United States and Canada.

In light of the alarming news of India's alleged involvement in multiple assassinations and other recent events indicating attempts to target Sikh Americans and houses of worship in our nation, it is imperative that the U.S. government take bold action to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans and defend our nation from such challenges to our nation's democratic and pluralistic ideals.

I. Credible Allegations of India's Plot to Murder Americans and Instill Fear Against a Religious Diaspora

On November 29, 2023, the Department of Justice (DOJ) unsealed an indictment of Indian national Nikhil Gupta, who was allegedly recruited by an employee of the Indian government to work with others to assassinate Sikh Americans and Canadians.⁵ The indictment indicates that Mr. Gupta, along with his collaborators, dedicated extensive time, international coordination, and \$100,000 to a murder-for-hire scheme targeting a Sikh American in New York, and that the plot had involved “so many [other] targets,” including at least one other American in California. The indictment contains allegations that corroborate India's alleged role in the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen who was murdered in British Columbia, Canada, in June of 2023. Moreover, the facts alleged in the indictment indicate that there is an ongoing threat of assassination against an unknown number of U.S. Sikhs, and that there is an international network of individuals, including an employee of the government of India, who are coordinating and financing these illegal activities.

Subsequent events have lent further credence to the likelihood that the government of India is directly responsible for attempts to target Sikhs in the United States and abroad: Reports of a leaked memo originally issued by India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in April indicate that

³ “USCIRF Reiterates Concerns on Religious Freedom in India, Calls for Release of Religious Prisoners of Conscience,” United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, Oct. 3, 2023, <https://www.uscifr.gov/news-room/releases-statements/uscifr-reiterates-concerns-religious-freedom-india-calls-release#>; Astha Rajvanshi, “How the Indian Government Uses Raids to Silence Critics,” TIME, Feb. 14, 2023, <https://time.com/6255425/india-raid-bbc-modi-documentary/>; “India: Media freedom under threat,” Reporters Without Borders, Mar. 5, 2023, <https://rsf.org/en/india-media-freedom-under-threat>.

⁴ United States v. Nikhil Gupta, Sealed Superseding Indictment, S1 23 Cr. 289 (VM), <https://www.justice.gov/media/1326501/dl?inline>.

⁵ United States v. Nikhil Gupta, Sealed Superseding Indictment, S1 23 Cr. 289 (VM), <https://www.justice.gov/media/1326501/dl?inline>.



the MEA “instructed its consulates in North America to launch a ‘sophisticated crackdown scheme’ against Sikh diaspora organizations,” including organizations in the United States.⁶ The MEA memo lists the names of several Sikh dissidents, including Mr. Nijjar,⁷ who was assassinated two months after the memo was issued. The MEA memo conflated Sikhs’ expressions of free speech and political dissent with extremism and terrorism, and mischaracterized its targeting of Sikhs abroad as a fight against Sikh separatist, or Khalistani, “extremism.” It also recommended the cultivation of a “force in the street” for confrontation with “Sikh extremists.”⁸

Such claims about Khalistan are the common thread that connects the MEA memo to the assassination of Mr. Nijjar, and the assassination plot alleged by the DOJ. Pursuant to laws on international human rights,⁹ communities have the right to determine if they want to be a part of a nation-state or not, and that right should not be infringed upon.¹⁰ Regrettably, India has criminalized the right of self-determination for Sikhs and overbroadly deems any expression in support of this political belief as terroristic.¹¹ In democracies like the United States and Canada, individuals have the right to peacefully express their political beliefs without fear of retribution. The

⁶ Murtaza Hussain and Ryan Grim, “Secret Indian Memo Ordered ‘Concrete Measures’ Against Hardeep Singh Nijjar Two Months Before His Assassination in Canada,” *The Intercept*, Dec. 10, 2023, <https://theintercept.com/2023/12/10/india-sikhs-leaked-memo-us-canada/>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2200A (XXI), December 16, 1996, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>; Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV), Dec. 14, 1960, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-granting-independence-colonial-countries-and-peoples>.

¹⁰ The demand for self-determination by Sikhs to create a homeland called Khalistan has roots in the historical and cultural differences between the Punjabi Sikhs and the Indian state. Sikhs have a distinct identity and many believe that their rights and interests have been ignored or suppressed by the Indian state for more than four decades. Therefore, the demand for self-determination is not just a political issue, but also a cultural and social one. Genocidal violence by India targeting the Sikh community also plays a significant role in legitimate requests for self-determination.

¹¹ “Support for self-determination with respect to Khalistan is outlawed in India and considered a national security threat by the government – a number of groups associated with the movement are listed as ‘terrorist organizations’ under India’s Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA),” Paula Newton and Rhea Mogul, “India expels Canadian diplomat in tit-for-tat move as spat over assassinated Sikh activist deepens,” *CNN*, Updated Sept. 19, 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/18/americas/canada-hardeep-singh-nijjar-india-intl/index.html#>; “Since June 2020, hundreds of Sikhs have been detained and interrogated in India due to their social media activities and some have been charged with offences related to support for Khalistan under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (‘UAPA’),” “Enforcing silence: India’s War on Sikh Social Media,” *World Sikh Organization*, July 2020, https://assets.nationbuilder.com/worldsikh/pages/2479/attachments/original/1680541803/WSO_Social_Media_Crackdown_Report.pdf?1680541803; “In a chilling throwback McCarthyism in the United States, India’s Parliament has passed the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 which will allow the Central government to designate individuals as ‘terrorists’ without the exercise of due process of law,” Rongeeet Poddar, “Constitutionality of India’s Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019: India’s McCarthyism Moment,” *Oxford Human Rights Hub Blog*, August 14, 2019, <https://ohrh.law.ox.ac.uk/constitutionality-of-indias-unlawful-activities-prevention-amendment-bill-2019-indias-mccarthyism-moment>.



freedom of speech and expression of our citizens is a fundamental cornerstone that cannot be violated by any domestic law, much less by a foreign government.

Following the murder of Mr. Nijjar, the FBI warned several Sikh Americans of threats against them.¹² More concerning is the fact that India appears to be unabated by the credible allegations of transnational repression brought by Canada and the indictment by the DOJ. Beyond India ignoring the rules-based international order by attempting to use criminal means to silence dissidents, it is alarming to note that India's targeting of the Sikh diaspora appears to be politically motivated leading up to India's elections.¹³ Further undermining the legitimacy of India's claims of combating fatal threats is the alleged strategic timing of India's assassination plot: The indictment specifically identifies that the Indian agent requested action that would not coincide with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the United States.¹⁴ This allegation suggests a misuse of diplomatic relations to target religious minorities and political dissenters abroad, including Americans. This information also raises serious concerns about India's commitment to democratic principles, its reliability as a strategic partner,¹⁵ and its commitment to bilateral agreements with our nation.

Finally, in December 2023, Human Rights Watch also raised concerns about India's "systemic failures to prosecute security force personnel for extrajudicial killings" and questioned India's willingness to address transnational repression.¹⁶ Following the indictment, India stated it would create a body to review the allegations.¹⁷ However, subsequent to that announcement, Nikhil Gupta, the individual named in the unsealed DOJ indictment, was recently transferred to solitary confinement by Czech authorities after they were alerted by the United States of a threat on his life.¹⁸ Reporting soon after indicated that Sikhs in the United Kingdom were "warned by police that their lives are in danger" amid claims of escalating attempts to target Sikh activists.¹⁹ Given ongoing concerns about India's belligerence to the rule of law and human rights—including a

¹² Murtaza Hussain, "FBI Warned Sikhs in the U.S. About Death Threats After Killing of Canadian Activist," *The Intercept*, Sept. 23, 2023, <https://theintercept.com/2023/09/23/sikhs-fbi-canada-india-nijjar/>.

¹³ C. Christine Fair, "India's Spat With Canada Is a Win-Win Situation for Modi," *FP*, Oct. 20, 2023, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/10/20/india-modi-canada-trudeau-nijjar-khalistan-sikh-separatism/>.

¹⁴ "Gupta also specifically instructed the UC not to commit the murder around the time of anticipated engagements scheduled to occur in the ensuing weeks between high-level U.S. and Indian government officials." *United States v. Nikhil Gupta, Sealed Superseding Indictment*, S1 23 Cr. 289 (VM), <https://www.justice.gov/media/1326501/dl?inline>.

¹⁵ "On foreign policy, India is reliably unreliable," *The Economist*, Nov. 24, 2022, <https://www.economist.com/asia/2022/11/24/on-foreign-policy-india-is-reliably-unreliable>.

¹⁶ "India: Investigate Alleged Overseas Murder Plots," Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/12/15/india-investigate-alleged-overseas-murder-plots>.

¹⁷ Krishn Kaushik, "India to probe US concerns linking it to foiled murder plot," *Reuters*, Nov. 29, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-forms-committee-look-into-security-concerns-raised-by-us-2023-11-29/>.

¹⁸ Ritika Chopra, "Plot to kill Pannun: Czech govt moved Nikhil Gupta to solitary after US input on life threat," *The Indian Express*, Updated Jan. 8, 2024, <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/plot-to-kill-pannun-czech-govt-moved-nikhil-gupta-to-solitary-after-us-input-on-life-threat-9099366/>.

¹⁹ Fiona Hamilton, Amardeep Bassey, "Sikhs given 'threat to life' notices fear link to India," *The Times*, Jan. 14, 2023, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sikh-leaders-in-uk-issued-with-threat-to-life-notices-wnskwhkbb#>.



statement by India's High Commissioner to Canada last week²⁰ that India will not assist in Canada's investigation into the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar—we express grave concern that India will not meaningfully address these serious matters in the absence of consequences, and believe that more must be done to hold India and those acting with India accountable.

II. Concerning Pattern of Transnational Repression by India and Indian Nationalists Targeting Religious Minorities in the United States

In September 2023, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau confirmed that “Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link” between the Indian state and the arbitrary extra-judicial killing of Sikh Canadian Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June of the same year.²¹ As mentioned above, Prime Minister Trudeau's national security advisor previously named India as a “top source of foreign interference in Canada,”²² and these concerns were publicly raised by Prime Minister Trudeau at the G20 Summit in New Delhi in September.²³ Concerns of transnational repression, and specifically the targeting of Sikhs, extends beyond these events in Canada. USCIRF has also found that Jagtar “Jaggi” Singh Johal, a British Sikh man, remains “detained [in India] for his religious belief and for documenting religious freedom violations.”²⁴ Additionally, members of the Sikh American community, including elected officials,²⁵ have courageously spoken out about threats that could be traced back to the government of India or may be the result of India's cultivated “street force” here in the United

²⁰ “India won't aid Canada probe on Sikh separatist's killing till evidence shared - report,” Reuters, Feb. 5, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-wont-aid-canada-probe-sikh-separatists-killing-till-evidence-shared-report-2024-02-05/>.

²¹ Paula Newton and Rhea Mogul, “India expels Canadian diplomat in tit-for-tat move as spat over assassinated Sikh activist deepens.” CNN, Sep. 19, 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/18/americas/canada-hardeep-singh-nijjar-india-intl/index.html>.

²² “India among top actors for foreign interference in Canada: national security adviser.” CTV News, Jun. 5, 2023, <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/india-among-top-actors-for-foreign-interference-in-canada-national-security-adviser-1.6428213#>.

²³ “Trudeau leaves India after aircraft issues delayed departure from rocky G20: Canadian prime minister's time at G20 summit in New Delhi highlights growing tensions between India and Canada.” Al Jazeera, Sep. 12, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/9/12/trudeau-leaves-india-after-aircraft-issues-delayed-departure-from-rocky-g20#>.

²⁴ “Jagtar Singh Johal,” United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, <https://www.uscirf.gov/religious-prisoners-conscience/forb-victims-database/jagtar-singh-johal>.

²⁵ Jenny Huh, “Sikh lawmakers, threatened over ethnicity in recent weeks, highlight nationwide safety concerns,” KGET, Oct. 19, 2023, <https://www.kget.com/news/local-news/local-sikh-lawmakers-threatened-over-ethnicity-in-recent-weeks-highlight-nationwide-safety-concerns/>; Joe Rubin, “Sikh activists in California fear being targeted in alleged assassination plot,” The Sacramento Bee, Dec. 1, 2023, <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article282490123.html>.



States or radicalized Hindu nationalist extremists²⁶ stoked by India's industrial-scale disinformation campaigns²⁷ and open calls for the assassination of dissidents, including individuals in the United States. Included as targets of these threats are Sikh American gurdwaras (houses of worship), including one in California where an individual claiming to represent the Indian government attempted to use travel visas as a tool of coercion against Americans.²⁸ Similarly, India has also been repeatedly implicated in infiltrating gurdwaras in Canada²⁹ and repeatedly convicted of spying on Sikhs by courts in Germany.³⁰ Many Sikhs, including current and former elected officials in Canada, have also been denied visas to visit India as a result of speaking out about human rights abuses in India.³¹

²⁶ Hindu Nationalists and White Supremacists are also worryingly becoming further aligned to advance their respective agendas of prejudice in establishing racially pure societies. Supporters have embraced the Aryan race mythology as well as fascism, while White Supremacists have admired Hindu Nationalists promoting Islamophobia and the ideals of a caste system. See Aadita Chaudhury, "Why white supremacists and Hindu nationalists are so alike" Al Jazeera, Dec. 13, 2018, <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2018/12/13/why-white-supremacists-and-hindu-nationalists-are-so-alike>; and Audrey Truschke, "Hindu Supremacists in a White World," Oxford Academic, Jun. 23, 2023, <https://academic.oup.com/jaar/article/90/4/805/7205783>. The cross-pollination of extremist ideologies to inspire bigoted acts of hatred has become a growing threat for religious minorities around the world. See Joe Heim and James McAuley, "New Zealand attacks offer the latest evidence of a web of supremacist extremism," The Washington Post, Mar. 15, 2019, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/new-zealand-suspect-inspired-by-far-right-french-intellectual-who-feared-nonwhite-immigration/2019/03/15/8c39fba4-6201-4a8d-99c6-aa42db53d6d3_story.html. The importation of extremist Hindu nationalist ideology into the United States has the potential to spur more violence and unrest against Sikh and Muslim communities, which according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Hate Crime Statistics Program are already among the most targeted religious communities for hate violence in the United States.

²⁷ Recent reporting indicates that a complex web of misinformation has sought to discredit foreign critics of the Modi government, and was set up and is run by an Indian intelligence officer. Reports from this entity, Disinfo Lab, have been cited by Indian officials on television and presented on Capitol Hill. Disinfo Lab often perpetuates "unsubstantiated claims to paint U.S. government figures, researchers, humanitarian groups and Indian American rights activists" as part of a global conspiracy. Gerry Shih, Clara Ence Morse and Pranshu Verma, "Covert Indian operation seeks to discredit Modi's critics in the U.S.," The Washington Post, December 10, 2023, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/12/10/india-the-disinfo-lab-discredit-critics/#>.

²⁸ Joe Rubin, "California Sikhs report threats, troubling incidents to FBI following assassination in Canada," The Sacramento Bee, Oct. 19, 2023, <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article280306154.html>.

²⁹ "WSO Expresses Concern over Indian Interference in Canada," World Sikh Organization, April 17, 2019, <https://www.worldsikh.org/wso-expresses-concern-over-indian-interference-in-canada>.

³⁰ Germany has charged individuals linked to Indian intelligence services at least three times. "Germany charges man with spying for Indian intelligence," Al Jazeera, May 13, 2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/5/13/germany-charges-man-with-spying-for-indian-intelligence>; IP Singh, "Second case of Germany going after Sikhs spying on their community," Times of India, April 12, 2019, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ludhiana/second-case-of-germany-going-after-sikhs-spying-on-their-community/articleshow/68841351.cms>; "German official charged with spying on Sikhs for India," The Local, Sept. 20, 2016, <https://www.thelocal.de/20160920/german-official-charged-with-spying-on-sikhs-for-india>.

³¹ IP Singh, "Canadian Sikh MLA alleges India denied visa to him," Times of India, Updated Dec. 27, 2013, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/nri/us-canada-news/canadian-sikh-mla-alleges-india-denied-visa-to-him/articleshow/28001791.cms>; and A Singh, "India denies ex-MP visa," Asian Pacific Post, Oct. 25, 2011, <https://asianpacificpost.com/article/4732-india-denies-ex-mp-visa.html>.



The Sikh Coalition has also received reports from individuals in the United States receiving threatening messages after attending peaceful protests critical of the Indian government, being stopped by Indian government agents stopping individuals arbitrarily and with false charges to elicit information about Sikh communities in the United States, and having family members in India harassed by Indian authorities after expressing criticism of the Indian government. Regrettably, many individuals are understandably reluctant to report these instances to law enforcement due a lack of understanding about transnational repression as well as the very real fear of reprisal against themselves or their loved ones abroad. These challenges can be exacerbated by a lack of awareness among law enforcement agencies, including federal authorities. Many of these concerns regarding India's behavior, however, were highlighted in December 2023 by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, during their hearing on "Transnational Repression: Authoritarians Targeting Dissenters Abroad."³²

Taken together, these disturbing reports highlight that Sikh Americans of all walks of life are being targeted by Indian transnational repression, whether they are dissidents, elected officials, or simply attending houses of worship across the country. This pattern of intimidation and harassment against a religious minority community is deeply troubling and poses a significant threat to the safety and well-being of our nation and the rights of Americans.

III. Conclusion

India's credibly suspected role in the recent killing of a Canadian citizen without legal process, along with the thwarted scheme to eliminate more Sikhs—including some in the United States—through illicit methods, suggest that India is attempting to extend its increasingly authoritarian and repressive practices worldwide. This alarming trend of disproportionately targeting Sikhs and ignoring the rule of law is further substantiated by historical and recent reports indicating India's active involvement in establishing similar oppressive networks in other countries (such as Canada, the United Kingdom, and Germany). Taken together, all of this behavior represents a clear violation of international norms and human rights that cannot be overlooked or tolerated, especially within the United States.

IV. Recommendations

In light of the growing body of evidence and credible reports of transnational repression propagated by the government of India, the Sikh Coalition recommends the following actions:

Congress:

- **Pass legislation and enforce existing laws to address the threat of transnational repression**
 - Protect the rights and safety of all individuals, especially those targeted by the malicious behavior of foreign governments, by passing the Transnational Repression Policy Act (H.R. 3654/S.831).
 - Strengthen enforcement mechanisms to hold offenders of transnational repression responsible beyond visa restrictions. The Khashoggi Ban permits visa bans and is

³²"Transnational Repression: Authoritarians Targeting Dissenters Abroad" Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Dec. 6, 2023, <https://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/transnational-repression-authoritarians-targeting-dissenters-abroad>.



the only federal statute that addresses transnational repression directly. However, more must be done to explicitly authorize sanctions against individuals and entities engaged in transnational repression.

- **Provide institutional support and oversight to effectively combat transnational repression.**
 - Support the documentation efforts of USCIRF by permanently reauthorizing the congressional body and passing legislation to reduce presidential authority to waive taking action against Countries of Particular Concern based on longstanding human rights concerns.
 - Ensure greater congressional oversight into transnational repression by amending Section 6 of the Arms Export Control Act to include a reporting requirement of any instances where the president declines to enforce the law that would prohibit arms transfers to any country determined to be engaged in a consistent pattern of acts of intimidation or harassment against individuals in the United States.
- **Prioritize measures that protect all Americans against transnational repression and limit foreign government interference.**
 - Craft legislation that prohibits a government from employing a registered lobbyist if its country has been designated as a Country of Particular Concern or has engaged in transnational repression to intimidate or harass individuals in the United States.
 - Provide asylum pathways for permanent legal status for individuals targeted for translational repression.
 - Provide greater protections for Americans who are targeted for transnational repression but have not yet obtained citizenship. This loophole leaves Americans who are targeted by transnational repression while traveling abroad left with reduced assistance from the U.S. State Department and may require the individual to seek assistance from the nation that is perpetrating the transnational repression.
 - Improve and clarify public grant resources to authorize use for defending against acts of translational repression, including the Nonprofit Security Grant Program and other federal victim support services.

Congress and the Administration:

- **Hold offenders of transnational repression accountable through multilateral actions**
 - Similar to actions already taken by Canada, the United States must hold India accountable and suspend trade pending a thorough and complete investigation into India's alleged covert activities against Sikhs.
 - Provide public assurances to address the safety and security concerns of Sikhs, other Indian diaspora communities, journalists, human rights advocates, dissidents, and religious minorities in the United States.

It is imperative that the U.S. government take a strong stand against India's escalating violations of human rights and U.S. sovereignty. The leadership of the Commission and its members in this matter is crucial to safeguarding not only the Sikh community but also the foundational values of our nation. We thank you for your urgent attention to these matters, and welcome any questions or follow-up requests you may have.

