



14 January 2014

Sikh Council UK Welcomes Cabinet Office Enquiry and Calls for Full Disclosure

The Sikh Council UK welcomes the decision of the Prime Minister, David Cameron to ask the Cabinet Secretary to look into the issues behind the apparent disclosure of previously classified documents and to establish the facts.

In doing so the Sikh Council UK will continue to press for full disclosure of all papers and documents relating to UK Government actions and involvement in the 1984 attack by the Indian Army on the Golden Temple Complex including Sri Harmandir Sahib and Sri Akal Takhat Sahib, Amritsar and subsequent events.

Secretary General of the Sikh Council UK, Gurmel Singh said, "I am pleased the Prime Minister has recognised the deep felt hurt within the Sikh community and instructed urgent investigation by the Cabinet Secretary. The community has been shocked by these revelations and the Prime Minister will need to ensure that the entire truth of this distressing episode is revealed."

"The letters that have been revealed date from February 1984 yet the attack took place in June 1984 and then there was the subsequent genocide of Sikhs following Indira Gandhi's assassination in October 1984. The community wants to know what else were the UK Government saying and doing over all that time?"

Chair of Indian Sub-Continent Affairs Sub-Committee of Sikh Council UK, Cllr Gurdial Singh Atwal said, "As UK citizens and tax payers and as a largely law abiding community the undemocratic nature of the events described in these letters has really shocked us. We are though pleased that politicians of all parties have responded very quickly and are seeking answers on our behalf."

Cont.

...PRESS RELEASE...PRESS RELEASE...PRESS RELEASE...PRESS RELEASE...

"I am particularly grateful to Tom Watson MP for the lead he has taken in this campaign for the truth. His latest letter* to the Foreign Secretary is welcome as it asks the real questions that need answering. Similarly, John Spellar MP's call for a full and early statement to the House of Commons by the Foreign Secretary is welcome."

Sikh Council UK Head of Political Engagement, Gurinder Singh Josan said, "The level of concern amongst the community over these revelations is unprecedented and only a full disclosure of all documents will satisfy the community. I am pleased that Paul Uppal MP has also unequivocally supported full disclosure and hope that the Prime Minister recognises the cross party concern over this issue and acts accordingly."

END

Note for Editors

***Please find attached letters sent by Tom Watson MP and John Spellar MP and referred to above.**

The Sikh Council UK (SCUK) is the largest representative body of Sikhs in the UK. We are recognised as the national advocate for British Sikhs in the United Kingdom and at the European Union.

For information, please contact:

Balvinder Kaur – info@sikhcounciluk.org

Gurinder Singh Josan – 07967 680635 – gurinder_singh_josan@hotmail.com

Website – www.sikhcounciluk.org

...PRESS RELEASE...PRESS RELEASE...PRESS RELEASE...PRESS RELEASE...

Sikh Council UK, PO BOX 16788, Smethwick, B67 9FH

info@sikhcounciluk.org 07867 608417

WWW.SIKHCOUNCILUK.ORG