

## **Sikh Council UK raises concerns over recent arrests in Punjab**

Press Release – 14 November 2017

Sikh Council UK has raised concerns with the British and Indian authorities over the arrests of Jagtar Singh Johal and Taljit Singh who were recently arrested by the Punjab Police.

Jagtar Singh Johal known as Jaggi is a British national from Dumbarton and was on holiday in India after getting married there last month when he arrested whilst travelling. Taljit Singh known as Jimmy is a British resident from London who was travelling to visit his family when he arrested after landing at Delhi airport.

Sikh Council UK's General Secretary, Jagtar Singh said: "We have raised our concerns with the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Indian High Commission in London over the denial of access to legal representation and information about the whereabouts of the individuals concerned to family members. We have advised members to get into contact with their MPs locally and welcome the representations made by both Sikh MPs Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi and Preet Kaur Gill. We are following up our concerns in light of worrying developments today where Jagtar Singh Johal has reportedly made allegations of torture in police custody through his lawyer."

He added "We are not aware of any charges having been laid at this time but there have been high profile statements by the Punjab Chief Minister and Director General of Police linking the arrests to recent killings of Hindu leaders. The right to a fair trial and due process is a basic human right which is being prejudiced by what has and is occurring in these cases."

– END –

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Note for Editors: Sikh Council UK 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 in the European Union.