

JAF POB 7203, New York, NY 10116, USA  
Toll Free: 1-888-243-1690  
Fax: 1-810-885-4264  
unitedsikhs-usa@unitedsikhs.org



*Recognise the Human Race as One*

*To transform underprivileged and minority communities and individuals into informed and vibrant members of society through civic, educational and personal development programmes.*

[www.unitedsikhs.org](http://www.unitedsikhs.org)  
[contact@unitedsikhs.org](mailto:contact@unitedsikhs.org)

**RE: Condemnation of Violence at Gurdwara Baba Makhan Shah Lubana (Queens, NY)**

As New York is getting ready to celebrate the Sikh Day Parade (*Vaisakhi*) this Saturday to commemorate the 312<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Birth of the Khalsa, we are deeply wounded by the actions of a small group of people who have desecrated this sacred space and the identity bestowed upon them by their Gurus (Prophets).

UNITED SIKHS and the entire international Sikh community condemn in the strongest possible way the violence that occurred at Gurdwara Baba Makhan Shah Lubana. Although unfair, as a visible minority community, the action of a few always leaves a larger stain on the entire Sikh community, a community that has struggled to fight misperceptions about our faith and beliefs. Yet, that is our burden to carry, as our Gurus recognized that our visible identity would always make us accountable for our own actions, but also, the actions of our misguided brothers and sisters.

Additionally, it is our responsibility as a community to not only condemn all those involved, but to prove our commitment to end the cycle of violence by implementing policies that will affirmatively end any potential for future violence based on local Gurdwara politics.

Finally, it is important to recognize that we as a community will work to heal our self-inflicted wounds, but the media must also be responsible in not inflaming false stereotypes that have frequently led to discrimination, hate crimes, and extreme levels of bullying against our children in schools. Media reports have used the words “holy war” and “turban warfare”, this represents the height of irresponsible journalism and such sensationalism has actual and real consequences for the safety and well being of an entire community.

Ultimately, if Sikhs are ever to reach the ideals set by our Gurus, we must act now.

Sincerely,

Hansdeep Singh  
Senior Staff Attorney  
International Civil and Human Rights Advocate  
Tel: (646) 315-3909  
[hansdeep.singh@unitedsikhs.org](mailto:hansdeep.singh@unitedsikhs.org)  
Recognize the Human Race as One