

December 15, 2012

Dear Mr. Sandhu, Honorable Member of Parliament

The Canadian Sikh Coalition (CSC) strives to protect the rights and freedoms of Sikhs both nationally and internationally and advocates redress. Aiming to provide a national and international perspective, CSC uses education and research to develop, stimulate and enhance knowledge of global Sikh issues that are of primary concern to Sikh Canadians through the dissemination of information. We represent over 50 Sikh institutions and organizations across Canada and for years have been liaising with various political parties on issues pertaining to minorities.

Recently, the case of Mr. Erwin Singh Braich and Mr. Satinder Singh Dhillon was brought to our attention. As we have started to sift through the paperwork involved in this lengthy file, there is clearly something grossly wrong with this case. Currently the Sikh community and its Punjabi media is in a state of uproar across the country as to why these two Canadian citizens of Punjabi Sikh background seem to be the deliberate targets of governmental and law enforcement agencies in Canada? From Vancouver to Montreal, the organizations that we represent have demanded that we investigate this issue involving two individuals of minority background and the harsh treatment they have had to endure at the hands of the very agencies that are supposed to be their protectors.

The Canadian Government created the Charter of Rights and Freedoms not only to protect the liberties of individual citizens but to implement democratic processes of governance. We, as Canadians, have championed the need for freedom nationally and internationally and as a result Canada has been widely recognized as a defender of human rights and the ability for individuals to exercise freedoms and liberties guaranteed to them. In order to maintain this reputation and stay true to our democratic ideals, it is absolutely necessary for Canadians and the Canadian government to take a stand against the harassment and violation of the rights of its own citizens.

I am requesting that yourself and the NDP look further into this matter to ensure that justice is being provided. I am available to meet with you in person to discuss this case at a time of your choosing and the CSC will continue to monitor this case and will regularly check in with your office to discuss the matter. Thank you for your support in this ongoing matter.

Sincerely,



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