



World Sikh Council – America Region

A Representative Body of Sikh Institutions of America Working under the Patronage of Siri Akal Takhat Sahib

P.O. Box 3635, Columbus, Ohio 43210, USA

Phone: 614-210-0591, Fax: 419-535-6794

E-mail: contact@worldsikhcouncil.org, Website: www.worldsikhcouncil.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Member Gurdwaras:

1. Gurdwara Sahib Fremont, Fremont, CA
2. Guru Nanak Sikh Mission, Livingston, CA
3. Sikh Gurdwara of LA, North Hollywood, CA
4. Sikh Gurdwara Riverside, Riverside, CA
5. Colorado Singh Sabha, Denver, CO
6. Guru Singh Sabha of Augusta, Augusta, GA
7. Sikh Study Circle of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
8. Sikh Religious Society of Chicago, Palatine, IL
9. Sikh Society of South, New Orleans, LA
10. Sikh Gurdwara of Michigan, Rochester Hills, MI
11. Sikh Society of Michigan, Madison Heights, MI
12. Sikh Gurdwara of North Carolina, Durham, NC
13. Garden State Sikh Association, Pluckemin, NJ
14. Siri Guru Singh Sabha, Glenrock, NJ
15. Sikh Cultural Society Inc., Richmond Hills, NY
16. Sikh Cultural & Edu. Society of Western NY, Buffalo, NY
17. Sikh Religious Society of Dayton, Dayton, OH
18. Guru Nanak Found. of Greater Cleveland, Richfield, OH
19. Guru Gobind Singh Sikh Society, Bedford, OH
20. Guru Nanak Religious Soc. of Central Ohio, Columbus, OH
21. Tristate Sikh Cultural Society, Monroeville, PA
22. Mid South Sikh Sabha, Memphis, TN
23. Sikh Center of Gulf Coast, Houston, TX
24. Siri Guru Singh Sabha, Richardson, TX
25. Sikh Gurdwara of North Texas, Garland, TX
26. Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Fairfax, VA
27. Sikh Association of Central Virginia, VA
28. Sikh Religious Society of Wisconsin, Brookfield, WI

Other Sikh Institution Members:

1. Siri Guru Granth Sahib Found., Anaheim, CA
2. Sikh Mediawatch and Resource Task Force, Washington, DC
3. Sikhs Serving America, Topeka, KS
4. Sikh Youth Federation of North America, White Plains, NY
5. Sikh Coalition, New York, NY
6. Sikh Educational & Religious Foundation, Dublin, OH
7. Sikh Youth Federation of USA, Toledo, OH
8. Academy of Guru Granth Studies, Arlington, TX

Contact: Dr. Tarunjit Singh, Secretary General
614-210-0591, contact@worldsikhcouncil.org

World Sikh Council – America Region’s governing body meets in Detroit on March 27, sets agenda for 2004 highlight events

A meeting of World Sikh Council – America Region’s Regional Council, the governing body of the organization, was held in Detroit, Michigan on March 27, 2004 at the Madison Heights Gurdwara Sahib.

The meeting was attended by members of the Council from New Jersey to California, and Louisiana to Ohio. The March 27 meeting was the first Regional Council meeting of 2004.

At the meeting, the governing body of World Sikh Council – America Region (WSC-AR) reviewed the activities of the organization and committed itself to observing at the national level the following highlight events in 2004:

- Celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Prakash Divas (installation ceremony day) of Siri Guru Granth Sahib in September.
- Commemorate the 300th anniversary of the martyrdom of the mother and sons of Siri Guru Gobind Singh Sahib in December.

- Commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Indian Army's attack on Darbar Sahib, Amritsar in June. [*"The army went into Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple Complex) not to eliminate a political figure or a political movement but to suppress the culture of a people, to attack their heart, to strike a blow at their spirit and self-confidence"*, Joyce Pettigrew, *The Sikhs of Punjab*, London: Zed Publishers, 1995.]
- Commemorate the 20th anniversary of the massacre and ethnic cleansing of Sikhs across India in November. [*"The (Sikh) women were herded together into one room. Some of them ran away but were pursued to the nearby nallah (creek) where they were raped. Their shrieks and cries for help fell on deaf ears. From among the women held in the room, the hoodlums asked each other to select whomsoever they chose. All the women were stripped and many dishonoured. ... Their lust satisfied, they told the women to get out, naked as they were. For fear of their lives they did so, hiding their shame as best as possible. Each begged or borrowed a garment from relenting neighbours and sought shelter wherever they could"*, *Citizen's Commission of Delhi, Delhi - 31 October to 4 November 1984: Report of the Citizen's Commission, 1985.*]

Mr. Kuldeep Singh, Chairman of WSC-AR said, "As Sikh Americans we are being increasingly woven into the fabric of America. While we do so, we must remember to honor and commemorate our past, so that the future generation of Sikh Americans may not forget the sacrifices of our ancestors." He further added, "the ambitious agenda of observances for 2004 at the national level will need the cooperative effort of the entire Sikh community as we reflect on our history and ponder our future as people of faith."

Future meetings of the Regional Council of World Sikh Council – America Region have been scheduled for June, September, and December of 2004.

WSC-AR is the only representative and elected body of Sikh Gurdwaras and institutions in the US. Its members include 28 Gurdwaras (Sikh places of worship) and 8 other Sikh institutions across 17 US states.

WSC-AR works to promote Sikh interests at the national and international level focusing on issues of advocacy, education, and well-being of humankind.

About 25 million Sikhs live across the world. Sikhs arrived in the US about a century ago and number about half a million today.