



World Sikh Council – America Region (WSC-AR)

A representative body of Sikh institutions of America founded under the patronage of Siri Akal Takhat Sahib

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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. Guru Nanak Foundation of Jackson, MS
13. Sikh Gurdwara of North Carolina, Durham, NC
14. Garden State Sikh Association, Bridgewater, NJ
15. Guru Nanak Sikh Society of Delaware Valley, Sewell, NJ
16. Siri Guru Singh Sabha, Glenrock, NJ
17. Sikh Sabha of New Jersey, Lawrenceville, NJ
18. Sikh Cultural Society Inc., Richmond Hills, NY
19. Sikh Cultural & Edu. Society of Western NY, Buffalo, NY
20. Sikh Religious Society of Dayton, Dayton, OH
21. Guru Nanak Found. of Greater Cleveland, Richfield, OH
22. Guru Gobind Singh Sikh Society, Bedford, OH
23. Guru Nanak Religious Soc. of Central Ohio, Columbus, OH
24. Tristate Sikh Cultural Society, Monroeville, PA
25. Mid South Sikh Sabha, Memphis, TN
26. Sikh Center of Gulf Coast, Houston, TX
27. Siri Guru Singh Sabha, Richardson, TX
28. Sikh Gurdwara of North Texas, Garland, TX
29. Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Fairfax, VA
30. Sikh Association of Central Virginia, VA
31. Sikh Religious Society of Wisconsin, Brookfield, WI

Other Sikh Institution Members:

1. Siri Guru Granth Sahib Found., Anaheim, CA
2. Sikhs Serving America, Topeka, KS
3. Sikh Youth Federation of North America, White Plains, NY
4. Sikh Educational & Religious Foundation, Dublin, OH
5. Sikh Youth Federation of USA, Toledo, OH
6. Academy of Guru Granth Studies, Arlington, TX

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WSC-AR Meets with Conference of European Churches to Discuss Hate Crimes Against Sikhs in Europe; Appeals to Sikh Community to be Vigilant

The Secretary General of World Sikh Council – America Region (WSC-AR), Dr. Tarunjit Singh, met with the President of the Conference of European Churches, Rev. Jean-Arnold de Clermont, on July 11, 2005 to share concerns over the recent increase in hate crimes against Sikhs and Muslims in Europe following the London bomb attacks.

The meeting was held in Indianapolis, Indiana during the annual conference of the National Association of Ecumenical and Interreligious Staff (NAEIS), July 9 – 13.

Dr. Singh shared with Rev. Clermont the recent attacks on religious minorities, including Sikhs and Muslims, in Europe and called upon the Conference of European Churches to work more vigorously with religious minorities of Europe in reducing religious intolerance.

Rev. Clermont expressed dismay at the incidents of hate and violence in Europe and offered to work with Sikhs in Europe.

Both leaders agreed that the Sikh and Christian communities of Europe need to be able to work together on issues of common interest to prevent religious intolerance and hate crimes.

The NAEIS annual conference also adopted a resolution on July 12 that stated, “As we unequivocally condemn that horrible act [terrorist attack in London], we are equally repulsed that others would use violence to exact revenge. This violence goes against all that our religious communities teach us about embracing the hands of our neighbors and living in peace and respect.... In this challenging time, we call on all people of faith and goodwill to engage in more inter-religious dialogue and collaborative action and pray that this may lead to greater understanding and awareness.”

Rev. Clermont and Dr. Singh also discussed the French ban on religious symbols in public schools. Rev. Clermont, who is also the President of the French Protestant Federation, called upon the French Sikh community to work with his organization in resolving the issue. During the NAEIS conference, Dr. Singh had expressed concern over the adoption of similar laws by other European nations.

In response to the small explosions reported today from London, the WSC-AR calls upon Sikh Gurdwaras, organizations, and individuals in the US and Europe to be cautious of incidents of hate, prejudice, and violence, and to promptly report all such occurrences to the local police and civil rights organizations.

The Conference of European Churches is a fellowship of some 125 Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican and Old Catholic Churches from all countries of Europe, plus 40 associated organizations. It was founded in 1959. It has offices in Geneva, Brussels and Strasbourg.

The WSC-AR is a representative and elected body of Sikh Gurdwaras and institutions in the United States. Its members include 37 Gurdwaras (Sikh places of worship) and other Sikh institutions across the nation.
