



GURUDWARA GURU NANAK DARBAR

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GURUDWARA GURU NANAK DARBAR

Afghan Ekta Cultural / Religious Community Centre

Charitable Trust (Regd No. 1088637)

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MEMORANDUM

**The Chairman,
USCIRF
732, North Capital Street
United States of America**

Re: Religious persecution of Afghan Sikh Refugees

Afghan Sikhs have been settled in Afghanistan peacefully for over 498 years and are well settled.

They mostly run business and in fact control most of the trade in the country.

They are devoted practising Sikhs and have established nearly 64 places of worship in the country along with 27 Hindu Mandir.

The situation in Afghanistan began to change in April 1992 when Mujaheddin came to Afghanistan. Taliban took over the movement in 1996 at Kandhar and moved to Kabul in 1997.

Taliban wanted to make Afghanistan an Islamic country and began to convert Sikh/Hindu forcefully into Muslim religion.

The Sikh who are practising Sikhs with unshorn hair, turban and with sikh symbolic identity would never part with their faith. They would rather accept martyrdom and this is a well documented historical fact.

The Taliban began to inflict religious persecution to the Afghan Sikhs in numerous ways. On every Friday, sikhs are not allowed to open their shops. They are expected to join prayers with the Taliban in Mosque.

Those who resisted, were physically tortured and beaten up.

Young Sikhs were not allowed to go to school. Their long hair were pulled and were humiliated.

The sikh are not permitted to go to their religious places for daily prayers. Devoted Sikhs began to spend most of their times with their families in a very limited Sikh Gurdwaras compound.

The young Hindu/ Sikh girls were kidnapped and were forced to marry Muslims. Taliban usually pay for brides.



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The Sikhs were not allowed to cremate their dead ones openly. Sadly they were forced to cremate within the Gurdwara compound.

The authorities wouldn't entertain any complaints against Muslims. If found out, the Sikhs were punished even more for complaining.

The life in Afghanistan became quite intolerable for the Sikh. They had to endure religious persecution and many accepted martyrdom.

Recent incident of 1st July 2018 where 13 Hindu and sikh prominent members in Jalalabad were blown into pieces by a bomb blast when they went to see on a peace mission to the Afghan President. This has petrified all Afghan Sikh Community who are now very concerned about the safety and security of their loved ones in Afghanistan.

Sirs, we plead with you on humanitarian grounds that plight and sufferings endured by our community in Afghanistan may kindly be treated in the same spirit as you accord help and assistance to other world refugees. Our community has silently suffered a lot till now. We desperately need help and advice please.

