SIKH FEDERATION

Consequences of Impunity

Indian transnational repression and institutional failures in Canada

Assu, Nanakshahi 558 | October 2026



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Written and produced by Sikh Federation (Canada)

We are thankful for the opportunity to work, collaborate, and learn on these lands, which are known today as Canada. We recognize that these lands are home to all First Nations and Métis people, and the Inuit. From unceded lands to reconciliation, we stand in solidarity and are committed to freedom and justice for all.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sikhs in Canada continue to face a serious and ongoing threat of transnational repression that is being orchestrated by officials and proxies linked to the Government of India. This threat extends well beyond isolated acts of intimidation. It encompasses surveillance, coercion, threats of violence, targeting of family members of activists, diplomatic pressure, disinformation campaigns, and efforts to suppress lawful political advocacy and community organization. Canadian security agencies have continued to warn Sikh activists advocating for an independent Khalistan of threats to their lives, demonstrating that the threat has not ended with the exposure of India's activities or the assassination of Shaheed Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar.



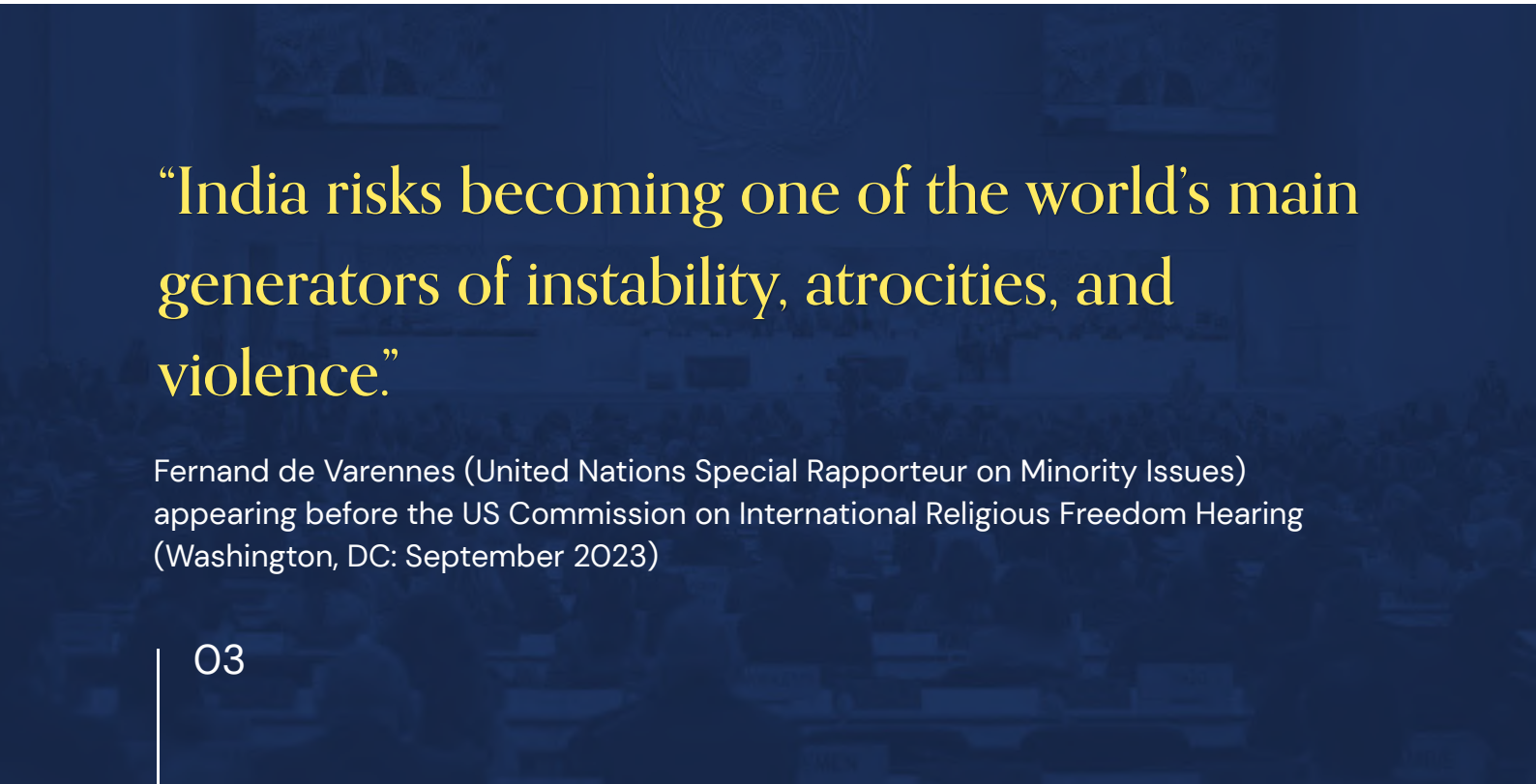
Canada has publicly acknowledged that India has engaged in foreign interference and that Indian state-linked actors have been involved in criminal and coercive activity in Canada. The assassination of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey, British Columbia, represents the most serious manifestation of this threat. Yet Canadians still do not know the full extent of India's activities, what Canadian institutions knew about the threat and when they knew it, what protective measures were available to those targeted, why meaningful protection was not provided in many cases, or what mechanisms are now in place to prevent similar activity from recurring.

The gap between recognition and accountability remains alarming. Despite Canada's acknowledgement of the threat from India, there has been no meaningful public accounting of the full scope of Indian transnational repression or adequate accountability for those responsible for the broader pattern of coercive and violent activity.

Canada's response has also raised serious concerns about whether economic and strategic considerations have been permitted to take precedence over the protection of human rights and the safety of Canadians. This has consequences for Canada's standing internationally. Questions are being raised about whether a country that has long presented itself as a champion of universal human rights can credibly claim to defend those principles abroad while failing to provide transparency, protection and accountability when a foreign government targets communities within its own borders.

The consequences extend beyond the Sikh community. Transnational repression undermines freedom of expression, association, political participation and religious freedom. It chills lawful advocacy and community organization, and creates the risk that a foreign government's characterization of political activity will influence how Canadian institutions treat its own citizens and residents. The issue therefore concerns the integrity of Canadian institutions, not simply bilateral relations with India.

Sikh Federation Canada has played a sustained role in documenting this threat, representing community concerns, and bringing the issue before Canadian and international institutions. Since its national launch in 2024, SFC has worked continuously with Sikh gurdwaras and grassroots institutions, civil society organizations, media, parliamentarians and Canadian government institutions to document threats, develop policy responses and press for accountability. Its advocacy has extended well beyond Canada.



"India risks becoming one of the world's main generators of instability, atrocities, and violence."

Fernand de Varennes (United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues) appearing before the US Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing (Washington, DC: September 2023)



Madame Justice Hogue presiding over the Foreign Interference Commission (2024)

Canada's existing response remains incomplete. Justice Hogue's Foreign Interference Commission provided important findings concerning India's activities in Canada, but its mandate was principally concerned with electoral interference and therefore did not fully examine transnational repression. The Commission itself left significant questions concerning the breadth and extent of India's activities unanswered. The Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security's study of Indian interference and criminal activities in Canada was also interrupted by the 2025 election and its work has still not been completed.

International human rights experts and mechanisms are now watching Canada's response and calling for action. Canada therefore faces not only a domestic accountability gap but an increasingly visible international credibility problem. Its treatment of Indian transnational repression is being measured against the universal human rights principles that Canada has historically championed.

Canada now requires a comprehensive, transparent and rights-based response to this grave threat to communities and institutions in Canada:

Combating Foreign Interference and Transnational Repression

- Immediately allocate resources and support measures, including protective services and security assessments, to individuals facing credible threats from foreign actors.

- Conduct ongoing transparent evaluations and take decisive actions, including diplomatic expulsions, against Indian officials found to be involved in violations.

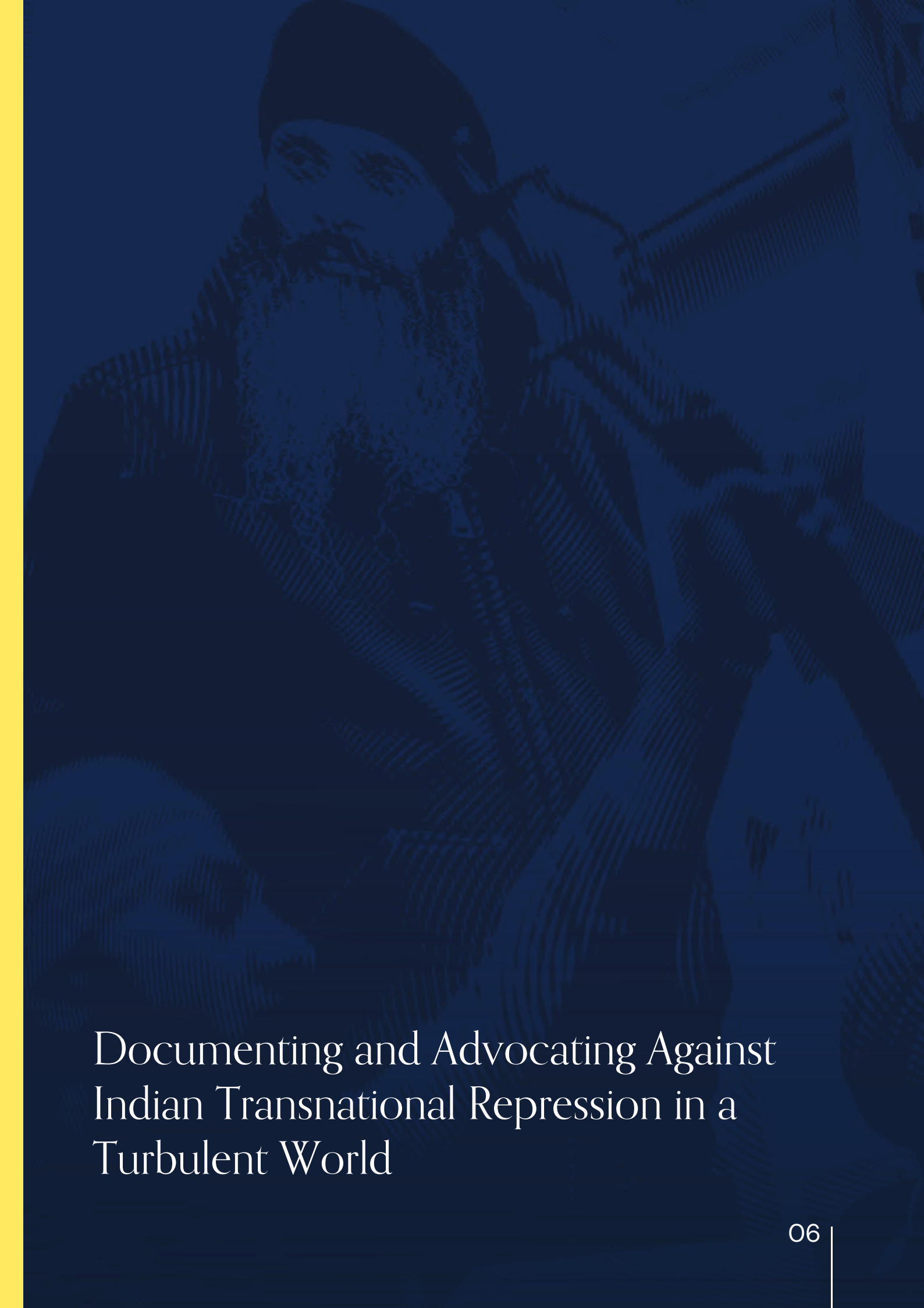
- Enhance Canada's Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) significantly, ensuring it has sufficient resources, capabilities, and multilingual staff to effectively monitor, assess, and publicly report on foreign disinformation campaigns targeting diaspora communities.

Rebuilding Public Trust and Accountability

- Launch an independent, comprehensive public inquiry into Indian foreign interference activities, specifically focusing on violence and coercive practices aimed at Sikh activists.

- Ensure completion of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) study, investigating Indian interference and criminal activities within Canada.

- Bring all perpetrators of criminal activity, associated with the Government of India, to justice, and impose targeted sanctions against all implicated officials.



Documenting and Advocating Against Indian Transnational Repression in a Turbulent World



Over the past two years, Sikh Federation Canada (SFC) has built a sustained record of documenting Indian transnational repression (TNR), representing the concerns of affected Sikh communities, and pressing Canadian institutions to respond. Its work has connected grassroots Sikh institutions and affected individuals with civil society, media, parliamentarians, government institutions and international human-rights mechanisms.

SFC's advocacy has operated simultaneously at the community, national and international levels. In Canada, SFC has maintained continuous engagement with Sikh gurdwaras and grassroots institutions, civil society organizations, media, parliamentarians and government institutions. This work has focused on documenting threats and patterns of Indian foreign interference and TNR, bringing the experiences of targeted individuals and communities into public and parliamentary processes, and advancing concrete demands for protection, transparency and accountability.

SFC has also deliberately taken the issue beyond the Canada-India bilateral relationship. Recognizing that Indian TNR is transnational in both its operation and its consequences, SFC has worked to ensure that the targeting of Sikh activists, human rights defenders and their families is understood as an international human-rights concern requiring scrutiny beyond Canadian institutions.

Bringing Indian TNR into the international human rights system and multilateral forums

As a member of Sikh Federation International, SFC has contributed to advocacy raising Indian TNR with international missions and institutions across multiple jurisdictions, including the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and directly with policymakers in Washington, D.C., London, Brussels and Canberra.

In 2024, SFC worked closely with the family of Shaheed Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar to pursue international accountability for his extrajudicial killing through the United Nations Human Rights Council's Special Procedures mechanisms. Working with the family, SFC supported the submission of a formal complaint concerning his assassination and the broader pattern of Indian transnational repression targeting Sikh political activists and advocates of an independent Khalistan.



Professor Ben Saul, UNHRC Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights and signatory to Special Procedures Communications AL IND 10/2024 and AL CAN 3/2026.

In January 2025, several UN Special Rapporteurs publicly released a joint communication to the Government of India addressing allegations of "continuing, systematic attacks by Indian authorities on Sikh activists in Canada, the United States, and other countries," including harassment, intimidation, death threats and planned physical attacks. The communication also raised concerns about India's misuse of counter-terrorism legislation, including the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), to criminalize Sikh political advocacy and suppress demands for self-determination. This intervention brought the assassination of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar and the wider pattern of repression against Sikhs into formal scrutiny under international human-rights mechanisms, reinforcing demands for an independent investigation, accountability and compliance with India's obligations under international human-rights law.

At the 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, SFI released a comprehensive report, Beyond Borders, documenting India's global campaign of transnational repression against Sikhs. Members of the Federation have made numerous statements before the Human Rights Council, convened an international conference in Geneva, while directly sharing its documentation with stakeholders across the international human-rights system.

This sustained engagement has helped place Indian TNR against Sikhs within a broader international framework concerning transnational repression, reprisals against human rights defenders, threats to civil society, and the protection of individuals exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association, political participation and international advocacy. The internationalization of the issue has also created avenues for individual cases to receive scrutiny through formal human-rights mechanisms.

The targeting of Bhai Moninder Singh, including threats directed against his family in connection with his UN advocacy, was included in the International Service for Human Rights' formal submission to the UN Secretary-General on reprisals against human rights defenders. In June 2026, Moninder Singh participated in an International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) retreat convened to inform UN officials about threats associated with transnational repression and personally addressed participants regarding India's targeting of Sikh activists and the broader impact of TNR on the Sikh community.



Press Conference for the release of "Beyond Borders: Indian Transnational Repression Against the Sikh Diaspora" at Geneva Press Club (March 2026)

On June 3, 2026, six UN Human Rights Council Special Procedures mandate holders issued a communication to the Government of Canada concerning threats against Moninder Singh and called on Canada to take concrete action. This represents a significant development in the internationalization of the issue: concerns arising from the targeting of a Sikh activist were again brought into the UN's formal human-rights procedures, resulting in direct scrutiny of Canada's response. The international attention has continued to expand. In September 2026, 130 UN mandate holders and stakeholders of the UN Human Rights Council issued a joint statement urging decisive action to define and combat transnational repression as a direct output of the June retreat hosted by ISHR.

These developments demonstrate the trajectory of SFC's advocacy. What began as the documentation and representation of concerns arising within the Sikh community has been brought into Canadian political and institutional processes and, increasingly, into international human-rights and multilateral forums.



Shaping public discourse through international media engagement

Over the past several years, SFC has established a substantial international media presence, helping inform and shape the public discourse on Indian transnational repression. SFC's National Spokesperson, Bhai Moninder Singh, has been featured in four separates documentaries produced by major outlets like Bloomberg, Al Jazeera, CBC and Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), providing firsthand accounts of Indian transnational repression and its broader implications for human rights, political freedoms and state accountability.

SFC's documentation, advocacy and perspectives have also been featured in reporting by leading international media outlets, including The Economist, Washington Post, New York Times, The Guardian, Bloomberg, Al Jazeera, Agence France-Presse, among many others. Through sustained engagement with journalists and investigative reporting, SFC has helped situate the targeting of Sikh activists within a broader pattern of state-linked repression, rather than treating individual incidents as isolated criminal acts or bilateral diplomatic disputes.

Prabjot Singh, Legal Counsel for Sikh Federation Canada, speaking with media during an event on TNR and genocide at Baku State University (June, 2026)



"It is reported that the threats against Mr. Moninder Singh and his family constitute intimidation and reprisals in part for his advocacy and cooperation with United Nations mechanisms, including Special Procedures mandate holders, on behalf of the Sikh Federation in defence of the rights of the Sikh community and individuals. Mr. Moninder Singh's outspoken advocacy has reportedly been widely covered by major national and international media outlets."

UN Special Procedures Communication AL CAN 3/2026 on Indian Transnational Repression and the targeting of Sikh Human Rights Defenders (June, 2026)

This media engagement has complemented SFC's institutional advocacy by expanding public awareness, challenging narratives that conflate lawful Sikh political advocacy with extremism, and bringing greater scrutiny to Canada's failure to take effective measures in response. It has helped ensure that the experiences and perspectives of Sikhs in Canada remain central to international reporting on Indian transnational repression, reinforcing demands for transparency, accountability and institutional reform.

From community documentation to international accountability

SFC's work has therefore produced a record that extends across multiple institutional settings. It has documented the experiences of targeted Sikh activists and communities, translated those experiences into policy demands, engaged Canadian decision-makers, and brought the issue before international institutions and governments. This record is important because Indian TNR cannot be adequately understood or addressed as a bilateral diplomatic dispute. The targeting of Sikh activists crosses borders; threats can extend to family members outside Canada; diplomatic and intelligence activity can operate through Canadian institutions and overseas missions; and repression can seek to silence advocacy taking place before international bodies themselves.

The internationalization of the issue has also increased the scrutiny facing Canada. Canadian institutions are no longer the only bodies being asked to assess whether sufficient protection and accountability have been provided. International human-rights organizations, UN mandate holders and other international stakeholders are increasingly examining the treatment of individuals facing transnational repression and the obligations of states to protect them.

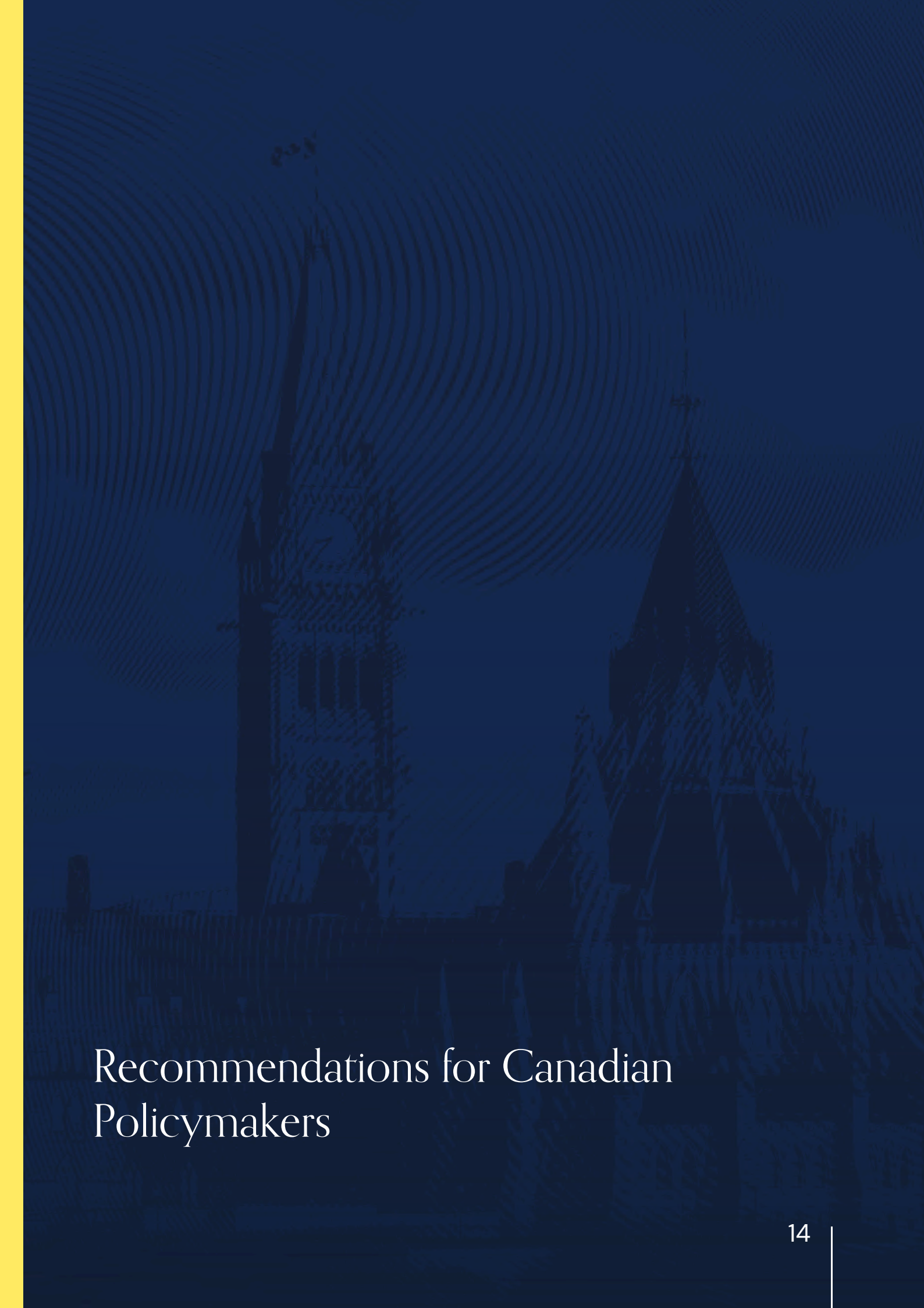


Prabjot Singh speaking at the IACHR in Washington D.C. (August, 2026)

SFC's objective extends beyond recognition of the problem. Its advocacy seeks to translate documentation and international attention into concrete protection for targeted individuals, transparency concerning the scope of Indian activity in Canada, accountability for those responsible, and institutional reforms capable of preventing further transnational repression. For the Sikh community, this work ensures that Indian TNR is documented and challenged wherever it occurs. For Canada, it reinforces a broader principle: the protection of people targeted by foreign states cannot depend on whether accountability is politically convenient or compatible with a preferred bilateral relationship.



Moninder Singh at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference hosted by the OSCE (October 2026)

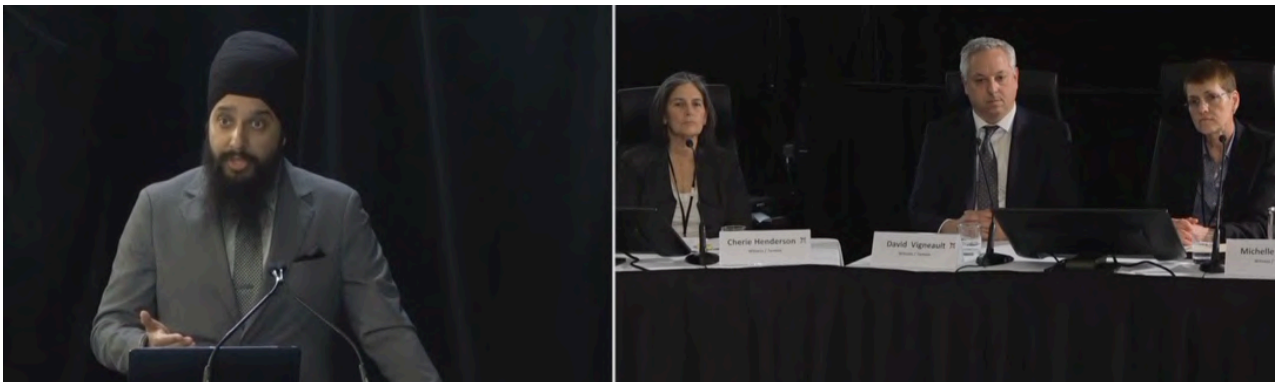


Recommendations for Canadian Policymakers

Combating Foreign Interference and Transnational Repression

Protecting political dissidents and targeted minority groups

In accordance with Recommendation 19 by Justice Hogue, the Government of Canada must take meaningful steps to effectively address credible threats of harm to political dissidents and minority groups in Canada who may be targeted by foreign governments.



Prabjot Singh cross-examining CSIS leadership at
Foreign Interference Commission in 2024.

Countering clandestine activities in Canada by Indian intelligence and diplomats in Canada

The Government of Canada must take concrete and sustained steps to proactively counter the ongoing clandestine activities of Indian intelligence and diplomatic officials in Canada. This must include a thorough and continuous review of all Indian diplomats and consular officials in Canada, as well as any Indian nationals with links to the Indian Police Service (IPS) or other security or intelligence agencies. Those found to have been involved in interference, surveillance, espionage, or human rights abuses must be prosecuted where possible and immediately expelled from Canada.

Canada's RRM must be better resourced or complemented by a domestic agency

The Government of Canada must ensure that there are effective and transparent mechanisms to monitor and counter Indian media and disinformation networks, including those using Hindi, Punjabi, or other languages. Mechanisms must be established for observations to be made publicly available in a timely manner in order to ensure transparency and resilience.

Rebuilding Public Trust and Transparency

Public Inquiry into Indian activity in Canada

Justice Hogue's Final Report concludes that the Foreign Interference Commission "only scratched the surface" of transnational repression because her mandate was limited to electoral interference. This is one of the reasons why Sikhs across Canada have been calling on the Government of Canada to commit to establishing an independent public inquiry at the earliest possible time to review the circumstances leading to Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar's assassination and any other coercive or violent activity linked to the agents of the Government of India. The Government can commit to establishing this inquiry in the near future without jeopardizing ongoing criminal investigations or prosecutions.

Continue SECU study on Indian interference and criminal activities in Canada

In October 2024, Canada's Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security initiated a study on "electoral interference and criminal activities in Canada by agents of the Government of India." The study came to an abrupt stop during the 2025 election and the committee has failed to reconvene the study for its completion.

Completion of the study is a necessary democratic exercise to allow a wholesome debate that can examine the full extent of India's activities in Canada, assess the adequacy of Canada's institutional response, and determine whether diplomatic or economic considerations have compromised public safety and accountability.

Ensuring justice and accountability

Sikhs across Canada are calling on the Government of Canada to bring all conspirators and perpetrators of criminal activity, associated with the Government of India, to justice. This includes their prosecution and sentencing to the full extent of the law, as well as the imposition of targeted sanctions against India's intelligence agency, the Research & Analysis Wing, and all government officials believed to have been involved in violent crimes, including but not limited to, Home Affairs Minister, Amit Shah, and then Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief, Semant Goel.



Annex I:

UN Special Procedures Communication AL CAN 3/2026 on Indian Transnational Repression and the targeting of Sikh Human Rights Defenders

June 2026

Ref.: AL CAN 3/2026
(Please use this reference in your reply)

3 June 2026

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacities as Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order and Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 58/14, 59/4, 61/22, 57/7 and 58/5.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning allegations of foreign intimidation and reprisals against Bhai Moninder Singh Bual, also known as Moninder Singh, a Canadian national, Sikh activist, and human rights defender living in Canada. Mr. Moninder Singh is a prominent Sikh activist and human rights defender who has publicly advocated for Sikh human rights and has made claims of Sikh self-determination, including through the establishment of an independent "State of Khalistan", both in domestic and international fora, including at the United Nations. He is the Chairperson and National Spokesperson of Sikh Federation Canada, and a member of the International Council of the Sikh Federation International, of which Sikh Federation Canada is a part.



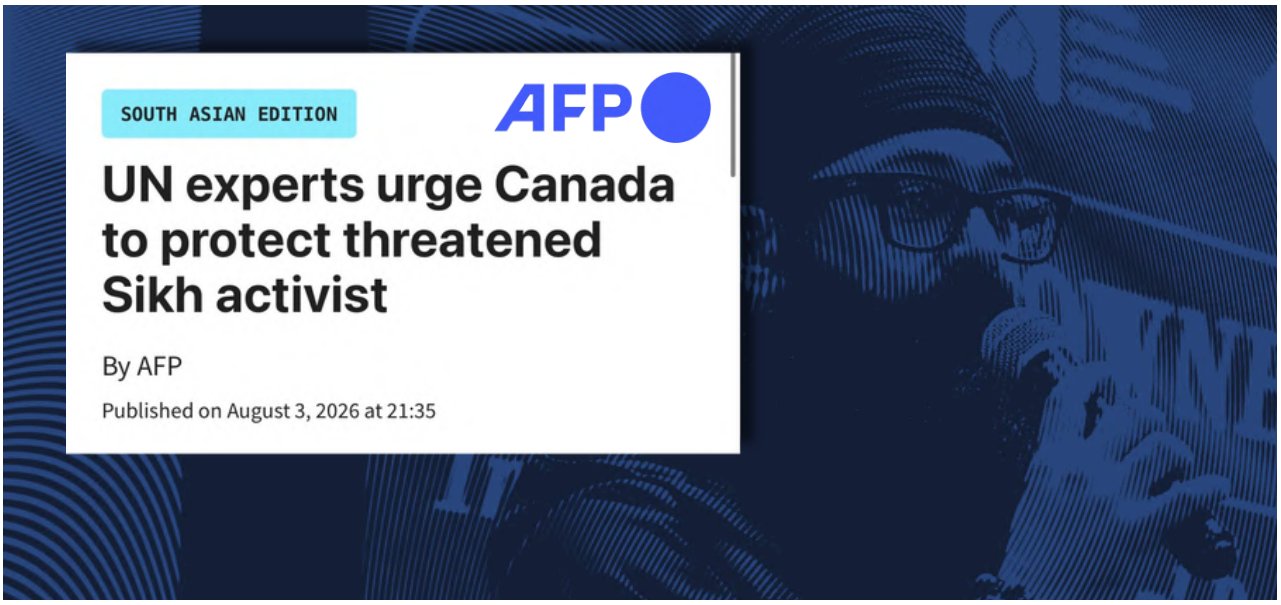
According to the information received:

Since 2022, Mr. Moninder Singh has received four "duty to warn" notices from the Canadian authorities about credible and imminent threats to his life. It is alleged that these threats are related to his public engagement and advocacy, including at the United Nations. The first warning was issued in July 2022 by the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (INSET), a multi-agency Canadian national security team led by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

On the same day, a similar warning was issued to Mr. Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a. Sikh activist and colleague of Mr. Moninder Singh's, who was assassinated on Canadian soil on 18 June 2023, eleven months following the warning.

On 19 November 2024, Special Procedures mandate holders brought that case to the attention of the Governments of India and Canada, expressing grave concern that Mr. Hardeep Singh Nijjar had been killed in retaliation against his political and human rights advocacy for the Sikh community (IND 10/2024).

Mr. Moninder Singh leveraged the communication as part of his advocacy against the transnational repression of Sikhs and publicly commented on it in international media.





. Prabjot Singh addresses international delegates on the role of media in combatting TNR and furthering human rights today (July 2026)

On 14 October 2024, the RCMP publicly disclosed that they had identified links between agents of the Government of India and serious criminal activity in Canada, and that there were credible and imminent threats to other members of the South Asian community, particularly members of the pro-Khalistan movement. The then Prime Minister announced that an investigation had been opened, referring to "clear and compelling evidence that agents of the Government of India have engaged in, and continue to engage in, activities that pose a significant threat to public safety [...] includ[ing] clandestine information gathering techniques, coercive behaviour targeting South Asian Canadians, and involvement in over a dozen threatening and violent acts, including murder."1

Mr. Moninder Singh received a second warning in August 2023 and a third one on 17 March 2025, almost immediately after his return from the 58th session of the Human Rights Council and shortly after the publication of communication IND 10/2024. Between March 2025 and March 2026, Mr. Moninder Singh is reported to have participated in several sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. He also participated in the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances in January 2025 and the United Nations Minorities Forum in November 2025. Mr. Moninder Singh delivered statements on several of these occasions, raising allegations of the targeting of Sikh dissidents by Indian Authorities.

On 22 February 2026, the Canadian authorities issued a fourth formal "duty to warn" notice, warning Mr. Moninder Singh of a credible and imminent threat to his life and that of his family. This warning was reportedly based on intelligence assessed by the Canadian police as sufficiently serious as to require direct notification to his home of a plan to assassinate Mr. Moninder Singh, his wife and two children. This was the first time that such notice included his wife and children. Allegedly, Mr. Moninder Singh was scheduled to attend the 61st session of the Human Rights Council only two days later and planned to intervene during the General Debate and hold meetings with diplomatic missions and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

It is reported that the threats against Mr. Moninder Singh and his family constitute intimidation and reprisals in part for his advocacy and cooperation with United Nations mechanisms, including Special Procedures mandate holders, on behalf of the Sikh Federation in defence of the rights of the Sikh community and individuals. Mr. Moninder Singh's outspoken advocacy has reportedly been widely covered by major national and international media Outlets.

Since Canadian authorities issued the latest duty to warn notice in February 2026, according to the information received there is no publicly available evidence that any further protective and monitoring measures have been taken to ensure Mr. Moninder Singh's safety.

Without prejudging the accuracy of the information received, we wish to express serious concern regarding the credible threats that Mr. Moninder Singh and his family appear to be facing, including an imminent threat to their lives. We are concerned that such threats fall within a broader pattern of transnational repression by Indian authorities against Sikh activists in different countries, including Canada.



Moninder Singh speaking with journalists at the Shusha Global Media Forum

We note that Special Procedures mandate holders have previously raised concerns regarding allegations of credible threats to life and measures of intimidation and harassment against Sikh activists, as part of a pattern of transnational repression of Sikh individuals, including in Canada (IND 10/2024). We noted that such activities may involve violations of the human rights to life, security of person, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of religion or belief, and minority rights.

The global expansion of transnational repression of human rights defenders, civil society organizations, journalists, minorities and political dissidents, including through the misuse of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism laws and narratives, represents a grave threat to the international human rights order and risks silencing legitimate advocacy, chilling dissent across borders, and eroding human rights protections worldwide. As noted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, it requires a zero-tolerance policy and full accountability.

In this context, we are encouraged by the G7 leaders' statement2 issued in June 2025, under Canada's Presidency, which described transnational repression as a risk to national security, State sovereignty, the safety and human rights of victims, and principles of international law. The statement recalled the serious chilling effect that this practice has on civil society, including human rights defenders, journalists and minorities, and condemned all acts of transnational repression, including "[t]hreats or acts of physical violence such as harassment, assault, abduction or assassination" and "[d]irect or implicit threats against family members". The statement also warned of the misuse of counter-terrorism tools in transnational repression, a concern earlier raised at the same G7 Kananaskis Summit and later at the Human Rights Council by the Special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.3


Politics | News

CTV NEWS

Sikh groups ask Carney to withdraw Indian PM Modi's invitation to G7 summit

Published: June 12, 2025

"In view of the serious and substantiated protection concerns outlined above, Canada's international obligations, and Canada's longstanding commitment to protect individuals at risk of transnational repression, we respectfully encourage your Excellency's Government to take all feasible measures at its disposal to protect Mr. Moninder Singh and his family, as well as similarly-situated individuals on Canadian soil. We also urge the authorities to accelerate the investigations into these allegations, hold perpetrators accountable, ensure adequate remedy to victims, and take all steps to prevent reoccurrence."

UN Special Procedures Communication AL CAN 3/2026 on Indian Transnational Repression and the targeting of Sikh Human Rights Defenders (June, 2026)

We commend Canada for its leading role in combatting transnational repression and its continued commitment to upholding and safeguarding human rights and international law. The action points outlined in the G7 leaders' statement set an exemplary standard for other States and regional organizations to adopt concrete measures to prevent, respond to, and remedy transnational repression against all those targeted.

We also welcome the steps taken by your Excellency's Government to warn Mr. Moninder Singh about credible threats against him and his family. We recognize that law enforcement and intelligence operations to detect and prevent such threats may require elements of operational secrecy. We are nonetheless concerned at the allegations that the Canadian authorities have taken no known further protective and monitoring measures to ensure their safety since the issuance of the latest notice in February 2026. The death of a Sikh national shortly after a similar duty to warn notice was issued in June 2023 highlights the necessity of continuing vigilance.

We remind your Excellency's Government of its duty under articles 6 and 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Canada on 19 May 1976, to protect all individuals from all reasonably foreseeable threats to life or bodily or mental integrity by governmental or private actors (Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 36 (article 6), paras. 7 and 18; general comment No. 35 (article 9), para. 9), including by adopting adequate preventive and protective measures. States parties must respond appropriately to patterns of violence against categories of victims such as intimidation of human rights defenders (general comment No. 35, para. 9) and threats, intimidation and attacks aimed at silencing freedom of expression and human rights defenders (general comment No. 34, para. 23), in line with the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders).





Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, David Morrison, told a Parliamentary Committee in October 2024 that Indian Home Affairs Minister Amit Shah oversaw attacks on Sikh activists in Canada.

We are deeply concerned at the allegations that Mr. Moninder Singh appears to have been targeted directly before or after instances of cooperation with or reporting to United Nations entities in relation to the targeting of Sikh activists by Indian authorities. These allegations, if true, may constitute unlawful intimidation and reprisals in direct retaliation for Mr. Moninder Singh's human rights advocacy and cooperation with United Nations human rights representatives and mechanisms. Acts of intimidation or reprisal against persons who engage, or seek to engage, with United Nations mechanisms are incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and risk creating a serious chilling effect on other defenders and victims seeking protection. In its latest resolution 60/23 on Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, the Human Rights Council urged States to "take all appropriate measures to prevent the occurrence of acts of intimidation or reprisal, whether online or offline, including, where necessary, by adopting and implementing specific legislation and policies to promote a safe and enabling environment for engagement with the United Nations on human rights and to effectively protect those who seek to cooperate, cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights from any act of intimidation or reprisal". It stressed the need to combat impunity, calling on States to conduct prompt, impartial and independent investigations and ensure accountability for all such acts.

In view of the serious and substantiated protection concerns outlined above, Canada's international obligations, and Canada's longstanding commitment to protect individuals at risk of transnational repression, we respectfully encourage your Excellency's Government to take all feasible measures at its disposal to protect Mr. Moninder Singh and his family, as well as similarly-situated individuals on Canadian soil. We also urge the authorities to accelerate the investigations into these allegations, hold perpetrators accountable, ensure adequate remedy to victims, and take all steps to prevent reoccurrence.

In connection with the above alleged facts and concerns, please refer to the Annex on Reference to international human rights law attached to this letter which cites international human rights instruments and standards relevant to these allegations.

As it is our responsibility, under the mandates provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to our attention, we would be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.

2. Please indicate the steps taken by your Excellency's Government to assess the risks of threats to life and security of person, as well as other forms of transnational repression, against Mr. Moninder Singh and his family, including due to his cooperation with the United Nations, and the measures taken to provide them with the necessary support and Protection.

Moninder Singh speaking at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference hosted by the OSCE (October, 2026)



3. Please provide information on measures taken by your Excellency's Government to independently and impartially investigate credible allegations of threats to life or of violence, or other forms of harassment or intimidation, against Sikh activists and human rights defenders, including Mr. Moninder Singh. Please detail the results of such investigations and explain what measures of accountability have been taken in response, including prosecutions of any perpetrators and reparation for victims.

4. Please indicate what measures have been taken by your Excellency's Government to ensure that Sikh activists and human rights defenders in Canada are able to carry out their legitimate activities without fear of threats or acts of violence, intimidation, harassment or reprisal of any sort, including so as to safeguard their freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly, association, and religion or belief, their right to participate in public affairs, and their minority cultural rights.

This communication, and any response received from your Excellency's Government, will be made public via the communications reporting website at the 60 days mark. Should your Excellency's Government respond within 60 days, both the communication and the response, may be published before the 60 days mark. The communications and responses will also be made available in the subsequent periodic report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

Moninder Singh participating in a UN Side Event "Scotlands Right to Self Determination Under International Law" (September, 2025)



In light of the allegations of reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, we reserve the right to share this communication – and any response received from your Excellency's Government – with the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights as the senior United Nations official designated by the Secretary General to lead the efforts within the United Nations system to address this issue.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to prevent irreparable harm to the life or personal integrity of Mr. Moninder Singh and his family, that an investigation be opened into the above allegations, and, in the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person(s) responsible.

Please be informed that a copy of this letter has been sent to the Government of India.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Ben Saul
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

Gina Romero
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Andrea Bolaños Vargas
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

George Katrougalos
Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

Nazila Ghanea
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief



Annex II:

ISHR Report to the UN Secretary General including Reprisals Against Sikh Human Rights Defenders

April 2026

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2. Bhai Moninder Singh

Bhai Moninder Singh is a prominent Sikh activist and human rights defender based in Canada. He has publicly advocated for Sikh human rights and self-determination, including through the establishment of an independent Khalistan, and has done so in domestic and international forums, including the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council.

On 22 February 2026 Canadian security agencies visited Bhai Moninder Singh at his home on 22 February 2026 and issued a formal 'duty to warn' notice informing him of a credible and imminent threat to his life and that of his family. The warning was based on intelligence received from a confidential source who informed Canadian police of a plot to assassinate Bhai Moninder Singh, his wife and his two children. The information was assessed by authorities to be sufficiently serious as to require direct notification.

Bhai Moninder Singh was scheduled to travel to Geneva to participate in the 61st Session of the UN Human Rights Council days after the duty to warn notice was issued. His planned engagements included a spoken intervention during the Item 3 General Debate and meetings with diplomatic missions to the UN and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The timing, nature, and severity of the threat indicate a serious attempt to prevent his engagement with the UN Human Rights Council.

The incident forms part of a broader pattern of threats identified by Canadian law enforcement authorities targeting Bhai Moninder Singh which have occurred in the context of his increasing public advocacy at UN fora and related international advocacy concerning India's transnational repression of Sikhs.240 This includes his participation in the first World Congress on Enforced Disappearances on 15–16 January 2025, as well as his public participation at the 58th and 60th Sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in 2025 and the 18th session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues on 27–28 November 2025.

This pattern must also be read in light of existing UN attention to India's alleged targeting of Sikh advocates abroad. In communication AL IND 10/2024,241 five UN Special Rapporteurs raised concerns regarding the 'alleged killing of a Canadian citizen, Mr. Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in Canada on 18 June 2023, in apparent retaliation against his political and human rights advocacy for the Sikh minority in India' and 'other credible threats to life and measures of intimidation and harassment against Sikh activists outside India.'242

In October 2024, then Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, issued a statement243 confirming ongoing investigation into violent criminal activity in Canada linked to the Government of India, including agents of the Government of India as persons of interest in criminal activity. Bhai Moninder Singh received a similar 'duty to warn' notice in March 2025 immediately upon his return to Canada after participating in the 58th session of the UNRCH.

The perpetrator of the assassination plot subject to the 22 February 2026 duty to warn notice is believed to be the Government of India and/or its agents or proxies. Canadian law enforcement authorities issued the duty to warn notice and have taken no further protective and monitoring measures. There is no publicly available information indicating that accountability measures have been taken against those responsible for the threat. At the international level, the case has been informally communicated to diplomatic missions to the UN and OHCHR and raised publicly through media reporting and advocacy by the Sikh Federation International. No response has been taken by UN mechanisms to date.

Moninder Singh speaking at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference hosted by the OSCE (October, 2026)



Annex III:

Joint Statement by United Nations Human Rights Experts on Transnational Repression

September 2026

Preamble

1. We, members of United Nations human rights Treaty Bodies and United Nations Special Procedures mandate holders, express our deep concern regarding transnational repression and its serious implications for human rights, democracy, State sovereignty, security, safety, civic space and the rule of law.

2. All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. They apply to every person, everywhere, and do not end at States' borders.

3. Transnational repression has severe impacts on the right of individuals, groups and communities to exercise and advocate for human rights and fundamental freedoms, participate in public affairs, communicate across borders, and engage with national, regional and international institutions, which is essential to the promotion and protection of human rights and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. United Nations human rights mechanisms have increasingly drawn attention to patterns of transnational repression and related practices. We note in particular statements, reports, recommendations and jurisprudence developed by Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including mechanisms to address reprisals, the Human Rights Council and its investigative mechanisms, and other United Nations entities. We also recognize the ongoing development of a joint statement by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances concerning transnational repression and enforced disappearance.

Definition

5. Transnational repression refers to measures taken by States, both within and outside their territories, to silence, deter, punish, coerce, control or harm in any other way, individuals, groups and communities abroad on the basis of their real or perceived opinions or beliefs, identity or action, including dissent, or exercise, defence, or advocacy for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law.

Methods and tactics

10. We observe with concern the broad range of forms, tactics and tools of transnational repression, which are often cumulative, carried out by multiple actors, and forming part of a broader coercive campaign. These include, among others, extrajudicial killings, all forms of torture or ill-treatment, physical attacks, enforced disappearances, threats and harassment (including sexual and gender-based violence and harassment), criminalization, abductions, arbitrary detention, and arbitrary expulsions (including renditions, unlawful or summary deportations and refoulement). They also include arbitrary deprivation of nationality de jure or de facto, misuse of international and regional law enforcement and legal cooperation mechanisms (including Interpol Red Notices and Diffusions, extradition and mutual assistance, counter-terrorism and national security frameworks and regional arrest warrant procedures), harassment and intimidation of family members and associates, abusive legal proceedings (including Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs)), arbitrary administrative measures (such as sanctions, restrictive orders, restrictions on movement including prohibitions on leaving or entering one's country (travel bans), cancellation of passports, visas or other identity and travel documents and denial of consular services), and the abuse of measures to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism, and other financial measures (such as the seizing and freezing of assets and restrictions of access to financial services).

12. We emphasize that acts of transnational repression targeting individuals and groups cooperating, seeking to cooperate, or perceived as cooperating with the United Nations, its bodies or representatives constitute intimidation or reprisals. We are concerned at the growing number of acts of intimidation and reprisals, as documented by the UN Secretary-General, including those targeting Special Procedures mandate holders, as well as the chilling effects thereof.

Applicable Human Rights Obligations

19. We emphasize that practices of transnational repression may violate rights exercised individually or collectively. This includes the rights to life, liberty and security of person, to freedom from torture and ill-treatment and enforced disappearance, to non-discrimination, to freedom of expression, of association, peaceful assembly and movement, the right to take part in public affairs,...

…the right to promote, protect and defend human rights, to privacy, to reputation, to nationality, the right to an effective remedy and access to justice, the right to recognition as a person before the law, fair trial and due process, and other fundamental freedoms, as well as the principle of non-refoulement.

Recommendations to States

29. We further call upon all States to respond to acts of transnational repression within their jurisdiction or territory,…

30. We call upon all States to take all feasible measures and adopt legislation to diligently prevent and protect individuals and groups against known or reasonably foreseeable risks of transnational repression, including where those acts do not constitute a crime under domestic law,…

31. We call upon all States to provide enhanced protection and redress to individuals, groups and communities targeted with transnational repression within their jurisdiction,…

32. We further call on States hosting UN and other international and regional bodies, as well as related conferences and high-level meetings, to take all measures to prevent and respond to acts of intimidation and reprisals for cooperation with such bodies, and to guarantee access to such bodies without undue restrictions, including through the timely issuance of visas.

Prabjot Singh addresses a rally to speak about Indian transnational repression outside the UNHRC in Geneva (September, 2025).



Despite Canada's acknowledgement of the threat from India, there has been no meaningful public accounting of the full scope of Indian transnational repression or adequate accountability for those responsible for the broader pattern of coercive and violent activity. Canada's response has also raised serious concerns about whether economic and strategic considerations have been permitted to take precedence over the protection of human rights and the safety of Canadians.

International human rights experts and mechanisms are now watching Canada's response and calling for action. Questions are being raised about whether a country that has long presented itself as a champion of universal human rights can credibly claim to defend those principles abroad while failing to provide transparency, protection and accountability when a foreign government targets communities within its own borders.

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