



# GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL

International Voice of The Sikhs

TO: ALL GURDWARAS  
FOR INFORMATION.

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## GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE

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MAJLIS GURDWARA MALAYSIA  
(MALAYSIAN GURDWARAS COUNCIL  
(REG. NO. 777/88)

The Global Sikh Council held its annual conference at Jakarta, Indonesia from 29-31 March 2019. Membership from 27 countries representing their respective national Sikh organizations participated in the conference.

Eminent lawyer and social activist S Harvinder Singh Phoolka 'Padama Shri', was the chief guest along with, noted Indonesian politician & former commissioner on Human Rights Sdr. Harbinderjit Singh Dillon 'Star of Mahaputra' was the guest of honour. Many important GSC members from different walks of life, such as S. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Member of Parliament from New Zealand, Dr Karmjnder Singh a world-renowned Sikh Theologian and S Jagir Singh, President Malaysian Gurdwara Council along with 15 others representing their countries spoke at the Conference.

In his address S. H.S Phoolka briefed the gathering on his 32-year fight for the victims of 1984 Sikh genocide and the conviction of Sajjan Kumar. He urged Sikhs across the world to work closely with the mainstream and civil society in their respective countries and seek support for issues related to Sikh identity. Engaging with the mainstream will help Sikhs to create better understanding of the teachings of Sikhism with the host community.

Eminent Indonesian politician S. H.S Dillon welcomed the delegates to Indonesia and appreciated the work done by Global Sikh Council in highlighting Sikh issues on the international platform. Speaking on this occasion S. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, M.P from New Zealand briefed the conference on the Sikhs residing in New Zealand. S Jagir Singh President Malaysian Gurdwaras Council gave us the much-needed information on the role and responsibilities of the Akal Takhat and compared it with the other Takhats who can decide only on local issues.

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### Member Organisations From:

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The excellent speech of Dr Karminder Singh on 'Leadership of Aad Guru Granth Sahib in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, highly stimulated the audience to question the current leadership's qualities. Are our senior leaders like the sheep and commanding the lions? Or, are they sheep and leading the sheep? This resulted in an exciting question and answer session.

The GSC is grateful to the management committee of the historic Gurdwara Pasar Baru Jakarta for organising a special Kirtan Darbar to welcome the GSC members from across the world. They honoured the GSC President, along with S. H.S Phoolka and Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi by presenting them with mementos and siropaus.

The GSC council passed three resolutions:

- There should be no politicization of our supreme religious & spiritual institutions. All religious matters should be handled by competent sevadars having no relationship whatsoever with the ruling dispensation of the time. SGPC should not be treated as a stepping stone for political ambitions. All our strategy should be issue based.
- Sat Guru Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji had bestowed Gur ta Gaddi only on Sri Guru Granth Saheb Ji and issued the command "Sab Sikhan Ko Hukam Hai Guru Maniyo Granth". Further that it is noted that the Sikh Rehat Maryada and the Akal Takht Gurmatta -1 dated 06-06-2008 has decreed that "No book should be installed like & at par with Guru Granth Saheb Ji" It is therefore unanimously agreed that there can be no Prakash of Bachittar Natak/Dasam Granth or any other Pustak in the Darbar of Sri Guru Granth Saheb Ji.
- The Global Sikh Council is concerned about the plight of Sikh sangat living in Afghanistan. These internally displaced people are neglected and need planned rehabilitation. GSC will use means at its disposal to create awareness about this issue on appropriate forums including engagement with the Afghanistan government.

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All members expressed their concerns about the condition of Sikhs in Afghanistan and concurred with S Parminder Singh Bedi that all members should make efforts to work with their respective governments to get these Sikhs the refugee status and help them to settle in their countries.

The GSC is highly appreciative of all the hard work of S Balwant Singh and his family for hosting the Conference in Indonesia. On a memorable final day of the Conference he welcomed the GSC members in the Gurdwara Yayasan Sosial Guru Nanak and conferred siropaus on the President and members S Jagir Singh of Malaysia and S Kanwaljit Singh Bakhsi MP from New Zealand.

*K. Singh*

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President Global Sikh Council (GSC)

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