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ਮਲੇਸ਼ੀਅਨ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਕੌਂਸਲ



MAJLIS GURDWARA MALAYSIA
MALYSIAN GURDWARAS COUNCIL

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Date: 12th Apr 2018

Ref: MGC/OF/282/05(05-18)

To: All Gurdwaras
Gurdwara Sahib.....

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

Sardar Ji / Sardarni Jio,

Subject: Film “Nanak Shah Fakir”

A. The Malaysian Gurdwaras Council (MGC) has been asked by various individuals and Sikh Organisations to clarify the matter relating to the controversy on the impending release of the Film “Nanak Shah Fakir”.

B. Background Facts:

1. In 2015, the Akal Takht and in 2016, the SGPC gave approval for the Movie and issued letters in support.
Source: INDIAN EXPRESS (11/04/2018), by Kamaldeep Singh Brar.
2. “The film was actually first released in 2015. Sikka had obtained the green light for the film from the Akal Takht, the supreme temporal body of the Sikh community. The Akal Takht also gave Sikka a letter, praising his services to the community.
The SGPC finally gave its approval to the film in 2016. By then, Sikka had modified the film to present Guru Nanak’s character in animation”.
Source: INDIAN EXPRESS (11/04/2018)
3. The producer had announced in March 2018 that the film “Nanak Shah Fakir” will be released worldwide on 13th April 2018. After this announcement some Sikh groups opposed the release of this movie.
4. Up to 28th March 2018, the SGPC had defended its approval of the film. However, after this date it took a U-Turn and wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, etc. and requested for a Ban on the movie keeping in view Sikh sentiments. “If the movie is released, it may lead to law and order problem, so this movie should be stopped from being released”.
Source: Hindustan Times (8/04/2018)

5. The Akal Takht Jathedar at a press conference on 9th April 2018 announced: “We have imposed a ban on the controversial movie Nanak Shah Fakir. The film cannot be released (on 13th April)”
Source: National Herald India, 9th April 2018 at 9.48 PM.
6. The Supreme Court of India, in its decision given on 10th April 2018 cleared the Film “Nanak Shah Fakir” for an all-India release.
“The Supreme Court directed the Centre, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and all state Governments on Tuesday to ensure that the Film “Nanak Shah Fakir” is released across the country on April 13th, Baisakhi.”
Source: Time of India, 11th April 2018.
7. However, the Producer of the Film, after the verdict of the Supreme Court announced that the Film will be released worldwide but not in Punjab.

C. Conclusion.

The Akal Takht had imposed Ban on the movie from being released. The Ban does not apply to individuals. To note that the Ban on the movie can only be imposed by the State Governments and the Federal Government. However, with the above ruling by the Supreme Court of India directing release of the said Movie, it appears that the way is clear for the Movie to be screened worldwide. The State Governments and the Federal Government cannot overrule the Supreme Court.

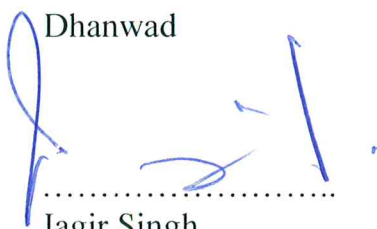
It is to be noted that there has been no further Adesh or Directive from Akal Takht other-then announcing Ban on the release of the movie. In-fact after the Supreme Court decision, anyone opposing the screening of the movie may be held in contempt of court.

[Note: Akal Takht announced today (12th April 2018) the excommunication from Panth of Harinder Singh Sikka.]

The MGC on its part is in agreement and will act in compliance with the Akal Takht ban on the release of the said movie. But with the release of the movie ordered by the Supreme Court, the Akal Takht Ban on the movie’s release may be ineffective. Thus, the Akal Takht may have to look into other ways to enforce the Ban.

The MGC will consider taking further appropriate measures in the matter.

Dhanwad



Jagir Singh
President MGC