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ਮਲੇਸ਼ੀਅਨ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਕੌਂਸਲ



MAJLIS GURDWARA MALAYSIA
MALYSIAN GURDWARAS COUNCIL

No.7A, Jalan Haji Salleh Sentul, 51100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 603-4050 2329 Fax : 603-4043 5028
Email : gurdwaracouncil@gmail.com (Reg, No: 777/88)

Date: 11th Feb 2020

Ref: MGC/OF/282/05(03-20)

**To: ALL GURDWARAS,
PRESIDENT,
GURDWARA SAHIB**

.....

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh,

Sardar Ji / Sardarni Jio,

Subject: UNHOLY AGENDA to undermine MGC:

- (i) FALSE allegations against MGC in letter to Ministry**
- (ii) Deceptive Facebook Account Setup**

[A] FALSE ALLEGATIONS against MGC

1. The Malaysian Gurdwaras Council has reliably learnt that some “individuals” had written a letter to Ministry of Home Affairs dated 12/11/2019 making FALSE allegations against MGC as being responsible for “incidents of conflict and violence within our Gurdwaras”. The letter went on to list 7 incidents purportedly for which MGC was responsible. **In actual fact, all these 7 incidents were planned and carried out by those complaining and the organisations they were aligned with.**
2. The **7 incidents** falsely alleged against MGC are as follows:

- (i) “An altercation inside a Kuala Lumpur Gurdwara followed by stoning of the car carrying MGC president and another official trying to getaway”.

Comment:

This incident at Gurdwara Sahib Selayang Baru on 16/12/2016 has been given a false twist. The whole Sanggat that was present would vouch that Sdr. Daljit Singh from Selayang and Sdr. Malkiat Singh from outside had caused the

altercation. Malkiat Singh even uttered vulgarities which were heard by Sangat.

The speaker's car was stoned when he was leaving Gurdwara Sahib Selayang Baru. The MGC President was at the Gurdwara Sahib Selayang Baru to attend the weekly Satsang programme. He was not in the speaker's car as falsely alleged when it was stoned but was at the Gurdwara Sahib as Sangat can vouch for it. This programme was organised by the Selayang Baru Gurdwara committee and not by MGC. The facts and the persons involved are as in **Appendix-A, Appendix-B and Appendix-C** below.

Note:

- a) "Statement from Gurdwara Sahib Selayang Baru" – Filed as **Appendix-A**. It says "... was interrupted twice by two Sikh men on the pretext of raising questions.."
 - b) "Selayang incident: I'm appalled with the lies"- Filed as **Appendix-B**.
 - c) **Sdr. Daljit Singh** was one of the signatories in the letter of complaint to the Home Minister. The second signatory was **Sdr. Jaswant Singh**.
- (ii) "A fight and subsequent expulsion of the MGC speaker from a Gurdwara in Ampang".

Comment:

The incident refers to the Gurdwara Sahib Lembah Jaya incident on 12/02/2017. Here again two persons had tried to disrupt the Gurdwara programme which led the President of the Gurdwara Lembah Jaya asking them to leave.

This incident was reported by Asia Samachar under heading "Two Sikhs ejected from Lembah Jaya Gurdwara". Please read full facts in the report which is filed as **Appendix-C**. Asia Samachar stated that "one of them identified as Malkiat Singh and believed to be a retiree from the Malaysian Armed Forces, was also believed to be involved in a similar incident in the darbar sahib of Gurdwara Sahib Selayang Baru not too long ago".

There was no MGC speaker at the programme or any MGC official present.

- (iii) "The burning of banner announcing the lecture of deviationist Inder Singh Ghagga that was displayed in a Gurdwara in Ipoh where he was scheduled to speak."

Comment:

Professor Inder Singh Ghagga was brought in by individuals. MGC was not involved in it in anyway. However, the Sanggat has the right to listen to a speaker without disruption being caused by others.

MGC is aware that there was burning of a banner at the Gurdwara Sahib Ashby Road. The Gurdwara Sahib committee had taken the correct step to lodge a police report on the matter on 21/02/2017.

The whole Sanggat knows who were the persons behind the burning of the banner and they were named in the police report by the Gurdwara committee.

Note: MGC officials were neither present nor involved in this incident.

- (iv) “The assault and fighting that took place two weeks later in the same Gurdwara on the day of his lecture”.

Comment:

This appears to refer to the incident at Gurdwara Sahib Greentown, Ipoh where Prof. Inder Singh Ghagga was assaulted.

The Asia Samachar report of March 1,2017 states:

“A group of Sikhs largely from Kuala Lumpur, disrupted a lecture session by author and preacher Prof. Inder Singh Ghagga at an Ipoh Gurdwara this evening (1 March 2017) by loudly chanting “Satnam Waheguru” in the Darbar Sahib....

Some senior officials of some local Sikh organisations, including from the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Academy and Sant Attar Singh Ji Brahm Vidya Niketan Malaysia, were amongst those present at the Gurdwara, as seen in video circulating after the event and also according to eye witness accounts”.

Note:

(a) Full facts are given in Asia Samachar report filed as **Appendix-D**.

(b) No MGC official was present. It was not an MGC programme.

- (v) “The locking of the Gurdwara gates to keep out an angry congregation with a similar altercation in Seremban, just two days after the Ipoh incident, over the same man’s lecture”.

Comment:

The Gurdwara Sahib Seremban committee had become wiser after the incident 2 days earlier in Ipoh. It took firm security measures to keep away

troublemakers from entering the Gurdwara under pretext of joining in the congregation.

The Asia Samachar of March 3, 2017 carried an article of the occasion under heading “Seremban Sikhs stood their ground to allow Inder Singh Ghagga to speak”. See **Appendix-E**. The Asia Samachar article amongst others stated:

“The outstation group led by Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Academy head Paramjit Singh, initially tried to force their way into the Gurdwara, arguing that, they have a right to ‘Darshan’ the Guru and join the Sanggat. However. The local Seremban Sikh volunteers denied them entry forcing them to remain outside the Gurdwara side entrance.”

Note: No MGC officials were present. It was not an MGC programme.

- (vi) “A two-hour stand-off between the congregation, Immigration officers and the Police of Sungai Petani on one-side and the foreign deviation speaker on the other, the Sanggat refusing to allow him entry into the Gurdwara”.

Comment:

The MGC was not involved in the Sg Petani programme in anyway. After coming to know of confrontation by some persons, many from outside Sg. Petani, the President of the Gurdwara was contacted. He informed that the Gurdwara Sg. Petani had organised programme for Prof. Inder Singh Ghagga to speak but few persons came and did mischief. The Gurdwara committee after discussing with the Sanggat then decided to call-off the lecture.

- (vii) “The expulsion recently of a deviationist MGC aligned speaker and the cancellation of his 4 days lecture programme from a Gurdwara in Ipoh”.

Comment:

MGC is not aware of this incident. Who was the Speaker? No MGC speaker has ever been “expelled” from any Gurdwara in Ipoh.

Note: Due to all the above incidents, the MGC had called an EGM of all the Gurdwaras on 27th May 2017 to deal with these incidents. The Gurdwaras, after listening to debate from all sides gave a thumping approval to MGC leadership. See **Appendix-F**.

3. The 3rd Signatory in the letter was **Sdr. Sukdev Singh**.

In the past MGC has acted against Sdr. Sukdev Singh as follows:

- a) For carrying out activities at an Eagle Camp in 1996 activities “that are detrimental to the religious, social and moral values held dear by the Sikhs and the Sikh community”.
- b) For trying to rename Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji as “Sri Guru Jyot Sahib”, misrepresenting “Ek Onkar” Symbol (2009), etc.
- c) For trying to carry out a controversial Sikh Amrit ceremony.

[B] Setting-up Deceptive Facebook Account

The MGC has reliably learnt that some members of the group mentioned above have set-up a Facebook account under heading “MALAYSIAN GURDWARAS FEDERATION”. See **Appendix-G**.

The following should be noted about this Facebook account:

- i) The choice of the name which is almost similar to MGC name is indicative of ulterior motive to deceive Sanggat into believing that they are aligned with MGC.

- ii) They have a page in bold “Sikh Rehat Maryada” (SRM) and state “Strictly to follow “Sikh Rehat Maryada @ Sri Akal Takht Sahib”.

This again appears to be a clear deception. We know from this groups past activities that they do not follow SRM. Therefore, this appears to be a ploy to attract gullible Sikh Sanggat members to their cause through deceptive means. See **Appendix-H**.

- iii) It also has a page called “SGGS Ji Ke Sewak”.

In early 2017, this group was very active especially in Perak into attacks against MGC. It also had sent letters to Gurdwaras and signed by Sdr. Gagandhar Singh as chairman, SGGS JI DE SEWAK relating to MGC. **Appendix-I**.

[C] Conclusion

The MGC calls upon the Gurdwara Sahib committees to take note of the above, including:

- (i) Seven (7) False accusations as above were made against MGC in a letter to the Ministry of Home Affairs. In none of the 7 incidents stated was MGC

involved. Those involved and responsible for the ruckus in Gurdwaras have been identified above and the facts of the said incidents are found in **Appendixes-A to F**. Police reports of the incidents were also lodged by Gurdwara committees.

- (ii) The letter to the Ministry of Home Affairs containing false accusations was signed by the above 3 persons named (that is Sdr. Daljit Singh, Sdr. Jaswant Singh, Sdr. Sukdev Singh) on 12/11/2019 that is on the very day of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550th Year Parkash Divas Semagam. One would have thought that on such an auspicious day all Sikhs would make commitments to adhere and adopt GURU JI's teachings especially "Truth is the highest virtue". But instead, the incidents in which they themselves were involved in, were falsely attributed to the MGC. This is not right and surely one cannot receive GURU JI's blessings by engaging in such unholy untruths.
- (iii) The Gurdwara committees and the Sanggat should be weary of the new facebook account set-up under deceptive name of Malaysian Gurdwaras Federation. The persons behind it have clearly shown in the past that they are out to undermine MGC including by making these 7 false allegations. They also do not follow SRM.

Therefore, GURDWARAS and SANGGAT must remain united and alert against any such agenda to divide them.

Dhanwad Ji,



Jagir Singh
President MGC

Statement from Gurdwara Sahib Selayang Baru

By **Asia Samachar** - December 19, 2016

| Statement | Selayang, Malaysia | 19 Dec 2016 | Asia Samachar |

Gurdwara Sahib Selayang Baru (GSSS) committee president Gurmit Singh has issued a statement to clarify the misinformation spread via the social media on an incident at the gurdwara.

After the talk by Dr Karminder Singh at the gurdwara on 16 Dec 2016, the gurdwara's Facebook page, managed by a Selayang youth, had run a statement that did not sit down well with the committee.

In the Facebook posting, the gurdwara was supposedly critical of the invited speaker.

During the evening session, Karminder's talk on the 'Ek Granth, Ek Panth, Ek Maryada' in the Gurdwara Sahib Selayang's (GSS) darbar sahib (prayer hall) was interrupted twice by two Sikh men on the pretext of raising questions, something not commonly done in talks in the darbar sahib.

Asia Samachar has confirmed the statement reproduced below:



GURDWARA SAHIB SELAYANG BARU (GSSB) SHARED BY FAUJI CHACHA'S POST

We refer to the incident on 16 December 2016 night during talk by Dr. Karminder Singh

In GSSB DARBAR SAHIB there was disruption caused by 2 person.

Following above there was a FALSE POSTING of the incident which appeared under the GSSB FACEBOOK PAGE :

1. That the GSSB committee is offering apologies for what transpired in GSSB as no such statement was made by the GSSB committee.
2. That the committee had no idea that such speech was given. This was not stated by the committee. In fact the speaker only spoke from SGGSji.
3. That since the incident happened in GSSB, we apologise and this mistake will not happen again.
4. That Dr. Karminder Singh barred from speaking in future.

We categorically state that the above statements under our GSSB FACEBOOK was put up without our knowledge or permission.

Hence we request authorities to investigate who had put up this false story on the GSSB FACEBOOK about the incident.

GSSB COMMITTEE APOLOGISE TO DR. KARMINDER SINGH on what happened on the 16/12/2016 night.

Thank you,

GURMIT SINGH

President GSSB.

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RELATED STORIES:

Selayang incident: I'm appalled with the lies (*Asia Samachar*, 18 Dec 2016)

Selayang incident: I'm appalled with the lies

Harpreet Kaur captures the scene at Gurdwara Sahib Selayang on 16 Dec 2016 when two men were apparently tried to disrupt a presentation by Dr Karminder Singh on 'Ek Granth, Ek Panth, Ek Maryada'

By **Asia Samachar** - December 18, 2016

| Opinion | Selayang, Malaysia | 18 Dec 2016 | Asia Samachar |

I am appalled by the number of lies with regards to the Selayang Naujawan program.

I was present in the sangat. Dr Karminder Singh was invited by Selayang youth to give his parchaar. The Granthi ji recited an extra shabad upon Dr Karminder's request as sangat was still settling in.

Dr Karminder's katha was delayed due to technical difficulties. He began his katha without slides. He started out by mentioning that there is only One Granth in the spiritual universe that starts with a numeral one (1), and went on to explain the pangti 'Eka bani ek gur eko shabad vichaar' on page 646 of Sri Guru Granth Sahib (SGGS). Dr Karminder meaningfully connected it with the slogan 'Ek Granth, Ek Panth, Ek Maryada'. Then he explained the concept of 'acceptance', again with support of SGGS verses. He was talking about fully accepting and surrendering to his Hukm. Nothing controversial here.

Dr Karminder then proceeded to explain the mool mantar/manglacharan verse.

SEE ALSO: Attempted assault on Dr Karminder Singh after talk at Selayang gurdwara

SEE ALSO: Dr Anurag's claims on Ek Granth defective to the core, says Dr Karminder

When he was concluding his talk towards the final few minutes, a young local man from Selayang stood up to respectfully ask if it was going to be one way or two way discussion. He continued mumbling on and nobody could understand him. Dr Karminder turned to the committee to ask whether they were allowing a question and answer session. Dr Karminder was asked to continue his lecture. The young man was requested by the sanggat to sit down. He did.

Dr Karminder proceeded to talk about how the creator is inside us, which is explaining karta purakh. Dr Karminder said God looks after his creation and us, regardless of our prayers. If the Creator's hand/protection/blessings wasn't with us, then we wouldn't even be alive. Everything is based on His Will.

The same young man stood up to mumble something again. The ladies side got impatient and some shouted at him and also signaled him to sit down. Some men requested the same too.

At this point, an older man stood up and began shouting and swearing vulgarities in the darbar sahib. He was requested through hand gestures by many people, including Malaysian Gurdwaras Council (MGC) president Jagir Singh, to behave. Jagir did not stand up. The senior granthi and others approached the shouting man and told him to stop. In return, he shouted back at them. No one could understand the shouting man. He kept shouting for Dr Karminder to repeat his words "Ek Granth is only Sri Guru Granth Sahib". He was also shouting at everyone around him that told him to be quiet.

Dr Karminder said that we were sitting in the Guru's darbar, hence we should speak with politeness and love, and shouldn't argue.

By this time Dr Karminder's time was up. The granthi ji went to sit next to Dr Karminder on stage to start off Anand Sahib. Dr Karminder then concluded by saying fateh to the Sanggat and Anand Sahib prayers proceeded.

Dr Karminder stepped off the stage and sat back in the Sanggat and followed through the prayers right till after semapthi.

During the distribution of deg, granthi ji educated the sangat to go on and ask any questions outside of the diwan AFTER a speaker completes his talk, and not to interrupt any katha (discourse). The Sanggat then stated a jaikara at this point to indicate support for the granthi ji's stand.

I proceeded to go down for langgar. I saw the young and old man being approached by the local Sanggat members. The Sanggat were not happy and was stating their displeasure to the ruckus caused by the two men.

Many in the Sanggat, including ladies, approached Dr Karminder to apologise for the disruption.

None of the two men approached Dr Karminder to discuss anything. This would have been the right time to ask and clarify respectfully. There was no need to show anger in Guru's presence especially since its damaging only us.

It is clear that this incident is nothing more than an attempted ruckus by two individuals – one from Selayang and the other whom I learnt from the Sanggat came from outside Selayang. The Sanggat was visibly displeased with the rude actions of these two.

In the end, my objective is to connect to SGGS and to listen and to learn, even un-learn, if need be. I am certainly new to Selayang Gurdwara. However, from what I experienced, the Sanggat was polite and cared that I enjoyed my evening.

This is what saw and experienced at the Selayang programme. Such lies being told on Facebook, its disgusting.



Harpreet Kaur, a Kuala Lumpur-based corporate executive, was part of the team that organised the 'Women In Sikhi: Beyond Gender' conference in Petaling Jaya in October 2016.

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RELATED STORIES:

Attempted assault on Dr Karminder Singh after talk at Selayang gurdwara (*Asia Samachar*, 17 Dec 2016)

Driven towards fundamentalism (*Asia Samachar*, 16 Dec 2016)

Two Sikhs ejected from Lembah Jaya gurdwara

"We have a lecturer speaking on our platform. If you don't agree, don't create a ruckus in the presence of Sri Guru Granth Sahib and the Sangat." - Harbans Singh Kaleke

By **Asia Samachar** - February 12, 2017

| Ampang, Malaysia | 12 Feb 2017 | Asia Samachar |



A gurdwara member (right most) talking to Malkit Singh (second from left) and a youth in black patka (third from left) after the two were asked to leave Gurdwara Sahib Lembah Jaya Ampang today – PHOTO / SUPPLIED

Two Sikhs were asked to leave the Gurdwara Sahib Lembah Jaya Ampang for allegedly attempting to disrupt a sermon by Dr Karminder Singh today.

One of them, identified as Malkit Singh and believed to be a retiree from the Malaysian armed forces, was also believed to be involved in a similar incident in the darbar sahib of Gurdwara Sahib Selayang Baru not too long ago.

In this latest incident, one youth wearing a black patka stood up in the darbar sahib of the Lembah Jaya gurdwara while Dr Karminder, a senior Malaysian civil servant and a lay parcharak, was still making his presentation.

He began speaking in a loud voice, disrupting the talk that was already into its 90th minute.

Some members of the gurdwara management committee (GMC) requested the youth to allow the speaker to continue his presentation, but the youth continued to speak in raised

voice.

At this juncture, a senior committee member escorted the youth out of the darbar sahib of the gurdwara in Selangor.

When walking back into the darbar sahib, Malkit was alleged to have stood up and confronted the Lembah Jaya GMC president Harbans Singh Gill Kaleke.

"When he refused to sit down and continued to speak loudly, we asked him to leave the darbar sahib," Harbans told *Asia Samachar*. "These are not our regular Sanggat members. We have never seen them here before. The Sanggat is united in not wanting such disruptions."

Dr Karminder Singh spoke on the 'The Leadership of Sri Guru Granth Sahib in the 21st Century' at Gurdwara Sahib Lembah Jaya. He had spoken on the same topic a few days earlier at Gurdwara Sahib Klang, which was followed by a Question & Answer session. Here is a full recording of the Q&A session.

The rest of the Sanggat members remained calm and Dr Karminder continued with his presentation.

"We have a lecturer speaking on our platform. If you don't agree, don't create a ruckus in the presence of Sri Guru Granth Sahib and the Sanggat," said Harbans.

Jaswant Singh, the gurdwara's assistant treasurer, said this was the first such incident at the gurdwara.

One member of the Sanggat alleged that Malkit had signaled the youth in black patka just before the youth stood up to speak while Dr Karminder was in the midst of his lecture.

"I was seated at the back row. I saw what was happening," he told *Asia Samachar*.

When contacted, Malkit confirmed that he was at the Lembah Jaya gurdwara but declined to elaborate on the incident over a phone conversation.

Dr Karminder's lecture session was part of the Family Day Camp organised by the Coalition of Malaysian Sikh Organisation (CMSO) together with the gurdwara and Sikhi Vichar Forum (SVF). The camp series is themed Leadership of Sri Guru Granth Sahib (SGGS) in the 21st Century.

After lunch, Bibi Inderpal Kaur from Toronto, Canada, continued the camp with her lecture.

Such camps have been held at a number of gurdwaras, including Seremban, Kajang and Klang.

In the Selayang incident on 16 Dec 2016, Dr Karminder was giving a talk on 'Ek Granth, Ek Panth, Ek Maryada'. The talk was twice interrupted by two Sikh men on the pretext of raising questions.

When driving home after that session, two unidentified men on a motorcycle swung a brick at Dr Karminder's car, in what is believed to be an attempted assault to cow him from sharing his thoughts on the Sikh faith.

'Ek Granth, Ek Panth, Ek Maryada', a slogan mooted by the Malaysian Gurdwaras Council (MGC), is meant to promote the centrality of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib (SGGS).

The incident was followed by a number of conflicting reports on the social media, with some versions later turning out to be untrue.

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RELATED STORIES:

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Bibi Inderpal shares practical solutions to daily life challenges (*Asia Samachar*, 5 Feb 2017)

Inderpal Kaur: Once bedridden, she's now fired up on Gurbani understanding (*Asia Samachar*, 28 Jan 2017)

Teaching critical thinking at Sikh family day camps (*Asia Samachar*, 24 Jan 2017)

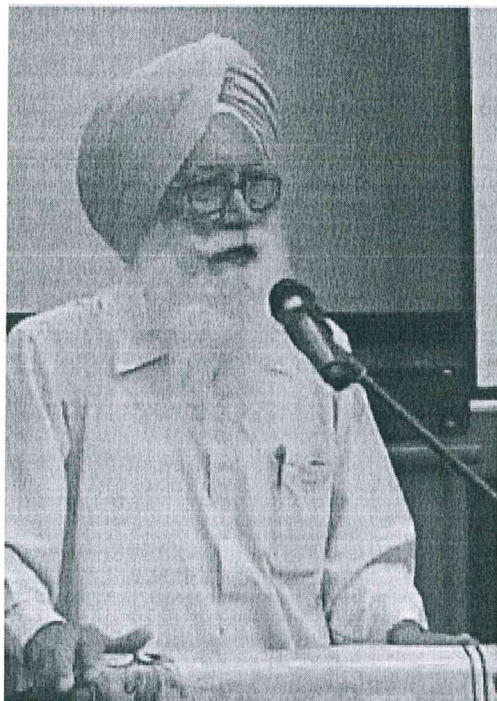
Kuala Lumpur to host next annual Global Sikh Council meeting (*Asia Samachar*, 21 Jan 2017)

Group disrupts Inder Singh Ghagaa programme in Ipoh

A group chanting 'Satnam Waheguru' disrupted a planned speaking engagement by Prof Inder. Later, Ghagaa and gurdwara VP was allegedly attacked

By **Asia Samachar** - March 1, 2017

| Ipoh, Malaysia | 1 March 2017 | Asia Samachar |



LEFT: Prof Inder Singh Ghagaa. Right: A Sikh seemingly heckling down the granthi who tried to speak at the Greentown gurdwara programme, as seen in a video shared on the social media

A group of Sikhs, largely from Kuala Lumpur, disrupted a lecture session by author and preacher Prof Inder Singh Ghagaa at an Ipoh gurdwara this evening (1 March 2017) by loudly chanting 'Satnam Waheguru' in the darbar sahib.

Towards the end of the session at Gurdwara Sahib Greentown, a few youth were alleged to have attacked the speaker and a gurdwara official.

"After deg, some youth attacked one gurdwara official, causing his turban to be removed.

"Another attacked Ghagaa, pulling his beard and also causing his turban to be removed," one eye witness told *Asia Samachar* in a telephone conversation.

The official was Greentown gurdwara management committee (GMC) deputy president Jagjit Singh.

"The programme was disrupted by the group that was largely from Kuala Lumpur," the eye witness said.

Prof Ghaghaa, a author of more than 20 Sikh-related books, was formerly a personal assistant to Akal Takht Jathedar Manjit Singh for eight years and has been doing Gurmat parchaar for over 40 years. His views on the Sikh faith, which flies in the face of the interpretation of some Sikh groups, have caused the ire of these groups and invited criticism.

In Malaysia, some of the criticism has been directed at the Ek Granth Ek Panth ek Maryada slogan floated by the Malaysian Gurdwaras Council (MC). These quarters perceive the slogan an affront to the Dasam Granth, a compilation of work formerly known as Bachitar Natak and attributed to Guru Gobind Singh, a claim disputed by some scholars.

Greentown was also the gurdwara where a group of Sikh youth had removed a MGC banner promoting the Ek Granth Ek Panth ek Maryada programme series and later burnt it at the gurdwara's car park. The same group had uploaded a video of the them removing and burning the banner on Youtube prompting the gurdwara to lodge a police report.

The police report was lodged by Jagjit, one of the persons attacked in today's incident.

SEE ALSO: Ipoh gurdwara lodge police report on alleged vandalism, banner burning

SEE ALSO: Two Sikhs ejected from Lembah Jaya gurdwara



SIMRAN PROTEST: The scene in the Gurdwara Sahib Greentown in Ipoh, Perak, on 1 March 2017 where Prof Inder Singh Ghaghaa was supposed to speak

The gathered Sikhs also did not allow the gurdwara stage secretary, managed by Greentown GMC secretary Daaljit Singh, to proceed with announcements.

Days before the speaking engagement, the social media amongst the local Sikhs in Malaysia was abuzz with calls to march towards the Greentown gurdwara, prompting the gurdwara to release a letter trying to calm the mood.

"It has come to our attention that some malicious lies are being circulated about Professor Ji. There is no any record of Bhai Sahib being banned by any country, Akaal Takhat or Gurdwaras that are aligned with Akaal Takhat. All that said is not verified.

"Gurdwara Sahib Greentown is affiliated with Sikh Rehat Maryada and hereby fully endorses Professor Inderjit Singh Ghagga to deliver the talk. Any transgression against Gurmata and or Gurbani will be dealt with accordingly solely by the management committee," the gurdwara said in the letter, a copy of which was seen by *Asia Samachar*.

Some senior officials of some local Sikh organisations, including from the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Academy and Sant Attar Singh Ji Brahm Vidya Niketan Malaysia, were amongst those present at the gurdwara, as seen in video circulating after the event and also according to eye witness accounts.

Prof Ghagga is scheduled to speak next at Gurdwara Sahib Seremban (3 March, Friday, 7.30pm-8.30pm).

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RELATED STORIES:

The mumbling granthi (*Asia Samachar*, 9 Feb 2017)

Ipoh gurdwara lodge police report on alleged vandalism, banner burning (*Asia Samachar*, 22 Feb 2017)

Gurdwara committee firm on expelling disruptors (*Asia Samachar*, 19 Feb 2017)

Two opposing views on Lembah Jaya incident (*Asia Samachar*, 13 Feb 2017)

Seremban Sikhs stood their ground to allow Inder Singh Ghagaa to speak

"Let those inside [the Darbar Sahib] listen, don't insult their intelligence. We love our Guru just as much as you guys," one Gurdwara Sahib Seremban volunteer told some members from outstation group.

By **Asia Samachar** - March 3, 2017

| Seremban, Malaysia | 3 March 2017 | Asia Samachar |



SEREMBAN SESSION: Prof Inder Singh Ghagaa speaking at Gurdwara Sahib Seremban, Malaysia, on 3 March 2017, with a group of protestors chanting 'Satnam Waheguru' outside. INSERT: Prof Inder receiving a sirapao from the gurdwara.

Seremban Sikhs denied entry to a group from out of town to avoid any potential disruption to the planned talk by Prof Inder Singh Ghagaa, an author and Sikh parcharak deemed controversial by some quarters.

The action was prompted by an incident at an Ipoh gurdwara on Wednesday when the same group disrupted the speaker's talk session by loud chants of 'Satnam Waheguru'.

"Let those inside [the Darbar Sahib] listen, don't insult their intelligence. We love our Guru just as much as you guys," one Gurdwara Sahib Seremban volunteer told some members from outstation group. The conversation was shared with *Asia Samachar* by one of the Seremban youth present on the ground.

"He gave a beautiful talk....Most of the Sangat members were happy with the session," another Seremban-based Sikh told *Asia Samachar*.

SEE ALSO: Group disrupts Inder Singh Ghagaa programe in Ipoh

Prof Ghagaa, an author of more than 20 Sikh-related books, was formerly a personal assistant to Akal Takht Jathedar Manjit Singh for eight years and has been doing Gurmat parchaar for over 40 years. His views on the Sikh faith, which flies in the face of the interpretation of some Sikh groups, have caused the ire of these groups and invited criticism.

On Wednesday (1 March), he was attacked when walking out of the darbar sahib at Gurdwara Sahib Greentown (Ashby Road), causing his turban to be removed. A gurdwara official was also attacked at the same time.

This time around, however, there were no untoward incident in Seremban, the state capital of Negeri Sembilan, which is about an hour's drive from Kuala Lumpur.

The outstation group, led by Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Academy head Paramjit Singh, initially tried to force their way into the gurdwara, arguing that they have a right to 'darshan' the Guru and join the Sangat.

However, the local Seremban Sikh volunteers denied them entry, forcing them to remain outside the gurdwara side entrance.

"They challenged us, telling us that we have no right to stop them. We stood our ground. They tried telling us that the parcharak was divisive. We told them to let us decide on that ourselves," said a Seremban gurdwara official.

The gurdwara management committee had also put up a notice that the programme was for Sikhs from Seremban and its surrounding areas, and is by invitation only.

At around 7.40pm, the outstation group began saying 'Satnam Waheguru' loudly at the side entrance along Lorong Khalsa.

In a statement released yesterday, Malaysian Gurdwara Council (MGC) suggested that continuing chanting when a katha (Sikh-based lecture or a talk) is about to begin is a transgression of the Sikh Reht Maryada (SRM).

Many policemen, both in uniform and plain cloth, were seen around the gurdwara.

UPDATE: Letter from Seremban gurdwara, see here.

MGC leadership gets thumping support from members

A majority of members voted in favour of a resolution regretting attacks on MGC and rejecting attempts to divide the community.

By **Asia Samachar** - May 27, 2017

| Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | 27 May 2017 | Asia Samachar



FULL HOUSE: 140 members attended the Malaysian Gurdwara Council (MGC) EGM on 27 May 2017 – Photo / Supplied

Malaysian Gurdwaras Council (MGC) leadership received a thumping endorsement from members for its handling of issues that seems to have divided parts of the local Sikh community and saw some launching vitriolic attacks via the social media.

The council, representing some 120 gurdwaras nationwide, had called for decided to put the matter to the floor after receiving severe criticism from certain groups.

At the emergency general meeting (EGM) today (27 May 2017), a huge majority of the members who attended voted in favour of a resolution regretting the attacks on MGC and rejecting attempts to divide the community.

"We are humbled with this overwhelming support on MGC's stand on Sri Guru Granth Sahib, the Shabad Guru, the panth parvanik Sikh Reht Maryada and the Akaal Takhat Sahib. Unity will prevail," MGC president told *Asia Samachar* in a telephone conversation after the conclusion of the meeting.

The meeting was attended by 140 MGC executive members and gurdwara representatives. The solution was passed with 106 in favour, 15 against and one abstaining.

The resolution read: "The EGM notes with regret the recent attacks by groups and individuals against the Malaysian Gurdwaras Council and its leadership and the EGM therefore resolves and strongly urges all Sanggat and Gurdwaras to remain united against such challenges and reject any attempt to divide."

A few gurdwara representatives had raised issues as to how the MGC leadership had dealt with issues concerning DG, including levelling accusations that they had used false documents. They had also criticised *Asia Samachar* for supposedly being the mouthpiece of the council.

"For me, this vote shows they reject acts of violence, extremism and they want peace.

"They also noted the Pusing meeting on 13 May 2017 where MGC, Khalsa Diwan Malaysia (KDM) and Sikh Naujawan Sabha Malaysia (SNSM) were attacked. The voting shows they rejected such attacks," Jagir said.

In the gathering at Gurdwara Sahib Pusing, a gurdwara in the state of Perak, a pressure group were lobbying Perak gurdwaras to overthrow the present MGC leadership, largely on the premise that Jagir and his team at the council are against the Dasam Granth. However, it is understood that were unable to marshal widespread support from the 42 gurdwaras in the state.

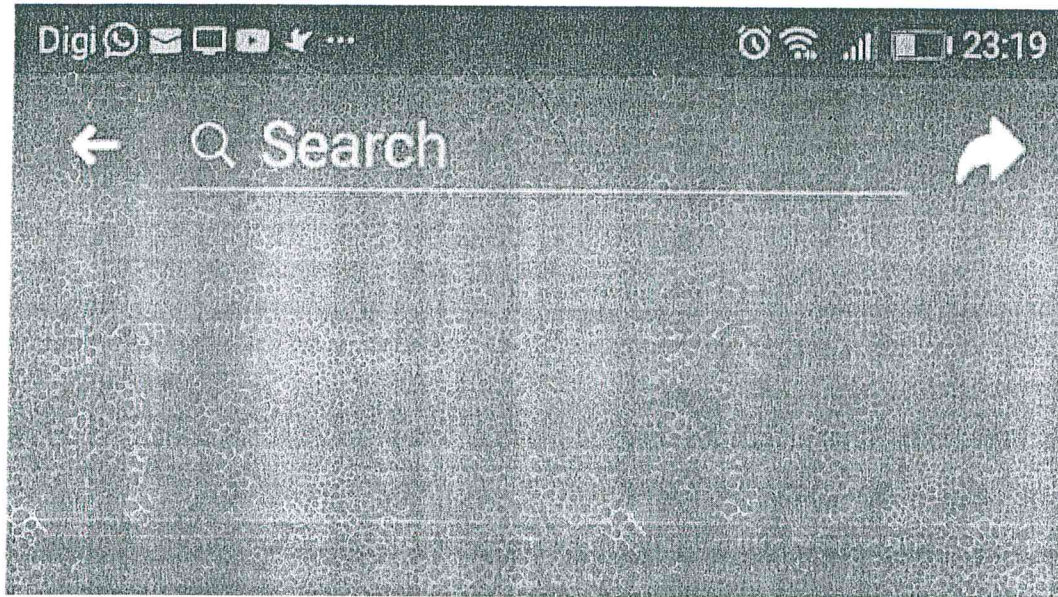
"MGC calls on all Sikh societies, gurdwaras and the Sanggat to unite so that extreme elements amongst us will come to the right path," he said.

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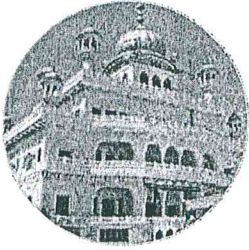
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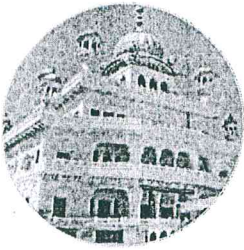
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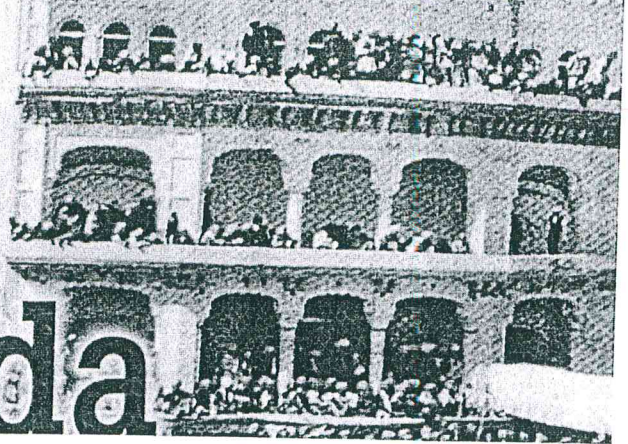
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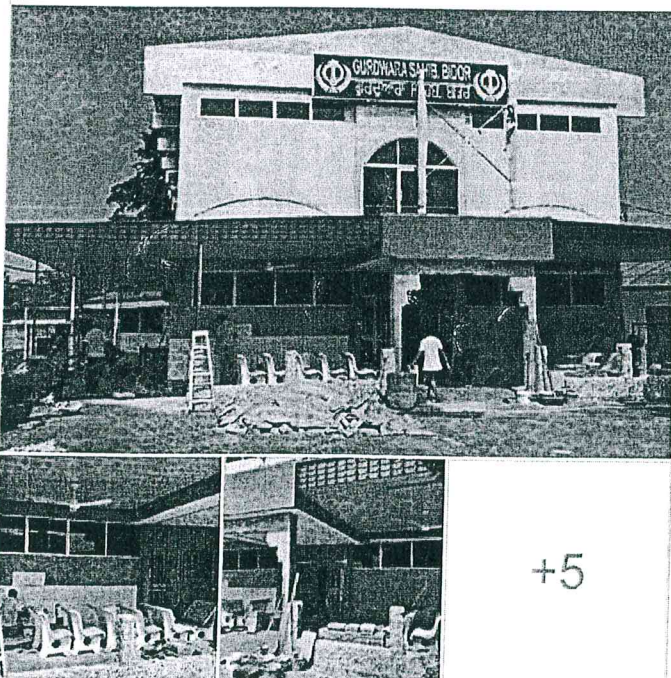
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