

Demand for Independence of Punjab Echoes in San Francisco

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA, USA, June 8, 2015 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Demand for Independence of [Punjab](#) Echoes in San Francisco

Thousands of North American Sikhs converged in downtown San Francisco to commemorate the 31st year of Indian Army's invasion of Golden Temple in which thousands of Sikh pilgrims were massacred.

A highly visible stage at the San Francisco City Hall carried the larger than life portrait of slain Sikh separatist leader Sant Bhindranwale, while the speakers paid homage to the perennial chief of Damdami Taksal who headed the movement for independent Sikh country, "Khalistan".

The "Sovereignty Rally" attended by more ten thousand Sikhs, was organized by the management committees of Gurudwaras across California.

Bringing the city of San Francisco to a halt, admirers and followers of [Bhindranwale](#) marched through the streets chanting slogans demanding referendum in the Indian occupied State of Punjab. Wearing T-shirts with pictures of slain separatist leader, Sikh youths were carrying placards for "Referendum 2020".

Sikhs For Justice ([SFJ](#)) an international human rights group is advocating for holding of referendum in the year 2020 to create separate Sikh country.

Pointing to the growing popularity of campaign for Sikh Referendum, attorney Gurpatwant Singh Pannun legal adviser to SFJ stated that Sant Bhindranwale represented the community's aspirations



North American Sikhs Rally in support of Punjab Independence



Sikh children honoring slain separatist leader Bhindranwale in San Francisco

for independence and was not a terrorist as portrayed by the Indian government. “History is a witness that in more than 300 years Sikh community was never an aggressor and only laid lives defending its right to peaceful existence”, added attorney Pannun.

What lies at the bottom of the controversy between the disgruntled Sikhs and Indian Government is the Explanation II to Article 25 of the constitution of India which labels Sikhs as Hindus. Offended by the constitutional assault on independent status of

Sikhism, Bhindranwale initially lead the movement for abolition of Article 25 which ultimately culminated in demanding cession of Punjab, the historical homeland of Sikhs, from India.



Women at San Francisco Sikh independence Rally

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Bhindranwale represented the community's aspirations for independence

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