



Senate Resolution No. 2022/2023-###
***Condemning the unlawful detainment of Amritpal Singh and Indian
paramilitary operations in Punjab***

Primary Sponsor

Deena Ali (ASUC Senator)

Cosponsors

UC Berkeley Sikh Students Association, UC Berkeley Jakara Movement Chapter, California Sikh Youth Alliance, UC Berkeley Bhagat Puran Singh Health Initiative, Cal Bhangra, Berkeley Sikh Law Association, Soohi Phulkariyan

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) Constitution preamble states that the mission of the ASUC is to "advance our common interests and concerns as students, stakeholders in the university, and as members of the civic community"; and,

WHEREAS, Amritpal Singh is a prominent Sikh activist and chief leader of Waris Punjab De (WPD, Heirs of Punjab), an organization committed to mitigating the drug epidemic in Punjab, spreading the Sikh faith (*Sikhi*), and raising awareness around the Sikh struggle for self-determination from India¹; and,

WHEREAS, Indian-administered Punjab has recently experienced increased security operations resulting in the unlawful detention of Amritpal Singh, as well as search operations, police blockades, and deployment of paramilitary troops²; and,

WHEREAS, at least 78 people (as of 3/19/2023) have been taken into custody, and dozens of Sikh activists are facing sustained illegal house detentions and harassment at the hands of police³; and,

¹ <https://www.baaznews.org/p/amritpal-singh-wpd-arrest-draconian>

² <https://www.amnesty.org/ar/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2021/06/asa200111991ar.pdf>

³ <https://www.mizzima.com/article/india-arrests-78-ongoing-manhunt-sikh-separatist>

WHEREAS, multiple prominent Sikh social media pages have been censored, and internet services in Punjab have been unlawfully suspended, with such tactics recognized as weapons to crush dissent and facilitate mass killings of minority communities like the Sikhs²; and,

WHEREAS, Section 144 of the Indian Code of Criminal Procedure has been instituted in multiple cities across Punjab, violating the democratic, fundamental right to free assembly⁴; and,

WHEREAS, Amritpal Singh's village, Jallapur Khera, in Amritsar, has been sealed by police and Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel while all major roads in Punjab currently have checkpoints by India's paramilitary forces²; and,

WHEREAS, there is a pattern of violent suppression and mysterious deaths of Sikh activists, such as Shubhdeep Singh 'Sidhu Moosewala' and Deep Sidhu, both of whom vocally supported the Sikh struggle for sovereignty from India⁵; and,

WHEREAS, Amritpal Singh's location remains unconfirmed by Indian authorities, raising concerns about his safety and the possibility of extrajudicial encounters, which have been historically employed against Sikhs in Punjab during the 1980s-1990s¹; and,

WHEREAS, Indian authorities are legally obligated to disclose the location of any person in custody, and the possibility of Amritpal Singh and others being unjustly charged, ill-treated, and tortured under draconian laws like the UAPA or NSA is a grave concern¹; and,

WHEREAS, the current protests in Mohali against Amritpal Singh's unlawful detention underscore the outrage felt by many Sikhs worldwide, especially given that they evoke traumatic memories of the Sikh Genocide of 1984⁶; and,

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that the Associated Students at the University of California condemn the actions of the Indian paramilitary in Punjab and the unlawful detention of Amritpal Singh; and,

THEREFORE IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Associated Students at the University of California denounces any suppression of civil liberties, including but not limited to unlawful arrests, internet shutdowns, and censorship of free speech, which undermine the principles of democracy; and,

THEREFORE IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Associated Students at the University of California recognizes the unequivocal need to stand with Sikh students and allies at home and abroad protesting peacefully; and,

⁴ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1743036>

⁵ <https://www.baaznews.org/p/sidhu-moose-wala-die-in-punjab>

⁶ <https://time.com/3545867/india-1984-sikh-genocide-anniversary/>

THEREFORE IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Associated Students at the University of California stand in support of students of Punjabi Sikh heritage, descent or origin who have family members, relatives, friends, or community members impacted by ongoing developments in Punjab; and,

THEREFORE IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Associated Students at the University of California call upon campus administration to acknowledge the ongoing developments in Punjab and implore its members and general student body to educate themselves using ongoing resources provided by the Sikh Students Association at UC Berkeley⁷, Jakara Movement Chapter at UC Berkeley⁸, the California Sikh Youth Alliance⁹, the United Sikh Movement¹⁰, and more based on the discretion of these organizations.

⁷ <https://www.instagram.com/ucbssa/>

⁸ <https://www.instagram.com/jmc.ucb/>

⁹ https://www.instagram.com/the_csya/

¹⁰ <https://www.instagram.com/unitedsikhmovement/>