

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF INQUIRY  
INTO THE INVESTIGATION OF THE BOMBING OF AIR INDIA FLIGHT 182**

**AND IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION BY GIAN SINGH SANDHU**

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**AFFIDAVIT OF GIAN SINGH SANDHU**

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I, GIAN SINGH SANDHU, a businessman of the City of Williams Lake, in the Province of British Columbia, AFFIRM AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. I am President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jackpine Group of Companies, which operates lumber companies in the interior of British Columbia.
2. I am a former National and International President of the World Sikh Organization ("WSO") and currently a Senior Policy Advisor.
3. I immigrated to Canada in 1970, from India.
4. In 1971, I with the help of a school principal Mrs. Hazel Huckvale, founded the first Punjabi Canadian Association in the Central interior of British Columbia, which later built the first Gurdwara in Williams Lake, British Columbia.
5. I along with other Sikh professionals founded the WSO of Canada in 1984 with the objectives of fostering a healthy integration for Sikhs in Canada, promoting equality and understanding for the Sikh community, and promoting and

advocating for human rights. I was unanimously elected as President of WSO of Canada on December 1, 1984.

6. I am a member in good standing of the "ORDER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA" since 2002.
7. I am a recipient of the "*Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal*" for community service.
8. In addition to my work in the field of human rights, I have done the following:
  - a) I have taught business management and industrial first aid courses.
  - b) I have served on the Cariboo College Advisory counsel.
  - c) I have served on the Economic Development and Housing Committees for the City of Williams Lake.
  - d) I have served as a Director for the Cariboo Lumber Manufacturing Association. I am currently a director on the Council of Forest Industries ("COFI") in British Columbia.
  - e) I am a member of the Canadian Wood Council ("CWC") Working Group on Finger-Jointed Lumber.
  - f) I have served on the small business advisory committee for the Regional Ministry of Forests in B.C.
  - g) I have served as a member of the 'SECTORAL ADVISORY GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE ("SAGIT")' advising the Minister of International Trade.
  - h) I have been a nominee for the National Entrepreneur Award.
9. Over the years, many members of the Canadian society in general and the Sikh community in particular have viewed me as a community leader. As such:

- a) The broader Canadian society has often asked me to participate in various educational, cultural, religious and government policy round table discussions, workshops and seminars as a speaker and or a participant.
  - b) Members of the Sikh community often ask for my guidance and advice in relation to personal and professional problems, as well as issues relating to self-identity within Canadian society.
10. I have worked with diverse cultural and linguistic populations, specifically among the Sikh community ranging from children to adult, within the individual, couple and family level context. I have acted as a mediator in family disputes.
  11. I have been profiled in Canada Heirloom Series' publication "**Canada at the Millennium**" a salute to 50 ethnocultural groups who have journeyed to Canada during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. I was among 10 Canadians of Indian Origin and only three of Sikh origin to be profiled in this prestigious Canadian publication.
  12. I have been profiled in a publication on the 75 years history of Williams Lake, British Columbia.
  13. On Tuesday, September 25, 2007, RCMP Inspector Jim Cunningham ("Cunningham") testified at the Air India Inquiry, and impugned my character and suggested I had dealings with an Air India suspect.
  14. The following is an excerpt from the transcript of Mr. Cunningham's testimony:

**MR. SHORE:** Okay. Then you said that he -- had you tried to corroborate -- I mean -- I'm not going to go there, sorry. You said that he had gone to others and others said -- when he said, basically, that he was innocent, he hadn't done anything. Is that correct?

**INSP. CUNNINGHAM:** That's correct.

**MR. SHORE:** Who had he gone to? Bagri, I think referred to as one person?

**INSP. CUNNINGHAM:** I believe he spoke with Parmar, he spoke with Gian Singh Sandhu, the head of the World Sikh Organization, in his

words. There were other people that he felt would have known who was involved in Air India and he was relying upon them to step forward and inform that we were not.

**MR. SHORE:** So he was going to people that he believed had actually committed -- were involved in the conspiracy and the crime and he said, "Tell them" right, meaning the authorities?

**INSP. CUNNINGHAM:** Right.

**MR. SHORE:** "Tell them I have nothing to do with this."

**INSP. CUNNINGHAM:** Or also people who he believed may have known the facts and who was involved.

**MR. SHORE:** It is hard to imagine that these other individuals would come forward to say, "Lal Singh is innocent and I know that because I did it". Doesn't that sound absolutely implausible?

**INSP. CUNNINGHAM:** Those are also people that we questioned in relation to his story and questioned them on ---

**MR. SHORE:** Well, you didn't question Mr. Parmar?

**INSP. CUNNINGHAM:** Mr. Parmar?

**MR. SHORE:** Yes.

**INSP. CUNNINGHAM:** We never had a chance to question ---

**MR. SHORE:** No, I know, but he's saying these are the people that he went to.

**MS. BRENZALL:** Can you let him finish his answer.

**MR. SHORE:** Sorry, forgive me. I'm sorry.

**INSP. CUNNINGHAM:** Certainly Mr. Parmar had been spoken to by police officers in Canada prior to his departure in the latter part of the 1980s.

**MR. SHORE:** M'hm.

**INSP. CUNNINGHAM:** And Mr. Parmar wasn't admitting to the Air India bombing at that time either.

**MR. SHORE:** No. But did he make any reference to Lal Singh?

**INSP. CUNNINGHAM:** No, he did not.

**MR. SHORE:** Okay. Why do you think he would have said --

Lal Singh -- why do you think Lal Singh would have said, "Go hide, go in hiding, stay away". Why would they do that if he is innocent?

**INSP. CUNNINGHAM:** It's -- anything -- if you are looking to cast doubt on your own involvement and possibly put somebody out there as another person of interest, why wouldn't you? Why wouldn't you have the police believe that there was somebody else involved? The other thing on that was, be that if you were in fact involved and stepped forward to say that so-and-so was not involved, the inference is that you yourself know who was.

15. On Wednesday, September 26, 2007, Kim Bolan ("Bolan") published an article in the Vancouver Sun, and Edmonton Journal called "Interview with Air India Suspect made public – RCMP believed alleged plotter's denial", which also defamed me personally.
16. The following is an extract from Bolan's article:

The RCMP's notes of the interviews with Singh, an admitted terrorist with links to the Babbar Khalsa and the International Sikh Youth Federation, were disclosed publicly for the first time Tuesday.

The document quotes Singh saying he received advice and assistance in fleeing Canada in 1988 from B.C. members of several Sikh organizations. He said he travelled to Pakistan on the passport of Surrey resident Manjit Singh Dhami, a former ISYF member who was once a temple leader, and later gave the passport back to another ISYF leader, Satinderpal Singh Gill, in Lahore.

The document also says Singh was told by World Sikh Organization leader Gian Singh Sandhu, of Williams Lake, "not to go out" while hiding in B.C.

According to Singh, "Gian Sandhu gave a big lecture -- we must die for Khalistan."

Singh told Cunningham he wanted to turn himself in to police after he was identified in the media as an Air India suspect, but was advised by his B.C. supporters to lay low. He lived on a south Langley blueberry farm, where he said he was working the day Air India Flight 182 exploded, killing all 329 aboard.

Cunningham explained that Singh believed many in B.C. could clear him of a role in the bombing.

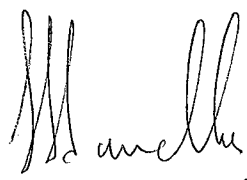
"I believe he spoke with Talwinder Singh Parmar, he spoke with Ajaib Singh Bagri and he spoke with Gian Singh Sandhu, the head of the World Sikh Organization in his words," Cunningham testified. "There were other people he felt that would have known who was involved in Air India and he was relying upon them to step forward."

17. Following the publication of the Bolan article, there were other articles published in the Punjabi press, which also referred to the above statements, and defamed me personally.
18. Mr. Cunningham's testimony is categorically false to the extent that I allegedly advised terror suspects such as Lal Singh. Further, I never attended the lecture referred to in Mr. Cunningham's notes and in Ms. Bolan's article.
19. While I believe that Sikhs in India have the right to self determination, I oppose the pursuit of this goal by violent means. I have always personally endorsed and supported the United Nations conventions on the rights of people to self-determination and human rights.
20. I am a peaceful advocate for Canadian Charter values such as equality, religious freedom and human rights, and have always condemned acts of terrorism.
21. In addition, I have always deplored the senseless murder of the innocent people of the Air India tragedy. Under my presidency, the World Sikh Organization issued numerous press releases and public statements condemning the tragedy, and urging people to come forward and assist the police in their investigation. Further, the WSO has consistently called for a public inquiry into the investigation of the Air India bombing. In addition, WSO representatives have attended numerous memorial services marking the Air India tragedy.
22. I believe that as former President of the WSO, and a leader within the Sikh community and the broader Canadian society, I occupy a position of trust and of good faith. I therefore believe that Mr. Cunningham's hearsay evidence has defamed me personally, and compromised my integrity and position of trust as a representative of the Sikh community.

23. I have spent a large part of my life advocating against Sikh stereotyping and false associations of Sikhs to terrorism. By connecting a Sikh community leader to alleged terrorists or acts of terrorism, one who has always advocated non-violence, the reputation of the Sikh community itself is at stake.
24. I am therefore personally applying for status to testify on record at the Inquiry for the purpose of challenging these allegations made against me, which impugn my character and credibility, and which also have the effect of harming the reputation of the Sikh community generally, and compromising the ability of the World Sikh Organization to represent Sikh reputational interests at this Inquiry.
25. I make this Affidavit for no improper purpose.

SWORN BEFORE ME at the City of Williams Lake, in the Province of British Columbia, this / 2 day of October 2007

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**Gian Singh Sandhu**

A Commissioner for the Taking of Affidavits  
 in and for the Province of British Columbia

**ALAN E. VANDERBURGH Q.C.**  
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