

Sikh Assembly of America

Madame Chair, [inaudible] I thank you for the opportunity to speak at the 18th United Nations Forum. The Sikh Assembly submits a statement, and would like to raise three concerns that affect the Sikh community in the struggle for peacebuilding in Punjab, as well as the struggle for transitional justice and representation. The US, UK, and Canadian authorities have exposed an international nexus of organized criminals working in coordination with Indian intelligence agencies to carry out murders of Sikh representatives working under the United Nations Charter of self-determination, including the successful assassination of Khalistan leaders [inaudible] and an attempt on Khalistan referendum leader [inaudible]. The Khalistan referendum is the only solution freeing Punjab from Indian occupation, and its leaders are being killed without accountability. We request the UN Special Rapporteur to conduct an independent investigation and truth commission to hold the responsible members of the Indian government accountable for killing Sikh representatives. The Sikh Assembly work to introduce the Transnational Repression Reporting Act in the United States to enhance intelligence sharing between security agencies and improve federal monitoring of threats to all diaspora communities facing repression. We request the United Nations Human Rights Council to issue a similar resolution of inter-department cooperation to protect all minority representatives being targeted transnationally by violent regimes. The second concern relates to the halting of transitional justice with unresolved human rights violations from Punjab's past in the 1980s and 1990s at the height of the Sikh genocide. Human rights leader [inaudible] exposed more than 25,000 cases of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and falsified [inaudible] reports. For documenting these abuses, he himself was abducted, tortured, and later murdered in police custody. The struggle for transitional justice continues to be restricted today as the film "Punjab '95" documenting [inaudible] investigations has been banned by the Indian Board of Film Certification, requiring over 125 cuts in an attempt to hide historical facts and further delay transitional justice of the Sikh genocide. Thank you very much.