

BEFORE THE  
**FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-28**

IN THE MATTER OF:

1984 ANTI-SIKH VIOLENCE IN INDIA  
AS "GENOCIDE"

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RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE  
NOVEMBER 1984 ANTI-SIKH  
VIOLENCE IN INDIA AS "GENOCIDE"

WHEREAS, The Fresno Council of Governments is in support of this resolution to recognize the intentional, deliberate, and systematic killing of Sikhs in India during November 1984 as "Genocide" as defined under the laws of the United States and U.N. Convention.

WHEREAS, Sikhism is the world's 5th largest religion with more than 26 million followers; and

WHEREAS, beginning on October 31, 1984, organized and systematic violence was carried out by the Indian Government with the active collusion of the police and administration, against the Sikh population throughout India, with a clear intent to destroy the Sikh community; and

WHEREAS, the violence against the Sikhs continued unabated for several days in more than 100 cities across India resulting in over tens of thousands killed, thousands of women raped, hundreds of Gurdwaras (Sikh Temples) burnt and destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of Sikhs displaced; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, a mass grave of Sikhs in the village Hondh-Chillar, in the state of Haryana, was unearthed, which was followed by the discovery of similar startling new evidence in surrounding areas such as Pataudi, Gurgaon and new sites continue to be discovered until present day containing mass graves, ruined villages, burnt Gurudwaras, and other traces of the annihilation of the Sikh population during November 1984 throughout India; and

WHEREAS, the pattern of November 1984 genocidal violence against Sikhs has been allowed to perpetuate and create a culture of impunity with the Indian judicial system unable and unwilling to prosecute the genocidal instigators; and

WHEREAS, under the laws of the United States and the U.N. Genocide Convention, genocide is defined as "attack with an intent to destroy in whole or in part, a religious or ethnic community"; and

WHEREAS, Section 1091 of 18 U.S. C and "Genocide Accountability Act of 2007" make the crime of genocide committed anywhere and anytime, punishable by the United States Courts.

WHEREAS, By consistently remembering and forcefully condemning the atrocities committed against the Sikhs, and honoring the survivors as well as other victims of similar heinous conduct, we guard against repetition of such acts of genocide and provide the American public with a greater understanding of history; and

WHEREAS, This measure would declare that the Fresno Council of Governments deplores the persistent, ongoing efforts by any person, in this country or abroad, to deny the historical fact of the Sikh Genocide; and

WHEREAS, California is home to the largest Sikh-American population in the United States, and Sikhs living in California have enriched our state through their leadership and contribution in business, agriculture, medicine, academia, government, and the arts; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Fresno Council of Governments:

1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated by reference.
2. Recognizes November 1984 violence against Sikh lives, properties, and places of worship throughout India, was carried out with intent to destroy the Sikh community and was thus "Genocide" as defined under the laws of the United States and the U.N. Genocide Convention of 1984.
3. Calls upon Barack Obama, the President of the United States and the Congress to recognize Anti-Sikh violence of November 1984 as a "Genocide".

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was passed and adopted by the Fresno Council of Governments this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Chair

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution of the Fresno Council of Governments duly adopted at a regular meeting dated above.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Boren, Executive Director