

MALVINDER SINGH KANG

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Dated 27.09.2024

Letter No. 85

To

Shri Amit Shah Ji
Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block, Central Secretariat
New Delhi - 110001

Sub : Request for Immediate Intervention to Prevent the Demolition of Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar in Shillong

Hon'ble Home Minister,

I write to you in my capacity as a Member of Parliament from Punjab, to bring to your urgent attention the impending demolition of the historic Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar, located in the Punjabi Lane area of Shillong, Meghalaya. This gurdwara, established in 1874, holds profound religious and historical significance for the Sikh community, not only in Shillong but also across India and the world.

The proposed demolition as part of an urban development project by the Government of Meghalaya has triggered deep concern and distress among the Sikh community. Many families who have lived in Shillong for generations trace their roots back to the 19th century, when their ancestors were brought there during the British era. In light of this, I respectfully seek your urgent intervention for the following reasons :

1. The Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar is a sacred place of worship for Sikhs, with immense historical and cultural significance. Its demolition would not only erase a vital part of our heritage but would also deeply wound the religious sentiments of the Sikh community nationwide.
2. The Sikh residents of Punjabi Lane possess land title deeds dating back to 1863, validating their legal claim to the land. Additionally, the Hon'ble Meghalaya High Court has issued a stay order, instructing the authorities to maintain the status quo regarding the property. Ignoring these legal frameworks could have serious implications.
3. The Sikh community across India has a deep emotional and spiritual connection with this gurdwara. Any attempt to demolish it could lead to unrest and disturb the peace among a community that has always stood for harmony and unity in India.
4. I strongly urge that alternative solutions for urban development be explored, which do not involve the destruction of this sacred site. A constructive dialogue between community leaders and government authorities can help in devising a respectful and mutually agreeable resolution.

Given the sensitivity of this issue, I request that the Ministry of Home Affairs intervene to halt the demolition process and ensure that the cultural and religious sentiments of the Sikh community are safeguarded. Upholding the principles of secularism

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and religious freedom that our Constitution embodies is crucial in this matter.

I trust that you will take swift and appropriate steps to ensure that this sacred site is preserved and that a peaceful resolution is reached.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue.

Yours Sincerely,



(Malvinder Singh Kang)