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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Sikh Human Rights Group, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[12 February 2019]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



1984 Genocide of Sikhs in India, some positive steps, anticipation for further progress in justice for victims and prevention measures in future

Further to our Oral statement made in the 39th session of Human Rights Council in which we raised failure on part of India to convict any of the leaders who led the genocide of Sikhs in November 1984, we are pleased to say that some progress has taken place and one of the main alleged political mastermind, Mr Sajjan Kumar, has now been sentenced to life for his part in encouraging and supporting killer squads.

We hope that further steps will be taken by the current Government both in providing justice as the evidence of the involvement of other leading politicians exists and to introduce changes that will prevent such genocidal actions taking place again.

The current Prime Minister of India, PM Modi had given an undertaking that during his tenure, the Government will not interfere in the progress of Justice. We appreciate the Indian PM keeping his promise.

The indiscriminate killings of Sikhs in November 1984 started after the Indian Prime Minister was assassinated by two of her bodyguards who happened to be Sikhs. The assassination by two individuals is not a legitimate reason to organise and unleash killer crowds on an entire community indiscriminately. Many of those killed were her supporters!

People were bussed in from periphery of Delhi and given logistical support, such as residences and businesses of Sikhs, iron rods, wooden logs, tyres, kerosene, axes and lighters. They were directed towards where Sikhs lived in large numbers or when individual Sikhs were found going about their daily chores. The crowds were encouraged to butcher children, unarmed innocent young and old Sikhs and women were raped. They were given tyres to put around necks and the first mass necklace killings took place in Delhi in November 1984.

There have been numerous Government and independent reports pointing at the involvement of the State at the highest levels. The Police were directed not to obstruct the crowds and the Army was contained in its barracks only 30 minutes from the capital.

In the 4 days more than 4000 Sikhs were massacred.

The evidence has always been there but executive interference by previous Governments in the process of law frustrated the Judiciary to carry on its work independently. This provided impunity to the most powerful who instigated the violence.

We applaud the current Government that has permitted the judicial process to proceed without interference. Mr Kumar has been convicted on almost the same evidence that has existed against him for 34 years in the courts. We also express our appreciation of the Indian Judiciary that has shown its commitment to justice.

We now urge the Indian Government to set up a special Judicial Commission to look at wider issues that arose from those four days such as failure of the various State institutions from carrying on their Constitutional duties and protecting innocent citizens.

We also urge the Special Advisor on Prevention of Genocide to offer the experience and expertise of the office to India to look at the genocide of Sikhs in 1984 more comprehensively and propose measures to prevent such acts again.

SIKH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP
