



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

The Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1A 1L1

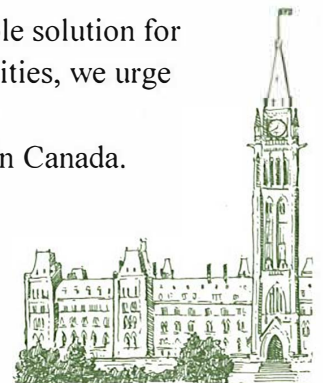
Dear Minister Mendicino,

We are writing to express our concern about the existential threat to religious minorities in Afghanistan, specifically, Sikhs and Hindus. These religious minorities are being targeted for attacks, abduction and extortion by various extremist groups, including ISIS Khorasan (ISIS-K).

On March 25, 2020, ISIS-K terrorists attacked Gurdwara Sri Guru Har Rai Sahib in Kabul and murdered 25 Sikhs, including four-year-old Tania Kaur. At the funeral for the victims of this attack, a second attack was initiated involving the detonation of an explosive device. Earlier, in July 2018, the senior leadership of the Sikh and Afghan communities was assassinated in a suicide bombing that took 19 lives in Jalalabad. In June 2020, an Afghan Sikh, Nidan Singh Sachdeva, was abducted from a gurdwara and tortured for weeks. That was followed on July 17 by the abduction of 13-year-old Salmeet Kaur who was kidnapped from a Kabul gurdwara where she was living with her blind mother and younger brother. Salmeet's father was killed in the March attack. ISIS-K has sworn to exterminate all Afghan Sikhs and Hindus if they do not leave Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's Sikh and Hindu communities face a threat to their very existence. The minority communities which once numbered over 200,000 have now dwindled to less than 800 due to decades of persecution. Only those families remain that do not have the means to relocate elsewhere. The majority of the community are forced to reside in gurdwaras and face discrimination in accessing education, employment and housing. As ISIS-K continues to attack civilians and international troops continue to withdraw from Afghanistan, Sikhs and Hindus are likely to face more violence.

Without internal flight options, international resettlement has become the only viable solution for Afghan Sikhs and Hindus. In light of the immediate threat faced by these communities, we urge you to create a special program for Afghan Sikh and Hindu refugees under 25.2 of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, so that they can be brought to safety in Canada.



Such a program has been created for other vulnerable groups including Tibetan and Syrian refugees in the past. Members of the Sikh community in Canada have offered to privately sponsor these refugees and bear all the costs of these sponsorships.

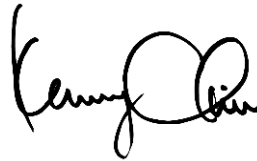
While we understand that international travel and the resettlement of refugees has been affected due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Canada can make a commitment to help these vulnerable refugees and ensure they are brought to safety as soon as is practically possible.

Canada has long acquired a reputation as a world leader on refugee resettlement. We urgently ask that you take these essential steps to save the Sikh and Hindu communities in Afghanistan from further attacks and death.

Sincerely,



Ziad Aboultaif, M.P.



Kenny Chiu, M.P.



Todd Doherty, M.P.



Hon. Kerry-Lynne Findlay, P.C., M.P.



Garnett Genuis, M.P.



Tracy Gray, M.P.



Jasraj Singh Hallan, M.P.



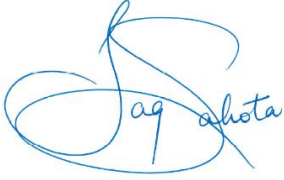
Tamara Jansen, M.P.



Erin O'Toole, M.P.




Brad Redekopp, M.P.



Jag Sahota, M.P.



Hon. Tim Uppal, P.C., M.P.



Karen Vecchio, M.P.



Arnold Viersen, M.P.



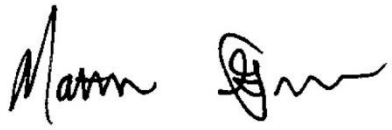
Brad Vis, M.P.



Cathay Wagantall, M.P.



Hon. Peter MacKay, P.C., Q.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Green". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Matt Green, M.P.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah Gazan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Leah Gazan, M.P.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Harris". The signature is highly stylized with a large circular flourish at the beginning.

Jack Harris, M.P.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lindsay Mathyssen". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lindsay Mathyssen, M.P.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Masse". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Brian Masse, M.P.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Julian". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Peter Julian, M.P.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elizabeth May".

Elizabeth May, O.C., M.P.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Manly".

Paul Manly, M.P.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jenica Atwin".

Jenica Atwin, M.P.