



# KHALISTAN EXTREMISM MONITOR

## NEWSLETTER



### Spotlight

Amidst the clamour surrounding Khalistan activities abroad, the Punjab police conducted several special operations and succeeded in neutralizing several terrorist, gangster and drug smuggling networks within the state in July. The data collected by the *Khalistan Extremism Monitor* (KEM) indicates that approximately 59 persons were arrested in the course of the month, in connection with their association with Khalistan terrorist or organised gang networks. Additionally, 179 other arrests were made in connection with drug seizures in Punjab.

On July 17, Sukhchain Singh Gill, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Headquarters, revealed that Punjab Police's year-long battle against anti-social elements made significant improvement in the law-and-order situation in the state. He disclosed that, during the period between July 5, 2022, and July 16, 2023, the Punjab Police dismantled 18 terrorist modules, arrested 143 terrorists/radicals, recovered 31 rifles, 209 revolvers/pistols, 5 'tiffin' improvised explosive devices (IEDs), 6.78 kilograms of RDX and other explosives, 10 hand grenades, one sleeve of a disposed rocket launcher, 51 drones, and one loaded rocket propelled grenade (RPG).

### The month in review

July 2023 witnessed the repetition of Khalistan-related disturbances in Western countries, causing significant turbulence in diaspora politics. 'Pro-Khalistan rallies' were orchestrated in various Western countries, in the present case, directly targeted Indian officials within those nations, leading to increased tensions and concerns about diplomatic security.

In a departure from its typical *modus operandi* of issuing threats against prominent Indian political leaders or officials, the banned Khalistani group, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), disseminated a poster campaign titled "Kill India" to promote their July 8 "Khalistan Freedom Rally." This poster named and directly targeted Indian officials stationed at Indian Missions across seven countries: Canada, United States (US), United Kingdom (UK), Portugal, Italy, Germany, and Australia. Each poster, tailored for each country, prominently displayed photographs and designations of the senior-most Indian diplomats at the respective mission, with the title "Faces of Shaheed Nijjar's Killers" and the slogan "Kill India". The poster announced a rally dedicated to Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar scheduled to take place on July 8 at eleven locations across the aforementioned seven countries. Nijjar was killed in Canada on June 18.





Further, in a video message, SFJ 'chief' Gurpatwant Singh Pannun asserted that Indian diplomats were responsible for the assassination of 'Shaheed (martyr) Nijjar' and threatened that the 'Sikh community' would 'Besiege Indian Missions' worldwide on August 15, India's Independence Day. There were significant concerns about the possibility of physical harm to Indian diplomats at these locations.

The Indian government promptly and vigorously condemned these actions. On July 3, the External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, underscored the potential ramifications of such incidents on bilateral relations and called on partner countries, including the US, UK, Canada, and Australia, to refrain from accommodating Khalistani extremists. Further, India issued a formal *démarche* to the Canadian Government, urging swift action against the Khalistani elements involved. Indian authorities at Delhi summoned Canadian High Commissioner Cameron MacKay, to urge Canada to address the matter promptly and effectively.

A majority of the state authorities conveyed their unwavering commitment to safeguarding diplomatic missions in adherence to their obligations under the Vienna Convention. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, on July 6, defended Canada's stance on 'freedom of expression' but assured India that they would take violence and threats seriously.

The low turnout at the much-hyped 'Kill India' rallies in various western cities on July 8 was a major setback for pro-Khalistan elements in the West, who had been projecting these protests as the revival of 'Khalistan 2.0'. The majority of these rallies failed to draw more than 30 to 40 participants, while pro-India rallies, surpassing Khalistani supporters in numbers in many cases, were also observed in different locations. The only 'major rally' that took place was outside the Indian Consulate in Toronto, Canada on July 8, with approximately 250 Khalistan supporters, even as a pro-India rally also took place on the opposite side of the street. Despite the pro-Khalistan group's attempt to breach the barricade and confront the pro-India contingent, they were repelled by the police. Subsequently, two protesters were arrested, with one of them being charged with assaulting a police officer.

The low turnout was significant. In the past, whenever Khalistani protests fail to attract crowds, local Pakistani missions brought in busloads of Pakistanis to join the demonstrations for the Khalistan cause.

Pakistan and its Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) have also tried their best to portray 'Shaheed Nijjar' as a poster figure to highlight India's purported 'genocide against minorities', while deliberately avoiding the name of Khalistani terrorist Paramjit Singh Panjwar, who was killed in Pakistan on May 6. Panjwar was not mentioned in any of these Khalistani protests.

Moreover, a report issued by the Network Contagion Research Institute (NCRI) based in Princeton, New Jersey, highlights that Pakistan-based Pro-Khalistan bots have been actively propagating violence and disseminating conspiracy theories through social media platforms, specifically directed against India's diplomats and missions located in Western countries.

Additionally, on July 24, the British tabloid *The Daily Mail*, based on its undercover investigation, exposed several United Kingdom (UK) law firms that were allegedly 'training' illegal Indian migrants to falsely claim persecution due to support for the Khalistan movement, in order to obtain refugee status. These lawyers construct distressing narratives, incorporating events such as the farmers' protest in India in 2021, Khalistani separatist protests led by Amritpal Singh, and alleged threats from Indian security forces, as evidence to support their applications for asylum.

These false claims amplify the apparent number of Khalistan supporters within the diaspora, where Khalistani groups already employ tactics of enticing Indian youth with financial 'welcome packages', to engage in their 'Khalistan protests'.





In a separate development, according to a report released on July 14, 2023, three individuals identified as Khalistan supporters, closely associated with gangster-terrorist Lakhbir Singh 'Landa' and allegedly linked to the attacks on police establishments in Punjab during 2022, were detained in Canada. These individuals were under suspicion for illegal entry into the country and were believed to have utilized forged Portuguese passports. Significantly, SFJ's Gurpatwant Singh Pannun has offered to coordinate the legal defense for these individuals.

Meanwhile, in a violent incident on July 14, 2023, a 23-year-old Indian student became a victim of an attack by Khalistani supporters wielding iron rods in Merrylands, Sydney, Australia, for expressing opposition to Khalistani extremist activities. The attackers, vocally affirming their allegiance, shouting the slogan 'Khalistan Zindabad', carried out an unexpected assault on the student while he was in the process of entering his vehicle. Also, on July 2, a suspected Khalistan supporters attempted to set fire to the Indian consulate in San Francisco, United States (US).

## TOP NEWS



**Dal Khalsa activists heading to the office of India's external intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)**

### **Dal Khalsa activists detained in Amritsar over protest against Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing**

Punjab Police on July 1 detained several Dal Khalsa activists who were heading to the office of India's external intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), to protest the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the chief of Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), in Canada, from near the Golden Temple in Amritsar. According to Kanwar Pal Singh, spokesperson of Dal Khalsa, around 86 activists were stopped near Town Hall on Heritage Street in Amritsar. Pro-Khalistan slogans were also raised during the demonstration. Earlier in the day, the *bhog* (commemorative prayer) ceremony and *antim ardas* (final prayers) for Nijjar, who was one of India's most wanted terrorists, were held at *Shaheedi Asthan* (place of martyrdom) of Baba Gurbax Singh in the Golden Temple complex.

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### **Khalistan Supporters attempt arson at Indian Consulate in San Francisco, US**

According to local reports, individuals associated with the Khalistani movement attempted to set fire to the Indian consulate in San Francisco, United States (US), between 1:30 am and 2:30 am on July 2. However, the San Francisco Fire Department promptly extinguished the flames.

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**Indian Consulate in San Francisco, United States, set on fire**





'Kill India' poster for 'Khalistan Freedom Rally'

## India urges Canada to act against Khalistan extremists targeting Indian Diplomats

On June 3, the Indian High Commission in Ottawa, Canada, sent a demarche to the Canadian Government seeking immediate measures against the Khalistan extremists responsible for the 'Kill India' poster for their 'Khalistan Freedom Rally', which threatened Indian officials, including Sanjay Kumar Verma, India's High Commissioner to Ottawa, and Apoorva Srivastava, Consul General in Toronto. The poster featured photographs and designations of the two diplomats, with the title 'Faces of Shaheed Nijjar's Killers in Toronto'. The rally, named after Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was killed in Canada on June 18, was scheduled for July 8 in Toronto

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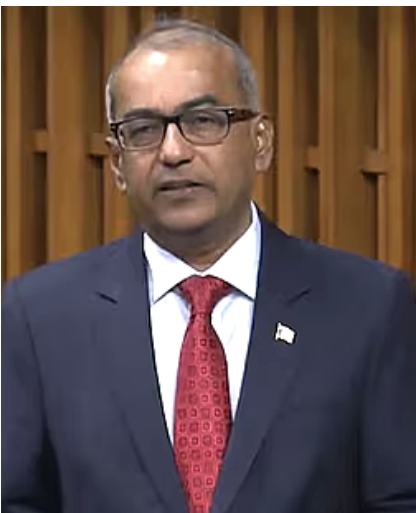
## ISI facilitating weapons as Khalistani terrorists set up operational base in Portugal

According to reports, Khalistani terrorists have established a new operational base in Portugal, adding to their existing bases in the United States (US), Canada, and the United Kingdom (UK). This development is seen as part of a larger conspiracy against India, with the aim of carrying out acts of terrorism. Reports indicate that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has provided illegal weapons from Portugal to criminals in Punjab (India), to facilitate criminal activities in India. Details regarding this network came to light after an unidentified person from Ferozepur, Punjab, was apprehended with weapons, including an AK-47, an MP-5 submachine gun, hand grenades and a pistol, in Portugal recently.

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Khalistani terrorists set up operational base in Portugal



Chandra Arya

## Indian-Origin MP in Canada Condemns Khalistani Supporters' Posters

On July 5, Chandra Arya, an Indian-origin Member of Parliament (MP) and Liberal Party politician in Canada, strongly criticized the pro-Khalistani posters labelling Indian diplomats as 'killers', and warned that extremist elements were becoming increasingly provocative and dangerous. Arya expressed concern about the potential for violence, referring to recent incidents, such as the pro-Khalistan rally in Brampton, Canada, celebrating the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The Indian government had earlier summoned the Canadian envoy and issued a demarche, urging Canada to take appropriate measures against Khalistani activities.

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SFJ leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

## Rumours of SFJ leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun's death go viral on social media

On July 5, social media platforms were flooded with rumours of the alleged death of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the chief of banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), in a car accident on Highway 101 in California, United States (US). However, US-based Sikh leader and editor-in-chief of *The Khalsa Today*, Sukhi Chahal, dismissed the news of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun's supposed death in a car accident, stating that it was false and urged people not to spread misinformation.

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## Amritpal Singh seeks 'Qaumi Shaheed' status for Avtar Singh Khanda and Hardeep Singh Nijjar

Pro-Khalistani leader and chief of Waris Punjab De, Amritpal Singh, along with other Sikh detainees in Dibrugarh jail in Assam, wrote a letter to their relatives, appealing to the Sikh community to bestow the status of *Qaumi Shaheed* (community martyrs) upon Avtar Singh Khanda, the deceased chief of the Khalistan Liberation Force, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the deceased chief of the Khalistan Tiger Force and head of the Canadian arm of Sikhs For Justice. The letter, dated July 5, is signed by Amritpal Singh, his uncle Harjit Singh, Pappalpreet Singh, Daljit Singh Kalsi, Kulwant Singh, Bhagwant Singh, Basant Singh, Sarabjit Singh, Surinder Singh, and Gurmeet Singh Aujla.

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Amritpal Singh



Pro-Khalistan protesters

## Pro-Khalistan protesters burn and desecrate Indian National Flag in Italy

Khalistani protestors on July 8 burned and desecrated the Indian national flag, the Tiranga, in Rome, Italy. Videos circulating on social media showed the flags being burned, along with an incident where a pro-India man was assaulted by a Khalistani radical while attempting to retrieve the flag. Khalistan flags were prominently displayed during a 'Kill India' rally.

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**Indian student attacked with iron rods by Khalistan supporters in Australia**

## Indian student brutally attacked with iron rods by Khalistan supporters in Australia

A 23-year-old Indian student was attacked by Khalistani supporters with iron rods on Rupert Street in Merrylands in Sydney, Australia, on July 14. The injured Indian student reported the incident to the New South Wales (NSW) Police, who then escorted him to Westmead Hospital in Sydney. The victim was allegedly targeted for expressing opposition to Khalistani extremist activities. The attackers, chanting 'Khalistan Zindabad', launched a surprise assault on him as he was entering his vehicle, beating him and recording the incident.

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## Shri Bhagavad Gita Park sign defaced with anti-India graffiti in Canada

The signboard of Shri Bhagavad Gita Park in Brampton, in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in Canada, was defaced with graffiti that targeted Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The graffiti spray-painted on the signboard, which read 'Modi is Terrorist (BBC),' was discovered on the morning of July 14.

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**Shri Bhagavad Gita Park in Brampton, in the Greater Toronto Area**



**Bots on social media to amplify violence**

## Pro-Khalistan supporters use bots on social media to amplify violence

Pro-Khalistan bot activity on social media has escalated, targeting India's diplomats and missions in Canada, the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), and Australia, according to a report released by the Princeton, New Jersey-based Network Contagion Research Institute (NCRI). In response to inquiries, NCRI's Chief Operating Officer (COO), Jack Donohue, confirmed that about 20% of the accounts involved in the recent surge of Khalistan activity were identified as Pakistan-based on user descriptions and reported locations. These bots have been amplifying violence and conspiracy theories, including false allegations of India's involvement in the assassination of a prominent figure.

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## Sikhs For Justice announces Global 'Besiege Indian Missions' on August 15

The banned Khalistani separatist organisation Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) on July 21 launched a global 'Kill India' campaign targeting Indian diplomats and announced its plan to 'besiege' Indian missions in Canada, United States (US), United Kingdom (UK), Portugal, Italy, Germany and Australia on India's Independence Day, August 15. SFJ, in their latest poster and video, labelled Indian Mission chiefs Sanjay Kumar Verma (High Commissioner of India to Canada), Taranjit Singh Sandhu (Indian Ambassador to the US), Vikram Doraiswami (High Commissioner of India to the UK), and Manpreet Vohra (High Commissioner of India to Australia) as 'Chief Architects' responsible for sponsoring and inciting violence against pro-Khalistan Sikhs.

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SFJ announces Global 'Besiege Indian Missions'



UK lawyers 'coaching' illegal Indian migrants to fake asylum

## UK lawyers allegedly 'training' illegal Indian migrants to pose as Khalistan supporters for asylum

An investigation by the British tabloid *The Daily Mail* revealed, on July 24, that some United Kingdom (UK) lawyers were allegedly 'coaching' illegal Indian migrants to fake asylum claims by pretending to be persecuted Khalistanis. The undercover investigation exposed 40 law firms engaged in this illicit activity. After charging money, several lawyers suggested false narratives of participating in farmers' protests held in India in 2021, in Khalistan separatist protests led by Amritpal Singh, and threats from Indian security forces, among others, to win asylum cases in court.

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## Punjab Police neutralizes Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF)-backed terrorist module planning targeted killings

On July 29, in a joint operation with the State Special Operations (SSOC) Cell, Sahibzada Ajit Singh (SAS) Nagar, the Punjab Police, neutralized a foreign-based terrorist module of Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) and arrested five individuals and recovered two illegal weapons and live ammunition from them in the SAS Nagar district. According to Director-General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav, the KLF module, backed by foreign-based handlers, aimed to target minority leaders, police officials, and prominent individuals in Punjab.

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Punjab Police neutralizes Khalistan Liberation Force backed terrorist module





## HATE SPEECH TRACKER

Date	Incidents
05 July 23	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun threatens Indian Diplomats in Western Countries
12 July 23	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun threatens to disrupt Cricket World Cup in India
18 July 23	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun threatens Indian leaders Amit Shah, S. Jaishankar, and Sanjay Kumar Verma
21 July 23	Sikhs For Justice threatens to 'besiege' Indian Missions around the world on August 15

**Click here to access the full list at [www.khalistanextremismmonitor.org](http://www.khalistanextremismmonitor.org)**

## COMPOSITE SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
14 July 23	1	4	A .32 Caliber revolver, and 10 grams of heroin
29 July 23	1	2	Two pistols along with 285 cartridges, 100 grams of opium, and 250 kilograms of 'lahan' (a raw material for liquor production)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Pistols – 4, Cartridges – 265, and Heroin – 1.47 kg.</b>







## ARMS & AMMUNITION SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
03 July 23	1	2	A .32 bore pistol, four cartridges and a .315 bore pistol
05 July 23	1	5	Five .32 bore country-made pistols and 10 magazines
08 July 23	1	3	Three 7.65 mm pistols
11 July 23	3	5	Two 9-mm and .32 bore pistols; a pistol and ten live cartridges; and a .32-bore pistol and 4 live cartridges
17 July 23	1	2	Three country-made pistols of .315 bore
19 July 23	1	1	One country-made pistol along with two live cartridges
20 July 23	1	0	A country-made .315 bore pistol
22 July 23	1	9	An illegal pistol and two live cartridges
24 July 23	1	2	A .315 bore pistol, a .32 bore pistol, one magazine, six live and three empty cartridges.
26 July 23	1	4	A .32 bore pistol with two magazines, 13 live cartridges of .32 bore; a country-made .315 bore pistol and six live cartridges of .315 bore.
27 July 23	1	2	A country-made pistol and live cartridges
28 July 23	1	3	Three .32 calibre pistols along with 10 live cartridges
29 July 23	1	5	Two illegal weapons and live ammunition
30 July 23	1	1	Nine illegal weapons
31 July 23	1	2	Nine illegal weapons
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>Pistols – 29, Magazine – 13, Cartridges – 66 and Illegal Weapons – 11.</b>





## DRUG SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 July 23	4	0	1.5 kilograms heroin
07 July 23	4	5	73 grams intoxicant powder; 650 intoxicating pills; and 27 grams intoxicant powder
12 July 23	1	2	200 kilograms of poppy husk
16 July 23	2	2	508 grams of opium & 1.2 kilograms of opium
18 July 23	2	1	2.35 kilograms of heroin; 16.26 grams of heroin
21 July 23	1	1	110 grams of heroin
23 July 23	1	2	20 kilograms of heroin
24 July 23	2	41	197.13 grams heroin; 14 kilograms poppy husk; 3.7 kilograms of heroin
25 July 23	1	19	320 grams of heroin
26 July 23	1	79	128 grams of heroin; 115 kilograms poppy husk; 2,560 intoxicant tablets
27 July 23	4	9	108 grams of amphetamine; 70 grams of heroin; 18 kilograms of pure-grade heroin; 885 grams of heroin.
28 July 23	2	1	425 grams of heroin
30 July 23	2	4	1 kilograms of heroin; 3 kilograms of heroin
31 July 23	1	12	40 grams of heroin, 12 kilograms of Ganja, and 1 kilogram of poppy husk
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>Heroin – 51.70 kg; Poppy Husk – 330 kg; Opium – 1.7 kg; Ganja (Marijuana) – 12 kg; Intoxicant Powder – 100 gm; Amphetamines – 108 gm; Intoxicant Tablets/Capsules/Pills – 3,210.</b>

