

## URGENT STATEMENT

WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014

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### **Scottish Sikhs call for immediate action as secret documents suggest British involvement in 1984 Sikh massacre**

Following the publication of recently declassified documents, the *Glasgow Gurdwara* demands urgent clarification on the role played by British officials in the planning of the Indian Army attack on Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar (also, 'Golden Temple') in June 1984.

The 'top secret' documents, recently released after the lapse of the '30-year rule', show that the Indian Government "*sought British advice over a plan to remove Sikh extremists from the Golden Temple in Amritsar*". The documents show that the UK Foreign Minister, with the authorisation of PM Margaret Thatcher, responded favourably, as a result of which an SAS officer (UK special forces) "*...visited India and drawn up a plan which has been approved by Mrs Gandhi*".

Surinder Singh, President of *Gurdwara Guru Granth Sahib* said, "*I am shocked at what these documents reveal and am extremely agitated at the thought that the British Government and its agencies could have played a part in the eventual massacre, torture and unlawful arrest of thousands of Sikh men, women and children.*"

*"The attack which took place during a major Sikh festival, was the Indian Government's response to an ongoing agitation for basic state & human rights to be afforded to the people of Panjab. It resulted in the death of thousands, in addition to the unholy destruction of the Sikh religious and political centre, Sri Harmandir Sahib and Sri Akal Takhat Sahib."*

*"This is and will remain one of the darkest episodes for the Republic of India and is a clear instance of grave human rights abuses committed under the auspices of the State.*

*"2014 is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this atrocity, and still the story is incomplete.*

*"We welcome Prime Minister David Cameron's swift response by setting up an enquiry, yet these revelations are 30 years too late, and I urge him to present the full facts publicly so that the truth of this massacre can be exposed.*

*"We will be writing to the Prime Minister on this issue and urge all to sign the public petition supporting this cause."*