



INTERNATIONAL SIKH CONFEDERATION

ਅੰਤਰਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਗਠਨ

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Date 18.11.2025

Sir Man Hee Lee
Honble Chairman, HWPL
Seoul, South Korea
Email:busan@hwpl.kr

Subject: Proposal to Commemorate the 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of the Ninth Sikh Guru by HWPL.

Respected Chairman Sir Man Hee Lee,
Greetings from International Sikh Confederation

We wish to respectfully bring to your kind attention that this year marks the 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of the Ninth Sikh Guru, *Guru Tegh Bahadur ji*, who, on 24th November 1675, made the supreme sacrifice to uphold the universal right to freedom of religion. And, it is especially significant that his sacrifice was not for his own followers, but for those belonging to a faith different from his own. (Please find a note attached)

This selfless act reflects his profound love for all humanity. *Guru Tegh Bahadur ji* stands as a timeless symbol of human dignity and the fundamental rights we cherish today.

As a member of HWPL, we humbly propose that your esteemed organization commemorate this historic milestone in a manner befitting its deep significance (at a date of your choosing).

Such a tribute would not only honour *Guru Tegh Bahadur ji*'s legacy but also reaffirm HWPL's leadership in promoting interfaith harmony and human rights. It would serve to unite member organizations in a shared expression of reverence and strengthen our collective mission to build sustainable peace.

With deep regards,

Dr Birendra Kaur

Attachment: A Note on *Guru Tegh Bahadur ji*'s Martyrdom



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A Note on Guru Tegh Bahadur *ji*'s Martyrdom

Guru Tegh Bahadur *ji*, the Ninth Sikh Guru, occupies a unique and revered place in world history for his fearless stand in defence of religious freedom. His martyrdom on 24th November, 1675, in Delhi (India) was not only a spiritual act of resistance but also a defining moment in the global discourse on human rights and liberty of conscience.

Historical Context

During the 17th century, India was under the rule of the Mughal Emperor, Aurangzeb, whose reign was marked by aggressive policies of religious conformity. A campaign of forced conversions was launched, targeting non-Muslim communities. The Kashmiri Pandits, a learned and devout Hindu community, faced severe persecution and were given a choice to either convert to Islam or face death.

In desperation, a delegation of Pandits approached Guru Tegh Bahadur *ji* at Anandpur Sahib, seeking protection. After listening to their plight, Guru *Ji* asked them to tell the Emperor that if he can convert Guru Tegh Bahadur, then we all will also convert.

The Guru was arrested along with his companions and imprisoned in the Red Fort. Tortures and allurements failed to renounce his principles. His companions - Bhai Mati Das, Bhai Sati Das, and Bhai Dayala - were executed in gruesome ways before his eyes, yet his resolve remained unshaken.

Finally, Guru Tegh Bahadur *ji* was publicly beheaded at Chandni Chowk, Delhi. His martyrdom ignited a spirit of resistance and righteousness that would shape the Sikh ethos forever.

Legacy and Relevance

Guru Tegh Bahadur *ji*'s sacrifice was a selfless act to uphold the dignity of others' beliefs—a rare and noble gesture in any era. He became a martyr not for his own faith, but for the faith of others, making him a universal symbol of interfaith solidarity and moral courage.

Today, as we commemorate the 350th anniversary of this historic martyrdom, Guru Tegh Bahadur *ji*'s message remains profoundly relevant, in a world that is still grappling with religious intolerance and ideological extremism.

Let this tribute be a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to peace, pluralism, and the freedom of faith. May Guru Tegh Bahadur *ji*'s martyrdom continue to inspire humanity toward a more just and harmonious world.
