

Thank you for the opportunity, I am here on behalf of my father, Mr. Baldev Singh.

35 years ago, on 4 February 1986 my dad received a phone call about the murder of my teenaged brother. I can never forget that dreadful day, tearful eyes of my dad, cries of my mother, brother, sister. The neighbourhood rushed to our house in anger and tears.

It was as if a bolt of lightning out of the sky had struck us. I remember my dad rushing to the city of Nakodar with my uncles and then later at night when they returned, we were told that police didn't allow them to enter curfew bound city, but Chief Minister Punjab had assured my grandpa, Head Priest of Takhat Sri Keshgarh Sahib that the police will handover the dead body of my brother and others to the families for cremation.

My father went to the city early morning next day where he was taken to Civil Hospital in a police jeep and there, he was able to see the dead body of my brother and three other Sikh students who were extra judicially murdered by Indian security forces by opening live fire without any warning and of course without provocation. After identifying my brother, my father claimed the body, but police tricked him by sending him to the police station to get permission and while he was away the police whisked away bodies of all four. The police after declaring them unidentified and unclaimed used kerosene fuel to burn the bodies of all four in a single pyre while the families pleaded for the bodies of their loved ones.

Their post mortems were done in the dead of the night and most of the post mortem reports have the names and addresses of the victims. My father staged a sit-in-protest and was later joined by local politicians, member of the state legislative assembly (MLA) and Sikh organizations.

At that point, the state government promised a judicial inquiry into the incident by a retired high court judge, Justice Gurnam Singh. The Rule of Law demands the Judicial Inquiry Report to be tabled and discussed on the state assembly floor, along with the mandatory Action Taken Report, within six months of submission. This inquiry was completed and the report submitted to the state government on 31 October 1986, only to be hidden away for 33 years. After receiving Part one of the two-part report from the state legislative assembly library, my father filed a lawsuit against the police officers in the state High Court in March of 2019. There it was disclosed by the state home department that part 2 of the report was "missing".

When records of the incident and related police reports were requested under the Right to Information Act, the police responded by saying that they have no record of any such incident. It appears that the local police have destroyed all records related to the incident and will claim that it never happened, even though there is record of a judicial inquiry and news reports spanning over 35 years.

My dad has approached all state authorities including Director General of Police, State Assembly Members, Chief Minister, Governor, Home Department as well as Member Parliaments of both upper and lower house and President of India for Part 2 of the Inquiry and action on the report to no avail.

Nothing has changed in the last 35 years. Not even a single perpetrator of this atrocity has been brought to justice.

The 35th Anniversary of this atrocity is being presented to the International communities as Saka Nakodar Global Awareness Campaign to highlight the DENIAL of Justice.

We are grateful to District 8 city councilwoman Sylvia Arenas for facilitating Saka Nakodar event as part of International Saka Nakodar Global Awareness Campaign.

We are thankful to Congressman, Assemblymen, County Supervisors and major cities for recognizing 4th February as Saka Nakodar Day and standing in solidarity with victim families in our pursuit for justice.

My dad was 39 when this crime happened, today he is 74 and still fighting for justice. The parents of other three victims have passed away.

It is our humble request to Mayor Liccardo and all Council members to help us document 1986 Saka Nakodar atrocity by issuing a Proclamation recognizing 4th February as Saka Nakodar Day in the City of San Jose.

Thank you for standing in solidarity with the victims' families who have been fighting for JUSTICE, TRUTH, ACCOUNTABILITY and CLOSURE for 35 years.