



GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL

International Voice of The Sikhs

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GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL
VOICE OF SIKHS WORLDWIDE

The Honorable Prime Minister,
Shri Narendra Modi ji,
Prime Minister's Office,
South Block, Raisina Hill,
New Delhi - 110011, India
9 September 2023

Subject: Appeal to Rename 'Veer Bal Diwas' to 'Sahibzade Shahadat Diwas' to Commemorate the Supreme Sacrifice of Sahibzadas

Hon. Prime Minister,
Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Global Sikh Council (GSC), an international representative body of Sikh organizations and Gurdwaras in over 31 countries, registered as a charitable entity with the Charity Commission of England and Wales. Our organization's mission is to unite Sikh communities worldwide, represent them on the international stage, and work towards the advancement of Sikh religious institutions, education, and the holistic development of marginalized sections of the community.

The Global Sikh Council is deeply concerned about the naming of 'Veer Bal Diwas,' as designated by the Government of India, to mark December 26 as the martyrdom day of the younger Sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. These beloved sons of the 10th Guru are widely respected and are commonly referred to as 'Sahibzadas.' Due to their fearless challenges against the tyranny of Mughal rulers, history has rightfully bestowed the title 'Baba' before their names. It is disheartening for the Sikh community to see these revered 'Babas' being referred to as 'Bal' (children). We believe that governments respect Sikh sentiments.

Therefore, we earnestly urge you to consider renaming 'Veer Bal Diwas' to 'Sahibzade Shahadat Diwas' in order to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's younger sons, Baba Fateh Singh Ji and Baba Zorawar Singh Ji, in alignment with Sikh ethos and sentiments. It is important to note that this naming does not have the approval of the Sikh 'Panth,' and even the supreme constitutional body of the Sikhs, the SGPC, along with other religious organizations, have voiced objections due to its discordance with the emotions, ideology, and sentiments behind martyrdom and Sikh traditions.

Warm regards,

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