



ਮਰਣੁ ਮੁਣਸਾ ਸੂਰਿਆ ਹਕੁ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਹੋਇ ਮਰਨਿ ਪਰਵਾਣੇ॥

Dedicated to  
the memory and sacrifice of  
**Bhai Balkar Singh**  
who laid down his life  
while countering the heretic cultist  
Gurmeet Ram Rahim  
from continuing  
his venomous blasphemy  
against the Sikhs and their religion



## Genesis of the Dera Sauda-Sikh conflict A True Account

### Prelude:

It started in April 2007 when Gurmeet Ram Rahim, the self-styled patron pseudo-saint of the cultist dera at Sirsa in Haryana mocked at the Sikhs by imitating the Tenth Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh, by wearing attire similar to that the Guru and undertaking a baptism ceremony identical to that of the initiation (Amrit Parchar) ceremony of the Sikhs. In a larger sense, it started much earlier, since the times when forces inimical to the Sikh religion and philosophy have denigrated the Sikh ethos in one way or the other.



Shaheed  
Bhai Kamaljeet Singh

Contemporaneously, in April 1978, a similar group, calling itself Nirankaris, mocked at the Sikhs in the heart of the holy city of Amritsar and killed 13 Sikhs in cold blood. In exactly the same way, the Sauda Dera goons killed Bhai Kamaljeet Singh in Sangrur on 17 May 2007 and Bhai Balkar Singh on 20 June 2008 in Mumbai.

The truth is that Gurmeet Ram Rahim, who is the head of the 700-acre dera at Sirsa is not a Sikh, nor does he proclaim himself to be one. He toots to be the fountainhead of spirituality. He has a Sikh face and his affinity with Sikhs ends there entirely. Everything that he does or says is a transgression over the principles of Sikh religion and traditions. Those who are not keen to take pains to understand the truth may continue to revel in their make-believe world, about which no one can do anything. For those who would want to understand, here are the facts -the pure and true facts.

### What is Sacha Sauda?

During the course of his sojourns, Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion, preached the concept of *Sacha Sauda*, literally meaning the True Bargain. Guru Nanak said that the True Bargain is the one which is well-earned by hard labour and efforts, not by deceit, loot and plunder. The words *Sacha Sauda* are an uncompromising part of the Sikh religious lexicon.

### What is Sacha Sauda Dera?

To hoodwink unsuspecting Sikhs and to confuse non-Sikhs and the media into believing that it is Sikh sect, which it is not, this dera has hijacked the sacred Sikh nomenclature of *Sacha Sauda*. Borrowing this term, Gurmeet Ram Rahim has used it to confound and confuse the lay Sikh in the Malwa belt of Punjab and Haryana into submission to his permissive notoriety to which many young girls have also fallen victim to. His headquarters in Sirsa is called by this name, and over the last decade or so, he has acquired vast lands and other property and a dangerous cultist sway over his followers.

This new 'religion' has no cardinal doctrine and survives and grows on feeding a casteist agenda, using Sikh imagery and challenging the fundamental basis of Sikhism, that is, the Shabad as Guru.

Its liberal, promiscuous and free-wheeling pseudo-culture is designed to create mass hysteria and a cult-like secretive sway over the personal and family lives of followers, promising them "heavens" but actually leading them to hell.

The fear psychosis is so strong that some of the 200 odd girls living in dera want to go home but fear the

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High Court and the cult chief is on bail in these offences. The CBI is also investigating the murder of the son of the Sarpanch of village Khanpur Koliyan in Kurukshetra district of Haryana, who too has been killed at the instance of Gurmeet Ram Rahim.

From time to time, the Deputy Commissioners of Sirsa, have been receiving complaints of land-grabbing, drug-peddling, tax-evasion and the like but the political big-

wrath of the baba.

This cult is the culmination of moral decay. As the Bhagwad Gita points out, "*Sivanam puja paritya jaye manussanam upasanam*" meaning, "as moral decay sets in men take to adulation of and subservience to mortal humans and abandon worship of the unseen God."

Bhai Gurdas, a contemporary of Sikh Gurus and an exponent of Sikh religious texts, tell us that a symptom of moral decadence is "*Koi kisai na varijai soi karai jo mana bhavai*" meaning, "social censure and absolute moral judgement disappear and men become plaything of their own passing fancies and corruptive passion".

### Is the Dera chief facing any criminal charges?

The Central Bureau of Investigation has charged Gurmeet Ram Rahim with the following crimes:

1. The murder of Ram Chander Chattarpati, the editor of *Poora Sach* (Complete Truth) a weekly news magazine, published from Sirsa. The gunmen who killed him were Dera followers who have admitted that they were acting under instructions of the Dera and its chief.
2. Criminal conspiracy in the murder of Ranjit Singh -a dera manager.
3. The rape of sadhvis at the Sirsa Dera including Ranjit Singh's sister.

Chargesheets have been filed in the CBI court in Ambala at the direction of the Punjab and Haryana

wigs have not allowed them to take any action. This aspect of the Dera warrants a thorough probe which the government has failed to do so far.

### How does the Dera acquire land?

Seekers of truth should go to Sirsa and other centres. Coercion and political pressure are the tools used to buy or usurp land. Despite repeated requests and demands by journalists and Sikh groups, there has been no enquiry into the vast properties of the Dera which claims that it does not take any alms or donations.

### What has been is the role of the government of Haryana and the Central government?

Mr. Ram Chander Chattarpati, the editor of *Poora Sach* was attacked on 24 October 2002 and he succumbed to his injuries on 23 November 2002. He was killed because he had published extracts from the letter written by a female disciple who had levelled charges of her sexual exploitation and that of scores of others by the baba. Though the murder was largely ignored by mainstream national media, it attracted international attention and there were protests by journalist organisations. Yet it took five years of dilly-dallying by the two governments before a case was filed.

### How has the media in Northern India reacted to the work of the Dera in Sirsa?

Haryana Patrakar Sangh, Haryana Union of Journalists, Chandigarh Journalists Association, Punjab Union of Journalists, Himachal Pradesh Working Journalists Association, Himachal Pradesh

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Union of Journalists and various civil liberties groups have demanded a CBI probe into the functioning of the Dera, including its sources of income and a review of the firearm licences issued to Dera inmates.

### **Does the baba have political clout?**

The social importance of the baba is because of the political influence he wields in the Malwa region. His political cell is very active. Leaders from Punjab and Haryana have always sought his support during elections. The son-in-law of the Baba is an MLA in the Punjab Assembly. In the last assembly elections, this cult had issued instructions to its followers to vote for the Congress (I) party.

### **Has he been given Z-plus security?**

He is perhaps the only cult chief, who has been accorded the same security as is provided to the Prime Minister of the country. All citizens of the country have the right to ask as to what societal or national purpose is Gurmeet Ram Rahim serving to be given such a privilege.

While he has been provided a major security cover, around 10 journalists, who have written against the dera have been given police protection as they fear for their lives from the dera goons.

### **What is the role of the government of Punjab?**

A case under section 295-A IPC, which is an offence of deliberate or malicious act intended to outrage the religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or its religious beliefs has been registered in Bhatinda in May 2007, but there has been no progress in the case.

### **Has the Akal Takht intervened in the matter?**

The supreme temporal body of the Sikhs, the Akal Takht Sahib has issued two hukamnammas against the dera. The first Hukamnama (Proclamation of the Akal Takht) was issued on 17 May 2008 and it calls for the religious, social and political boycott of Dera Sacha Sauda and its followers. The second proclamation issued on 20 May 2007 calls for a closure of all centres of the Dera.

### **What are the interests of the pseudo-Baba outside Punjab?**

Gurmeet Ram Rahim has spread his wings all across the country. Nobody has investigated as to what is

**According to Bhai Gurdas, moral decadence is exemplified when “*Koi kisai na varijai soi karai jo mana bhavai*” meaning, “social censure and absolute moral judgement disappear and men become plaything of their own passing fancies and corruptive passion”.**

the source of the dera's funding for the proposed 200-acre centre at Raigad in Maharashtra. No section of the media has highlighted that the dera in Mysore is under the scrutiny of the government there. According to a reply filed by the Dera in the Supreme Court, it has over 100 plus institutions spread over 13 states.

### **What was the pseudo-Baba doing in Mumbai?**

The pseudo-Baba was shopping for himself and his family at the Nirmal Lifestyles Mall in Mulund, Mumbai. The baba was travelling with Z-plus security but had more than a dozen private gun-toting supporters who were travelling with him.

### **What should the people of Maharashtra do?**

The people and media of Maharashtra must understand the facts and exert full pressure on the government to arrest him for the daylight murder of Bhai Balkar Singh in Mulund. His proposed dera in Raigad should be denied permission and a ban imposed on his entry to the state.

### **Has the Dera chief tendered an apology for his blasphemy to the Sikhs?**

Inspite of interventions by many intermediaries, the dera chief has not tendered an “unqualified apology” for his misdemeanour.

### **Why are Sikhs opposed to the Dera?**

The dera of Gurmeet Ram Rahim is a permissive cult, which is heaping abuse and blasphemy against the Sikh religion. He and his cult has been doing this for quiet some time and in spite of protestations from Sikhs all over the country, the government of India has not thought it fit to arrest him or stop his anti-Sikh campaign.



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Guru Granth Sahib-The only Living Guru of the Sikhs

### So, what is the issue?

The so-called Dera Sacha Sauda is a state-patronised Sikh-baiting group whose entire methodology is anti-Sikh, consciously and purposely designed to taunt the Sikhs by denigrate their faith with provocative writings and deeds and smashing their political potential. The Sikhs are clear in their demand that the Dera must close sho.

### An Appeal to Mumbaikars:

The Sikh community has never harmed public property or inconvenienced any one, least of all the common man. Despite the worst provocations in the past, the notion of *Sikh mobs* has never been a reality and the Sikhs are committed to let it be like that.

As governments turn a total blind eye, the Sikh youth perceives everything as a manifestation of the government and therefore resorts to such activities like rail and road stoppages to force the government to redress their grievances.

Widespread protests by Sikhs in Punjab and all over the country have had no effect over the government in stopping the nefarious activities of this dera. It is incomprehensible that a person who has been unreasonably and unlawfully provided with Z-plus security and who has been warned by the courts, should still continue to move around with private

goons with all-India gun licenses.

Someone has to explain as to why this man is so important to the powers that be?

Nonetheless, the Sikh community of Mumbai expresses regret at the inconvenience caused to the masses in the past one week and appeals to the State of Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana and the Central Government to take stringent action against the accused.

Using God-like names of the Sikh, Hindu and Muslim faiths, Gurmeet Ram Rahim is a threat to all. The Muslims have already challenged him to remove the pious word Rahim out of his name.

We do not say that we want everyone to follow the Sikh way of life, but certainly and under no circumstances would Sikhs allow profanity nor would they tolerate the usurpation of the religio-socio-political ethos of Sikhism. Crude and corrupting insults to Sikhism and outraging their religious beliefs are simply unacceptable.

To wit, the Sauda Dera at Sirsa is a satanic enterprise with no religious foundation and monumental possibilities of self-destruction which no modern society can afford.

It is our fervent appeal to all sections of society to rise against this movement, lest it become an uncontrollable Frankenstein monster which may become difficult to reign in later.

The Sikh prayer for humanity is:

ਜਿਸੁ ਸਰਬ ਸੁਖਾ ਫਲ ਲੋੜੀਅਹਿ ਸੇ ਸਚੁ ਕਮਾਵਉ ॥  
ਨੇੜੈ ਦੇਖਉ ਪਾਰਬ੍ਰਹਮੁ ਇਕੁ ਨਾਮੁ ਧਿਆਵਉ ॥  
ਹੋਇ ਸਗਲ ਕੀ ਰੇਣੁਕਾ ਹਰਿ ਸੰਗਿ ਸਮਾਵਉ ॥  
ਦੂਖੁ ਨ ਦੇਈ ਕਿਸੈ ਜੀਅ ਪਤਿ ਸਿਉ ਘਰਿ ਜਾਵਉ ॥  
ਪਤਿਤ ਪੁਨੀਤ ਕਰਤਾ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਨਾਨਕ ਸੁਣਾਵਉ ॥

If man would have true felicity and his existential situation redeemed,

Then let him accept and act Truth, remembering Him, the God.

Let him be humble altogether and thus be one with God.

Let him hurt no one and thus abide steadfast in the inner peace of his own heart.

Nanak testifies for all to hear;

God is omniscient to purify and exalt the fallen and the debased.

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