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**UNITED  
SIKHS**

*Recognize the Human Race as One*  
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*To transform underprivileged and minority communities and individuals into informed and vibrant members of society through civic, educational and personal development programs, by fostering active participation in social and economic activity.*

Mr. Prakash Singh Badal  
Hon'ble Chief Minister Punjab  
Room No. 32, Floor 2,  
Pb. Civil Sectt., Sector 2  
Chandigarh, Panjab

25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016

Dear Respected Sir,

Vaheguroo Ji Ka Khalsa Vaheguroo Ji Ki Fateh

We are writing to you regarding French President, Mr. Francois Hollande's, visit to Chandigarh on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016, which would have provided your government a unique opportunity to raise many issues of interest on both sides.

On the eve of the French President's visit to Chandigarh, UNITED SIKHS submitted a letter to the French President asking him to end the turban ban in schools and on ID photos. UNITED SIKHS' letter to the French President is attached herewith.

As you may be aware, UNITED SIKHS' lawyers fought and won three cases at the UN Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) on grounds that France had violated, inter alia, the religious freedom of: 17 year old Sikh student, Bikramjit Singh, by expelling him from school, following the passing of the law that banned religious signs in public schools in 2004; of 57 year old Shingara Mann Singh when he was asked to remove his turban for his passport photograph; and of 76 year old Ranjit Singh when he was asked to remove his turban for his ID photograph. However, despite the victories French Sikhs continue to be deprived of their right to wear a turban.

UNITED SIKHS and the undersigned NGOs who have been advocating for the lifting of the turban ban in France would like to know the following re you and/or your government's initiative re the French turban ban:

1. What steps have you and/or your government taken to date to convince the French government that the turban ban should be lifted?
2. Did you and or your government discuss the French Turban Ban issue with the French President during his visit to Chandigarh on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016 and what is the outcome?
3. If you and or your government did not raise the turban issue with the French President, why not, considering it was your best opportunity to do so as he was visiting Chandigarh, the capital of Panjab, whose government you lead?

4. What are the steps that you are planning to take in the near future that will ensure that French Government lifts the Turban ban?
5. Are you and/or your government prepared to discuss with UNITED SIKHS and other NGOs the way forward for Sikhs in France, re the lifting of the turban ban?
6. Do you accept that the continuing turban ban in France will reflect poorly on your administration and your relationship with the Prime Minister, who has many opportunities to convince the French president that the Sikh's turban is mandatory?

Yours truly,

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Director, UNITED SIKHS  
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7. Satnam Singh Paonta Sahib  
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