

Dera Sauda Sirsa Chief Ram Raheem Blasphemy Issue - Timeline - Updated on October 26, 2015 at 09:20pm IST

1. **May 2007 (2nd week)**- A photo of Dera Sauda Sirsa Chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh appears in newspapers where he is said to be dressed as the Tenth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh. He is said to have held an initiation process similar to that conducted by Guru Gobind Singh ji on Vaisakhi 1699, and is accused of blasphemy and of hurting Sikh sentiments.

The controversy was followed by multiple attacks on the Dera members.

2. **May 17, 2007** – The Sikh Nation, after the meeting at Takht Sri Damdama Sahib (Talwandi Sabo, Punjab), passes a Gurmatta for political and religious boycott of the Dera Sirsa Chief and his followers.

(A Gurmatta is a resolution in the name of the Guru. It is a counsel or resolution adopted by the Sikhs at an assembly of theirs held in the name of the Guru concerning any religious, social or political issue.)

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-sikh-priests-call-for-social-boycott-of-dera-parts-of-punjab-tense-1097409>

<http://archive.deccanherald.com/DeccanHerald.com/Content/May182007/national200705172279.asp>

3. **May 20, 2007**: The temporal seat of Sikhs, Sri Akal Takht Sahib Sahib, passes Gurmattas in which the Dera Sirsa Chief is asked to shut down his deras (centres) across Punjab failing which next serious steps would be taken.

Link to copy of gumatta:

<http://unitedsikhs.org/PressReleases/WithdrawalGurmatta1017/Gurmatta2007.JPG>

Link to English translation of Gurmatta:

<http://unitedsikhs.org/PressReleases/WithdrawalGurmatta1017/TranslationOn2007Gurmatta.pdf>

4. **May 27/28 2007**: Dera Sirsa submits a so-called apology (for blasphemy and hurting Sikhs' sentiments) to Sri Akal Takht Sahib.

Link to so-called apology:

<http://unitedsikhs.org/PressReleases/WithdrawalGurmatta1017/apologyLetter.JPG>

English Translation of above so-called apology letter

: <http://unitedsikhs.org/PressReleases/WithdrawalGurmatta1017/Dera%20Letter%20Translation-%20Engapology.pdf>

5. **May 29/30 2007** – Terming the apology by Dera Chief as 'inadequate' and 'more of a press note', Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti, the then Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, asks to continue the boycott.

(The term **Jathedar** refers to a leader of a jatha (a group, a community or a nation).

Among the Sikhs, a **Jathedar** is an ordained leader of the clergy and leads a Takht, a sacred and authoritative seat. Sikh clergy consists of five **Jathedars**, one each from five takhts or sacred seats.)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Dera-boycott-to-continue-Akal-Takht/articleshow/2084984.cms>

6. **16 July 2007** – The Dera Sirsa Chief was himself attacked by a mob but escaped unhurt.

7. **2 February 2008** - The Dera Sirsa Chief's s cavalcade was attacked.
8. **2009** - A criminal case filed against the Dera Sirsa Chief for hurting the Sikhs' sentiments which was rejected by a Sirsa court.
9. **17th Jan 2015** - In the interest of peace and social harmony, the Punjab Govt bans a controversial film, MSG: The Messenger of God, starring the Dera Sirsa Chief, ahead of its release on 13th Feb 2015.
10. **September 2015** (date unknown) – A so-called 'apology letter', purportedly signed by the Dera Sirsa Chief, is received by Sri Akal Takht Sahib.
11. **September 24, 2015** - Sri Akal Takht Sahib passes a Gurmatta and the so-called apology letter and explanation is accepted. The Dera Chief is warned to not to repeat the mistake.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/punjab-and-haryana/8-yrs-on-akal-takht-pardons-dera-sacha-sauda-chief/>

Link to copy of Gurmatta:

<http://unitedsikhs.org/PressReleases/WithdrawalGurmatta1017/Gurmatta09-24.JPG>

English Translation of Gurmatta:

http://unitedsikhs.org/PressReleases/WithdrawalGurmatta1017/SeptGurmatta_eng.pdf

Press release:

<http://unitedsikhs.org/PressReleases/WithdrawalGurmatta1017/Press-Note-by-Jathedars-page-001.jpg>

English Translation of press release:

<http://unitedsikhs.org/PressReleases/WithdrawalGurmatta1017/PressNote.jpg>

12. **September 25, 2015** – MSG-2 The Messenger, A film starring the Dera Sirsa Chief, is released in Punjab. Sri Akal Takht Sahib's decision to pardon the Dera Chief sparks controversy. Sikh Organizations oppose the Gurmatta as being politically motivated.
13. **September 27, 2015** – Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) hails Sri Akal Takht Sahib's decision. Dera Sirsa orders its followers to withdraw cases against Sikhs which were filed when both the communities clashed after the 2007 incident.

<http://www.dailypost.in/regions/punjab/47291-sgpc-members-hail-akal-takht-decision>

14. **October 03, 2015**: Bhai Ranjit Singh Khalsa Dhadrianwale, a Sikh preacher, receives a direct threat from a Jathedar (name of Jathedar not revealed) for speaking out and condemning the decision to pardon the Dera Sirsa Chief publically. Bhai Ranjit Singh gives the most fearless public reply till date.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1mXUoPfNA4&feature=youtu.be>

15. **October 04, 2007**: Sikh outfits firm on Sarbat Khalsa. to meet on Oct 12, 2015. Various Sikh organizations may hold "Sarbat Khalsa" (congregation of entire Sikh community), prior to Diwali in Amritsar. A meeting to chalk out the preparatory schedule for Sarbat Khalsa to be organized at Gurdwara Singh Shaheedan, Model Town, on October 12.

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/punjab/sikh-outfits-firm-on-sarbat-khalsa-to-meet-on-oct-12/141715.html>

16. **October 6, 2007:** Giani Mal Singh, Jathedar Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib, attacked by a Sikh youth. The youth gets arrested on Oct 7, 2015.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/06/takhat-kesgarh-sahib-jatehdar-giani-mal-singh-attacked-by-a-person-in-nihang-attire/>

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/07/youth-arrested-for-attack-on-giani-mal-singh-no-case-registered-so-far/>

17. **October 06, 2007:** A poster campaign launched against Jathedars.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/06/poster-campaign-against-takhat-jathedars-resign-or-face-boycott/>

18. **October 06, 2015:** Sikh Youth protests at Sri Akal Takht Sahib.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBVBBM5GowU&feature=youtu.be>

19. **October 06, 2015:** Jathedar Balwant Singh Nandgarh, Ex-Jathedar Takht Sri Damdama Sahib Talwandi Sabo, condemns threats to Sikh preachers by present Jathedars.

<http://fatehnewstv.com/nandgarh-to-jathedars.php>

20. **October 07, 2010:** Bhai Pinderpal Singh, a renowned Sikh preacher, opposes pardon to the Dera Sirsa Chief by the Jathedars, requests them to reverse their decision to pardon Dera Sirsa Chief.

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=849677718486535>

21. **October 07, 2010:** After attack, Giani Mal Singh faces Media; justifies pardon.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/07/after-attack-giani-mal-singh-faces-media-justifies-pardon-to-dera-sauda-chief/>

22. **October 11, 2015 :** SAD Sarna holds panthic convention to discuss the issue. Resolve to call 'Sarbat Khalsa' on Bandi Chhod Diwas.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/12/sad-sarna-hold-panthic-convention-in-delhi-resolve-to-call-sarbat-khalsa/>

23. **October 12, 2015:** Another Sikh Youth arrested by CIA Amritsar in connection with poster campaign.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/11/full-text-of-resolutions-passed-by-11-oct-convention-by-sad-sarna/>

24. **October 12, 2015:** Sikh Bodies protest outside Giani Gurbachan Singh's house.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/12/dera-pardon-row-sikh-bodies-protest-outside-giani-gurbachan-singhs-house/>

25. **October 12, 2015:** United Akali Dal (UAD) and Shiromani Akali Dal Amritsar (Mann) announce they will hold a Sarbat Khalsa on 10th November 2015.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/12/uad-and-mann-dal-announce-to-hold-sarbat-khalsa-on-nov-10/>

26. **October 13, 2015:** Ontario and Quebec Sikh bodies and Gurudwara Committees pass three resolutions and reject pardon of Dera Chief.

Resolution 1: Jathedar's decision to pardon Dera Chief rejected.

Resolution 2: Call to hold Sarbat Khalsa on global level to ensure Sikhs' participation from the entire world.

Resolution 3: Reject state-sponsored appointment of Jathedars and insist on a framework of appointing Jathedars by Sarbat Khalsa.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/13/dera-pardon-issue-ontario-and-qubec-sikh-bodies-gurduara-committees-take-vital-initiative/>

27. October 13, 2015: Appointed Jathedars Refuse to Meet with Sangat; Forced to Live in Hiding After Pardoning the Dera Sirsa Chief.

https://www.sikh24.com/2015/10/13/appointed-jathedars-refuse-to-meet-with-sangat-forced-to-live-in-hiding-after-pardoning-gurmeet-ram-rahim/#.Vh5iv_mqqko

28. October 13, 2015: Thousands Attend Convention in New Delhi Seeking Sarbat Khalsa

https://www.sikh24.com/2015/10/13/thousands-attend-convention-in-new-delhi-seeking-sarbat-khalsa-sarna-keen-to-influence-panthik-decisions/#.Vh5iz_mqqko

29. October 16, 2015 : Sri Akal Takht issues withdrawal of controversial 'hukumnama' to pardon Dera Sirsa Chief by Jathedars.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/16/jathedars-withdraw-pardon-to-controversial-dera-sirsa-chief-gurmeet-ram-rahim/>

Link to copy of Gurmatta :

<http://unitedsikhs.org/PressReleases/WithdrawalGurmatta1017/Akal-Takhat-Letter.jpg>

English Translation of Gurmatta:

<http://unitedsikhs.org/PressReleases/WithdrawalGurmatta1017/Gurmatta10-16.JPG>

30. October 21, 2015: Akal Takht Panj-piare (or The Beloved Five, they are chosen according to Sikh Traditions and their orders are considered supreme) summon Jathedars of all Takhts, asked to appear at Sri Akal Takht Sahib on Oct 23, 2015 and give explanation for Dera Sirsa Chief Pardon issue.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/21/akal-takhts-5-pyaras-summons-jathedars-for-a-dera-pardon-issue/>

SGPC suspends Panj-pyare, Secretaries and Parcharaks (preachers) for opposing Jathedars.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/22/sgpc-suspends-panj-pyaras-secretaries-and-pracharaks-who-oppose-jathedars-for-pardon-to-dera-chief/>

31. October 23, 2010: Panj pyare of Sri Akal Takht Sahib direct SGPC to terminate services of Jathedars involved in Dera pardon decision after they failed to appear at Sri Akal Takht Sahib.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/23/panj-pyaras-direct-sgpc-to-terminate-services-of-jathedars-involved-in-dera-pardon-decision/>

Copy of Panj Pyare Gurmatta dated 23 Oct 2015

<http://www.sikhsiyasat.info/2015/10/official-copy-of-panj-pyare-gurmata/>

32. October 24, 2015: SGPC President Avtar Singh Makkar announces to turn down Panj Pyares' Gurmatta.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/24/avtar-singh-makkar-announce-to-turn-down-panj-pyares-gurmata-bhaur-says-executive-would-consider-gurmata/>

Amritsar district SAD(Badal) head and PEDDA chief resign over multiple issues in Punjab.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/24/amritsar-district-badal-dal-head-and-peda-chief-resigns/>

Current situation at Harike Pattan morcha tense.

<http://sikhsiyasat.net/2015/10/24/special-update-on-current-situation-at-harike-pattan-morcha-oct-24-2015/>

SGPC Executive Member Karnail Singh Panjoli has blasted the Akali Dal for playing with the sentiments of the Sikhs in Punjab

<http://www.sikh24.com/2015/10/24/rebel-sgpc-executive-member-blasts-akali-dal-b-seeks-inqlab/#.ViytGnrtnmko>

SGPC reinstates Panj-Pyare.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/punjab-under-fire-over-suspension-sgpc-reinstates-panj-pyaras/>