

Akal Takht Jathedar says he's working for release of Sikh detainees

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Giani Gurbachan Singh, Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, who was here on a special invitation of the managing committee of Gurdwara Sahib, Fremont, received a huge and warm welcome from the sangat. Bhai Jaswinder Singh Jandi, member of the Supreme Council, welcomed the Singh Sahib and asked him to take the initiative of leading the efforts to get released the Sikh youth languishing in jails since 1984.

He also appealed to the Jathedar Sahib to work for the release of Prof Devinderpal Singh Bhullar. Significantly, Prof Bhullar's mother Bibi Upkar Kaur ji was present on the occasion and it was in her presence that Jathedar Sahib assured all support for the efforts.

Addressing the Sikh sangat, Giani Gurbachan Singh ji hailed the initiatives taken and plans drafted by the Fremont gurdwara management. Slamming the Indian establishment for the attack on Sri Darbar Sahib in 1984, the jathedar said no one who ever attacked this center of Sikhism survived more than 154 days.

Bibi Upkaar Kaur also addressed the sangat and asked the Sikh community to



Jathedar Sahib

Akal Takht Jathedar, Giani Gurbachan Singh, has written to the Punjab Government asking it to work towards release of death row convict Prof Devinderpal Singh Bhullar.

work towards securing the freedom of Prof Bhullar. The Jathedar Sahib said he has already written in this connection to the Punjab government. He appealed for unity in the panth and said it was time that the community leaders focused on a practical approach and work.

American Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (AGPC) coordinator Pritpal Singh stressed the need for an independent identity of the Sikhs and urged the Jathedar to take steps in this direction. He also asked him to ensure that some system is evolved for the selection and appointment of a Jathedar.

Pritpal Singh also expressed concern at the trend of gurdwaras outside India also going in for elections for their managing committees and said things have come to such a pass that non-Sikhs were being made voters to elect the managing panels. He asked the Jathedar to issue some kind of an edict or directive about such practice.

Later, the sangat did a parikarma of the gurdwara that was led by the hand written bir of Sri Guru Granth Sahib presented to the Fremont Gurdwara by Bhai Jaswant Singh Khosa. Chief sewadar of the gurughar, Bhai Harjot Singh, said the visit of Giani Gurbachan Singh, Jathedar of Akal Takht, was a matter of good fortune and Akal Purakh's blessings for the sangat of Fremont.



Giani Ranjit Singh Head Granthi Gurdwara Sahib Sees Ganj



Mark Green Mayor Union City California



Dr Pritpal Singh

No way non-Sikhs can be voters in gurdwaras, says Jathedar

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FREMONT



Bibi Upkaar Kaur, mother of Prof Bhullar, being honored.



S Gurnam S Gerry Commissioner Union City



Sanman S Jaswant S Khosa



Sanman S Kewal Singh Mundia

On his visit to Fremont, Akal Takht jathedar Giani Gurbachan Singh visited Bhai Harpal Singh Mann's residence for a meeting where he also discussed plans and efforts for securing release of Prof Devinderpal Singh Bhullar. Prof Bhullar's mother Bibi Upkaar Kaur was also present.

Later, the Jathedar said while the gurughar was open to a person of any and every persuasion, a voter with a right to elect the management of any gurdwara has to be a Sikh and cannot be a non-Sikh. As for the managers of the Gurdwara, Giani Gurbachan Singh said they have to be Amritdharis.

When the jathedar was told about the case of the San Jose gurdwara where non-Sikhs, particularly Hindus, have been made voters with a right to exercise their franchise for election of the managing committee, he said it was a most unfortunate development. He said if any Sikh came forward before the Akal Takht with a petition on this issue, the temporal seat will definitely take a view on it.

The jathedar was told about certain elements' continuous and persistent efforts to find fault with one or the other issue. He was told that there were elements who think it was okay to make votes of Hindus in gurdwaras, help apply for illegal green cards, turn sponsorships into a business, waste precious resources of the gurughar or come to blows in front of the Indian consulate, but such elements will not stop from finding faults with Akhand Paths. The jathedar laughed at the big picture and urged the sincere community members not to be disheartened by the efforts of the few and instead focus on constructive issues.

