

# WSO Justifies Advocating For Khalistan

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ing, but Singh said there is simply no evidence Sikh extremism exists in Canada today. He said advocating for an independent Sikh state is no different from Quebec wanting to separate from Canada.

However several Indian government leaders have pushed Canada to suppress calls here for Sikh independence, and the issue was a major rain cloud over Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's visit to India last February. That trip was dogged not just by the prime minister's decision to wear high-end Indian wedding attire at many public events but also by invitations to two receptions given to a man convicted in 1986 of attempting to assassinate an Indian cabinet minister.

Liberal MP Randeep Sarai, who apologized during the trip for being the one who invited attempted murderer Jaspal Atwal to the receptions, said the report looks at 12 years of terrorist plots or attacks in Canada and not a single one of them involved Sikhs. Neither was Sikh extremism mentioned in incidents affecting Canadians abroad.

Trudeau spent much of the India trip to dispel accusations that Canada was a hotbed of Khalistani extremism. He agreed to



Sikh demonstrators rally outside the UN headquarters in New York to declare the holding of a Non-Binding Referendum to Liberate Punjab. (AP File photo/Mary Altaffer)

a security framework with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that committed to combating terrorism, including Sikh extremist organizations, which were named in the report, Babbar Khalsa International and the International Sikh Youth Federation.

A lot of the concern raised with Trudeau in India was about Canadians financing Sikh extremist activities in India. Financing was mentioned in this year's report.

"Furthermore, Shia and Sikh (Khalistani) extremism also remain of concern because while their attacks in Canada have been extremely limited, some Canadians continue to support these extremist groups, including through financing," the report said.

Singh said he thinks the Canadian government is falling prey to foreign interference on the matter and he said unless the government can provide new evidence that Sikh extremism exists and is a problem in Canada, the government needs to remove that entire section from the report. "Give us some sort of proof," he said.

NDP MP Matthew Dube, who sits on the Commons committee on public safety and national security, said the government needs to do more than scrub certain words from the report.

"The Liberals have offered no clear explanation and provided no evidence for this addition in the first place which targeted a specific community," he said.

# Muslim Council Says Threat Report Minimizes Role Of Far Right Groups

OTTAWA: The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), a prominent advocacy organization, says that the federal government's 2018 Public Report on the Terrorism Threat to Canada unfairly stigmatizes Canadian Muslim communities and other racialized minority groups while minimizing the growing role of white supremacist and far-right groups in perpetuating violent attacks inside Canada.

In a statement, the council said: "In recent months, senior law enforcement officials have stated that far-right extremists are becoming more "emboldened" in Canada."

"It is deeply disappointing that the government's latest public report on terrorism uses counter-productive language and selective analysis that only perpetuate harmful stereotypical views about Canadian Muslims and reinforce the securitization of Muslim communities. Over the years, we have ... urged the government to abandon

the use of loaded, misleading and vague terms like 'Islamist extremism' which ...falsely conflate the threat of terrorism with Canadian Muslim communities and to create public misunderstanding about national security concerns," says NCCM Executive Director Ihsaan Gardee.

The statement added that the report contains several problematic elements including:

- Under a graphic titled "Key Plots or Attacks Conducted in Canada", the report only references attacks involving Muslims and does not mention any of the right-wing extremist attacks in Canada from recent years.
- Erroneously includes the July 2013 'Canada Day Plot' which was found by a B.C. superior court judge to be a case of entrapment by law enforcement.
- Despite several cases of on-line threats by anti-Muslim extremists, the report concludes that right-wing extremist groups do not tend to promote violence.

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# Trudeau Hits Out At 'Misinformation' On UN Migration Pact

OTTAWA: Warning against the "dangers of populism," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says using immigration as a wedge political issue puts Canada's future at risk.

During a wide-ranging interview with The Canadian Press, Trudeau said he believes a broad Canadian consensus holds that immigration is good for the country, in the face of growing opposition to it in other places.

The Liberal leader's line suggests a theme for next year's election campaign.

"The decision that the Conservatives have taken recently to, for example, go after the global com-

pact on migration in a way that is deliberately and knowingly spreading falsehoods for short-term political gain and to drum up anxiety around immigration is irresponsible, is not the way we should be moving forward in a thoughtful way on one of the big issues that is facing our country," Trudeau said.

The prime minister says he welcomes debate and discussion about immigration \_ as long as it sticks to meaningful areas of policy, such as the right number of immigrants to bring to Canada each year and how to properly integrate newcomers within the country.

"But the fearmongering, and the misinformation that is being deliberately and knowingly put out by the Conservative party right now, is very dangerous to something that has been an extraordinary advantage and benefit for Canada for generations," he said.

Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer's press secretary Brock Harrison said Trudeau's comments demonstrate that he is failing to take responsibility for Canadians' concerns about the border.

"He resorts to personal attacks and phoney arguments whenever he's criticized for it," Harrison

said. "Conservatives will continue to hold him to account over the lengthy delays in processing and billions in added costs caused by his failure to secure the border."

Last week, Canada joined 164 countries in signing the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. It is the first large-scale agreement to cover all dimensions of international migration and is aimed at improving co-operation.

But the pact has incited protest, particularly in Eastern Europe, where a number of far-right groups and political parties have used the compact to fan public concern over a historic increase

in the number of migrants and displaced people fleeing wars, persecution and violence in their home countries \_ or, in some cases, seeking better economic opportunities.

Scheer came out strongly against the compact on the grounds that it would give foreign entities influence over Canada's immigration system, claims that have been rejected by many immigration-law experts.

The Conservatives have also been hammering the Liberals over the influx of asylum seekers crossing into Canada "irregularly," away from official entry

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