

INTERNATIONAL SIKH CONFEDERATION

PLOT NO - 1, KENDRI SRI GURU SINGH SABHA

SECTOR – 28(A), CHANDIGARH – 160028

PHONE: 0172 – 2657381

Website: www.sikhconfed.net, E-mail: kartarsikhconfed@yahoo.com

MINUTES OF MEETING **ADVISORY COUNCIL DIASPORA** **AND LEGAL AFFAIRS OF ISC**

The Advisory Council on Diaspora & legal affairs held it's meeting at ISC HQ at 12:00 hrs on 24 September 2008. The following members were present:

- (i) Maj. Mehar Singh
- (ii) S. Inderjit Singh Jaijee
- (iii) Justice Ajit Singh Bains
- (iv) Justice Bakhshish Kaur
- (v) Bibi Baljit Kaur
- (vi) S. Gurpreet Singh
- (vii) S. Gur Rattan Pal Singh (Senior Advocate)
- (viii) S. Khushal Singh
- (ix) Dr. Gurmit Singh (Advocate)
- (x) S. Malkiat Singh Rahi (Advocate)
- (xi) Col. J.S. Multani

Col. J.S. Multani Offg. CEO welcomed the members and spelt out the aim of holding this meeting. The main discussion revolved on the following points.

- (1) SGPC is transferring the landed properties of various Gurudwara's under them to the trusts raised/formed under their control.

(2) The definitions of 'SIKH' challenged by students in the Punjab & Haryana High Court who were refused admission in the SGPC run medical college at Amritsar under Sikh minority quota.

A recent petition filed in the high court by the member of the Gurudwara Shahbad Markanda challenging the transfer of 50 acre land on 99 years lease to the trust whose two of the founder trustees are President of SGPC Shri Avtar Singh Makkar & S. Prakash Singh Badal along with other members. The lease money for 50 acres of prime land on GT road has been fixed by SGPC @ Rs. 4000/- per annum to be paid to Gurudwara Fund. The trust is further raising funds to the tune of Rs. 40 crores from the Bank by hypothecating this landed property. This was brought out by Shri M.S. Rahi (member of Advisory Council) and council of the petitioner in the High Court.

Another trust has been formed on the same line at Fatehgarh Sahib to transfer 84 acres of land from the name of Guru Granth Sahib to the trust; the details are awaited.

SGPC under the Gurudwara act is the custodian of the property and has no right to transfer the landed property from the legal entity of Guru Granth (As declared by Supreme Court) to the trusts.

Their intention is to duplicate the resources, one by raising loans on this landed property and second help from govt. resources and religious/public by stimulating the sentiments of the Sikh Sangat.

The line of action drawn by the advisory council is as under:

- (a) Under the RTI act 532 Punjab Govt. GAZ (extra) of October 12, 2005 SGPC may be asked for complete information about the trusts

formed and land transfer made by SGPC. Copy of Constitution of trust, lease deed for transfer of land.

- (b) On receipt of information after 30 days we form our opinion to go public through media/or not.
- (c) Any other action deemed fit.
- (d) In case SGPC does not reply then go to RTI forum and get the information.

Offg. CEO was to contact Mr. M.S. Rahi after completing the special format for asking information from SGPC.

On the 2nd issue, the advisory council unanimously agreed on the definition of 'SIKH' given in the Rehat Maryada'. The case is being defended by the SGPC and the case is on the final stage and may be decided in favour of the defendant.

Pending decision from the court ISC may hold it's opinion on this issue however certain Sikh organisations have given their views on the definition of 'SIKH' in the media.

Col. J.S. Multani

Offg. CEO