

## MEMORANDUM

To: Sri Manmohan Singh  
Prime Minister of India  
South Block, Raisina Hill,  
New Delhi, India-110011.

From: Gurpatwant S Pannun  
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Sub: Abandon The “Double Standards” On The Issue Of “Death Penalty” -  
Sarabjit Singh In Pakistan And Professor Bhullar In India Should Be Treated Equally

Date: June 27, 2012

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Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) is a human rights organization, which believes in and adheres to Universal Declaration of Human Rights. SFJ endeavors to create an environment in which minorities - regardless of race, religion, language, gender, or ethnicity – can freely exercise their right to “self determination” as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. SFJ is also striving to collect and disseminate information, statistics, figures and data regarding the Genocide of Sikhs (1984-1998) that took place in India.

On behalf of your Government, S.M Krishna, External Affairs Minister is leading a campaign to secure the release of Sarabjit Singh an Indian national who is on “Death Row” in Pakistan. Sarabjit Singh was involved in bomb blasts in Lahore and Faisalabad in which several innocent civilians were killed in 1990 and has been sentenced to death by the courts of Pakistan.

While at the same time, in the case of Professor Devendearpal Singh Bhullar who is on “death row” in India, P. Chidambaram, Union Home Minister of India has recommended for denial of commutation of death penalty. Professor Bhullar was sentenced to death solely on the basis of “confessional statement” and without any independent corroborating evidence or witness. Professor Bhullar’s death sentence was upheld by a split decision of the Supreme Court of India. Professor Bhullar’s conviction endorses extracting of confession through torture and his continuous detention for the past seventeen (17) years in India violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and shocks human dignity.

Your government’s campaign urging the Government of Pakistan to commute the death sentence of Sarabjit Singh exposes a stark contradiction in India’s stand on the issue of “Death Penalty” because in the case of Professor Bhullar who is on “Death Row” in India, your Government has recommended denial of commutation of death sentence.

As head of the Government of India, you are urged to take a uniform stand on the issue of “Death Penalty” following the UN General Assembly Resolution 62/149 of 2008 which calls upon all states that maintain the death penalty to completely abolish it reminding that the use of the death penalty undermines human dignity and any miscarriage or failure of justice in the implementation of the death penalty is irreversible and irreparable.

PM Singh, you are called upon to abandon the “Double Standards” practiced by your government on the issue of death penalty and take a lead by recommending commutation of Professor Bhullar’s death sentence. Your recommendation in support of Professor Bhullar’s commutation will set an example for the Government of Pakistan to follow in the case of Sarabjit Singh.