

Jagmeet Singh: In Canada, 'you can't walk down the streets if you wear a hijab, you will be killed'

by Hugh Fitzgerald



Jagmeet Singh is a Canadian politician whose appeal among the young has made him a rising star, as head of the New Democratic Party. He also is pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel. He deserves looking into, and worrying about. "Rising star or dark force? Jagmeet Singh plans to leave his mark on Canada-Israel relations," by Ami Friedman, [Here's](#) one recent snapshot of Muslim-Sikh relations:

On a sweltering afternoon last month [May 2018], a man walked into Charanjeet Singh's grocery store at the entrance of the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar and asked for red chilli powder.

As Charanjeet scooped the spice into a plastic bag for his customer, the man shot him several times.

The much-loved peace activist died on his way to the hospital.

According to police, the Pakistan Sikh Council, and Sikh representatives in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces where most Pakistani Sikhs reside, the murder of Charanjeet is the tenth "targeted killing" of a prominent Sikh since 2014 and has stirred unprecedented fear – and fury – among the community's members, particularly in Peshawar.

"With Charanjeet's death it is as if the arms of the

community have been cut off," Baba Gurpal Singh, a community spokesperson, told TRT World in Peshawar, the capital of the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and a frontier town in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), long used as a sanctuary by the Taliban and other militant groups to launch attacks across Pakistan.

Gurpal's own brother was also murdered in Peshawar in 2014: "People tell me to stay home, to stop doing community work, to not do things that make me visible. But there are very few of us and someone has to work for the community. I just wish I could go on working without fear."

While violence against religious minorities, particularly Christian and Shia Muslims, has been a painfully familiar story in Pakistan, Sikhs have long been considered one of the country's most protected minorities. In Peshawar, they have lived peacefully among Muslims for over 250 years, working mostly as traditional healers, and running pharmacies and cosmetics and clothing stores.

But a spate of killings in the last four years has raised worries Sikhs might be the latest target of Pakistan's religious extremist groups, leaving community members unsure of their future in the country.

Sikhs were not included in last year's population census and there is no hard data on their numbers but social worker Radesh Singh estimated that more than sixty percent of Peshawar's 30,000 Sikhs had left for other parts of Pakistan or migrated to neighbouring India in the last four years.

In Pakistan, hundreds of Sikh girls every year are reported to be kidnapped, forcibly converted to Islam, and married to their abductors. This is what some call "Love Jihad," that increases the number of Muslims at the expense of Sikhs and Hindus. This "Love Jihad" is also practiced by Muslims in the U.K. In 2018, a report by the Sikh activist organization, Sikh

Youth UK, entitled “The Religiously Aggravated Sexual Exploitation of Young Sikh Women Across the UK” (RASE report) made similar allegations of Muslim men targeting Sikh girls for the purposes of conversion.

Do the centuries of Muslim aggression against Sikhs mean anything to Jagmeet Singh? Is he aware that the Sikhs are regarded as Infidels, and thus “the most vile of created beings”(Qur’an 98:6)? Has he heard about the Mughal emperor who tortured and executed two Sikh gurus because they would not convert to Islam? Does he know how many Sikh gurdwaras (temples) have been destroyed by Muslims over the centuries and mosques built over their ruins? Has he any idea of how many Sikhs were killed by Muslims during the Partition in 1947? Does he know about attacks on Sikhs today by Muslims in Pakistan? In the U.K.?

I’ve not been able to find a single remark by Jagmeet Singh about the Muslim treatment of Sikhs in Pakistan or anywhere else. Yet he’s eager to make pronouncements about the supposed persecution of Muslims. After a Muslim family, the Al-Afzaals, was run over by a homicidal Canadian lone wolf, Singh [Jihad Watch](#).