

Community Relations Commission

For a multicultural NSW

Your Ref:

Our Ref: sk/bb 8255.6789

File Ref:

3 0 NOV 2005

Mr Bawa Singh Jagdev
Secretary
Sikh Council of Australia Inc
170 Ninth Avenue AUSTRAL
NSW 2179

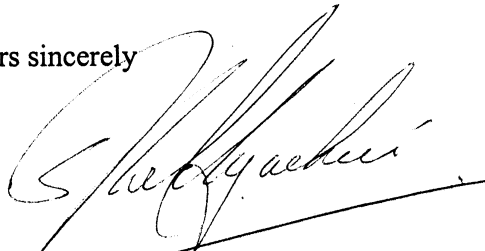
Dear Mr

Thank you for your letters dated 17/11/05 and

I enclose a copy of the press release I issued at the time and a copy of my letter to the Commissioner of Police, Mr Ken Moroney.

I will keep you informed of the

Yours sincerely



Stepan Kerkyasharian AM
Chairperson

Community Relations Commission

For a multicultural NSW

Your Ref

Our Ref sk/bb 8255.6789

File ReJ:

Commissioner K Moroney APM,
MA NSW Police
Level 15

201 Elizabeth Street SYDNEY
NSW 2000

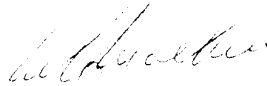
Dear Commissioner

Attached please find correspondence from the Sikh Council of Australia. as well as a copy of my media release in which you will note that I commended the Police for their swift action.

It now appears that although the Sikh Council claims that witnesses are available, the Police have closed the file.

I would appreciate any information you may be able to provide me in relation to this matter.

Yours



AM

Stepan Ko~kya_ab.ar-tazi
Chairperson

Un-Australian attack on Sikh at suburban railway station

The Chair of the Community Relations Commission For a Multicultural NSW, Stepan Kerkyasharian, described today as appalling an attack by a group of boys on a Svdnev man at a suburban railway station apparently because he was wearing a

"Mr Harmohan Singh Walia, known as Harry, was set upon at Tempe Station by the group of boys who called him terrorist and tore off his turban.

"The wearing of a turban is a religious requirement for men who follow the Sikh faith. It is very distressing for them to have it removed in public.

"In multicultural Australia this is very un-Australian as well as totally ignorant behaviour.

"Far from being terrorists, Sikhs are very loyal members of the Australian society who have been in Australia as a community for many decades. Their contribution to agriculture in Northern New South Wales and to the IT industry, business in general and the railways in Svdnev and elsewhere is significant.

"Sikhs have fought and died in large numbers with British and other Commonwealth forces in world wars and are worthy citizens of this country.

"No person in this society should be labelled a terrorist without very good reason. No person should be assaulted or abused because of their religious dress code.

"I commend the New South Wales Police for their prompt attention to Harry Walia's complaint. I trust they will be successful in tracking down these common criminals and bringing them to the shame they deserve in court." Mr Kerkvasharian said.

17.11.05

Media enquires:

Warren Duncan

(02) 82ss 6771 (office)

0411 117 846 (Mobile)

Email: warren.duncan@crc.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.crc.nsw.gov.au

For comment:

Stepan Kerkyasharian

(02) 82ss 67ss (Office)

0404 488474 (Mobile)