



## MEDIA BRIEF

### INDO-PAK EARTHQUAKE

---

Prepared by: Bawa Singh Jagdev, Secretary, Sikh Council of Australia Inc.

#### Sikh Council of Australia participates in Multi Faith Prayers

I attended the Multi Faith Prayers held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 05 at Grand Apollo, 7-9 Burleigh Street Burwood. About sixty people attended the prayers including the following VIPs:

- Mr Laurie Ferguson MP (Federal Member for Reid)
- Ms Dianne Virginia Judge MP (State Member for Strathfield)
- Mr Madhusudan Ganapathi, Consul General of India and
- Mr Ejaz Ahmad, Consul General of Pakistan

Representatives of various religions offered their prayers to those affected by this tragedy. After the VIPs address, I was the first, requested to address the congregation. The following are excerpts from my speech.

---

Hon Members, Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen

My name is Bawa Singh Jagdev and I am Secretary of the Sikh Council Of Australia, an apex representative body of the Sikhs in Australia. I have with me Bhai Narinderpal Singh, the resident priest of the Sikh Mission Centre Sydney.

**Truth is the highest virtue, but higher still is *'Truthful Living'*!**

We have gathered here to offer our prayers for the welfare of the innocent victims of the earthquake that hit Pakistan and India. We beseech the Almighty God "Waheguru", "Alah", "Ram", "Raheem" or by whatever other name you want to call Him, to grant us the wisdom that at these tragic times.

We, the members of the Human family, irrespective of our religious denominations, rise above the differences of religion, race, cast, colour and nationality, set aside our petty differences and unite in oneness, to help and pray for all those who have fallen victim to the natural disaster

- Children who could not bear the ruthless blows of tremors and died before their time;
- People who have lost all their worldly possessions they had worked for all their lives and have no place to go to or call their own and
- Homeless and hungry, fleeing from the danger of impending tremors.

Let us pray to Almighty God to grant us the wisdom that we may see the needs of others.

And also pray for the welfare of the volunteers who are engaged in the arduous work of:

- Helping those who cannot help themselves;
- Providing them with food, shelter and medicine, and
- Above all giving them the assurance that they are not alone.

Before we say prayers may I ask the Consul Generals of India and Pakistan to convey to President General Pervez Musharraf and President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and the people of Pakistan and India, especially the innocent victims of this tragedy, that during these hard times our hearts goes out to them and our sympathy is with them.

The Sikh Council of Australia has put in place procedures and processes to collect donations for the earthquake victims, which will be sent to the appropriate authorities in India & Pakistan.

Hon members, ladies and gentlemen, Bhai Narinderpal Singh will now say a prayer, a hymn from the Holy Sri Guru Granth Sahib. The Muslim Saint Kabir penned this particular hymn, "We are all creation of the One God".

---

Bhai Narinderpal Singh recited sang the hymn, "*Awal Alah Noor upaya Koodrat they sab Banday*" beautifully. There was a pin drop silence and every body appreciated it.

Representatives from other religions also recited prayers of their respective faith. It was like all of Australia was united in harmony in paying respect to those who had perished and in a gesture of sympathy and ready to lend a helping hand for those who were in need after this tragedy.

## **APPEAL**

Sikh Council of Australia appeals, especially to its members, and in general to all Sikhs in Australia to donate as much as they can to a charity of their choice. Donations can also be made to Sikh Council of Australia, by sending Cheque, Draft or Money Order to (made to 'Sikh Council of Australia Inc' and marked attention of the Secretary):

**170 Ninth Avenue  
Austral NSW 2179  
Australia**

Kind Regards & Gur Fateh



Bawa Singh  
Secretary  
Sikh Council of Australia Inc  
[secretary@sikhcouncil.org.au](mailto:secretary@sikhcouncil.org.au)

**PLEASE SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR SOME PICTURES FROM THE EVENT**

# INDO-PAK EARTHQUAKE : MULTI-FAITH PRAYERS

---



Secretary SCA with Bhai Narinderpal Singh



Other delegates at the Multi Faith Prayers

