
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1160 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY CHARLTON AND SANTORA, OCTOBER 15, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 15, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning the November 1984 anti-Sikh violence in India as
2 genocide.

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is enriched by the diversity of its
4 residents, who have cultivated a climate of social tolerance and
5 intellectual pluralism that has sustained this Commonwealth
6 throughout its history; and

7 WHEREAS, The Sikh community, which originated in Punjab,
8 India, and began immigrating into the United States over 100
9 years ago, has played an important role in developing the United
10 States and this Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, Sikhism is the world's fifth-largest religion with
12 nearly 30 million adherents, including roughly 700,000 in the
13 United States; and

14 WHEREAS, The Sikh genocide began on November 1, 1984, after
15 the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the
16 capital territory of Delhi and the states of Jharkhand, Madhya
17 Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West
18 Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Jammu and Kashmir,

1 Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh,
2 Kerala and Maharashtra; and

3 WHEREAS, The Sikh genocide lasted three days and over 30,000
4 Sikhs were brutally murdered or died as they were hunted in
5 their homes, where they were hacked and burned alive; and

6 WHEREAS, On April 16, 2015, the California State Assembly
7 unanimously passed Assembly Concurrent Resolution 34, which
8 recognizes the systematic and organized killings of Sikhs by the
9 Indian government in Delhi and remembers those who lost their
10 lives during the 1984 Sikh genocide; and

11 WHEREAS, Eyewitnesses, journalists and human rights activists
12 have compiled evidence showing that government and law
13 enforcement officials organized, participated in and failed to
14 intervene to prevent the killings through direct and indirect
15 means; and

16 WHEREAS, As recently as 2011, mass graves have been
17 discovered in the villages of Hondh Chillar and Pataudi in
18 Haryana, and many more will continue to be discovered in the
19 future with Indian government officials and police flouting
20 impunity; and

21 WHEREAS, The "Widow Colony," the Tilak Vihar neighborhood in
22 New Delhi, still houses thousands of Sikh women, who were forced
23 to bear mass rape and witness the hacking, burning and murder of
24 their husbands, fathers and sons and who are still are calling
25 for justice against the perpetrators; and

26 WHEREAS, Many of the survivors of the Sikh genocide
27 eventually immigrated to the United States and established large
28 Sikh communities in places such as Fresno, Yuba City, Stockton,
29 Fremont, Glenrock, New York City and Philadelphia, among other
30 places; and

1 WHEREAS, The Sikh community in the United States and this
2 Commonwealth has recovered from the material damages of the
3 genocide as they continue to keep the memory of those who were
4 killed alive and will never forget the Sikh genocide; and

5 WHEREAS, For years, the phrase '1984 anti-Sikh riots' was
6 used to describe the events of November 1984, which was a
7 distortion of the events that took place; and

8 WHEREAS, Recognizing the state-sponsored violence that
9 targeted Sikhs across India in 1984 is an important and historic
10 step towards justice, accountability and reconciliation, which
11 should be an example to other governments; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives condemn the
13 November 1984 anti-Sikh violence in India as genocide.