

Affidavit of Subedar Balwant Singh

Mishra Commission

I, Subedar Balwant Singh (Retd.) S/o Late S. Hakam Singh, aged 55 yrs., Vashisht Park, Near Sagarpur, Oppt. Janak Cinema, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under: -

1. I had built a house on a plot measuring 150 sq. yards and lived there along with my family comprising of my wife, Vidya Kaur and three sons
 - (1). Manjit Singh-24 yrs.,
 - (2). Ranjit Singh-22 yrs.,
 - (3). Surjit Singh-19 yrs. and a daughter Harsharan Kaur-14 yrs.

2. On 1st November 1984, at about 11 A.M. a young man (Hindu), aged about 24 yrs, from the neighbourhood, who was friendly with my sons, approached me and asked me to send my sons to his house as he had come to know that a mob was coming to attack my house. I suspected mischief but on my wife's insistence I let them go. They stayed in young man's house for half an hour when the mob arrived in the area. On seeing the mob comprising of a few hundred persons, this young man asked my sons to go out, otherwise he would ask the mob to enter and finish everything in the house.

3. My sons then came out and the mob attacked them with iron bars and lathis causing fractures of the leg to the youngest son, who fell down. The eldest boy tried to save him by lying on top of him, but he was beaten up and his arm was badly injured. The third son, who also came under their attack, ran fast and

escaped. The goondas clipped the long hair of the eldest and the youngest and removed their wrist watches.

4. As I watched all the happening to my sons, I tried to get hold of some weapon, but my wife had locked the house and gone out. All I could get was two bamboo sticks from the mosquito net and rushed towards the mob to save my sons. I chased the mob and hit whosoever came in the way till the mob started running in front of me. Then the bamboo sticks broke until I was left with small pieces.
5. When I was tackling the attackers, my eldest son made good his escape in spite of his fractured arm and my youngest son had collapsed because of a serious head injury. As if by the grace of province, a woman somewhat known to my family named Madhu, came in a taxi and took us to Willingdon Hospital. My sons and myself lay down on the floor of the taxi and since the driver was a Hindu, our taxi was allowed to go through the road which was blocked by the miscreants with tar drums.
6. In hospital no one attended us during the whole night. When my son felt thirsty, I requested the doctor on duty for a glass of water and he replied, "There is no water fit for drinking as the Sikhs have poisoned the entire water supply." However, I ignored this and brought a bottle full of water and gave it to my son and helped myself as well.
7. Next morning (2nd November 1984), I managed to hire a taxi for Rs.200/- to reach Gurdwara Hari Nagar where I thought I would get some medical aid. At Hari Nagar Gurdwara, my son

was given first aid and on 3rd November 1984, I managed to take my son to Deen Dayal Hospital at the rear of the Gurdwara. I was disappointed when the staff told me that there were no medical facilities for the Sardars and I should take my son back. I brought him back to the Gurdwara. In the meantime, the Gurdwara authorities had arranged for a small Red Cross Team to provide surgical assistance. They put his leg in plaster on the 9th November`84, (i.e. after 8 days) and thereafter we stayed at Hari Nagar Relief Camp.

8. My wife on arriving in the camp, told me that on the nights of 1st and 2nd November 1984, the policemen were spreading the rumour that the water supply had been poisoned and the Sikhs had come in trucks to attack the local residents.