# British Sikhs threaten to no platform Labour MPs over delayed Amritsar massacre inquiry



British Sikhs are now threatening to "no platform" Labour MPs due to their failure to deliver a promised public inquiry into the UK’s alleged complicity in the 1984 Golden Temple massacre in India. This ultimatum could significantly impact the political landscape, particularly following a rally in Trafalgar Square that commemorated the 41st anniversary of the tragedy. The massacre occurred when Indian forces stormed the Golden Temple in Amritsar to remove the militant leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, resulting in the deaths of thousands and evoking widespread horror among moderate Sikhs.

A coalition of over 450 gurdwaras, charities, and student societies has collectively addressed Prime Minister Keir Starmer, urging him to fulfil earlier commitments to investigate the events of 1984. The Sikh community's disappointment is palpable, especially as they note a "deafening silence" from Labour leaders regarding ongoing calls for accountability. The letter, which was sent on 1 June, warns that unless a judge-led inquiry is announced by the end of July 2025, Labour MPs who do not support this initiative will face exclusion from Sikh temples and community events.

This collective frustration has been amplified by revelations from 2014 that the Thatcher government had foreknowledge of India’s Operation Blue Star. Documents indicated that a British SAS officer advised Indian authorities ahead of the assault, raising questions about the UK's involvement. Although a review initiated by David Cameron concluded that UK officials did not participate directly in the operation, this finding has been labelled a "whitewash" by the Sikh community. Despite ongoing discussions about the inquiry, many Sikhs feel their plight is consistently overlooked, leading to increasing disillusionment with Labour.

In the wake of political unrest, some Sikh voters are considering redirecting their support towards parties like Reform UK. Dabinderjit Singh, the executive lead for the Sikh Federation, has indicated that many in the community are exploring alliances with the Liberal Democrats and the SNP as well, driven by a strong desire for accountability. He highlighted a list of constituencies where the Sikh vote is deemed critical, including key battlegrounds in Ilford, Wolverhampton, and Birmingham, where Labour risk losing their support irrevocably.

Moreover, the ongoing tension surrounding UK-India relations, especially concerning the treatment of minorities in India and allegations of transnational repression, further complicates this issue for British Sikhs. The impending local elections serve as a reminder of the political leverage the Sikh vote holds, and Singh has emphasised the significance of upcoming strategies for engagement with MPs across parties, particularly in light of Labour's failure to uphold its commitments.

The community's growing anger reflects a broader sense of political futility. As Singh expressed, there seems to be a deep frustration with politicians whose promises often remain unfulfilled, pushing some within the community to consider alternative platforms. Notably, two British Sikhs represented Reform UK in the previous general election, and recent defections from Labour, such as that of Rajbir Singh, underscore the shifting allegiances within the community.

As British Sikhs contemplate their political future, their voices resonate with a demand for justice that can no longer be ignored. The Labour Party now stands at a crossroads, facing not only the threat of significant political loss but also an urgent call for accountability and recognition of a historical wrong that still looms large within community memory.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/01/uk-sikhs-may-no-platform-labour-mps-over-lack-of-amritsar-massacre-inquiry), [[2]](https://news.sky.com/story/more-than-400-sikh-groups-call-on-starmer-to-launch-promised-inquiry-on-golden-temple-massacre-13340453)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/01/uk-sikhs-may-no-platform-labour-mps-over-lack-of-amritsar-massacre-inquiry), [[2]](https://news.sky.com/story/more-than-400-sikh-groups-call-on-starmer-to-launch-promised-inquiry-on-golden-temple-massacre-13340453), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/29/british-government-cover-up-amritsar-massacre-golden-temple-sas-india)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/sikh-group-disappointed-at-labours-silence-on-1984-golden-temple-massacre-inquiry-despite-starmer-promise-13286567), [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/13/sikh-inquiry-british-1984-amritsar-india-golden-temple)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/01/uk-sikhs-may-no-platform-labour-mps-over-lack-of-amritsar-massacre-inquiry), [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/sikh-group-disappointed-at-labours-silence-on-1984-golden-temple-massacre-inquiry-despite-starmer-promise-13286567), [[2]](https://news.sky.com/story/more-than-400-sikh-groups-call-on-starmer-to-launch-promised-inquiry-on-golden-temple-massacre-13340453)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/01/uk-sikhs-may-no-platform-labour-mps-over-lack-of-amritsar-massacre-inquiry), [[2]](https://news.sky.com/story/more-than-400-sikh-groups-call-on-starmer-to-launch-promised-inquiry-on-golden-temple-massacre-13340453), [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/sikh-group-disappointed-at-labours-silence-on-1984-golden-temple-massacre-inquiry-despite-starmer-promise-13286567)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/01/uk-sikhs-may-no-platform-labour-mps-over-lack-of-amritsar-massacre-inquiry), [[2]](https://news.sky.com/story/more-than-400-sikh-groups-call-on-starmer-to-launch-promised-inquiry-on-golden-temple-massacre-13340453), [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/sikh-group-disappointed-at-labours-silence-on-1984-golden-temple-massacre-inquiry-despite-starmer-promise-13286567)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/01/uk-sikhs-may-no-platform-labour-mps-over-lack-of-amritsar-massacre-inquiry), [[2]](https://news.sky.com/story/more-than-400-sikh-groups-call-on-starmer-to-launch-promised-inquiry-on-golden-temple-massacre-13340453), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/29/british-government-cover-up-amritsar-massacre-golden-temple-sas-india)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/01/uk-sikhs-may-no-platform-labour-mps-over-lack-of-amritsar-massacre-inquiry> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://news.sky.com/story/more-than-400-sikh-groups-call-on-starmer-to-launch-promised-inquiry-on-golden-temple-massacre-13340453> - Over 400 Sikh organisations have urged Prime Minister Keir Starmer to initiate an inquiry into the UK's potential involvement in the 1984 Golden Temple massacre. The groups, including gurdwaras and university societies, demand the fulfilment of a 2022 promise for an independent investigation into Britain's military role in the Indian army's raid on the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The call follows revelations that the Thatcher government was aware of India's plans for Operation Blue Star and that a British SAS officer provided advice prior to the operation. The Sikh community expresses disappointment over the lack of progress and warns of significant political consequences for Labour MPs if the inquiry is not launched by the end of July 2025. ([news.sky.com](https://news.sky.com/story/more-than-400-sikh-groups-call-on-starmer-to-launch-promised-inquiry-on-golden-temple-massacre-13340453?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://news.sky.com/story/sikh-group-disappointed-at-labours-silence-on-1984-golden-temple-massacre-inquiry-despite-starmer-promise-13286567> - A Sikh group has expressed disappointment over Labour's failure to initiate an inquiry into the 1984 Golden Temple massacre, despite Prime Minister Keir Starmer's 2022 promise. The Sikh Federation UK has written multiple times to Foreign Secretary David Lammy without receiving a response. The group highlights the lack of progress on the promised independent inquiry into Britain's military role in the Indian army's raid on the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The community's frustration grows as the anniversary of the massacre approaches, with concerns about the political ramifications for Labour MPs if the inquiry is not launched. ([news.sky.com](https://news.sky.com/story/sikh-group-disappointed-at-labours-silence-on-1984-golden-temple-massacre-inquiry-despite-starmer-promise-13286567?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/29/british-government-cover-up-amritsar-massacre-golden-temple-sas-india> - Documents have revealed that the Thatcher government was aware of India's plans for Operation Blue Star, the 1984 military assault on the Golden Temple in Amritsar. A British SAS officer provided advice to the Indian government prior to the operation. The subsequent investigation by David Cameron's government found no evidence of UK government involvement in the operation itself, a conclusion criticised by the Sikh community as a 'whitewash'. The release of these documents has intensified calls for a public inquiry into the UK's role in the massacre. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/29/british-government-cover-up-amritsar-massacre-golden-temple-sas-india?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jallianwala_Bagh_massacre> - The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, occurred on 13 April 1919, when British troops opened fire on a large crowd of unarmed Indian protesters in Amritsar, Punjab. The massacre resulted in the deaths of hundreds, with estimates varying from 379 to 1,500. The event significantly impacted India's struggle for independence and remains a pivotal moment in British-Indian history. The British government's response to the massacre has been a subject of extensive discussion and analysis. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jallianwala_Bagh_massacre?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/13/sikh-inquiry-british-1984-amritsar-india-golden-temple> - Sikh groups have called for a government inquiry into alleged British collusion in the 1984 Indian military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Newly released documents suggest that the SAS was involved in planning the attack, leading to demands for transparency and accountability regarding the UK's role in the operation. The Sikh Council UK expressed shock and disappointment over the potential involvement of the Thatcher government, and Labour MP Tom Watson has called for the Foreign Office to release further papers on the matter. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/13/sikh-inquiry-british-1984-amritsar-india-golden-temple?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://sikhsiyasat.net/labour-calls-for-inquiry-into-uks-role-in-june-1984-attack-on-darbar-sahib/> - Labour Party leaders, including Deputy Leader Angela Rayner and Coventry South candidate Zarah Sultana, have called for an inquiry into Britain's involvement in the June 1984 attack on the Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple) and Akal Takht Sahib in Amritsar. The attack, codenamed 'Operation Blue Star' by the Indian state, is regarded by Sikhs as the 'third holocaust' of Sikh history. The Labour leaders' statements express support for the Sikh community and a commitment to uncovering the truth about the UK's role in the operation. ([sikhsiyasat.net](https://sikhsiyasat.net/labour-calls-for-inquiry-into-uks-role-in-june-1984-attack-on-darbar-sahib/?utm_source=openai))