# Indian national extradited to U.S. over alleged plot to kill Sikh separatist leader



Nikhil Gupta, an Indian national, has been extradited from the Czech Republic to the United States, where he faces charges of plotting to kill Sikh separatist leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. Gupta, aged 52, allegedly conspired with an Indian government official in a murder-for-hire scheme targeting Pannun, who resides in the U.S. and advocates for a sovereign Sikh state in northern India.

Gupta was detained by Czech authorities in June of the previous year while in Prague and was extradited following a ruling by the Czech justice minister. He is currently held at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn.

The U.S. Justice Department has not commented on the case. Reports indicate that the plot against Pannun was directed by an unnamed Indian government official. India's government denies involvement and has described the incident as contrary to its policies, promising to investigate security concerns reported by the United States.

Relations between India and the U.S., as well as Canada, have been strained over allegations linking Indian officials to similar plots, including the killing of another Sikh separatist leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in Canada in June 2023.