

6<sup>th</sup> January, 2014

Mr. Nawaz Sharif  
The Prime Minister of Pakistan  
Prime Minister Secretariat, Islamabad

Dear Prime Minister,

**Re: Preservation of Gurdwara  
in Wazirabad, Gujranwala District**

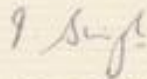
We are writing to draw your attention to an important matter concerning the preservation of a gurdwara in Wazirabad, Gujranwala District. The gurdwara is known as Guru Kotha, as it was named after Guru Hargobind Ji, the sixth Sikh Guru.

The gurdwara is illegally occupied and the architecture of the building is being destroyed through incessant encroachments. The gurdwara enshrines the religious sentiments of Sikhs in Pakistan and across the globe. It is also a proud part of the heritage of Punjab as a whole. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that the gurdwara be preserved. Such gesture would contribute greatly towards your policy of cultivating good relations with India.

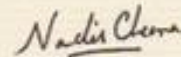
It should be a matter of pride for you, as the Prime Minister of Pakistan that the Muslim residents of Wazirabad, listed in this letter, were the first to show their concern about the state of the gurdwara and to bring this to our attention. In the last ten years around 200 mosques have been restored in Indian Punjab with the help of the Sikh and Hindu communities. Showing such a measure of mutual respect for each other's religious sentiments could play a huge part in producing sustainable peace and coexistence between India and Pakistan.

We earnestly beseech you to take immediate action in order to avoid further deterioration of the fabric of the gurdwara, already in dire need of repair. We hope the Evacuee Trust of Pakistan, in consultation with concerned residents of Wazirabad (listed below), will get the gurdwara evacuated and start the conservation work without any delay.

Yours sincerely



Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE



Nadir Cheema  
SOAS, University of London

Endorsed by academics

Prof. Ajit Singh, University of Cambridge  
Dr. Pritam Singh, Oxford Brookes University  
Dr. Virinder Kalra, University of Manchester  
Prof. Swaran Singh, University of Warwick  
Prof. Iqbal Singh OBE  
Dr. Pippa Virdee, De Montfort University

**Local residents of Wazirabad:** Nadir Cheema, Akram Warraich, Hafeez Khilji, Rana Imran, Raja Sadiqullah, Shaadi Khan, Saqeb Rafeeq