



RESOLUTION NO. 2016-167

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, RECOGNIZING THE NOVEMBER
1984 ANTI-SIKH VIOLENCE IN INDIA AS GENOCIDE

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno is in support of this resolution to recognize the intentional, deliberate, and systematic killing of Sikhs in India during November 1984 as *Genocide* as defined under the laws of the United States and the U.N. Convention; and

WHEREAS, Sikhism is the world's 5th largest religion with more than 26 million followers; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination on October 31, 1984, organized and systematic violence was carried out with the active connivance of the police and administration, against the Sikh population throughout India, with a clear intent to destroy the Sikh community; and

WHEREAS, the violence against the Sikhs continued unabated for several days in more than 100 cities across India resulting in over 30,000 Sikhs killed, thousands of women raped, hundreds of Gurudwaras (Sikh Temples) burnt, and more than 300,000 Sikhs displaced; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, a mass grave of Sikhs in the village Hondh-Chillar, in the state of Haryana, was unearthed, which was followed by the discovery of similar startling new evidence containing mass graves, ruined villages, burnt Gurudwaras, and other traces of the annihilation of the Sikh population during November 1984 in the states of Haryana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir; and

WHEREAS, the pattern of November 1984 genocidal violence against Sikhs has been allowed to perpetuate and has now become part of the Indian system; and

1 of 3

Date Adopted: 09/01/2016
Date Approved: 09/13/2016
Effective Date: 09/13/2016

Resolution No. 2016-167



WHEREAS, under the laws of the United States and the U.N. Genocide Convention, *Genocide* is defined as “attack with an intent to destroy in whole or in part, a religious or ethnic community;” and

WHEREAS, 18 U.S.C. §1091 and “Genocide Accountability Act of 2007” make the crime of genocide committed anywhere and anytime, punishable by the United States Courts; and

WHEREAS, Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Jews, Buddhists, and people of good will everywhere celebrate this community’s diverse fabric and stand together in solidarity, in justice for all, and oppose tyranny against any.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated by reference.
2. The Council of the City Fresno recognizes the November 1984 violence against Sikh lives, properties, and places of worship throughout India, was carried out with intent to destroy the Sikh community and was thus *Genocide* as defined under the laws of the United States and the U.N. Genocide Convention of 1984.
3. The Council of the City Fresno calls upon Barack Obama, the President of the United States and the Congress to recognize Anti-Sikh violence of November 1984 as *Genocide*.

* * * * *



STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the 1st day of September, 2016.

AYES : Baines, Brand, Brandau, Olivier, Soria
NOES : None
ABSENT : None
ABSTAIN : Quintero, Caprioglio

Mayor Approval: N/A, 2016
Mayor Approval/No Return: September 13th, 2016
Mayor Veto: N/A, 2016
Council Override Vote: N/A, 2016

YVONNE SPENCE, CMC
City Clerk

By: [Signature]
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DOUGLAS T. SLOAN
City Attorney

By: [Signature] 9.26.16
Raj Singh Badhesha Date
Deputy City Attorney

September 2, 2016

Council Adoption: 9/1/2016

TO: MAYOR ASHLEY SWEARENGIN

RECEIVED

Mayor Approval:

Mayor Veto:

Override Request:

FROM: YVONNE SPENCE, CMC
City Clerk

2016 SEP 14 AM 9 16



SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF COUNCIL ACTION FOR APPROVAL OR VETO

At the Council meeting of 9/1/16, Council adopted the attached Resolution No. 2016-167, entitled, **RESOLUTION –Recognizing the November 1984 Anti-Sikh Violence in India as Genocide.** Item No. 6:00 P.M., ID#16-1007, by the following vote:

Ayes	:	Baines, Brand, Brandau, Olivier, Soria
Noes	:	None
Abstain	:	Caprioglio, Quintero
Recused	:	None

Please indicate either your formal approval or veto by completing the following sections and executing and dating your action. Please file the completed memo with the Clerk's office on or before September 13, 2016. In computing the ten day period required by Charter, the first day has been excluded and the tenth day has been included unless the 10th day is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, in which case it has also been excluded. Failure to file this memo with the Clerk's office within the required time limit shall constitute approval of the ordinance, resolution or action, and it shall take effect without the Mayor's signed approval.

Thank you.

APPROVED/NO RETURN: _____

VETOED for the following reasons: (Written objections are required by Charter; attach additional sheets if necessary.)

Ashley Swearingin, Mayor

Date: _____

COUNCIL OVERRIDE ACTION:

Date: _____

Ayes	:
Noes	:
Absent	:
Abstain	: