Inauthentic, cyber activity from Khalistani extremist accounts precedes and amplifies attacks on Hindu temples and Indian government buildings

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Sikh separatists (known as *Khalistanis*) have engaged in vandalism against Hindu houses of worship and Indian government buildings in the US and abroad.
- Cyber-social Khalistani extremist rhetoric is growing in intensity and frequently amplifies calls for attacks and celebrates vandalism against Hindu houses of worship and Indian government buildings.
- Evidence of numerous, interconnected social media accounts, including numerous self-identified Pakistani accounts, exhibit signs of coordinated inauthentic behavior.
- Online postings contain threatening language advocating the use of weapons e.g., bomb threats, grenade attacks and attacks against infrastructure are actively encouraged by these bot-like accounts.
- NCRI assesses that attacks against both Hindu houses of worship and Indian government buildings are likely to come under direct threat internationally, which may merit a heightened defensive posture by law enforcement officials and social media platform trust and safety teams; this assessment is supported by the recent escalation of unrest in Punjab.¹

Background

The Khalistan movement is a separatist movement that seeks to create a nation-state for the Sikh community in northwestern India, primarily out of the existing Indian state of Punjab.² Civil unrest and ethnic tensions have historically plagued the region - with separatist movements and military crackdowns being a regular feature, characterizing violent interactions for several decades.³

Khalistani militants have historically retaliated or directed violence at Indian political institutions in Punjab— including police personnel and politicians.⁴ During the early 1980s, after Khalistani militants killed thousands of Hindus and Sikhs,⁵ the Indian army launched a military crackdown at Sikhism’s most holy site,⁶ killing Khalistani leaders (notably Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale). Events subsequently escalated in the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh

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¹ apnews.com/article/punjab-search-separatist-sikh-singh-khalistan-3c3d00a187db4911d81062825912b73
bodyguards, and widespread anti-Sikh violence followed. In the subsequent years, Khalistani extremists have assassinated Indian political leaders, hijacked and bombed airplanes and killed Hindu and non-Khalistani Sikh civilians within buses and trains. Notably, Pakistan’s ISI (Interservice intelligence directorate) regularly lends support to the Khalistan movement financially and organizationally, particularly by “coordinating protests by Sikh and Kashmiri activists at Indian missions—sometimes with violent outcomes—which raise the opportunity costs for India’s diplomatic presence in global capitals.” Extremist elements exist within the Khalistani ecosystem. For example, two Khalistani organizations - Babbar Khalsa International and International Sikh Youth Foundation are U.S. State Department designated entities.

Pro-Khalistan organizations have been responsible for multiple vandalisms throughout the years against Hindu temples and Indian government buildings. In 2019, Khalistani organizations protested outside the Indian High Commission in London and attacked Indians with swords. The Indian high commission was subject to vandalism throughout September 2019, including protests planned on Diwali.

The Khalistani movement represents a minority segment of the Sikh community in India today. A recent Pew Research survey conducted in 2019-2020 found that 95% of Indian Sikhs are proud of their Indian identity, and 70% say that someone who disrespects India cannot be a Sikh.

While examining the cyber social activity following recent temple and government building vandalisms, NCRI observed ‘Sikhs for Justice’ based on observations of the use of bot-like activity in promoting its content. These accounts amplified videos of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the founder of Sikhs for Justice and associated messaging with its mentions of the threats and vandalisms.

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11 satp.org/backgrounder/india-punjab
15 https://www.state.gov/executive-order-13224/#state
Sikhs for Justice

Sikhs for Justice\textsuperscript{20} (SFJ) was founded by lawyer Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in 2009 in New York. Notably, SFJ organized a Referendum 2020 movement, seeking to build support within the Sikh Diaspora for Khalistan.\textsuperscript{21} While SFJ has been labeled a terrorist organization in India and banned for its attempts to delegitimize the Indian government, it remains active there and within U.S, Canada, U.K, Australia and Italy.\textsuperscript{22} In recent months, SFJ activities in these countries have come under scrutiny\textsuperscript{23} as a series of vandalism attacks against Hindu temples has emerged with a common SFJ slogan: \textit{Khalistan Zindabad. Hindustan Murdabad}, which translates to “Praise Khalistan. Down with India”.\textsuperscript{24} A time series analysis of online activity on Twitter relating to these vandalism attacks reveal abnormal spikes in chatter relating to the SFJ both preceding and after violent incidents (Figure 1). NCRI tools and open source inquiry of chatter in these spikes suggests inauthentic and bot-like accounts which regularly disseminate identical, and synchronized SFJ fliers accompanied by messaging which raises notoriety for their actions once real world violence has taken place.

Twitter’s Response

Twitter appears to be actively banning these accounts in waves, but these efforts fall short due to growing strategic sophistication by the network to avoid complete elimination\textsuperscript{25}. To begin with, only a small portion of the network participates in each campaign while other accounts delete their tweets after some time to avoid detection altogether (Appendix F). Many accounts banned by Twitter reappear some time later with similar usernames (i.e. boywithasteth, boywithasteth2).

Timeline of Events

Since January 2023, there have been a rash of attacks against Hindu homes of worship by Khalistani extremists across the world (Appendix A) and the attacks have coincided with events promoted by online SFJ aligned accounts through coordinated inauthentic activity.

To understand the prevalence of temple vandalisms and Khalistani mobilizations (Appendix B), NCRI created a visual timeline of events. Our analysis shows that SFJ associated accounts are systematically amplifying and celebrating temple and embassy vandalisms internationally with graffiti, broken windows, and at times assaults. These bot-like accounts, while careful not to engage in explicit communication about incitement, appear to successfully act as a forward “deployment network” for real-world mobilizations that end in vandalism, violence and assaultive behaviors.

\textsuperscript{20} sikhsfjustice.org/posts
\textsuperscript{22} www.independent.co.uk/asia/india/canada-khalistan-referendum-india-sikhs-b2173723.html
\textsuperscript{23} timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/after-temple-vandalism-clashes-in-australia-over-proposed-khalistan-vote/articleshow/97469795.cms?from=mdr
\textsuperscript{24} https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/canada-temple-graffiti-sikhs-for-justice-b2272599.html
\textsuperscript{25} Analysis show that as of March 30th, 61% of the accounts that the NCRI has identified to be within the network have been banned with 39% still active.
Khalistanis gathered outside the Indian Consulate in Vancouver, Canada, holding Khalistani flags, shouting slogans, and demanding the release of Sikhs in prison in India.

Hundreds gathered outside the Indian Consulate in Vancouver, waving yellow flags and protesting the crackdown against Sikhs in Punjab where the internet has been shut off.

Khalistan supporters gathered outside the Indian High Commission in London in an anti-India protest. They threw flares and water bottles at police officers and reporters. Eggs and ink were also thrown to vandalize the building.

Khalistanis gathered around and blocked the entry of the Consulate of India in Brisbane, Australia. The Consulate was forced to close down as a result.

Khalistanis attacked the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, protesting the police crackdown on Khalistani leader, Amritpal Singh. They broke down barriers and planted two Khalistani flags.

Khalistanis gathered at Times Square to protest the treatment of Amritpal Singh. Many cars holding Khalistani flags and pictures of Singh passed the streets.

The entrance of a BAPS Swaminarayan temple in Melbourne was vandalized with anti-India graffiti such as "Hindustan Murdabad" and statements praising Bhindranwale as a martyr.

The ISKCON temple in Melbourne was vandalized with anti-India messages.

Khalistanis, armed with swords, attacked peaceful protesters holding Indian flags at the Federation Square in Melbourne. Five people were injured and hospitalized.

A Ram temple in Mississauga was vandalized with anti-Hindu graffiti and messages praising Bhindranwale.

Khalistanis gathered outside the Indian High Commission in London. The Khalistani flag was raised in the office.

Khalistanis targeted the Consulate of India in Brisbane, Australia. The Khalistani flag was raised in the office.

Khalistanis gathered outside the Indian Consulate in Brampton was broken into; the temple's security footage shows a man stealing the donation box.

JAN 25

JAN 16

JAN 12

JAN 23

JAN 29

FEB 14

FEB 20

JAN 31

FEB 21

FEB 18

FEB 4

MAR 4

MAR 19

JAN 12

MAR 19

MAR 20

JAN 25

MAR 22

MAR 15

MAR 19

MAR 25

MAR 27

MAR 23

JAN 29

MAR 25

MAR 27

MAR 21

JAN 29

300 AM - Feb 15, 2023 - 5.00 Views

2:20 PM - Mar 23, 2023 - 6.28 Views

2:43 AM - Mar 27, 2023 - 6.28 Views

2:35 PM - Mar 19, 2023 - 3.01 Views

8:25 PM - Mar 13, 2023 - 2.46 Views

3:16 PM - Mar 2, 2023 - 2.92 Views

2:35 PM - Mar 22, 2023 - 2.92 Views

MAR 23

Journalist Sameer Kaushal was abused and assaulted by Khalistanis protesting in Surrey, Vancouver.

A six-foot-tall Gandhi statue in Ontario, presented by the Indian Government, was disfigured with paint by Khalistani supporters.

Indian journalist, Lalit Jha, was attacked and abused by Khalistani protesters outside the Indian Embassy in Washington. The protesters also threatened to vandalize the Indian Embassy.

A large number of Khalistani supporters staged a protest at the Times Square to protect the treatment of Amritpal Singh. Many cars holding Khalistani flags and pictures of Singh passed the streets.
Within the cyber-social domain, NCRI used anomaly detection tools to identify coordinated inauthentic activity from what appeared to be a bot network amplifying pro-SFJ propaganda and messaging that both preceded and followed these attacks. This analysis revealed a network of 359 accounts created between January - March 2023 participating in unique influence operations “bot-campaigns”. However, given the “cat and mouse” dynamics to hew the network on Twitter, the true number of accounts which have participated in these activities is likely to be much higher.

**Qualitative analysis of bot campaigns**

A bot campaign is typically sent out using 20-50 accounts in a “network” with each account tweeting and retweeting the message dozens of times with different mentions. Most of these campaigns attach a video to each tweet from Gurpatwant Singh Pannun himself, to address supporters and targets.

We deduced three core themes of the contents of these campaigns:

1. Encouraging, celebrating, and taking credit for temple vandalisms and harassment
2. Advocating Violence: Grenades, Bombings and threats to critical infrastructure
3. Organizing/Amplifying real life mobilizations that result in violence

Other themes have included threatening and harassing Indian political leaders and journalists, as well as stoking ethnic tensions by suggesting Hindus are terrorists and oppressors of Sikhs (Appendix C).
Theme #1: Encouraging, celebrating, and taking credit for temple vandalisms and harassment.

Figure 2: Video of individuals telephoning Hindu temples in Australia asking temple staff to state pro-Khalistan slogans before religious service, with veiled threats. These videos are disseminated by bot-like accounts.

On Feb 17, this video was circulated in which a man is heard calling the Vice President of Hindu Society QLD, asking him to condemn the Hindus who killed Sikhs in the 1984 riots on the day of Shivaraatri and say “Khalistan Zindabad” (Glory to Khalistan).

On March 7, In this video, individuals are seen calling the Swaminarayan Hindu Temple in Perth, Australia and asking the priest to repeat Pro-Khalistan slogans before prayers.
Similarly, a SFJ bot “network” rapidly responded to attacks on the Indian embassies in both London and San Francisco on March 19th. Videos of the embassy attack and vandalism were widely circulated by that bot ‘network’ the following day.

**Figure 3: Videos of Indian Embassy vandalism circulated by SFJ Network**

**Theme #2: Advocating Violence: Grenades, Bombings and threats to critical infrastructure**

**Figure 4: Calling for hand grenade bombings in New Delhi during Republic Day**
On March 14th, 2023, Pannun showed a video of an individual taking a hammer to clips on train tracks. He went on to show a planted Khalistan flag near the damage and graffiti in the area with the words “SFJ” and “Punjab is not India.” The train line where this was filmed leads to the Guru Hargobind Thermal Plant in Punjab.

The video portrays a device, presumably a bomb, being planted at or near Amritsar on March 15 following the SFJ’s calls for a “Rail Roko” protest. Amritsar was the location of a G20 summit meeting from March 16 to March 17, 2023.
Figure 7: Calls to Shut Down Delhi Power Station

In this video, Pannun calls for Khalistan supporters to take out the Pragati III power station in Delhi in order to shut down the city.

Theme #3: Organizing/Amplifying real life mobilizations that result in violence

SFJ bot “networks” are involved in organizing pro-Khalistani rallies across the world, including ones that resulted in violence.

Figure 8: Amplification of protests and mobilizations
During the pro-Khalistan protest in D.C, Press Trust of India journalist Lalit Jha was injured by a protester.\(^3\) The bot network distributed videos of demonstrations along with the tweet “Asking Q @lalitkjha is CRIME ?”\(^4\) Appearing to downplay the injury to the journalist.

**Figure 9: OSINT on assault on Indian Journalist**

Quantitative Analysis of SFJ Bot-like Accounts and Graph Analysis of Targeted Activity

NCRI next sought to perform a quantitative assessment of the activity of identified bot-like accounts. A time series analysis (figure 10) depicts specific episodes of coordinated inauthentic activity, depicted as blue dots. Dotted red lines depict real world mobilizations characterized by location and linked to Tweets from the SFJ network organizing mobilizations or glorifying vandalism and criminality associated with the events in question. As visualized in the time series, SFJ bot activity closely corresponds to mobilizations that are promoted and temple vandalisms that often result.

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\(^3\) [thewire.in/media/washington-pti-journalist-allegedly-attacked-heckled-at-pro-khalistan-protest](https://thewire.in/media/washington-pti-journalist-allegedly-attacked-heckled-at-pro-khalistan-protest)

\(^4\) [twitter.com/Ahsan8838835533/status/1639539161064415233](https://twitter.com/Ahsan8838835533/status/1639539161064415233)
Figure 10: Time Series Analysis of SFJ Bot Campaigns with ledgers of temple vandalisms
The bot-line ‘networks’ participate in Twitter ‘campaigns’, which NCRI defines as occurring when a number of accounts repeatedly disseminate identical messaging synchronously. These ‘campaigns’ occur approximately a dozen times within a few seconds with the only variations being who is mentioned at the end of each tweet. This results in approximately 250 tweets and 200 unique accounts mentioned per campaign.

While the bots have identical messaging within campaigns, their mentions vary by tweet. Figure 11 visualizes a mention network throughout the bot campaigns, whereby nodes are sized by the volume of their mentions. Based on the visualization, the targets of the campaigns appear to be prominent Indian journalists, reporters, politicians and community members. We assess that the accounts mentioned (represented in blue) by the bots involved in the campaign (represented in red) attempt to send information to the broadest possible audience concerning their activities and to capture attention from specific politicians and media influencers to gain exposure of their messages.

Figure 11: Mention Network of bot-like accounts
NCRI next sought to generate and examine retweet networks of likely bot accounts to verify that these accounts were engaged in coordinated activity. NCRI developed a graph network of campaign activity following the Indian Consulate attack in San Francisco.\(^1\) Analysis in the graph below in figure 12 depicts a highly incestuous and interconnected retweet network composed almost entirely of accounts NCRI identified as bot-like. That these accounts spam nearly identical promotional material in similar fashion in a synchronized manner and retweet only within-network strongly suggests inauthentic coordination. Social graphs of follower networks of these accounts confirms most of these accounts singularly follow one another, further suggesting coordination among the inauthentic accounts (Appendix D).

**Figure 12: Twarc network of identified SFJ bot-like accounts, post Indian Consulate in San Francisco vandalism**

Dissecting the origins of the bots
NCRI analyzed geo-location features of accounts and found that a substantial subset of these accounts (~20%) were self-identified Pakistani accounts (Appendix J, K). On Persecution of Sikhs\(^2\) has reduced the formerly substantial population to a dwindling community of 35,000 Sikhs left in Pakistan today.\(^3\) Involvement by a self identified Pakistani network of putative SFJ supporters thus suggests not just bot-like activity but raises the possibility of a broader effort for covert influence. The fact that this network of self identified Pakistani accounts amplifies attacks against Hindu houses of worship, agitates for terror and attacks Indian consulates, aligns well with Pakistani strategic interests. Notwithstanding the possibility of other state or non-state actors posing as Pakistani users to obfuscate points of origin, NCRI assesses these outcomes and operations to include the possibility of state-involved influence by Pakistan itself.

NCRI next analyzed the user descriptions of bots and locations in the network by developing a word cloud to depict the most common terms that accounts used in their user description. Notably, themes around Pakistan, Pakistani politicians along with calls to “Follow Back”. Analysis suggests these accounts appear to be linked to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) political party, for which former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan is the chairman.

Figure 13: Word Cloud of User Descriptions

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\(^2\) [www.reuters.com/article/uk-pakistan-sikh/in-historic-homeland-pakistans-sikhs-live-under-constant-threat-idUKKCN0HS0U20141003](https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-pakistan-sikh/in-historic-homeland-pakistans-sikhs-live-under-constant-threat-idUKKCN0HS0U20141003)

\(^3\) [https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-report-on-international-religious-freedom/pakistan/](https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-report-on-international-religious-freedom/pakistan/)
Conclusions and Recommendations

NCRI identified a Khalistani online, forward-deployment network for real world protests accompanied by unrest, violence, and vandalism. Composed of coordinated, bot-like accounts, with many users indicating substantial associations to Pakistan and its political parties, the network appears immune to extensive platform moderation efforts even as its activities escalate. From calls for attacks on infrastructure, threats of grenade attacks and bombings, episodes of incitement from the network appear to be growing in intensity.

As of the time of release of this report, recent escalation of unrest in Punjab has erupted in India, which appears to have triggered an exponential growth of reactive inauthentic Khalistani activity in the cyber domain (figure 1), activity this report assesses to regularly precede, not merely real world unrest, but attacks against Hindu houses of worship.\(^4\) Accordingly, NCRI assesses that attacks against both Hindu houses of worship and Indian government buildings are likely to come under direct threat internationally, which may merit a heightened awareness and defensive posture by law enforcement officials.

The impact of this network appears extensive and thus, its perseverance in the face of Twitter’s moderation efforts opens credible concerns. In the face of failing moderation efforts, this report highlights a need for more intensive signals-led intelligence to better detail the nature, scope and dynamics of emerging threat networks from the social cyber domain. These signals may have credible value in forecasting flashpoints for law enforcement and civil society organizations intersecting planned unrest, to create additional lines of defense, especially in cases where moderation efforts fail.

Acknowledgements

Thank you Bright Data and Thinkfi.net (collaboration with IIITB-IC) for data contributions

\(^4\)apnews.com/article/punjab-search-separatist-sikh-singh-khalistan-3c3d00a187db491f1d81062825912b73
## Appendix

### A - Timeline of Temple Vandalisms in Canada and Australia in 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 15, 2022</td>
<td>A BAPS Swaminarayan temple in Toronto was defaced with anti-India and pro-Khalistani messaging.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.cbc.ca/amp/1.6584478">https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.cbc.ca/amp/1.6584478</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25, 2023</td>
<td>Maa Chintpurni Mandir in Brampton was broken into; the temple’s security footage shows a man stealing the donation box.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/hindu-temples-peel-break-in-1.6346570">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/hindu-temples-peel-break-in-1.6346570</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B - Timeline of Pro-Khalistani Mobilizations/Referendums internationally in 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>5 people were injured and hospitalized.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.sirsa-khalistani-movement.org/2023-01-29-843223">https://www.sirsa-khalistani-movement.org/2023-01-29-843223</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Feb 21 | • Khalistanis targeted the Consulate of India in Brisbane, Australia. The Khalistani flag was raised in the office.  
| Mar 15 | • Khalistanis gathered around and blocked the entry of the Consulate of India in Brisbane, Australia.  
| Mar 19 | • Khalistanis attacked the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, protesting the police crackdown on Khalistani leader, Amritpal Singh.  
| Mar 19 | • Journalist Sameer Kaushal was abused and assaulted by Khalistanis protesting in Surrey, Vancouver.  
- The protest was going to include an appearance by the Indian High Commissioner, but this was canceled. | [https://globalnews.ca/news/9565072/surrey-protest-assault-punjab-crackdown/](https://globalnews.ca/news/9565072/surrey-protest-assault-punjab-crackdown/), [https://www.baaznews.org/p/surrey-protest-india-high-commissioner-truth](https://www.baaznews.org/p/surrey-protest-india-high-commissioner-truth) |
| Mar 22 | • Khalistan supporters gathered outside the Indian High Commission in London in an anti-India protest.  
- They threw flares and water bottles at police officers and reporters.  
- Eggs and ink were also thrown to vandalize the building. | [https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/international/2390882-uk-london-metropolitan-police-under-scanner-as-khalistan-supporters-throw-eggs-inks-at-indian-high-commission](https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/international/2390882-uk-london-metropolitan-police-under-scanner-as-khalistan-supporters-throw-eggs-inks-at-indian-high-commission) |
The protesters held Khalistani flags and also threatened to vandalize the Indian Embassy.

**Mar 27**

- Khalistan supporters gathered at Times Square to protest the treatment of Amritpal Singh. They blared horns and played loud music.
- Numerous cars holding Khalistani flags and pictures of Singh passed the streets.


**Mar 27**

- A Gandhi bust at the campus of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, Canada was beheaded


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### C - Qualitative Themes associated with bot accounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>OSINT gathered from bot-like accounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threatening and harassing Indian political leaders and journalists</td>
<td>![Image of threatening text]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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![NCRI logo](https://example.com/ncri_logo.png)
Suggesting Hindus are terrorists and oppressors of Sikhs
D - Follower Network of Bot Accounts
### E - List of Bot Campaigns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campaign Text</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mention Targets</th>
<th>Purpose/Context of Campaign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assassins of Indira Gandhi Are Martyrs&quot; SFJ #INDvsSL 15th Jan Shaheed Satwant Singh - Shaheed Kehar Singh Martyrodom Remembrance</td>
<td>Jan 6, 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shaheed is the word for a Muslim/sikh martyr and so is being used as a title in the context of this tweet. Satwant Singh and Beant Singh are the two bodyguards responsible for the assassination of PM Indira Gandhi and are referenced frequently in the SFJ’s twitter bot campaigns. Kehar Singh is the uncle of Beant Singh and was tried and executed for conspiracy and his involvement in the assassination. His execution date was January 6th, 1989 so this Twitter campaign was to take advantage of the anniversary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFJ To #Himachal CM “Stop or Face Political Death” #BharatJodoyatra #Bitcoin #GALA</td>
<td>Jan 9, 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh is one of the many states of India, making this tweet a message to the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The reason for this threat is still mostly unknown, but it has been the case that the SFJ routinely threatened the previous CM of Himachal Pradesh. The hashtag insinuates that it most likely has a connection with Bharat Jodo Yatra, or the Unite India March by the BJP’s opposition party, the Indian National Congress (INC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#INDvsSL #viratkholi Shri Shiva Vishnu Temple Melbourne LIT With #plane crash “Khalistan Zindabad - Target Modi” “26 January Delhi D-Day” #RepublicDay2023</td>
<td>Jan 15, 2023</td>
<td>@austhindu @EthnicLinkGuru @cgimelbourne</td>
<td>Shri Shiva Vishnu Temple in Melbourne was one of the many temples graffitied. The graffiti wrote “Khalistan Zindabad” and “Hindustan Murdabad” which translates to “Khalistan will live forever” and “down with/death to India”. The two phrases appear frequently in both the vandalism and in the tweets. The plane crash portion of the tweet most likely refers to a Nepalese plane crashing that was reported on the same day. The connection between this plane crash and the SFJ is unknown and it’s likely they were either trying to use the hashtag’s popularity or included it because of the 5 Indian casualties that resulted from the crash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>गौरवमयी_सनातन_संस्कृति Hand Grenade - Terror Plot is Not An END - SFJ To “Target-Delhi” on #RepublicDay2023 #Indian</td>
<td>Jan 17, 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>Republic Day is a holiday celebrated as the anniversary of the day the Indian constitution came into effect. A parade is hosted every year in New Delhi. This tweet campaign was intended to threaten the parade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFJ Rocks #Delhi With Khalistan Graffiti - @DelhiPolice @LtGovDelhi $500,000 To Disrupt R-Day #INDvsNZ #RepublicDay2023 #shubmangill” / 19 Jan Delhi @DelhiPolice Khalistan Zindabad 14 Jan Melbourne @EthnicLinkGuru Q ? $500,000 To Disrupt R-Day #INDvsNZ</td>
<td>Jan 19, 2023</td>
<td>@DelhiPolice @LtGovDelhi @EthnicLinkGuru</td>
<td>This campaign references graffiti found on the streets of New Delhi containing SFJ slogans. It also sets out a bounty for the disruption of the Republic Day parade. The hashtags take advantage of a cricket match for visibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22, 2023</td>
<td>This is another reference to SFJ defacing a Hindu temple with their slogan. Sant means saint and Bhindranwale refers to Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a Khalistani leader who tried to establish an autonomous state inside of India.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25, 2023</td>
<td>Here, the SFJ uses this campaign to disseminate a video from Pannun that blames Modi and Hindu nationalism for the vandalism of pro-Khalistan banners in Melbourne while characterizing the pro-Khalistan movement as peaceful.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 26, 2023</td>
<td>This campaign pertains to graffiti done by the SFJ on the Beant Singh Memorial. This memorial refers not to the bodyguard from the Indira Gandhi assassination but instead to a Punjabi politician, whose grandson is also a politician and is mentioned “@RavneetBittu”. The other person mentioned is also a Punjabi politician.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27, 2023</td>
<td>This tweet campaign was used to disseminate a video where pro-Khalistan Sikhs destroy the “Tiranga”, the tricolor Indian flag, in front of the Indian embassy in Melbourne.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 29, 2023</td>
<td>This campaign was used to try to disseminate a video by Pannun where “Indian-Hindu terrorists” attack the Khalistan referendum voting center in Melbourne. Mann Ki Baat is a monthly radio program hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was mentioned to connect Modi to the violence in the video.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 30, 2023</td>
<td>This campaign amplifies the defacing of Shri Gauri Shankar Mandir in Canada with graffiti containing the SFJ slogan “Khalistan zindabad, hindustan murdabad”.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 9, 2023</td>
<td>Thank you Melbourne. #Khalistan #Referendum #Sikhs #Melbourne.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#RepublicDay2023 #shubhman gill
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Posting Entity/Tag</th>
<th>Text Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 10, 2023</td>
<td>@EthnicLinkGuru</td>
<td>This campaign is another instance of pro-Khalistan graffiti in a Hindu temple in Canada by the SFJ. This time, the campaign text and attached video’s graffiti also uses the BBC documentary to push the narrative of Modi being a terrorist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 14, 2023</td>
<td>@AryaCanada</td>
<td>This campaign features a video of a Khalistan supporter calling the Gayatri Mandir to tell them to display the SFJ’s slogan and declare support for the Khalistan referendum. It is reported that this same person threatened the temple that they must do so if they wanted to celebrate the Hindu holiday of Maha Shivaratri peacefully.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 17, 2023</td>
<td>@cgimelbourne</td>
<td>The SFJ threatened to storm Delhi Airport and raise their flags. The attached video, no longer available, was notable in how it called on G20 to support the idea that Punjab is not a part of India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27, 2023</td>
<td>@DelhiAirport</td>
<td>In this campaign and attached video, Pannun addresses the G20 foreign ministers to call on them to “repudiate India’s territorial integrity”. In other words, to claim that India has no territorial rights over Punjab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 1, 2023</td>
<td>@EUAmblIndia</td>
<td>In this campaign, Pannun calls on the G20 foreign ministers and on Khalistan supporters to support Pakistan and not India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2, 2023</td>
<td>@OfficialDGISPR</td>
<td>In this campaign, Pannun calls on the G20 foreign ministers and on Khalistan supporters to support Pakistan and not India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 3, 2023</td>
<td>@AmitShah</td>
<td>This campaign is a direct threat to Indian politician Amit Shah, the Minister of Home Affairs. It also claims that the Indian government is holding thousands of Khalistani hostages.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"SFJ Storms #ShambhuBorder
G20 "Welcome To Khalistan Flag" - #NationalSafetyDay
"Political Death For @AmitShah @BhagwantMann राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा".

Mar 4, 2023
@AmitShah
@BhagwantMann

Another campaign calling for the political death of Amit Shah, this time also including Bhagwant Mann, the chief minister of Punjab. The meaning of the Shambhu border portion of the campaign is unknown as the news has not covered the SFJ's relation to it recently and the attached video is unobtainable.

"SFJ To Disrupt #G20India Mar 15-16 #RailRoko #Amritsar #Holi #होली-हुई-तब-जानिये Khalistan Graffiti Makhu Train St. #HolikaDahan2023 ".

Mar 6, 2023
@EthnicLinkGuru
@austhindu
@SarahLGates1
@Pallavi_Aus

This is another SFJ campaign on the G20 with this one being the first to openly call for its disruption. Rail Roko refers to the act of impeding trains as a form of protest with "Makhu Train" likely referring to the line they will be impeding in this protest. Amritsar is the location of the G20 summit in India so this is likely a direct call to block the Makhu to Amritsar train line.

Vinodhbai Hirani To PM Albanese "Modi Is Terrorist" @EthnicLink Guru @austhindu @SarahLGates1 @Pallavi_Aus #Holli2023 #HinduPhobloSwiggy.

Mar 7, 2023
@EthnicLinkGuru
@austhindu
@SarahLGates1
@Pallavi_Aus

Another campaign with a call to storm with the target this time being a cricket stadium. Notable for being the first campaign to target Sarah L Gates, a Hindu human rights activist that was covering part of the SFJ botnet.

9 March PM Albanese #INDvsAUS SFJ To Storm @dpggujarat Modi #Cricket Stadium @tapasjournalist 19 March Khalistan Referendum Australia @SarahLGates1

March 8, 2023
@dpggujarat
@tapasjournalist
@SarahLGates1

A campaign calling for the continued vandalism of temples with the SFJ's slogans.

"SFJ "Rail Roko" March 15-19 #G20 In Khalistan - Punjab Is Not #India @RPF_INDIA @DGPPunjabPolice Any Accident @grp_punjab @BhagwantMann Will Be Responsible #INDvAUS.

Mar 13, 2023
@RPF_INDIA
@DGPPunjabPolice @grp_punjab @BhagwantMann

A repeat of the earlier campaign 2 days before the actual protest. This campaign actively promotes that any "accident", which insinuates violence or danger at the event, will be the fault of Bhagwant Mann.

"Australian #Hindus #INDvAUS Raise "hindu-Stan" Murdadab - @EthnicLinkGuru @SarahLGates1 @Pallavi_Aus @DrAmitSarwal KHALISTAN Zindabad In #Temples".

Mar 13, 2023
@EthnicLinkGuru
@SarahLGates1
@Pallavi_Aus
@DrAmitSarwal

SFJ With #AmritpalSingh - Sikhs Calls For “ShutDown - Delhi” Target Pragati-III Power #न्याय_व्यवस्था Khalistani.

Mar 14, 2023
@dgpgujarat
@tapasjournalist
@SarahLGates1

Here, Pannun calls for Khalistan supporters to take out the Pragati III power plant in Delhi in order to shut down the city. This is a direct call to destructive action and can be interpreted as a call to terrorism.

#G20Summit Amritsar - SFJ Crippled Rail Track Clips To "SHUTDOWN" Guru Hargobind Thermal Plant, Bathinda - “RAIL

Mar 14, 2023
@EthnicLinkGuru
@SarahLGates1

This campaign was accompanied by a video from Pannun. In this video, Pannun shows another video in which an SFJ member uses a hammer to break clips on train tracks going to the thermal plant mentioned in the campaign's text, which is located in Punjab. The video also shows a Khalistan flag planted near the...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Social Media Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 15, 2023</td>
<td>This campaign featured a video in which someone places a device, presumably a bomb. The campaign was rather small with only 20 tweets but it is significant in being a dangerous terrorist threat against the rail line.</td>
<td>@cpamritsar @Ludhiana_Police @BhagwantMann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 17, 2023</td>
<td>A campaign where the SFJ targeted the G20 summit in Amritsar by calling for the “storming” of the tracks of the Indian town of Beas near Amritsar.</td>
<td>@cpamritsar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 18, 2023</td>
<td>Another campaign where the SFJ targeted train tracks. This time, they call out the Japanese prime minister.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 20, 2023</td>
<td>A campaign that accompanied the attack on the San Francisco Indian Consulate.</td>
<td>@CGISFO @lalitkjha @reenabhardwaj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 24, 2023</td>
<td>A campaign following the arrest of Amritpal Singh, the leader of Waris Punjab de, another Sikh separatist organization. Here, the SFJ capitalizes on the protests and unrest that followed.</td>
<td>@EthnicLinkGuru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 25, 2023</td>
<td>Another campaign capitalizing on the arrest of Amritpal Singh. Here, they again call for the burning of the Indian tricolor flag.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 27, 2023</td>
<td>Another G20 summit based campaign. Ramnagar is the next location of the G20 summit and in this campaign, the SFJ claims Ramnagar is a part of Khalistan and not a part of India, demanding them not to hold the event there.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 25, 2023</td>
<td>Another campaign capitalizing on the arrest of Amritpal Singh. Here, they again call for the burning of the Indian tricolor flag and for the balkanizing (splitting) of India.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 28, 2023</td>
<td>In this campaign, Pannun announces that he filed a complaint against Bhagwant Mann in the state of New York and that Bhagwant Mann has received a court summons from a federal court in New York for the case.</td>
<td>@BhagwantMann @DGPPunjabPolice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
F - Tweet Deletion by Bots

Several bots that engage in spamming repeated messaging oftentimes delete their tweets and media after posting, potentially, to evade bans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before</th>
<th>After</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Before" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="After" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Captured by Sarah L. Gates on March 7th, 2023. All tweets before March 22 have been deleted.

G - Influential bot accounts, sized by degree centrality

![Influential bot accounts](image3.png)
H - Fake Profile Pictures used by Bot Accounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profile Pic by Bot-like account</th>
<th>Profile Pic found on Instagram</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Profile Pic by Bot-like account" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Profile Pic found on Instagram" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

chipss
@chipsup20

Joined January 2023
0 Following 621 Followers

Sona
@sonalzsleepin

Joined March 2023
41 Following 11 Followers

I - Posters disseminated by SFJ bot-like “network” seen outside Indian Consulate, Brisbane
J - Self Identified Pakistani accounts

Preety Kaur
689 Tweets
show this thread

Preety Kaur @preetys_kaur - Jan 2
SFJ #HappyNewYear Target #Indian Parliament #goodbye2022 #2023NewYear Khalistan Referendum Voting #Australia @RSSheth @Mavikakumar @topypranash @Kajal_ayer @bhavatoshsingh twitter.com/Simran_nsandhu...

Laughing like a baby, living like a queen.

Pakistan  ▪️ Joined December 2020
594 Following  266 Followers
K - SFJ’s leaders claiming Pakistan is a ‘friend’ of Khalistanis

In the accompanying video, Pannun characterizes Pakistan as the friend of Khalistanis, who have given them “life and land to fight terrorism”. He urges viewers to “not abandon Pakistan”, stop supporting India, and to support Khalistan and Pakistan instead.