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**Rally This Morning: Sikh Father Hit by Truck, Dragged 30 Feet in Hate Crime**

August 5, 2014 (New York, NY) – Two years to the day of the Oak Creek, Wisconsin Gurdwara massacre, the Sikh American community of New York City is organizing a rally this morning to draw attention to the plight of Sandeep Singh, a Sikh father who remains hospitalized after a driver in a pick-up truck ran him over on a public street last week and dragged him for 30 feet.

Only moments earlier, the driver had used racial and religious slurs against Sandeep, calling him a “terrorist” and telling him to “go back to your country.” While Sandeep recovers at a hospital, his attacker is still at large, and the Sikh Coalition is calling on city and federal agencies to investigate the attack on Sandeep as a hate crime.

“I am in a great deal of pain, but I will survive,” said **Sandeep Singh**, in a statement. “I was attacked because I am a Sikh and because I look like a Sikh. Justice should be served so that no one else goes through what I have been through. We need to create a world without hate.”

**Who: Mrs. Prabhpreet Kaur, wife of Sandeep Singh**

**What: Press Conference to Support Justice for Sandeep Singh**

**When: Tuesday, August 5, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Where: Corner of 101st Avenue and 99th Street, Richmond Hill, Queens, NY**

Sikh Americans have been targeted in several deadly attacks since 9/11. In September 2001, Balbir Singh Sodhi was shot and killed outside his business in Mesa, Arizona. In March 2011, Surinder Singh and Gurmej Singh Atwal were fatally shot in Elk Grove, California. Two years ago, on August 5, 2012, a neo-Nazi murdered six worshippers and injured several others at the Oak Creek Gurdwara in Wisconsin.

The running over of Sandeep Singh was the latest in a string of violent attacks against Sikh Americans after the Oak Creek tragedy. In February 2013, a Sikh business owner was shot and injured in Port Orange, Florida. In May 2013, a Sikh grandfather was beaten with a steel rod in Fresno, California. In September 2013, a Sikh professor at Columbia University was assaulted in New York City.

“Sandeep is very fortunate to be alive, but we want more law enforcement resources devoted to finding the hate attacker,” said **Amardeep Singh**, Program Director for the Sikh Coalition. “Given that this attack was preceded by racial and religious slurs, it is an attack not only on Sandeep but also on the whole Sikh community. We call on the U.S. Department of Justice and FBI to work with the NYPD to investigate it as a hate crime.”