

PRESS RELEASE

Assault in Sikh Temple

(Sydney, Australia) 8 March 2013 – Sikh Youth Australia, leading national Sikh organisation, has initiated a response to an incident that took place earlier this week at a Sikh Gurudwara in Craigieburn, Victoria.

“In light of the random attack on the Craigieburn Gurudwara we believe it is prudent for the community to stand united and educate fellow Australians about the Sikh faith and way of life. We send our thoughts and support to the victim and sangat in Craigieburn”, said President, Satwant Calais.

Local authorities have reported that a man entered the temple premises and punched a worshipper in the face before setting on fire a piece of rope attached to the building. According to news reports, the suspect was later arrested at the local railway station and faces court on Wednesday on assault and property damage charges.

Victorian police are in the process of investigating the random attack but in the meantime, Sikh Youth Australia urges the Sikh community to stand united and promote awareness of Sikhism through education and mutual respect.

“Australian Sikhs should turn to our brothers and sisters in America by way of example following the Wisconsin Gurudwara massacre late last year where the Sikh community remained strong in unity and grace. By promoting awareness of the Sikh faith and identity, we can respectfully educate our Australian neighbours about our way of life”, commented Nisha Jholl, spokesperson for the organisation.

An active member of the Victorian Sikh community and Mayor of the Darebin City Council, Tim Singh Laurence has also voiced the support of the Sikh community. “The Sikh community in the northern suburbs is very resilient and is grateful for the quick response of the police. The Sikh community will take the necessary steps to maintain the safety of the Craigieburn Gurudwara”, said Mayor Laurence.

As the investigation uncovers further facts, Sikh Youth Australia will continue to report to the Sikh community and assist authorities in any way possible.

Sikh Youth Australia has experts available for commentary on Sikhism, Sikh community engagement, and past incidents involving Sikhs in Australia and abroad.

For all media inquires please contact

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Attached Photo of Craigieburn Gurudwara (Sikh Temple)



Sikh
Youth
Australia

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