



NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDO-CANADIANS

(A Registered Not-for-Profit Organization)

Right Honorable Justin Trudeau,
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

February 2, 2021

Subject: Violence and assault on Indian democracy in the guise of farmer protests

Right Honorable Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing on behalf of Indo-Canadian community to reflect their sentiments concerning the farmer protest in New Delhi, India. On the auspicious occasion of Gurupurb, celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs alike, you stated in an exclusive Sikh virtual event, *"The situation is concerning and we are all very worried about family and friends and I know that is the reality about many of you. Let me remind you, Canada will always be there to defend the right of peaceful protests. We believe in the value of dialogue and that is why we have reached out by multiple means directly to the Indian authorities to highlight our concerns."* At this point, most members of the 1.4 million Indo-Canadian community were concerned, India being basically a friendly country.

Concerning attack on Capitol Hill, you stated, *"What we witnessed was an assault on democracy by violent rioters, incited by the current president and other politicians. As shocking, deeply disturbing, and frankly saddening as that event remains, we have also seen this week that democracy is resilient in America, our closest ally and neighbour. Violence has no place in our societies, and extremists will not succeed in overruling the will of the people."* A similar violence and assault on Indian democracy happened on its Republic Day by the extremist elements in the guise of farmers, but Canada as the beacon of peace-keeping democratic nation did not denounce it. This is even though Canada and India share history as commonwealth countries with strong democratic credentials and an increasing business and trade.

In all fairness, we call upon your honor to denounce the assault on Indian democracy, just as you did for Capitol Hill. This would help avoid perception in the Indo-Canadian community and Canadians at large of tacit support to extremist elements in the guise of farmers. The role of Sikh extremist elements from Canadian soil involved in Air India bombing that killed so many Canadians and others is not forgotten.

The National Alliance of Indo-Canadians is committed to friendly and increased trade relations between Canada and India, both being plural democracies.

While thanking you for your understanding, I am,

sincerely yours,

Azad K. Kaushik
President

Copy: Honorable Erin O'Toole, Leader of Opposition

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<https://naic.ca>; naic.indocanadians@gmail.com