Coalition of Hindus of North America
1195 Green Street, #286, Iselin, NJ 08830
https://cohna.org || info@cohna.org

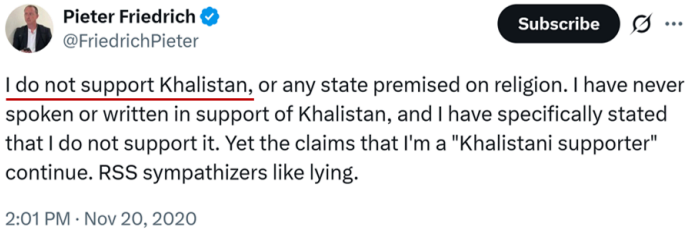
Pieter Friedrich's Partnership With Khalistani Extremists And Lies About Employment

Executive Summary

Self-styled journalist Pieter Friedrich has repeatedly claimed that he has nothing to do with the Khalistan extremist movement and has never spoken or written on its behalf. This is simply not true, as his own public record shows below. Friedrich has long held close associations with individuals and organizations tied to the Khalistani movement and has used his Khalistani platform to hound Hindu American leaders and organizations.

What's more, while claiming to be an "independent journalist," Friedrich maintains two LinkedIn profiles and has lied about his employment and affiliations to these Khalistani organizations.

CoHNA urges lawmakers and public officials to assess Friedrich by this record, rather than taking his claims of neutrality on American Hindu leaders and organizations at face value.



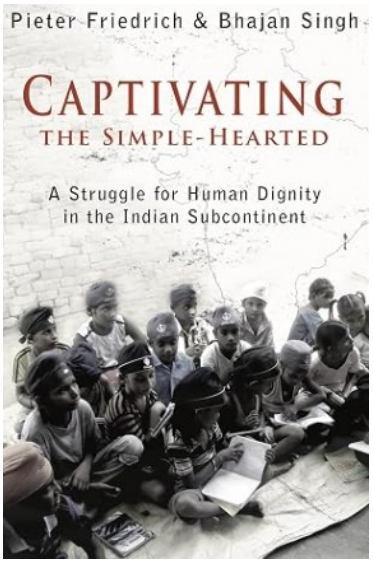


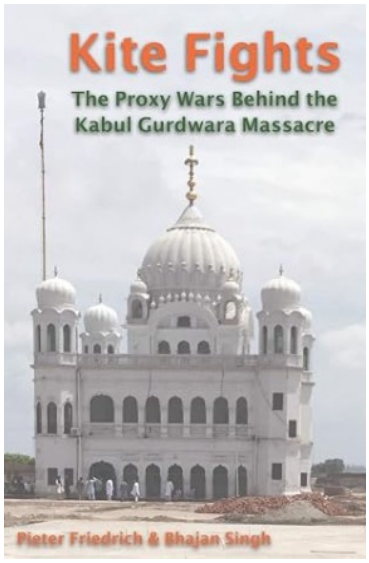
What is the Khalistan movement?

The Khalistani movement is a violent separatist movement that seeks to carve out a theocratic religious Sikh state from India. Its activists carried out the biggest terror attack in North America prior to 9/11: the bombing of Air India 182, on June 23, 1985, which killed all 329 people aboard, including 22 Americans and 268 Canadians; and the failed bombing of another Air India jet in Tokyo on the same day.

Khalistani terror networks have also been on the radar of American and Canadian governments for immigration fraud, international drug trafficking, gang violence, and illegal arms trade.

Co-Authorship with Khalistani Ideologue Bhajan Singh Bhinder





Friedrich's primary collaborator and mentor within the Khalistani networks has been Bhajan Singh Bhinder, a longtime Bay Area-based Khalistani ideologue. Together, the two have co-authored and self-published at least two books. In 2020, they published *Kite Fights: The Proxy Wars Behind the Kabul Gurdwara Massacre* and, in 2017, *Captivating the Simple-Hearted: A Struggle for Human Dignity in the Indian Subcontinent*. The former peddles anti-Hindu conspiracy theories about the Islamic State terror attack on a Sikh temple in Kabul on March 25, 2020, which killed 25 Sikh worshippers; while the latter advances a Hinduphobic narrative that "otherizes" Hindus in their own civilizational homeland and erases Hindu indigeneity in the Indian subcontinent. Yet Friedrich says he has not "engaged with the Khalistan cause?"

Bhinder's Ties to Khalistani Terror

Bhinder, the founder of two organizations where Friedrich spent a total of 14 years, has been part of Khalistani networks at least since the late 1980s. He was named as one of several diaspora contacts through whom funds were raised for the Khalistan movement, in a 1992 confessional statement in *Lal Singh v. State of Gujarat*. The case was tried under India's anti-terrorism law and affirmed by India's Supreme Court in 2001.



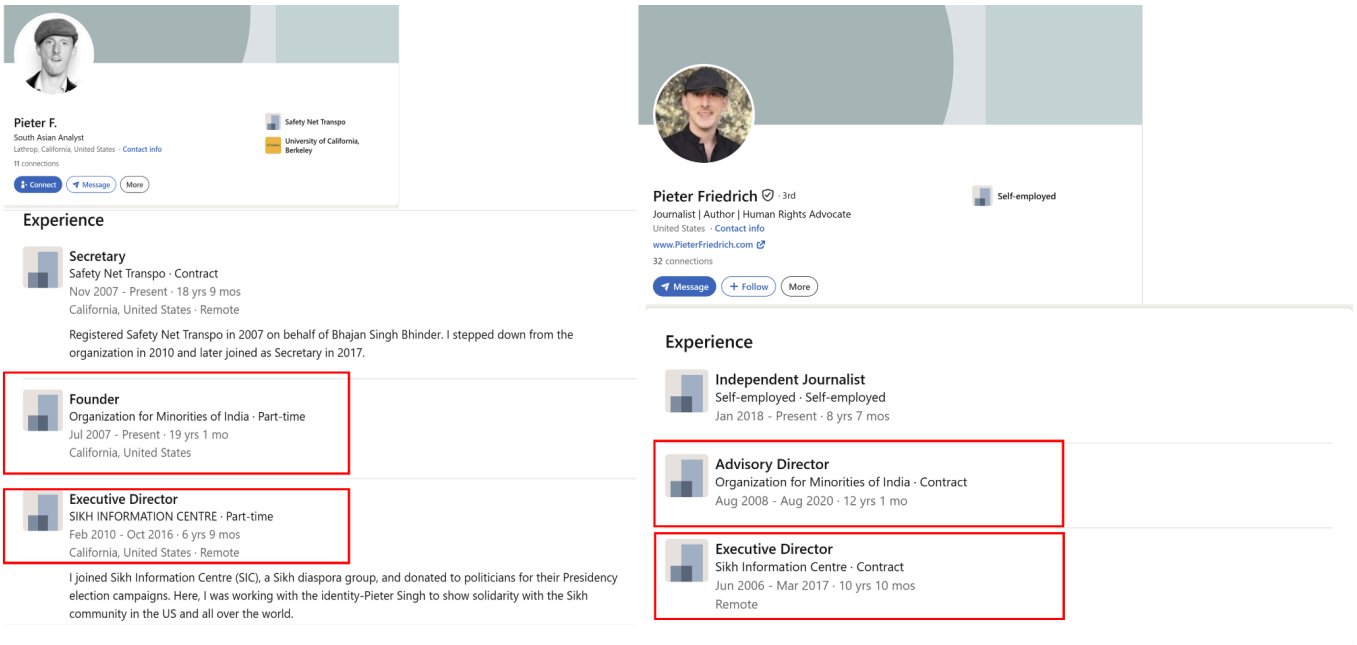
Source: 2021, America Times

Separately, in 1992, US federal agents also alleged that Bhinder sought to procure explosives, rifles, rocket launchers, and Stinger missiles for the Khalistan movement, according to a 2003 *East Bay Express* investigation. The same investigation also reported that the Sikh Youth of America (SYA)—of which Bhinder was a leading member—was linked to the International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) which is a proscribed terror group in the US, Canada, Japan, and India.

Leadership at Hinduphobic Khalistani Institutions - And Lies About Employment

Interestingly, Friedrich maintains two LinkedIn profiles - one where he calls himself a South Asian Analyst and another where he calls himself a journalist, author, and a human rights advocate. However, **he outrightly lies about his affiliations and professional experience**:

- In one profile, he claims to have been the Executive Director of Sikh Information Centre (SIC) June 2006 - March 2017, while in another profile, he claims to have been the Executive Director of SIC from Feb 2010 - Oct 2016.
- Similarly, in one profile, he claims to be the founder of the Organization for Minorities of India (OFMI) while in the other, he claims to have been the Advisory Director with overlapping timelines.



From the above, it's fair to assume that Friedrich was recruited by Bhinder to advocate for the Khalistan cause. Bhinder founded two advocacy organizations, and Friedrich held positions in both, according to his own LinkedIn profiles (claiming to be a founder in one of his profiles) – thus falsifying his claim of distance from the Khalistan movement:

- **Sikh Information Center (SIC)** — Founded by Bhinder in 1988 to promote the Khalistan cause; Friedrich served as its Executive Director from June 2006 to March 2017 (according to one of his LinkedIn profiles), speaking on important matters on behalf of SIC, along with making videos and managing content.
- **Organization for Minorities of India (OFMI)** — Founded in 2006 by Bhinder (though Friedrich also claims to be a founder according to one of his LinkedIn profiles) to ostensibly fight oppression of minorities in India while continuing to serve the Khalistan cause; Friedrich served as Advisory Director from August 2008 to August 2020.

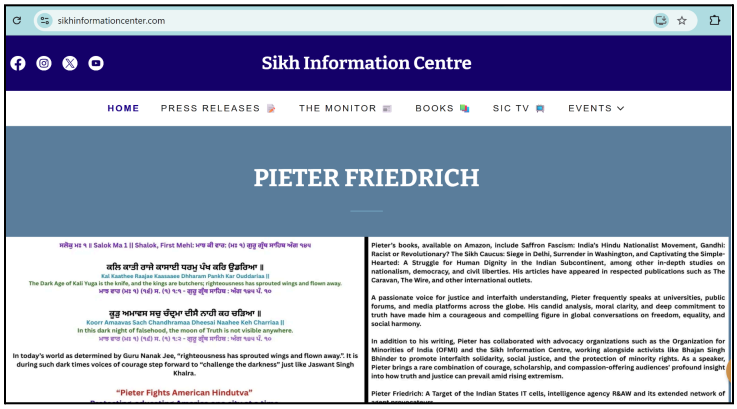
Beyond these organizations, per Friedrich's own LinkedIn profile, he started Safety Net Transpo on behalf of Bhinder in 2007, and then returned to be its Secretary in 2017 ten years later. Thus, his affiliation with Bhinder and the Khalistani network goes back two decades.

Pieter Friedrich or Pieter Singh? The Anti-Hindu Content Never Stops



The Hinduphobic character of these organizations, particularly the SIC, is evident in their public content. The first video to appear on SIC's website is titled "Dangerous Planning of Hinduism," featuring SIC founder Bhajan Singh discussing Hinduism itself as a threat!

Another video claims that India uses ISIS to kill Sikhs and quotes a March 2013 statement by Bhinder saying that India's "upper caste Hindus" use minorities in their expansionist agendas.



The website's front page prominently features Friedrich's attacks on Hindu organizations and promotes him as an "independent journalist".



SIC also has multiple YouTube channels. Curiously, one of the older ones, with the user ID @sikhinfocentre, is named "Pieter Singh".

And while adopting an alias is not, by itself, unlawful, it does raise issues of transparency: why did a self-described "independent journalist" present himself under a commonly used Sikh last name when producing content for a Khalistani organization?



In a SIC video, titled "Gandhi: Lies by Design", featured on this @sikhinfocentre channel, under the name of "Pieter Singh", Friedrich is clearly seen as participating in an event that denigrates Mahatma Gandhi, which is perhaps unsurprising given his disparaging views of this globally revered figure.

Friedrich claims that "Hinduphobia" is a dog whistle Hindu organizations use to silence criticism. However the SIC's own framing of an entire faith (Hinduism) as dangerous, in a video, produced by the organization he led for over a decade, undercuts that claim. All this, in addition to Friedrich's antisemitic and homophobic views as previously highlighted.