

APPENDIX I

PRESS RELEASE BY THE SIKH ADVISORY BOARD, SINGAPORE (SAB)

Allegations that the Singapore Prisons cuts the hair of Sikh inmates involved in taking drugs, smoking or consuming alcohol are untrue.

Singapore, 20 June 2012: The Sikh Advisory Board, Singapore (SAB) is deeply concerned by the allegation, made by an individual, that officers of the Singapore Prisons Department cut the hair of a Sikh inmate, and that the SAB was complicit in this or supported it. This allegation is untrue.

In February 2011, an allegation surfaced in the Sikh community in Singapore that the Prisons Department deviated from its hair policy for Sikh inmates in cutting the hair of a Sikh prisoner. The SAB and the Singapore Sikh leadership viewed this seriously.

The SAB, immediately wrote to the Prisons' Department, expressing its concerns and stating that *'If (the allegations were) true, this is a grave matter and of utmost concern to the Sikh community'*. The Department was urged to investigate the matter on an urgent basis.

The Prisons' Department conducted an investigation and found that the allegations were untrue, and that the Prisons' Department had not deviated from its long-standing hair policy for Sikh inmates. The SAB called a meeting of the Sikh Community and shared the findings of the Prisons' Department with the Community leadership which accepted the investigation results.

The Sikhs in Singapore are fortunate to be living in a multiracial society where the rights of all minorities are safeguarded. Sikhism is recognized as one of the major religions in the country. Circulation of misleading reports like this one could contribute to undermine the social fabric of a close-knit Singapore society, of which the Sikh community is an integral and responsible part.

The Sikh Advisory Board:

The Sikh Advisory Board (SAB) advises the Government on matters concerning the Sikh religion and customs and the general welfare of the Sikh community. The SAB is made up of 15 members, 11 from the 7 gurdwaras in Singapore and 4 appointed by the Singapore Government. Further details on the SAB can be found on its website [www.sikhadvisoryboard.org].

