

111X SUSSEX DRIVE

**Rattan Singh Kalsi**

**Loved One Lost: Indira Kalsi (daughter)**

my Beautiful  
N wife  
H.K. KALS

Mr. Commissioner, I am Rattan Singh Kalsi from London, Ontario and I lost my beloved daughter in the bombing of AI Flight 182. The worst thing in life is to lose a child. That is what happened to us. We lost children. Parents should die before their children. Children should not die before their parents.

OLD  
AGE  
in Niger

N IN-OLD-AGE- this is Really happened here

**Could you tell us a little about yourself?**

I am originally from India, but moved to England at the age of 19 to pursue my post-secondary education. I lived there for many years, first to attend the Paddington Technical school in London for three years and then to complete a practical apprenticeship with the company, SE Opperman for another three years. I am trained as a general machinist and work in mechanical engineering in the specialized of tool and dye making. I chose this profession because my older brother was in the same trade and I knew it was a profession in great demand.

### When did you get married?

*Oct 27th -*

I got married in 1957. I went to India to get married and I came back to England with my wife. We have six children, although we lost one in the bombing. All our children were born in England.

### What was life like in England for you and your family?

I worked in England for 15 years from 1952-1967. Life was great in England. In 1967, I was working with Cosworth Engineering on their Formula 1 racing engine team. My two bosses, ~~Coslen~~ <sup>COSTE/N</sup> and Duckworth, are good friends of mine, even today, I could <sup>GO</sup> back and they would give me my job back. They tried to keep me in England – they warned me about the Canadian winter and told me I would be back.

*winter in Canada are very cold - 40°! wages goes in heating the houses they knew about Canada very well -*

I left my family in England and arrived in Canada alone in February. I remember there was three feet of snow on the ground and my bosses' warning rang in my head. After about a month here, I fell ill. I missed my family and nearly decided to move back to England. However, my Canadian boss told me that if I went back now, I did not even try. Soon the summer came around and I began to warm up to Canada.

### **Why did you decide to come to Canada?**

I decided to immigrate to Canada because I believed that there would be better opportunities for my children here. I felt that there was more opportunity, more space and possibility here in Canada. All my children were under 10 years of age at that time, Indira herself was just four when I immigrated to Canada. Had I known that I would have lost my beloved daughter, Indira, because of this choice, I would never have come.

I love England, still to this day. When I left England, it was purely for my family. I was happy there and had already achieved everything that I hoped for in life. I had a large family with three boys and three daughters. I had an interesting and well-paid job with friends as bosses. I was well-settled in England: a car, a house, a wife, children and a permanent job. England treated me very nicely.

**I understand that you moved to Canada to start a new job.**

One day, however, I saw an ad for a job in Canada, applied and was selected. The Canadian government assisted me with relocation expenses and located job for me in Milton, Ontario. I paid back all the assistance that I received from the Canadian government, which was approximately \$1000, a lot of money at that time. I did not want to keep Canadian government's money. At times, this makes me remark that I do not owe anything to the Canadian government, but they owe me my daughter.

**Can you described to us a little about your new life in Canada?**

Commissioner Major, please know that I love Canada, by the way, I am a Canadian. I became a Canadian citizen immediately when I arrived <sup>here</sup> her, since as a British citizen I did not have to wait the typical mandatory 5-year waiting period. I still have my British citizenship but do not have Indian citizenship. The day I landed, 1967 election was on, the election that brought Trudeau to power. I have much civic pride; I read the newspapers to stay aware of social issues and did lots of political campaign work for both Trudeau and Mulroney – I was not associated with just one political party, but rather supported the politicians who I believed had the best ideas for the good of the people. I remained very politically active until 1985; that is, until I lost Indira in the bombing. Today, certainly, I still vote, but I no longer actively support any political campaign.

**I understand that you ran a non-profit company in Canada.**

I knew that I had been asked to come to Canada to use my specialized skills as a <sup>DIE-G-MACHINIST</sup> tool and ~~dye~~-maker for the benefit of this country. So, I decided to what better way to do that than to give my skills to other Canadians. I opened a non-profit company to train others on my craft, to allow them to achieve better wages as my work was well-paid. In the short life of the company, I trained four people, all who have good jobs today paying well over \$80,000 annually. One is a professor teaching others the tool and <sup>DIE</sup> dye trade. Another is working for a large corporation. I was incapable of continuing with the company after Indira's death. If I had, I would have surely trained over 50 people by now and given them skills that would have improved their standard of life.

ARND-WHITING

The Oakville MP used to come to tell me that I was doing a wonderful job for Canada. I said, "It's nothing, I am a Canadian, I have to do it." I fulfilled my obligation to Canada happily, and then the Canadian government failed in its obligation to protect AI Flight 182 and my daughter.

Right Honourable Prime Minister Mulroney did not even know that most of the passengers were Canadian.

IF BOMBING-  
DID NOT  
HAPPENED



became her Birth day in December 24th 11:45 PM.  
She has to start school at 4 YRS. she fell behind.  
↓ soon after she caught up with her studies in her class

**Please tell us about your daughter, Indira.**

Indira had completed grade 13 here in London and was studying nursing at the University of Guelph. She also had two part-time jobs in Mississauga: she was working with chemists in a pharmacy. She worked for two days and went to school for three days.

BORN TO  
my wonderful  
full wife  
Dec 1963

gifted child -

She was an extraordinarily loving young woman, who cared for people all around

her. Indira was born December 24th 11:45 PM.  
would get up so that every one celebrating it was not her  
Birth day

**What was she like? What were her dreams?**

Indira had dreams to live her life doing social work. One day she came to me and said, "Dad, you are in business. Can you help me?" She said, "I read the newspaper. They were talking about Canadians going overseas. I want to go overseas and help poor people." I told her, "I am not a millionaire, but I will help you as much as I can." Ironically, after working part-time with a pharmacy that summer, her dream was to open a free dispensary of medicine in the Punjab." She dreamed to help the very same people who put the bomb on board and ended her dream forever.

in Jinnah Park

I Bought the <sup>AIR-LINE</sup> ticket for every one of us. when I came back with ticket Indira gave me a check for \$3000- she insisted she pay for her trip. I persuaded her that I will keep only \$400 & Rest returned - She Bought \$1600 travel checks - after the crash - CIBC Bank gave me that 1600 back to me. (6)

## INDIRA'S STORIES

**I understand that she was very generous. Could you tell me some stories about her generosity.**

Last week while preparing my statement, I was looking at her trophy in our house. When she was 11, she won a Safe Riding bicycle award.

By *she came to me that if I take her to this safe riding cycle competition she won 1st prize -*

**Senior Home visits:** From that age until she died, she would go to seniors'

homes to comfort them. She was an asset to Canada. She would give them cake and garlands of flowers. She told me that she went because many of the seniors ~~had lost their children~~ *had left home* and no one goes to see them, except her.

*at age 18-20 left home. They were alone in Hous. she would go and help them*

**Eye doctor story:** So many people have come to me about ways that Indira

touched their lives in extraordinary ways. My old eye doctor, who was elderly at the time, told me that she would bring him small tokens when she came to visit him.

*Bouquet of Flowers - Birthday cake*

**Indira trusted us completely (marriage):** One day, her high school teacher,

Ms. Ghoshe, told me about a conversation she had with Indira. She had asked Indira, "Indira, you are a western and Canadian girl. How will you marry?" She was asking Indira about arranged marriages. She said that Indira replied, "I trust my dad and my mom. They never do anything wrong with me. I will marry whomever they suggest." She was like that, she loved us so much.

Today, my other five children are married by their choice; they found their own

partners and are living happily ever after. We never forced anyone on any of our children. She was always going out of her way to be kind to others. I warned her not to come home too late from all these activities, but she would say, "Don't worry about me."

**Indira wanted to care for me in my old age:** I remember telling Indira that one day she would get married and move away. She replied that she wanted to buy a house down the street so that she could care for my wife and I. I told her that I could care for myself, there was no need, but she always insisted on this.

*Now she is no more*

**Buying a car:** I remember Indira brought home a Buick. I found out that she had bought it and asked her why. I did not expect such a big car, I thought she would prefer a little Toyota. *or small compact car* She told me that she had bought it for the family.

In fact, she showed me the ownership papers and she had put my name on it! She thought about family first, before herself.

She had such a soft personality, she would respect everybody.



### **What was the purpose of your daughter's trip to India?**

I wanted to show my children my roots in India. Today, I feel that I should not have made that decision. They were Canadian, it was wrong to send them to India. I had no idea about the Indian political situation. I knew that there was some unrest, but underestimated the danger there. We discussed how to stay safe - I told my children that when we go to India, we would avoid danger

I went to India two weeks ahead of my family. I did this to check the accommodations. In Canada, we had the luxuries of an air-conditioned house, meals cooked on the table. I had heard that the water was not good in Delhi; I feared that my children would get sick. I went ahead because I was protecting my children. I have always been protective of my children. Despite these efforts, I could not protect Indira.

### **Was Indira excited about the trip? What did she want to do?**

Indira was excited to go. She had made up her mind to see her granny in India, who was well over 80. She also wanted to see where I had come from, our family history. My father had been a social worker in India. He had helped to build a school in India, which is now a university. The people from the school always asked me to send my dad's picture and I never gave them any picture. Indira was finally bringing the picture of my father - it was a truly saintly picture,

my father had a glowing presence in it - to give it to the school. Indira had never been to India before; the bombers stopped her from ever seeing it. She wanted to go to the Golden Temple. She did not know that the conflict around the Golden Temple would lead to her death before she even set eyes on it.

**How did you hear about the bombing?**

*my Brother in law*

I was in India waiting for her to land. Suddenly ~~someone~~ told me the plane had fallen from the sky. I fainted, I remember someone putting cold water on me to wake me up.

**I understand you had a bad encounter with a Canadian Official in**

**Cork.**

YES

I went alone to Cork, Ireland to look for Indira.

*Then I met a Canadian official from Canadian Embassy*

I mentioned to a Canadian official in Cork that I used to hear in the media that there are Sikh separatists in Canada and that they were probably (but not definitely) the ones that brought down the plane. He replied, "Keep it down, don't tell anybody about this." He was quite rude. He should have told me that Canada would do their best to catch the culprit, but instead he told me to shut up. I could recognize that official to this day.

*^ if I have to*

**Did you receive any offers of support after the bombing?**

There was never support from the Canadian government. From the Irish however, yes, there was definitely support. If I was hungry, they would come and feed me, even force feed me. I was not really able to eat in those days. They gave moral support. A priest would come to me, Irish priests who said comforting words, "Whatever has happened it is with the gods. Be a strong person, accept it." The Irish Garda one day took me in their cruiser, drove me 60 miles out of Cork to Blarney just to take my mind off of things. They told me to put my arm around the pillar. I still have the address of one of the police officers. I wish we had met in happier times.

HE SAID HIS NAME @ Detective-Sergeant  
O'Connell. Barrack St POLICE-  
STATION

### **How did your life change after the bombing?**

I lost my non-profit company after losing Indira. I was dealing with the shock of losing my little Canadian girl. No one helped me. At that time, the company was worth around \$175,000; but it went for \$9,000 in bits and pieces. I had a nervous breakdown and I could not take care of my interests. I recovered in 3-4 years. That is the time that the Canadian government could have come to me and helped me start my company again. But they never did offer anything.

Had I been able to continue my business, I would have trained 200-300 Canadians by today who would be making good wages and would have gained valuable skills.

That company was an asset to Canada. We made a little money for food and shelter, but basically, we were a non-profit company working to benefit Canada. The government should have supported this business.



### How did you deal with the grief of losing your daughter?

I suffered from the shock of losing Indira for many years. My doctor told me to go to where the plane fell. I had read in the newspapers that they were building memorial in Ireland. He said that if you visit the memorial you may get better.

*I and my wife during our trips we made flower beds in east seaboard memorial every one appreciated their flower beds in the Memorial.*

### Did you go to the Irish memorial?

*yes*

Ireland has given me strength. I started to live again by visiting Ireland. I ~~am~~ <sup>and my wife</sup>

the only one who has gone to the Cork memorial on the anniversary <sup>19</sup>~~20~~ times; I

*g* missed <sup>TWS</sup>~~last~~ year only because I ran out of funds to travel. I will start saving and hope to go next year. <sup>es-</sup>

**I understand that you and your wife planted the garden around the memorial?**

About 60% of the garden around the memorial, including the east side flower bed, is done by my wife and me. Two or three other families have joined us.

We have all worked to make it beautiful. Irish city councillors also help, but it is mostly my wife and I that are responsible for the garden.

PARADISE Para dise - I Request to Canadian GOVERNMENT  
To By us that House in front of  
the memorial so we all can use it when  
we visit our land if I had that kind  
of Man I would have bought in  
by now for every ones use -

**Do you do anything in memory of your daughter?**

Every year, I fast on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June in memory of Indira.

I also became vegetarian after the crash, because Indira was vegetarian. She chose to be vegetarian because she was against cruelty to animals, not because of any religious reason. She was aware of these social issues.

**What do you hope for in this Inquiry?**

Injustice has been done to us, and saying nothing is supporting injustice. For 21 years, we have not gotten anything. Everyone in the government knows who is responsible for the bombing.

watching unjust

^ DOING

SIKH - SEPARIST

why

All we ask is that someone to tell us who did it and to take steps to prevent this from happening again. That's all we want.

^

**Is there anything in particular that you would like to comment on?**

Canada is far too lenient on terrorists; our system actually encourages them.

Commissioner? MAJOR STOP THE FUNDS - BEING COLLECTED - BY TERRORIST USED FOR KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE

**Religious tolerance, not extremism:** Mr. Commissioner, I do love the

Canadian government. I am a very religious person - I am Jewish, Muslim,

Catholic, Christian, Sikh, Hindu Buddhist - but this means that I respect every religion in the world. I was born into the same religion that blew up the plane.

^ UNTOUCHABLE

Most of the Sikhs are good; it is one of the good religions. My comments do not

refer to an entire religious group, but rather only particular individuals known to be terrorists.

**Extradition:** It bothers me that the mastermind of this bombing, long before *BOMBING* had tried to cross the US border but the US stopped him. He was never allowed to enter the US – that means the US knew who was a terrorist and who was not, but my govt let him stay in Canada and let him be the mastermind to bring down an airplane carrying my Canadian daughter.

There are some people in Canada who are wanted by their original country where they come from. They are killers and murderers. They should be sent back. The Crown said that we do not have authority to do that. I disagree with this, known criminals should be sent back to their original country to pay for their crimes. *THIS - WILL - HELP - SAFE - GUARD - CANADIAN*

**Golden Temple Justification:** Some people say that the AI 182 bombing was in reply to the attack on the Golden temple. There were terrorists hiding in the Golden Temple – that's what they don't tell you. They were hiding AK-47, guns, grenades and bombs. In *FIVE* ~~give~~ years, they killed many innocent people. India was calling to the US for help, but terrorism was not important to America until *WORLD - FROM 30 YRS* after 9/11. India is the largest democracy in the world. India was telling the *THE - TERRORIST - IN - PT.* world that there is terrorism coming, let's try to stop it. ~~The terrorist in the~~

*India was telling the world about terrorism  
But No Body was listening.*

Golden Temple killed innocent people for 5 years. Then the Indian government got fed up and flushed out the terrorist.

PRESIDENT

If Bush can go into two foreign territories to flush out terrorists that are not even  
^  
on American soil, then India can surely flush out terrorists from their own territory.

DOWNING THE AIR-INDIA

I know my daughter will never be back, even if those responsible are sent to jail  
^  
for a long, long time. There are some Canadians who will do the same thing again one day. They are killers and wanted by their govt and this govt is not sending them back. They should extradite these criminals and send them back. Canada would be a lot safer if Canada would do that.



**Is there anything else you would like to say to the Commissioner?**

My family is an asset to the Canadian society. I always tried to teach them the importance of contributing to society. People still come to me and ask why my children are so disciplined, so well and so nice and always taking care of other people. It is typical to be concerned with making money. In a sense, all my children are social workers. I never teach them any wrong things. I say, "Go and served humanity." Today, my children all have great families and are

running social workers. *if they are good not because me but because There Saintly finger - Grand father -*

I know that all you need in life is two or three meals a day. This Inquiry is not about the money. People could take everything I own as long as I could have my daughter back. Commissioner, please work to make Canada safer for the next generation, for my nine grandchildren. *& all the canadian children*

Thank you.