



GENEV- 10544

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations and the World Trade Organization at Geneva presents its compliments to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 58/14, 59/4, 61/22, 57/7 and 58/5, and has the honour to make reference to the letter dated 3 June 2026 (reference AL CAN 3/2026).

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of Canada has the honour to submit Canada's response.

The submission consists of one document.

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations and the World Trade Organization at Geneva avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 03 August 2026.

Government of Canada Response to Joint Communication from Special Procedures

Ref.: AL CAN 3/2026

Canada is pleased to respond to questions and comments raised by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 58/14, 59/4, 61/22, 57/7 and 58/5.

Canada reiterates its longstanding commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and to upholding its international human rights obligations, both at home and around the world. Canada appreciates the important role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in promoting accountability and advancing the protection of human rights globally.

Canada takes seriously all credible threats against persons within its territory and is deeply concerned by the threats against Bhai Moninder Singh Bual (Moninder Singh), his family and his work, and by the death of his colleague, Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Transnational repression is never justified. Canada is taking robust action to detect, disrupt, and deter transnational repression, online and offline, and to enhance protections and supports for those in Canada who are targeted by such acts.

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.

Canada is firmly committed to upholding human rights, consistent with its obligations under both domestic and international law, inter alia the rights to freedom of religion or belief, freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of assembly. Canada recognises that a vibrant civil society, enriched by diverse voices, perspectives and lived experiences, is essential and the Government of Canada is resolute in its efforts to foster a safe, enabling and inclusive environment for advocacy and participation, online and offline.

At the same time, Canada recognises that a wide range of cultural and religious communities, as well as civil society organizations, may be targeted by foreign actors seeking to influence, intimidate or silence individuals in Canada. In its 2025 Public Report, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) identified the main perpetrators of foreign interference against Canada as the People's Republic of China, India, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Pakistan; however, these are not the only states engaged in such activities. Foreign interference can take many forms, including disinformation, information manipulation, coercion, relationship cultivation, malicious cyber activities, and transnational repression – particularly egregious efforts by a foreign state or its proxies to intimidate, influence and/or exact reprisals against individuals or groups living outside their borders.

In response to these threats, the Government of Canada continues to take concrete action through law enforcement activities, intelligence efforts, and community support. As part of its core responsibility to safeguard the safety, security, and well-being of everyone in Canada, the

Government is committed to protecting the individuals and communities that make up Canada's diverse population, including the Sikh community. Strong partnerships between intelligence agencies, law enforcement authorities, and affected communities are one of Canada's best defenses against foreign interference, including transnational repression.

Within this broader effort, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) plays a central role in investigating and disrupting criminal threats to national security. The RCMP leverages all available tools within Canada's legal framework, including the *Criminal Code* and other relevant statutes, to address such threats. The RCMP also works closely with domestic and international security and intelligence partners to identify and protect those that may be experiencing harassment, intimidation, coercion, violence or threats of violence from a foreign entity or its proxies.

With respect to the allegations in this case, Canada's national police service, the RCMP, is responsible for investigating criminal threats related to foreign interference under the *Foreign Interference and Security of Information Act* and the *Criminal Code*.

2. Please indicate the steps taken by your Excellency's Government to assess the risks of threats to life and security of person, as well as other forms of transnational repression, against Mr. Moninder Singh and his family, including due to his cooperation with the United Nations, and the measures taken to provide them with the necessary support and protection.

The Government of Canada cannot comment on operational matters or issues that may be the subject of ongoing investigations; however, Canada's security and intelligence apparatus works continuously to identify, assess, and address threats posed by foreign states or foreign-linked actors. When CSIS is informed of any allegations of foreign interference, including transnational repression, it leverages the full authorities of the *CSIS Act* to investigate, advise, and respond to the threat, in partnership with law enforcement. This includes detecting, investigating, and disrupting threats against individuals in Canada.

The RCMP investigates and responds to criminal activities associated with foreign interference, including transnational repression. The RCMP is aware that certain foreign states intimidate, coerce, harass, and harm people in Canada and their relatives living abroad. Any involvement of a foreign government in acts of violence against Canadian citizens or any other individual on Canadian soil, whether directly or indirectly, is unacceptable and constitutes an intolerable violation of Canadian sovereignty. To address these threats, the RCMP works in collaboration with domestic and international law enforcement partners to ensure the safety and security of individuals targeted by foreign entities or their proxies. Through integrated teams and established information-sharing frameworks, partners are able to coordinate investigations, assess threats, and respond to incidents in a unified manner while respecting legal authorities and privacy obligations. The RCMP also works with international law enforcement agencies, INTERPOL, Europol, and allied security partners to investigate and disrupt transnational threats. These partnerships help identify perpetrators, gather evidence, and support enforcement actions that extend beyond Canada's jurisdiction. Working together, these partnerships help the RCMP better protect individuals who may be targeted by foreign states or their proxies.

Additionally, the RCMP engages directly with individuals and communities in vulnerable situations as part of its broader efforts to counter foreign interference. Where circumstances warrant, including

situations involving clear, serious, and imminent threats of death or serious bodily harm, the RCMP may implement additional protective measures, including, but not limited to, the issuing of 'Duty to Warn' notices. Through these efforts, the RCMP seeks both to protect affected individuals, as well as strengthen resilience against these types of threats.

- 3. Please provide information on measures taken by your Excellency's Government to independently and impartially investigate credible allegations of threats to life or of violence, or other forms of harassment or intimidation, against Sikh activists and human rights defenders, including Mr. Moninder Singh. Please detail the results of such investigations and explain what measures of accountability have taken in response, including prosecutions of any perpetrators and reparation for victims.**

CSIS collects intelligence, investigates, and takes action to reduce or prevent threats to the safety, security, and prosperity of Canada and Canadians. As threats evolve, so too does the Government of Canada's monitoring and response activities. When it is in the national interest to do so, CSIS will speak publicly about threats, including transnational repression activities by foreign states. CSIS and the Government of Canada work with communities across the country to better understand their experiences, perspectives, and concerns, and to share information to build resilience against potential threats. The national security community also engages foreign governments to strengthen resilience, security, alliances, and engagement to protect Canadians.

Consistent with this broader effort to counter foreign interference, including transnational repression, in 2024, the RCMP took the unprecedented step of publicly disclosing the threat posed by actions of the Government of India that have come to light through various law enforcement operations, including continued and active RCMP investigations.

As part of Canada's efforts to detect, deter and disrupt all forms of foreign interference, the RCMP initiated and leads national teams dedicated to addressing violent extremism directed against the South Asian community. It maintains situational awareness across the country of possible threats and actively works with its law enforcement partners and police of jurisdiction to address threats to vulnerable communities.

Complementing its investigative role, the RCMP also provides intelligence analysis and coordination support to police of jurisdiction across the country. This support helps empower local law enforcement agencies to conduct their own investigations into criminal activities linked to organized crime, such as extortion and intimidation. Through these joint efforts, the RCMP and its law enforcement partners have identified several credible and imminent threats to life, which have led them to issue 'Duty to Warn' notifications to members of the South Asian community, and specifically members of the pro-Khalistan movement.

- 4. Please indicate what measures have been taken by your Excellency's Government to ensure that Sikh activists and human rights defenders in Canada are able to carry out their legitimate activities without fear of threats or acts of violence, intimidation, harassment or reprisal of any sort, including so as to safeguard their freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly, association, and religion or belief, their right to participate in public affairs, and their minority cultural rights.**

Canada is committed to protecting, promoting and respecting human rights. Any act of foreign interference, including transnational repression, constitutes a serious threat to Canada's sovereignty, democratic institutions, and national security.

The RCMP works closely with its domestic and international security and intelligence partners to identify, deter and disrupt any form of foreign actor interference in Canada, as well as to protect those that may be experiencing related harassment, intimidation, or violence.

In addition to investigative and enforcement activities, Canada places importance on building community resilience to foreign interference, including transnational repression. The RCMP actively engages with communities at risk of foreign interference through outreach, education and relationship-building initiatives designed to strengthen awareness and trust. Local detachments, including in cities like Surrey and Calgary, regularly engage with community members through local events and by promoting cross-cultural awareness and competence among new RCMP personnel. The RCMP also dedicates significant resources to crime prevention and community outreach, including the development of assessment tools to detect, disrupt and deter transnational repression. Additionally, the RCMP distributes tailored safety warnings and educational materials regarding transnational repression in multiple languages, including English, French and Punjabi. These materials offer clear, actionable protocols on how to secure properties, manage digital footprints, and legally navigate threats.

To further strengthen these efforts, the Government of Canada announced an investment of an additional \$1.8 billion over four years to enhance the RCMP's policing capacity, including the hiring of 1,000 additional personnel. This investment will augment Canada's ability to detect, respond to, deter and disrupt threats to national security and the safety of individuals in Canada, including that posed by transnational repression.

Operational measures are complemented by legislative reforms designed to strengthen Canada's ability to counter foreign interference. In 2024, the Government enacted the *Countering Foreign Interference Act* which modernized the legislative framework used to address foreign interference. The Act established new offences and strengthened penalties, including for individuals convicted of an indictable offence committed at the direction of, for the benefit of, or in association with a foreign entity.

As part of these reforms, the *Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act*, enacted through the *Countering Foreign Interference Act*, will come into force on August 4, 2026. The Act is designed to increase transparency surrounding foreign influence activities directed at Canada's political and governmental processes and will require individuals and entities acting at the direction of, or in association with, a foreign principal to disclose these arrangements to the Foreign Influence Transparency Commissioner. The Commissioner will establish and maintain a publicly accessible registry of foreign influence arrangements. Non-compliance may result in administrative monetary penalties and/or criminal prosecution.

Alongside these legislative measures, Public Safety Canada's Office of the National Counter Foreign Interference Coordinator leads outreach and engagement with diaspora communities across Canada, including Sikh communities, in collaboration with federal security and intelligence partners and local police services. These efforts aim to build trust, raise awareness of reporting mechanisms for foreign

interference, including transnational repression, and ensure that government actions are informed by lived experiences and diverse perspectives.

Canada also works closely with international partners to strengthen collective responses to transnational repression. Following the G7 Leaders' Statement on Transnational Repression on June 17, 2025, G7 members and associate countries developed the *TNR Resilience and Response Framework*, supported by the evergreen *G7 Compendium of Tools to Counter Transnational Repression*. Together, these initiatives outline operational, diplomatic, policy, legislative, and community-based measures to strengthen national responses to transnational repression.

As part of these international efforts, Global Affairs Canada's Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) monitors and responds to foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) that threaten Canada's interests, including defence and national security, as well as threats to the safety of persons in Canada. As permanent chair of the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism, RRM Canada leads the Government of Canada's international coordination efforts to address foreign threats to democracies, such as FIMI and transnational repression.

Canada has also advanced practical international cooperation through a range of G7 initiatives. During its G7 presidency, Canada hosted the inaugural G7 Digital Transnational Repression Detection Academy in October 2025 to detect foreign threats online and enhance the Mechanism's interoperability, including to speed up collective response. Canada also launched the Joint Canada-UK Common Good Cyber Fund to provide scalable digital protection to individuals at risk of transnational repression. In addition, G7 Rapid Response Mechanism members and associates issued two coordinated public statements condemning transnational repression. Building on these efforts, Canada hosted a G7 Tabletop Exercise on Transnational Repression in Ottawa in November 2025 to test the *TNR Resilience and Response Framework*, identify best practices, and enhance coordinated responses among partner countries.

Beyond the G7, Canada has also taken steps to bolster awareness about TNR and its human rights impacts at the United Nations. In December 2025, Canada, in collaboration with a cross-regional group of countries (Costa Rica, Estonia, Japan and Sierra Leone), civil society partners (International Service for Human Rights and Human Rights Watch) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, hosted an event entitled, *Transnational Repression and the Erosion of Human Rights: Global Responses and Accountability*. The event underscored the importance of a zero-tolerance approach to TNR and convened states and UN and civil society experts to enhance international understanding about TNR's various forms, its adverse impacts and to explore legal and policy responses to counter this evolving threat and to provide protection and remedy to victims. Canada also continues to work with partner countries to advance language on TNR in resolutions at the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, including most recently in the Canada-led resolution on freedom of opinion and expression (adopted July 7, 2026). Canada has also cosponsored joint statements and side events that address TNR.

Canada employs a range of diplomatic and operational tools to counter transnational repression, including démarches, public statements, *persona non grata* designations, INTERPOL notifications, travel advisories, visa restrictions, sanctions, and when appropriate, collective attribution.

In 2019, an update of *Voices at Risk: Canada's Guidelines on Supporting Human Rights Defenders* was launched. The Guidelines provide practical advice, tools and resources to Canadian officials

working abroad to support human rights defenders. The implementation of the Guidelines is tailored to the context and specific needs of the human rights defender.

Canada has continued to be a steadfast advocate of human rights defenders at the UN, supporting resolutions calling for States to create, foster and maintain a safe, inclusive and enabling environment for them, online and offline, recognizing the immense risks human rights defenders face across contexts; leading and cosponsoring statements; and participating in side events to address particular issues and underscore their vital role in the promotion and protection of human rights. Canada also ensures that civil society is meaningfully engaged in its leadership at the UN, including through early and consistent consultations on key initiatives, joint delegations and more. These efforts are important to push back against persistent attempts by States to rollback human rights norms and standards, including the work and role of human rights defenders.

Canada's international assistance supports human rights organizations critical to sustaining the work of human rights defenders including by providing emergency grants to those at risk of harm including from transnational repression. Canada has contributed more than \$30 million in funding to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) since 2022. Amid intimidation, threats, and, in some cases, violence, Canada supports human rights defenders through partnerships with civil society organizations that provide emergency assistance, including to those affected by transnational repression. These efforts help human rights defenders continue their vital work to promote and protect human rights

Taken together, these measures reflect Canada's comprehensive approach to protecting individuals and communities from foreign interference, including transnational repression, while safeguarding human rights. Addressing these threats remains a core national security priority, and the Government of Canada is steadfast in its commitment to holding perpetrators and their proxies accountable and to ensuring that individuals in Canada are aware of the supports available to them.

Individuals who feel threatened or believe they may be experiencing foreign interference, including transnational repression online or in-person, are encouraged to report incidents to their local police, or to contact the Royal Canadian Mounted Police National Security Information Network (<https://rcmp.ca/en/federal-policing/national-security/national-security-information-network>). Information may also be reported to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service by contacting 613-993-9620, or by completing an online webform (<https://www.canada.ca/en/security-intelligence-service/corporate/reporting-national-security-information.html>).