Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Nation Press report on BKI 'attrition strategy' rests entirely on unnamed officials

A 22 September 2026 article on nationpress.com asserts that Babbar Khalsa International, "backed by Pakistan's ISI," has adopted a deliberate low-intensity strategy in Punjab, with Sikhs for Justice running a coordinated propaganda arm. The Lab's review finds the report misleading and unsupported by presented evidence.

PUBLISHED
24 September 2026

SOURCE POSTED
22 September 2026

NARRATIVES
Claiming Pakistan Controls Sikh Political Activism · Linking Sikhs to Gangs, Drugs and Organized Crime · Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism

OUR ASSESSMENT

Nation Press reported on 22 September 2026 that Babbar Khalsa International, "backed by Pakistan's ISI," has adopted a deliberate attrition strategy in Punjab, and that Sikhs for Justice is running a coordinated propaganda offensive as part of it.

The report carries no human byline. Every strategic claim is attributed to unnamed "intelligence officials" or "an Intelligence Bureau official." No document, no named authority, no police statement on the record supports the assertion that a foreign intelligence service directed this strategy, or that a US-based advocacy organisation forms part of it.

The report states that "the big attacks are clearly not on the cards for now," then presents that absence as evidence the strategy is working. Under this framing, both violence and its absence confirm the same conclusion.

The killings of the four police officers named are serious and verifiable matters. Attaching them to a foreign-directed strategy, and to a lawful advocacy organisation, is a separate claim requiring separate evidence, but there is no evidence added or presented.

THE CLAIM

BKI shifts to 'slow and steady' Punjab strategy: Police killings, drone smuggling rise

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

KEY TAKEAWAYS

01 Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) , backed by Pakistan's ISI , has adopted a 'slow and steady' low-intensity pressure strategy in Punjab after the Khalistan movement failed to gain traction.

02 Four Punjab Police personnel have been killed in targeted attacks so far in 2026 , including ASI Gurnam Singh , Ashok Kumar , ASI Joga Singh , and ASI Harjit Singh .

03 Between 3–16 September 2026 , Punjab Police seized 33 kg of heroin , 38 firearms (including AK-47s), and 115 live cartridges in nine separate incidents .

04 The strategy runs on two tracks: operational exhaustion of security forces and a parallel propaganda offensive led by outfits such as Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) .

05 Intelligence officials warn the goal is to stress Punjab's security system until a single failure enables a large-scale attack.

Caption this image — Source: name the source

On 22 September 2026, the Indian outlet Nation Press (nationpress.com) published a report headlined "BKI shifts to 'slow and steady' Punjab strategy: Police killings, drone smuggling rise."

The article asserts that Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) has "quietly dropped its ambition for a full-scale insurgency in Punjab and replaced it with a calculated war of attrition." It describes BKI as "backed by Pakistan's ISI" and states that the group has adopted a "slow and steady" low-intensity pressure strategy in Punjab. The report further asserts that Sikhs for Justice, a US-based advocacy organisation, is conducting a coordinated propaganda offensive as part of that strategy.

Verdict

The Lab assesses the item as disinformation, with the nuance that it is **misleading**. Factual accuracy is rated as *insufficient evidence*. Severity is assessed at 3 of 5.

What the review found

The report carries no human byline.

Every strategic claim in it is attributed to unnamed "intelligence officials" or to "an Intelligence Bureau official." No document is produced, no named authority is quoted, and no police statement on the record is cited in support of the two central assertions: that a foreign intelligence service directed the alleged strategy, and that a US-based advocacy organisation forms a component of it.

The report is also internally circular. It states that "the big attacks are clearly not on the cards for now," and then presents that very absence as evidence that the described strategy is working. Under that framing, both the occurrence of violence and the absence of violence are read as confirmation of the same conclusion. A claim structured so that no observable outcome could contradict it is not a testable claim, and readers have no basis on which to weigh it.

The killings of the four police officers named in the report are serious and verifiable matters. The Lab does not dispute that those incidents occurred. Attaching those incidents to a foreign-directed strategic programme, and further attaching that programme to a lawful advocacy organisation, are separate claims that require separate evidence. The report adds none.

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05 Intelligence officials warn the goal is to stress Punjab's security system until a single failure enables a large-scale attack.

The article's "Key Takeaways" present police killings, weapons and heroin seizures, alleged ISI backing, and Sikhs for Justice messaging as parts of a single BKI-led "slow and steady" strategy in Punjab. — Source: NationPress

The distinction matters. A verifiable underlying incident can lend unearned credibility to an unverified interpretive frame built on top of it. In this report, the documented killings function as the factual anchor for attributions — to the ISI and to Sikhs for Justice — that are supported only by anonymous sourcing.

Context

The Lab tracks this item under the Claiming Pakistan Controls Sikh Political Activism narrative.

The pattern at issue is not the reporting of security incidents in Punjab, which is legitimate journalism. It is the practice of attributing those incidents to a directing foreign hand and to named diaspora organisations on the basis of unattributable official briefings, without documentation that readers can examine.

Reports of this kind are difficult to verify and difficult to rebut, precisely because the sourcing cannot be located or questioned. Where the organisations named are lawful advocacy bodies operating in other jurisdictions,

unsupported attribution of that kind can carry consequences for the people associated with them, including in Canada.

The Lab's assessment is limited to the evidentiary standard of the published item. It is not a finding on the underlying security situation in Punjab, and it makes no assertion about the motives of the outlet or about coordination behind its publication. The finding is that the report's central claims, as published, are not supported by evidence the report presents.

SOURCES

01 https://www.nationpress.com/national/bkis-new-punjab-strategy-frequent-strikes-police-killings-drone-smuggling

02 The Lab's analyst review record, the Claiming Pakistan Controls Sikh Political Activism narrative (verdict: Disinformation / Misleading; factual accuracy: insufficient evidence; severity 3)

Sikh Disinformation Lab

About Sikh Disinformation Lab

Sikh Disinformation Lab is an independent, evidence-based programme founded and hosted by the World Sikh Organization of Canada. It monitors, analyses and publicly documents disinformation affecting Sikhs.

The Lab examines claims against evidence, publishes assessments with that evidence attached, and tracks coordinated campaigns over time. Every published assessment names what was claimed, where it appeared, what the review found, and what that assessment rests on. Where an item makes several distinct claims, each is assessed separately.

Assessments are made against the methodology framework in force at the time of publication. That framework is public, versioned, and reviewed at each phase gate; a material change produces a new version rather than a silent edit. The full method is published at sikhdisinfolab.ca/method.

Corrections are dated entries, never silent edits. Where a published assessment is found to be wrong or incomplete, the correction is recorded against it and listed at sikhdisinfolab.ca/corrections. If you believe something published here is inaccurate, write to the programme and it will be reviewed.

Assessments are the responsibility of Sikh Disinformation Lab.

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