Sikh Disinformation Lab

UNSUPPORTED

Post promoting "Punjab Files" site frames Punjab conflict as "Hindu Genocide" — unsupported

A widely shared X post promotes a new website describing the violence in Punjab as a "Punjabi Hindu Genocide by Khalistani terrorists." The Lab's review finds the framing unsupported: killings of Hindu civilians did occur, but the available record shows Sikhs made up the majority of civilian victims and were subject to extensive state violence.

PUBLISHED
2 September 2026

SOURCE POSTED
2 September 2026

NARRATIVES
Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism

OUR ASSESSMENT

Targeted killings of Hindus by some self proclaimed militants did occur and caused genuine suffering and fear; newspaper records of bus and train massacres are not fabricated. At the same time, the data and the lived memory of many Punjabis (Sikh and non-Sikh) do not support reducing the entire conflict to a one-sided Hindu genocide. The majority of civilian victims were Sikhs, state violence against Sikhs was extensive, and experienced trauma. Selective archives that elevate one community's losses while minimizing the other's produce incomplete history rather than justice or clarity. Cross-checking primary data (SATP tallies, government replies, contemporary reporting, and human-rights documentation of disappearances) remains the most reliable approach.

THE CLAIM

RT @PunjabFiles: Punjab Files website is live ! A website dedicated to Punjabi Hindu Genocide by Khalistani terrorists in Punjab. https://t.co/hGJ1VT8DcX Please support our cause to provide justice to the victims =O<û

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 2 September 2026, the account @drjayantisingh1 on X retweeted a post from @PunjabFiles announcing the launch of a website. The post reads: "Punjab Files website is live ! A website dedicated to Punjabi Hindu Genocide by Khalistani terrorists in Punjab," followed by a link and the appeal, "Please support our cause to provide justice to the victims."

The item originates from India and is in English. The Lab has assessed it under the Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism narrative and rated its severity at 4 out of 5.

The claim

The post asserts that the violence of the Punjab conflict period constitutes a "Punjabi Hindu Genocide" carried out by "Khalistani terrorists," and that a dedicated archive documenting this is now publicly available.

The Lab's verdict: Disinformation — unsupported

The Lab's review finds the post's central framing unsupported by the available record, and the material it promotes to contain inaccuracies by way of selective presentation.

The review does not dispute that targeted killings of Hindus by some self-proclaimed militants took place. Those killings caused genuine suffering and fear. Contemporary newspaper records of bus and train massacres are not fabricated, and the Lab does not treat them as such.

What the review rejects is the reduction of the entire conflict to a one-sided "Hindu genocide." On the available data, and in the lived memory of many Punjabis — Sikh and non-Sikh alike — that characterisation does not hold.

The majority of civilian victims during the period were Sikhs. State violence directed against Sikhs was extensive, and it produced its own lasting trauma.

An archive that elevates the losses of one community while minimising those of another produces incomplete history. It does not, on the Lab's assessment, deliver either justice or clarity, notwithstanding the appeal for justice in the post itself.

Why the framing matters

The word "genocide" carries a specific weight, and applying it to one community's losses within a conflict where another community sustained the larger share of civilian deaths inverts the overall picture rather than completing it. The effect is not to add a missing record but to substitute a partial one for the whole.

The Lab notes that this is a matter of proportion and completeness rather than a denial that Hindu civilians were killed. Both propositions can be held at once: that specific massacres occurred and were documented, and that the aggregate record does not support the label the post applies.

How the record can be checked

The Lab's review identifies cross-checking of primary data as the most reliable approach for anyone assessing claims of this kind. The relevant categories are:

- casualty tallies compiled by the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP);
- replies and figures issued by government bodies;
- contemporary reporting from the period, including newspaper records of specific attacks;
- human-rights documentation of enforced disappearances.

Read together, these sources allow the distribution of civilian deaths across communities to be established rather than assumed. Read selectively, any one of them can be used to build a partial archive.

Scope of this finding

The Lab makes no assessment of the operators of the Punjab Files website or of the account that shared it, and makes no claim about motive or coordination. This finding concerns the accuracy and completeness of the framing advanced in the post: that the Punjab conflict is properly described as a Punjabi Hindu genocide. On the evidence available, that framing is unsupported.

We also make no finding on the individual incidents catalogued by the site, several categories of which — including the bus and train massacres — are attested in the contemporary press. The issue is what those incidents are made to represent when presented without the wider casualty record alongside them.

SOURCES

01 https://x.com/drjayantisingh1/status/2094958177888633091

02 The Lab's analyst review, flagged item 2026-09-02 (verdict: Disinformation / Unsupported; severity 4; the Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism narrative)

03 South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP) casualty tallies — cited in the analyst review as a primary cross-check

04 Government replies and contemporary reporting on the Punjab conflict period — cited in the analyst review

05 Human-rights documentation of enforced disappearances in Punjab — cited in the analyst review

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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