Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Sikh Disinformation Lab finds YouTube item on Parliament's Nijjar moment of silence to be misleading

A June 2024 YouTube item framed Canada's parliamentary moment of silence for Hardeep Singh Nijjar as the state honouring a "terrorist." The Lab's analysts recorded the item as disinformation, misleading in character, with a severity rating of 4 out of 5.

PUBLISHED
29 August 2026

SOURCE POSTED
19 June 2024

NARRATIVES
Portraying Foreign Governments as Safe Havens for Sikh Activists · Portraying Sikh Protests as Extremist Activity

THE CLAIM

Parliament's moment of silence marking one year since the assassination of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar sparked outrage in Indian media, which accused the Canadian government of honouring a terrorist, fue…

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 19 June 2024, a video item was published on YouTube (youtube.com/watch?v=6croNse_ztk) addressing the moment of silence observed in the House of Commons marking one year since the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey, British Columbia.

As captured by the Lab's monitoring, the item states that the moment of silence "sparked outrage in Indian media, which accused the Canadian government of honouring a terrorist, fuelling online hate against the Sikh diaspora."

The item was recorded as English-language, with an origin country of India.



Caption this image — Source: name the source

The verdict

The Lab's analysts reviewed the item and recorded a status of **Disinformation**, with the verdict nuance **Misleading** and a factual accuracy assessment of **Disinformation**. Severity was rated **4 on a 5-point scale**, placing the item in the upper range of the programme's harm assessment.

The central problem identified in the review is the framing device carried by the item: the characterization of a Canadian parliamentary observance as an act of honouring a "terrorist." That characterization is an assertion advanced within the material, not an established fact, and the Lab's review found the framing misleading.

The item was filed under the Portraying Foreign Governments as Safe Havens for Sikh Activists narrative, a designation the Lab uses to group items that recur around a shared narrative structure rather than a single publisher. Cluster assignment indicates that the framing is not isolated to this posting.

Why severity was rated at 4

Severity in the Lab's framework reflects the potential for downstream harm, not simply the degree of factual error. The item's own text acknowledges the effect at issue — that the "terrorist" framing has been accompanied by online hate directed at the Sikh diaspora. Content that carries a delegitimizing label from a political dispute into commentary about a diaspora community is assessed as elevated-harm material on that basis.

Limits of this finding

The Lab publishes assessments at the level of detail the underlying review supports. In this case, the analyst's review record contains the verdict fields — status, nuance, factual accuracy, severity and cluster — without an expanded written debunk. This publication is therefore confined to what those fields establish: that the item was assessed as disinformation, that the defect identified is misleading framing rather than a discrete false statistic or fabricated quotation, and that the assessed harm is elevated.

The Lab makes no assertion here about the intent of the publisher, about coordination with any other actor, or about the accuracy of any specific factual detail in the video beyond the framing described above. Readers should treat the "terrorist" characterization as a claim attributed to its publisher and to the Indian media coverage the item describes, not as a finding of fact.

The Lab is a disinformation-monitoring programme of the World Sikh Organization of Canada.

CLAIMS ASSESSED

01	Canada's Parliament held a moment of silence marking one year since the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.	NOT ASSESSED
02	Hardeep Singh Nijjar was assassinated one year before June 2024.	NOT ASSESSED
03	Indian media reacted with outrage to the parliamentary moment of silence.	NOT ASSESSED
04	Indian media accused the Canadian government of honouring a terrorist.	NOT ASSESSED
05	The Indian media coverage fuelled online hate against the Sikh diaspora.	NOT ASSESSED

SOURCES

01 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6croNse_ztk

02 The Lab's analyst review record: status Disinformation; nuance Misleading; factual accuracy Disinformation; severity 4/5; the Portraying Foreign Governments as Safe Havens for Sikh Activists narrative; item published 2024-06-19, origin country India, language English.

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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