Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Substack commentary on drug gangs places Sikh advocacy alongside crime without evidence

A 12 November 2026 article in The KBS Chronicle asks whether Canada tolerates "low-grade Khalistani ferment" for leverage against India and whether criminals invoke Khalistan to obtain asylum. The Lab assesses the framing as Misleading, and both claims as Unsupported.

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16 November 2026

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12 November 2026

NARRATIVES
Linking Sikhs to Gangs, Drugs and Organized Crime · Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism · Portraying Foreign Governments as Safe Havens for Sikh Activists · Portraying Sikh Practices as Incompatible with Society

OUR ASSESSMENT

What was published

On 12 November 2026, KBS Sidhu published an article titled "Drug Gangsterism Across Canada: Who Keeps the Pot Boiling in Cold Climes?" in The KBS Chronicle.

The commentary examines drug trafficking, organized crime, extortion and the assassination of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar within the broader context of Canada–India relations.

While the author criticizes the use of Punjabi surnames to stigmatize an entire community, he also explores whether Khalistan-related political activity provides cover for criminal networks and whether Canada tolerates such activity for geopolitical leverage against India. The article presents three competing explanations involving Indian security concerns, Canadian allegations of transnational repression and weaknesses in Canada's immigration and criminal-justice systems.

The Lab's assessment

Verdict: Misleading framing.

The article raises legitimate concerns about organized crime and the stigmatization of Punjabi communities. However, its broader framing repeatedly places Sikh political advocacy alongside criminal activity without establishing a connection between them.

The most significant concern is the suggestion that Canada may tolerate what the author calls a "low-grade Khalistani ferment" as a means of exerting geopolitical pressure on India. Although the author acknowledges that no public evidence supports this possibility, introducing it as one of three competing explanations gives an unsupported geopolitical theory a place alongside documented criminal investigations.

This creates a misleading equivalence. The RCMP's October 2024 findings concerning connections between Indian government agents, organized crime and threats against pro-Khalistan activists arose from criminal investigations. They cannot be placed on the same evidentiary footing as speculation about Canada deliberately allowing Sikh political activity to serve its strategic interests.

The article also asks whether criminals use Khalistan as a political cover to obtain sympathy, protection or asylum. These questions are presented without evidence demonstrating such a relationship. Their cumulative effect is to reinforce an association between Sikh self-determination advocacy, immigration abuse and organized crime, even as the author criticizes the criminalization of Punjabi identity.

Another important framing issue concerns Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar's assassination. The article discusses delays in the murder trial and questions whether sensitive evidence could ultimately be withheld or compromised during diplomatic normalization. However, it gives insufficient attention to the July 2026 Operation Hard Ball indictments, which introduced significant allegations concerning the involvement of the Lawrence Bishnoi criminal network in Nijjar's assassination.

The article's suggestion that the Canadian account of foreign-state involvement cannot explain drug trafficking from the United States also creates an unnecessary opposition between different forms of criminal activity. The existence of commercial drug trafficking does not undermine investigations into whether criminal networks have also been used to target Sikh political activists.

Context

The central issue is not whether organized crime exists within Punjabi communities. It is how that criminal activity becomes connected, through speculation and repeated association, to Sikh political advocacy.

The article recognizes that Punjabi communities are themselves victims of extortion, violence and ethnic stereotyping. Yet its geopolitical discussion shifts attention toward whether Khalistan-related activity serves hidden interests, rather than examining the documented targeting of Sikh activists and the allegations concerning foreign-state involvement.

The assassination of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the attempted assassination of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun and the RCMP's findings on transnational repression are not simply competing political interpretations. They are subjects of substantial criminal investigations and legal proceedings.

The Lab's principal concern is that the article challenges the collective criminalization of Punjabis while simultaneously reproducing speculative associations between Sikh political advocacy, organized crime and geopolitical manipulation. By presenting unsupported possibilities alongside documented investigative findings, the commentary risks obscuring the distinct problem of violence and transnational repression directed against Sikh political activists in Canada.

THE CLAIM

Drug Gangsterism Across Canada: Who Keeps the Pot Boiling in Cold Climes?

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 12 November 2026, KBS Sidhu published an article titled "Drug Gangsterism Across Canada: Who Keeps the Pot Boiling in Cold Climes?" in The KBS Chronicle, hosted on Substack.

The commentary examines drug trafficking, organized crime, extortion and the assassination of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar within the broader context of Canada–India relations. It opens on nine arrests in Manitoba, truckers intercepted at the border, and a murder trial that will not begin before 2027.

While the author criticizes the use of Punjabi surnames to stigmatize an entire community, he also explores whether Khalistan-related political activity provides cover for criminal networks, and whether Canada tolerates such activity for geopolitical leverage against India. The article offers three competing explanations, involving Indian security concerns, Canadian allegations of transnational repression, and weaknesses in Canada's immigration and criminal-justice systems.

The Lab's assessment

Verdict: Misleading.

The article raises legitimate concerns about organized crime and about the stigmatization of Punjabi communities. Its broader framing, however, repeatedly places Sikh political advocacy alongside criminal activity without establishing a connection between them.

Claim 1: Canada might tolerate Khalistan activity for leverage against India

Verdict: Unsupported.

The article suggests Canada may tolerate what the author calls a "low-grade Khalistani ferment" as a means of exerting pressure on India. The author himself acknowledges that no public evidence supports this possibility. Introducing it nonetheless as one of three competing explanations gives an unsupported geopolitical hypothesis a place alongside documented criminal investigations.

That creates a misleading equivalence. The RCMP's October 2024 findings concerning connections between Indian government agents, organized crime and threats against pro-Khalistan activists arose from criminal investigations. They cannot be placed on the same evidentiary footing as speculation that Canada deliberately allows Sikh political activity to serve its strategic interests.

Claim 2: Gangsters might invoke Khalistan to secure asylum or sympathy

Verdict: Unsupported.

The article asks whether criminals use Khalistan as political cover to obtain sympathy, protection or asylum. The question is posed without evidence demonstrating any such relationship, and amounts to a speculative generalization in which no systematic connection is shown.

The cumulative effect of these passages is to reinforce an association between Sikh self-determination advocacy, immigration abuse and organized crime, even as the author criticizes the criminalization of Punjabi identity.

Framing of the Nijjar case

The article discusses delays in the Nijjar murder trial and questions whether sensitive evidence could ultimately be withheld or compromised during diplomatic normalization. It gives insufficient attention to the July 2026 Operation Hard Ball indictments, which introduced significant allegations concerning the involvement of the Lawrence Bishnoi criminal network in the assassination of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

The article's suggestion that the Canadian account of foreign-state involvement cannot explain drug trafficking from the United States also creates an unnecessary opposition between different forms of criminal activity. The existence of commercial drug trafficking does not undermine investigations into whether criminal networks have also been used to target Sikh political activists.

Context

The central issue is how that criminal activity becomes connected, through speculation and repeated association, to Sikh political advocacy.

The article recognizes that Punjabi communities are themselves victims of extortion, violence and ethnic stereotyping. Yet its geopolitical discussion shifts attention toward whether Khalistan-related activity serves

hidden interests, rather than examining the documented targeting of Sikh activists and the allegations concerning foreign-state involvement.

The assassination of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the attempted assassination of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun and the RCMP's findings on transnational repression are not simply competing political interpretations. They are the subjects of substantial criminal investigations and legal proceedings.

The Lab's principal concern is that the article challenges the collective criminalization of Punjabis while simultaneously reproducing speculative associations between Sikh political advocacy, organized crime and geopolitical manipulation. By presenting unsupported possibilities alongside documented investigative findings, the commentary risks obscuring the distinct problem of violence and transnational repression directed against Sikh political activists in Canada.

CLAIMS ASSESSED

01	Canada might tolerate Khalistan activity for leverage against India.	UNSUPPORTED
02	Gangsters might invoke Khalistan to secure asylum or sympathy.	UNSUPPORTED

SOURCES

01 https://kbssidhu.substack.com/p/drug-gangsterism-across-canada-who

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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