Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Substack newsletter's claim that the Nijjar case has "fallen apart" omits charges before the courts

A 6 September 2026 post on therealstory.substack.com argues the 2023 allegation of Indian state involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar has collapsed and is better explained as gang conflict. The Lab assesses the piece as misleading: it makes its case without reference to the four murder charges now before the courts, or to the findings of the public inquiry it invokes.

PUBLISHED
15 September 2026

SOURCE POSTED
6 September 2026

NARRATIVES
Linking Sikhs to Gangs, Drugs and Organized Crime

OUR ASSESSMENT

A newsletter published 6 September 2026 argues the 2023 allegation of Indian state involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar has fallen apart and is better understood as gang conflict. Four individuals face first-degree murder and conspiracy charges in this case, before the courts. The piece does not mention them. US prosecutors allege, in the parallel Pannun case, that a defendant was told one day after Nijjar's death that Nijjar had also been a target. Not mentioned.

The piece invokes the Hogue Commission into foreign interference. That commission subsequently found that agents of the Government of India target Sikhs in Canada. And it is conveniently not mentioned. Whether organised crime featured is a legitimate question and remains before the courts. An argument that a case collapsed, written without reference to the charges laid in it or to the inquiry it cites, is incomplete.

THE CLAIM

A cautionary tale about national credulity

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 6 September 2026, the Substack newsletter therealstory.substack.com published a post titled "A cautionary tale about national credulity." The newsletter is based in the United States and publishes in English.

The post opens with the line "We were wrong before," and proceeds under the framing "Turf War: Khalistanis versus the Bishnoi Crew," with the author describing having "developed an intimate familiarity with the saga going back even" further.

What it claims

The piece asserts that the allegation made in 2023 — that agents of the Government of India were involved in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey, British Columbia — has fallen apart, and that the killing is better understood as the product of gang conflict. It invokes the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference (the Hogue Commission) in support of a broader argument about Canadian credulity.

What the review found

The Lab's analyst assessed the item as disinformation, with the nuance "misleading" and a severity rating of 3 out of 5. The factual accuracy assessment is that the piece contains inaccuracies.

The central finding is one of omission. Four individuals face charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the killing. Those charges are before the courts. The post does not mention them at any point. An argument that a case has collapsed, advanced without reference to the charges laid in that case, is incomplete on its own terms.

The post also does not mention the parallel proceedings in the United States concerning the alleged plot against Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. In that matter, US prosecutors allege that a defendant was told, one day after Nijjar's death, that Nijjar had also been a target. That allegation is directly material to the question the newsletter purports to settle, and it is absent.

The treatment of the Hogue Commission is the third difficulty. The piece cites the commission as part of its argument. The commission subsequently found that agents of the Government of India target Sikhs in Canada. That finding is not mentioned. Invoking an inquiry while omitting its relevant conclusion leaves readers with an incomplete account of what that inquiry determined.

What remains open

The Lab does not assess the question of whether organised crime featured in the killing. That is a legitimate question and it remains before the courts. The analyst's review is explicit on this point.

The finding here is narrower and concerns method rather than outcome. A reader of the post would not learn that four people have been charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy in the case, that a US indictment contains an allegation linking the Nijjar killing to the alleged Pannun plot, or that the commission the piece cites went on to find that Indian state agents target Sikhs in Canada. Each of those facts bears directly on the conclusion the piece advances. Their absence is what renders the piece misleading rather than merely contested.

Context

The Lab tracks this item within the Linking Sikhs to Gangs, Drugs and Organized Crime narrative. The reframing of the Nijjar killing as an internal gang matter, displacing the question of foreign state involvement, is a recurring pattern in monitored content.

Because the four accused are before the courts, matters of guilt or innocence and the eventual findings of fact in that prosecution are for the courts to determine. Nothing in this assessment anticipates that outcome. The point is that a published argument claiming the case has collapsed carries an obligation to address the proceedings that are in fact underway.

The Lab assesses the item as misleading on the basis of these omissions. Readers encountering the post should be aware of the material it does not address.

Gangland Turf War: Khalistanis versus the Bishnoi Crew

It is my misfortune to have developed an intimate familiarity with the saga going back even before my days as a cub reporter filing to the Globe and Mail from the fountainhead of Jarnal Singh Bhindranwale's Khalistani terrorism in Punjab. See: The Myths That Sustain Khalistan To This Day.

Because of this, I spent a good bit of time here and at the National Post in the effort to disabuse people of the elaborate scenario the Trudeau government and its proxies were drawing back in 2023.

As I mentioned above, my observation from the very outset was that the excitements were more plausibly understood as matter of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Prime Minister Narendri Modi taking opposing sides in the Punjabi underworld's gangland intrigues. See Politics and the Punjabi Gangland Wars.

I would also notice that the day Prime Minister Trudeau got up in the House of Commons to more or less accuse Prime Minister Modi of ordering the murder of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil was the very day Judge Marie-Josée Hogue was beginning her commission of inquiry into foreign interference - the inquiry that Beijing's diplomats in Canada and Trudeau's Liberals had fought so hard to scuttle.

Excerpt from The Real Story, 6 September 2026. Glavin sets out his gang-war thesis and notes the Nijjar announcement fell on the day the Hogue Commission opened. — Source: The Substack story: A cautionary tale

SOURCES

01 https://therealstory.substack.com/p/a-cautionary-tale-about-national

02 The Lab's analyst review record, the Linking Sikhs to Gangs, Drugs and Organized Crime narrative (verdict: Disinformation; nuance: Misleading; severity 3/5; factual accuracy: contains inaccuracies)

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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