



Strengthening South Asian
Communities in America

**STATEMENT ABOUT OAK CREEK TRAGEDY FROM SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS
LEADING TOGETHER (SAALT)
AUGUST 5, 2012**

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) is deeply saddened by the tragedy that occurred today at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. SAALT condemns the shooting that occurred Sunday morning that has left, according to news reports, 6 people and the gunman dead, at least 3 others in critical condition, and many others injured. We extend our deepest sympathy to the victims, who included priests, congregants, and law enforcement personnel, and their loved ones.

Details regarding the motivation of the perpetrator are currently unknown. Law enforcement, including local police and the FBI, is investigating the incident as an act of domestic terrorism.

While the facts are still emerging, this event serves as a tragic reminder of violence in the form of hate crimes that Sikhs and many members of the South Asian community have frequently endured since September 11th, 2001.

SAALT is in touch with the White House and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as with Sikh organizations and community groups within and outside the South Asian community. We will continue to monitor this situation and send out alerts. Please contact us at info@saalt.org to provide or obtain information.

Resources and Information

- For a list of media spokespersons, please contact SAALT at info@saalt.org, or (301) 270-1855.
- See: [Statement by the President on the Shooting in Wisconsin](#)
- See: Statements from Sikh American organizations that are part of the National Coalition of South Asian Organizations

[Sikh Coalition](#)

[Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund](#)

[UNITED SIKHS](#)

- See: Resources on community safety at places of worship:

[Community safety resources from the Anti-Defamation League](#)

[Muslim Community Safety Kit from Council on American-Islamic Relations](#)