

**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 yesterday 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](mailto:info@saalt.org) to provide or obtain information.