



national sikh youth federation

**Disclaimer:**

Please note that this is not the actual document that was distributed to the Indian Army troops who attacked the Golden Temple. However, this document has been created using Indian Army and Government sources, eyewitness statements and reports from Human Rights organisations and journalists. The actions of Army personnel were in line with those outlined in this document and this demonstrates that they were sanctioned at the highest levels of the Central Government. The fact that, to date, not one soldier has been prosecuted for the war crimes committed, shows that the troops enjoyed official immunity from any prosecution.

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**CLASSIFIED**

May  
1984

Indian  
Army Briefing

**OPERATION  
BLUE★STAR**

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- DESTROY AFTER READING -

## Message from The Chief of Army Staff

To subdue the separatist threat that has infected the Punjab under the guise of Sikhism the Central Government has given the executive authorisation for Operation BlueStar and Operation WoodRose.

Full military strength of **75,000** troops has been authorised for **immediate** insertion into Punjab.

This is the **opportunity** we have been training for in Doon Valley and Chakrata since 1982. Our **troops** are ready, **the enemy** is spread all over the Punjab with their main headquarters in Amritsar.

We will **destroy** the enemy HQ with Operation **BlueStar**, lead by the noble Indian Army.

We Will destroy the enemy's main strength that is **the youth** from the ages of 15-50 entrenched all over the Punjab with **Operation WoodRose**, this Operation will be lead by State Police and Paramilitary with **full support** from Army Intelligence and High Command.

*"Some of our innocent countrymen were administered an oath in the name of religion to support extremists and actively participated in the act of terrorism. These people wear a miniature kirpan round their neck and are called "Amritdharis". They have to be subdued to achieve the final aim of restoring peace in the country. "Amritdharis" are dangerous people and pledged to commit murder, arson and acts of terrorism.*

*These people may appear harmless from outside but they are basically committed to terrorism."*

BAATCHEET - Serial Number 153, June 1984

INDIAN ARMY BULLETIN

(Quotation from the actual instructions given to the soldiers by the Indian Army.)

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The **support** for the Dharam Yudh Morcha (**Civil Rights Movement in Punjab**) has been **overwhelming** and is growing daily. The **Akali Dal** party has recently declared that due to **failed** negotiations with the Central Govt, the next stage of civil **disobedience** will be the **blocking** of grain exports to the rest of India. This move could **cripple** the Country, as Punjab **provides 80%** of India's food.

*"We cannot allow a few scoundrels to hold the government of India at ransom. We shall see to it that they are on their knees in just two hours"*

General K.S Brar on 2nd June  
as quoted in *The Sikh Unrest and The Indian State*, R.N. Kumar

**Negotiations** with these people are impossible. Lest India is placed in a **difficult position**, a military response has been decided the **best** course of action. A media **blackout** has been **imposed**. Telephone lines linking Punjab to the rest of the world have **been cut**. Foreign journalists have been **expelled** from the State. Whilst the sole official **target** is Bhindranwale, our orders are to take this opportunity to **root out** and **subdue** all Amritdharis across Punjab.



*"The army and police have also taken over 38 temples and other Sikh religious buildings throughout Punjab"*

The Guardian - Thursday 7th June 1984

According to reports from Patiala Hospital, over 50 people were killed at Gurdwara Dukh Niwaran; Amritsar: Mrs. Gandhi's Last Battle, Tully, Mark and Jacob, (New Delhi, 1985)



**2. No mercy** is to be shown to **women or children**. Under executive **orders**, troops will have **full immunity**. House clearing is a **priority**. Occupied areas must be **sanitised**. Make full use of civilian vehicles to clear **collateral damage**.

*"The army stormed Teja Singh Samundri hall and the rooms in the Parkarma and behaved like savages, they raped women, looted, killed children, burnt people alive, set the rooms on fire and tied the hands of devotees behind their backs and shot them."*

Eyewitness account of Bibi Pritam Kaur, whose husband and 18 month baby were shot dead. Video interview (available online), interview transcript, reprinted in Punjab Times

*"Some soldiers out of vengeance caught hold of small babies and children by their feet, lifted them up in the air and then smashed them against the walls and thus breaking their skulls."*

Harminder Kaur; Blue Star Over Amritsar (Delhi, 1990)

*"It was a virtual massacre. A large number of women, children and pilgrims were gunned down."*

The Guardian - 13<sup>th</sup> June 1984

**3. When the Temple is taken over**, ensure there are **minimal survivors**. Clearance has been given to use hand **grenades** in surrounding Serai (rooms) for **maximum** effect. The surrounding structure is of no operational value. There is **full clearance** for the use of heavy **weaponry**.

*At this stage, when the speedy neutralisation of the Serais was imperative to the success of the Operation, the jawans decided to just lob grenades. 'It was a war-like situation, there really was no time or scope for discipline any more'*

Shekhar Gupta quotes the account of a junior officer in "Blood, Sweat and Tears", printed in The Punjab Story (1984) by Rolli Books International

*"The civilians who died, about 1500 of them, were piled in trolleys and carried away. A lot of them were thrown into the rivers. The battle was a tragic one. I couldn't eat anything. Food made me sick. I used to just drink lots of rum and go to sleep."*

A Naik (Corporal) of Kumaon Regiment who participated in Blue Star as quoted in Probe India, August, 1984

**4. Any opportunity to destroy** or seize historical **artefacts** and rare **manuscripts** should be taken. This applies especially to the **Sikh Granth**, rare manuscripts and Hukamnamas bearing the signatures or marks of their **Gurus**. This will help **weaken** the enemy's **resolve**. Special units should be deployed to carry out these instructions. **Full clearance** for the use of **incendiary** devices.

*"Any army which wants to destroy a nation destroys its culture. That is why the Indian army burnt the library."*

Amritsar: Mrs. Gandhi's Last Battle , Tully, Mark and Jacob, (New Delhi, 1985)

The Sikh Reference Library which contained over 20,000 historical texts and artefacts was deliberately burnt and destroyed



*"The Government wanted to destroy Sikh history. Otherwise, how do you explain the fire in the Sikh Reference Library? The archives were set on fire two days after the army action. It was a historical collection of ancient books, Khardas (manuscripts), handwritten historical birs (Guru Granth Sahibs), some of them were even written by the Gurus, Janam Sakhis (biographical sketches of Gurus), Hukumnamas (commandments of Akal Takhat) which were of the greatest importance as the Sikhs regularly referred to them for their research."*

Giani Kirpal Singh, Jathedar Akat Takhat (at the time of Operation Bluestar and eyewitness) interview published in Surya, August, 1984.