

5. Having no more Statement to take, the Committee left the place, the same night.

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**Lahore : 23rd December 1929**

1. The Committee met to-day here in the office of the Punjab Riyasti Praja Mandal, 3, Lodge Road, Lahore. Pro. G. R. Abhyanker, another member of the Committee joined the Committee to-day. Thus there were present Messers Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth. Mr. Thakkar presided.

2. Sardar Sardul Singh B. Sc., acted as interpreter for to-day's session.

3. Evidence of Dr. Bakhshish Singh was recorded for about three hours. It was incomplete when the Committee adjourned for da .

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**Lahore : 24th December 1929**

1 The Committee specially went to record the evidence of Sardarani, Rajindar Kaur wife of S. Harchand Singh Jeji in the house of Captain Janmejai Singh C. B. E. the place where Sardarani was temporarily staying. Messrs Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth were present. The evidence began at 11-15 A. M. and lasted upto 12-45 P. M.

2 Sardar Vazir Singh the eldest son of Sardar Harchand Singh, worked as interpreter for the witness, who is his step-mother.

3. The original statement in Urdu was read out to the witness. She confirmed the same. The statement is marked Ex. 29.

4. English translation of the statement is marked Ex. 29 A.

The oral examination of the witness is marked Ex. 29 B.

5. In this connection a statement of Sardar Vazir Singh was tendered later Ex. 30.

6. A list of property confiscated by the state, valued at about twenty lakhs, Ex. 30A.

7. It may be noted here that while the Committee was approaching the house where Sardarani was staying, the Committee

found a Patiala Policeman standing in the street just near the house, apparently to watch who visited the place. He was asked by a member of the Committee whether he was a member of the Patiala police and as to why he was there. He replied that he belonged to Patiala police; and he was there for some private business of his own. The Committee member noticed that the brass label of Patiala police was on his shoulder.



#### **Lahore : 24th December 1929**

1. The Committee held its sitting in the rooms of the Riyasti Praja Mandal Office. Messrs Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth were present. Mr. Thakkar presided.

2. S. Tara Sing of Amritsar appeared before the Committee to-day. He showed the originals of the following documents to the Committee and handed over to the Committee the photo copies taken from them.

- (1) Kesher Singh's petition to Maharaja of Patiala Ex. 31.
- (2) Maharaja's instructions at the time of Pinjore Shoot Ex. 33.
- (3) He also produced the game protection notification of Patiala state Ex. 33.



#### **Lahore : 24th December 1929**

1. Messers Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth, the members of the Committee went to see, late in the evening at about 8-30 P. M. the condition of Kashmiri agriculturists, who annually migrate for casual labour to Lahore in winter, in company with Mr. S. N. Kaul Bar-at-Law, the President of the Kashmiri National Board and other members of the said Board.

2. A statement of what the Committee saw is attached herewith and marked Ex. 34.



#### **Lahore : 25th December 1929**

1. The Committee held its sitting in the morning in the Committee's own head quarters, 31, Lodge Road, Lahore.

Messrs Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth were present. Mr. Thakkar Presided.

2. Evidence of Pratap Singh was recorded. It took three hours. It is marked Ex. 35.

3. Evidence of Dr. Bakhshish Singh was concluded. It is marked Ex. 36.

4. The Affidavit of Dr. Bakhshish Singh before the honorary Magistrate at Dehra Dun was produced by him. It is marked Ex. 36. A.



### Lahore : 25th December, 1929

1. The Committee held its sitting at 8 P. M. in the headquarters of the Committee. Messrs Thakkar, Abhyanker & Sheth were present. Mr. Thakkar presided.

2. The following gentlemen representing All-India Muslim Kashmiri Conference appeared to give evidence before the Committee.

(1) Sh. Din Mohamad, M. A., L. L. B., M. L. C., Advocate,  
10, Nephre Road, Lahore.

(2) Sayed Mohsin Shah, B. A., L. L. B., Advocate, 10,  
Mozand Road, Lahore.

Gen. Secty., All-India Muslim Kashmiri Conference.

(3) Khwaja Allah Buxh Ginnari, Secretary, Kashmiri  
National Board, Lahore.

(4) Khwaja Ghulam Mohamad Khan, Haveli Pir Nizam  
Din Ekki Gate, Lahore.

3. Evidence of the deputation was recorded. It is marked Ex. 37.

4. The following three documents were produced by the deputation and are marked as under :

(1) Grievances of Kashmiri Pandits, Ex. 37 A.

(2) Muslims in Kashmir, Ex. 37 B.

(3) Presidential Address by Pt. P. N. Kaul at the first annual session of the Kashmiri National Board at Ludhiana on 27-4-29, Ex. 37 C.

**Lahore : 26th December 29**

1. The Committee held its sittings both in the morning and in the evening. Messrs. Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth were present, Mr. Thakkar presiding. Sardar Sardul Singh B. Sc. acted as interpreter. The following statements were recorded :

2. Statement of Jay Singh marked Ex. 38
3. The witness produced the following documents :
  - (1) A copy of the statement of S. Nanak Singh, which he wrote in his own hand-writing, Ex. 38 A.
  - (2) copy of the Judgment in Nanak Singh's case in, Patiala Court, Ex. 38 B.
  - (3) A copy of the memorial of S. Nanak Singh to the Viceroy, Ex. 38 C.
  - (4) A copy of the draft of divorce deed in the hand writing of Sir Kishan Kaul, Ex. 38 D.
  - (5-6) Copies of two letters of Sir Kishan Kaul, Es. 38 E. & F.
  - (7-8) Copies of two letters of S. Sunder Singh Majithia, Ex. 38 G. & H.
  - (9) Letters of Gurnam Singh, father-in-law of Maharaja Ex. 38 I.
4. Statement of Suhava Singh. Ex. 39.
5. He produced copies of the following four documents :
 

(1) Political Agent's Letter,	Ex. 39A.
(2) Punjab Govt.'s Letter,	Ex. 39B:
(3) Viceroy's Letter,	Ex. 39C.

**Lahore : 29th December 1929**

1. The Committee held its sittings in the morning. Messrs Thakkar, Abhyanker, and Sheth were present, Mr. Thakkar presiding. Sardar Sardul Singh, B. Sc., acted as interpreter.

2. Sardar Balwantsingh presented his statement, Ex. 40.
3. Sardar Seva Singh presented his statement, Ex. 41. Its English Translation, Ex. 41A.



4. Sardar Sardulsing B. Sc., produced from his possession a statement given to him by Bhai Ram Singh. Bhai Ram Singh has used third person for himself in this statement. Ramsingh himself is not present, and the statement appears to have been made by a third person. Thus it cannot carry much weight by itself. All the same as a statement giving the idea of the whole affair, it is taken on record and marked Ex. 42.

5. Sardar Dewan Singh, Editor "Riyasat" appeared before the committee and gave a statement, which is marked Ex 42 B.

The statement of Sardul Singh, Ex. 42A.



### Lahore : 30th, December 1929

1. The Committee held its sittings in the morning. Messrs Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth were present, Mr. Thakkar presiding.

2. A Deputation of Bikaner State people residing in Ganga cannal area came before the Committee and stated their grievances. Their statement is marked Ex. 43.

The State publication about the Ganga Canal, produced by the Deputation is marked Ex. 43 A.

3. A gentleman named Atmaram C/o. Rudhir Dutta of Theog State in Simla Hills, gave his evidence before the Committee. His statement is marked Ex. 44.

4. Vakil Tijasinghji of Nabha produced the following documents :

- (1) Govt. of India Resolution on Nabha-Patiala Dispute, Ex. 45.
- (2) Statement of grievances of Nabha subjects against the present-day administration, Ex. 45 A.
- (3) English version of the same, Ex. 45 B.

5. Sardar Jaswantsinghji, Acting president of the Punjab Riyasati Mandal then presented the statements which are exhibited and marked, Ex. 46 to Ex. 91.

Many of these signatories were present, but as they had to say nothing in particular, they were not called in and their statements were taken on file.

6. No more statements remained to be taken. The Committee therefore concluded its labours in the Punjab.

7. As resolved in the first sitting of the Committee exhibits 24, 34, 37, 37A, 37B, 37C, 43, 43A, 44, 45, 45A, 45B concerning other states, were taken out of the file and entrusted to Mr. Amritlal Sheth for being handed over to the General Secretary, The Indian States' Peoples' Conference, Bombay.

8. It was resolved to keep the records of the Committee with Amritlal D. Sheth, till the next meeting of the Committee to draft the Report. It was resolved provisionally to meet at Poona on the 1st. of February, for this purpose.



#### Poona: 2nd February 1930

The Committee held its meeting to-day here in the rooms of Law Society. Messrs. Thakkar, Abhyankar, and Sheth were present. Mr. Thakkar presided.

The scheme of the report was discussed and adopted and frame work of the report was ready in the evening, which was approved.



#### Poona: 3rd & 4th February 1930.

The Committee held its sitting continuously for two days. Messrs. Abhyankar and Sheth were present Mr. Abhyankar presided.

The final draft of the report was adopted. The same was handed over to Mr. Sheth, to be presented to the Working Committee meeting to be held on the 5th. Feb. in Bombay.

## **Appendix B**

### **LIST AND SUBSTANCE OF EXHIBITS**

## LIST AND SUBSTANCE OF EXHIBITS

**Ex. 1 :** Patiala Memorial signed by Bhagwan Singh and nine others. Bhagwan Singh was present. This is printed in full elsewhere.

**Ex. 2 & 2A:** English and Urdu statements of Santa Singh and 5 others. All were present at the time of the oral examination. They state : (1) most of the war loans raised have not been returned to us. (2) Some years back one rupee per head from all people was collected by the state for the expenses of some congress, to be held, of which we knew nothing. (3) Game Laws of the State give full freedom to wild animals, which destroy our crops but which we are not permitted to kill. (4) We are forced to give free bullock-carts, camels, milk, fuel, forced labour or Begar. If we do not give it, police take us to a police station and we are mercilessly beaten. Last year on 14th Jeth Samvat 1985 there was the camp of a C. I. D. officer, in our village with the result that, for a number of days not a drop of ghee or milk was allowed to be used, even for children. Everything was taken away by the police. (5) In Magh of Samvat 1985, when Sirdar Kharag Singh was touring in the villages of Patiala State, a part of the Patiala army was also moving with him. That army collected free rations from the villagers without payment, as also fowls, fuel etc. Collection of these materials was so big, that a good deal of it was left unconsumed and was taken away by police to their homes. (6) When Sirdar Kharag Singh toured, we were not allowed to go to him. We were severely beaten by Police; veils were removed from the faces of Pardah women in the presence of the general public and all of us were kept under the guard of policemen and Lumbardars. (7) Our village is built since Samvat 1881 (A.D. 1825) and our family is residing there, since that period. We were enjoying proprietary rights in the land in the same way as other Patiala

subjects; but the Maharaja recently gave away the whole village to his favourite, who has changed revenue system from the cash-assessment to the payment in kind and our harassment knows no bounds.

**Ex. 3 & 3A:** English and Urdu statements of Sinder Singh who was present and of three others. They state, (1) posts in police department are filled with favourites of the Maharaja and these people therefore, cannot be controlled by any. They encourage crimes and get shares in the spoils. They practice all sorts of devices to take bribes from people and harass them to their hearts content. (2) We are taken out to repair the banks of canal, just in the rainy season, when we are busy with our cultivation and are paid nothing for it. (3) Game-animals destroy our crops. (4) Begar (forced labour) is rampant. (5) War loans are not returned. (6) Police guard was stationed in our village and we were not allowed to go outside, at the time of visit of Sirdar Kharag Singh.

**Ex. 4 & 4A :** English and Urdu statements of Bishan Singh and 8 others. 5 signatories were present. they stated (1) Our village is 30 miles from Pinjore, where the Maharaja goes for hunting. 30 or 40 men of our village have to go with the Maharaja, to help him in hunting; besides that, bullock-carts, fowls, eggs, milk, ghee, etc. are taken from us without payment. (2) Game animals destroy our crop. (3) We are compelled to dig and repair canals. Sometimes this work goes on for many days. If we do not go, we are mercilessly beaten and heavy fines are imposed. (4) War loan share not returned. (5) A fund was raised by the state from our village, to effect partitions of village lands, but partition was not effected and the fund was not returned. (6) In the month of Magh of 1985, about a year back, a special fund was raised from us, for the purchase of Xray apparatus for Patiala Hospital. The Apparatus was not received and the money was not returned. (7) At the time of Sirdar Kharag Singh's visit we were severely beaten.

**Ex. 5 :** This is the oral examination of about 2 dozen people collected together of the same village. This is printed elsewhere. This examination substantiates the Statements of exhibits 2, 3, & 4.

**Ex. 6, 6A & 6 B :** English and Urdu statements of Bishwedar Ridha Singh stating about his illegal arrest, imprisonment, torture and confiscation of his property. His statement is printed separately.

**Ex. 7 :** Statement of Sajan Singh in the oral examination by the Committee, stating the details of police torture for (1) not doing Shikari Pahera. (2) expressing a desire to appear before this Committee.

**Ex. 8 :** Statement of Mehar Singh in the oral examination by the Committee, stating how the whole of the canal digging is done by Begar. This particular canal is only meant for Shikar purposes.

**Ex. 9 :** Witness Hira Singh and two others state in the oral examination by the Committee (1) Begar done by them in the Garden of Umlo twice a year, each time for two days. 20 or 25 villages have to do this. (2) Pritam Singh says about Shikari Pahera. (3) Witness Bishare Singh states, canal charges are still collected, though water is not supplied.

**Ex. 10 :** Statement of witness Man Singh in the oral examination by the Committee, giving the description of Lake Bhupindra Sagar, the Lake for shooting and all details of Begar taken for the purpose. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex. 11 :** Statement of witness Phuman Singh given in oral examination by the Committee stating the debased and immoral ways of the Maharaja giving particular instances. This is printed elsewhere.

**Ex. 12 :** Statement of witness Partap Singh in oral examination by the Committee stating, (1) great police precautions are taken to prevent people, from going to the Committee. (2) we are doing Begar of weed cutting in water in Bhupindra Sagar amidst most

wretched condition. (3) We pay school and road taxes but there is neither road nor school in the village.

**Ex. 13 :** Statement of Dewan Singh in oral examination by the Committee stating (1) people were ordered not to appear before Committee by a beat of drum. There is great police-bandobast. (2) some newspapers like 'Riyasat' 'Akali' are prohibited. (3) people are also asked not to go to Lahore to attend any conference or Congress in Lahore in the Congress week of 1929.

**Ex. 14 :** Statement of Bakhtawar Singh made during oral examination by the Committee stating forced labour was exacted for building an amphitheatre for wrestling This is printed elsetwhere.

**Ex. 15 :** Statement of Amar Singh in oral examination about non-return of the War loans.

**Ex. 16 :** Statement of Partap Singh in oral examination stating how illegal revenue is collected by the state. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex. 17 & 17 A & 17 B :** English and Urdu statements of Balvant Singh and five others, two signatories being present. They stated (1) war loan is not returned. (2) Game animals destroy crops. (3) Begar of all sorts is taken. (4) Shikari Pahera i. e. compulsory night service as village watchman without payment. (5) Villagers were not allowed to go to Sardar Kharak Singh and those who gave food materials to Sardar's party had their lands forfeited.

**Ex. 18 & 18 A. & 18 B :** English and Urdu and oral statements of Bir Singh who was present stating about illegal trial and War loan nonpayments. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex. 19 & 19 A :** English and Urdu statements of Ajmer Singh who was present stating that was he himself moved in some villages of Patiala where he found that great police Bandobast was kept everywhere to see that people do not appear before this Committee.

**Ex. 20 :** Statement of Hakam Singh in the oral examination by the committee stating about War loan non-payments and contributions exacted for a bridge fund, It is printed elsewhere,

**Ex. 21 :** English and Urdu and oral statements of Pritam Singh and four others who were all present in the oral examination by the Committee, stating about the illegal and fanciful increment in revenue assessment. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex. 22 :** Statement of Kehar Singh in oral examination by the Committee, stating that milk etc. of the whole village was compulsorily taken away, without payment, for the Tika Saheb that is the heir-apparent. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex 23 :** Statement of Sunder Singh in oral examination by the committee describing Police Zulam.

**Ex. 24 :** Statement of Hakam Singh in oral examination about Malerkotla prisoners.

**Ex. 25 & 26 :** Statement of Ralla Singh in oral examination and another about Revenue Zulam.

**Ex. 27 :** Statement of Ranjodh Singh in oral examination stating Begar Zulam at the time of the Tika Saheb's camp. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex. 28 :** Statement of Tirath Singh almost same as Ex. 21.

**Ex. 29 & 29A & 29B :** English Urdu and oral statements of Sirdarni Rajindar Kunvar stating about illegal arrest by imprisonments of her husband and servant and confiscation of property worth alnt 20 lakh of rupees and driving her with her children. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex. 30 & 30A :** Statement of Sunder Vazir Singh Coroborating Ex. 29. A list of property confiscated by the state valued at about 20 lakhs.

**Ex. 31 & 32 :** Photo copies of certain documents (1) Krishna Singh's applications (2) Maharaja's letter about Pahadi girls.

**Ex. 33 :** A copy of Patiala game laws

**Ex. 34 :** Condition of Kashmiri Agriculturists tempoararily residing in Lahore.

**Ex. 35 :** Statement of Sirdar Partap Singh in oral examination stating concoctions of false cases and bomb-makings by the Maharaja of Patiaia. It is printed elsewhere.



**Ex. 36 & 36 A :** Statement of Dr. Buxi Singh in oral examination stating history of Bomb-factory and murders of his wife and daughter. Affidavit of Dr. Buxi Singh made by him before the Magistrate at Dehradun.

**Ex. 37 & 37 A & 37 B. & 37 C :** Statement of Kashmir deputation consisting of gentlemen with accompaniments.

**Ex. 38 :** Statement of Jaya Singh,—uncle of Nanak Singh—who was present, stating how Nanak Singh was arrested and convicted and how documentary evidence in his possession implicating Maharaja in Lal Singh's murder was taken away by fraud from him. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex. 38 A :** Sardar Nanak Singh's own statement giving true history of Maharaja's share in the murder of Lal Singh. A copy of the same produced by his uncle Jay Singh.

**Ex. 38 B :** Judgment in Nanak Singh's case.

**Ex. 38 C :** Nanak Singh's Memorial to the Viceroy.

**Ex. 38 D :** A copy of the draft of divorce deed in the hand of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul.

**Ex. 38 E & F :** Copies of 2 letters of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul.

**Ex. 38 G. & H :** Copies of 2 letters of Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia.

**Ex. 38 I :** Letters of Gurnam Singh, father-in-law of the Maharaja.

**Ex. 39 :** Statement of Sardar Amarsingh' brother who was present, stating how Amar Singh's wife has been kidnapped and kept by Maharaja and history of the offer of Rs. 20000. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex. 39 A & B & C :** Letters of the Political Agent, the Punjab Govt. and the Viceroy.

**Ex. 40 :** Statement of Sardar Balvant Singh showing the clause of Begar in his pension certificate.

**Ex. 41 :** English and Urdu Statements of Sardar Seva Singh who was present detailing history of his long imprisonment and his conversations with the Maharaja.

**Ex. 42 :** Statement of Bhai Ram Singh stating the history of Baber Akali Jatha and Bomb factory.

**Ex. 42A :** Statement of Sardul Singh stating how the statement of Ram Singh was received as also corroborating the statement of Buxis Singh.

**Ex. 42B :** Statement of Diwan Singh giving the account of a false case started by Patiala against him.

**Ex. 43, 44, 45 :** Statements about other states.

**Ex. 46 :** Written statement of Sobhar Singh and three others (1) Revenue grievances, (2) Maharaja's bad character, (3) begar, (4) Maharaja's shikar and guests, (5) Sardar Kharag Singh's visit to the state, resulting in state Army going round villages taking forced labour & provision.

**Ex. 47 :** Written statement of Kirtar Singh and two others stating revenue grievances.

**Ex. 48 :** Written statement of Mai Inderkuvar stating that for not paying tax on four Bighas of land according to a false claim made by the state, all her 50 Bighas of land is confiscated and she is turned a beggar.

**Ex. 49 :** Written statement of witness Nahar Singh about revenue grievances.

**Ex. 50 :** Written statement of witness Harnam Singh stating that their village belonging originally to British Government, was given to Patiala for services to British Government on condition of treating them well. It narrates revenue grievances also.

**Ex. 51 :** Written Statement of Badha Singh same as Ex. 50.

**Ex. 52 :** Written statement of Nirmal Singh stating tyranny of the Maharaja's favourites residing in his village.

**Ex. 53 :** Written statement of Mai Ditta stating that Patiala state collected the state boundary demarcation taxes from them

although the state recovers the expenditure from British Government. It describes Police Zulum also.

**Ex. 54 :** Written statement of Trilok Singh about Police Zulum, arrest and imprisonment without any warrant and commission of all sorts of violence.

**Ex. 55 :** Written statement of Dayal Singh same as above.

**Ex. 56 :** Written statement of Partap Singh and 21 others of Tehsil Sirhind, stating various grievances as under. (1) Game Animals ruining crops. (2) begar. (3) land resumption. (4) taxes on land. (5) Shikari Pahera. (6) War loan not returned. (7) Tax for roads and schools levied; yet no facilities provided. (8) Bribery rampant. (9) Religious liberty not allowed. (10) Maharaja is debaucherous.

**Ex. 57 :** Written statement of Santa Singh and one other of Tehsil Rajpore; almost same as 56.

**Ex. 58 :** Written statement of Chanker Singh and 10 others of Saimpore; Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 59 :** Written statement of Surbaje Singh and 5 others of Maradanpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 60 :** Written statement of Bishan Singh and three others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as 56.

**Ex. 61 :** Written statement of Bhujanga Singh and 2 others of Birkalam. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 62 :** Written statement of Mota Singh and 6 others of Tehsil Sunam. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 63 :** Written statement of Bagga Singh and two others of Tehsil Sunam. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 64 :** Written statement of Lal Singh and 5 others of Tehsil Sunam. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 65 :** Written statement of Sundar Singh and three others Tehsil Jakhepal. Same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 66 :** Written statement of Kabla Singh and 3 others of Tehsil Pail. Almost same as Ex 56.

**Ex. 67 :** Written statement of Jiba Singh and another of Tehsil Pail. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 68 :** Written statement of Tara Singh and another of Tehsil Sirhind. Same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 69 :** Written statement of Sadhu Singh and 22 others of Tehsil of Bhawani Garh. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 70 :** Written statement of Ganga Singh and 26 others. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 71 :** Written statement of Natha Singh and 11 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 72 :** Written statement of Dalip Singh and 12 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 73 :** Written statement of Hari Singh and 27 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 74 :** Written statement of Chalar Singh and 11 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 75 :** Written statement of Ismail and 12 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 76 :** Written statement of Pritam Singh and 19 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 77 :** Written statement of Chatar Singh and 13 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 78 :** Written statement of Hazara Singh and three others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 79 :** Written statement of Warayan Singh and 12 others of Tehsil Kagar. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 80 :** Written statement of Kaka Singh and 4 others of Tehsil Kagar. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 81 :** Written statement of Ram Singh and 11 others of Gurudattapura. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 82 :** Written statement of Nanak Singh and 16 others of Gurudattapura etc. Almost same as 56

**Ex. 83 :** Written statement of Baja Singh of the village Kadnijika. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex- 84 :** Written statement of Gaja Singh of Tehsil Patiala. Almost same as Ex. 56.

**Ex. 85 :** Written statement of Ajmer Singh of the Tehsil Bernaru about violence practised on him by Police at the time of Sardar Kharag Singh's visit. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex 86.** Written statement of Ram Singh of Melowal. Almost same as above. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex 87.** Written statement of Pala Singh and 18 others, of Farwahi. Almost same as above. It is printed elsewhere,

**Ex 88.** Written statement of Karana Singh of Tehsil Sunam. Same as above. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex 89 :** Written statement of Anokh Singh and 4 others Same as above. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex 90 :** Written statement of Sucha Singh of Tehsil Burma Same as above. It is printed elsewhere.

**Ex 91 :** Written statement of Nand Singh of Langowal of Police violence. It is printed.

**Appendix C**

**MEMORIAL TO THE VICEROY BY TEN  
CITIZENS OF THE PATIALA STATE**

## MEMORIAL TO THE VICEROY BY TEN CITIZENS OF THE PATIALA STATE

*Exhibit 1 : the full text of the memorial addressed to the Viceroy by ten citizens of the Patiala state who are on the executive board of the Punjab Riyasati Praja Mandal, is given below :*

To

HIS EXCELLENCY,

THE RIGHT HON'BLE EDWARD FREDRICK LINDLEY WOOD,  
BARON IRWIN OF KIRBEY-UNDER-DALE,

G. M. S. I., G. M. I. E.,

GOVERNOR-GENERAL & VICEROY OF INDIA,

DELHI.

SIR,

The humble petition of the undersigned representatives of the subjects of his Highness the Maharaja of Patiala most respectfully sheweth :

1. That it is not without considerable hesitation and with a feeling of the deepest regret and helplessness that the petitioners, who are representatives of the inhabitants of the Patiala State, most humbly beg leave to approach Your Excellency with this petition. The petitioners have no other avenue of redress for the terrible wrongs, the calculated oppression, and gross mal-administration of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala and his officials, except to approach Your Excellency with a humble request for an immediate and effective intervention, to rescue the people of the state from the ruthless oppression, to which they have been subjected ever since the present Maharaja became the ruler of

the state. There are no representative institutions in the state through which the people can get their grievances redressed; and to approach the Maharaja or his officials to get their wrongs righted, is worse than useless; as those who have had the temerity to do so in the past, have been visited with various penalties for daring to complain. The Indian Legislative Assembly is also definitely precluded by law from dealing with the affairs of the states. The subjects of the Patiala State have, therefore, no other course open to them, but to approach Your Excellency, as the representative of His Most Gracious Majesty the King Emperor of India, and lay their grievances before the British Government with the earnest, prayer that the oppression under which a million and a half of people are compelled to live in the Patiala State be speedily terminated.

2. That your Excellency's distinguished predecessor, Marquis of Reading, in a memorable letter, dated March 27, 1926, to His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, was pleased to lay down the policy of the British Government towards the internal affairs of Indian States in the following clear and unequivocal words, which have emboldened the petitioners to make this humble and earnest appeal to Your Excellency:

"..... the internal no less than the external security which the Ruling Princes enjoy, is due ultimately to the protecting power of the British Government, and where Imperial interests are concerned or the general welfare of the people of a state is seriously and grievously affected by the action of its Government, it is with the paramount power that the ultimate responsibility of taking remedial action, if, necessary, must lie. The varying degrees of internal sovereignty which the Rulers enjoy, are all subject to the due exercise by the Paramount Power of this responsibility."

The British Government has always claimed the right to intervene in the internal affairs of Indian States, when such



intervention is necessary on account of mal-administration and oppression by the rulers of the states. The petitioners most respectfully submit, as they hope to conclusively establish by facts mentioned hereinafter, that the present is a fit case for intervention by the Paramount Power in the discharge of its ultimate admitted responsibility for preventing oppression and mal-administration in Indian States.

3. That the subjects of the Patiala State have a long and terrible tale of woe; and the misgovernment, extravagance, oppression and immoral conduct of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala are well known to every one who knows anything about Patiala and its people. At the root of all this, is the moral depravity of the Maharaja, who, the petitioners submit, is utterly incapable of administrating the state and has no scruples whatever to recklessly use the revenues and administrative machinery of the state, to minister to his licentiousness and personal fancies. Thousands of instances can be cited to prove, how the Maharaja has grossly abused his position to gratify his immoral propensities; but the petitioners beg leave to mention below only a few such instances, the truth of all of which can be established on enquiry and some of which are, the petitioners believe, already known to Your Excellency's Government:

- (a) The Maharaja has scores of regular and irregular wives, and his harem contains a large number of women, who have been abducted by force or deceit from their homes. In many cases the husbands and parents of these unfortunate women have been paid large sums of money from the state revenues to sell their wives or daughters to the Maharaja; in others, the husbands or parents have been put out of the way by being implicated in false cases or by being murdered. The Maharaja has a regular agency for procuring women to gratify his moral depravity.
- (b) Soon after S. Lal Singh, the younger brother of His Highness's father-in-law, S. Gurnam Singh, had refu-

sed the request of the Maharaja and his ministers to divorce his wife, he was murdered at the instance of the Maharaja; and S. Lal Singh's wife was subsequently forced to marry the Maharaja.

- (c) As to the afore-said Gurnam Singh (Maharaja's father-in-law) the Maharaja with the object of punishing him for attempting to defeat his immoral designs on his brother's wife, complained to the British authorities that he was conspiring to kill the Maharaja. The complaint was found to be false on enquiry by the Government of India.
- (d) Sardar Bakhshish Singh, who held the office of the Commander-in-chief of Patiala forces, was imprisoned by the Maharaja on a false charge of petty theft, because he was a friend of the afore-mentioned father-in-law of the Maharaja and had protested against the murder of S. Lal Singh and against the forced marriage of Lal Singh's widow with the Maharaja.
- (e) There was a quarrel between the Maharaja and his two A. D. C.'s, Colonel Sewa Singh and Major Gurdial Singh, about a dancing girl; and a few days later the two A. D. C.'s were found murdered.
- (f) Narain Singh, Superintendent Chail Hills, was publicly disgraced and put in prison by orders of the Maharaja without any trial, because he had failed to supply Maharaja, with hill girls for immoral purposes. On the intervention of the Political Agent, the Maharaja had to release the innocent man.
- (g) On account of an immoral intrigue of the Maharaja, Raja Ranbir Singh, uncle of the Maharaja, was insulted by him at the Moti Baga Palace; he had to save his life by escaping in a motor car. Sometime after this, Raja Ranbir Singh died under suspicious circumstances,

- (h) After the afore-mentioned Raja Ranbir Singh's secret murder, his property was confiscated by the Maharaja and his widows placed under restraint. A man who has the evil reputation of being a procurer to the Maharaja was appointed guardian of the household of the deceased Raja Saheb.
- (i) The Maharaja made indecent overtures to one of his mothers, a young Rani of the former Maharaja; and she complained to the British Government against the evil intentions of the Maharaja. On the intervention of the Political Agent, the Rani was permitted to live in British territory; but still the servants of the Maharaja continued to worry her. The immoral proposal of the Maharaja ceased only when the British authorities placed a British Guard over the unfortunate Rani for her protection.
- (j) The Maharaja brutally ill-treated his wife, named Rarewali Rani; and the Political Agent had to intervene.
- (k) The Maharaja had, as his mistress a Muslim nautch girl, Anwar by name, whom he wanted to marry. Her parents refusing to marry their daughter to the Maharaja, the girl was kept under restraint in the Palace, where she eventually died in captivity.
- (l) Another Muslim nautch girl, Mogaljan, was forcibly detained in fort, under similar circumstances in spite of the protests of her parents. She also died in Maharaja's captivity.
- (m) The Maharaja keeps another Muslim nautch girl, named Amirjan in the fort and does not allow her to go back to her home on the false plea, that she was a mistress of his father. The protests of Amirjan's parents have not been heeded.
- (n) A deputation of some respectable Mussalmans waited on the Political Agent, Phulkian states, requesting him

to intervene and secure the release of the Muslim girls who were being forcibly kept by the Maharaja, for immoral purposes.

- (o) Some time ago the Maharaja forcibly abducted one Kesar, the wife of a poor peasant of the state. Her husband was given a sum of Rs. 10,000 as the price of his wife, and threatened to be put to death if he ever afterwards attempted to claim back his wife. It is a fact that the Maharaja later married Kesar, and moved the British Government to recognise her offspring as legitimate.
- (p) The daughter of a Banya shopkeeper of Junga State (near Simla), was forcibly abducted by the Maharaja and is now in his Palace. The complaints of the father are alleged to have been disregarded by the British authorities on the ground, that he had been given a large sum of money by the Maharaja as the price of his daughter.
- (q) The Maharaja made immoral proposals to one Mrs. Zohra an actress of the Alfred Theatrical Co., which was on a visit to Patiala on the invitation of the Maharaja. The proprietor of the Company (Mr. Khatao) and the husband of the actress had to seek the protection of the Political Agent, as their life and honour were in danger, at the hands of the Maharaja.
- (r) The twelve years old daughter of one Capt. Gurdial Singh Dhak died as the cause of a criminal intercourse forced on her by the Maharaja.
- (s) Four Rajput girls, who were compelled to lead an immoral life by the Maharaja, tried to escape from the Palace; while they were slipping down the walls of the Maharaja's palace, they were arrested by the police and put back into the Palace, in spite of their protests and the protests of the people who had gathered on

the scene of the occurrence. The same day the unfortunate girls were burnt alive in the palace and no trace left of them.

- (t) Miss Mackey, daughter of an old servant of the state, complained to the Political Agent, Phulkian States, that after the death of her father, the Maharaja made immoral overtures to her and her life and honour were not safe. The Maharaja had to pay a large sum to the girl as compensation, and she was allowed to leave the State.
- (u) It is a matter of common knowledge that the Maharaja had illicit connection with his cousin (daughter of the chief of Shahzadpore), as the result of which she became pregnant. The Maharaja and the girl's father, thereupon, tried to bring upon abortion of the child. As the crime was contemplated in British India, the Police getting scent of it duly warned the father of the girl to beware of the legal consequences if the offence was committed. The Maharaja and the chief of Shahzadpore, thereupon hastily married the girl to the son of a well-known Punjab Sikh and the child was born before the usual period of nine months.
- (v) One Ganesho of Chail Hills, in Patiala State territory, was forcibly abducted by Sardar Jiwan Singh of Shahzadpore, uncle of the Maharaja, with His Highness the Maharaja's knowledge and connivance. The woman's husband complained to the Deputy Commissioner, Simla, that she was being forcibly detained by the Maharaja. Eventually a sum of Rs. 1,000 was paid to the husband by the officials of the Patiala state and the matter was hushed up. Later, however, Ganesho reported to the British Police at Ambala, where she was being kept by her abductor, that she was being harassed by the Maharaja's officials and that her life was in dan-

'ger. Soon after this report the unfortunate woman died under suspicious circumstances.

- (w) When the Maharaja visited England in connection with his cricket team, it was reported to the police that he frequented disreputable quarters and led a notoriously immoral life.
- (x) At Simla the Maharaja's immoral conduct gave rise to scandals of a grave character, and for sometime the British Government took steps to curtail his visits to the summer capital of India.
- (y) During the Maharaja's pleasure trip to Kashmere one Pandit Harimohan complained to the British resident in Kashmere that, by orders of the Maharaja, his wife was forcibly taken away in broad daylight by Maharaja's men to Maharaja's boat for immoral purposes. Eventually the Maharaja paid the sum of Rs. 10,000 to the husband of the victim to hush up the matter.
- (z) The licentiousness and debased habits of the Maharaja have for many years been a standing menace to respectable women in the state; and it is a notorious fact that the honour of no woman, who has the misfortune of being young and beautiful, is safe at Patiala.

4. That the present administration of the state amounts to a veritable reign of terror in which the honour and liberty of no man who has displeased the Maharaja or his henchmen is safe. From amongst the more glaring cases of respectable men who have been locked up in prison in utter disregard of law and justice, the petitioners beg to mention only a few which have created a stir in Patiala:

- (a) Général Sardar Bakhshish Singh, Sardar Bahadur, Commander-in-Chief, Patiala Army,
- (b) Colonel Sardar Jewan Singh, Dewan Bahadur, Patiala State,

- (c) Sardar Nanak Singh, Superintendent, Police; Officer in Charge, C. I. D.
- (d) Sardar Gamdur Singh, Private Secretary,
- (e) Pandit Rup Lal, Superintendent, Foreign office,
- (f) Sardar Narain Singh, Superintendent, Chail,
- (g) Major Sardar Kishen Singh, Officer Deori Mubarik,
- (h) Sardar Hamir Singh, Secretary Historical Department,
- (i) Sardar Kishan, Sardar Deori,
- (j) Sardar Sewa Singh, Jathedar, Akal Takhat.

5. That the Maharaja squanders away lacks of rupees annually to satisfy his immoral whims, and the officials of the state are not unoften supported and promoted to high posts not on the score of merit, but because they directly or indirectly minister to the Maharaja's vices. The result is that the Maharaja is incapable of properly administering the State. The petitioners beg leave to quote a few of the many instances in which disreputable men have been given an asylum in Patiala and appointed to important offices by the Maharaja :

- (a) One Chatterjee, who had been dismissed by His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala for treachery and misconduct was employed by the Maharaja of Patiala soon after his dismissal from Kapurthala.
- (b) Similarly one Raghunath Singh, who had been dismissed by the Maharaja of Jind, was given an appointment by the Maharaja of Patiala.
- (c) One Jiwanlal, an Inspector of Police in the Punjab who was dismissed by the Punjab Government for being dishonest and corrupt in his work, was appointed by the Maharaja to an important office in the state.
- (d) One Madholal, a Sub-inspector in the Punjab police who was prosecuted at Lahore for smuggling cocaine and was later dismissed by the Punjab Government, was likewise employed in Patiala.

6. That as a result of the misgovernment, extravagance, oppression and immoral conduct of the chief the administration of the State is, the petitioners submit, in an extremely disreputable condition, as would be evident from the following facts :

- (a) Adequate arrangements do not exist for the education of the people, and the population is steeped in illiteracy and ignorance. The expenditure on education is extremely inadequate; and institutions maintained at head quarters by the state are simply intended to serve as a spectacular show to deceive the British Government and the outside world.
- (b) As compared with the preceding decade, during the last fifteen years, the amount spent from the state revenues on public works and roads has dwindled down ten times; while the expenditure on building royal palaces and furnishing them has gone up fifty times.
- (c) A substantial portion of the money formerly spent by the state for public charities and religious endowments is now used by the Maharaja for his personal needs; and the help received by the religious institutions,—Hindu, Muhammadan and Sikh—has either been altogether stopped or substantially reduced. To give only two glaring instances, the building of the 'Victoria Diamond Jubilee Library,' founded by the late Maharaja to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria of blessed memory, and the building of the Victoria Memorial Poor House, established by public subscriptions on the death of the Queen Empress, have both been appropriated by the Maharaja for his personal use; the former forms part of the Palace while the latter is used by the Maharaja as his stables.
- (d) The incidence of direct taxation per head is now almost ten times of what it was before the present Maharaja's reign, inspite of the fact that the population has greatly



decreased in the interval. The enormous increase in the taxation has been accompanied by a steady deterioration in the administration of the State.

- (e) In order to preserve wild animals for Shikar, the Maharaja has promulgated new game laws, which are extremely prejudicial to the poor peasants, who are prohibited by law from killing the animals which are permitted to roam at large and destroy their crops. Sometime back the Maharaja let loose in the jungles many ferocious tigers for shooting; and these tigers have killed many human beings and cattle living within a considerable distance of the game preserves. The Maharaja's game department and dog kennel swallows up lakhs of rupees every year.
- (f) The extravagance of the Maharaja has brought the state to the verge of bankruptcy. The public debt of the state now amounts to about a hundred times of what it was when the Maharaja assumed charge of the state. As against this the amount of the Government of India and other valuable securities held by the State has dwindled down to the vanishing point.
- (g) A recent instance of the reckless extravagance of the Maharaja is his expenditure of over two lakhs of rupees on the purchase and setting up in his Palace apparatus for physical exercise.
- (h) The efficiency of the public services has immensely deteriorated and corruption is rampant in every department owing to Maharaja not being able to find time from his licentious engagements to supervise the affairs of the state. The Maharaja's hobbies and immoral whims swallowing up a large proportion of the revenue, the services are grossly underpaid, and corruption, nepotism and inefficiency prevail in all departments of the State.

- (i) Very little attention is paid to public health and the rate of mortality amongst the people of the state is very much higher than that in similarly situated areas in the British India and other progressive states.
- (j) There are no representative institutions whatever in the state; and complete autocracy prevails, the people having no means whatsoever to get their legitimate grievances redressed or improve their miserable lot. The Maharaja treats the state as his personal estate, from which he may derive as much money for his personal luxuries as he can.

7. That several times the complaints of the licentiousness, extravagance and incompetence of the Maharaja have been brought to the notice of the Government of India. From time to time the high officials of the state have reported to the Indian Government about the Maharaja's mal-administration and immoral conduct. It is believed that Col. Abdul Majid Khan (late Foreign Minister of Patiala), Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan (late Chief Minister), Hon. Sirdar Jogindersingh (late Home Minister), Khalifa Hamid Hussain (Late Revenue Minister), Mr. Warburton (late Inspector General of Police) and Sir Daya Kishan Kaul (Late Prime Minister) are amongst those who have at one time or another submitted such reports to the Government. Numerous representations have also been made by the people of the state to the Viceroy during the last twenty years complaining of the oppression of the Maharaja.

8. That the liberty of the press and platform does not exist in Patiala state. So far not a single newspaper has been allowed to be published in the Patiala state territory. Newspapers published outside the State, if they criticise the administration, are placed under a ban and not permitted to circulate in the State. Nor are public speakers from outside allowed to address meetings in the Patiala State without permission of the State officials, which permission is in all cases reluctantly given and is

always refused when it is apprehended that the speakers would not say what was agreeable to the officials.

9. That the Indian Government more than once contemplated taking action against the Maharaja, and in the times of Lord Minto's Viceroyalty in India, the Government held its hand simply because the Maharaja promised to reform himself and improve his administration. This, the petitioners beg to submit, the Maharaja has signally failed to do.

10. That, on the contrary, the Maharaja has been emboldened by the passivity of the Government of India. He openly boasts that owing to his War services, which were no greater than those of other Indian Princes and for which no less credit is due to the people of Patiala, and owing to other services rendered by him to the Government of India as well as on account of his lavish hospitality towards British officials, the British Government will not touch him, whatever iniquities he may perpetrate against his subjects.

11. That the petitioners place no credence whatsoever on the aforementioned boasts of the Maharaja; and firmly believe in the sense of justice of the British Government. The petitioners are prepared to prove to the hilt every allegation made by them if an independent and impartial inquiry is instituted into the conduct and administration of the Maharaja, and if they are assured immunity from the Maharaja's oppression for bringing to light his terrible atrocities and horrible immorality. The petitioners most humbly pray that Your Lordship may be pleased to intervene and rescue the subjects of the state from their pitiable condition by removing the present Maharaja from the State, for which act of justice and humanity the British Government and Your Excellency will earn the ever lasting gratitude of 15 lakhs of human beings, who are suffering unmentionable wrongs and unmitigated oppression under the tyrannical and immoral regime of the present Maharaja of Patiala.

Praying for Your Lordship's long life and prosperity:

Beg to remain,

Your Lordship's

Most humble servants,

1. Prem Singh of Tehsil Sunam, Patiala State.
2. Nand Singh of Tehsil Sunam,       "       "
3. Bhagwan Singh of Langowal,       "       "
4. Churh Singh of Tehsil Sarhand,       "       "
5. Sarwan Singh of Tensil Sarhand,       "       "
6. Sant Singh of Tehsil Rajpura,       "       "
7. Amar Singh of Tehsil Mansa,       "       "
8. Kishan Singh of Tehsil Mansa,       "       "
9. Sital Singh of Tehsil Sarhand,       "       "
10. Sajjan Singh of Tehsil Mansa.       "       "

**Appendix D**

**EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF ALLEGATIONS  
ON EACH ONE OF THE COUNTS**

## EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF ALLEGATIONS ON EACH ONE OF THE COUNTS

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### COUNT ONE : SARDAR LAL SINGH'S MURDER

#### Evidence in Support

- (1) *Sardar Jay Singh's Statement, Ex. 38.*
  - (2) *Sardar Nanak Singh's own statement, Ex. 38A.*
  - (3) *Judgement in S. Nanak Singh's case in Patiala Court, Ex. 38B.*
  - (4) *Memorial of S. Nanak Singh to the Viceroy, Ex. 38C.*
  - (5) *Draft of divorce-deed in the hand-writing of Sir Kishen Kaul, Ex. 38D.*
  - (6) *Two letters of Sir Kishen Kaul, Ex. 38E & F.*
  - (7) *Two letters of Sardar Sunder Singh Majithia, Ex. 38G & H.*
  - (8) *Letters of Gurnam Singh, the father-in-law of the Maharaja, Ex. 38i.*
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#### 1. Sardar Jay Singh's Statement (Ex. 38.)

Jai Singh S/O Prem Singh, 46 years old, sikh, trader, of Gujarkhan Dt. Rawalpindi.

1. Nanak Singh is my sister's son. I am in charge of his interest.

2. I produce the following documents :

- (1) A copy of the statement of S. Nanak Singh which he wrote in his own hand-writing (Ex. 38 A.)

- (2) A copy of the Judgement in Nanak Singh's case in Patiala Court. (Ex. 38 B.)
- (3) A copy of the Memorial of S. Nanak Singh to the Viceroy. (Ex. 38 C.)
- (4) A copy of the draft of divorce-deed in the hand of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul. (Ex. D.)
- (5-6) Copies of two letters of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul. (Ex. 38 E. F.)
- (7-8) Copies of two letters of S. Sundar Singh Majithia. (Ex. 38 G. H.)
- (9) Letters of Gurnam Singh, father-in-law of the Maharaja. (Ex. 38 I.)

3. Nanak Singh had left certain papers with me. One Gyani Hamir Singh, a man of Sir Daya Kishan used to say to me that if I handed over those papers to Maharaja, Nanak Singh would be released. I gave the following original documents to one Gulab Singh, photo copies of which I still had with me. He took these documents to Maharaja.

- (1) Original draft of divorce-deed in the hands of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul.
- (2-3) Two letters of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul.

4. Nanak Singh was still not released. I had some more papers still with me. I had also photo copies of the original letters given to the Maharaja. They are as under :

- (1-2) Nanak Singh's two diaries. I had got them read by S. Sant Singh, the father-in-law of Nanak Singh. These diaries contained all details of everything of Nanak Singh, more particularly in the matter of Dalip Kaur.
- (3-4-5) The photo copies of the original letters given to the Maharaja.
- (6) One register of Nanak Singh's work.
- (7) Original plates of the photo prints of the letters,

- (8) There was a bundle of letters of which some were in the hand-writing of the Maharaja.

For all these papers negotiations were continued. Sardar Sir Sundar Singh Majithia took part in the affair. I gave all these papers to him. He promised me that he would get Nanak Singh released on one hand and then hand the papers to the Maharaja. Papers were however given over to the Maharaja and Nanak Singh was not released. I used to go to Sardar Majithia very often in connection with this matter.

6. Once he gave me a letter for Sir Daya Kishan. Sir Daya Kishan gave a reply in a sealed cover and said to me that the cover contained a cheque of Rs. 40,000/- on Alliance Bank. I handed the same cover over to Sardar Majithia.

7. After that Majithia wrote to me and also told me orally that when Government asked Nanak Singh, he should say that the Maharaja was innocent and everything was done by himself of his own accord. I instructed Nanak Singh accordingly. He did also the same way, and still he is not released.

8. He is in Jail for these 12 years. He is undergoing all sorts of violence.

Dated the 30th December, 1929.



## **2. Sardar Nanak Singh's own statement (Ex. 38A)**

**Gujar Khan : D/. 12-8-75**

To properly understand what follows, it is necessary, to say a few words regarding Lal Singh and Dalip Kaur.

Sardar Lal Singh was the Son of S. Hira Singh, Jat sikh of the village Raju Mazarya, Patiala State, and was the cousin of Sardar Gurnam Singh, Home secretary of Patiala. At first he joined the Sangrur army as a bugler, but after the marriage of S. Gurnam Singh's daughter to the Maharaja of Patiala, he got employment in Patiala army as an N. C. O, and was later on



promoted to the rank of a Lieutenant. He was occupying this post at the time of his murder.

Dalip Kaur's father S. Jagat Singh of Abbuwal was a Subedar in the Sangrur army. As both the families were living together in Sangrur, they became acquainted with one another and Sardarani Gurnam Singh's relations with S. Jagat Singh's family members grew very intimate. On the death of the first wife of Sardar Lal Singh, he was married to Dalip Kaur, evidently through the efforts of Sardarani Gurnam Singh. In the summer of Sam. 1968 when Maharaja Kishan Garh was putting up in the Patiala House at Simla, the Maharaja of Patiala was himself living at his Bungalow Mount Everest. In the same year when S. Lal Singh, after Muklawa ceremony brought Dalip kaur to his house for the first time, she was straight away taken to the Maharaja in the Mount Everest. It is said that the Maharaja fell in love with her at the first sight and he kept her there throughout the whole season. In the beginning, the Sangrur Maharani thinking that like other girls the Maharaja will give her up too after some time, did not mind it, but when she saw that the situation was becoming serious, she mentioned the fact to her mother. After the summer when they returned to Patiala, S. Lal Singh was persuaded to take Dalip Kaur to their native village Raju Mazarya, but at this the Maharaja was greatly upset and restless. His Highness was persistently pressing the Sangrur Maharani to get back Dalip Kaur. At first she protested and refused to accede to his wishes, but later on she was prevailed upon and Dalip Kaur was again brought back to the Royal Palace. She was regularly employed as a female attendant to Her Highness the Sangrur Maharani. This state of affairs continued for three years. During this period she gave birth to a daughter. After this the Maharaja began to love her very strongly, but the Sangrur Maharani was proving a great obstacle in their way. Dalip Kaur became pregnant for the second time and she again left for Raju Mazarya. The Maharaja seriously doubted that her enemies might even poison and kill her

there. Accordingly Sardar Kishen Singh went in a motor car and brought Dalip Kaur back and put her in the Moti Garden and it is here that she gave birth to another female child. I got service in Patiala in Sam. 1970, and did not know anything of this affair till 1973. In that year the Maharaja was living at Mussorie Hills and it was there that he mentioned this fact to me for the first time. His Highness bitterly complained against S. Gurnam Singh that at first he himself sent her to the palace, and now when he had begun to love her so deeply that he was unable to bear even a moment's separation, Sardar Gurnam Singh was doing his best to prevent her from coming to the palace.

After two hours' conversation the Maharaja disclosed his real object and said that so long as Lal Singh was living, there could be no peace for him. I was stunned to hear this from his lips. After two-three minutes, since he once more uttered the same words and enquired of me the reason of my reticence, I replied that since he was a great benedictory chief, he should not do it so light-heartedly. There are serious dangers in this course, but my suggestion was a cry in the wilderness. His Highness insisted that I should make arrangements to clear his way by disposing of Lal Singh. At first I hesitated, but then, thinking that since the Maharaja was bent upon doing it, he may mention it to somebody else, and if Lal Singh was murdered the Maharaja may be involved in this affair, I consented and assured the Maharaja that I would do my best to achieve this object. As soon as I said this, he at once sent for his cheque book and gave me a cheque for Rs. 7000/- to the Amballa Cantt. Branch of the Alliance Bank of Simla. I returned from Mussorie with the cheque and got it cashed from Ambala Cantt. This cheque, which was of Course endorsed by me, may even, now be traced in the Amballa Branch of the Alliance Bank. I knew that the Maharaja was not a strong-willed person and when after sometime he would cease to love Dalip Kaur, he would himself ask me not to carry out his instruction. With this object in view I simply tried to pass away the time.

In January 1915 Dalip Kaur told the Maharaja that the Sangrur Maharani had tauntingly said that Dalip Kaur might live in the Royal Palace as long as she chose, but she could, under no circumstances, become the Maharani. Whether this was a fact or whether Dalip Kaur herself manufactured it, I cannot say definitely; but after hearing this the Maharaja got furious. His Highness at once sent for me and enquired of me as to the progress of the project to murder Lal Singh. I replied that since I was more or less a stranger to that place, I tried but I failed. On hearing this he was greatly disappointed and asked me to withdraw. In the same year the Princes' Conference was held in Patiala. After the Conference was over, and on the night when the Maharaja of Jamnagar, who was the last Prince to leave, was preparing to go, Maharaja of Patiala called Sardar Gurnam Singh in the Moti Bag and pressed him that since His Highness was in great love with Dalip Kaur, he should persuade Lal Singh to divorce his wife; but Gurnam Singh plainly refused to be a party to such a matter and thereby he incurred the perpetual displeasure of the Maharaja. On the next day I was again called and was admonished for not properly managing the affairs. I was told that in case, I could not arrange for his murder I might, at least, manage to persuade Lal Singh to divorce his wife, Dalip Kaur. I myself was strongly of opinion that there was no harm if Lal Singh divorced his wife. I tried to sound Lal Singh through two reliable men, but Lal Singh plainly refused to agree to the proposal. I informed the Maharaja accordingly. After this we decided that a false divorce-deed be obtained from the Magistrate of Dhuri. For this purpose Sardar Sukhdev Singh was transferred from Narnaul to Dhuri. I arranged to get stamped paper from Nau Lal Stamp dealer. While we were making these arrangements, the Maharaja mentioned this matter to Sir Diya Kishal Kaul. He welcomed it as a God-send opportunity, because it gave him a convenient handle by which he could always keep the Maharaja in his hands. First of all he managed to send S.

Gurnam Singh to the battlefield and when he was gone he called S. Lal Singh and asked him to divorce his wife, but Sardar Lal Singh asked the Dewan Saheb, if next day the Maharaja fell in love with his (Dewan's) wife could he too agree to divorce his wife. The Dewan Sahib, of course, could not say anything. The Dewan Sahib pressed Lal Singh three or four times again, once even seriously threatening him, but Lal Singh was adamant and did not yield to his persuasions or threats. When all attempts failed to get divorce from Lal Singh, the Maharaja thought that there was no other course, but to marry her. Accordingly with the help of Sardar Deorhi a marriage ceremony was performed with Naz, Anwar, and Dalip Kaur simultaneously, and thus without getting divorce and even without the tacit consent of Lal Singh, Dalip Kaur his wife was made the Maharani.

When Sardar Lal Singh came to know of it, naturally, he was upset and he said that he would get back his wife through the British Government. When the Maharaja heard that Lal Singh was determined to move the British Government, His Highness called me and told me that somehow or other Lal Singh must be finished. Like the previous occasions I put off the matter saying of course that I would see to it.

One day the Maharaja was standing with Col. Jogender Singh with two pistols in his hands. His Highness called me inside and handing over both the pistols said "Keep it with you for the present and give them to the man whom I will name." I took the pistols and came home. After a few days the Maharaja ordered me to give one of those pistols to one Ujjagar Singh, Electrical Engineer. After recording the report in the City Kotwali of Patiala, I gave one pistol to Ujjagar Singh. On the 8th Bishak, my own orderly came to my house and informed me that the Maharaja wanted me immediately. I at once hastened to the Moti Bagh, where the Maharaja was already waiting for me. S. Ujjagar Singh was also there with the Maharaja. As soon as I came there, the Maharaja asked me to immediately proceed to

Dhuri and get from Ghamdur Singh a written petition asking permission to reside in Patiala. I was greatly surprised to know this because the Maharaja refused to allow Ghamdur Singh to reside in Patiala—so much so that even the British Government failed to get that permission for Ghamdur Singh. The Maharaja took me aside and told me that Lal Singh and Ghamdur Singh were very fast friends, and S. Ujjagar Singh assured him that Ghamdur Singh would be able to persuade Lal Singh to divorce his wife. Accordingly I reached Dhuri and saw Ghamdur Singh. Taking the petition from Ghamdur Singh I returned to Patiala on the following day. The application was granted and permission was given to Ghamdur Singh to reside in Patiala and on the 12th Bishak Sam. 1975 Ghamdur Singh came to Patiala and insisted that the Maharaja should personally give that order to him. I conveyed his wishes to His Highness.

On the 16th Bisakh His Highness inspected the accounts of the C. I. D. and gave me a certificate for my good work and keeping accounts properly and asked me to take Ghamdur Singh and wait for His Highness before the poor House at 8 P. M. At 8-30 P. M. on the same night a dinner was to be given on the eve of the Maharaja's departure for the front. Exactly at 8 P. M. His Highness' car arrived and passed on to the Cavalry, but His Highness shouted to the C. I. D. to keep to their places. After going to the Bungalow of S. Bhagwan Singh, His Highness returned within a few minutes. Tika Ram Singh of Shazad Pur, Kanwar Ram Narain Singh of Patiala and Kanwar Birender Singh were accompanying the Maharaja in the same car. His Highness alighted from the car and took both of us aside. Ghamdur Singh presented nazar to His Highness. After accepting the nazar, His Highness came to the real object. At first conversation was about the divorce, but then His Highness addressing Ghamdur Singh said that Nanak Singh was a coward. and asked him if he could finish Lal Singh. I repeated the same objection and said that no good would come out of it; but His Highness rebuked me and took Ghamdur Singh a few paces apart from me. After

talking in private for 10 or 15 minutes they came back to me and the Maharaja, in a loud voice so that I may also hear, said to Ghamdur Singh that I would give him the draft of the divorce deed, and that he should do his utmost to get it signed by Lal Singh. As the Maharaja was absorbed in the thoughts of murder of Lal Singh, after getting into the Motor Car he again loudly said that by his return the thorn must be removed from the way. "All right, Sir" said Ghamdur Singh and saluted His Highness. The above-mentioned thing happened before my very eyes, and I have heard the final order with my own ears. Thus was hatched the conspiracy to murder Lal Singh. Although His Highness took extraordinary precautions, witnesses to this conspiracy are available even up to this time, and may prove dangerous to His Highness at any time.

To resume the story again, after the dinner, the Maharaja left for Simla the same night ordering me to wait for His Highness on the 3rd day at Ambala. On the next day Ghamdur Singh told me that divorce affair is all a ... .. The real object was to murder Lal Singh, and H. H. had given him ( Ghamdur Singh ) clear orders for his murder to which I replied that he might do as he pleased; so far as I was concerned I was not going to take part in this affair. Ghamdur Singh asked me to help Sardar Nihal Kaur to get her property from Col. Gurbox Singh. "Well" said Ghamdur Singh. "you are accompanying H. H. to Bombay, are not you? You please get straight away an order from H. H. direct to the effect that one half of the moveable and immoveable property should be given to Sardar Nihal Kaur. Furthermore also try to get the share of the produce of the land for the last five or six years." On the 3rd day as ordered by H. H. I reached Ambala. When the Special from Simla carrying the Maharaja arrived, a large number of Patiala officials and gentry presented nazars, and garlanded the Maharaja. When the train was about to start, the H. H. took out all the wreathes from his neck and in the presence of all H. H. himself garlanded me. On the second day we reached

Bombay. H. H. called Sir Daya Kishan Kaul, and in my presence ordered him to prepare the draft of the divorce deed himself and give it to me so that I might give the same to Sardar Ghamdur Singh. I could not say how the Maharaja had taken Sir Daya Kishan Kaul into the confidence regarding the affair, but on that day no other talk except that of divorce took place in my presence. After Daya Kishan Kaul had left, H. H. and myself were sitting in the dining room. I presented the application of S. Ghamdur Singh. H. H. remarked that it was not proper to pass an order for the division of the property straight away without referring it to the lower authorities. But as it was a special case, H. H. at once called in Buta Ram and left an order to the Judicial Secretary. H. H. also asked me to impress upon Ghamdur Singh that if by his return from England that work was not done, H. H. would be very much angry with him. I submitted to H. H. that "In the first place murder in itself is a heinous crime and in the second place Your Highness is a ruler of a State. In case it is proved there will be an end to Your Highness as well as to the State." H. H. replied that he had studied the Gita and there was no use of talking about merit or sin. While talking in this strain H. H. began to weep and addressing me said : "Well, Nanak Singh, if, before starting from England, I do not hear the news of Lal Singh's murder, I will drown myself by jumping overboard the ship." This pathetic appeal had the desired effect on me and from that moment I too was converted, but I desire to tell the whole story plainly, that I joined this conspiracy not from any monetary consideration or from any other worldly greed. I would not bear the miserable plight of the Maharaja and I was convinced that in case Lal Singh was not killed the Maharaja would certainly kill himself. Now, whatever the world may say, I cannot help saying this that the Maharaja succeeded in dragging me into the conspiracy to murder Lal Singh. Although personally I was against it, nay I was thoroughly afraid of it, I promised the Maharaja that I would tell Ghamdur Singh to do this work and I would help him to the best of my



ability. The Maharaja told me that as soon as the news of Lal Singh's murder would reach him in England, he would at once wire Sardar Gurnam Singh to proceed to France from Mesopotamia lest he should come to Patiala and help the investigations. H. H. also gave orders to Sardar Kishan Singh that if in addition to Rs. 7000/- for which I had already got a cheque, I required more money, that money should be given to me and afterwards H. H. also instructed Chanan Singh Nafar that if and when I required men they will at once be placed at my disposal. The next day the Maharaja left for England and we all returned to Patiala. On the way Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul asked me to see him at Patiala and that he would give me the required draft for divorce. On reaching Patiala I told the whole story to Ghamdur Singh. I could not see Dewan Sahib in Patiala as after two days stay only he went to Chail. From Chail Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul sent the draft for the divorce which was written in his own handwriting. He also under a separate cover sent me a letter asking me to get this draft signed by Lal Singh. Some days afterwards Ujagar Singh came and told me that Ghamdur Singh was bent upon killing Lal Singh and he was nowadays searching for professional murderers. On hearing this I was alarmed and we both went to the house of Sardar Ghamdur Singh and we both tried to dissuade him from committing the murder for the present and that he should at least wait for the return of H. H., Ghamdur Singh replied that if he did not do this the Maharaja would be angry with him and said: "I have with great difficulty got, my property this time, and if he gets angry with me second time, God knows what may happen." I tried to satisfy him saying that just as I had already managed to pass two years, I would again pacify the Maharaja; but he would not listen to me. At last he got angry and said that if I was afraid of it I need not join them in the matter. On this I left him and returned to my house. If luck had favoured me I would have completely withdrawn from this affair, but I could not abstain from taking interest in this matter. Once Ghamdur Singh sent me a word that he was prepared to wait upto H. H.'s return,



I was anxious to save Lal Singh and thinking that if he went away somewhere else his life might be saved. I wrote to Gurnam Singh in Mesopotamia that Lal Singh's life was in danger and that he should make some arrangements. This letter duly reached Gurnam Singh. In reply to it he wrote to me that he would manage, but fate had decreed otherwise. Mehra Jamadar Deori who was posted at the residence of Gurnam Singh had old connections with the family of Ghamdur Singh and it was through him that he generally sent for S. Lal Singh for interview. Ghamdur Singh told Lal Singh that it was through the help of the British Government that he had got permission to reside in Patiala, otherwise the Maharaja would not have allowed him to come to Patiala. After two or three interviews Ghamdur Singh told Lal Singh if he wished, he (Ghamdur Singh) could get his wife through the British Government. Naturally Lal Singh welcomed the suggestion and began to make repeated requests to Ghamdur Singh to help him to get back his wife. Ghamdur Singh told Lal Singh that he would let him know after he had seen the Agent and that meanwhile he should keep it secret. He also told me that Lal Singh should not see him frequently, and that whenever he wanted to see him it should be done in a secret place. In these days through his cousin Ujagar Singh he sent for Harnam Singh of Kadon, the father-in-law of Ujagar Singh. He was also taken into confidence. They decided that since Nanak Singh is a coward the murder should be committed outside the Patiala state in the village Choral. Lal Singh had to go with Sardarni Gurnam Singh to Sangrur, but before leaving Patiala he saw Ghamdur Singh and told him to send him a word as soon as he would come back from the Agent and that he (Lal Singh) would come to the appointed place and time. It was further decided that Ghamdur Singh would send a man with a letter of cross mark and that Lal Singh would follow the man without informing anybody.

Sardar Ghamdur Singh had a Kothi at Jakhal near Choral, his own village. It was in this very Kothi that the material for murder was collected. Harnam Singh took with him

to Jakhal his two associates, Bhagwan Singh of Rampur Katni and Sada Singh Lumardar Bharthala. S. Ghamdur Singh sent Harnam Singh with a letter of cross mark. On seeing the letter S. Lal Singh without informing anybody else accompanied Harnam Singh to Jakhal. They reached Jakhal in the evening. Ghamdur Singh had already arranged that as soon as Lal Singh had come he would be taken to the well near his Kothi. They would continue to talk till it was dark, when a man from behind would attack him suddenly and would make him unconscious. Then he would be carried to the Kothi, murdered, and burnt there and then. When S. Lal Singh got down at Jakhal he spent some minutes in walking on the Railway Platform. After that S. Lal Singh came out to the side of the Garden where S. Ghamdur Singh was standing. On meeting S. Ghamdur Singh asked him the reason of his delay at the Station to which Lal Singh said that he was talking to an acquaintance. This upset the whole arrangement. Ghamdur Singh's plan was that no one should know that Lal Singh had come to Choral that day. Now that somebody had come to know, he at once changed his mind and informed his men. Lal Singh spent the night with Ghamdur Singh at Choral. Ghamdur Singh gave the fictitious account of his interview with the Agent. Next day Lal Singh returned to Sangrur. Ghamdur Singh asked him to see him at Dhuri Railway Station with the idea that while talking he would take Lal Singh away from the Station and there Harnam Singh and others would kill him in such a manner that it would appear that Lal Singh had been drowned in the canal. As arranged between them Lal Singh went to Dhuri. Ghamdur Singh too reached there in time and every other arrangement was complete. But as Lal Singh had to catch the train for Sangrur, he refused to go outside the Railway Station. After sometime Lal Singh left for Sangrur and Ghamdur Singh and others returned to their place. By this time S. Lal Singh returned to Patiala with Sardarni Gurnam Singh and therefore it was decided that he should be killed in Patiala.

One day Ujagar Singh came to me and asked for the automatic pistol of 38 bores for Ghamdur Singh. I refused to give another pistol saying that as desired by the Maharaja I had already given him one pistol. On my refusal to give him this pistol, he gave his father's pistol of 22 bores. Now the question to be decided was how and where Lal Singh should be murdered and how he should be called, so that his family people might not know of it. After much consideration it was decided that he should be murdered near the well of Sardar Gurnam Singh and that he should be asked to come on telephone in such a way that his people should not know where he had gone.

On the 28th March Sam 1975 Dula Singh of Dadon reached Patiala and informed Ghamdur Singh that Harnam Singh with another companion will reach Patiala soon. On the next day Harnam Singh and Kala Singh of Nanod reached Patiala. One came on horseback while the other was riding a camel. Harnam Singh leaving both the animals behind the bandh of the rivulet under the charge of Kala Singh came to the house of Ujagar Singh. Ujagar Singh gave to Harnam Singh one gun and some cartridges and asked him to hand over the same to Kala Singh and come back immediately. At about 6 P. M. S. Ghamdur Singh called Lal Singh on the Phone and spoke in a changed voice. When Lal Singh came on the phone. Ghamdur Singh said that Narain Singh contractor of Delhi was speaking and that he had just came by the evening train and that he was leaving the same evening and Lal Singh should see him immediately at his residence in Lahori Gate. On hearing this message S. Lal Singh took his cycle and started towards the Lahori Gate. When he came in front of the bungalow of Ghamdur Singh. Harnam Singh who was posted there by Ghamdur Singh was waiting for him. Harnam Singh told Lal Singh that the message, that had been sent on behalf of S. Narain Singh was in fact, sent by Ghamdur Singh. He had just come from the Agent and wanted to talk to him and that he was waiting for him at the Railway crossing. They saw S. Ghamdur Singh waiting for them. He said that he wanted to talk

to Lal Singh in seclusion. Lal Singh said that Gurnam Singh's garden near the Sarhand Gate is quite a secluded place where we can sit and talk freely. See how his fate itself was leading him to destruction. This was exactly what Ghamdur Singh wanted. He asked Harnam Singh to accompany Lal Singh and go to the garden by the canal road and he himself went to the canal bund and from there he signalled Lal Singh to go there. Owing to heat Lal Singh had already taken off his turban and put it on the wall. Leaving the turban there he went there bareheaded. Ghamdur Singh and Lal Singh sat down and began to talk. Ghamdur Singh was waiting for the dark. After an hour's conversation Lal Singh saw Kala Singh and Dulla Singh. Lal Singh enquired as to who those men were. Ghamdur Singh said that they were grass-cutters. When it grew dark, on the pre-arranged signal Harnam Singh attacked Lal Singh from behind. While struggling both fell down in the canal. By this time Kala Singh and Dulla Singh also reached the spot. At this time Lal Singh shouted to Ghamdur Singh that he had deceived him by posing as a friend. He also cried for help two or three times, but Harnam Singh strangled him very tightly. Lal Singh was a strong man, he tried to free himself. If at this moment Ghamdur Singh had not fired at him with a pistol, it was just possible he might have run away from them. Ghamdur Singh fired his pistol four times, twice at his head and twice at the chest. This finished Lal Singh and after a few minutes he died. The dead body was tied in clothes and put on the camel. When they reached the other canal, Ghamdur Singh went to Patiala and others taking the body with them went towards the village Kadon and burnt it somewhere in the way. But as desired by the Maharaja and as instructed by Ghamdur Singh, Harnam Singh had taken out his ring. On the night of occurrence Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul and Kishan Singh Lasewala arrived at Patiala from Chail. Although I have no reasonable ground, but I doubted that Ghamdur Singh had kept the Dewan well-posted of all the developments from time to time. At about 10 P. M., Ujagar Singh informed

me that Lal Singh had been murdered. Although I was already prepared to hear such a news, but I did not think that it would come that very night. As Ghamdur Singh himself told me afterwards, he purposely did not think it proper to inform me lest I should out of fear prove an obstacle in their way or I should effect some arrests immediately.

It was now four months and a half since Lal Singh was murdered, but from that time my happiness and sleep had completely gone. I felt very miserable and even now whenever I think of the murder of innocent Lal Singh, I shiver as if an electric spark passes through my body.

On the morning of 30th Harh Sam, 1975 at about 10 a. m., a servant of S. Gurnam Singh came to me with a report that Lal Singh was missing. I directed him to the Kotwali for recording a report and myself went to see Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul. I cannot say how Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul knew of it before I went there. He enquired all the details from me. The most amazing phase of our conversation was that both of us were trying to hide our secrets from each other. He gave me necessary instructions and apparently we started the investigations. Before his departure the Maharaja had given instructions to Lala Tara Chand Inspector General of Police in my presence that if any occurrence took place in the family of S. Gurnam Singh he should take care of it and try to hush up that matter. Thus outwardly the investigations were vigorously going on, but as a matter of fact the case was being hushed. On the 3rd Sawan Dewan Sahab called me to his residence and offered me the post of the Inspector General together with the sum of Rupees fifty thousand on the condition that I should write a report against the Maharaja and hand over the file to him. The Dewan Sahib said that they would not in any way gain if the Maharaja was involved in the case in a court of law, but if they kept the file in their possession they would always be able to hold out the threat and thus keep the Maharaja in their hands. The Dewan Sahab would be secure in his post of a Minister and I in that of the Inspector General.

Although I had consented to become a party to the dirty conspiracy, but my conscience did not allow me to accept this offer and I quietly refused saying that he would consider the matter. But I was greatly alarmed that the life of H. H. was in danger. From the day of the murder I was always feeling that some calamity was imminent. As desired by the Maharaja, His Highness was informed of the murder by wire. H. H. wired Gurnam Singh to go to France from Mesopotamia, but Sardar Gurnam Singh ignoring that telegram came back to India. When the news of the murder reached the Maharaja in England, he celebrated the occasion by distributing prizes amongst his staff. Prizes of Rs. 1100/- each were given to Sher Singh Nafur, Tikka Raghunath Singh and Bishen Singh. I was in a very awkward position. Sir Diya Kishan Kaul was trying to prepare a file against the Maharaja and the Punjab C. I. D. had deputed their own officers for the investigation and Mr. Newman was working in his own way. S. Tara Chand Inspector General plainly told Sir Diya Kishan Kaul that the murder had been committed with the instigation of the Maharaja himself, but he could not give its details as to how and where it was committed. S. Gurnam Singh did his utmost, but as all of us were spoiling the case how could he succeed? Once there was a strong rumour that the Maharaja was coming to Bombay. At this time S. Ghamdur Singh urged upon me and Ujagar Singh that we should go to Bombay and tell the Maharaja the whole story. We went to Bombay for this purpose but there was no information of his arrival. We therefore had to come back disappointed, but one week after our arrival in Patiala information was received that H. H. had reached Bombay. All of us including S. Gurnam Singh went to Bombay to welcome the Maharaja. S. Gurnam Singh tendered his resignation then and there. As Sir Diya Kishan Kaul himself wanted this he frightened the Maharaja. When the dinner was ready, in addition to the Maharaja of Dhulapore and Jamnagar, out of the whole staff H. H. only allowed me to dine with the royal party.

The rest of the staff took it very badly and myself felt awkward, but there was no other course except to obey the order. Although Gurnam Singh was responsible for creating some misunderstanding with H. H. about me, but as I had the fullest confidence in the Maharaja I did not mind it. I tried to explain the whole matter in detail, but I could not get any suitable opportunity. In reality as I came to know subsequently, Sir Daya Kishan Kaul frightened the Maharaja by saying that the British Government suspected him for murder and that if H. H. freely mixed with me and others he (the Dewan) would not be able to save His Highness. H. H. was caught in the trap laid by the clever Brahman. The Dewan Saheb asked the Maharaja not to see me at all. We returned to Patiala and after staying there for a few days the Maharaja went to Chail. All the time I was trying to see the Maharaja so that H. H. may hear in detail the account of the murder. On the 29th Assuh I received a message on telephone from Sir Diya Kishan Kaul that H. H. wanted me there. On the next day I went to Chail.

There I saw quite a different scene. The Council was in session, and I was asked to give my statement about various matters. The Maharaja was himself present in the Council, but he would not even look at me. After giving my statements I came back to Patiala. I thought that since the Maharaja was playing in the hands of Sir Diya Kishan Kaul I was not safe. I packed up my things and came to Gujar Khan my native place, but Ghamdur Singh and others would not leave me. He wired me to see him at Lahore in the Bombay Hotel. When I saw him at Lahore in Bombay Hotel he pressed me to come back to Patiala to which I replied that I would let them know after further consideration. During these days Sir Diya Kishan Kaul asked me to give him all those letters which he had written me regarding the divorce affair, but I flatly refused to do so. Then I sent S. Mehtab Singh Sahni to Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul with a message that if no case was started against me I would be prepared to hand over these papers. Sir Diya Kishan Kaul assured



S. Mehtab Singh that he was my brother and that he would help me to the best of his ability.

Ujagar Singh wired me from Patiala that H. H. had gone to Dhaulpore and that Sir Diya Kishan Kaul had not accompanied him and I should see the Maharaja there. Taking Prabh Singh with me I went there. I put up in the Dak Bungalow and sent a word to the Maharaja that I wanted to see H. H.. He at first refused an interview saying that I should better see him at Patiala, but when I insisted he gave me a few moments. As the time was very short, I only said that Diya Kishan Kaul was trying to prepare a murder case against H. H. for he was trying to get a decent jagir for himself, but it appeared that Maharaja's mind was already poisoned. H. H. said that it was not true that Lal Singh had been murdered, that Diya Kishan kaul had assured him that we people were keeping Lal Singh hidden somewhere and that we were simply deceiving him. I replied that I wished that it was so, but the truth was that Lal Singh had been murdered. Thus when H. H. was assured that Lal Singh had been actually murdered, H. H. warmly thanked me although I was feeling ashamed of the dirty work we had done. Then the Maharaja enquired of me why I had left Patiala. H. H. swearing his father said that if I was to desert him who else would remain with him. On the 27th Kartak from Dhaulpore I came straight away to Patiala. At the time of writing these lines I had come to Gujar Khan to take my family, but as I had already often said I had been thoroughly upset since the day of murder, I was always feeling sorry that if I could postpone it for two-three years, why I joined it in the last resort. Sometimes I felt that I was not guilty at all. The Maharaja and Dalip Kaur instigated and Ghamdur Singh and Harnam Singh and others committed the murder; but I was feeling always miserable and was expecting some calamity every moment. I felt that the murder of innocent Lal Singh always haunted me. Although I was neither the murderer nor the abettor and at the time of the murder I was absolutely unaware, but I felt the share of my responsibility in this affair. If I had



refused to join from the beginning, or if I had parted company with Ghamdur Singh and others after the matter was entrusted to them, I would have been not guilty. If I had been courageous enough and If I had not cared for my service, I would have certainly saved the life of Lal Singh. For these reasons I was also guilty.

Out of the sum of Rs. 7000/- I returned the sum of Rs. 5300/- to the Maharaja at Dhaulpore for the expenses on murder were not very large. Ghamdur Singh either spent from his own pocket or from that money which was realised out of sale of the wheat of Col. Gurbox Singh, but still I sometimes doubted that I had joined this plot out of monetary considerations. The Maharaja at first refused to accept the balance of Rs. 5300/- which I offered him at Dhaulpore, because he wanted to present it as a prize. But I regarded even a single pie as a deadly poison. While we were struggling, the Maharaja Dhaulpore entered in the room and he saw the Maharaja putting the notes into his pocket. I even did not like to serve the Patiala Government, because the world will say that I had joined the plot for monetary gains. At first I joined the plot for postponing the murder. But thinking that meanwhile the Maharaja became so desperate that H. H. was even prepared to commit suicide, I joined it although even now I do not know what impelled me to do so. Now that the inevitable had happened, I must be prepared to suffer the consequences.

Although I was going to Patiala with my family in spite of the fact that I did not like to set my face towards that side, I doubted that I might not even reach Patiala. Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul's position had been considerably weakened by Lal Singh's murder because in K he was also charged of a similar crime. Although Ghamdur Singh assured me that Sir Diya Kishan Kaul was with them in this plot and he was aware of its details, but as besides his efforts to obtain divorce of his wife from Lal Singh, I had no direct knowledge of his complexity in the crime and I therefore, am unable to say anything definitely. As Diya Kishan Kaul was anxious to

make himself safe, and also to keep the Maharaja always in his hands. I have every hope that the case of Lal Singh's murder will in all probability, be started. If the case is started in my life-time I shall state the facts plainly and thus will satisfy my conscience. But if, as I think, I die immediately and case is started after that, it is possible that certain innocent person may be punished. I have therefore recorded these facts and I am leaving them in a sealed envelope with my wife with the clear instructions that in my life-time she would not open it without my order nor shall she give it to anybody else. She shall regard these papers more precious than her life. In case I die and no case is started for two years this envelope should be burnt unopened. If the case is started, this envelope should be opened. If the case is in accordance with the facts stated above, no interference is called for and let the justice have its own course. But if other than the above persons are involved in this case and some innocent persons are accused of murder, then my wife is authorised to produce this writing in the court and thus save the innocent persons. It is possible that my crime may be forgiven and God may have mercy upon my innocent guilty soul. I do not know what further miseries are in store for me. A voice from my heart says that some evil will befall me. Maharaja is thoroughly enjoying and whenever I talk to Ghamdur Singh on this topic he dismisses it with the remark that to commit crime in obedience to an order is no sin. Ujagar Singh does not mind it. I alone am repentant and expecting trouble at every step. Sometimes I thank God that I remember my sins and I pray that out of his abundant mercy God may save me from any future crime. Nothing can now be done. The inevitable has happened. I am always absorbed in these gloomy thoughts and it seems to me that there is no happiness for me in this world.

I give below the summary of the whole case once more.

### **Cause of murder**

The cause of Lal Singh's murder is that the Maharaja

forcibly made his wife Dalip Kaur his Maharani. The People of Patiala, Sangrur, Rajmazar and Abthal will stand witness to it. The letter which I received from S. Gurnam Singh from Mesopotamia and letters of Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul and several drafts of divorce-deeds are all with these papers.

### **Murderers**

S. Ghamdur Singh and Harnam Singh of Kadon, Dula Singh and Kaka Singh were not aware of the murder.

### **Conspiracy for murder**

The plot for murder began with Maharaja and myself. Dalip Kaur was with the Maharaja in this conspiracy because during our conversation the Maharaja used often to go in her private rooms to inform and consult her. The real plot for murder was hatched between S. Ghamdur Singh, Maharaja and myself on the 16th Bisakh at 8 P. M. near the poor house. Tika Ram Singh of Shahabad pore, Kunwar Birender Singh, Kunwar Ramnarain Singh of Patiala are witnesses to it. Later on S. Ujagar Singh and Harnam Singh Kadon joined the Conspiracy. Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul and S. Tara Chand Inspector General of Police to a certain extent were aware of it. Its proof is available. The Maharaja himself provided the weapon for murder and he gave me Rs. 7000/- for this purpose out of which Rs. 5300/- were personally returned by me at Dhaulpore. In order to please S. Ghamdur Singh and to carry out His Highness' intention, after three months stay he was by a special order permitted to reside in Patiala and the Maharaja gave the most unjust order directly simply with a view to benefit and please Ghamdur Singh, so that he might murder Lal Singh. His Highness got the name of Dalip Kaur strike off from the list of female attendants where she was employed on Rs. 15/- per mensem. Not only that but in order to make her a junior Maharani along with Naz and Anwar, the Maharaja married Dalip Kaur in the lifetime of her husband I have stated the true facts without fear or favour and in doing so I have not omitted my own share in the crime for