

played a little trick and saved myself. This incident is worth mentioning briefly : when I acquainted the Prime Minister with my identity, he looked at once taken aback, and asked me to sit in a separate room. From the room I heard whispers taking place between the Prime Minister and someone else. I heard that a motor-car was being immediately made ready for Patiala and I was to be put into it to be handed over to Patiala. I knew then in whose hands I had really fallen. So I changed my plan altogether. I feigned ignorance about the identity of the Prime Minister himself. I carried out a plan of telling him that if he himself was really the Prime Minister, I was not really Bakshis Singh, but a man sent by Patiala Maharaja to pose as Bakshis Singh to entrap the Maharaja of Nabha; and I was partly successful—I say partly, because the Prime Minister doubted my latter statement. So I suggested and he accepted that a motor be immediately sent to Patiala to ascertain real facts from Sir Daya Kishen or the Maharaja. The motor was so despatched and I was locked up in a small room in the garden. I thus got about a couple of hours to plan for my rescue. During this time from the window of my room I kept looking on for any man to carry my news to the Maharaja of Nabha. Luckily for me just a little after, one A. D. C. of the Maharaja of Nabha passed by. I called and ascertained from him his loyalty to the Maharaja of Nabha, and after giving him oaths I related to him how I was entrapped by the Prime minister who was really in the pay of the Maharaja of Patiala. I requested him to acquaint the Maharaja of Nabha with my fate. He did go and the Maharaja ordered that I be put in Jail

31. My purpose in going to Nabha, was, to see the Maharaja who, I thought would be able to present me to the Viceroy before whom I would state the whole account of Bahadurgarh. No one else can take me to the Viceroy. That was why I went to Nabha, but I failed.

32. Just at this time an Inspector of C. I. D. Punjab, Mr. Nand Singh by name was in Nabha. He heard about my coming

to Nabha. So he came to me and asked me about the affair. I told him my correct story. He then took me to various places, to find the bombs and bombs were found. I was kept in the Nabha Jail till the dethnment of Maharaja Nabha. After that I was released.

33. I went at once to Amritsar to see the members of S. G. P. C. and I gave my statement to Master Tara Singh and S. G. P. C. I then returned to Amballa.

34. At Amballa one Sub-Inspector Shah Jee of C. I. D. met me. He took me to D. C. Amballa. D. C. heard my story and told me that my property which was forfeited would be returned to me and I would be allowed freedom. Sud-Inspector Shah Jee then took me to Jullundur where the whole C. I. D. Staff of the Punjab was present. There Abdul Aziz Superintendent C. I. D. took my statement. After that I. G. P., C. I. D. Mr. Icemonger took my full statement and told me that I was not guilty and I should not be anxious. He promised me all help. So long as Mr. Icemonger was in the Punjab, he protected me; but he was transferred from the Punjab after about seven months. And Patiala was trying utmost to get me in Patiala. So I left my place and am hiding myself since then. Most of my days I have passed in jungles under most trying circumstances. I am moving a little freely only recently; because Partap Singh has made a statement in public about his complicity in a case against me in Patiala. That has given me a sort of protection.

35. All this time Patiala was making all attempts to catch hold of me or to murder me. Once I was moving with two friends of mine. I was fired upon thrice; but the bullet grazed only my hair and I escaped alive.

36. I now relate what I have known and heard of my wife and children. Of course, all this is not my own knowledge, but I used to try my best to get correct information, about my family, and my informant in particular is Meher Singh.

37. I may state here that just after reaching Nabha, I had despatched three telegrams to protect my wife and children to (1) Rai

Saheb Bhagwan Dass, Patiala, (2) Colonel Minchen, (3) Viceroy. When I reached Amballa I applied to D. C. Amballa to get me my wife. I had also applied to Maharaja Patiala and Dewan Sir Daya Kishan Kaul, but all this to no purpose. She was locked up in Bahadurgarh and the following fell to her lot.

38. My wife Vichitar Kaur was asked to make a statement that I had done all at the instance and in the interest of Nabha. She refused to do this. So, every sort of violence was practised upon her by Bijla Singh and his party by orders of the Maharaja.

39. Her hands were put under the legs of a bedstead and Bijla Singh sat over it. Her hair was pressed between the doors of the room and she was pulled. She was made naked and severely beaten. Pepper was put into her eyes, nose, mouth and in her private parts. Her little son was hung overhead before her eyes and was attacked by the bayonets of the gun. Such violence was practised upon her.

40. On the last occasion, in the Fort of Bahadurgarh, in royal palace, my wife was made naked under the Borsilli tree and hung by her hair with the tree. Her son was also hung opposite to her. Maharaja, Sir Daya Kishen Kaul, Ram Singh, Mehar Singh and Bijla Singh were present. A stick was kept between her two legs. Her two hands were also tied with sticks like a cross. The Maharaja then asked: "Where is your Panth now? Where is your Maharaja Nabha and where is your British Government? I am Bhupinder Singh! you obey me or you die." My wife said "I am a mere woman under your power and this a mere child. You are a great Maharaja. What bravery is there in thus murdering these helpless creatures?" Maharaja then ordered that she be shot dead. Mehar Singh who was there, took his gun and shot her dead. My son was crying. He was then untied and taken away.

41. Mehar Singh, then got his hand hurt by an accident of bomb and the whole of his hand had to be cut. He stated to me, that it was all due to the fact, that the hand had shot Vichitar

Kaur. He said that he was not guilty. He did it by the order of Maharaja. Maharaja should have been punished more than him, he said.

42. I had heard the story from different sources and finally Mehar Singh himself confessed before me. But he said that he would not make such a statement before any other; because then he would be guilty of murder. He has therefore stated that my wife was poisoned etc. Ram Singh etc., also have given currency to the poison theory. But I believe, that she was shot dead.

43. My little daughter and son were handed over to Bijla Singh's wife. She killed my daughter with her own hands by pressing her finger on the neck of the baby. This is the woman whom I had rescued, just in the beginning of my unfortunate career.

44. My son was then taken to Patiala. Pokher Singh, his wife and Sham Singh were keeping that boy of mine. They then handed the boy over to Maharaja himself in Moti Bagh. It is not known what has happened to the boy afterwards; but I believe he is still alive. Maharaja Patiala knows it and I believe C. I. D. of British India also know it. My boy must now be of about 12 years of age.



2. Dr. Bakshis Singh's Affidavit (Ex. 36A.)

[For this see appendix B.]



3. Sardar Partap Singh's Statement (Ex. 35)

Witness Partap Singh S/o Ishar Singh, aged 32 years, of Gulbatti, stated as under, in his oral examination by the Committee:

I came from Patiala, after the wife and daughter of Dr. Bakhshish Singh were murdered and when his son was staying in Patiala under the care of Pokher Singh, his wife Dhan Kaur and Sham Singh. I saw the boy there. Once the boy was being taken to Moti Bagh in Company with Mr. Jiwan Lal C. I. D. Superintendent and Ram Singh. I also got into the car with Ram

Singh. We approached the Maharaja and handed the boy over to the Maharaja. I do not know what happened to the boy afterwards. This happened in the winter of year 1925.

When I was in my village one Jagat Singh come to me and told me that I was required by Ram Singh and Bijla Singh at Patiala. I went there. I saw Ram Singh at Moti Bagh. He made me sit in a room there. Then Jiwan Lal Supdt. C. I. D came. They told me, that my services were required to start one case against Dr. Bukhshish Singh. They said that that was the desire of the Maharaja. I said that I would like to receive orders from the Maharaja direct. So they took me to the Maharaja who was at Chail. Daya Kishan Kaul, Ram Singh, Jiwan Lal and myself were all present. There the Maharaja asked me to do whatever was asked to be done by Ram Singh. Then Ram Singh explained the whole scheme to me in the presence of the Maharaja and all. I did not like the scheme; but I thought that if I said "No" I would be in an awkward position; so I consented. Maharaja promised me there that I would be given three thousand cash, 100 pucca Bighas of land and Rs 50/- per month, for the whole of my life. The scheme then explained to me was this: that I should take bombs, go to Santa Singh and tell him, that Bukhshish Singh had sent those bombs and they were meant for work.

After that there should be a raid and Santa Singh and Harbhajan Singh should be arrested. In our presence Maharaja asked Daya Kishan Kaul to give me two bombs, from the spare bombs of Bahadurgarh. But Daya Kishan said, that all those had been taken away by the Maharaja. So Maharaja said that in that case he himself would give those bombs and that I should go to Private Secretary Kishan Singh to receive those bombs. Here ended our interview. Then I went to my village. Then Jagat Singh again came to me to call me. I went to Patiala. I was told, that I should go to the village of Chhat Band, where I would receive the bombs. There I went. Jiwan Lal was also there. Bijla Singh's wife gave me bombs from her house. Jiwan Lal then left. I went to Sirhind Station and with me came two

constables in Akali dress, to see the whole situation of the village. They then returned. Their names are given as under :

(1) Sulekh Singh (2) Sampuran Singh.

The day for the Police raid was fixed as 9th of Asadh. Jiwan Lal came in time and camped at Basi. I was called at Maswa a village near Kalod. Sant Singh was staying in Kalod. At Maswa Jiwanlal gave me one watch; he kept another with him. Time in both was compared and the time of police raid was fixed.

I met Santa Singh in the meantime. He trusted me. I told him all that the Maharaja had asked me to say. He was enthusiastic. He brought a gun for the work. I gave him some cartridges etc. It was settled that I should call in Santa Singh at my place and the arrest should take place at my place. Sant Singh's place should remain vacant. Another raid at the same time should take place there. The programme was carried out accordingly. I had called in Pritam Singh also in my place. All of us were arrested. Bombs etc., were taken possession of from the house of Santa Singh.

We were all taken to Patiala. I was asked to be an approver. I refused, saying that that was not my business. Maharaja did not ask me to do that. I was then taken to the Maharaja who told me to do that, because the case was a big one and I must be an approver. So I consented.

Pritam Singh was released by Police, and I, Santa Singh and Harbhajan Singh were committed to the Court of Special Magistrate Achhru Ram who asked a bail of Rs 5000/- from me, and as I could not give that, he sent me to the central jail. I went on hunger strike, saying that that was not our condition and I was being mal-treated. The Maharaja therefore transferred Achhru Ram and appointed Gehal Singh of Barnala, as the Magistrate. Then I was released on bail even though it was Sunday. I do not know who became my surety and for what amount. We all were committed to sessions court of Tirath Singh. After the case was over, Jiwan Lal called Tirath Singh in his Kothi; and in my pre-

sence communicated to him the orders of the Maharaja that I was to be released and all the rest were to be sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200/- each. The Session Judge gave his judgment accordingly. A warrant was issued against Dr. Bakhshis Singh.

At the time when I first met Maharaja, I was paid Rs. 25/-. When I went to receive bombs I was paid Rs. 50/-. When I was staying at Patiala I was paid Rs. 50/- monthly and a house of the monthly rent of Rs 10/- was rented by the State for me.

After the case was over, I was given 100 Kacha Bigha of land, standing in the name of Jagtu s/o Moin in the village of Shudulgarh, Tehsil Bhatinda, as mentioned in the margin. An order to that effect was read out to me by Home Minister Nawab Liaqat Hayat Khan. I have got a copy of it. I saw these lands and I found that they were no good. So I refused to accept them. Maharaja then said to me that I would be given another.

In the mean time Daya Kishan Kaul and Jiwan Lal left Patiala. Maharaja then called me and told me not to be anxious, and that I should go to Hazura Singh (C. I. D. Supdt. then) and told me to do as he may ask me to do. Hazura Singh asked me to make a statement, that Kalod case was manufactured by Daya Kishan and Jiwan Lal, and Maharaja had nothing to do with it. I concurred and continued to receive my pay, but I did not receive any cash money.

When I was staying in a house at Patiala in Jiwan Lal's time, Hira Singh the brother of Amarkaur, the wife of S. Amar Singh was staying near my house, and he used to come to me very often. Once I got him drunk and asked him, how it was that he was getting food from the palace. He said that his sister was in the palace. He said that the Maharaja had kept her. She was staying with the Queen Chelanwali. Maharaja was paying Rs. 300/- P. M. to him and also food twice. He said "Sardar Amar Singh is pushed aside; what can he do to the Maharaja."

This I had reported to Jiwan Lal, Ram Singh and party were staying in the Fort of Sinor. I too used to go there frequently. Once the whole party consisting of gentlemen mentioned in the margin was collected in Sinor by Gurudial Singh Supdt C. I. D. Bharpur Singh, the then C. I. D. Sub. Inspector and Hazura Singh the then I. G P, and we were asked to do away with certain individuals, including Bakshish Singh and Siwan Singh and others who were enemies of Patiala and do certain other things such as putting of bombs at some place and Bolshevik literature at the other.

We said that "lands were not given to us. Other conditions also were not being fulfilled. So we can't say just now; but we would reply after consideration". Thereafter we were called in the office of Gurudial Singh. Revenue clerks also came with Revenue maps and we were told that we would receive lands as we desire. We were called one after another in a separate room and all of us were locked up. We were thus detained for 13 Months. Then one day we were asked to make a statement that Maharaja had no hand in any case whatsoever and that everything was the handiwork of Daya Kishan Kaul and Jiwan Lal. After that, we were released. The next day we were again arrested. A statement was again taken from us saying that the Maharaja Saheb was responsible for everything. That very day again we were asked to sign a statement before a Magistrate named Gian Singh who is the Brother-in-Law of Maharaja. We do not know what was written therein.

After release Ram Singh and others bolted. I still remained. I was trusted by the Police. They then sent me to Amritsar to manage to bring Bhagwan Singh Langowalla to Patiala. They paid me Rs 30/- for this purpose. I went to Amritsar and got a further amount of Rs 100/-. After that I did not want to work for Patiala. A lot of attempts were then made to take me to Patiala, but I did not go in. They then tried to take me to Patiala Kothi in Lahore. There was a great row about that, also. I have got my account published in papers about this Lahore row.

4. Bhai Ram Singh's Statement (Ex. 42)

In the year 1921, on the occasion of the annual fair there, Maharaja Bhupendra Singh, went on a pilgrimage to Fatehgarh near Sirhand. An Akali Jatha was specially invited by the Maharaja to Sirhand and its members were rendered every assistance by the state. Bhai Kishan Singh, Gurgaj and Bijla Singh, the Babar leaders were also amongst the members of the Jatha. With the Maharaja's consent a big public meeting was held in, which Bhai Kishan Singh Gurgaj in a very impressive speech spoke against the British Government. All the responsible State officials took part in the meeting and afterwards a big procession was arranged at the instance of the Maharaja. Bhai Kishan Singh delivered lectures at 9 or 10 places which in tone and substance were meant to spread hatred against the British Government. It should be remembered that Bhai Kishan Singh and Bijla Singh were already charged with the conspiracy to murder Government officials and the British C. I. D. was after them. Their movements were watched by the C. I. D. Besides the warrants from the British Officials, warrants had also been issued by the Patiala State Police against Bijla Singh. He was charged with dacoity and the State Police had not been able to lay hands on him. About 50 or 60 members of the Akali Jatha, interviewed Maharaja Bhupendra Singh in one of the private rooms in the Moti Bagh Palace and Kishan Singh, Bijla Singh and Gurucharan Singh held secret interviews with the Maharaja and as their interview was arranged with Bhai Ram Singh Dharowalia he also took part in the secret conversations. The Maharaja gave a patient hearing to Bijla Singh, who explained and placed his difficulties before the Maharaja. The Maharaja gave him an assurance that the State officials will no longer chase and trouble him and added that, if Bijla Singh were to act according to his wishes, he would be fully remunerated for it. The Maharaja assured that he considered him to be his own man and expected much assistance from him. Bijla Singh assured the Maharaja, that he was prepared to carry out his instructions.

The Maharaja agreed to meet all his expenses. It was thereupon arranged that Bijla Singh was to have his permanent residence in the Nabha State boundary and that place was selected to be his centre of operation and all the necessary instructions were to be conveyed to him through Bhai Ram Singh. Necessary amount of money was to be remitted monthly. Bhai Bijla Singh was also offered a large sum of money for immediate necessary expenses and directed to offer one sword with Gatra to each member of the Jatha. But as swords were not available in such a large number locally, those had to be ordered from outside. The swords were supplied to the Jatha, after about a month's time.

The Jatha arrived at Amritsar by train and the absconders Bijla Singh and Kishan Singh were brought to "Doaba" by a special motor car belonging to the Maharaja. A short time after Bhai Bijla Singh reached Nabha and established himself there. He first resided at Bheni and Bhallar Heri and then at Bhalon. He used to receive money from Patiala, regularly every month. Under instructions of Maharaja Bhupendra Singh, he cultivated great influence amongst the Nabha State officials. The effect of this was, that whatever information he could obtain from the State officials, he used to pass on to Patiala.

In the meanwhile Bijla Singh, Gurguj, Gujan Singh and Hira Singh Bathal etc., acting under the instructions of Maharaja Bhupendra Singh removed forcibly Yakub Khan, Sub-Inspector Khewa (Patiala State) to Nabha where he was charged with dacoit-ing and sentenced to 3 years' rigorous imprisonment.

Bhai Ram Singh used to visit Nabha every month and pay Bhai Bijla Singh money which approximately amounted to about Rs. 300/- a month. This amount was paid by the Maharaja Patiala from his private pocket. Bhai Bijla Singh once demanded Rs. 500/- for the purchase of a few pistols which amount was at once sent to him. He then purchased two or three pistols. Some time after he again asked for another Rs. 2000/- with which he purchased 4 or 5 guns.

When the British Government consented to hold enquiry into the affairs of Nabha-Patiala dispute, Maharaja Bhupendra Singh sent words to Bhai Bijla Singh through Bhai Ram Singh that he would now within the course of two or three months send for him to Patiala where he would be required to give evidence before the British Government officials according to the Maharaja's instructions. Bhai Bijla Singh was also informed that the Maharaja was carrying on negotiations with the British Government and he hoped that he would be able to prevail upon it to agree to allow Bijla Singh to live and move freely in the Patiala state. He hoped to get this done within a period of 2 or 3 months. Bijla Singh was also required to be ready to come to Patiala along with his party men. He was also told that the greater the number of the Nabha-men in the party the more advantageous it would be to the Patiala Government. The Maharaja assured Bijla Singh through the intermediaries that he was much pleased with the services already rendered by Bijla Singh and when he would come to Patiala along with his party and act according to the instructions of the Maharaja and give evidence before British officials as desired by him, he would be liberally awarded. Bijla Singh replied that he was already a slave of the Maharaja and would not hesitate to do anything in his power for him. His party-men however were yet to be satisfied on this subject and as soon as this was arranged, the needful would be done. Bhai Ram Singh went to Chail to deliver this message to the Maharaja who took an oath (by placing his hands on Tika's head) and promised that the interest of the Jatha would be properly looked after and that he would never hand over any one of them to the British Government. He also promised to render every sort of help and assistance to those people and to award them lands etc liberally. Bhai Ram Singh went again to Bhai Bijla Singh in the Bhullar Heri Gurudwara and gave him every assurance on behalf of the Maharaja.

Bhai Harbans Singh and Jagat Singh in reply to this assurance said that although they had full faith in Bhai Ram Singh it would be better if someone from amongst them were to

go and see Maharaja personally. Bhai Ram Singh agreed to this and Bhai Jagat Singh who previous to this also used to deliver Bhai Bijla Singh's letter etc to Bhai Ram Singh accompanied him. Both of them went straight to Chail where the Maharaja gave them satisfaction on every point. Bijla Singh then started making necessary arrangements. Maharaja Patiala informed the British Government that the Maharaja Nabha had conspired to kill the Prince of Wales by throwing a bomb on him and that he could put forth positive proofs for this. He also said that whatever Bijla Singh and his absconding friends have done, considerable help had been rendered to them by the Nabha state. It was also hoped that Bijla Singh's evidence would be conclusive evidence of the fact that a number of bombs were manufactured at Nabha with the object of murdering the Prince of Wales and several other British and Patiala state Officials. The removal of sub-inspector of police of Patiala to the Nabha boundary, the false charge against him and then sending him to imprisonment for 3 years and other similar facts would be brought to light.

The British Government having accepted Maharaja Bhupendra Singh's proposals allowed Bijla Singh to have his residence in the Patiala state on the following two conditions—

1. That Bijla Singh should submit a detailed statement with regard to his past actions.

2. That he should live as a peaceful citizen and Maharaja Bhupendra Singh should stand surety for his good behaviour. Upon this Maharaja Bhupendra Singh enquired of Bijla Singh about the names of the persons who were coming to Patiala in order to help him in the fulfilment of his schemes. Bijla Singh gave the following names:—

1. Bijla Singh (2) Dr. Bakhshish Singh (3) Kishan Singh Heron (4) Jagat Singh (5) Harban Singh (6) Sundar Singh.

The list of these people was perhaps also supplied to the British Government by the Patiala state and when the British Government agreed to the proposal of importing these people to

Patiala, Maharaja Bhupendra Singh sent the following message to Bijla Singh:

"Pistols and guns which you have purchased for money paid by me to you for this purpose should be brought by you. You should also keep in possession one or two weapons bearing Nabha state numbers so that it may be easy to prove that these particular weapons originally belonged to the State. you have already sent the mare which belonged to Yakub Khan and should bring the rest of his articles with you when coming to Patiala. You must have some bombs in your possession so that I may be able to prove the allegations brought by me against Nabha."

To this Bijla Singh sent a reply to the effect that everything else would be properly arranged, but it was not possible to get the bombs manufactured, necessary materials being not available in Nabha. On receiving this message the Maharaja grew very anxious knowing that the day on which Bijla Singh's evidence was to take place was getting nearer and it was not possible to get the bombs manufactured. Maharaja Bhupendra Singh sent another message to Bijla Singh asking him to come without bombs and to get the same manufactured at Patiala and in case of being questioned by the British officials, he should reply that the bombs were not brought to Patiala because they were afraid of being detected and that they could produce these from various places where they have got them hidden below the surface of the earth in the Nabha state territory. The Maharaja of Patiala also instructed Bijla Singh to be ready to leave Nabha at a moment's notice. Bijla Singh assured that they would be able to get weapons bearing Nabha state marks within two or three days time.

Three days before the time fixed for Maharaja Bhupendra Singh's interview with the British officials Bijla Singh sent a message through Jagat Singh that the Nabha state authorities had come to know of their scheme and that they suspected great danger from that quarter. Maharaja Bhupendra Singh after due deliberation sent reply through Ram Singh asking Bijla Singh to

reach the same day the State Fort of Tehsil Bhawanigarh along with his party members and prepare necessary materials there. He had already instructed Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul to make proper arrangement for their food and lodgings secretly through the help of the tehsildar there. Bijla Singh was further warned about the serious nature of the then state of affairs saying that if the matter came to the notice of the British officials that those people were produced before them from the Bhawanigarh Fort, the Maharaja would be doomed. Bijla Singh was therefore instructed to act most continuously and not to allow any informations with regards to his affairs reach the British officials. According to the Maharaja Patiala's orders Bhai Ram Singh removed Bijla Singh, Jagat Singh, Harbans Singh, Kishan Singh and Sundar Singh along with all guns and pistols and all necessary articles from the Nabha state to a private room in the Bhawanigarh Fort where all these people stayed for 2 days. The British officials reached Bhalan according to the programme proposed by the Maharaja, Bijla Singh and his party came out of the Bhawanigarh Fort, entered the Nabha state boundary and then posing as if they were coming directly from Nabha state they handed themselves over to British officials at 12 in the night. Mr. Mackenzie, secretary Agent to Governor General's, Khan Bahadur Nawab Liyaqat Ali Khan Supdt., Punjab C. I. D. police and Rai Bahadur L. Bhagwandass Supdt., Imperial C. I. D. were the officials appointed by the British Government for the purpose of holding an enquiry into the matter. These officials prepared a list of all the articles in possession of Bijal Singh and took charge of the entire party. They were seated in the motor car and having locked the door the British officials kept the keys in their possession. Next day Maharaja Bhupendra Singh without the knowledge of the British officials applied duplicate keys to the motor car and succeeded in opening the doors and in the presence of Bhai Ram Singh informed Bijla Singh that he would soon be required to accompany Nawab Saheb to Lahore where his statement will be recorded, Maharaja Bhu-

pendra Singh had a few notes on a sheet of paper, on the basis of which Bijla Singh was requested to give his statement. '(This was the same statement which doctor Bakshish Singh was required to give.)

After the Maharaja Patiala's having given instructions to Bijla Singh the doors were locked and Jagat Singh was made ready to accompany Bijla Singh. He was also given the necessary instructions to keep matter strictly confidential. After about half an hour Nawab Liyaqat Ali Khan came to Lahore along with Bijla Singh and Jagat Singh. The other members of the party were now under charge of Patiala Govt. They were removed from inner parts of Moti Bagh to the upper storey of the quarters meant for Indian guests and it was given out that some lady guest was staying there. The Moti Bagh establishment was instructed not to look towards that side. Wadhawa Singh in whom the Maharaja had confidence was appointed to deliver food and other necessities to the party. The staircase of this room was locked from outside which no body except Mir Maratab Ali the officer in-charge guest house could open and Wadhawa Singh used to go up after informing Mir Saheb. Harbans Singh, Kishan Singh and Sundar Singh were the people kept there.

It took Nawab Liyaqat Ali Khan about 18 to 19 days to record Bijla Singh's statement and Maharaja Patiala in order to satisfy himself sent Bhai Ram Singh to Lahore two or three times; the latter interviewed Bijla Singh privately, encouraging him and enquiring as to whether everything was being done according to Maharaja Patiala's wishes or not.

After his statement Bijla Singh returned to Patiala. Maharaja Patiala while interviewing Bijla Singh in his private chamber in the Moti Bagh enquired of him as to why Doctor Bakshish Singh had not come so far. In reply Bijla Singh informed the Maharaja that if he and his party were treated properly Bakshish Singh would also come. The Maharaja in reply to this told Bijla Singh that whatever promises were held out there through Bhai

Ram Singh, were all being fully complied with and in future also all the promises will be kept and acted upon. Doctor Bakshish Singh was badly needed and without his help it was not possible to work out the scheme. Besides the Maharaja desired to get 5 bombs manufactured within the course of a week or 10 days. Bhai Ram Singh delivered this message to Bijla Singh who in reply said that the needful would be done. Bijla Singh had before leaving for Lahore instructed Bhai Harbans Singh to fetch Bakshish Singh. Harbans Singh accordingly brought Bakshish Singh the third day. The Doctor was accommodated in the same room where Bijla Singh's party was putting up. The Maharaja came down personally to interview the Doctor and encouraging him said that he (the Doctor) should work in co-operation with Bijla Singh's party and that he would be very generously rewarded. The Doctor having agreed to carry out Maharaja's instructions enquired of him as to whether the five bombs which he was asked by Bijla Singh to prepare were immediately needed. The Maharaja replied in the affirmative and said that if you require any materials for the preparation of the bombs, Mir Martab Ali will at once make the necessary arrangements. The Doctor thereupon gave a list of his requirements which were supplied to him by Mir Martab Ali. The bombs were got ready the third or fourth day and the Doctor left the place saying that he would come back as soon as Bijla Singh needed his presence. He however added that the man bringing Bijla Singh's message should also bring with him some money to meet necessary expenses. The Maharaja was informed that the bombs were ready. The Maharaja saw them and was much pleased. He took them away in his Motor Car. Four or five days later the Maharaja held an interview with S. Ram Singh in the guest house and saying that he had some very important business to be transacted at Nabha enquired as to whether anyone from amongst Bhai Bijla Singh's party could go over there and deliver one or two of these bombs to a certain person at Phul in the Nabha State. Bhai Ram Singh replying said that all of those people were brought from

Nabha, therefore Nabha State authorities were trying their utmost to make enquiries into the matter and possibly Nabha State C. I. D. might be hiding somewhere near the guest house trying to find a clue. It would therefore be a very dangerous thing for anyone of them to proceed to Nabha. The Maharaja agreed to what he was told and decided to entrust some other person with this job.

On receiving information from Lahore that Bijla Singh was leaving for Patiala in the company of Police officials, the Maharaja saw Bhai Ram Singh and told him to allow these officials to reach the upper storey of the guest house. Bijla Singh came the same day and began to reside in the same room. The next day Maharaja Sahib sent for Bhai Ram Singh and informed him that Bijla Singh and his party would now be transferred to Bahadurgarh Kothi where they were to be very hospitably treated. A little after they were all removed to the new place in carriages used for Parda ladies. At the time of their removal all the lights were put off and complete darkness prevailed in the vicinity. Maharaja's domestic cooks and servants were also sent there to make necessary arrangements for the food of the party. The Maharaja used to see Ram Singh daily and impress upon him the necessity of Dr. Bakshis Singh's presence. On Maharaja's repeated requests Bijla Singh sent for Dr. Bakshis Singh through Harbans, Singh and the Doctor came along with his wife and children with the intention of residing there permanently. They had their residence in the same Kothi, so that nobody could see the inmates and all the roads leading to it were ordered to be closed and it was given out that some female member of the Royal Family was putting up there. A week after Maharaja informed Bhai Ram Singh that after mature consideration he had come to the conclusion that the Kothi could not help them in the fulfilment of their desire, the place being not a safe one. He therefore suggested to shift them to the Royal Palace at Bahadurgarh. After about an hour Sardar Deorhi came and the entire party was removed to the Bahadurgarh Fort. Bhai Harnam Singh of Khatra, Mehar

Singh Salana, Kartar Singh Salana, Sham Singh Salana and Kartar Singh Granthi had also by now joined this party.

Next day the Maharaja visited the place himself and after making searching enquiries he appointed several C. I. D. men to guard the place and instructed them not to allow anybody to enter the gate of the Kothi. Wadhata Singh was the only employee who was allowed to go in and he used to supply all the necessities of life to them. No officer except Sir Daya Kishan Kaul was allowed to go in to the Kothi.

Bijla Singh informed the Maharaja and Sir Daya Kishan Kaul that the Punjab C. I. D. Officials had while recording his statement, left out certain very important things. The Maharaja instructed Sir Diya Kishan Kaul to write to the British Officials in this connection and on his doing so, L. Bhagwandass, Supdt. Imperial C. I. D., reached Patiala and recorded Bijla Singh's statement at Sir Diya Kishan's residence at Patiala. Previous to this Maharaja Patiala had explained to Bijla Singh the fact that their case would remain weak if bombs could not be discovered from the Nabha State territory and Bakshish Singh being there it was easy for them to place bombs under the surface of the earth at some selected places. So Bijla Singh was also required to fix any three or four places which he knew of and where at a later stage bombs could be hidden. Accordingly Bijla Singh in a statement before L. Bhagwandass Supdt. Imperial C. I. D. said that they had placed bombs numbering about 6 or 7 at each of the following places. 1. Bagh Kala Singh, 2. Bheni Gurudwara & Bhalla Heri 3. Sarkari Bagh Phul. After L. Bhagwandass had left, the Maharaja, thinking that the investigation may soon be started, asked Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul to arrange to send the necessary number of bombs at places selected for this purpose. The Maharaja and Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul along with Bhai Ram Singh then came to the Fort and after giving necessary encouragement to Dr. Bakshish Singh asked him to prepare three bombs immediately. S. Deudhi and Mir Martab Ali were ordered to arrange for the necessary material. The Maharaja

also requested Dr. Bakshis Singh to get the requisite material through his own men if possible. Dr. Bakshis Singh agreed to all that he was asked for and he in the company of Jagat Singh went to Patiala in a State Car the next day and got Mansel, Potash and two other chemicals from Nanak Chand's shop. Zinc, Iron and Lead etc. were ordered through Sardar Deodhi and Mir Martab Ali. On returning to Bahadurgarh Dr. Bakshis Singh confined himself to a separate room and devoted himself to the manufacture of bombs. Bijla Singh, Harbans Singh, Jagat Singh, Sundar Singh, Harnam Singh and Mehar Singh used to render assistance to Dr. Bakshis Singh in the preparation of bombs. As soon as three dozen bombs were got ready, Maharaja Saheb and Diwan Daya Kishan Kaul came to the Fort and the Maharaja was very much pleased with the work done. He explained to Daya Kishan Kaul as to where those bombs were to be hidden. Other necessary details were also settled and accordingly Mehar Singh and Harnam Singh were deputed to Kala Singh's garden and Bheni who came back the same night after hiding the bombs under the ground. Dr. Bakshis Singh had according to the instructions of the Maharaja also prepared a chart showing the places where the bombs were placed to help him to name the particular places with exactness and promptitude at the time of making his statement before the Govt. officials. The Maharaja also ordered Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul to write to the Government to send some officers to record Bakshis Singh's statement. Rai Bahadur L. Bhagwandass was appointed for this purpose and on receipt of a telegraphic message about his arrival at Patiala Daya Kishan Kaul and Bhai Ram Singh asked further instructions in the matter. The Maharaja replied that Dr. Bakshis Singh was staying at Bahadurgarh Fort without the knowledge of the British Government and if the secret was somehow or other to leak out he would be doomed. It was therefore proposed by the Maharaja that Dr. Bakshis Singh should be sent to the British territory from where he should come for the purpose of

giving his statement. In order to carry out instructions in this respect Bhai Ram Singh was ordered to proceed to Roper at once and inform Dewan Sahab telegraphically about the needful having been done. Dewan Sahib was then to proceed with his telegram to Lahore and send a reply to this offer showing the same to the Political Agent. On receipt of a reply Dr. Bakshis Singh was to be brought from Roper to Sirhind by motor and from Sirhind to Patiala by train so that they could produce Railway tickets in support of the facts that Dr. Bakshis Singh was brought from British territory. Accordingly Bhai Ram Singh sent a telegram from Roper and Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul sent a reply to this telegraphically. And Dr. Bakshis Singh along with his wife and children was carried to Gurudwara Bhalla near Roper. Dr. Bakshis Singh used to keep notes of his daily movements in a diary and before proceeding to Roper he had placed many letters which he wanted to produce in support of his statement against Patiala in fort of Bahadurgarh underneath the surface of the earth. One or two bombs and some bomb materials were also similarly placed. Dr. Bakshis Singh handed over his diary to Bishan Singh Jhiwar and asked him to deliver the same to the Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee Mukhtisar. From Bhalla Sahib Gurudwara Dr. Bakshis Singh was removed to Patiala and was placed in charge of L. Bhagwandas in the guest house where Rai Bahadur began to record his evidence.

The next day Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul got information about Dr. Bakshi Singh's sending a diary to Shiromani Gurudwara Committee and he brought this fact to the notice of the Maharaja. Bhai Ram Singh was asked to make enquiries into the matter. Dr. Bakshis Singh refused having done so and left the place quietly the same night. In the morning when L. Bhagwandas heard about it he at once informed Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul and when the news reached the Maharaja he got puzzled and looked confused and worried. Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul in every possible way tried to console him and asked the Maharaja to think of the future and not to worry for what had already ta-

ken place. Dr. Bakshis Singh's wife was under Patiala custody and Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul was of opinion that she should be allowed to act as she desired but the Maharaja scented great danger in this and did not allow her to leave.

Maharaja Saheb, Dewan Sahib and Bhai Ram Singh now held a conference. Dewan Sahib still held the same view and was strictly of opinion that to keep Bakshis Singh's wife in the Patiala State would be detrimental to their interests, but the Maharaja would not agree and was of opinion that by keeping her there they may be able to catch hold of Dr. Bakshis Singh. Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul was therefore asked to assure Rai Saheb, Bhagwandass that they were going to allow Bakshis Singh's wife to go to any place she liked and that money for the necessary expenses would be paid to her. The Maharaja also instructed Sukhdev Singh Nazam to prepare a false statement saying that Bichitar Kaur was produced before him and as she was innocent she was allowed to go and live anywhere she liked. On the other hand the Maharaja instructed that she was to be taken secretly to Bahadurgarh, for in the opinion of the Maharaja there could be no better place for her safe custody. Bakshis Singh's wife was taken to Bahadurgarh in a State motor. At the night time Maharaja and Dewan visited the Fort and encouraged the party men there; all the Akalis there were warned not to tell anybody about the presence of Bichitar Kaur. Special instructions were now issued and a strong military guard was placed there and nobody was allowed to go in. About 12 C. I. D. men were posted outside the Fort to see that no Akali could come out of or go into the Fort.

Every possible effort was made by the Patiala authorities to find out Dr. Bakshis Singh. Under instructions from the Maharaja a dozen persons under the charge of Bhai Ram Singh, busily engaged themselves to the task of finding out a clue about the Doctor and after a week's hard work they found out that he had gone to Nabha and submitted a detailed report to the State authorities.

Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul now approached the Supdt. Shiromani Committee Tarantaran and succeeded in obtaining from him a copy of the diary submitted to him by Dr. Bakshis Singh. Some time after the Superintendent was handsomely rewarded for this and came down to Patiala to discover the various places where Bakshis Singh had hidden bombs and other materials pertaining thereto. Now Bibi Bichiter Kaur, wife of Dr. Bakhshis Singh was approached by Bijla Singh to unearth the whole secret. Bijla Singh is a professional dacoit. He is very well-known for his inhuman and cruel disposition. The Maharaja authorized him to resort to force in case of Bichiter Kaur not agreeing to supply the correct information with regard to her husband's secret movements and the place where he had hidden letters and bombs. Bijla Singh put this lady to every sort of torture and one day when Bhai Ram Singh along with his other savage companions and Dewan Sahib was out, he committed rape on this poor unfortunate woman. She was not allowed to sleep for several days and nights, in succession and kept locked up. Her little child was separated from her and kept in a separate cell where he was not given anything to eat. On many occasions she was made to walk all naked in the presence of several others. Some times Bijla Singh would put her hands under the legs of his bedstead and sit tight over it and sometimes he would tie her hair with beams in the roof. She was put thus to almost all sort of torture. One day Bijla Singh went to the extent of placing red pepper in her private parts and when she could no longer stand this treatment she gave out every information that she had. In spite of this she would have continued to be troubled and humiliated had not some Akalis intervened and asked Bijla Singh to stop all this. It may be remembered that all this inhuman treatment was meted out to her at a time when she was about to give birth to a child. As the result of this she fell very seriously ill. The Maharaja's anxiety with regard to her began to increase and he sought Bhai Ram Singh's advice in the matter. The Maharaja himself proposed that if she could be made to agree to marry some

member of that Bijla Singh's family or Jatha, then of course there would be no more danger. Bhai Ram Singh proposed this arrangement to several members of his Jatha and with great difficulty Bhai Teja Singh agreed to keep her as his wife.

The Maharaja once visited Bahadurgarh and enquired of Ram Singh as to whether Bichiter Kaur's affairs were then settled. Bhai Ram Singh said that he was not satisfied with this arrangement as Bichiter Kaur still considered every member of the Jatha to be her enemy and as such she would not hesitate to divulge the whole secrets when she got an opportunity to do so. The Maharaja said that some solution must be found out to avert this calamity. He added that whenever he had any talk with Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul in this respect he would advise that it was his desire to let the woman go; for when the Doctor himself was not able to do any harm to the Maharaja what harm could be done by this woman. But the Maharaja did not agree with Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul in this respect. He anticipated great danger in doing so.

Bichitar Kaur gave birth to a girl. There was nobody to attend to her and she fell seriously ill. The news of her illness were conveyed to the Maharaja and the Maharaja sent his personal physician (Dr. Balmukund) to attend to her. The Doctor used to visit her daily and Bhai Ram Singh had to fetch medicine from Patiala. The Maharaja now desired to get rid of her and the more she was being attended to, the worse her condition became. After four or five days the Maharaja enquired of the Doctor as to why Bichitar Kaur was not making any improvement and getting worse instead. The Doctor promised to make enquiries into the matter and said that perhaps the patient was not using the medicine at all. Bijla Singh was now instructed by the Maharaja to make her drink the medicine in his presence. The next day Doctor prescribed some other medicine which was forced into the stomach of Bichiter Kaur who on taking a few drops said that poison was being administered to her. She threw away the medicine. Next day the Doctor was surprised to find that

the medicine had no effect and said that the medicine was evidently not given to her. Bijla Singh warned Bhai Ram Singh against the consequences. The latter replied that Bichitar Kaur had refused to take the medicine and had thrown it away on the floor. Bijla Singh now took upon himself the duty of administering medicine to her, but in the first instance she refused to take it; but she was forced to take it. Four or five hours later life was extinct in Bichitar Kaur and the poor lady breathed her last and thus fell a victim to Maharaja's cruelties and highhandedness. Bijla Singh conveyed the news of her death to Bhai Ram Singh who went over to Patiala and informed Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul of it. The Dewan was very sorry to hear this and proceeded to Moti Bagh to take instructions in the matter. The Maharaja seemed to have been relieved of great worry and trouble. On hearing this he asked Dewan Saheb to cremate the dead body within the Fort compound. "There is enough fuel for this purpose" said he, but still if more was needed "wooden beams from the roof could be used to serve the purpose." He also asked Bhai Ram Singh not to let anybody know about the matter. The body of the deceased woman was therefore cremated within the walls of the Fort. Ashes were thrown away into the ditch. Bibi Bichitar Kaur's son and daughter were entrusted to Dhan Kaur wife of Pakhar Singh. After about a week the Maharaja visited the Fort again and pressed Bhai Ram Singh not to let anybody know anything about this matter, for, if somehow or other it was brought to the notice of the British officials, the Maharaja was sure to suffer heavily for that.

Average monthly expenses on the jatha kept in Bahadurgarh Fort now amounted to Rs 5 to 6 thousands monthly and as there was not much to be afraid of, Maharaja Nabha having already abdicated and Bichitar Kaur also removed from the way, the Maharaja Patiala now thought of cutting down these expenses. He therefore in consultation with Bhai Ram Singh and Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul ordered the Bir Chhat land to be given to the Jatha and the building used for Police Station Banor was

given to them for residence quarters. Bijla Singh and his other friends were granted an allowance of Rs 120/- and Rs. 50/-per mensem each respectively, and this amount was to be paid by the Maharaja from his own pocket. Bijla Singh and his party were also awarded a sum of Rs. 12 thousand in cash for service rendered. They had complete liberty to go and hunt in the Bir. They stayed there for some time and then shifted to Bir Chhat State Bungalow. Before going there Prem Kaur and Bijla Singh killed Bichitar Kaur's infant daughter. Bijla Singh admitted having committed this murder under Maharaja Patiala's instructions. Dr. Bakshis Singh's little boy was now under the charge of Bijla Singh and Prem Kaur who used to beat this boy mercilessly and otherwise treated him badly. When the news of Dr. Bakshis Singh's daughter's death reached Dewan Saheb he was very sorry to hear of this and told Pandit Jiwanlal and Bhai Ram Singh that there was every possibility of Dr. Bakshis Singh's son being murdered by that savage beast. The Maharaja had already a talk with him in this respect, in which he had expressed a desire to take a house on rent in Patiala, and to make better arrangements for the education of the boy. A house was therefore taken on rent through Pt. Jiwan Lal Inspector C. I. D. on Rs. 20/- per mensem where Pakhar Singh, Dhan Kaur and Dr. Bakhshis Singh's son were made to stay. Nobody except Bhai Ram Singh was allowed to enter this house. This arrangement continued for about a year when the Maharaja again scented danger in it. He one day talked to Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul and Bhai Ram Singh about this matter and said that somehow or other news about Dr. Bakhshis Singh's son had gone out and some British Officer might come for the purpose of making enquiries privately or Shiromani Committee people might succeed in removing him from there. He therefore decided to make some better arrangements for him. After a considerable thought the Maharaja decided to remove the boy to Moti Bagh and ordered Bhai Ram Singh to do so who carried out the instructions of the Maharaja immediately.

Maharaja Patiala now paid to the leaders of the Akali Jatha a sum of Rs. 3000/- only. The amount was paid through Bhai Ram Singh. Once the Maharaja invited Bhai Kishan Singh Gurgaj and B. Santa Singh and sent his personal car to fetch them there. Princely treatment was accorded to them and the Maharaja held conversations with them on certain points. Reference to all this can be had from Punjab C. I. D. records.

As soon as Dr. Bakshis Singh was let off from Nabha he submitted statements before Deputy Commissioner Ambala, Jullunder, Punjab C. I. D. and Shiromani Gurudwara Committee. He delivered a number of public lectures at Guru Ka Bagh Amritsar. The Maharaja Patiala was very much afraid of Dr. Bakshis Singh and held conversations with Dewan Sahib, Pt. Jiwan Lal and Bhai Ram Singh and said that as long as Dr. Bakshis Singh was to remain in the British Territory, the Maharaja was in great danger. He therefore suggested that they should start some false criminal case in which Dr. Bakshis Singh should be involved and the British Government be moved to extradite the Doctor to Patiala. Bijla Singh promised to help in the carrying out of this. The Maharaja entrusted Bijla Singh with this task who sent for Bhai Pratap Singh. Bijla Singh had great enmity with Santa Singh Kibirwala and he therefore requested Bhai Pratap Singh to involve Dr. Bakshis Singh, Santa Singh and his brother in a false case. Pratap Singh agreed to work according to the instructions given by Bijla Singh. Bijla Singh informed Bhai Pratap Singh in very clear words that he shall have to go and place a few bombs and guns and certain other materials in the houses of all these persons. He asked Pratap Singh to come to his house after 4 or 5 days and to have these things. Pratap Singh said that he was also in a position, to arrange for some of these materials himself. He then went away to Kilor to make necessary arrangements and was paid a sum of Rs. 50/- for expenses of reaching Kilor. Bhai Pratap Singh in order to give practical shape to his scheme saw Santa Singh and Bhai Harbhajan Singh. He told them that the Panth was in danger. Daya Kishan Kaul of Patiala was bent

upon ruining the nation. Gurudial Singh was doing his best to ruin Nabha. Under the circumstances the best course he proposed was to end the tyranny. He told them that Dr. Bakshis Singh was also there to help him and is prepared to supply "bombs" etc. for the purpose. Santa Singh and his brother were greatly impressed by what Pratap Singh said and they got ready to help him in the carrying out of this mission.

Pratap Singh and Santa Singh arranged to get a gun through Mistri Gopal Singh and they acquired other materials in the same way and placed the same in Santa Singh's house. Four or five days after Pratap Singh came to see Bijla Singh who sent for Dewan Jiwan Lal and Bhai Ram Singh from Patiala. They came on motor the next day and had a talk with Pratap Singh and consented to do all that he was asked to do by Bijla Singh. He was also told that the Maharaja would be highly obliged if the work entrusted to him was carried out and that he would be handsomely rewarded. It was also then decided to discover the case on the 9th day of Har. Two of the Patiala C. I. D. men were ordered to satisfy themselves about the road being quite clear. Bhai Ram Singh and Pt. Jiwan Lal went back to Patiala. Later on Bijla Singh handed over a bomb (tied up in a blue piece of cloth) to Pratap Singh who took it away to Kilor and placed it in Santa Singh's house.

As previously settled the Patiala C. I. D. reached Kilor. Partap Singh, Santa Singh and Harbhajan Singh were arrested on search being made; bombs, guns etc. were discovered from Santa Singh's house. They were sent to Patiala along with Pritam Singh who was let off at the time of investigation. Harbhajan Singh and Santa Singh were kept under Judicial lockup and Pratap Singh who now posed as an approver passed a life of ease in a kothi where every sort of comfort was provided to him. On Bhai Ramsingh's initiative Pratap Singh got ready to submit a statement on the following lines:

"That they had started this conspiracy with the object of murdering Colonel Minchen Political Agent, Dewan Daya Kishan

Kaul, S. Sundar Singh Majithia and Gurdalay Singh of Nabha; because all of these people worked against the interests of the Panth and were enemies of the Maharaja of Nabha with whom the accused had great sympathy. They had therefore chosen to murder these enemies of the nation."

Bhai Ram Singh had informed Pratap Singh that Maharaja had approved of this sort of statement being given. The accused were first produced before the Magistrate who committed them to sessions. The Sessions Judge sentenced Santa Singh and Harbhajan Singh to a period of 7 years each and Dr. Bakhshish Singh was treated as an absconder and the sanction of the Punjab Government obtained to effect his arrest within the British Territory.

Every sort of assistance was afforded to Pratap Singh. He was given a decent house to live in and a sum of Rs. 50/- was sanctioned as his monthly expense. He was also awarded a tract of land for these services.

No sooner Dr. Bakhshish Singh came out of Nabha than he gave the first statement before the Deputy Commissioner, District Ambala; second statement before the Jullunder C. I. D.; third statement before the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabhandak Committee; and for 3 or 4 days, he delivered speeches at the Amritsar Guru-ka-Bagh, with all of which the Maharaja of Patiala was very much terrified, and in this complication the Maharaja consulted Dewan Sahab and suggested to Pandit Jiwan Lal and Bhai Ram Singh that as long as Dr. Bakhshish Singh was at liberty in the British territory, he (Maharaja) was in danger. So, after due consideration, such a case was to be got up wherein his complicity could be proved, and the Patiala Government could take him personally from the British Government. As soon as this conspiracy was disclosed to Bijla Singh, he said, that he had several such men under his influence who could aptly accomplish such business. So he sent for Bhai Pratap Singh. Bijla Singh had an old enmity with Santa Singh Kalaaurwala; so on the suggestion of Bijla Singh, Pratap Singh consented to entangle Dr. Bakhshish Singh, Santa Singh and his brother in a false case. He told Bijla Singh that every-

thing would be done accordingly. Bijla Singh had openly told Pratap Singh that with connection to that matter he had to place a bomb or two, a few guns and the other explosives, in the houses of all those three men who were to be entangled. He warned him to think over the matter and if he could act upon the suggestion, he (Pratap Singh) should report within 4 or 5 days. and he would be supplied with necessary articles. Pratap Singh assured that, that was not a difficult task; even he could obtain such articles. Bijla Singh gave him Rs. 50/- and Pratap Singh went away to Kalaur to hatch up the conspiracy. On his arrival at Kalaur Pratap Singh persuaded Bhai Harbhajan Singh and his brother for the task, by pointing out to them the atrocities which were inflicted upon the *Panth*. "Daya Kishan Kaul of Patiala had sunk the boat of the community, and Gurdial Singh was doing harm to the Nabha subjects. They were Singhs (Lions). Everybody has to die, let them earn virtue, and with the help of each other they would ruin the atrocious persons. Dr. Bakshis Singh was with him in that case and he was ready to give bombs." With this sort of persuasion of Bhai Pratap Singh, Santa Singh and his brother consented to his opinion, and they said that nothing was better than that. After consultation with one another, they obtained a gun through Mistri Gopal Singh, and in the same way other explosives were also obtained and were placed in the house of Bhai Santa Singh. After four or five days Pratap Singh again came to Bijla Singh and from Patiala he sent for Dewan, Jiwan Lal and Bhai Ram Singh through telephone. The phone was rung by one Jagat Singh. Dewan Saheb and Ram Singh both arrived there by car next morning. In the upper flat of the Kothi in the presence of Bijla Singh they both assured and encouraged him that that was the work of the Maharaja Patiala and was to be accomplished with great efforts and he would gain very much. Pratap Singh answered that he was ever ready to obey them. Upon that Pratap Singh was asked to do everything according to the wishes of Bijla Singh. It was also decided then and there, that on the 9th day of

Har, the case was to be brought out; and just before bringing that out, two Patiala C. I. D. constables would satisfy themselves by going through the matter.

Bhai Ram Singh and Pandit Jiwan Lal returned to Patiala. After that Bijla Singh wrapped a bomb in a blue cloth and gave that to Pratap Singh. Pratap Singh arrived at Kalaur with the bomb and that too was placed in the house of Santa Singh on the 9th day of Har. According to the programme decided, the Patiala C. I. D. set to work at Kalaur, and then and there Pratap Singh, Santa Singh and Harbhajan Singh and others were arrested. Bombs, guns, spears, etc., were produced at the time of search of the house of Bhai Santa Singh. Pratap Singh, Santa Singh, Harbhajan Singh and Pritam Singh were arrested by the Police and were brought to Patiala. Pritam Singh was released during the enquiry of the matter. Harbhajan Singh and Santa Singh were put in the lock up, in Kari Khass. Pratap Singh was detained in one cell and was provided with every kind of comfort and facility, besides one cook was also given to him. Bhai Pratap Singh was an approver in that case. Bhai Ram Singh made Pratap Singh give the statement that they (the accused) plotted the conspiracy only to kill Col. Minchen, the Political Agent, Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul, S. Sundar Singh, Majithia and Gurdial Singh of Nabha, for all those were the enemies of the Sikh community and Maharaja Nabha, and they (the accused) themselves were faithful to the Panth and Nabha.

Bhai Ram Singh at the time of persuading Bhai Pratap Singh for the above statement said also that he was telling him according to the order of Maharaja Patiala. The case was proceeded with. First the case was brought before the Magistrate. He made that over to the Sessions Court, and the Sessions Court awarded seven years' imprisonment to both of them (Harbhajan Singh and Santa Singh) and Dr. Bakshish Singh was proclaimed under section 512 as an absconded accused and got the approval of the Punjab Govt. for his arrest. Policemen were appointed to arrest him. In Patiala City, a house was hired for Bhai Pratap Singh and Rs. 50—were fixed

for his monthly expenses. The square of land for him was also granted and moreover some money in cash was also ordered to be given to him through Ram Singh. Rs. 50/- P. M. and house rent were given to him from the private purse of the Maharaja Patiala.

Maharaja through his procuress Harnam Kaur procured Harmel Kaur and Jasmer Kaur from Mani Majra. Both of these were the young virgin daughters of Jahagirdars. Their parents had also accompanied them to Patiala and they stayed there with one of their relatives. A special Buggy of Maharaja was daily taken to convey them to Mahindar Kothi for several days. S. Ishar Singh, the father of Harmel Kaur and S. Gurbachan Singh, the brother of Jasmer Kaur used to accompany them. One day the Maharaja had fixed night time for interview. Several more females were then present. Then Harmel Kaur uttered 'Vahi Guru Ji ki Fateh' when all the rest bowed their heads at the feet of the Maharaja. Maharaja asked Harmel Kaur: "Why did you not bend your head and why have you come here with Kirpan?" Harmel Kaur replied: "We are the daughters of Sikhs and Sikhs might bid Fateh." The same question was put to Jasmer Kaur. She became frightened on seeing Maharaja and began to tremble. Maharaja assuring Harmel Kaur said: "I have sent for you for the marriage." Then he sent her back to her house and asked Harnam Kaur to bring her the next day to Moti Bagh. The next evening Harnam Kaur along with Harmel Kaur got into the Buggy and reached Moti Bagh and leaving her with Maharaja, she went back. At night, Maharaja had sexual intercourse with her and in the morning before sunrise Harmel Kaur was conveyed to her house. After that Ishar Singh and Gurbachan Singh waited for several days for the answer from Maharaja about the marriage, and besought the Deorhi officer to kindly get them the information from Maharaja as to when he would marry. Deorhi officer replied: "Maharaja fully intends to marry, but he has ordered that your entertainment may be arranged in the upper flat of the Kothi of Tikka Raghunath."

So, S. Ishar Singh, Gurbachan Singh, Harbans Singh, Harmel Kaur and Jasmer Kaur went there to reside. Maharaja also used to go there to do evil work and to satisfy his evil desires with Harmel Kaur. At last Maharaja went away to Hill Station and Deorhi Sardar asked them to go away for the time being, as they would get the information from the hills. Those persons awaited at Mani Majra, but were disappointed after waiting for the reply for some days. But because at the time of departure from Patiala, even the railway fares were not given to them, they repented very much that they were dishonoured and nothing had been given to them. After much repentance, they made up their mind to complain to the Punjab Political Agent against Maharaja, and intended to bring before the public through the Press the evil deeds of the Maharaja. When Bhai Ram Singh came to know about this and thinking it will be disgraceful for the Maharaja, he informed Daya Kishan Kaul about the whole matter. Dewan told the Maharaja that "such and such a thing is going to happen." Maharaja was about to sail for England. He directed Dewan Saheb not to let Harmel disclose the matter till his return and he ordered Rs. 50/- for her monthly expenses and Rs. 500/- in cash which might be sent to her with Ram Singh. Moreover, those fifty rupees were to be paid in advance every month. Hence Rs. 500/- were given in cash and fifty rupees per mensem used to be given regularly. On the return of His Highness, he suggested Ram Singh to bring Harmel Kaur from Mani Majra and to put her in Bahadur Garh Kothi. Hence a car was sent there and then and Ishar Singh, Harbans Singh and others were brought and were detained in Bahadur Garh.

In the presence of Daya Kishan Kaul, the Maharaja said to Bhai Ram Singh : "This blame stands against me till now. The girl is a disgraceful knave and she is a British Subject. you therefore bring her down to give the statement that "Sardar Kishan Singh Deorhi officer violated my chastity but not the Maharaja." The Maharaja gave Ram Singh the sum of Rs. 300/- to award to Harmel Kaur and promised to appoint

her brother on a high post. Bhai Ram Singh gave her Rs. 300/-. An entertainment was already arranged for her. She was intimated about the promise of the post for her brother, and then expressing the intention of the Maharaja everything was told to Harmel Kaur, her father and brother. She agreed to act according to the intention of Maharaja. She gave her statement before Maharaja, Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul and Lyaqat Hyat Khan. The Maharaja issued orders for the arrest and forfeiture of property of Kishan Singh and he was sent to jail. C. I. D. instituted a regular case and after taking the statements of Harmel Kaur, her father and her brother, Kishan Singh was awarded punishment. Harmel Kaur is still getting Rs. 50/-per mensem and 'is living with a badmash and a rogue—a police Sub-Inspector without having performed the marriage ceremony and is enjoying her hour of pleasures. During this time she has given birth to two daughters.

COUNT THREE : DISAPPEARANCE OF BICHTER KAUR: HER DAUGHTER AND HER SON

Evidence in Support

- (1) *Sardar Pratap Singh's Statement Ex. 35.*
 - (2) *Dr. Bakshis Singh's Statement Ex. 36.*
 - (3) *Dr. Bakshis Singh's affidavit Ex. 36 A.*
 - (4) *Bhai Ram Singh's Statement Ex. 42.*
-

All these statements are printed in full under the foregoing count i. e. count two regarding the setting up and maintaining of a bomb factory.

**COUNT FOUR : KEEPING AND NOT RELEASING
THE WIFE OF SARDAR AMAR SINGH**

Evidence in Support

- (1) *Statement of Suhawar Singh, the younger brother of Amar Singh, Ex. 39.*
 - (2) *Copies of correspondence with the Government, Ex. 39 A, 39 B, and 39 C.*
-

**I. Statement of Suhawar Singh, the younger
brother of Amar Singh, Ex. 39.**

Suhawar Singh S/O Budh Singh, aged 45 years, village Rurki Budhsinghwala, Patiala State.

I am the younger brother of Sardar Amar Singh whose wife Amar Kaur is taken away by Maharaja Patiala.

After her marriage with my brother she stayed for five years with us. After that she is taken away to Patiala. She is there for the last 18 years.

It so happened that this woman was beautiful. Some one took this news to Maharaja. One procuress named Harnam Kaur took her to the palace. She was detained and has never since been returned.

Her mother was given Rs. five to six thousand. Her brother was given Rs. 300/- (three hundred) per month. After that he purchased some lands from the money given to him by the Maharaja. He is still getting one hundred per month. This woman has produced one daughter and one son. Both of them are alive and are staying in the palace.

Maharaja had through all concerned asked us to accept Rs. 20,000— and renounce the right on the woman. But my brother has always refused.

My brother approached the Political authorities. All the correspondence I produce herewith.

For the refusal on the part of my brother, he was arrested in 3 or 4 cases by Patiala Police. But as they could not prove anything against him he was released.

Lastly after the publication of the correspondence in the Press my brother is again imprisoned under Sec. 216 I. P. C. I too was arrested under various excuses but was released. There is a statement of my brother in Urdu, I have read the same. It is true. I produce it.

My brother is in jail today and he is being asked to say that everything published about him is wrong. He is further asked to divorce.



(2) Copies of correspondence with the Government,

Ex. 39 A, Ex. 39 B, and Ex. 39 C.

[*Political Agent's two letters to. S. Amar Singh, Ex. 39 A*]

(1)

Memorandum No. 969 A. 6. 7. d/ 10th Dec. 1917.

In reply to his petition dated 21st. August 1917 the undersigned is directed by Government to inform Sardar Amar Singh once again that if he is not prepared to accept His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala's offer to accept Rs. 20,000/- and to withdraw all claims over his wife, no further action will be taken on any petitions that he may in future submit on the subject.

(Sd.) **Illegible**

Political Agent
Phulkian State.

To

Sardar Amar Singh
Biswadar, of Village Roorkee,
Patiala State.

No. 258 A. 677

Patiala

Dated the 7th May 1918

Sir

In reply to your letter dated the 20th April 1918 I write to say that as your previous communication contained no definite acceptance of His Highness' offer and as the delay in doing so has exceeded four months, I had previously informed the Darbar that I would not take any official action in the matter.

In these circumstances I am unable to intervene further on your behalf and consequently your only hope is to appeal to His Highness' personal generosity and good feeling in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

To,

S. Amar Singh, Bisweddar,
of Roorkee, Patiala State.

[*The Punjab Government's letter, EX. 39. B.*]

Office Memorandum: No. 21676 F.

To

Bhai Amar Singh,
Bisawdar of village Roorkee
Tehsil Patiala, Patiala State.

Political.

N. States.

Lahore dated the 16th of October 1919.

With reference to his petition dated the 2nd September 1919 on the subject of the offer of Rs. 20,000/- by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, Bhai Amar Singh Bisawdar of village Roorkee, Tehsil Patiala, is informed that His Honour the Lieutenant

Governor declines to take up the matter afresh and that he should approach the Maharaja himself.

By order

Assistant Political

For Under-Secretary to Government Punjab.

[*The viceroy's letter, EX. 39 C.*]

OFFICE MEMORANDUM; D. O. No. 1711-G. P.

Viceregal Lodge.

Delhi.

Dt. 1st March, 1929

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter dated the 25th February, 1929, I am desired to inform you that your petitions dated the 25th April 1928 and the 10th September 1928 were transferred for consideration to the Political Department of the Government of India. I am, therefore, to ask you to kindly address all future communications on the subject to the Secretary of that Department.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

Assistant Private Secretary
to the Viceroy.

To,

Sardar Amar Singh

C/o Mr. Raj Kishore Tandan,

B. A., LL. B., pleader,

Chandni Chowk, Delhi.

COUNT FIVE : ILLEGAL ARREST AND CONFINEMENT OF SARDAR HARCHAND SINGH WITHOUT ANY TRIAL AND CONFISCATION OF HIS PROPERTIES WORTH ABOUT TWENTY LAKHS

Evidence in Support

- (1) *Statement of Rajindar Kaur, Ex. 29 A.*
 - (2) *Oral examination of Rajindar Kaur, Ex. 29 B.*
 - (3) *Statement of Sardar Vazir Singh, Ex. 30.*
 - (4) *A list of property of Sardar Harchand Singh, Ex. 30 A.*
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1. Statement of Rajindar Kaur, Ex. 29 A.

Statement of Sardarani Rajindar Kaur, wife of S. Harchand Singh, Rais village Chaural Thana, Patiala State. On solemn affirmation oath the witness recorded the following statement on 5th Sawan Sambat 1886.

Sardar Ghamdoor Singh, brother of my husband S/o S. Gian Singh has on account of family jealousy great enmity with my husband and is a mortal foe of his.

As S. Ghamdoor Singh killed S. Lal Singh according to the instructions and desire of Maharaja Patiala, he is a great favourite of the Maharaja. Prior to this S. Ghamdoor Singh's property was confiscated and he was expelled from the Patiala State but on giving an undertaking to kill S. Lal Singh he got back all the confiscated property and was allowed admission in the Patiala State. It is now ten or eleven years since S. Lal Singh was murdered, but it so appears that the facts relating to this incident are brought to light every now and then and therefore the Maharaja is always ready to help S. Ghamdoor Singh. In order therefore to please him the Maharaja either orders for the internment of

my husband in the Patiala City or confiscates his ancestral lands. At one time this portion of the estate is confiscated and at the second time the other one. Three or four years back my husband was kept interned in his Kothi in the Patiala City under Police guard for three long years continuously; and a very magnificent Kothi, valued at two to two and a half lacs of rupees has been confiscated and taken possession of by the State about 3 years back from now.

On the 23rd February 1929 we had to face very odd circumstances suddenly and we were made victims of State Zulam, account of which is reproduced below :

At about 10 o'clock on the aforesaid date Jamil Hussain, Nazim of District Sunam, Asa Singh Tehsildar of Sunam and Sodhi Bakhshish Singh Sub-Inspector of Police Station Darha, Sub-Inspector Long and Sunam along with 30 constables came to our Kothi Deh Choral, two miles from Jakkhal. They were all armed. At the time of arrival the policemen were without uniform and they surrounded the Kothi from all sides but later on they were seen guarding the Kothi with uniform. On enquiring from the Sub-Inspectors about Sardar Saheb, one servant informed them that he had gone out in the fields. Upon this a few constables and Sub-Inspectors went out to the field and kept the Kothi under Police guard. My husband was arrested and brought handcuffed to the Kothi. We were in the upper storey and listened to the Sardar Saheb's requesting the Sub-Inspector to allow him to go to the Gurudwara just to bow his head in the presence of the Guru Granth Sahab, but this was not allowed to him. Then he asked permission to see his people and explain to them certain family and business affairs. But this request was also not granted and he was taken to Sunam Police Station and was not allowed to see or meet the members of the family before leaving. He was then taken to Patiala. Upon this some of our servants ran away and the following people were arrested and taken along with Sardar Sahab:

(1) Pertap Singh Mukhtiar Kar (2) Jwala Singh Granthi (3) Jwala Singh Langei (4) Phuman Singh store-keeper. All of them

were kept in jail for three months and later on released on bail for Rs. 500/- each, and no charges were framed against them. As soon as my husband was taken to Sunam the Ahalkar and Police entered our 'Males' and 'Females' quarters without informing us and the entire house was at once locked up.

Ours being a respectable family, we observe Parda but no heed was paid to our "Izzat" and "Abru" (honour). On the contrary Jamil Hussain, Nazim Sunam, who is a Mahomedan by caste came to me and told me that he wanted to search my person, which he accordingly did. The Nazim took possession of my golden bangles and ring along with a sum of Rs. 9/- which was found in my pocket. Search of my person was effected without the help of any woman, although one barber woman Mussamat Bishni alias Shajno of Chanry village, who was sent for by the Nazim, was sitting outside and her services were easily available in the search. The Sub-inspector, Constables and Tehsildars were all standing around the Nazim who was effecting the search. As soon as this was finished the Nazim expelled me from the house and told me that I had no longer to do anything with that Kothi, that it was then in the possession of the State and that it was to remain under Police guard. I was asked to go anywhere I liked. I was not allowed to put on my slippers which I usually do. I then requested the Nazim to allow me the use of my Rath (Bullock Chariot) and this was allowed to me. Then I begged him to pay me Railway fare upto Sangrur to enable me to proceed to my father's house and the Nazim paid me a sum of Rs. 4/- only out of the money that was recovered from me at the time of search. I then started for Railway Station Gorna with 2 sons, 2 daughters and 2 maid-servants for whose Railway fare I obtained on loan a sum of Rs. 10/- from the Station Master of Gorna, and went crying. A few hours back I held possession of thousands of Bighas of lands, Kothi and gardens; and there were hundreds of servants to obey my command and mine was a life of ease in the company of my husband; but within less than an hour my husband who was a very big Rais and so belonged to a very

high family was handcuffed and taken by the Police and I was expelled from my Kothi penniless. I was then fainting and had lost my senses. Whenever even now, I think about the search effected by the Nazim, I begin to shiver and tremble. Whereas on the one hand the aforesaid treatment was meted out to us, our two sons, Wazir Singh and Jasmer Singh who were staying in the Haveli inside the city at Patiala and were students of Khalsa School in Patiala were kept locked up in the Kothi for ten days along with the servants Niranjan Singh, Mukhtiar Kar, Ram Singh Hari Singh and Biria. They were not allowed to move out and our sons could not even go to school. The Kothi was raided by messrs. Kishan Chand, Deputy Superintendent, Shamsheer Shingh, Inspector of Police, with sufficient number of Police Constables, Assistant-Tehsildar and Ram Saran Das Tehsildar Patiala.

On the day next to the 23rd February we were informed that a search was being carried out in our Kothi situated in Deh Chaural without our information or knowledge behind our back. Neither myself nor any other responsible person from our side was called at the time of the search. A few days later I was informed that the search was completed. On my enquiry the Tehsildar informed me that there was no mention of any jewellery or cash etc. in the search-list except old coins worth ten annas. No other cash or jewellery was reported to have been recovered. I was surprised to hear that in such a big house a sum of 0/10/- only could have been found out. I append herewith a list of my jewellery and my personal cash which I had left in the house before I was evicted. I am however not aware of the jewellery and cash which was in my husband's charge in the house at the time of search and he knows all about it.

Besides the grains, cotton, seed furniture and clothes etc., that were taken possession of by the State I also understand that crops and stores were sold by auction at a nominal price. Sugar cane etc. have also been auctioned. Although I am told that the entire furniture has been ordered to be auctioned, it is not known when they are going to do so. I am in these days

putting up with my parents at Sangrur, capital of Jind State. My son Kaka Jasmir Singh is with me and my elder son has rented a house for Rs. 2/8/- per month and is studying in Amratsar.

My husband S. Harchand Singh is still kept a prisoner in Kotwali, Patiala. Neither any charge has been framed against him nor has he been tried in any court. It is said that my husband has been orally informed that in the month of Magh Samat 1985 when S. Kharak Singh was going about holding Dewans in the Patiala State, my husband happened to travel with him in the same train from Amritsar to Chhajti. It is said that my husband who was then travelling on his own business and boarding the train at Sangrur, went up to Chhajti about 10 miles only. Chhajti Railway Station is situated two stations ahead of Railway Station Sangrur. Baba Kharak Sing was also travelling in the same compartment in the same train and my husband bade respects to him. S. Ghamdoor Singh and the Police reported the matter to the Maharaja who ordered the imprisonment of my husband and confiscation of our property. My husband is now in jail and our property is confiscated, but no charges have been established against my husband in a Court of Law nor has he been tried. Nor all my other family members including myself have been informed as to why we have been expelled from our house and as to why the servants are put in to the jail. The whole case is shrouded in mystery.



2. Oral examination of Rajindar Kaur, Ex. 29 B.

In the house of Captain Sardar Bahadur Janmejai Singh O. B. E., Messrs. A. V. Thakker, Sheth and Abhyankar were present.

Sardarni Rajindar Kaur W/o S. Harchand Singh, Rais village Chaural, Patiala, with her mother and her son Vazir Singh who acted as interpreter were present. Her written statement was read out to her and she confirmed the same. She stated as under in oral examination by the Committee:

Q:- You give one reason in your statement for the displeasure of the Maharaja; do you think there was any other reason ?

A:- Yes : as you know my husband was an A. D. C. to His Highness the Maharaja till the year 1919 A. D., *i. e.* for about 8 or 9 years. I am a second wife to my husband. His first wife is dead. In her life, she, and after her, I used to receive calls from the palace. Sometimes a carriage and sometimes a car used to be sent for us, but my husband was strict. He refused all invitations, because the Maharaja had a bad character. This brought to my husband the disfavour of the Maharaja. He dispensed with the services of my husband. Invitations to go to palace came after that also, four or five times, but I never went there. The last invitation came on the Basant Panchmi of the last year, but I did not go. This was just a little time before the arrest.

Q:- Would you explain whether there was any ground to believe that Sardar Saheb gave any information to Baba Kharak Singhjee ?

A:- All that is false. My husband was that day coming from Singrur to Gurna. He got in the train at Singrur in the 2nd class compartment. There was only one 2nd class compartment for males in the train. It so happened that Baba was also in that compartment. Baba and my husband were not alone. There was one revenue officer of Singrur State also in the compartment from Singrur; so there was no chance of any confidential talk between my husband and Babaji. From the next Station, Sunam, Patiala Police Officials also travelled in the same compartment. At the station of Chhayli Baba Saheb and Patiala Police got down while my husband continued his journey and got down at the Station Gurna. So, there was no substance in the charge. It was merely an excuse.

Q:- How do you maintain yourself now ?

A:- We are in difficulty. I am staying with my mother. I have incurred debts to the extent of Rs 2000/- from my relatives. Our property is all confiscated; therefore people would not lend us. Moreover there is also the Maharaja's displeasure. That is another reason why people don't lend us money. Only God knows our difficulties.

Q:- Did you try for any relief ?

A:- Yes : My uncle went to the Maharaja but he paid no attention. And we have no money to take our case to the British Government. We are helpless.

Q:- What was your income ?

A:- It was about Rs. 40,000/- a year. We have not a pie now, and we are driven out of our houses. We are now, so to say, the beggars in the street.



3. Statement of Sardar vazir Singh, Ex. 30.

Statement of S. Vazir Singh s/o S. Harchand Singh, aged 18 years, Sikh by religion, student by profession, resident of Chural, District Sunam, Patiala State.

Present address: White House Hostel, Khalsa College, Amritsar or, Haveli of S. Haqiqat Singh, Sangrur.

We are one of the biggest Zamindars of the Patiala State. I have given in a separate statement a list of our lands in Patiala, as also that of our properties that we had in our house when we were driven out from the same. From ancestral times, members of our family used to hold high offices in the State. My father was taken up as an A. D. C. to the Maharaja when he was 20 years of age. He remained in service for about 8 or 9 years.

My father having seen the inside of the character of the Maharaja which he found to be immoral, used to remain on

leave for a major portion of his service. He did not resign simply because Maharaja used to take such an action as an insult and the life and property of the man who may do it may be in danger. Eventually, the Maharaja himself dispensed with the services of my father in 1919.

One practice of the Maharaja has been that, when he finds that a particular gentleman has good character and that he hates him for his misconduct, he tries to violate the ladies of that man's family, so that the lips of that man may be sealed up for ever. Having found that my father was a gentleman of this type the Maharaja used to send summons to the ladies of our family, to go to the palace, but my father used always to refuse these summons. But that brought on his head the displeasure of the Maharaja. Another reason of the displeasure of the Maharaja was that my father showed great sympathy with the Akali movement. Further, my uncle was a favourite of the Maharaja, because he had murdered Lal Singh. We are on bad terms with my uncle. That is one more reason why we incurred this displeasure of the Maharaja.

We had begun to taste the fruits of his displeasure as early as 1923. In that year my father was put under arrest. This detention continued for three years, but then he was allowed to stay in our Kothi. Orders were that he should not leave Patiala boundaries. This detention was ended by the intervention of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

Six month after his freedom, my father was called by Mr. Rafiq Mahamad, Private Secretary of the Maharaja, who asked him to give over our Kothi to the State for the use of the Maharaja's dogs. We were offered Rs. 7,000/- (seven thousand) as the price for the same. As the Kothi was worth not less than Rs. 70,000/- my father refused the offer. The Kothi was therefore confiscated to the State and we were asked to vacate it within 24 hours, although we were residing in it. This Kothi is still with the State. It is not used for any purpose by the State.

On 23rd February 1929, I returned from my School at 10⁴30 in the morning. I found police loitering near my house. Just a few minutes after Tehsildar Ramsarandass, Assistant Tehsildar Shamsher Singh, and Inspector of Police with about a dozen of constables came into my house. Shamsher Singh told me that he had orders to confiscate all my property and to arrest my father. We too, i. e., myself, my younger brother and four of our servants were placed under arrest and all of us were detained in our Haveli for seven days. After seven days Assistant Tehsildar ordered us to leave the Haveli at once. So, we all went to Sangrur, where our mother had gone.

On the 24th we heard that our father was brought to the Kotwali of Patiala from Sunam. On the 25th he was specially taken through the streets of Patiala, handcuffed for the purpose of demonstration and public humiliation.

After 20 days I returned to see my father and found that he was receiving only As. 4 a day for his food and medicine. Next day I saw my father from whom I knew that he was made to sleep on the floor with his hands cuffed and tied with the legs of the bedstead. My father was then ill, suffering from fever and cough. I then approached the authorities who ordered after about a fortnight that my father be given all necessaries, the charges to be paid by me. My father's weight was reduced by 30 lbs in 3 months. He is still ill, but no medical aid is given to him. For the last 15 days he is taken to Kar Khas, which is a notorious place for detention.



4. A list of property of Sardar Harchand Singh, Ex. 30 A.

List of immoveable property confiscated on the 23rd February 1929, in different villages.

Lands

Total cultivation amounting to 58½ squares of land (6821 Bighas) worth Rs. 14,50,000/-, Rs. 25,000/- per square.

Buildings

Kothis at Chural and Patiala, Haveli at Patiala, stables and menial barracks and houses for storing grains worth Rs. 2 lacks and a half, parks at Patiala and chural and Gurudwarshab building at Chural worth Rs. 75,000/-.

House in the village of	Chural worth	Rs. 1,500/-
" " "	Kehargark	" 2,000/-
" " "	Govindgarh	" 1,000/-
" " "	Dharamgarh	" 1,000/-
" " "	Simla Hills	" 3,000/-

Ornaments and Jewellery

' Mother's ornaments and jewellery at present in Chural in an iron box worth Rs. 35,000/-.

Cash

Cash of mother at Chural	worth	Rs. 38,000/-
" father	" "	15,000/-
Old coins of gold	" "	25,000/-

Crops

Cotton present in the store in Chural when father was arrested, 2300 maunds worth	Rs. 23,000/-
Wheat and other crops present in the field at the time of arrest worth about	Rs. 18,000/-
Income from cotton every year amounting to	Rs. 35 000/-
Income from wheat and other crops	" 20,000/-
" " straw	" 5,000/-
" " Sugar cane	" 2,000/-
Sugar cane present at the time in field worth	Rs. 1,500/-

Clothes & Furniture

All clothes of the family members	Rs. 25,000/-
Furniture at Chural nearly	" 15,000/-
" " Patiala	" 5,000/-

Bullock cart : one	Rs. 400/-
Cycles 3	„ 300/-
Other miscellaneous things worth	„ 10,000/-
One Rifle, one shot gun and five swords	„ 1,000/-
Cattle, mares & horses numbering about 100, worth	Rs 15,000/-
Tam Tam at Patiala worth	„ 300/-
Yearly Income	„ 50,000/-
	<u>Rs. 20,13,000/-</u>

WAZIR SINGH JAIJEE

S/o

Sardar Harchand Singh Jaije of Patiala

Count Six : Concoction of false Cases

Evidence in Support

- (1) *Evidence of Sardar Pratap Singh, Ex. 35.*
- (2) *Evidence of Dr. Bakshis Singh, Ex. 36.*
- (3) *Evidence of Suhawa Singh, Ex. 39.*
- (4) *Evidence of Bhai Ram Singh, Ex. 42.*
- (5) *Evidence of Sardar Diwan Singh, Ex. 42 B.*

- (1) Evidence of Sardar Pratap Singh (Ex. 35) is printed under count two.
- (2) Evidence of Bakshis Singh (Ex. 36) is printed under Count two.
- (3) Evidence of Suhawa Singh (Ex. 39) is printed under count four.
- (4) Evidence of Bhai Ram Singh (Ex. 42) is printed under Count two.
- (5) Evidence of Sardar Diwan Singh (Ex. 42 B.) is printed in Appendix G.

**Count Seven : Inhuman tortures, illegal arrests
and imprisonments and high-handed
confiscations of property**

1. *Statement of Ridha Singh, Ex. 6A.*
 2. *Statement of Gaja Singh, Ex. 85.*
 3. *Statement of Ram Singh of melowal, Ex. 86.*
 4. *Statement of Pala Singh & 18 others, Ex. 87.*
 5. *Statement of Karan Singh, Ex. 88.*
 6. *Statement of Anokh Singh and 4 others, Ex. 89.*
 7. *Statement of Sucha Singh, Ex. 90.*
 8. *Statement of Nand Singh, Ex. 91.*
 9. *Exhibits 2, 3, 4, 7, 54 and 55.*
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1. Statement of Ridha Singh, Ex. 6A

Statement of S. Ridha Singh S/o S. Partap Singh Biswedhar, resident of Ghuga Tehsil Bhawanigarh, Patiala State, aged 32 years, taken on 31st August 1929.

I state nothing but truth on solemn affirmation :

I heard that Sangat had started an Akhand Path (the uninterrupted reading of Guru Granth Sahab) in reception of Bakhshish Singh Sahab at the Gurudwar Sahab of Darba, which place was included in the touring programme of Baba Kharak Singh. The Sangat had taken a vow to have fine Akhand Path to pray Almighty to abridge the gulf of differences between Maharaja Patiala and Panth (Sikh Community). They hoped that this will be accomplished at the visit of Baba Kharak Singhji, the Jathedar of Sikh community. I reached Gurudwara Sahab Darba on the 20th Magh Sambat 1985 at sunset, because I had started from my village in the

afternoon after disposing of all household work. When I reached Gurudwara Sahab I learned that one Akhand Path had been conducted and the second had been started. But Gurudwara Sahab was strongly guarded on all sides by the Police. I was astonished to see so much police force surrounding the Gurudwara. But seeing that Akhand Path was going on I with the intention of going in had hardly entered the outer door when I was at once arrested by the Police. Two more Singhs who were following were also arrested on the spot. I was then taken to the Police Station. Sadhr Raunak Ram Police Clerk and another seargent were present on the spot. I was then take to the Police Station Darha. The seargent, whose name I don't know ordered the Police constables to shut me into a cell and bring me to my senses. Thereupon the constable Basakha Ram and others laid me down flat on the ground and gave me severe shoe-beating. Two Other Sikhs were similarly maltreated. Kirpan was forcibly snatched from me. I saw more Akalis sitting there who had been arrested in the day time prior to my arrest. We were made to sit without any warm quilt or blanket through out the whole severe winter night.

On the morning of 21st Magh I was sent for by the Thanedar Bakhshish Singh, who asked me why I had gone there. I told him that I had gone to hear the recitation of Akhand Path. Thereupon Bakhshish Singh Thanedar pulled my beard thrice and rebuked me. Then he ordered the constables to take me to the same place back.

It was 8 or 9 in the morning when I was again taken out where I saw Bakhshish Singh Thanedar of Darba, Baldev Singh Thanedar Dhuri, Bhurpur Singh Supdt. of Police and a dozen of Police constables. Bakhshish Singh asked me if I was not checked by my brothers S. Basant Singh, Safed Posh and S. Sundar Singh Tehsildar. I said "They did, but I, considering it a religious matter have come because I had only gone to the place for attending Akhand Path, a religious ceremony, and for no other purpose. If I would have come here considering it an evil work

I would not have come at all." At this, Bharpur Singh of Supdt., Police instructed S. Bakhshish Singh and Baldev Singh to take me round the village and treat me harshly by making a public demonstration. Both the Sub-Inspectors assisted by a large number of Police constables took me to the village. Only a few paces I had gone, when my Pyjama and Kachha were removed. Constables laid me prostrate on the ground and began to beat me on the naked back with shoes. They continued this process for a long time and I went on uttering "Vahi Guru" every time. A large number of persons from Darbar and adjoining villages had assembled there, because the Police had summoned Zaildars and Numbardars of all adjoining villages for assistance. I cannot say exactly what number of shoe-beats I was subjected to but this I can say that they stopped beating only when they thought that enough of it had been administered and all the persons had witnessed it. Then I was made to walk few paces and when they found people assembled, the demonstrations were repeated with increased severity. When I tried to tie my waist-cord of the Pyjama and Kachha, then the sub-Inspectors ordered the constables to hold the ends of my waistcord in their own hands. It had become a frightful scene to the men and women of the villages I was held by two constables by my both arms. I was then taken shamefully in the naked state before the men and women of the village. As far as I remember, the shoe-beating was repeated violently for seven or eight times. Blood was flowing down on the ground from my back. In a next street, where fodder was to be secured for the horses, a large number of men had gathered. There they took me over a mound of earth and again repeated the shoe-beating. Blood sprouted out from my back. The two sub Inspectors and other constables not caring a bit began to call the other people who were standing at a distance to come and spit over my back turn by turn. They hesitated to come. Again the Sub Inspectors ordered them to do it, but none dared to comply. Then the Sub Inspector ordered the constables to bring all of them and treat similiary those who do not obey. At his all of them came one

by one and being threatened by the Police, unwillingly spat upon my back. Then the Sub-Inspectors ordered the constables to begin the shoe-beating afresh as my back which had become wet on account of spitting. The Constables complied, I was thrice treated similarly at short intervals.

When they entered the street to escort me back by the route I was taken out, Bharpur Singh Supdt. of Police met us and enquired from the Sub-Inspectors if they had accomplished and brought back to my senses. The Sub Inspector replied "enough of demonstration has been given to the people, which they would have neither witnessed nor heard of. But he has not changed." At this Bharpur Singh asked them to show him the process and said he would see what comes out of this demonstration. So saying he came out of his Motor Car and the demonstration began. This time the Police Constables spent their whole skill and strength to please their higher officials. At this place as at other places both the Sub-Inspectors delivered speeches that "This person is a resident of Ghyga and is by inheritance Bisweddar and Sardar. He was up till now respected in the Ilaga. People considered him a big aristocrat. He is not caring for H. H. 's orders and has come apparently to attend Akhand Path. Therefore whoever would disobey His Highness' orders like him will be similarly treated publicly. Witness the maltreatment that he is receiving. His whole property would be attached and he would pass his whole life in Jail and will die inside it." After so much lecturing the shoe-beating was recommenced.

But I continued repeating 'Wahi guru' with what little weakened voice, I possessed. Then Bharpur Singh sent for water for wetting my back. The same was pressed on with their feet and then they commenced shoe-beating. A cupfull of water was supplied by an old crippled man, an inhabitant of Darba. I continued uttering 'Wahi guru' with my humble voice. Bharpur Singh ordered to repeat the process.

It was repeated four times in the presence of Bharpur Singh. Blood oozed out from my back in such a large quantity that the

tutn on earth underneath was blood-drenched. Once I turned my head and noticed that my body had gone black and blue and the blood was flowing profusely. A Thanedar said "what are you seeing ? you will see more of it just now." I said that instead of doing all that it would have been better if my throat had been cut which I would have considered an act of decency. Then the reply was given that I would be killed not by throat-cutting but by slow tortures and persecutions. I again uttered 'Wahi guru Wahi guru...'

When Bharpur singh thought he had done more than enough and had spared no violence upon me, and people had also been terrorised, he ordered my removal to the police station giving the same demonstrations to the villagers on the way. On return at two or three places similar treatment was accorded. When we reached Thana, I was again laid on my back and gave one stroke of the shoe, saying that it is enough to give one stroke ceremoniously at the Gadi of Great Baba Ala Singh

The Sun Set. The winter of 21st Maghar is well-known over the of whole India. There was so much cold on the one hand and on the other hand my whole body was aching on accoutnt of two days torture, what agonies I was passing through at the time, is known only to me, and to God. Raunak Ram Police clerk placed some straw and blankets in a cell and shut me in. In my opinion Raunak Ram was feeling very much for me but he was quite helpless to do anything for me. I was neither his acquaintance nor in any way connected with him. But he looked quite terrified with the harsh and beastly treatment meted out to me. A Mahomedan constable and a Chaukidar were also shut in with me in the same cell to guard me. The Constable had the cot and the Chaukidar was lying on the floor. I was in chains. The cell was locked over us from outside. Two guards were heard talking outside. The adjoining portion was used as a stable for the Thanedar's cows and buffaloes. I remained for three days i. e., from 20th Magh to 23rd Magh in the Darba lock-up. I had no call of nature for five days. My whole body had stiffened, so I could neither lie flat on back nor

the other side for full ten days. The whole body ached severely. I wished to keep standing the whole day and night. On account my confinement I could not find any space to walk about. The chain of my handcuffs was tied to the cot of the guard. But to stand all day and night was also a terrible thing. So whenever I got tired of standing and was on the verge of falling down on account the giddiness of the brain and weakening of heart, I used to unwillingly sit down to rest. I could not sit properly on account of my injuries nor could I sit on my feet because in that case the heels touched the back and caused pain, nor could I lie flat on the back or the other way because then it painful effect on the bruises, thus I could only lie on my right or left either shoulder or I had to sit on my knees. I was in such a pitiable plight that I preferred death and many times prayed for it But at that time I could not even die because there too I had no option. I tolerated all this suffering anyhow. On the 23rd Magh I was transferred to Sunam Judicial looc up. In the same way I was put to great terror in order to compel me to beg pardon. But at Sunam no violence was used, I was frequently abused. Food arrangements were very bad and troublesome.

Words fail to express the exact heinousness or the vulgarity of language, because to express it plainly puts a man to shame it. When violence was being used on 21st Magh, the police used so foul and dirty language that even the most wretched scoundrels would feel reluctance to use. (The exact words were:-"This rascal has got no hair on his back. His fair colour of his body is like a girl's. Take him in and commit.....with him. Then he would become a pacca Sikh.")

When I was shut up at Darba Police Station, a Chaukidar on being asked told me that Jamil Hussan, Nazim and Sundar Singh, Tehsildar accompanied by Police had gone to my village on the evening of 21st Magh and had locked my Haveli. All the property and quadrupeds were auctioned without providing protection and maintenance for my wife, my son Kaka Sukhdev Singh aged 12 years, one daughter aged 10 years, another daughter

two years old, and formy sister. The whole of my granary was auctioned and the house was locked up and after placing State guard in front of my house my wife and children were driven out of the house penniless.

At last Jasmal Husep Nazim and Bharpur Singh Superintendent Police visited me in the Sunam Police Station and released me saying that at the petition of the panth H. H. has ordered my release.

After being released I have directly to Amratsar to have my sacred dip at the sacred tank in accordance with the custom. I have not been so far to my house. Now after bathing here I will go and enquire about my house and family.



2. Statement of Gaja Singh, Ex. 85

I and..... were arrested on the 10th Magh 1985, on the occasion of Diwan at Ghaloti by Tara Singh Kotwal, Bisan Singh Thanedar and Tirat Singh Nazim of Patiala. From there we were taken away to Patiala, from where we were transferred to Barnala judicial lock-up on the 12th Magh. On 16th Magh we were produced in the court of S. Sukhdev Singh, Nazim of Barnala. Sukhdev Singh enquired of us as to what were our demands. I replied, "Our demands are fourteen in number. These we make in the form of a resolution in every Diwan." in At this Sardar Sukhdev Singh ordered the Inspector of Police with a malicious sneer, to fulfill our demands. I was, then prostrated on my back in a cell adjoining to the court room. I was fettered, then I was caught hold of by a constable while the other let loose my Kachha and I was made naked. Sukhdev Singh pressed my head by placing his boot on my Keshas (hair) and jailor stood on my back. Standing Inspectors of Police and Babu Sub Inspector began to beat me with shoes. Then Inspector of Police left beating and commenced