

Veerender Jubbal Statement in Response to Fake Paris Terrorism Photo

"Over the weekend, a photograph was doctored to suggest that I was one of the terrorists associated with the Paris tragedy. This despicable action was then quickly made worse when some international news outlets decided to share the image as truth. Let me be clear - the photograph is a fake and I am not affiliated with terrorism of any kind.

While the past 48 hours have been deeply disturbing on a personal level, the broader impact of this image going viral for the Sikh community is what upsets me the most. Sikh articles of faith, such as our turbans and beards, represent a commitment to universal justice, equality, and helping others (seva), yet Sikhs continue to be mistakenly and offensively associated with terrorist networks abroad. The Sikh community has faced significant violence and discrimination following major terrorist attacks because of our religious appearance. We must be better than this.

The dark horror of violence in Paris and Beirut last week is mourned by 25 million Sikhs and over 1.5 billion Muslims worldwide. I ask that the media outlets that ran my image immediately retract my photo and apologize, but also take the time to learn and educate their readers about the Sikh faith, the fifth largest religion in the world. They should read about the way [Sikh gurdwaras opened their doors](#) to help the victims and survivors of the Paris attacks, and how we stand side by side with the global community in condemning brutal acts of violence. To start, here are [ten things I wish everyone knew about Sikhism](#).

When we paint entire faiths and communities with the same brushstroke, we further give terrorists exactly what they want. We're strongest in the face of terror and bigotry when we stand together. This false image is an opportunity for all of us to hopefully grow together in our shared understanding for one another."

- Veerender Jubbal, Canadian Sikh

Veerender is not interested in currently doing media interviews. For other interview requests related to this topic, please email the Sikh Coalition's Media Director, Mark@sikhcoalition.org.
