

s 33(a)(i), 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(i), 33(a)(iii)

ss 33(a)(i), 33(a)(iii), 33(b)

ss 33(a)(iii), 47C

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE EXACT PM Trudeau Statement to Parliament [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 9:48:56 AM
Attachments: [EXACT PM Trudeau Statement to Parliament - 18 September 2023.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi both,

Exact statement (typed) below and attached

////////////////////////////////////

Mr Speaker

Today, I'm rising to inform the House of an extremely serious matter

I just informed the leaders of the opposition directly, but I want to speak to all Canadians

Over the past number of weeks, Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the Government of India and the killing of a Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar

Canada is a rule-of-law country

The protection of our citizens and defence of our sovereignty are fundamental

Our top priorities have therefore been 1) that our law enforcement and security agencies ensure the continued safety of all Canadians and 2) that all steps be taken to hold the perpetrators of this murder to account

Canada has declared its deep concern to the top intelligence and security officials of the Indian government

Last week at the G20 I brought them personally and directly to Prime Minister Modi in no uncertain terms

Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty. It is contrary to the fundamental rules of which free, open and democratic societies conduct themselves

As you would expect, we have been working closely and coordinating with our allies on this very serious matter

In the strongest possible terms, I continue to urge the Government of India to cooperate with Canada to get to the bottom of this matter

I also expect it to reiterate that its position on extra-judicial operations in another country is clearly and unequivocally in line with international law

I know that many Canadians, particularly members of the India-Canadian community, are feeling angry and perhaps frightened right now

Let us not allow this to change us

Let us remain calm and steadfast in our commitment to our democratic principles and adherence to the rule of law

This is who we are, and what we do, as Canadians

From: "Scott Ryan" s 47E(d) >
Date: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 at 5:44:23 am
To: "Gary Cowan" s 47E(d), "Peter Sawczak" s 47E(d), "Michelle Chan" s 47E(d), "Anna Oldmeadow" s 47E(d), "Tom Mooney" s 47E(d), "Nick McCaffrey" s 47E(d), 's 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d), "Philip Green" s 47E(d), "Kevin Rudd" s 47E(d), "Stephen Smith" s 47E(d), "Sarah Storey" s 47E(d), "Paul Myler" s 47E(d), "Christian Hirst" s 47E(d), "Elisabeth Bowes" s 47E(d)

Subject: EXACT PM Trudeau Statement to Parliament [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Exact words of PM Trudeau address (English, published by PM):

Mr. Speaker,

Today, I'm rising to inform the House of an extremely serious matter.

I just informed the leaders of the opposition directly, but I want now to speak to all Canadians.

Over the past number of weeks, Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the Government of India and the killing of a Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Canada is a rule-of-law country.

The protection of our citizens and defence of our sovereignty are fundamental.

Our top priorities have therefore been 1) that our law enforcement and security agencies ensure the continued safety of all Canadians, and 2) that all steps be taken hold the perpetrators of this murder to account.

Canada has declared its deep concerns to the top intelligence and security officials of the Indian government.

Last week at the G20 I brought them personally and directly to Prime Minister Modi in no uncertain terms.

Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty.

It is contrary to the fundamental rules by which free, open, and democratic societies conduct themselves.

As you would expect, we have been working closely and coordinating with our allies on this very serious matter.

In the strongest possible terms, I continue to urge the Government of India to cooperate with Canada to get to the bottom of this matter.

I also expect it to reiterate that its position on extra-judicial operations in another country is clearly and unequivocally in line with international law.

I know that many Canadians, particularly members of the Indo-Canadian community, are feeling angry and perhaps frightened right now.

Let us not allow this to change us.

Let us remain calm and steadfast in our commitment to our democratic principles and our adherence to the rule of law.

This is who we are, and what we do, as Canadians.

From: Scott Ryan

Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 3:39 PM

To: Gary Cowar **s 47E(d)**, Peter Sawczak **s 47E(d)**, Michelle Chan
s 47E(d), Anna Oldmeadow **s 47E(d)**, Tom Mooney
s 47E(d), Nick McCaffrey **s 47E(d)**, **s 22(1)(a)**
s 47E(d), Philip Green **s 47E(d)**, Kevin Rudd **s 47E(d)**,
Stephen Smith **s 47E(d)**, Sarah Storey **s 47E(d)**, Paul Myler
s 47E(d), Christian Hirst **s 47E(d)**, Elisabeth Bowes

Subject: PM Trudeau Statement to Parliament [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Per the earlier email re the G&M article to some of you, **s 47E(d)**, PM Trudeau has just now made a Statement to Parliament **s 33(a)(iii)**

A very rough summary below (I will forward Hansard when available)

- Over the past weeks intelligence agencies have looked actively into credible allegations according to which there is a possible link between the agents of the Government of India and the murder of Nijjar
- Canada is a state that upholds the rule of law and protects our citizens and sovereignty
- Our priorities were to ensure our agencies can ensure the security of Canadians and that all necessary measures be taken to hold those accountable for this murder
- We have expressed our concerns to the highest levels of Indian Government
- I raised it very clearly with PM Modi
- Any murder (of a citizen on our soil) is a violation of our sovereignty
- Runs against the fundamental rules that operate amongst free, open and democratic societies
- We are working on this file with our main allies
- We continue to ask that the Government of India cooperate with Canada
- We ask that India restate its opposition to extra-judicial operations clearly and unequivocally, in line with international law
- Some in the Indo-Canadian community angry and maybe "afraid"
- Let us now allow this to change us and remain calm and steadfast

Poillievre (Opposition Leader) response

- If these allegations are true this represents an outrageous attack on Canadian sovereignty
- We call on the Indian Govt to act with the utmost transparency as authorities investigate this murder
- "The truth must come out. We must know who carried out the assassination and who was behind the assassination"
- An appeal for calm – we must be united for our home and for each other

OFFICIAL

[Canadian authorities have intelligence that India was behind slaying of Sikh leader in B.C. - The Globe and Mail](#)

Canadian national-security authorities have what they consider credible intelligence that India was behind the mid-June fatal shooting of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Sikh leader in British Columbia designated a terrorist by New Delhi and part of a separatist movement seeking an autonomous state for adherents of Sikhism.

The sources would not provide details on how Canadian authorities determined that India was responsible for this assassination because of the sensitivity of the intelligence collected and concerns about undermining a continuing police investigation.

The Canadian government has privately ruled out severing diplomatic relations with New Delhi but is considering measures to respond to what it considers a serious violation of Canadian sovereignty, sources say.

Mr Nijjar was shot dead in his truck by two masked gunmen on the outside of the Nanak Sikh Gurdwara temple in Surrey, B.C., a brazen killing that outraged his supporters and intensified global tensions between Sikh separatists and Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government.

Canada is home to about 770,000 people who reported Sikhism as their religion in the last census. Some support the Sikh independence movement, which seeks to create a sovereign homeland known as Khalistan from the state of Punjab in northern India. The Indian government fiercely opposes this.

There are signs that the Nijjar slaying is already casting a chill over Canada-India relations.

News broke Sept. 1 that Canada suspended talks on a trade deal with India, and, by mid-September, Ottawa said an early October Canadian trade mission to India had been postponed. While the government offered little explanation for these actions, sources say they stem directly from the investigation.

The Nijjar killing was raised in tense talks between Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Indian Prime Minister on the sidelines of the Sept. 9-10 Group of 20 summit in New Delhi.

Mr. Modi's office later publicly criticized the Canadian government for allegedly tolerating "anti-India activities of extremist elements in Canada," while Mr. Trudeau only told reporters he raised concerns over foreign interference in Canadian politics.

The Indian government denies all responsibility for the Nijjar shooting and argues Ottawa's investigation has been misled by accusations from Canadians. Sikhs involved with the Khalistan separatist movement, according to another source. The source said India views allegations it killed Mr. Nijjar as unfounded, likening it to false claims by the U.S. administration of former president George W. Bush that Iraqi Saddam Hussein had developed weaponized mass destructions.

The Globe is not identifying the sources who were not allowed to publicly discuss the issue as they could face prosecution under the Security of Information Act.

Mr. Nijjar has been accused by Indian officials of terrorism. India's counter-terrorism National Investigation Agency (NIA) has alleged he conspired to kill a Hindu priest in Punjab and in 2022 it announced a reward equivalent to \$16,200 for information leading to his arrest.

In Canada, he promoted Sikh independence and urged Sikhs to vote in a non-binding international referendum among the global diaspora on whether the northern Indian state of Punjab should secede. It was part of a campaign by Khalistan supporters.

After the slaying, Mr. Nijjar's New York-based lawyer Gurpatwant Singh Pannun and the World Sikh Organization of Canada said the 45-year-old father of two had been alerted by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service as early as last summer of a likely assassination plot against him.

The office of Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly did not respond to request for comment

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which is investigating the slaying, also did not respond to a Globe and Mail request for comment on the allegations against India

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service was circumspect when asked about India's role in the killing

"There are important limits to what I can publicly discuss given the need to protect sensitive activities, techniques, methods, and sources of intelligence. These limitations are essential to ensure the safety, security, and prosperity of Canada, and for these reasons, I cannot provide more information," CSIS spokesman Eric Balsam said in a statement to The Globe

India High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma did not return calls for comment

The most immediate impact of cooling relations is trade

India and Canada have been negotiating a trade agreement and, in May, International Trade Minister Mary Ng and her Indian counterpart had announced they aimed to strike an initial deal this year to boost trade and expand investment while setting out a mechanism to deal with disputes

Ms. Ng had been scheduled to visit Mumbai in October with Canadian business leaders. Her office declined to say why the trip has been shelved or when it is likely to occur

"At this time, we are postponing the coming trade mission to India," press secretary Alice Hansen said in a statement last week. "In the next year we will be taking businesses to Japan, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, and Vietnam."

India's Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal recently told the Indian news outlet Firstpost that this pause with Canada was needed to make sure that "geopolitically and economically" the countries are on the same page

"We have had certain issues which are of serious concern," he said, noting that Mr. Modi discussed these issues with Mr. Trudeau at the G20 summit. "We are hoping for resolution of some of these issues before we take it forward."

Police have called the Nijjar slaying a "targeted incident" although no arrests have yet been made

Mr. Nijjar's death is the second in two years of a prominent member of the Sikh community in Canada. Last July, Ripudaman Singh Malik, one of two men acquitted of murder and conspiracy charges related to the 1985 Air India bombing, was also shot and killed in Surrey

Mr. Nijjar was the third prominent Sikh leader to have died suddenly in recent months

Avtar Singh Khanda, who was said to be the head of the Khalistan Liberation Force, died in the United Kingdom in June

In May, Paramjit Singh Panjwar, who was designated a terrorist by India, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province

The roots of the Khalistan movement date back to the end of the British Empire in India

The movement is fiercely opposed by the Indian government and is not supported by the Canadian government

Late last year, India's High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma told The Globe that New Delhi is concerned that some segments of the Sikh community in Canada are offering financial and other support to secessionists who want to separate Punjab from India. He called on Ottawa to crack down on diasporic funding of the Sikh independence movement

Mr. Pannun, who is also New York-based general counsel for Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), wrote to Mr. Trudeau, accusing Mr. Verma of interfering in Canadian domestic affairs and seeking to conscript Ottawa to promote the Indian government's political ends

The federal government has said it does not support Sikh separatism but defends the rights of Canadian Sikhs to free speech as long as it is lawful

Ottawa-New Delhi relations have been frosty since Mr. Trudeau became Prime Minister in 2015, including an ill-

fated trip in 2018 where Jaspal Atwal, convicted of trying to assassinate an Indian cabinet minister in 1986, was invited to dine with the Prime Minister during the visit. The invitation was rescinded after it came to light, but he was photographed with Sophie Gregoire Trudeau and then-infrastructure minister Amarjeet Sohi at an earlier event in Mumbai

In 2020, India also accused Mr Trudeau of inciting "extremist activities" after he raised concerns about New Delhi's response to farmers protesting against a law that they feared would leave them vulnerable to exploitation by corporations. Mr Trudeau said Canada would always support the right of farmers to be heard

The Liberal and Conservative parties have said they support a united India while supporting the rights of Canadian Sikhs to peacefully advocate for an independent Punjab

But NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh, who has in the past attended Khalistan rallies before becoming leader in 2017, has declined to say where he stands on the issue. The NDP has demanded that Mr. Verma present evidence of illegal funding to law enforcement.

s 33(a)(i), 33(a)(iii), 33(b)

ss 33(a)(iii), 47C

ATTACHMENT A

Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau

Statement to Parliament

18 September 2023

Mr Speaker.

Today, I'm rising to inform the House of an extremely serious matter.

I just informed the Leaders of the Opposition directly, but I want to speak to all Canadians.

Over the past number of weeks, Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the Government of India and the killing of a Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Canada is a rule-of-law country.

The protection of our citizens and defence of our sovereignty are fundamental.

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Canada has declared its deep concern to the top intelligence and security officials of the Government of India.

Last week at the G20 I brought them personally and directly to Prime Minister Modi in no uncertain terms.

Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty. It is contrary to the fundamental rules of which free, open and democratic societies conduct themselves.

As you would expect, we have been working closely and coordinating with our allies on this very serious matter.

In the strongest possible terms, I continue to urge the Government of India to cooperate with Canada to get to the bottom of this matter.

I also expect it to reiterate that its position on extra-judicial operations in another country is clearly and unequivocally in line with international law.

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ATTACHMENT B

India's Ministry of External Affairs**Media Statement****19 September 2023****India rejects allegations by Canada**

We have seen and reject the statement of the Canadian Prime Minister in their Parliament, as also the statement by their Foreign Minister.

Allegations of Government of India's involvement in any act of violence in Canada are absurd and motivated.

Similar allegations were made by the Canadian Prime Minister to our Prime Minister, and were completely rejected.

We are a democratic polity with a strong commitment to rule of law.

Such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistani terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The inaction of the Canadian Government on this matter has been a long-standing and continuing concern.

That Canadian political figures have openly expressed sympathy for such elements remains a matter of deep concern.

The space given in Canada to a range of illegal activities including murders, human trafficking and organised crime is not new.

We reject any attempts to connect Government of India to such developments.

We urge the Government of Canada to take prompt and effective legal action against all anti-India elements operating from their soil.

New Delhi**September 19, 2023**

ATTACHMENT D**United States Government****United States National Security Council Spokesperson****Responses to media enquiries****19 September 2023**

We are deeply concerned about the allegations referenced by Prime Minister Trudeau.

We remain in regular contact with our Canadian partners. It is critical Canada's investigation proceeds, and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

We urge the Indian government to cooperation with the Canadian investigation.

United States National Security Council Spokesperson**Twitter response to The Washington Post report 'Biden's efforts to court India challenged by assassination claim'****21 September 2023**

Reports that we rebuffed Canada in anyway on this are flatly false. We are coordinating and consulting with Canada closely on this issue. This is a serious matter and we support Canada's ongoing law enforcement efforts. We are also engaging the Indian government.

United Kingdom**Foreign Secretary James Cleverly Statement via Twitter****20 September 2023**

All countries should respect sovereignty and the rule of law.

We are in regular contact with our Canadian partners about serious allegations raised in the Canadian Parliament.

Important that Canada's investigation runs its course and the perpetrators brought to justice.

United Kingdom Government Spokesperson**19 September 2023**

A spokesperson from the United Kingdom Government confirmed that trade negotiations on the India-UK Free Trade Agreement would go ahead despite the 'serious allegations' made by PM Trudeau.

PROTECTED**ATTACHMENT E****Whole-of-Government talking points - India/Canada: death of Hardeep Singh Nijjar**

- Australia is deeply concerned by these allegations and notes ongoing investigations into this matter.
- If confirmed, we would consider these allegations unacceptable in any country.
- Australia believes all countries should respect sovereignty and the rule of law.
- We are closely engaged with partners on developments. We have conveyed our concerns at senior levels to India.
- We understand these reports will be particularly concerning to some Australian communities. The Indian diaspora are valued and important contributors to our vibrant and resilient multicultural society, where all Australians can peacefully and safely express their views. Freedom of expression is a human right and fundamental in open and democratic societies
 - Australia values diversity and inclusion, where people should be safe and free to express who they are, including their faith and heritage
 - we guard our multiculturalism fiercely, and value and nurture the social cohesion that underpin it
 - at the same time, we do not tolerate violence or threats of violence
 - Australian law enforcement agencies will respond to any breaches of Australian law.

Consultation: s 47E(d)

Cleared: FAS SXD, FMO, 19 September

OFFICIAL

ss 33(a)(i), 33(a)(iii), 33(b)

ss 33(a)(i), 33(a)(iii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s47E(d)

Title: Canada: Targeted killing of prominent Sikh religious leader and pro-Khalistan activist in British Columbia

MRN: s47E(d) 20/06/2023 05 51 39 PM EDT

To: Canberra, New Delhi

Cc: RR Americas Posts, G20 Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts

From: Ottawa

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References: s47E(d)

Response Routine, Information Only

Summary

The 18 June killing of a prominent Sikh religious leader and pro-Khalistan activist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, has led to media speculation about possible motives. Nijjar's lawyer has claimed that death threats had been made against his client, and that Canadian authorities failed to protect him. The killing comes after two unofficial Khalistan 'referenda' in 2022, and then a series of Khalistan-related protests in March s 33(a)(iii)

Cable reports on the 18 June killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent leader in the Sikh community in Surrey, British Columbia (BC), by unknown gunmen outside a Sikh temple - s 33(a)(iii)

A 'targeted killing'

2 The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP, federal police) confirmed on 19 June that Nijjar was found suffering gunshot wounds in the parking lot of the Guru Nanak Gurdwara (temple), shortly after evening prayers had concluded, and died at the scene. Nijjar was the president of the Sikh temple, a volunteer with Sikhs for Justice, and an outspoken supporter for the creation of a separate Sikh state of Khalistan

3 The RCMP's Integrated Homicide Investigations Unit is leading the investigation into Nijjar's death, which they described as a 'targeted killing' and a 'brazen act of violence.' They acknowledged that there was a 'lot of speculation regarding the motive of this homicide'

4 The Premier of British Columbia, David Eby, said it was a priority to bring those responsible to justice

Previous threats and disputes

5 The World Sikh Organisation of Canada issued a media release calling Nijjar's death an assassination, and claiming that law enforcement agencies had failed to adequately protect

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s47E(d)

Nijjar, who they believed was a target of Indian intelligence. The Organisation said that Canadian police and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service were aware of threats to Nijjar as a Sikh activist.

6. Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, general council to Sikhs for Justice and Nijjar's lawyer told Canadian media outlets that his client had been warned recently by CSIS of death threats against him. Pannun claimed the killing was ordered by Indian government officials. Since 2016, the Government of India had been seeking Nijjar's extradition on charges related to extremism.

7. Nijjar confirmed to the Canadian Press back in 2016 that he had sent a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau asking the federal government to dispel 'fabricated, baseless, fictitious and politically motivated' allegations against him after a Times of India report that claimed Nijjar was part of a terrorist training camp in British Columbia. Media reporting at the time claimed that India was seeking Nijjar's extradition from Canada on charges relating to extremism.

8. Nijjar was separately involved in a legal dispute with a religious society in Surrey over book printing machinery used for printing Sikh scriptures. The lawyer for the society, Jaspreet Malik, is the son of Ripudaman Singh Malik, who was acquitted after being a longstanding suspect in the 1985 Air India bombing. The elder Malik was killed last year in a homicide - and at the time Nijjar and his lawyer had publicly denied reports that Nijjar might have played a role in the killing.

s 33(a)(iii)

9. Canada has the largest Sikh population outside of India - estimated at 770,000 in the 2021 Census. This figure has doubled in the last two decades. Punjabi is the third most spoken language in Canada, after English and French. s 33(a)(iii)

In 2022, two unofficial Khalistan 'referenda' were held in Ontario Canada: in Mississauga (4 November) and Brampton (19 September), in which some 185,000 people reportedly voted.

10. In March, a string of Khalistan-related protests took place outside the Indian High Commission in Ottawa and its consulates in Toronto and Vancouver to protest events in the Punjab State in India. On 19 March, new Indian High Commissioner to Canada, Sanjay Kumar Verma had to cancel a planned appearance in Surrey, BC, due to security concerns regarding protesters outside the event. In an early interview with the Globe and Mail, Verma called on Canada to crack down on support being channelled to India by Khalistan supporters, labelling it illegal and interference in India's internal affairs.

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s47E(d)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

text ends

Sent by: s22(1)(a)(ii)

**Prepared
by:**

Approved by: DHOM

Topics: HUMAN RIGHTS/General, INTERNATIONAL SECURITY/Terrorism, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Domestic
Political, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s47E(d)

Title: Canada: India: PM Trudeau on Indian involvement in targeted killing
MRN: s47E(d) 19/09/2023 04 57 10 PM EDT
To: Canberra
Cc: RR Americas Posts, G20 Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts
From: Ottawa
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s47E(d)
Response Routine, Information Only

Summary

Prime Minister Trudeau issued a statement in Parliament declaring he had been advised of 'credible allegations' linking the Indian Government to the murder of a Sikh Canadian on Canadian soil. The Government and opposition parties have condemned the alleged Indian action as a "grave" and "outrageous" violation of Canadian sovereignty. The Canadian government has expelled a senior Indian diplomat.

On 18 September, Prime Minister Trudeau rose in the House of Commons to state he had been advised by Canadian security agencies they were following "credible allegations" linking agents of the Government of India to the high-profile murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Sikh leader and pro-Khalistan independence advocate, whom the Indian Government had designated as a terrorist, in British Columbia in July (s47E(d)). Marc Miller, the Canadian Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, issued a tweet confirming that Nijjar was a Canadian citizen.

2. Trudeau declared "Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty". The Canadian Government had "declared its deep concerns to the top intelligence and security officials of the Indian government", including raising them directly "in no uncertain terms" with Indian Prime Minister Modi during a pull-aside at the G20 Summit in New Delhi on 10 September. The announcement comes shortly after media reports noted Canada had suspended trade talks and a trade mission that were scheduled for the coming weeks.

3. Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly later made a similar statement to media: "(a) representative of a foreign government may have been involved in the killing of a Canadian citizen, here in Canada, on Canadian soil, (which) is not only troubling, but it is completely unacceptable". She added that if proven true, it would be a "grave violation" of Canada's sovereignty and "the most basic rule of how countries deal with each other". Joly stated that she had spoken directly with her Indian counterpart and announced that Canada would expel a top Indian diplomat from Canada. The diplomat was later revealed to be Pavan Kumar Rai, the most senior member in Canada of the Indian foreign intelligence agency.

4. Prime Minister Trudeau noted the impact the news may have with members of the substantial Indo-Canadian community (according to the 2021 Census there are an estimated 770,000 members of the Sikh community in Canada and 1.3 million people listing their ethnic origin as India), and called

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s47E(d)

for Canadians to remain calm and to adhere to the rule of law. Both Trudeau and Joly called on the Indian Government to cooperate and act transparently as Canada investigates the allegations. Trudeau added he was not looking to provoke or escalate tensions with Asia, but simply laying out facts that "Canadians had the right to know".

Political response from Opposition parties

5. Prime Minister Trudeau advised Opposition leaders of the news shortly before making his statement in Parliament, the first sitting day following a months-long summer recess. In contrast to on-going controversy over reports of Chinese interference, the immediate response from Opposition parties in response to the allegations was unified and supportive. Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre stated that if proven true, the allegations represented "an outrageous affront to Canada's sovereignty". He called for all Canadian parliamentarians to put aside their differences and to "lock arms and join hands in condemning this murder". s 33(a)(iii)

He has also called on the Canadian Government to provide Canadians with evidence of India's involvement in the murder. Similar to the Prime Minister, Poilievre called for calm and for the Indian Government to act with transparency and to cooperate in investigations.

6. Jagmeet Singh, leader of the left-wing New Democratic Party (NDP) and the first Sikh citizen to lead a major national party in Canada, accused the Indian Government of human rights violations, notably attempting to silence activists, and said the news of Indian alleged involvement in the murder of an Indo-Canadian citizen had "shocked and destabilized" feelings of safety and security of many Canadians. Singh called on Canada's allies to condemn the event in "harshest terms possible".

Media Commentary

7. Canadian media reports have focused on rehashing Canadian Government statements, providing background on Nijjar, the decision to expel an Indian diplomat, and responses from the Indian Government. A lead political commentator with the leading daily newspaper (The Globe and Mail) published an [op/ed](#) stating the news had once again jolted Canada into "recognizing a new world in which foreign governments reach out to influence, intimidate and coerce Canadians in Canada". There was reason to believe foreign interference might be "a bigger, broader danger than this country is prepared to counter". He questioned whether Canada's allies would seek to hold India to account if the allegations were proven true. Another leading daily, The National Post, published an [op/ed](#) suggesting with revelations on the murder, Canadian-Indian relations might be "irreparable" and that the revelations could undermine the Canadian Government's Indo-Pacific Strategy.

8. We will continue to monitor developments s 33(a)(iii)
in coming days.

text ends

Sent by: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Prepared s22(1)(a)(ii) /s22(1)(a)(ii)
by:
Approved HOM
by:
Topics: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s47E(d)

Title: Canada: India: Nijjar killing - pressure increases on Trudeau
MRN: s47E(d) 21/09/2023 02:33:45 PM EDT
To: Canberra
Cc: RR Americas Posts, G20 Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts
Ministers: Foreign Minister
From: Ottawa
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References:
Response Routine, Information Only

Summary

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

s 33(a)(iii)

Political and media responses

2. The Conservative Party, including Party Leader Pierre Poilievre, reiterated the allegations if proven true represented a severe violation of Canada's sovereignty. They continued to call on the Indian Government to act with the utmost transparency as the murder was investigated. They are now, however, also demanding the same of Prime Minister Trudeau.

3. Speaking to the media, Poilievre declared that his briefing from the Prime Minister provided no more information than was shared publicly. Asked if Canada should take further actions against India or if its relationship with India should change, Poilievre called on the Prime Minister to present the evidence and "come clean with all the facts", adding that there were "real" risks if the Prime Minister didn't release the information or if it was proven to be false".

4. While the federal New Democratic Party (NDP) has not yet echoed these calls, the NDP Premier of British Columbia (where Hardeep Singh Nijjar was murdered) called on the Federal Government to publicly present the information.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s47E(d)

5. Opeds in Canada's two leading dailies (The Globe and Mail and The National Post) called for the Government to release proof of Indian Government involvement in the murder. They noted the decision to make a public announcement and expel a diplomat indicated the Government's belief in the evidence went "much further than mere suspicion", but argued the Prime Minister needed to go much further, as the allegations threatened to ignite a diplomatic crisis with India. The right-of-centre National Post was among the most critical, suggesting the announcement should not have come as a surprise as there had been wide reporting of claims by Sikh activists that "Indian agents" were involved - a view partially shared by Richard Fadden, a former director of Canada's intelligence agency, who also served as national security advisor to both Prime Ministers Harper and Trudeau. Fadden stated that while the nature of the allegation might be surprising, allegations of Indian interference in Canada should not be, as the Indian Government had been "mucking about for a quite a while now".

6. Canadian media noted the strong response from both the Indian Government - which most recently announced the suspension of visa services in Canada (citing unspecified security threats) - calling the allegation "absurd" and the Indian External Affairs Ministry declaring Canada to have a "growing reputation as a safe haven for terrorists, for extremists and for organized crime"

s 47E(d)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

9. Some Canadian media outlets carried Prime Minister Albanese and Minister Wong's expressions of concerns, but most focused on US replies and statements.

10. In an interview with Canadian Press, Roland Paris, a prominent foreign policy analyst and former foreign advisor to Prime Minister Trudeau, said it was unclear what degree tensions would reach or what impacts would result from these bilateral tensions, but suggested "we're at the early stages of this period of diplomatic tension between the two countries". Similarly, Jeff Nankivell, the President of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF), told the media that he expects further pain for the bilateral relationship over coming months.

11. Concerns are also being raised about economic and trade implications. The Canadian Government had already suspended scheduled trade talks and delegations. The Asia Pacific Foundation warned an emerging rift between Canada and India would jeopardise both existing Canadian exports and efforts to boost trade between the two countries. The Premier of Quebec and the Government of Saskatchewan also raised concerns about the potential trade fallout. Each province has substantial exports to India (over CAD 1 Billion each in 2022). Saskatchewan was also critical of the Federal Government for failing to provide the provinces with forewarning of the announcement.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s47E(d)

12. While trade between the two countries is limited (at an average of 3.9 billion in exports over the past ten years, India has accounted for roughly only 0.7 per cent of Canada's export trade) it is a key destination for mineral and agricultural products. India, for example, accounts for roughly one-quarter of Canada's lentil exports. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture was voiced concern about potential "impactful" blockages by India, but added that they were optimistic that the Indian Government would view the agriculture goods as too important domestically to block as part of a political dispute.

13. India is also the largest source of international students studying in Canada, a source of revenue on which Canadian post-secondary institutions have become increasingly dependent. According to the Canadian Bureau of International Education, 40 per cent of international students in Canada come from India (China is the next closest at 12 per cent).

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

text ends

Sent by: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Prepared by: s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Approved by: HOM
Topics: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Saturday, 23 September 2023 8:06 AM
To: Sarah Storey, Dougal McInnes, Christian Hirst
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii), Cameron Archer, s22(1)(a)(ii), Nick McCaffrey
Subject: OT latest reftel Nijjar killing [REDACTED]
Attachments: 230922_s47E(d) _Canada India Nijjar killing m docx

[REDACTED]

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Deputy High Commissioner & Counsellor
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OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s47E(d)

Title: Canada: India: Nijjar killing media coverage & Parliament**MRN:** s47E(d) 22/09/2023 05 45 46 PM EDT**To:** Canberra**Cc:** RR Americas Posts, G20 Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts**Ministers:** Foreign Minister**From:** Ottawa**From File:****EDRMS****Files:****References:** s47E(d)

The cable has the following attachment/s -

230923_Opinion_ The real reasons Canadas relationship with India is broken -

The Globe and Mail pdf

Response Routine, Information Only**Summary**

Media coverage focused on the alleged role of Five Eyes intelligence and the US response, with limited comment in Parliament. An oped by a former Trudeau adviser noting long-standing friction in the Canada-India relationship had substantial reach. "The new influential club is the Quad. Canada is not part of it. It is imperative the (Nijjar) investigation continues, that its findings are made public, and that Canada seeks de-escalation with India. Canada may never be a major power in international affairs. But it can still be a serious one."

text ends

Sent by: s22(1)(a)(ii)**Prepared by:** s22(1)(a)(ii)**by:****Approved by:** s22(1)(a)(ii)**by:****Topics:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political**OFFICIAL**

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 27 September 2023 5:57 AM
To: Sarah Storey, Dougal McInnes, Christian Hirst, s22(1)(a)(ii), Cameron Archer, s22(1)(a)(ii), Nick McCaffrey
Subject: OT reftel Nijjar investigation [REDACTED]
Attachments: 230926_s47E(d) _Canada India Nijjar investiga docx

[REDACTED]

Title: Canada: India: Nijjar investigation
MRN: s47E(d) 26/09/2023 03 43 06 PM EDT
To: Canberra
Cc: RR Americas Posts, G20 Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts
From: Ottawa
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s47E(d)
Response Routine, Information Only

Summary

The Canadian Government continues to resist public calls to release evidence on the Nijjar killing. Defence Minister Blair argued release of details of Five Eyes intelligence behind the allegation could undermine the integrity of the criminal investigation. Government officials (and US Ambassador to Canada) are calling for the Canadian investigation to move forward with full cooperation from all parties including India. Blair reaffirmed Canada's commitment to its Indo-Pacific Strategy and "important" partner India.

s 33(a)(iii)

Appearing on a pair of media engagements (Global News and CBC), Defence Minister Bill Blair responded to questions about the Nijjar killing, emphasising the criminal investigation should provide "strong evidence of exactly what happened, so that we and the Indian government can know the truth, have the facts and then work together to resolve it in an appropriate way". Local media has also reported US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan comments: "We have deep concerns about the allegations and we would like to see this investigation carried forward and the perpetrators held to account".

2. The Canadian Government continues to resist calls to release evidence connecting the Indian Government to the Nijjar killing. In his interview with CBC, Blair confirmed Canada had received "very credible intelligence that cause us to be deeply concerned" but added that the Government needs to be careful not to confirm or identify the sources or the type of evidence because it had to be cautious about impacting the integrity of an investigation that was critically important to Canada.

3. United States Ambassador to Canada David Cohen spoke to the origin of the intelligence in comments to press. Responding in a media interview, Cohen stated, "This was a matter of shared intelligence information...there was a lot of communication between Canada and the United States about this". Cohen rejected claims that US and Five Eyes Allies were hesitant to respond to the claims, saying the US "takes very seriously these allegations...high

ranking officials in Washington have put that concern to rest, saying quite clearly that we have expressed our concern to India over these allegations and have asked India to cooperate in the Canadian investigation”.

4. Blair also described Canada’s relations with India as “important” and confirmed the Government intends to continue to pursue a partnership as part of its “critical” Indo-Pacific Strategy.

5. There were small protests by Canadian Sikhs outside India's diplomatic missions yesterday. Press reported around 100 protesters in Toronto burned an Indian flag and struck a cardboard cut-out of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a shoe. Around 200 protesters gathered outside the Vancouver consulate. In Ottawa, fewer than 100 people gathered in front of the Indian High Commissioner's office.

s 33(a)(iii)

text ends

Sent by: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Prepared by: s22(/s22(1)

Approved by: DHOM s22(1)(a)(ii)

Topics: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political

▼ New Distribution

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Saturday, 23 September 2023 12:55 AM
Subject: Daily Press Clippings - 2023 09 22 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

hptrimdataset: OT
hptrimfileref: OT23/2

OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Foreign Interference

Trudeau declines to offer more evidence on Indian accusations

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau declined to offer more evidence to support his startling allegation that the Indian government was behind the murder of a Canadian, but said the decision to come forward was not taken lightly.

<https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/trudeau-declines-more-evidence-indian-accusations>

Canada has Indian diplomats' communications in bombshell murder probe: sources

The Canadian government has amassed both human and signals intelligence in a months-long investigation of a Sikh activist's death that has inflamed relations with India, sources tell CBC News. That intelligence includes communications involving Indian officials themselves, including Indian diplomats present in Canada, say Canadian government sources. The intelligence did not come solely from Canada. Some was provided by an unnamed ally in the Five Eyes intelligence alliance. Canadian sources say that, when pressed behind closed doors, no Indian official has denied the bombshell allegation at the core of this case — that there is evidence to suggest Indian government involvement in the assassination of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil. The Canadian government has not released its evidence and has suggested it could emerge during an eventual legal process. When asked how far accountability could go, and whether Ottawa expected legal repercussions for people higher up in the Indian government, Canada's ambassador to the UN steered wide of the question. The story has reverberated internationally, including in Washington. There were several questions about it during the White House daily briefing. One of the most senior officials in the U.S. government confirmed that the United States has been in frequent contact with Canada on this issue.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/sikh-nijjar-india-canada-trudeau-modi-1.6974607>

White House 'firmly' rejects any wedge between U.S., Canada over India

U.S. President Joe Biden's national security adviser says the White House "firmly" rejects suggestions that Canada's allegation of potential India's involvement in the murder of a Sikh leader is driving a wedge between the two

allies. The U.S. has not openly criticized India in the wake of the allegations, which have yet to be proven, as the Biden administration seeks deeper economic and diplomatic ties with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. But Jake Sullivan told reporters at the White House on Thursday that the issue has not impacted the U.S.-Canada relationship. "I have seen in the press some efforts to try and drive a wedge between Canada and the U.S. on this issue, and I firmly reject the idea that there is a wedge between the U.S. and Canada," he said. The Washington Post reported earlier this week that Canada's Five Eyes allies, including the U.S., rebuffed private entreaties to publicly condemn the murder and India's alleged involvement before Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made the allegation public in the House of Commons on Monday. Senior Canadian and American government officials, speaking to Global News on the condition of anonymity, pushed back strongly against the report. <https://globalnews.ca/news/9977114/india-canada-us-wedge-white-house-nijjar/>

Conservatives are taking a cautious approach to India allegation, observers say

Just days after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made the astonishing allegation that Canada has "credible intelligence" linking agents of the Indian government to the killing of a Canadian citizen, the scandal has scarcely been mentioned during question period in the House of Commons. There might be a good reason for that, observers say. "There's a lot of landmines here," said Shakir Chambers, a former Conservative Party staffer and now a principal at Earncliffe Strategies. "If you're the opposition, if you overplay your hand on this, it can become a very dangerous issue." On Monday, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre called on the House of Commons to "put aside our differences to stand up for the rule of law." By Tuesday, he was demanding that Trudeau "come clean" with more information about the case. That was fair and smart move, said Garry Keller, former chief of staff to Conservative foreign minister John Baird. "He asked very, very pointed questions, which is his job to do as leader of the Opposition," he said. While the issue wasn't raised in question period at all on Wednesday, MPs did discuss the issue in a special debate Tuesday night. Conservative House Leader Andrew Scheer was the only representative of his party to attend that debate — a move noticed by others in the chamber. Keller said Conservatives don't want to lead on the issue because they don't have any control over the narrative. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/conservatives-india-nijjar-politics-1.6973050>

Op/ed: The real reasons Canada's relationship with India is broken

When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stood up in the House of Commons on Monday and made the unprecedented allegation that "agents of the government of India" assassinated a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil, I cannot say I was surprised. It was a brazen and violent encroachment upon Canadian sovereignty, done in public, meant to be discovered, and over one of the issues that the Indian government of Narendra Modi takes most seriously. I should know. In 2017, I was the Policy Advisor in the Foreign Minister's office, working closely with the Prime Minister's Office on India. From the first briefing, it was clear that India-Canada relations were headed in the wrong direction. There had been rumours of Indian intelligence services operating in the Canadian suburbs for years (along with others). The Indians counter-alleged that Canada was giving shelter, if not encouragement, to Khalistani extremists. By 2017, when I worked in government, India did not take Mr. Trudeau or Canada seriously. They viewed Canada as a bit player in world affairs, America's loud-mouthed neighbour. In Ottawa, at least in my experience, officials did not respect India, either — to our peril. The global chessboard is shifting. The United States is strengthening its Asia alliances, something we could and should have been doing six years ago. The new influential club is the Quad — the U.S., Japan, Australia, and India. Canada is not part of it. It is imperative the investigation continues, that its findings are made public, and that Canada seeks de-escalation with India. Canada may never be a major power in international affairs. But it can still be a serious one.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-the-real-reasons-canadas-relationship-with-india-is-broken/>

How Indian media is portraying Canada through all this (not well)

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/how-indian-media-is-portraying-canada>

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 21 September 2023 12:56 AM
Subject: Daily Press Clippings - 2023 09 20 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

hptrimdataset: OT
hptrimfileref: OT23/2

OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Foreign Interference

Poilievre demands Trudeau 'come clean' on intelligence implicating India in Canadian's murder

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre called on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to “come clean” with more information about allegations that Indian government agents were involved in the murder of Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil. Poilievre offered guarded and sometimes terse responses to reporters Tuesday during a press conference where he was pressed on his party’s views on the shocking allegations by Trudeau Monday that Canadian intelligence suggested a direct tie between the Indian government and Nijjar’s murder in June. When asked if he thought Canada’s relationship with India should change in light of the new allegations, Poilievre called on the prime minister to share more proof behind the allegations. Asked if he thought Canada should go further than declaring a single Indian diplomat persona non grata, Poilievre again said it was necessary for Canadians to be told more about the facts behind the allegations. “The prime minister hasn’t provided any facts. He provided a statement and I want to emphasize that he didn’t tell me any more in private (than) he told Canadians in public, so we want to see more information,” Poilievre said. The Conservative leader also said Trudeau “said nothing and did nothing” regarding Chinese interference in Canadian affairs for years, even while Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor

were imprisoned in China, comparing it to Trudeau's sudden action following allegations against India for the extrajudicial killing.

<https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/poillievre-trudeau-hardeep-singh-nijjar>

Canada told allies before sharing allegations about India over B.C. killing: Trudeau

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pushed back Tuesday on India's denial of allegations that it played a role in the death of a Canadian citizen, which New Delhi blasted as "absurd and motivated." Yet while Trudeau is urging India to take the matter seriously, Liberals also say they hope to maintain normal ties with a country Ottawa has selected as a key partner in the Indo-Pacific. Trudeau said Tuesday that India's government "needs to take this matter with the utmost seriousness" but would not say whether it is co-operating. Trudeau said he waited until he was able to raise the issue with allies and with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi earlier this month before telling the public about the possible link. NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh has written to the newly appointed head of the public inquiry on foreign interference, asking Justice Marie-Josée Hogue to include India in her probe. The Liberals have suggested her terms are wide enough to include any country as well as the Nijjar case. Global Affairs Canada would not disclose the name of the diplomat that India has decided to expel. Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly said Monday that Canada's high commission has taken extra steps to protect its staff. The US, UK and [Australia](#) have all issued statements calling for the allegations to be thoroughly probed. Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc had confirmed Monday that the head of Canada's spy agency and Trudeau's national security and intelligence adviser, Jody Thomas, both travelled to India recently to confront their counterparts about the issue. Thomas's predecessor, Vincent Rigby, said that would not have happened if Ottawa only had "a hunch or a gut feeling" about the intelligence. "They have something, I suspect. I have a feeling it's pretty concrete, and it's enough to raise it to the most senior levels in the Indian government," Rigby said in an interview.

<https://www.cp24.com/news/canada-told-allies-before-sharing-allegations-about-india-over-b-c-killing-trudeau-1.6568479>

U.S. asserts support for Canada amid confrontation with India over Sikh activist's death

The United States says it's asserting its support for Canada in the midst of a foreign-affairs crisis that places it in an uncomfortable quandary. Late Tuesday, the U.S. vehemently denied the idea that it has been reluctant to speak publicly on Canada's behalf amid allegations by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that the Indian government participated in the extrajudicial killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil. This was after a report in the Washington Post said Ottawa had tried and failed for weeks to get its allies to publicly condemn the murder. A senior U.S. administration official reached out to CBC News to dispute that characterization. The official pointed to a statement made Monday night by Adrienne Watson, a spokesperson for the White House national security council, which called on the Indian government to co-operate with the Canadian investigation. Canada's other Five Eyes allies showed little inclination Tuesday to wade into an escalating row between Ottawa and New Delhi over allegations that Indian agents were involved in the assassination of Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Most opted to treat the allegation as a matter still to be investigated — in spite of the fact that the Trudeau government feels it has enough information to make an accusation in Parliament and expel a diplomat. [Australian PM Anthony Albanese](#), who earlier this year hosted India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Australia, refused to comment on the matter at all. "I don't talk about Five Eyes intelligence at a press conference, funnily enough," he said in response to a question about India's alleged role. For Canada's allies, the accusation presents the risk of alienating the world's most populous country just when they least want to do so.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-india-nijjar-sikh-trudeau-modi-1.6971670>

Escalating tensions between India and Canada spark trade worries: experts

Canada's already lagging trade with India could suffer setbacks as relations become increasingly tense, experts say. The rift means further disruption to a trade relationship that has seen Canada lose ground to other countries. Right now, the world's most populous country isn't on Canada's Top 10 for exports or imports. Canada's trade relationship with India has so far failed to reach its potential, said Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada president Jeff Nankivell. This rift jeopardizes existing exports and efforts to boost trade between the two countries, he said. India's response could include drummed-up concerns about pest levels in agricultural imports, a practice that India, and much more so China, have allegedly used to hit trade partners, Nankivell said. "There's a risk in these situations of arbitrary trade measures." The agricultural sector is keeping its fingers crossed that cooler heads prevail, said Keith Currie, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Overall, however, India doesn't need Canada all that much, said Rohinton Medhora at the Centre for International Governance Innovation. Many other

countries are also looking to boost trade ties with the country and move away from a dependence on China. The current tension could eventually hit Canadian investments in India, where pension funds have been increasing exposure, said Medhora, and could also affect the flow of students coming from the country to Canada.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/escalating-tensions-between-india-and-canada-spark-trade-worries-experts-1.6569144>

Canada in 'early stages' of diplomatic tension with India: former Trudeau adviser

One expert thinks Canada may be just at the beginning of a months-long diplomatic spat with India, as allies await more information on accusations New Delhi played a role in the death of a Canadian citizen. Roland Paris, who leads the University of Ottawa graduate school of international affairs, says the countries have issued contradicting statements, making it difficult to find common ground. Paris says the diplomat chill between is just starting, and it's unclear whether those tensions will get better or worse as the investigation continues. "We're at the early stages of this period of diplomatic tension between the two countries," he said in an interview. "It will be difficult, now that the Indian government has so publicly dug in their heels and offered a categorical denial of these allegations." He said the entire issue underscores the importance of addressing foreign interference writ large. "It's important for Canada to work closely with its allies to resist these kinds of pressures," Paris said.

<https://ckpghday.ca/2023/09/20/canada-in-early-stages-of-diplomatic-tension-with-india-former-trudeau-adviser/>

Former national security adviser not surprised at allegations India may have meddled in Canadian affairs

"Was I surprised that India might have been involved in some act of foreign interference? No. That it was involved in extra-judicial killing? Yes," said Richard Fadden, who served as national security adviser to Trudeau and former prime minister Stephen Harper. He said the Indian government has been "mucking about" in Canada's affairs for quite a while now, and various governments "have done a variety of things, but clearly not enough, to stop them." "And I still don't think that we're taking it seriously given the breadth of activity that really puts our sovereignty at risk," he said. Vincent Rigby, a former national security adviser, said the matter "really does complicate" relations between Canada and India, which have been allies for a long time. "I think we normally think of hostile state actors as China, as Russia, as Iran, as North Korea. So here's a country that is a democracy, is a partner in many respects to Canada, a fellow Commonwealth country that is maybe not a hostile state actor per se, but these are not benign activities. These are hostile activities, if indeed, they were carried out by the government of India," he said. When asked whether he takes anything from Canada's allies questioning the credibility of the allegations, Fadden said "not really." "Each country is going to pursue its own interest, broader interests, not just intelligence but economic political, and other," he said.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/former-national-security-adviser-not-surprised-at-allegations-india-may-have-meddled-in-canadian-affairs-1.6568901>

op/ed: Susan Delacourt: Here's why Justin Trudeau went public with an explosive allegation against India

When Justin Trudeau stood up in Parliament on Monday to declare "credible allegations" against India, he was writing a new chapter in Canada's diplomatic and security history. But the prime minister was also turning a significant page in his own history, demonstrating just how badly this Liberal government wants to avoid a repeat of the terrible winter and spring it suffered on the issue of foreign interference in Canada. The extraordinary disclosure by Trudeau — that Canada is investigating whether India's government played a part in the shooting death of British Columbia Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June — was far more candid than anything Trudeau's government had to say about Chinese interference earlier this year. There are a couple of reasons for this change of tack, according to government sources. Some of it would be related to just how credible — or damning — the allegations were. But that wasn't the only motivation. A couple of media outlets had been circling around these allegations — at least one of them for several weeks through the summer. Globe and Mail bureau chief Robert Fife, whose paper had also lately caught wind of the allegations, said publicly on Monday he had given the government 24 hours' notice of his intent to publish the India story, taking credit for forcing Trudeau's hand. Poilievre is already signalling he will be trying to get more information out of Trudeau. But for this week at least, the opposition got more than earnest, empty assurances about how seriously this government takes foreign interference. Just in time too, because this development with India is putting this government into uncharted territory.

https://www.thestar.com/politics/political-opinion/here-s-why-justin-trudeau-went-public-with-an-explosive-allegation-against-india/article_0eac7d09-3ca7-5924-9c12-f2ce8e54a7e8.html

India issues travel advisory for Canada as rift widens over Sikh leader's death

India on Wednesday advised its citizens to be careful when traveling to Canada as a rift between the two nations widens further in the wake of Ottawa's allegations that India may have been involved in the killing of a Sikh separatist leader in suburban Vancouver. The foreign ministry in New Delhi issued an updated travel advisory, urging its nationals and especially those studying in the North American country to be cautious because of "growing anti-India activities and politically condoned hate-crimes." Indians should also avoid going to venues in Canada where "threats have particularly targeted Indian diplomats and sections of the Indian community who oppose anti-India agenda," the ministry said.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/india-issues-travel-advisory-for-canada-as-rift-widens-over-sikh-leader-s-death-1.6569419>

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 20 September 2023 12:23 AM
Subject: Daily Press Clippings - 2023 09 19 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

hptrimdataset: OT
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OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Foreign Interference

Trudeau accuses India in killing of Sikh leader on Canadian soil

Canada has expelled an Indian diplomat over revelations detailed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that Canadian national-security authorities have credible intelligence that “agents of the government of India” carried out the mid-June fatal shooting of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Sikh leader in British Columbia. Nijjar, whom New Delhi designated a terrorist, was part of a separatist movement seeking an autonomous state for adherents of Sikhism. Trudeau said he informed opposition leaders before telling Canadians of India’s involvement in the slaying, which he said he raised personally “in no uncertain terms” with PM Modi at the G20 summit last week. He made the announcement in the House of Commons one day after the Prime Minister’s Office learned that The Globe and Mail planned to publish the story based on national-security sources. The Canadian government has privately ruled out severing diplomatic relations with New Delhi but is considering measures to respond to what Ms. Joly said is a “grave violation” of Canadian sovereignty. The government of India responded to the allegations on Monday night and denied any involvement in the Nijjar slaying. The statement said Modi dismissed these accusations when they were raised with him by Mr. Trudeau. “Similar allegations were made by the Canadian Prime Minister to our Prime Minister, and were completely rejected.” It said Canada has for too long given a safe haven to extremists.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-canadian-authorities-have-intelligence-that-india-was-behind-slaying/>

India kicks out Canadian diplomat after Trudeau says New Delhi involved in killing of Sikh leader

After Ottawa expelled a senior Indian diplomat amid allegations New Delhi was involved in the killing of a Sikh activist on Canadian soil, India responded in kind Tuesday, while describing the claims by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as “absurd” and “unsubstantiated.” As part of its response, Ottawa expelled Pavan Kumar Rai, the senior-most member in Canada of New Delhi’s Research and Analysis Wing, the Indian foreign intelligence agency. Within hours, India did the same, expelling an as-yet unidentified “senior Canadian diplomat.” In a statement, the country’s Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the person “has been asked to leave India within the next five days,” adding their expulsion reflected the government’s “growing concern at the interference of Canadian diplomats in our internal matters and their involvement in anti-India activities.” Cameron Mackay, Canada’s High Commissioner to India, was summoned by the foreign ministry Tuesday to receive the news. The issue of Sikh activism has long been a thorn in India-Canada relations, which have worsened significantly under Mr. Trudeau. New Delhi regards Ottawa as soft on terrorism and wants to see it do more to rein in the separatist movement, while Canadian officials argue that provided Khalistan activists are peaceful, then they are simply exercising their civil rights, and there is nothing the government can do to stop this. In India, Mr. Trudeau is often denounced by the media as soft on terrorism and Canada-based Sikhs blamed for unrest in the Punjab. The White House has yet to comment. Speaking Tuesday, a U.K. government spokesperson said London was “in close touch with our Canadian partners,” while Australia’s foreign ministry said it was “deeply concerned” by Mr. Trudeau’s claims and had conveyed this to India. The White House has yet to comment. Speaking Tuesday, a U.K. government spokesperson said London was “in close touch with our Canadian partners,” while Australia’s foreign ministry said it was “deeply concerned” by Mr. Trudeau’s claims and had conveyed this to India. Countries may be less willing to take a hard line against India, however.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-india-kicks-out-canadian-diplomat-after-trudeau-says-new-delhi/>

BC Premier’s statement about India and the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023PREM0064-001474>

Minister Joly statement

<https://twitter.com/melaniejoly/status/1703941038375584223?s=20>

op/ed: Campbell Clark: Canada once more forced to reckon with era of foreign intimidation

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-canada-is-once-more-thrust-into-a-new-world-of-foreign-intimidation/>

s22(1)(a)(ii)

OPINION

The real reasons Canada's relationship with India is broken

OMER AZIZ

SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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FOR SUBSCRIBERS



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomes Prime Minister Justin Trudeau upon his arrival at Bharat Mandapam convention center for the G20 Summit, in New Delhi, India, on Sept. 9.

POOL/REUTERS

Omer Aziz is a former foreign policy adviser in the government of Justin Trudeau and the author of Brown Boy: A Memoir.

When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stood up in the House of Commons on Monday and made the unprecedented allegation that “agents of the government of India” assassinated a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil, I cannot say I was surprised. It was a brazen and violent encroachment upon Canadian sovereignty, done in public, meant to be discovered, and over one of the issues that the Indian government of Narendra Modi takes most seriously.

I should know. In 2017, I was the Policy Advisor in the Foreign Minister’s office, working closely with the Prime Minister’s Office on India. From the first briefing, it was clear that India-Canada relations were headed in the wrong direction. There had been rumours of Indian intelligence services operating in the Canadian suburbs for years (along with others). The Indians counter-alleged that Canada was giving shelter, if not encouragement, to Khalistani extremists – supporters of an independent Sikh homeland, partitioned out of India. Sikhs in Canada, meanwhile, have likened the Indian government’s violence against them to genocide. The two sides had been talking past each other for years.

The sore point in this, which young Canadians have no memory of, is the tragic Air India bombing of 1985. Until 9/11, this was the worst act of terrorism in the sky, whereby Sikh extremists planted a bomb on an Air India flight, resulting in the deaths of 329 passengers and crew.

By the time I served in government in 2017, two things had recently – and radically – changed. First was the election of Mr. Modi in 2014, and his Hindutva politics. Mr. Modi’s ideology sees India as a primarily Hindu nation, and it stokes ethnic chauvinism and grievance against anyone who dares criticize it. Mr. Modi was a strongman, and would no longer take lecturing from Canada.

The second factor was the election of Donald Trump, which moved everyone’s attention and focus to Washington dramas. India, meanwhile, had gone fully nationalist by this point. Since coming into office, Mr. Modi has silenced critics, targeted Muslims, locked up political opponents, and rewritten the Indian curriculum to blot out India’s syncretic history. Mr. Modi has rolled back India’s democracy, and remains an ally of India’s far-right. When I met with India’s greatest economist, Amartya Sen, last fall, he warned me that the regime was getting worse.

There can be no doubt that Mr. Modi has used state violence against minorities in frightening and authoritarian ways.

Over the years, the politics of this issue in Canada had also grown more difficult. There are some 770,000 Sikhs in Canada, one of the most politically organized communities in the country. Canadian Sikhs have kept the issue of Sikh justice on the agenda by continually advocating and pressuring politicians. Because foreign policy in a democracy is ultimately informed by domestic public opinion, the Sikh issue has an enlarged influence on our bilateral relations with India. It came up in every meeting, in every talking point, in every pull-aside. Unfortunately, Canadian politicians then didn't care enough about either Sikhs or India to give this the policy attention it deserved.

By 2017, when I worked in government, India did not take Mr. Trudeau or Canada seriously. They viewed Canada as a bit player in world affairs, America's loud-mouthed neighbour. In Ottawa, at least in my experience, officials did not respect India, either – to our peril. Canada's political establishment is old and white, and infused with an ignorant Eurocentrism that still affects foreign policy priorities. Western Europe and the United States were our focus, and some ministers could hardly see beyond London or Berlin. There's a reason why, along with India, relations with China, with Latin American countries, with much of Africa have deteriorated. It was a great abdication of our long-term priorities, given where we have ended up.

When Mr. Trudeau went to India in 2018, the trip became a debacle for Canada. Mr. Modi did not greet him on the tarmac, Mr. Trudeau got a chilly reception in general, and the PMO was put on its heels after it was reported that Jaspal Atwal, a Khalistan supporter once convicted of trying to kill an Indian cabinet minister, had been invited to two receptions during Mr. Trudeau's visit.

Canada should have at least begun to take steps to ensure our land was not used for terrorist financing – a reasonable demand, given that the overwhelming number of Canadian Sikhs are peaceful and uninterested in using violence to create a separate Sikh homeland. (Coincidentally, Khalistan is almost entirely a diaspora issue; there is little organized support, even among Sikhs in India, for a separate homeland.) By taking goodwill measures, it would have at least been possible to keep talking and

find workable policy solutions. The only problem was, Mr. Trudeau did not want to lose the Sikh vote to Jagmeet Singh. So we dug in our heels.

What I saw in government was how Canada's ethnic domestic battles were distorting our long-term foreign policy priorities, and politicians, who never understood South Asia or India anyway, were pandering in lowest-common-denominator ways in B.C. and Ontario suburbs, and playing up ethnic grievances to win votes. This was especially true within internal Liberal Party politics, meaning that we could hardly focus on foreign policy and strategy without factoring in which ridings might be lost because a certain group might be upset. Canada, as a country, has suffered great reputational damage by such thinking – and none of our allies are going to come to our help on this issue.

Not that Mr. Modi would have necessarily been a great friend to Canada. In my research on right-wing nationalist regimes, it is apparent that governments pursuing state violence internally – against minorities, against critics – will ultimately pursue such aggression externally. It is why the rise of the new authoritarians is so destabilizing for the world order. But Canada ultimately got the worst of all possible deals – nearly ruptured relations with India, and now a potential split in the Western alliance.

The global chessboard is shifting. The United States is strengthening its Asia alliances, something we could and should have been doing six years ago. The new influential club is the Quad – the U.S., Japan, Australia, and India. Canada is not part of it. At the G20, Canada is demeaned. The world powers will eventually face the contradiction between Mr. Modi's Hindu nationalist regime and his foreign policy influence. What's worrying is that Canada isn't even at the table where those decisions are being made.

We have entered a critical period in world affairs. Major realignments are taking place – and now the murder of a Canadian citizen, allegedly carried out with the knowledge if not support of another country, could go many different ways. It is imperative the investigation continues, that its findings are made public, and that Canada seeks de-escalation with India. Canada may never be a major power in international affairs. But it can still be a serious one.

The killing of a Sikh leader and India-Canada relations

WHAT HAPPENED: Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the president of a Sikh temple in Surrey, B.C. and an outspoken advocate for Sikh separatism, was shot and killed outside the gurdwara on June 18, 2023. The homicide prompted a flare-up of old tensions that have simmered since the Air India bombing involving Sikh extremists in 1985. Here is a timeline of events that led to this moment.

THE ALLEGATIONS: Three months after the shooting, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused Indian government agents of killing Mr. Nijjar, citing credible intelligence from Canadian national-security authorities. The Government of India denied any involvement and dismissed Mr. Trudeau's claims as

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