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Sikhs up reward to \$20,000 to serve lawsuit; defendant Punjab official skips Milwaukee visit

By [Bruce Vielmetti](#) of the Journal Sentinel
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A Sikh group's [\\$20,000 reward](#) didn't lead to the successful service of a lawsuit alleging human rights violations on two Indian officials who activists said had been planning a visit to the Milwaukee area recently.

Sikhs for Justice believed Parkash Singh Badal and his son Sukhbir Singh Badal, the chief and deputy chief ministers of Punjab, [were coming to the Milwaukee area between July 5 and July 7](#) to attend a wedding, and offered the money to anyone who could successfully serve them with the lawsuit, filed last month in federal court in Milwaukee.

Perhaps fearing aggressive process servers motivated by the large cash bounty, the Badals cancelled their trip.

Gurpatwant Pannun, legal advisor to Sikhs for Justice, says the group will now try to serve the lawsuit on Parkash Badal in India, via the [Hague Service Convention](#), which allows judicial papers to be served without diplomatic involvement between signatory countries. India and the United States have signed the treaty.

A prior iteration of the same lawsuit, [was dismissed this year](#) after a judge ruled Badal had not been properly served, an issue now on appeal by Sikhs for Justice.

The elder Badal had planned a trip to the area last year to attend area businessman [Darshan Dhaliwal's daughter's wedding](#). Two days before Badal arrived, a gunman attacked the Sikh temple in Oak Creek, killing six people and then himself. Badal, whose region is home to thousands of Sikhs, found himself thrust into the news as he met with survivors and spoke to area reporters.

That's when two brothers from a West Allis process service firm said they served the lawsuit. But U.S. State Department agents who were providing diplomatic security for Badal said he was shopping for gifts at the time, and an Illinois man later testified that he had been handed some papers by on the day in question.

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