

Militant Sikhs kill Indian official

SikhMuseum.com

NEW DELHI (Reuter-UPI) — Sikh militants — continuing a campaign to avenge the Indian government's raid on the Golden Temple — shot and killed a local leader of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's party yesterday, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Hardayal Singh, president of the Jullunder district committee of Gandhi's ruling Congress party in the northeastern Punjab state, was fired on by two gunmen who drove up to him in a car as he talked with friends, the agency said.

When the first shots missed, the gunmen leaped out of the car and chased Singh, also a Sikh, into a shop where they shot and killed him.

Two others were injured in the attack in Jullunder, 80 kilometres (50 miles) east of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, home of the Golden Temple.

The news agency reported that 46 alleged Sikh extremists were arrested in the Punjab yesterday, and that stockpiles of weapons and ammunition had been seized.

The main Sikh party, the Akali Dal, has called for a nationwide day of prayer today to commemorate the Sikhs killed last week in the temple bloodbath.

Police sources estimate as many as 1,000 people — mostly Sikhs — died in the fighting.