

# Operation Woodrose

The official reason given for Operation Blue Star has always been to “flush out militants from the temple”. However, no arrest warrants have ever been produced, nor has there ever been any explanation as to why the state killings didn’t stop after Blue Star (when all the alleged militants had been killed).

Operation Woodrose began immediately after Blue Star, to subdue and oppress the Sikh nation in order to silence their demands of equal rights. Curfews were imposed across Punjab, and eventually Presidents Rule imposed. This greatly increased the Army and Police’s power to handle the political situation as they wished. The security forces began their brutal operation to silence the Sikhs:

“The pattern in each village appears to be the same. The army moves in during the early evening, cordons a village and announces over loudspeakers that everyone must come out. All males between the age group of 15 and 35 are trussed and blind folded, then taken away. Thousands have disappeared in the Punjab since the Army operation began.”

The Christian Science Monitor, October 15, 1984

By October 1984 it was “reported that more than 8000 people were missing from their homes or were detained by the police.”

The Indian Express of October 15, 1984,

By 1994, cases of disappearances in the state given by Human Rights Organisations were around 50,000.

Report in Asian Age, February 8, and Pioneer, February 4, 1995

“It was a terrible tale of sadistic torture, ruthless killings, fake encounters, calculated ill-treatment of women and children, and corruption and graft on a large scale.”

Citizens For Democracy; Report To The Nation: Oppression in Punjab (Bombay, 1985).

“This disproportionate, inappropriate response just “served as evidence of what [Bhindranwale] was trying to prove:” Indira Gandhi’s government’s hostility to Sikhs and shift away from basic democratic procedures and toward autocracy”

Weiss, M. 2002, The Khalistan Movement in Punjab, Yale Center for International & Area Studies





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Sikh  
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