

# Madan Lal Dhingra Memorial Committee

## Public Meeting

### In Homage to Madan Lal Dhingra

#### A martyr to the independence struggle in the sub-continent

1pm Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2009

Shaheed Udham Singh Welfare Centre  
346 Soho Road, Birmingham B21 9QL

Madan Lal Dhingra was the first Indian leader to be hanged in Britain. Bhagat Singh was inspired by two heroes: Dhingra and Kartar Singh Sarabha. Like Khudi Ram Bose before and Bhagat Singh later, Dhingra kissed the gallows with a smile on his face.



**"May I be re-born to the same Mother, and may I re-die in the same sacred cause till the cause is successful, and she stands free for the good of humanity and the glory of God."**

These are the last words of the 22-year old Indian student of Engineering in London before going to the gallows on August 17, 1909 at Pentonville Prison, London, for killing Sir Curzon Wylie, Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India, Lord Morley.

Indian sub-continent has a long history of fighting against imperialism. This struggle has produced many Great Martyrs who fought to the end for a truly independent India and to see its People free from foreign exploitation. Vast majority of the People on the sub-continent continue to be exploited and remain under the tight grip of poverty. The foreign exploitation has now taken on a different form and is being carried out under the policies of Globalization, Privatization and Liberalization, unleashing multi-corporates to exploit the People and loot the mineral wealth of the land. The struggle against imperialist exploitation continues even today.

We will be marking Madan Lal Dhingra's life and at the same time reviewing the challenges the peoples of the sub-continent face today. Madan Lal Dhingra Memorial Committee welcomes all progressive organisations and individuals to join in the Centenary Celebration.

Speakers:

Salvinder Dhillon - Indian Worker's Association  
Radha D'Souza - Lecturer at Westminster University  
Amrit Wilson - South Asia Solidarity Group  
Kamel Hawwash - Vice-Chair of national PSC

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## Centenary Commemoration of Martyrdom of Madan Lal Dhingra

*On August 17<sup>th</sup> 1909, another fine son of India laid down his young life for the liberation of his motherland. He was hanged in Pentonville prison, London, for shooting William Hutt Curzon Wylie, Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India, Lord Morley. This further inspired patriots in India and abroad to rise up against the hated colonial rule and free their country. This followed 52 years after the nationwide uprising of 1857 and thirty years before Shaheed Udham Singh avenged the Amritsar massacre by killing Michael 'O' Dwyer at Caxton hall in London.*

*The British Colonial rule had uprooted Indian agriculture and its famous manufacturing industries, giving rise to frequent long periods of famines. This brought death and starvation to tens of millions of people. The Indian people lived a life of starvation, misery and humiliation under colonial rule. The hearts of Indian patriots seethed with anger against these injustices and had a burning passion for independence. The sacrifice of Madan Lal Dhingra added another chapter in the proud traditions of our people in their struggle to achieve real freedom and create a society offering a life of dignity and security of livelihood for all, free from exploitation.*

*The British colonialist created their own army of native Indians and a class of native collaborators to help them rule the Indian subcontinent. The new class became the main rich elite running industry and agriculture serving colonial interest. People from this agent class were given education and training in England to uphold the 'British way of life and values' and safeguard colonial rule. Political parties were set up from these recruits to contain the flames of revolution. The continued revolts and rising tide of revolution following the Second World War forced the British colonialists to transfer power in 1947 to their trusted agents, the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League. The transfer of power resulted in the partition of the Indian subcontinent sowing the seeds of development of current political economic systems in India, Pakistan and later Bangladesh, serving the interests of the rich elite.*

*The Subcontinent is ruled by wealthy minority elites, who enjoy all the privileges, in the three artificially created countries, whilst the hundreds of millions of the people face extreme poverty. These countries have the world's largest population of child labour and bondage labour which amounts to present day system of slavery. On top of that the Subcontinent, India in particular, still continues the evil practice of Caste system which legitimizes treating of Dalits as sub-humans.*

*There are more starving people in India than the whole population of Africa. Whilst the people struggle to find a plot for a home, vast areas of land is being given away free to multinational corporations with a free rein to loot the precious mineral wealth, exploit the rivers and forests. The Subcontinent of today is a far cry from the aspiration of our heroes, who laid down their lives to see their people from exploitation.*

*The increased impoverishment of the people at the hands of the brown sahibs has forced the people to continue to wage struggles to end the exploitive rule by the new masters. The Telengana uprising, Naxalbari and numerous struggles waged by the working class, peasantry and other exploited sections are a proof that the Indian people will build on these experiences and continue their struggles until the lofty aspirations and visions of the patriots of 1857 uprising, Gadhar Lehr, Kartar Singh Sarabha, Shaheed Udham are fulfilled.*

*The people of Asia Subcontinent are proud to commemorate the centenary of Madan Lal Dhingra. To this end Madan Lal Dhingra Memorial Committee has been formed. It aims to research his revolutionary life and struggle against imperialism. The Memorial Committee will pay homage to other revolutionary heroes inspired by Madan Lal Dhingra and assess how the present day imperialist exploitation still continues in the Subcontinent and rest of the world.*

*The Memorial Committee welcomes all progressive organisations and individuals to join in and let us together celebrate the centenary. Public meetings will be held up and down the country. These will be supplemented by the 1857 website, publication of 'Madan Lal Dhingra Centenary' and a book of revolutionary songs and poems.*