

Ūdham Singh

Ūdham Singh is one of the renowned heroes of India's independence. He stood up for the rights of all residents in India against the imperial British Army. He was a supporter of independence. He didn't feel it was right for another nation to come into his country and treat the citizens like slaves. During Vaisākhī of 1919, Ūdham Singh and his friends were witnesses to the massacre at Jaliānwālā Bāgh (ਜਲਿਆਂਵਾਲਾ ਬਾਗ਼), where a peaceful assembly of people were fired upon by General Reginald Edward Harry Dyer, killing over one thousand people. It was this fateful event that led Ūdham Singh to the path of becoming a revolutionary. He decided to serve justice and did so 11 years later. On March 13, 1940, Ūdham Singh assassinated Sir Michael O'Dwyer, who was governor of the Pañjāb when the Amritsar massacre had taken place. On April 1, 1940, Ūdham Singh was formally charged with the murder of Michael O'Dwyer. His case went to trial on June 4 before Justice Atkinson, who sentenced him to death. Though an appeal was filed, it was dismissed and Ūdham Singh was hanged in Pentonville Prison in London.

Here are some excerpts from his speech from the trial:

ŪDHAM SINGH (shouting): *'I do not care about sentence of death. It means nothing at all. I do not care about dying or anything. I do not worry about it at all. I am dying for a purpose.'* Thumping the rail of the dock, he exclaimed, *'We are suffering from the British Empire.'* Ūdham Singh continued more quietly. *'I am not afraid to die. I am proud to die, to have to free my native land and I hope that when I am gone, I hope that in my place will come thousands of my countrymen to drive you dirty dogs out; to free my country.'*

'Machine guns on the streets of India mow down thousands of poor women and children wherever your so-called flag of democracy and Christianity flies.'

'Your conduct, your conduct - I am talking about the British government. I have nothing against the English people at all. I have more English friends living in England than I have in India. I have great sympathy with the workers of England. I am against the Imperialist Government.'

Ūdham Singh



For more information, go to: <http://www.sikh-history.com>