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INDIA:

**Implications of Unrest in Punjab**

*Prime Minister Gandhi's inability to control terrorism by Sikhs in the Punjab helps her political opponents and threatens relations with Pakistan.* [REDACTED]

The stalemate in negotiations between Sikh leaders and New Delhi has increased the prominence of more militant Sikhs who are challenging government authority. Press accounts state that nearly 30 people were killed this past week bringing the total to over 130 dead and more than 500 injured since the fighting broke out six weeks ago. The violence has spread into the neighboring state of Haryana. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Gandhi has taken increasingly forceful measures to halt the unrest. She has extended federal government rule in the Punjab for another six months, has sent additional paramilitary forces, and has given them extraordinary search, arrest, and detention powers. Gandhi also has banned the leading Sikh student organization. [REDACTED]

The Prime Minister has shown some willingness to discuss Sikh requests for special religious privileges. She has, however, refused to consider the Sikhs' demands for increased political autonomy or control of territories and waters shared with adjacent states for fear of setting a precedent. [REDACTED]

**Comment:** The turmoil in the Punjab is undercutting Gandhi's claim that she can effectively maintain law and order. She is trying to avoid measures that would further alienate Sikh leaders, reduce the chances of a negotiated settlement, or lead to more violence. [REDACTED]

The unrest threatens to worsen India's ties with Pakistan. Gandhi claims Pakistan is contributing to unrest in the Punjab in order to work against her government and to damage her election prospects. She has not, however, adduced persuasive evidence to support her accusation. [REDACTED]