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AP

Many members of the community mourned the dead

A police curfew in Indian-administered Kashmir has failed to stop hundreds of Sikhs from demonstrating after at least six people were killed in a drive-by shooting.

The six Sikhs were killed in the provincial capital of Srinagar on Saturday night, and at least four more were seriously injured.

A report from the news agency AFP says that the killers were two men who rode through the Sikh neighbourhood of Mahjoor Nagar on motorcycles.

No group has claimed responsibility for the killings.

The victims of the attack were cremated at a Sikh temple with family and friends, police, and some members of Kashmir's majority Muslim community in attendance.



Sikhs gathered around the bodies of the victims

Tight security

There was tight security at the funeral, and in predominantly Sikh regions of Kashmir such as Baramula and Tral following the killings.

Police imposed an indefinite curfew in many parts of Kashmir, but not in the winter capital, Jammu.

There were angry demonstrations in Jammu after the killings. A local police inspector told the French news agency AFP that over 50 cars and at least a dozen shops were damaged by about 300

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▶ The BBC's Altaf rioting Sikhs.

Hussein in Srinagar "The Sikh community was first targeted in March last year"  real **28k**

The attack came a day after the first official contact between the leaders of India and Pakistan, each of which controls part of Kashmir.

Phone contact

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee spoke by telephone to Pakistani leader General Pervez Musharraf on Friday about the 26 January earthquake in northwest India.



Sikhs demonstrated despite a curfew

They did not discuss Kashmir.

But there have been moves to reduce tension in the province, over which India and Pakistan have fought three wars since 1947.

India has observed a unilateral cease-fire in Kashmir for several months.

But at the same time it has been reluctant to grant travel papers to Kashmiri Muslim militants so they can visit Islamabad for talks.

Saturday's was the second attack on Kashmir's minority Sikh community in less than a year.

Last March, 35 Sikhs were killed by unidentified gunmen on the eve of then US President Bill Clinton's trip to India.

There are about 5,000 Sikhs in Srinagar out of one million inhabitants.



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