

Jennifer Glaisek  
Miramax Films  
11 Beach Street  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10013

February 26, 2003

Dear Ms. Glaisek,

I am writing to inform you about a preview we have recently seen for the forthcoming film, "Dysfunktional Family." In the preview, a scene portrays the main character, Eddie Griffin, yelling at an elderly Sikh man. Mr. Griffin calls him "Osama!" and subsequently laughs at the joke. We would like to discuss the context of this scene before the movie premieres in April to ensure that such a representation does not perpetuate stereotypes, which have recently led to hundreds of hate crimes committed against Sikh Americans.

While we recognize the place of humorists to diffuse tensions in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, we believe visual depictions linking Sikh Americans with the perpetrators of violent terrorist acts do not serve that purpose. Osama bin Laden, to whom Mr. Griffin referred, is clearly a horrible man who happens to wear a turban. However, the vast majority of those wearing turbans in the United States adhere to the Sikh faith. This scene from "Dysfunktional Family" making the connection between Sikhs and the world's most prominent terrorist reinforce the common misperception and stereotype that Sikhs are extremists and terrorists.

Of the 500,000 Sikhs in this country, the first migrated from India during early 1900s. To this day, we are targeted due to ignorance and stereotyping. In fact, the first post-September 11<sup>th</sup> hate motivated murder involved a turban-wearing Sikh-American gas station owner in Mesa, Arizona on September 15, 2001. Furthermore, given the current climate of a war against terrorism and a likely war against Iraq, a blanket of suspicion has been cast on many ethnic and religious minorities, especially those who are or appear to be Middle-eastern.

We would like to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss this urgent matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-877-917-4547, ext. 27. I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Sincerely,

Preet Singh  
Director, Washington, DC

CC: Harvey Weinstein, President, Miramax Films  
Meryl Poster, Co-President, Production, Miramax Films  
Michael Eisner, CEO, Walt Disney Company