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Harsimran Singh, president of the American Kabaddi Federation, at his office at a trucking yard in Stockton on March 30. Singh discusses how Indian-origin gangsters and criminal violence influenced their World Cup Kabaddi 2025 event in October. LARRY VALENZUELA/CALMATTERS

Court documents detail ICE shooting in CA

Man charged with assaulting a federal officer

Noe Padilla
USA TODAY

The 36-year-old man who was shot by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers April 7 in Northern California was charged by U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California Eric Grant two days later with one count of assaulting a federal officer with a dangerous or deadly weapon, according to recently unsealed court documents.

Prosecutors say Carlos Ivan Mendoza Hernandez, an undocumented immigrant from El Salvador, assaulted a federal officer during a traffic stop that escalated into an officer-involved shooting, according to a statement released by the U.S. Department of Justice, Eastern District of California.

Four federal officers pulled over

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India-linked gangs terrorizing Sikhs

Gagandeep Singh
CalMatters

Last fall, Harsimran Singh was well on his way to bringing 15,000 fans to Stockton for an international tournament of the ancient Indian sport Kabaddi.

Then, suddenly, athletes started dropping out.

They seemed to manufacture excuses to avoid the sport's world cup. As president of the American Kabaddi Federation, Singh felt increasingly shaken as the cancellations mounted. He began pressing for answers.

He learned from athletes, and then from law enforcement officers, that someone was threatening players to shape the outcome of the event. They received phone calls from gangsters, many of them incarcerated in Indian prisons,

who directed them not to participate, and warned of consequences if they defied the orders.

"The players were very afraid; if they got a call, they didn't want to go against gangsters. They were unwilling to play because they didn't want to compromise their own safety and their family's security," Harsimran Singh said.

The intimidation of Singh's tournament was not an isolated incident. It was, as he would come to understand, part of a much larger wave of international threats, extortion and violence targeting Indian and Punjabi Sikhs across California.

The method is straightforward: a gang member calls a victim and demands money. If they refuse, a criminal network threatens or carries out attacks against their relatives, families, or businesses — whether in the United States or

back in India.

Over 250,000 Sikhs live in California, the largest population in the U.S. is in Stockton, home to the oldest Sikh temple in the U.S. — the Stockton Gurdwara Sahib, the birthplace of Sikhism in America — is home to thousands.

Each year, the Stockton Sikh Temple or Gurdwara, invites the public for the parade and celebration, during which free food is offered to participants and the thousands of onlookers along the parade route. This year's Nagar Kirtan parade will be held Sunday, April 19, beginning at 10 a.m. at the temple, 1930 S. Grant St.

Like other members of the diaspora, they retain strong ties to India, with many regularly traveling to visit their families or ancestral homes.

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New poll shows Steyer and Hilton lead in California's governor race

Daniella Segura
Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two top candidates have emerged for California's June primary, a major shift in the state's crowded governor's race.

A SurveyUSA poll released Tuesday, April 14, shows Democratic candidate Tom Steyer leading with 21% of likely voters and Republican candidate Steve Hilton three percentage points behind at 18%, a stark contrast from a poll released just one week earlier that showed

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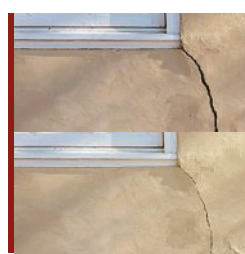
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