# Ahmadi Muslim Mosque in Pakistan Attacked by of Local Police.

On 25 October 2019, Hasilpur (Punjab) city officials together with local police destroyed part of the Ahmadiyya Muslim mosque in the city.

They claimed to have come to check the mosque but on entry they disconnected the electric supply and removed CCTV surveillance. They then used machinery to tear down the mehrab of the mosque (the area where from the imam leads prayers).

An Ahmadi Muslim, Mr. Vishal Ahmad, attempted to capture the incident on his phone, but the phone was confiscated and he was arrested. The local Finance Secretary, Mr. Muhammad Mustafa, was also arrested. A baseless case under section 186/506 has been registered against both. Both have been released on bail but the charges still stand.

The police did not have any official warrant or an Order of the Court for the damage to the mosque.

The perpetrators also damaged the homes of the Local President and five other Ahmadi Muslims living in the area.

By way of background, the community has been established in the village for around 70 years. Around 150 Ahmadi Muslims reside in the village. Anti-Ahmadi activities have been on the rise in the village. Previously, an opponent of the community submitted an application claiming the niche (mehrab) of the mosque was an illegal aspect of the building design and pressed for it to be removed. Consequently, Ahmadi Muslims constructed a wall to cover the Mehrab to meet requirements by the local police.

Ahmadi Muslims face state-sponsored persecution in Pakistan where they are explicitly targeted by federal laws.

## ACTION

**The Government of Pakistan must bring the perpetrators of the illegal act of attacking and desecrating the Ahmadi Muslim mosque to justice.**

**It should also press local authorities to dismiss the false cases against the two Ahmadi Muslims arrested after the incident.**

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**www.StopThePersecution.org**