



Incident report



Murder of Qazi Muhammed Shoban

On 25 June 2018, Qazi Muhammed Shoban was killed on religious grounds in Pakistan.

By way of background, Ordinance XX legitimises action against the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Pakistan. Through Ordinance XX Pakistan is the only State to have directly targeted a religious community through the enactment of federal laws, making it a criminal offence for Ahmadis to:

- Call themselves Muslims
- Refer to their faith as Islam
- Call their place of worship a 'Mosque';
- Make the call for prayers (Adhan)
- Say the Islamic greeting 'Assalamo alaikum' (Peace be on you)
- Preach or propagate their faith

Any of the above is punishable by three years' imprisonment and a fine. If the offence is regarded as blasphemy, then an Ahmadi could be sentenced to death.

On the 25th June 2018, Qazi Muhammed Shoban was killed in the area of Nishtar Colony, Lahore on religious grounds. According to local reports, two persons wearing masks entered the house of Muhammed Shoban on the night of 25th June. One of the perpetrators placed a gun on the head of his wife, taking her to the other room where her daughters were. The other perpetrator fired three bullets in the stomach of Qazi Muhammed Shoban, dying on the spot. He has left behind a wife and three disabled daughters as mourners.

For purposes of clarity, Qazi Muhammed Shoban did not have any personal enmity, nor was he involved in any kind of trade conflict. He converted to become an Ahmadi 15 years ago. His wife has recently raised concerns of death threats that Mr. Shoban was receiving due to his faith.

Action

We urge the British Government to raise this matter with the Government of Pakistan to:

- To arrest the perpetrators of this murder and ensure that they face the full force of the law
- To put a stop to those that incite hate against the community such as the Khatme Nabuwwat group
- To establish a legal framework which respects the rights of individuals from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
- Maintain its obligations under the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
- Maintain its obligations under the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).
- To facilitate a meeting of the Minister of Justice or the Minister of Interior with a representative of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

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