



BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

NOVEMBER 2022

MURDERER OPENS FIRE ON THE
HOUSE OF AN AHMADI MUSLIM



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www.StopThePersecution.org



Headlines

POLICE CASE FOR USING MUSLIM NAME

An Ahmadi Muslim lawyer from Karachi had a police case registered against him because his name included the title 'Syed'. 'Syed' commonly denotes descent from the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE DETAILS

GRAVEYARD SEALED & BURIAL DENIED

The burial of an Ahmadi Muslim lady was denied after complaints of local clerics. The Ahmadi Muslim cemetery was sealed off so the bereaved family had to bury the deceased person away from the village.

SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE DETAILS

AHMADI MUSLIM GRAVES DESECRATED

Graves of a number of Ahmadi Muslims were desecrated in November. In Hafizabad, four graves were graffitied, whilst in Faisalabad headstones were removed.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE DETAILS

STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

Ahmadi Muslims face **3 years imprisonment** under federal laws for:



Self-identifying as a Muslim



Calling their place of worship a mosque



Making the Islamic call to prayer (Azan)



Preaching or propagating their faith

The Government requires Ahmadi Muslims to declare themselves as non-Muslims to exercise the right to vote or to stand for election.

This document contains just a short selection of the numerous persecution incidents that took place against Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan this month.

POLICE CASE REGISTERED AGAINST AN AHMADI MUSLIM

In Karachi, on 21 November, an Ahmadi Muslim, Mr Syed Ali Ahmad Tariq, was deemed in breach of sections 298-B, 298-C (anti-Ahmadi Muslim laws that carry fines, imprisonment, and death) and 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code. In September, Mr Tariq represented the local Ahmadi Muslims in a court case over the style of a new Ahmadi Muslim mosque, Bait-ul-Zikari, in Martin Quarters, Karachi.

As his name in the court documents included the word 'Syed', this was considered by the police to be a breach of the Pakistan Penal Code that prohibits an Ahmadi Muslim from posing as a Muslim. Mr Tariq now faces three years imprisonment if convicted.

MURDERER OPENS FIRE ON HOUSE OF AHMADI MUSLIM

The murderer of Ahmadi Muslim Mr Humayun Waqar, killed in 2007, has been acquitted in Sheikhpura after being arrested in October after threatening two Ahmadi Muslims and demanding extortion money. He was released on the condition he would refrain from acting against Ahmadi Muslims.

However, on 18 November, he opened fire on the house of Ahmadi Muslim Mr Rana Fazal Ahmed. While no one was injured, a complaint has been lodged to the police who are investigating

AHMADI MUSLIM CEMETERY UNDER THREAT

In 2003, land was allotted to Ahmadi Muslims in Sahiwal, Sargodha, to build a cemetery which they began to use for burials and have built a surrounding wall. Complaints were made to the Assistant Commissioner at the local police station accusing Ahmadi Muslim Mr Saeed Ahmad of putting pamphlets about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community on the wall and, when told to stop, began preaching about Ahmadi Muslims - an offence under the anti-Ahmadi Muslims laws. Mr Ahmad had also attempted to build a mosque in nearby Nawan Lok but this was blocked by clerics.

The Ahmadi Muslims showed the Assistant Commissioner the allotment papers but he dismissed them claiming transfer papers were also required.

Despite Ahmadi Muslims proving ownership of the land to local police, this was deemed as insufficient by authorities. This now puts at risk Ahmadi Muslim graves that could now potentially be removed from the graveyard.

FOUR AHMADI MUSLIM GRAVES DESECRATED



In Prem Kot, Hafizabad, the graves of two Ahmadi Muslims were desecrated with graffiti by two locals. On 22-23 November, the words 'Kuta Qadiani*' meaning 'Qadiani dog' were graffitied on the back of the headstones.

AHMADI MUSLIM HEADSTONES REMOVED

In Faisalabad, on 20 November, various Ahmadi Muslim gravestones were torn down at midnight. This is part of an ongoing hate campaign targeting Ahmadi Muslim graves with more than 200 desecrated in the past year.



Tombstones thrown outside



Tombstone of a young girl removed



Headstones removed from graves

AHMADI MUSLIM CEMETERY SEALED OFF

In Peru Chak, Sialkot, a cemetery has been shared between Ahmadi Muslims and non-Ahmadi Muslims for the past 71 years. Following the death of Ahmadi Muslim Ms Bushra Bibi, arrangements were made for her burial in the cemetery but this was blocked following a complaint by a cleric. Even after the administration was told that there was space allocated to Ahmadi Muslim burials, they threatened the registering of a criminal case if the Ahmadi Muslims did not comply. The situation became volatile more recently.

In a surprise move, the Ahmadi Muslim section of the cemetery was sealed off by the Assistant Commissioner. They were told some other area of government land would be made available for them.



Ahmadi Muslim graves destroyed in the Sialkot cemetery in March and April 2022

ANTI-AHMADI MUSLIM CONFERENCE IN KARACHI

In Shah Latif Town, Karachi, the extremist organisation Aalmi Majlis Tahaffuze Khatme Nabuwwat organised an anti-Ahmadi Muslim conference on 13 November. Speeches were made throughout the day with clerics urging the audience to boycott named Ahmadi Muslims and compel them to leave their homes.



*The term 'Qadiani' is a derogatory term used by anti-Ahmadis to refer to an Ahmadi Muslim

AHMADI MUSLIMS BEHIND BARS

1

Mr. Rohan Ahmad, Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad, etc. were booked on May 26, 2020 with FIR Nr. 29/2020 at Police Station FIA Cyber Crimes Wing, Lahore under PPCs 295-B, 298-C, 120-B, 109, 34 R/W, 2016-PECA-11. Pakistan's Cyber Crimes Department, Lahore that works under Federal Investigation Agency arrested Mr. Rohan Ahmad.

Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad were arrested dated 30 September 2020 on reporting to the FIA office; they are in Camp Jail Lahore. Syed Ali Abbas, Addl. Sessions Judge Lahore added the blasphemy clause PPC 295-C to the charge sheet on June 29, 2021. Thus, they are now exposed to penalty of death.

The Supreme Court rejected their post-arrest bail application.

3

Mr. Shiraz Ahmad etc. were booked by Cyber Crime Police Station Lahore on June 20, 2019 under FIR Nr. 88, under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, PECA-11, for allegedly creating a group "Sindh Salamat" and allegedly sharing Ahmadiyya content in it. He was arrested from Hafizabad on February 25, 2021. Subsequently the trial court added section 295C of PPC to the said case.

2

Mr. Abdul Majeed s/o Mr. Abdul Waheed, resident of Shaheen Muslim Town, Taj Chowk, Phandu Road, District Peshawar, aged 20, was accused of blasphemy by a minor named Mr. Imran Ali. The police succumbed to the pressure of the mullas and registered a fabricated case against him under section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 which carries a sentence of death, on September 10, 2020 with FIR Nr. 648 at police station Phandu, Peshawar. He was arrested on 13.09.2020. The ASJ acquitted Mr. Majeed of the blasphemy charge but declared him guilty of hurting religious feelings thereby, and awarded him five years imprisonment.

4

Malik Zaheer Ahmad was arrested on September 30, 2020 in a fabricated case under Sections 298-C, 295-B, PECA-11 and 109. He was granted bail on February 23, 2021 and was expected to be released in four to five days after paper formalities. On February 27, when Malik Zaheer Ahmad was expected to be released from the Camp Jail, the Cyber Crime Wing Lahore team arrested him under FIR Nr. 88 as outlined in the above case, under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, PECA-11. He was not even formally nominated in the case.

RIGHT TO VOTE FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

TO PARTAKE IN ELECTIONS AHMADI MUSLIMS ARE PLACED ON A SEPARATE ELECTORAL LISTS, THEY ARE GIVEN THE CHOICE;

1. **REMAIN ON THE LIST AND VOTE AS A NON-MUSLIM** (REQUIRES TO ACCEPT NON-MUSLIM STATUS)
2. **COME OFF THAT LIST AND VOTE AS A MUSLIM** (REQUIRES TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION)

BOTH CHOICES ARE INCONCEIVABLE TO AHMADI MUSLIMS

DECLARATIONS BY THE CANDIDATE ELECTION ACT 2017 AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

(iii) I believe in the absolute and unqualified finality of the Prophet-hood of Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), the last of the Prophets and that I am not the follower of anyone who claims to be a prophet in any sense of the word or of any description whatsoever after Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), and that I do not recognize such a claimant to be prophet or a religious reformer, nor do I belong to the Qadiani group or the Lahori group or call myself an Ahmadi.

[Note: This paragraph is for Muslim candidates only and is not applicable to non-Muslim candidates.]

DECLARATION AND OATH TO REGISTER AS A MUSLIM VOTER ELECTION ACT 2017 AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

I, _____ (name of the voter), do solemnly swear that I believe, in the absolute and unqualified finality of the Prophethood of Muhammad (Peace be upon him), the last of the prophets and that I am not the follower of anyone who claims to be a Prophet in any sense of the word or of any description whatsoever after prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), and that I do not recognize such a claimant to be prophet or a religious reformer, nor do I belong to the Qadiani group or the Lahori group or call myself an Ahmadi.

(Name & Signature of Voter)

As of 30 November, 2022:

- 6 Ahmadis are behind bars solely on account of their faith.
- Fabricated cases against 8 Ahmadis were registered during November 2022.
- A 20-year-old Ahmadi student has been awarded 5 years imprisonment in November 2022, for hurting the religious feelings.
- 13 Ahmadis were arrested during August 2022 for sacrificing animals on Eid.
- A 65 year old Ahmadi lady and another Ahmadi were arrested under blasphemy clauses during February for allegedly tearing off an anti-Ahmadiyya poster. They both were released on bail. Their trial continues.
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died while in police custody (Feb. 2021 & Jan 2022.)

SOME RELEVANT PAKISTAN PENAL CODES

Injuring or defiling places of worship, with the intent to insult the religion of any class

295

Up to two years' imprisonment or fine, or both

Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage the religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs

295 A

Up to ten years' imprisonment, or fine, or both

Defiling, etc., of the Holy Quran

295 B

Life imprisonment

Use of derogatory remarks, etc; in respect of the Holy Prophet

295 C

Death and fine

Uttering words, etc., with the deliberate intent to injure religious feelings

298

Up to one year imprisonment or fine, or both

Use of derogatory remarks etc., in respect of holy personages

298 A

Three years' imprisonment, or fine, or both

Misuse of epithets, descriptions and titles etc., reserved for certain holy personages or places, by Ahmadis

298 B

Three years' imprisonment and fine

An Ahmadi, calling himself a Muslim, or preaching or propagating his faith, or outraging the religious feelings of Muslims, or posing himself as a Muslim

298 C

Three years' imprisonment and fine

Persecution Facts

SINCE JANUARY 2021

- 5 Ahmadis have been murdered for faith, raising the total to 275 since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 17 murder attempts, 10 attacks during 2022.
- Fabricated cases against 8 Ahmadis were registered during November 2022
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died in custody, they were imprisoned for their faith.
- 21 Ahmadiyya mosques have been desecrated, 1 mosque sealed by the authorities. 2 desecrated in Sep.
- 243 graves have been desecrated, 180 of these were during 2022. Burial of an Ahmadi lady denied and the graveyard sealed in Nov.
- 38 new cases have been registered against Ahmadis under the blasphemy laws & Anti-Ahmadi laws, 10 of these were registered during August. A criminal case was registered against 8 Ahmadis in Sep. Further cases were registered against 8 Ahmadis during November 2022.
- Sacred inscription from 19 houses and shops have been removed

AHMADI MUSLIM CENSORSHIP

- The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has blocked 20 non-Pakistan based foreign websites affiliated with the worldwide community and properly registered in their respective countries. PTA has also issued notices to their operators with criminal prosecution for violating Pakistan's blasphemy and anti-Ahmadiyya laws. According to PTA any website that portrays Ahmadis as Muslims will be blocked in Pakistan.
- Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has ordered that Ahmadi channels (MTA) should not be carried by any distribution service licensee.
- In 1996, the government of Punjab issued a notification to return all nationalized educational institutions, that affected the community's 8 Schools and 2 colleges which were nationalized in 1972. Despite fulfilling all terms and conditions, and regardless of repeated requests and numerous reminders, the community's institutions are not denationalized.
- The entire population of Rabwah i.e. Ahmadiyya headquarters in Pakistan, was charged under section PPC 298-C on Dec. 15, 1989, and again on June 8, 2008. (Rabwah population is approximately 60,000.)
- The government has banned all outdoor rallies & conferences of Ahmadis in Rabwah.
- The government of Punjab has banned the publishing of the Quran and its translation
- The government of Punjab has banned the entire written works of the Founder of Ahmadiyyat.
- Ahmadiyya daily newspaper and periodicals for women, youth, children and elders were banned by a Punjab government notification.
- Authorities have prohibited sports events organized at a community level.

In Pakistan, Ahmadi Muslims are the only community who are:

Explicitly targeted by the constitutional and criminal laws

Denied voting rights for more than 35 years

Subjected to a publications ban on their entire religious texts



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