



SPECIAL BRIEFING

FEBRUARY 2023

SHOCKING INCREASE IN ATTACKS ON AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUES IN PAKISTAN

SIX ATTACKS IN TWO WEEKS

- Gunshots fired at mosque in Mirpurkhas
- Mosque set ablaze in Umarkot, Sindh
- Minarets destroyed in three mosques in Sindh and in Punjab

WAVE OF **TARGETED ATTACKS** ON AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUES

Pakistan is witnessing a shocking escalation in a coordinated wave of anti-Ahmadi violence fuelled by extremists and local police desecrating several mosques in recent months. The following provides a brief summary:

December 2022, Baghbanpura, Gujranwala:

In a shocking incident, police officers removed the minarets of the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque. The police arrived with machinery to demolish the minarets of the mosque.

January 2023, Wazirabad:

Punjab Police demolished the minarets of the Ahmadi Muslim mosque located in Moti Bazar (Wazirabad) at midnight without any lawful reason.



WAVE OF TARGETED ATTACKS ON AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUES

January 2023, Karachi:

An extremist mob wrecked the two minarets of the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque. Upon arrival of the police, perpetrators fled the scene. So far, no arrests have been made.



WAVE OF TARGETED ATTACKS ON AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUES

February 2023, Karachi:

An extremist mob destroyed the minarets of the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque, despite police officers present at the scene. The mosque has been used by Ahmadi Muslims for more than 50 years. Extremists scaled the walls of the building to demolish the minarets with hammers and the [shocking video](#) has gone viral on social media.



February 2023, Mirpurkhas, Sindh:

An extremist mob demolished the minarets and set ablaze the Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Mirpurkhas District. Separately, unknown attackers fired gunshots at the mosque. At the time, members of the Ahmadi Muslim community were inside and fortunately were unharmed.



WAVE OF TARGETED ATTACKS ON AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUES

February 2023, Noor Nagar, District Umarkot, Sindh:

An extremist mob breached the wall of the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque at night, poured gasoline and then set it alight. The fire destroyed chairs and prayer mats within.



The right to worship and practice religion freely and safely is a fundamental human right, and it is essential that the Pakistan Government and Pakistan authorities take appropriate measures to ensure the safety and security of all citizens, regardless of faith.

STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS

Hundreds of Ahmadi Muslims have been murdered in Pakistan on grounds of faith, and the past year has seen a sharp increase in Ahmadi Muslim mosques and graveyards being attacked, yet no action taken by the authorities to end this hatred and stop such attacks.

PAKISTAN'S ANTI-AHMADI LAWS

1974: Pakistan's Constitution amended to declare Ahmadis as non-Muslim for the purposes of law.

1984: The Pakistan Government enacts Ordinance XX^[1], making it a criminal offence, punishable by 3 years imprisonment and a fine or death, for Ahmadi Muslims to:

- Call themselves Muslims
- Refer to their faith as Islam
- Call their place of worship a 'Mosque'
- Make the call for prayers (Adhan)
- Preach or propagate their faith
- "Pose" as Muslims

1986: The Pakistan Government introduces revised Blasphemy laws. Section 295-C was introduced, stipulating life imprisonment or death for those found guilty of blasphemy.

These laws and their application constitute a denial of the rights of Ahmadi Muslims to freely profess and practise their faith. This is a gross violation of international human rights.

[1] Section 298C of Pakistan's Penal Code states:

"Any person of the group ... 'Ahmadis' ... who, directly or indirectly, poses himself as Muslim, or calls, or refers to, his faith as Islam, or preaches or propagates his faith, or invites others to accept his faith, by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representations, or in any manner whatsoever outrages the religious feelings of Muslims, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine."

ACTION

We urge the Government of Pakistan to:

- Prosecute those instigating hate against the community.
- Offer urgent protection to all Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan from further attacks of violence and harm.
- Investigate the continued trend of unprovoked violent attacks in Pakistan.
- Repeal its blasphemy and anti-Ahmadi specific legislation which is the root cause of ongoing violence and hatred against the community.
- Uphold the human rights for all its citizens including Ahmadi Muslims.



For more information:
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