



BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

DECEMBER 2022



**SHOCKING INCREASE IN ATTACKS
ON AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUES IN
PAKISTAN**



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www.StopThePersecution.org



Headlines

AHMADI MUSLIM UNDER THREAT

Following a fight initiated by a cleric in Bhulair, District Kasur, members of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik party demanded that the police demolish the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque. Its minarets and niche had already been covered up a few months previously.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION

PUNJAB MARRIAGE LAWS CHANGED

Those wanting to get married in Punjab must now sign an affidavit reaffirming their commitment to Khatm-e-Nabuwwat [Finality of Prophethood]. The affidavit states that those who call themselves a prophet after the Prophet Muhammad [pbuh] are imposters and heretics.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION

ANTI-AHMADI MUSLIM COURSE AT UNIVERSITY

A university in Islamabad has introduced a new section to one of its courses that targets the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The section provides information on the *fatwas* [edicts] that have been declared against Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION

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.

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE DIRECTED TO BE DEMOLISHED

On 7 December, in Bhulair, District Kasur, an extremist attacked an Ahmadi Muslim during a snooker game. Men joined both sides and gunshots were exchanged. Four members from each group were detained by police and presented to the court on this issue.

Later, Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP) members, of which Mr Rauf was a part, asked the police to demolish the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque, declared a boycott, and demanded the exile of Ahmadi Muslims from the village. Mr Rauf told the police that the Ahmadi Muslims had instigated the fight in retaliation to the minarets and niche of their mosque being covered up two months earlier.

PUNJAB MARRIAGE LAWS DISCRIMINATE AGAINST AHMADI MUSLIMS

A recent change to the marriage laws in Punjab require the bride and groom to sign an affidavit in the marriage certificate affirming their belief in Khatm-e-Nabuwat [Finality of Prophethood]. The chief minister of Punjab, Pervaiz Elahi, who brought in the change, further stated that any registrars, who allow people who haven't signed the affidavit to get married, will go to jail.

The affidavit includes that Muhammad [pbuh] is the last in a series of prophets beginning with Adam [as], that those calling themselves prophets after the Prophet of Islam [pbuh] are imposters and heretics. Some videos are now circulating of brides verbally reciting the affirmation in public.

AHMADI MUSLIM GUEST SPEAKER DROPPED FROM AMNESTY TALK

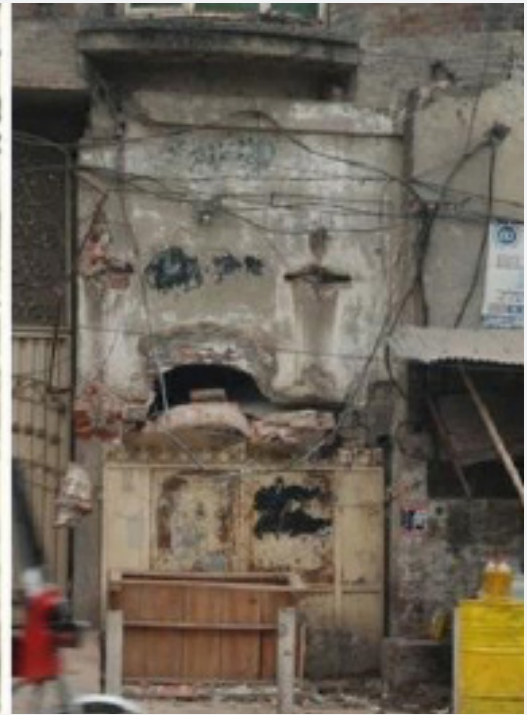
On 6 December, the Lahore University of Management Sciences chapter of Amnesty International intended to hold a talk on tolerance in Pakistan and had invited guest speakers from major faiths and marginalised minorities.

A few hours before the event, the invited Ahmadi Muslim speaker, Dr Mirza Sultan Ahmad, was dropped after pressure by the university administration.

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE **FURTHER** **DESECRATED**

In the early hours of 8 December, police arrived at an Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Baghbanpura, Gujranwala, with heavy machinery blocking the road in front of the mosque and switched the lights off. The minarets were destroyed and cleared away; security cameras and the wall of the mosque were also damaged.

This follows complaints made six months previously about the minarets of that mosque. At the time, the Ahmadi Muslims were told to hide them with iron sheets which they complied with.



Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Baghbanpura desecrated

ISLAMABAD UNIVERSITY TEACHES **ANTI-AHMADI MUSLIM COURSE**

For the 2021-2022 academic year, Air University Islamabad, in their Islamic Studies and Ethics course, included a section entitled 'Seal of the Prophets: Constitutional Status of Qadiyaniat'. The course detailed the leadership of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community as well as fatwas [religious edicts] that have been issued against them.

This represents a small part of the opposition Ahmadi Muslims face in the field of education. Recently, a number of Ahmadi Muslim students have been expelled due to their faith.

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 30.09.2020 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 SC 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.

DENIAL OF 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 31 Dec 2022:

- 6 Ahmadis are behind bars solely on account of their faith.
- Fabricated cases against 8 Ahmadis were registered during Nov and an FIR is registered against some members of Ahmadiyya leadership in Pakistan in December.
- A 20-year-old Ahmadi student has been awarded 5 years imprisonment in Nov 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 (February 2021 & January 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 the current year.
- Fabricated cases against 8 Ahmadi Muslims were registered during Nov 2022 and an FIR is registered against some members of Ahmadiyya leadership in Pakistan in December.
- 2 Ahmadi Muslim prisoners died in custody, they were imprisoned for their faith.
- 21 Ahmadi Muslim mosques have been desecrated, 1 mosque sealed by the authorities. 2 desecrated in September.
- 243 graves have been desecrated, 180 of these were during 2022. Burial of an Ahmadi lady denied and the graveyard sealed in November.
- 38 new cases have been registered against Ahmadi Muslims 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 nationalised educational institutions, that affected the community's 8 Schools and 2 colleges which were nationalised 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 organised 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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