



BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

JANUARY 2023



**AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE
MINARETS DEMOLISHED BY
POLICE**



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Headlines

MOSQUE MINARETS DESTROYED

An Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Wazirabad has had its minarets destroyed by police. Ahmadi Muslims had previously told the police that, due to the age of the building, it predated the laws that are falsely being used to target it.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION

AHMADI MUSLIM REFUSED PROMOTION

An Ahmadi Muslim doctor was set to take on a higher position at a hospital in Sargodha, but his appointment was reversed following pressure from clerics and an online smear campaign.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION





AHMADI MUSLIM GRAVES DESECRATED

Vandals in Faisalabad trespassed a cemetery and damaged three Ahmadi Muslim graves. They also set fire to coffins being stored in a nearby building.

SEE PAGE 5 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 MINARETS DEMOLISHED BY POLICE

On 10 January 2023, in Wazirabad, Gujranwala, the minarets of the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque were destroyed by the Punjab police.

Previously, a complaint had been made that the minarets gave the impression the building was a mosque. Upon police instruction to take the minarets down, Ahmadi Muslims made the police aware that the mosque was built in 1915 - prior to the ordinance of the law the fabricated complaint was based on.

Despite this, the police registered five Ahmadi Muslims under sections 298-B and 298-C of the Pakistan Penal Code - the latter targeting Ahmadi Muslims by name for any attempt to pose as Muslims. It carries a prison term of up to three years and a fine. Their request for bail was denied.



Demolished minarets of Wazirabad Mosque

AHMADI MUSLIM WOMAN DENIED BURIAL

Following the passing of an Ahmadi Muslim woman, Ms Khurshid Bibi, on 21 January, local clerics in Peeru Chak, Sialkot, intervened to stop her burial in the village. With the support of the local authorities, the clerics forced the family of Ms Bibi to have her buried elsewhere.

Ahmadi Muslims were threatened with police cases if they did not comply.

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE

ATTACKED BY VANDALS

On 18 January, the minarets of an Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Martin Road, Karachi, were desecrated.

Earlier, the local Ahmadi Muslims had been registered under section 298-C for constructing a building that resembled a mosque which is allegedly against the law.

In the afternoon, more than a dozen locals approached the mosque with hammers; some were using ladders to get to the roof and destroy the minarets. The attackers fled upon the arrival of the police.



Minarets of Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Karachi desecrated

APPOINTMENT OF AHMADI MUSLIM

TO HOSPITAL BOARD OVERTURNED

UNDER PRESSURE

On 3 January, Ahmadi Muslim Dr Shafqat Ullah Nasir was set to be appointed as the Additional Principal and Medical Superintendent of the District Headquarters Hospital in Sargodha.

However, following a smear campaign online accusing Dr Nasir of hurting the sentiments of Muslims, and the threat of protests, his appointment was cancelled.

THREE AHMADI MUSLIM GRAVES DESECRATED IN FAISALABAD

On 22 January, the graves of three Ahmadi Muslims were desecrated by vandals in Faisalabad. Having cut the barbed wire surrounding the cemetery to gain entry, they disturbed the top soil and attempted to torch coffins stored in an adjacent building.

The police were made aware of the incident but declined to register a case.



Desecration of the three graves

CLERIC INCITES DEATH UPON AHMADI MUSLIMS

In January, extremist cleric Mr Syed Muhammad Sibtain Shah Naqvi delivered a speech in which he made a number of inhumane comments about Ahmadi Muslims. Mr Naqvi suggested it was, with Ahmadi Muslims, *haraam* [forbidden] to:

- Do business
- Eat, drink, sit, and stand
- Be with them in their moments of sadness and happiness
- Hire them as salesmen

He continued by saying if an Ahmadi Muslim:

- Was to pass away, a funeral should not be offered
- Was to fall ill, they should not be attended to
- Was to fall over, they should not be taken to hospital
- Was to have their house on fire, petrol should be poured on it, not water

These inflammatory and dehumanising comments only serve to put the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan at a greater risk of attack.

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 which works under the Federal Investigation Agency arrest-ed 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 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 was 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, son of Mr. Abdul Waheed, who is a 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 clerics 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 importing religious feelings thereby, and awarded

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, and 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 2022

- 3 Ahmadi Muslims have been murdered for their faith, raising the total to 276 since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 11 murder attempts on Ahmadi Muslims
- 107 Ahmadi Muslims charged under religion-based fabricated cases.
- Two Ahmadi Muslim prisoners died in custody - they were imprisoned for their faith.
- 16 Ahmadi Muslim mosques have been desecrated; one mosque was sealed by the authorities; two were desecrated in January
- 197 graves have been desecrated
- 26 new cases have been registered against Ahmadi Muslims under the blasphemy laws & Anti-Ahmadi laws, 10 of these were registered during July. Religion-based cases against 41 Ahmadi Muslims were registered during the last two months of 2022
- Sacred inscriptions from four 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. The 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 Muslim 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, which affected the community's 8 Schools and two 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 denationalised.
- The entire population of Rabwah i.e. Ahmadiyya Muslim 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 Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
- The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's daily newspaper and periodicals for women, youth, children and elders were banned by a Punjab government notification.
- The 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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