



# BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

FEBRUARY 2023

**AHMADI MUSLIM DOCTOR  
MURDERED IN GUJARAT**



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# Headlines

## AHMADI MUSLIM DOCTOR MURDERED

An Ahmadi Muslim doctor was shot dead in Gujarat after two youths entered his clinic disguised as patients. He was aware of threats to Ahmadi Muslims in the area but continued his practice due to the needs of the poor.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION

## MOSQUE SET ON FIRE IN SINDH

Attackers trespassed the walls of the Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Sindh and poured petrol over the interiors before setting it on fire. The furniture and carpets were destroyed.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION

## FRIDAY PRAYERS DISRUPTED

A group of clerics confronted Ahmadi Muslim worshippers during their Friday prayers. Police attended the scene and asked the Ahmadi Muslims to leave their mosque rather than asking the crowd to disperse.

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 DOCTOR MURDERED

In Gotariala, Gujarat, on 19 February 2023, Ahmadi Muslim Dr Muhammad Rasheed was shot dead in his clinic. Two youths, disguising themselves as patients, entered the building and opened fire, killing Dr Rasheed on the spot. Dr Rasheed was aware of the opposition he faced but maintained that the poor people in the area have few medical facilities and no one to care for them. One of the assailants was found dead in the vicinity. Another was arrested by the police for questioning.



*Dr Muhammad Rasheed*

## AHMADI MUSLIM ARRESTED FOR LISTENING TO HOLY QURAN

On 10 February, in Kotli, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Ahmadi Muslim Mr Tasleem Ahmad Kashif was arrested for allegedly listening to the recitation of the Holy Quran in the store where he worked. The complainant also suggested that Mr Kashif argued with a cleric who confronted him and that the minarets and niche of the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque should be demolished.

madi Muslim employee of the store turned on the recitation on the television. A local cleric passed by and objected to Mr Kashif listening along.

Following pressure from a large group of clerics, the authorities succumbed and arrested Mr Kashif under section 298-C of the Pakistan Penal Code, which explicitly targets Ahmadi Muslims.

The local president of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community stated that on 8 February, a non-Ah-

## MINARETS OF AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE DEMOLISHED

The minarets of Ahmadiyya Hall, an Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Karachi, were demolished by members of the public on 2 February. Some chanted anti-Ahmadi Muslim slogans, whilst others climbed the walls and used sledgehammers to destroy the minarets.

The few policemen on the scene failed to stop them. A case was registered, but no one has been arrested.



*Damaged minarets of Ahmadiyya Hall*



*Vandals attacking Ahmadiyya Hall*

## AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE SET ON FIRE

On 3 February, in Noor Nagar, Umar Kot, Sindh, attackers climbed the wall of the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque, poured petrol over the interior and set it alight, destroying the furniture and carpets in the main hall.



*Scorch marks on the outer facade*

The local Ahmadi Muslims have encouraged the police to register a case, and an effort is now being made to identify the arsonists.



*Burnt carpets in the main hall*

## ARMED ATTACK ON AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE

At around 8.30pm, on 4 February, in Satellite Town, Sindh, shots were fired at the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque. Bullets hit the main door and wall. Ahmadi Muslims were present inside the mosque at the time; none were harmed.

Police were informed of the incident and have been asked to register a case.

## AHMADI MUSLIMS MADE TO LEAVE MOSQUE DURING FRIDAY PRAYERS

On 18 February, in Kasur, Ahmadi Muslims gathered to offer their Friday prayers at the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque. A group of clerics then appeared and confronted the worshippers stating that they had prayed enough Friday prayers at the mosque and should never show up again. The police were alerted to the situation. Instead of dispersing the crowd, they

asked the Ahmadi Muslims to leave the mosque and offer their prayers elsewhere.



# ANTI-AHMADI MUSLIM CONFERENCE IN FAISALABAD

On 29 January, the extremist political party Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP) held a conference in Hasyana, Faisalabad.

Clerics told the crowd not to offer Salaam [peace] to Ahmadi Muslims and said that they could not call their mosques as such.

## POLICE REMOVED INSCRIPTION FROM AHMADI MUSLIM'S HOUSE

On 12 February, police attended the home of Ahmadi Muslim Mr Munir Ahmad Khokar in Ameer Park, Gujranwala. They stated they had received a complaint against an inscription engraved on the tiles of his house's façade, which read Mash'Allah [God has willed it], and that it would be removed. Mr Khokar's non-Ahmadi Muslim neighbours insisted the police do not remove the tiles-

but they were told that if anyone had any reservations they should report to the police station. The tiles were then removed.



*Inscription removed from facade by police*

### As of 31 December 2022:

- 6 Ahmadis are behind bars solely on account of their faith.
- Fabricated cases against 8 Ahmadis were registered during November and an FIR was registered against some members of the Ahmadiyya leadership in Pakistan in December.
- A 20-year-old Ahmadi student was awarded five years imprisonment in November 2022, for hurting the religious feelings.
- 13 Ahmadis were arrested in August 2022 for sacrificing animals on Eid.
- A 65-year-old Ahmadi lady and another Ahmadi were arrested under blasphemy clauses in 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.)

# AHMADI MUSLIMS BEHIND BARS

## 1

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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 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 the penalty of death.

The SC rejected their post-arrest bail application.

## 3

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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

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Mr. Abdul Majeed s/o Mr. Abdul Waheed, 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 pressure from 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 hurting religious feelings thereby, and awarded him five years imprisonment.

## 4

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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.

## 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, 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, fine, or both

Defiling of the Holy Quran

295 B

Life imprisonment

Use of derogatory remarks in respect of the Holy Prophet [sa]

295 C

Death and fine

Uttering words with the deliberate intent to injure religious feelings

298

Up to one year imprisonment, fine, or both

Use of derogatory remarks in respect of holy personages

298 A

Three years' imprisonment, fine, or both

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

298 B

Three years' imprisonment and fine

An Ahmadi, calling himself a Muslim, preaching or propagating his faith, 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 and 10 attacks during 2022
- Fabricated cases against 8 Ahmadis were registered during November 2022 and an FIR was registered against some members of Ahmadiyya leadership in Pakistan in December
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died in custody; they were imprisoned for their faith.
- 21 Ahmadiyya mosques have been desecrated, one mosque was sealed by the authorities. Two desecrated in September
- 243 graves have been desecrated, 180 of these were during 2022. The burial of an Ahmadi lady was denied and the graveyard sealed in November
- 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 eight Ahmadis during September. Further cases were registered against 8 Ahmadis during November 2022.
- Sacred inscriptions 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, which affected the community's eight schools and two 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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