



BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

MARCH 2023

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE
DEFILED BY POLICE



ExternalAffairs@AhmadiyyaUK.org



www.StopThePersecution.org



Headlines

MOSQUE DOME AND MINARETS DEMOLISHED

The dome and minarets of an Ahmadi Muslim mosque were demolished by police in Gujarat.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION

STUDENTS EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL

Two Ahmadi Muslim students were expelled from a school in Gujranwala following a recent rise in anti-Ahmadi Muslim activities in the area.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION





MOSQUE MINARETS THREATENED

The minarets of an Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Faisalabad have had two complaints written about them. They could be at risk of demolition in the future.

SEE PAGE 3 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

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE DEFILED BY POLICE

On 24 and 25 March, local police force demolished the minarets of an Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Kalra Kalan (District Gujarat) that has been used by Ahmadi Muslims for more than 60 years.

The police arrived with a team in two cars with hammers, despite requests from the local Ahmadi Muslim community for the police not to attack the mosque. The attack can be seen here (<https://twitter.com/IamAmirMahmood/status/1639944380244008966/video/1>).

Following the incident, Ahmadi Muslims inquired with the police as to why such action was taken

when no local resident had made a complaint about the mosque or its minarets. The officer refused to reply.

This is the latest in a series of violent attacks against Ahmadi Muslim depriving them of every aspect of freedom of religion in Pakistan. At least seven mosques have had minarets demolished in the space of three months - these attacks have absolutely no legal basis and are a crime in direct contravention of the constitution that guarantees protection for all places of worship. The attack is further evidence of state sponsored persecution against Ahmadi Muslims.



Before



After

TWO AHMADI MUSLIM STUDENTS EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL

A rise in anti-Ahmadi Muslim rhetoric in Bhiri Shah Rehman, Gujranwala, has led to the expulsion of two Ahmadi Muslim students from a private school there. Recently, clerics have attended local mosques to promote boycotts of Ahmadi Muslims. In the local government school,

Ahmadi Muslim students were targeted and harassed during a lecture on Islamic studies.

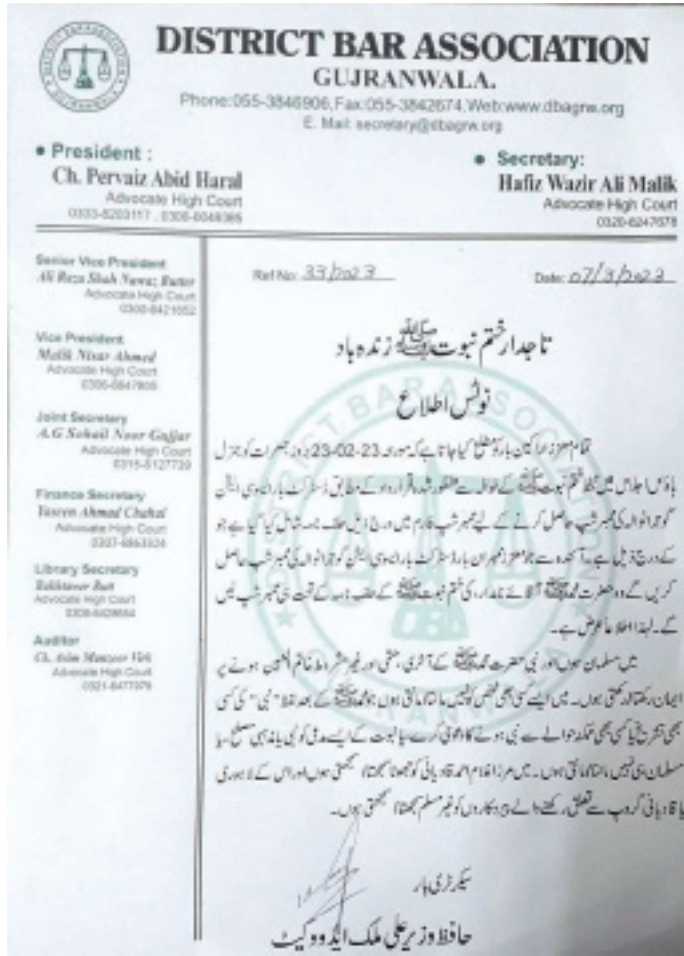
AHMADI MUSLIMS TARGETED IN SCHOOL EXAM

A school in Peshawar explicitly targeted Ahmadi Muslims in a recent examination paper. Already facing discrimination from staff, three Ahmadi Muslim students in Peshawar Model School had to sit an exam with questions on the Islamic concept of End of Prophethood.

The final question asked for the date on which Qadianis [derogatory term for Ahmadi Muslims] were declared non-Muslim in the constitution.

ANTI-AHMADI MUSLIM DECLARATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO DISTRICT BAR ASSOCIATION

On 7 March, a declaration regarding the End of Prophethood was made compulsory to gain membership to District Bar Association in Gujranwala. A translation is provided below:



Long live Crown of End of Prophethood (Tajdare Khatme Nabuwwat, Zindabad) Notice for Information

All respected members of the bar are informed that according to the resolution passed in the general house meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2023, the following declaration has been added to the membership form for obtaining the membership of the District Bar Association Gujranwala. From now on, honourable members of bar who will get the membership of District Bar Association Gujranwala will take the membership under the undermentioned declaration of the End of the Prophethood of Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon him).

"I am Muslim and believe in the absolute and unqualified finality of Khatam an Nabiyyen Muhammad (peace be upon him) as the last of the prophets. I do not recognize any person who claims to be a prophet in any sense of the word or any description whatsoever after Muhammad (peace be upon him) or recognize such a claimant as prophet or a religious reformer or a Muslim. I consider Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani to be an imposter and also consider his followers whether belonging to the Lahori or Qadiani group to be non-Muslim." Signed, Secretary Bar, Hafiz Wazir Ali Malik

AHMADI MUSLIM STUDENTS ALIENATED FURTHER

The National Curriculum Council in Pakistan have made a welcome step to allow the publishing of religious books for students belonging to the Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Bahai, Zoroastrian, Kalasha, and Buddhist faiths. The textbooks will contain authentic references to the to the holy scriptures of each faith to allow them to learn more about their beliefs.

Ahmadi Muslim students, however, still face a problem. They are not permitted to partake in Islamic studies lessons and their literature is banned in the Punjab province. Other minorities have been given the choice between Islamic studies or their own faith. This is likely to alienate Ahmadi Muslim students further.

THREATS MADE AGAINST MINARETS ON AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE

On 22 March, in Chak 565 GB, Faisalabad, the president of the local Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was told to visit the police station following a visit from a police officer to their mosque in the morning.

Two complaints had been registered against the minarets of the mosque. The matter is now being discussed by the Deputy Commissioner in Faisalabad.

AHMADIS 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.

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.

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 295-C of PPC to the said case. His plea for bail was rejected by SC.

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 out-lined in the above case, under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, PECA-11. He was not even formally nominated in the case. His plea for bail was rejected.

5

Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani was arrested on January 7, 2023 from his home in Rabwah. He was booked with FIR Nr. 661/22 under sections 295-B, 298-C and the Punjab Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) Act 2011. He was sent to Jhang Jail after judicial remand and later transferred to District Jail Faisalabad. His bail application is under trial in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Lalian, District Chiniot.

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 the Ahmadi Muslim 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 were 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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