



BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

JULY 2023

AHMADI MUSLIM
HEADSTONES DESECRATED



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Headlines

MINARETS VANDALISED

The minarets of Ahmadi Muslim mosques in Punjab and Karachi were vandalised and destroyed by police and members of the public.

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INFORMATION

REVERSAL OF REPAIRS

Ahmadi Muslims in Sargodha were made to reverse the repairs they had to made to the minarets of their mosque and remove any Islamic material.

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INFORMATION





HEADSTONES DESECRATED

The headstones and graves of Ahmadi Muslims across Pakistan have been desecrated and removed; some painted over to obscure any Islamic writing.

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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

POLICE DESTROY MINARETS OF AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUES

In Jhelum, Punjab, on 14 July, police arrived at around midnight and destroyed the minarets of the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque. A few days prior, a member of the extremist organisation Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP) threatened to take the minaret down themselves if the police did not take action.

During the events, police detained Ahmadi Muslims nearby and held them at the police station, confiscated their phones, and damaged the CCTV system.

MINARETS OF AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE VANDALISED IN KARACHI

On 10 June, in the Drigh Road area of Karachi, around a dozen people entered the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque targeting the minarets with hammers and painted hateful graffiti on the walls.



AHMADI MUSLIM BURIAL DENIED

On 11 July, in Sargodha, the wife of Ahmadi Muslim Mr Mubashar Ahmad passed away and was due to be buried in the local common cemetery. A complaint was then filed with the police objecting to her burial there who later arrived with the local land revenue official who said she could be buried in one acre of the allotted cemetery land.

The complainants however still objected to this proposal even though an Ahmadi Muslim had been buried in that plot a fortnight before. The deceased lady had to be buried in her farmhouse instead.

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE SEALED

In Sanghar, local president of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Dr Azhar Iqbal, was completing renovations to his residence and to the niche of the Ahmadi Muslim mosque within his premises. Objections were made by local clerics alleging that Ahmadi Muslim mosques were not permitted to have minarets or a niche and a mob was formed with hateful speeches being made. They threatened to take the law into their own hands and demolish the mosque themselves.

Upon the arrival of police on 4 July, the Ahmadi Muslims made them aware the mosque was an old structure pre-dating anti-Ahmadi Muslim laws. Despite this, the mosque was sealed and Dr Iqbal and his brother had criminal cases registered against them under sections 295-A, 298-C, and 298-B threatening a ten-year prison sentence if convicted. Police claimed that registering the criminal cases was essential to appease the mob and remove the threat of violence.

AHMADI MUSLIMS MADE TO REVERSE REPAIRS

In Sargodha, Ahmadi Muslims had made some repairs to the local missionary house adjacent to their mosque. On 23 July, local clerics held a rally to demand the repair work stop and the minarets removed. The next day, police arrived at the site and found that the clerics and some media personnel were already present.

After some discussions, the Ahmadi Muslims were made to sign the following conditions:

- Any Islamic material must be removed from

the mosque in the presence of a member of the municipal committee, police, or town committee

- The minarets will be returned to their pre-repairs state

- The constructed coping must be removed

- These actions must be complete by 15 August 2023

DURING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 2023

- Ahmadi Muslim brutally murdered on religious grounds.
- Ahmadi Muslim lawyer critically injured in a cleaver attack.
- Senior Ahmadi Muslim advocate beaten up and arrested under blasphemy clauses for having 'Syed' in his name.
- Senior Ahmadi Muslim leader arrested from the headquarters of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan.
- Ahmadi Muslim arrested for listening to the Holy Quran
- Eight Ahmadi Muslim mosques attacked; the minarets of another mosque concealed by a wall; another prayer centre besieged by a violent mob
- Burial of an Ahmadi Muslim woman denied in a common cemetery.
- Three graves damaged by opponents.
- Sacred inscriptions removed from three Ahmadi houses.
- Two Ahmadi students expelled from school.

AHMADI MUSLIM HEADSTONES DESECRATED

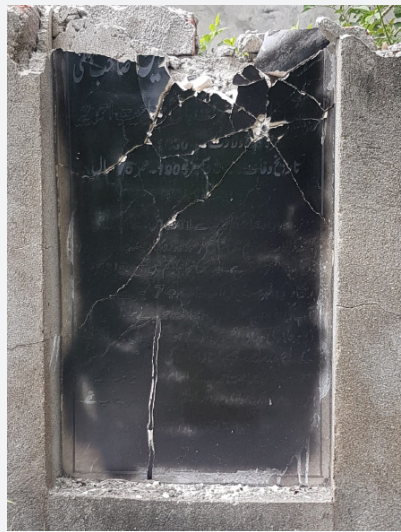
In Kajar, Sheikhpura, on 1 July, the graves of ten Ahmadi Muslims were desecrated after a separate plot of land became allocated to Ahmadi Muslims without them being made aware.

Further headstones of three Ahmadi Muslims were destroyed in Nadheri Bala, Kotli, earlier in the month on 5 July.

In Jhelum, Punjab, on 16 July, the headstones of two Ahmadi Muslims and the protective wall around them were vandalised and destroyed. Black paint was used to obscure the writing before they were smashed.



Headstones in Jhelum painted over and destroyed



Headstone smashed in Kotli



Headstones removed in Sheikhpura

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.

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.

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.

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.

6

The police booked Syed Ali Ahmad Tariq under PPC 298-B with FIR No. 54 on April 27, 2023 in the police station City Court Karachi. He was arrested and sent to jail.

7

Mr. Javed Iqbal and Mr. Aftab Talib of Chak 433 GB, District Toba Tek Singh were booked and arrested under PPC 298-C with FIR No. 508 at police station Gojra Saddar, District Toba Tek Singh on June 30, 2023 for sacrificing animals on Eid-ul-Adha.

8

Mr. Asad Ijaz and Mr. Ahmad Shiraz of Chak 433 GB, District Toba Tek Singh were booked and arrested under PPC 298-C with FIR No. 509 at police station Gojra Saddar, District Toba Tek Singh on June 30, 2023 for sacrificing animals on Eid-ul-Adha.

9

Mr. Ghazanfar Ali, Mr. Muhammad Daud and Mr. Zubair Ahmad of District Lahore were booked and arrested under PPCs 298 and 298-C with FIR No. 1454 at police station Badami Bagh, District Lahore on July 1, 2023 for sacrificing animals on Eid-ul-Adha.

10

Twelve Ahmadis were named in FIR Nr. 588 at Police Station Phool Nagar, District Kasur, facing charges under PPCs 324, 149, and 148. While several Ahmadis were detained, Mr. Ashfaq Ahmad (one of the named person in the FIR) remains in custody. In Bhulair, religious opponents, mainly TLP mullas, have been creating a hostile atmosphere for Ahmadi families.

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

Alarming Facts SINCE JANUARY 2021

- 6 Ahmadis have been murdered for faith, raising the total to 276 since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 19 murder attempts, 10 attacks during 2022, 2 attacks in April 2023.
- Fabricated cases against 8 Ahmadis were registered during Nov 2022 and an FIR is registered against some members of Ahmadiyya leadership in Pakistan in December. Two new cases registered, one Ahmadi arrested in February 2023
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died in custody, they were imprisoned for their faith.
- 28 Ahmadiyya mosques desecrated, 1 mosque sealed by the authorities. 8 attacked in during 2023
- 246 graves have been desecrated, 180 of these were during 2022. Burial of an Ahmadi lady denied and the graveyard sealed in November. Burial of another Ahmadi lady denied in January 2023.
- 47 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 16 Ahmadis during September and November 2022. Another case was registered against the top leadership of Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan in December 2022.
- Sacred inscription from 22 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, that affected the community's 8 Schools and 2 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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