



BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

AUGUST 2023

MINARETS OF AHMADI
MUSLIM MOSQUE DESTROYED



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Headlines

SIX AHMADI MUSLIMS ARRESTED

Six Ahmadi Muslims were arrested in Lahore following threats to one to denounce his faith.

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MINARETS DESTROYED

The minarets of an Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Bahawalnagar were attacked and destroyed after a period of tension following the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha earlier this year.

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INSCRIPTIONS VANDALISED

The Islamic creed written on the wall of an Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Gujarat was painted over after pictures of it were sent to the police.

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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

SIX AHMADI MUSLIMS ARRESTED AFTER MOB PRESSURE

On 1 August, religious clerics in Badami Bagh, Lahore, gathered at a shoe factory owned by Ahmadi Muslim Mr Muhammad Mubashar and two of his brothers. Mr Mubashar was told to denounce his faith following threats. However, the police registered a case against him and his son under section 298-C of the Pakistan Penal Code.

They went to the shoe factory to collect some belongings and documents where they were met with a mob of clerics and the police were called. The six Ahmadi Muslims present were arrested and transferred to Camp Jail Lahore. Their bail was later rejected after pressure by the clerics.

AHMADI MUSLIM BURIAL DENIED

Ahmadi Muslim Mr Mushtaq Ahmad was due to be buried in his village in Muzaffargarh following his death on 15 August. A group of individuals disrupted the burial and threatened bloodshed if Mr Ahmad was buried there.

With the support of a local politician, the group forced the Ahmadi Muslims to make alternative arrangements in an Ahmadi Muslim cemetery further away.

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE VANDALISED

In Sanghar, Sindh, on 5 August, some individuals arrived with hammers and damaged the exterior of the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque.

A few days later on 9 August, a group of six targeted the mosque again attacking the dome.



Damage being inflicted to mosque walls



Damaged brickwork



Hammers being used to target the mosque walls

MINARETS OF AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE DESTROYED

The local Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Bahawalnagar had been the subject of many threats regarding its minarets following the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha this year. On 6 August at around 11pm,

the mosque was attacked and the minarets destroyed. The police were informed and registered a case against those involved.

Before



After



AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE SHUT DOWN

On 18 August, police entered the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Kasur during Friday prayers stating they had orders to close the mosque immediately. They were told to speak to the local

police station chief who had twice threatened to close the mosque down before. Worshippers had to leave the mosque immediately.

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.

POLICE DESTROY MINARETS OF AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE

In Vehari, on 8 August, police arrived at the local Ahmadi Muslim Mosque and destroyed its minarets taking the debris with them.

Previously, demands had been made to demolish the minarets with the police suggesting they be covered up.



Broken mosque minarets



Police moving debris from scene

POLICE DESTROY FURTHER MINARETS OF AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE

Following threats to the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Vehari in July, Ahmadi Muslims were forced to cover the minarets with fibre sheets after discussions with the police. On 13 August, a day before Pakistan's independence day, police visited the mosque again taking an Ahmadi Muslims back to the police station threatening 60 days of detention if the minarets were not destroyed.

Later that day at around 2pm, a police officer and two labourers arrived at the mosque and destroyed its minarets. The job was finished the following morning.



Aftermath of police vandalism

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE VANDALISED IN SIALKOT

In Sambriyal, Sialkot, on 18 August, the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque was vandalised by police. The niche of the local mosque had been an issue of contention for the members of the local Tehreek-e-Labbaik party members, an extremist organisation. A few days previously, a mob had taken to the streets demanding the

authorities to take action, otherwise the mob itself would demolish the niche themselves. Consequently, on the same day, the police caved into extremist demands, and destroyed the niche by blocking the street leading up to the mosque.



Mosque niche demolished

ISLAMIC INSCRIPTION VANDALISED ON AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE

On 29 August, in Shadiwal, Gujarat, the Kalima (Islamic creed) written on the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque was pictured and sent to the police station demanding its removal. Police visited the mosque and, even though the roof of the courtyard obscured the writing from the outside, insisted it be erased.

Later that day, the police returned with a labourer who painted over the writing in black paint.



Islamic inscription being painted over by police official

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 November 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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