



BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

SEPTEMBER 2023

**74 AHMADI MUSLIM
GRAVESTONES DESTROYED BY
POLICE**



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Headlines

74 HEADSTONES DESTROYED

The graves of 74 Ahmadi Muslims were destroyed in Sialkot by the police after they cordoned off the streets nearby.

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MOSQUE ATTACKED IN KARACHI

Individuals armed with hammers attacked Ahmadiyya Hall for the second time this year scaling the roof and damaging the minarets.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION





STUDENT ASSAULTED AT SCHOOL

An Ahmadi Muslim student was assaulted following his identity as an Ahmadi Muslim being revealed. The student and his sister have been told not to attend the school anymore to avoid further violence.

SEE PAGE 6 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

74 AHMADI MUSLIM GRAVESTONES DESTROYED BY POLICE

On 22 September, in Sialkot, police destroyed the gravestones of 74 Ahmadi Muslims including relatives of Pakistan's first foreign minister Sir Chaudhry Zafarullah Khan. Police illegally cordoned

off the nearby streets, arriving at nighttime, taking the debris away with them.



Debris left behind from destroyed gravestones

POLICE DEMOLISH MINARETS OF AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE

In Kirto, Sheikhpura, religious extremist party Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP) demanded that the minarets of the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque be torn down despite testimonies from local non-Ahmadi Muslim residents that there had been no issues.

Following two days of protests by the party, on 23 September, police provided the Ahmadi Muslims with a choice between either the entire mosque

being torn down or just the minarets. Later that evening, the police arrived, initially under the pretence of providing security, and destroyed the upper portions of the minarets with sledgehammers.



Destroyed minaret

MINARETS AND NICHE OF AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE DESTROYED

In Shahdhrhah, Lahore, on 9 September, a group of religious clerics arrived at the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque with the police to demand its niche and minarets be destroyed. The police agreed with the mob and insisted the niche be destroyed to control

their anger. The street was closed from both sides as the police and labourers destroyed the niche.

AHMADIYYA HALL ATTACKED

On 4 September, in Karachi, a violent mob stormed into the local Ahmadi Mosque, Ahmadiyya Hall, following afternoon prayers. Individuals armed with hammers scaled the roof and destroyed

the minarets. This is the second time this year Ahmadiyya Hall has been attacked, the first incidence occurring on 3 February.



Attackers using hammers to destroy the minarets

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 MOSQUE VANDALISED

A second Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Karachi was vandalised after a group of around 15-20 people stormed in on 21 September. Windows were

smashed, doors broken, and lights, tables, and chairs damaged.



Smashed windows and damaged chairs following the attack

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE IN BAHAWALNAGAR DAMAGED

On 6 August, the Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Bahawalnagar was attacked and attempts were made to destroy its minarets. Police registered a case against those involved at the time. However, on the evening of 15 September, the minarets of the mosque were attacked again and demolished

under the supervision of the police who had blocked off the roads leading to the mosque.



Aftermath of attacks on mosque in Bahawalnagar

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE DEFILED

Previously, a complaint had been made to the police against the minaret of an Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Sheikhpura. On 14 September, TLP activists partially destroyed the minaret in the presence of the police. Ahmadi Muslims covered

the remains with sheets after conversations with the police after the attack.

AHMADI MUSLIM STUDENT ASSAULTED

Ahmadi Muslims Mr Hassan Nawaz Khan and his sister attend Aspire College Shakar Garh in Rambra, Narowal. Upon discovery of their Ahmadi Muslim identity, Mr Khan was assaulted. To avoid further escalation, the principal of the school sent

him home and advised his father not to send his children to the school any longer to avoid any further harm.

ANTI-AHMADI MUSLIM CONFERENCE HELD IN RABWAH

Every year, on 7 September, religious clerics hold rallies and conferences to commemorate the passing of the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan in 1974 which declared Ahmadi Muslims as non-Muslim. Rabwah has historically been the home of Ahmadi Muslims making up the majority of its residents.

Speakers at the conference called for a complete boycott of Ahmadi Muslims and thanked the government for passing the amendment.

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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