



BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

NOVEMBER 2023

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE
DESECRATED



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Headlines

TEACHER HARASSED

An Ahmadi Muslim Teacher in Sindh was harassed by journalists after false allegations from students at his school that he stopped them from offering their prayers.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONFERENCES HELD

Anti-Ahmadi Muslim conferences were held in Kotli and Rabwah with speakers inciting violence against Ahmadi Muslims.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION





MOSQUE DESECRATED

An Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Kotli had its minarets and niche demolished by a mob of around 50 people.

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

AHMADI MUSLIM TEACHER FORCED TO RETIRE

Mr Qazi Muhammad Yusuf, a teacher for 33 years, had been posted as headteacher at the Government Boys Primary School in Kotli, Azad Kashmir, for six years. Another teacher at the school, who was associated with the extremist organisation Tehreek-e-Labbaik, told local supporters that Mr Yusuf was preaching his religion to the schoolchildren. The teacher and supporters met

with the District Education Officer with a note signed by all of them demanding Mr Yusuf be removed. On 30 September, a picture of the Officer posing with the activists was posted on social media with the caption suggesting Mr Yusuf had been let go. Mr Yusuf felt he had no other choice but to put up a request for retirement.

AHMADI MUSLIM TEACHER HARASSED AT WORK

In Mirpur Khas, Sindh, journalists had previously interviewed students from one of the schools in the local area asking why they weren't attending. The students unfoundedly claimed that their teacher, Mr Hussain, an Ahmadi Muslim, would stop them from offering their prayers although they had not been attending for some time before Mr Hussain's appointment.

The journalists later approach Mr Hussain to confirm his Ahmadi Muslim identity and uploaded their conversation on to social media. Extremists clerics staged protests against Mr Hussain and demanded he be transferred.

AHMADI MUSLIM BUSINESSES THREATENED

In Palingari Kahota, Rawalpindi, a teacher at a local religious school incited his students against Ahmadi Muslims. Following this, one of the students went to the shop of an Ahmadi Muslim and threatened him.

The police were informed. However, posters calling for the boycott and shutting down of the local Ahmadi Muslim businesses were still put up.

ANTI-AHMADI MUSLIM CONFERENCES HELD

On 3 November, in Kotli, extremists gathered for a series of speeches near the homes of two Ahmadi Muslims who currently have active cases against them. Speakers called Ahmadi Muslims 'filthy, impure infidels'.

On 11 November, religious extremists held a conference in Rabwah despite more than 95% of the population being Ahmadi Muslim. Several clerics delivered speeches inciting violence against Ahmadi Muslims.

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE DESECRATED

On 24 November, in Kotli, the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Kotli was attacked by around 50 people destroying the minarets and niche. Previous protests had been held by extremists to have the niche, minarets,

and verses of the Quran removed from the mosque. A petition was also filed resulting in a wall being erected around the niche.



Attackers destroying the minarets



Debris from the attack



Mob on the roof of the mosque



Further destruction of 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 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. 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.

3

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.

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.

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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