



BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

OCTOBER 2023

**38 AHMADI MUSLIMS FACE
IMPRISONMENT THREAT**



ExternalAffairs@AhmadiyyaUK.org



www.StopThePersecution.org



Headlines

IMPRISONMENT RISK

38 Ahmadi Muslims face up to three years in prison after baseless accusations of building a mosque. They were registered under the anti-Ahmadi Muslims laws of 298-B and 298-C.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION

MOSQUE DESECRATED

An Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Mahmud Abad was attacked and its niche destroyed by around 20 people. Violence was also directed towards Ahmadi Muslims filming the incident.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION





POLICE DESECRATE AHMADI GRAVES

Police destroyed the headstones of two Ahmadi Muslims following complaints against the Islamic writing on them.

SEE PAGE 5 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 GRAVES DESECRATED

The graves of two Ahmadi Muslims were damaged in Mirpur Khas. A gravestone of one and tiles of the other were found broken.



Damaged headstone and tiles

38 AHMADI MUSLIMS FACE IMPRISONMENT THREAT

In Mandi Bahauddin, on 27 September, 38 Ahmadi Muslims had a criminal case registered against them under the anti-Ahmadi Muslim laws (sections 298-B and 298-C of the Pakistan Penal Code). They were accused of building a mosque with minarets, after the laws were enacted. However, the mosque in question was built in 1970, 14 years prior to the anti-Ahmadi Muslim laws being passed. If found guilty, they face up to three years in prison.

AHMADI MUSLIM OFFICIAL TRANSFERRED AFTER DEATH THREATS

An Ahmadi Muslim, Mr Fateh Ahmad, was posted to Mandi Bahauddin as a Police Superintendent. The local cleric Mullah Naeem Chatha Qadri issued a statement condemning Mr Ahmad's appointment adding 'If you want to save him, take him away'.

He previously called on his supporters to carry out attacks against pregnant Ahmadi Muslim women to "ensure that no new Ahmadis are born" and went on to say, "Those babies who are being born, should be killed." Throughout the speech, the cleric shouted various slogans including "there is but only one punishment for blasphemers, decapitation!" The cleric openly warned the police not to provide protection to Ahmadi Muslim families.



Hate cleric Naeem Chatha Qadri

Bowing to the threat posed to Mr Ahmad in Mandi Bahauddin, he was transferred back to Lahore.

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE DESECRATED

On 20 September, in Mahmud Abad, around 20 extremists led by religious clerics arrived at the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque and demolished its niche. Ahmadi Muslims who were filming the attack were also attacked by the mob. The police were informed and inspected the damage.



Attackers destroying the mosque's niche



Stones being thrown at the Ahmadi Muslims filming

ATTEMPTED MURDER ON AHMADI MUSLIM

In Toba Tek Singh, two locals, Manzur Ahmad and Zaheer Ahmad, approached the Ahmadi Muslim mosque and threatened the Ahmadi Muslims present in the mosque. They further stated that they wanted to kill one of the Ahmadi Muslims, Mr Rashid Ahmad, to gain entry into Paradise. Manzur Ahmad later intercepted Rashid at the market and tried to run him over with horse with Rashid narrowly escaping.

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 DESECRATE AHMADI MUSLIM HEADSTONES

A complaint was made against some Islamic inscriptions on the headstones of two Ahmadi Muslim graves in Bhulair, Kasur. The local police station formed a committee to investigate the complaint and, despite pleas from the Ahmadi Muslims that the cemetery was specifically for Ahmadi Muslims, proceeded to have the words removed. On 30 September, police arrived at the cemetery and destroyed the headstones after refusing to provide the Ahmadi Muslims with a copy of the committee's verdict



Debris left behind after police desecrate the graves

ANTI-AHMADI MUSLIM CONFERENCE

Alami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat, a far-right extremist organisation, organised a two-day conference in Rabwah, Pakistan (headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community). Despite the town's 95% Ahmadi Muslim population, the event has become an annual event for anti-Ahmadi Muslim rhetoric, false accusations, and hate promotion. Clerics at the conference, attended by thousands, made inflammatory statements condemning Ahmadi Muslims, inciting violence, and spreading baseless allegations. The resolutions passed included demands to arrest Ahmadi Muslim leaders and cleanse their mosques, reflecting a blatant disregard for civil norms and legal boundaries.

The conference, openly divisive and violative of law, raises concerns about the promotion of extremism and calls for a reassessment of permitting such events in the future. The media's role in disseminating false accusations from such clerics and the financial backing of such conferences also warrant scrutiny.

AHMADI MUSLIM STUDENT FORCED TO LEAVE COLLEGE AFTER RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

In October 2023, Mr. Adnan Ahmad, pursuing a B.S. Honors at his local college, faced religious discrimination after a fellow student revealed his Ahmadi Muslim identity to classmates. Subsequently, Ahmad encountered hostility from his peers, making his college life untenable. Despite his father's discussion with the sympathetic principal, the opposition persisted, compelling Mr. Ahmad to withdraw from the college and seek admission elsewhere. This unfortunate incident underscores the challenges faced by Ahmadi Muslims in educational institutions, highlighting the need for increased awareness and measures to prevent religious discrimination.

JUDGE RECUSES HIMSELF FROM AHMADI MUSLIM BAIL PLEA

In a concerning turn of events, a fabricated criminal case under blasphemy laws was filed against Mr. Sani, an Ahmadi Muslim, and others in Rabwah on 6 December 2022. The accusation, alleging the distribution of a corrupted Quran translation, was baseless and malicious. He was arrested on 7 January 2023, and has been held in Faisalabad prison.

Seeking release on bail, his plea was rejected by the sessions judge, prompting an appeal to the Lahore High Court. However, on 2 October 2023, Justice Ali Zia Bajwa recused himself, sending the case back to the Chief Justice. With Mr. Sani in custody for over nine months, Justice Farooq Haider was slated to hear the case on 26 October, but no proceedings took place. The judge's recusal raises questions about the fairness of the legal process, especially when the accused is seemingly targeted for his religious beliefs.

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**



ExternalAffairs@AhmadiyyaUK.org



www.StopThePersecution.org