



BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

DECEMBER 2023

**AHMADI MUSLIM STUDENTS
EXPELLED FOR THEIR FAITH**



ExternalAffairs@AhmadiyyaUK.org



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Headlines

RALLIES HELD

Anti-Ahmadi Muslim rallies were held in Kotli demanding the removal of the minaret of the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque and more stringent controls be applied to Ahmadi Muslims in the area.

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TEACHERS HARASSED

Ahmadi Muslim teachers and students at a school in Hafizabad were threatened with dismissal and expulsion following a false accusation against an Ahmadi Muslim.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION





CREED EFFACED

The Islamic creed written on the entrance of an Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Multan was removed and Ahmadi Muslims forbidden from praying there without strict security measures.

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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

THREATS MADE AGAINST AHMADI MUSLIM

In Joharabad, Khushab, a complaint was filed with the police against Ahmadi Muslim Mr Tariq Virk. It claimed he was holding Friday prayers in his own house when the law allegedly forbids Ahmadi Muslims from doing so. The same complainant had previously spoken out in favour of banning the Friday prayers of all Ahmadi Muslims in every city.

He called for Mr Virk to be expelled from Joharabad or that the Friday prayers are stopped. He further threatened that if any harm comes to Ahmadi Muslims, they will not be held responsible.

ANTI-AHMADI MUSLIM RALLIES HELD

Following attacks on the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Kotli in November 2023, Ahmadi Muslims have been boycotted by local shopkeepers forcing them to travel much further away for their groceries. The extremist political party Tehreek-e-Labbaik has held numerous rallies and processions with speakers threatening Ahmadi Muslims by name and putting posters up in

shop windows. One speaker gave the local authorities a one-week ultimatum to act to remove the minaret of the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque and apply further restrictions to the activities of Ahmadi Muslims including limiting their use of Islamic symbols.

AHMADI MUSLIM TEACHERS AND STUDENTS HARASSED

Ahmadi Muslim Mr Saadat Ahmad was falsely accused of spraying a toxic substance on a non-Ahmadi Muslim. Following this incident, the daughter of the complainant, a teacher at the local school in Chatha, Hafizabad, began harassing Ahmadi Muslim students and

teachers using abusive language against them in staff meetings. She demanded the Ahmadi Muslim teachers be fired and the elder Ahmadi Muslim students be expelled.

ANTI-AHMADI PROTEST HELD

In Mandi Bahauddin, on 10 December, protestors gathered at the Shah Taj Sugar Mill complaining that no Ahmadi Muslims had been arrested over the building of a mosque at the mill. Police intervened to remove the

attempted road blocks by the protestors, who retaliated with stones but later fled.

MINARETS OF AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE DESTROYED

In Samundri, Faisalabad, police and local administration officials destroyed the minarets of the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque following a complaint. Despite the mosque being built in 1956, more than 20 years before the promulgation of the anti-Ahmadi Muslim laws, police instructed

Ahmadi Muslims to remove the minarets, which they refused to do. At midnight on 21 December, police arrived with labourers who scaled the roof to destroy the minarets.



Before



After

AHMADI MUSLIM STUDENTS EXPELLED FOR THEIR FAITH

On 15 November, Gulshan Park, Lahore, the parents of two Ahmadi Muslim students, Mr Farhan Ahmad and Mr Zeeshan Ahmad, were called into their school by the headmaster. The headmaster stated that he was unaware that the students were Ahmadi Muslim and

therefore could not allow them to continue to be a part of the school. The students are now finding elsewhere to continue their studies.

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.

ISLAMIC CREED REMOVED FROM AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE

On 8 December, in Khaki, Multan, Ahmadi Muslims were told by the police chief in the area to take down the niche of their mosque and remove the 'Kalima' (Islamic creed). Despite concerns from the Ahmadi Muslims that there was a threat that the mosque might be taken over, the

police arrived the day after and erased the creed written on the entrance. They were further told not to offer prayers at the mosque unless the appropriate security measures were taken.



Before



After

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

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.

4

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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