



BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

FEBRUARY 2024

AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE
ATTACKED



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www.StopThePersecution.org



Headlines

MOSQUE ATTACKED

More than 60 attackers rampaged an Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Kashmir injuring 13 Ahmadi Muslims and tearing down its minarets.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION

TEACHERS RELOCATED

Six Ahmadi Muslim teachers were transferred from their original schools on grounds of their Ahmadi Muslim faith.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION





SHOOTING SCARE

An Ahmadi Muslim survived a shooting attack by an individual after being named at a recent anti-Ahmadi Muslim conference.

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 MOSQUE ATTACKED

On 12 February, a mob of 60 extremists armed with firearms attacked the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Dholyan Jattan, Azad Kashmir. They seriously injured eight Ahmadi Muslim men and five Ahmadi Muslim women. The mosque's minarets were also torn down. The mosque's caretaker, Mr Wajid Hussain, was the first to sustain injuries after being attacked with iron rods and hammers. Other Ahmadi Muslims who tended to Mr Hussain were also beaten. CCTV cameras were smashed. Police were slow to arrive on the scene despite being alerted earlier in the attack. It comes after an ultimatum was handed to the Ahmadi Muslims by local radical leaders to clear the area and take down the minarets by 16 December.



Mosque wall destroyed



Minarets torn down



Debris from minarets



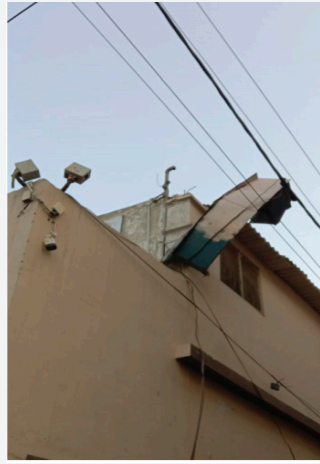
Broken furniture inside mosque

MINARETS OF AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUE DEMOLISHED

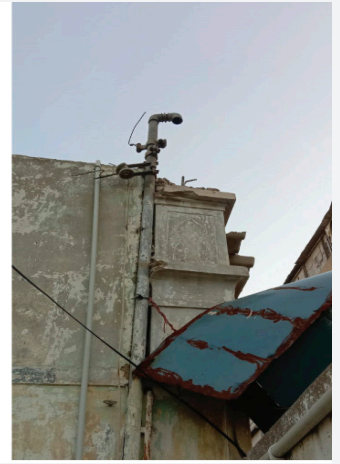
More than 15 extremists attacked the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Azizabad, Karachi, on 28 February. Carrying a ladder to scale the roof, the attackers detained two policemen who were stationed outside the mosque before dismantling the iron sheets already covering up the minarets. Two CCTV cameras were also broken.



Damage to outer structure



Iron sheets taken down

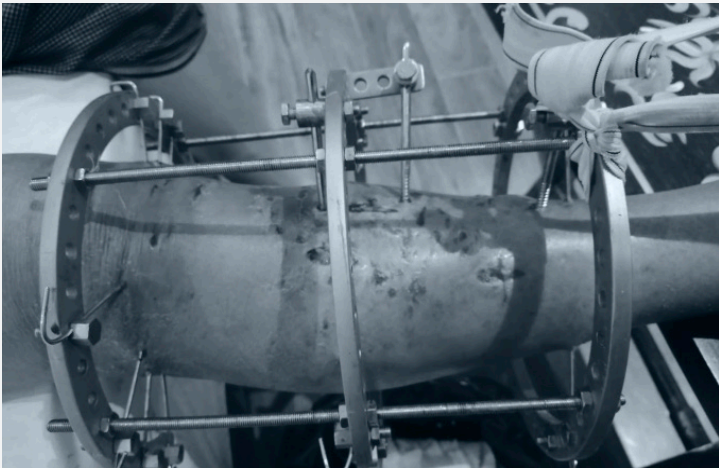


SIX AHMADI MUSLIM TEACHERS TRANSFERRED DUE TO FAITH

Following the attack on the Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Kashmir on 12 February, a harassment campaign was launched against seven Ahmadi Muslim teachers at the Government Girls High School Dolyan Jattan. They were threatened with violence and demands were made for them to be removed from the school. Following a threat to indefinitely close the school, the administration was forced to transfer six of the Ahmadi Muslim teachers to different schools. For one of the teachers, Ms Talat Qayyum, this was her third transfer in a month despite an order from the court that she must stay at her initial school.

AHMADI MUSLIM SURVIVES TARGETED SHOOTING

In Berianwala, Toba Tek Singh, Ahmadi Muslim Mr Muhammad Afzal was shot at four or five times by one attacker. Mr Afzal was hit in the shin but was fortunate to avoid any serious injury. The attacker fled the scene and was nowhere to be found when the police raided his house. The attack comes after an anti-Ahmadi Muslim conference was held in Berianwala two days before in which Mr Afzal was declared 'a prominent Ahmadi (Muslim)' and that his removal would help their cause.



Extent of Mr Afzal's injuries following shooting

ANTI-AHMADI MUSLIM CONFERENCE HELD

In Chiniot, on 26 February, the anti-Ahmadi Muslim group Central Institute Dawat-o-Irshaad Chiniot organised its 62nd annual conference with over 200 attendees. Speakers made a number of accusations against Ahmadi Muslims and called on the government to enforce the constitution and take action against them.



Conference attendees

AHMADI MUSLIMS BEHIND BARS

1

Mr. Rohan Ahmad, Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad were booked on 26 May, 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, allegedly for sharing a WhatsApp message regarding a religious Quiz program and a General Knowledge competition arranged by the youth organization of the Ahmadi Muslim community. Pakistan's Cyber Crimes Department, Lahore which works under Federal Investigation Agency, arrested Mr. Rohan Ahmad.

Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad were arrested later on 30.09.2020 on reporting to the FIA office; they are in Camp Jail Lahore. Addl. Sessions Judge Lahore added the blasphemy clause PPC 295-C to the charge sheet on June 29, 2021, exposing them to the penalty of death. The Supreme Court rejected their post-arrest bail application. Thereafter the High Court rejected Rohan's bail on statutory grounds on June 8, 2023. The statutory ground here means 'trial not concluded within 2 years of the arrest of the accused'. The Supreme Court of Pakistan accepted Rohan's Post Arrest Bail Application on January 15, 2024 on statutory grounds and he has returned home safely after being incarcerated for almost 4 years. The trial failed to furnish complete copies of the documents appended to the Police Report under Section 173 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). The accused filed application before trial court for providing complete documents. The trial court dismissed the application. The Accused filed Criminal Revision against the order which is pending before Lahore High Court, Lahore.

2

Malik Zaheer Ahmad was arrested on September 30, 2020, in a fabricated case under Sections 295-B, 298-C, PECA-11, and 109. He was granted bail on February 23, 2021, and was expected to be released in four to five days after the 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, and PECA11. He was not even formally nominated in the case. His bail plea was rejected by the Supreme Court. His bail on statutory ground has been dismissed

3

Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani was arrested on January 7, 2023, from his home in Rabwah. He was booked with FIR Nr. 661/22 under the blasphemy section 295-B, PPC 298-C, and the Punjab Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) Act 2011, allegedly for printing, publishing and distributing copies of the Holy Quran as a prize among students who memorized the Holy Quran. He was sent to Jhang Jail after judicial remand and later transferred to District Jail Faisalabad. His bail plea has been rejected by Additional Sessions Judge Lalian, District Chiniot and Lahore High Court. Now his leave to appeal petition for his bail is being filed before Supreme Court of Pakistan. The accused challenged the framing of charge under sections 295B PPC and section 9(1) of The Punjab Quran (Printing and Recording) Act, 2011 but the trial court and Lahore High Court dismissed his petitions now the matter is pending before Supreme Court of Pakistan. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has accepted Mr. Mubarak Sani's Post Arrest Bail Application on 06.02.2024 and petition for amendment of charge. The Supreme Court deleted the charge under section 298C, 298B of PPC and 9(1) of Quran Act. He has returned home safely after being incarcerated for more than 1 year.

4

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 sharing Ahmadiyya content in it. He was arrested from Hafizabad on February 25, 2021. Subsequently, the trial court added the Blasphemy section 295-C of PPC to the said case. His bail plea was rejected by the Supreme Court.

5

Imtiaz Ahmed is currently behind bars. An FIR No: 1/2024 under section 295-C was filed at Kotli Police Station In Azad Jammu & Kashmir on January 1st against him. His bail application has been rejected by the Sessions Court. Now an appeal against this decision will be filed before the High Court.

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

Persecution 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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