



# BRIEFING UPDATE

PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

APRIL 2024

DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOL  
AGAINST AHMADI MUSLIM



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# Headlines

## DEATH THREATS MADE

Ahmadi Muslims in a village in Hafizabad were labelled as 'deserving to be killed' by a local cleric.

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## STUDENT TARGETED

An Ahmadi Muslims student had his exam papers taken away from him and was made to leave the school after his identity as an Ahmadi Muslims was found out.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION





## PRAYER DISRUPTION

Eid prayers of Ahmadi Muslims across Pakistan were disrupted by clerics and local authorities with one case being taken to the police.

SEE PAGE 3 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

## DEATH THREATS MADE AGAINST AHMADI MUSLIMS

In Jaurianwala, Hafizabad, a local cleric delivered a speech in which he declared Ahmadi Muslims as 'Wajib ul Qat!' (deserving to be killed). With only one Ahmadi Muslim household in the village, a crowd assembled at their house. The Ahmadi Muslim family called the police who provided them with some temporary accommodation elsewhere.

## DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOL AGAINST AHMADI MUSLIM

In Chah Ahmadiyan Wala, Multan, an Ahmadi Muslim student, Sajid Ahmad, was denied participation in the exams for the study of Islam and the Holy Quran. One of his teachers, Muhammad Ajmal, labelled him an 'infidel' and on the day of the exam, Sajid's exam papers were taken from him and he was made to leave the examination hall.

## AHMADI MUSLIM SCHOOL OWNER TARGETED

Ahmadi Muslim Mr Imtiaz Ahmad Butt owns a private school that runs in his name. Identified as an Ahmadi Muslim from the electoral list of 2023, a campaign was launched by extremist, discrediting Mr Butt's school and urging parents to withdraw their children from it to 'safeguard their faith'.

## EID PRAYERS DISRUPTED

Across Pakistan, clerics and local authorities attempted to disrupt Ahmadi Muslims' plans of performing Eid prayers. In Qasur, locals gathered at the Ahmadi Muslim mosque half-an-hour before the set Eid prayer time forcing the Ahmadi Muslims to make alternative arrangements. Members of an extremist political party, Tehreek-e-Labbaik, took photos of Ahmadi Muslims leaving their mosque in Adhowali, Faisalabad, and sent them to the police. On 12 April, the Ahmadi Muslims were summoned to the police station to explain the situation. Pressure by the clerics forced the case to be referred to the Superintendent of Police.

# AHMADI MUSLIMS BEHIND BARS

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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.

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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

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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.

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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.

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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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