

PERSECUTION OF AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

Monthly Report November 2023



Contents

- MINARETS OF MOSQUE DEMOLISHED IN KOTLI 4
- AHMADI TEACHER FORCED TO SEEK RETIREMENT 5
- LHC REJECTS THE BAIL 5
- AHMADI TEACHER FACES UNWARRANTED INQUIRY 6
- AHMADI BUSINESSMEN HARASSED IN RAWALPINDI 6
- A BASELESS APPEAL REJECTED BY PESHAWAR HIGH COURT 6
- ANTI-AHMADIYYA CONFERENCE IN RABWAH 7
- ANTI-AHMADIYYA CONFERENCE IN KOTLI 7
- RIGHT TO VOTE FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN 8
- SINCE JANUARY 2021 9
- AHMADI CENSORSHIP 9
- AHMADIS BEHIND BARS 10
- IMPRISONMENTS - AS OF NOV 30, 2023: 11

DID YOU KNOW?

AHMADIS FACE THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT UNDER FEDERAL LAWS FOR:

- Self-identifying as a Muslim
- Calling their place of worship a ‘Masjid’
- Making the call to prayer (Azan)
- Preaching or propagating their faith

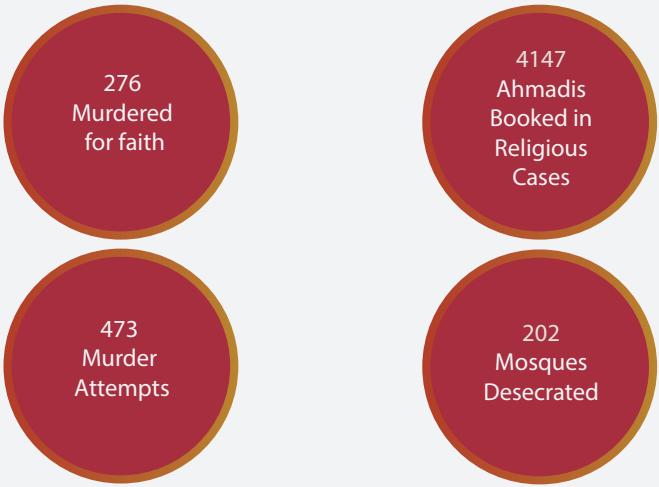
AHMADIS HAVE TO DECLARE THEMSELVES
NON-MUSLIM

TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE AND STAND FOR ELECTION

SEE PAGE 8 FOR DETAILS ON VOTING RIGHT FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

Highlights

FROM 1984* TILL DEC 31, 2022



DURING 2022



DURING THE YEAR 2023

- One Ahmadi brutally murdered on religious grounds.
- Ahmadi lawyer critically injured in a cleaver attack and another senior Ahmadi advocate beaten up and arrested under blasphemy clauses for having ‘Syed’ in his name.
- Ahmadi leader arrested from the headquarters of Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan.
- Ahmadi arrested for listening to the Holy Quran, another Ahmadi leader booked under blasphemy clause.
- 61 Ahmadis booked under anti-Ahmadiyya cases during Oct. 10 Ahmadis arrested and 9 Ahmadis booked in religious cases during Aug. 15 Ahmadis booked during May and 26 Ahmadis booked in Jun along with 7 arrests. One Ahmadi elder arrested in Jul.
- 35 Ahmadiyya Mosques attacked, minarets destroyed by the Police or unknown assailants.
- Burial of 3 Ahmadis denied in a common cemetery in Jan, Jul and Aug. 100 gravestones destroyed. 74 of them destroyed in September 2023.
- Sacred inscriptions removed from three Ahmadi houses.
- Two Ahmadi students expelled from school. The principal of another college asked two other students not to come to the college to avoid harm.

In November 2023, the persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan persisted with alarming incidents. The demolition of minarets and the vandalism of a niche in an Ahmadiyya mosque in Kotli was the 35th such incident during the year. Simultaneously, the Lahore High Court’s denial of bail to an unjustly detained Ahmadiyya leader underscored the daunting challenges in seeking justice.

Adding to the distress, Abdul Ma-jeed, a young Ahmadi, who had completed a sentence and fine under fabricated charges, faced renewed legal turmoil as his case was dragged back to court, exemplifying the persistent injustice against Ahmadis. Furthermore, an Ahmadi teacher compelled to seek retirement, the unwarranted inquiry against another teacher, and the harassment of a businessman highlighted the systemic challenges faced in workplaces.

In this atmosphere of persecution, opponents freely organize anti-Ahmadiyya conferences, deploying hate speech against Ahmadiyya leadership and the holy founder. Shockingly, authorities turn a blind eye to such gatherings, allowing the unrestrained propagation of hate. This stark injustice underscores the urgent need to safeguard religious freedoms in Pakistan.

As Pakistan nears elections, the persistent denial of voting rights to Ahmadis, detailed on page 8 of our report, remains a crucial issue. Despite their peaceful nature, Ahmadis lack representation in the government. Addressing this injustice is vital for fostering inclusivity and upholding democratic values.

* SINCE THE PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCE XX

MINARETS OF AHMADIYYA MOSQUE DEMOLISHED AND NICHE DAMAGED IN KOTLI

Kotli, AJK; November 24, 2023:

Some time ago, the opponents demanded the removal of minarets, niche, and Quranic verses in the local Ahmadiyya mosque and took out a procession. The administration sent for the Ahmadiyya delegation. Ahmadis told the administration that they could never do it themselves and that most of the Ahmadiyya mosques had been constructed before Ordinance XX. Meanwhile, religious clerics also met the administration and kept putting pressure.

A petition was also filed by the opponents against the Duliyan Jattan mosque and demanded the removal of the niche, around which a wall was built to cover it. Now, on November 24, 2023, about 50 miscreants at-



tacked the mosque. No Ahmadi was present there at that time. Some of the attackers went to the roof, others entered inside. They demolished the minarets and damaged the niche. Before the Ahmadis arrived, the miscreants escaped from the site.

The police came and visited the spot. This mosque was built in 1954. In 1994 too, the locals attacked and damaged the minarets.



AHMADI TEACHER FORCED TO SEEK RETIREMENT

Nidhiri Kotli, AJK; November 2023:

Qazi Muhammad Yusuf, an Ahmadi, was posted in Government Boys Primary School at Barmoochgoi Kotli, Azad Kashmir, 6 years ago. He has served in the education department for over 33 years. A teacher in that school, who associated with Tehreek-e-Labbaik, used to ask him to leave the Ahmadiyya Community. This teacher is communally and politically strong and often absent from school. He would show attendance on the attendance register whenever he came to the school instead of writing leave. Whenever Mr. Yusuf as head teacher, forbade him to do so, he would take offence and threaten him with dismissal from service.

On September 30, the said teacher consulted an extremist right wing religious cleric, Adnan Rizvi, and told the supporters of Tehreek-e-Labbaik that a Qadiani teacher in the village

school was preaching his religion to children and opposed the "Labbaik" slogan. These people met the District Education Officer and demanded Mr Yusuf's removal from the school. Accordingly, the DEO called Mr. Yusuf and sent officers to the school for investigation on October 10.

On this occasion, Tehreek-e-Labbaik activists also gathered and demanded the expulsion of the Ahmadi teacher. Everyone wrote a note and signed it saying that the Qadiani teacher shouldn't be there. After bowing to the demands of the Labbaik, these officials posed for a group photo with the miscreants. They posted it on social media with the caption that a Qadiani teacher had been expelled.

Later, Mr. Yusuf was posted on duty in the office of the Assistant Education Officer. Under these circumstances, Mr. Yusuf put up a request for retirement.

IN A FABRICATED CASE AGAINST AHMADIYYA LEADERSHIP, LHC REJECTS THE BAIL OF THE ONE ARRESTED

Lahore; November 27, 2023:

On December 6, 2022, the police registered a criminal case in FIR 661/22 at P.S. Chenab Nagar against some members of the top Ahmadiyya leadership in Pakistan under the blasphemy clause PPC 295-B, anti-Ahmadiyya section PPC 298-C and the Punjab Holy Quran Act, for allegedly distributing fabricated copies of the Holy Quran. One of the nominees, Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani was arrested subsequently on January 7, 2023, from his home in Rabwah. The trial is going on in the court of

Additional Session Judge Lalian Raja Ajmal.

The ASJ rejected his plea for bail on June 10, 2023. The Lahore High Court, Lahore was then approached for the Post Arrest Bail Application. On October 2, 2023, Justice Ali Zia Bajwa recused himself from hearing this case and sent it back to the Chief Justice.

On September 27, 2023, Justice Farooq Haidar of Lahore High Court rejected his bail plea. The accused has been in District Jail Faisalabad for the past nine months.

AHMADI TEACHER FACES UNWARRANTED INQUIRY

Mirpur Khas, Sindh; November 2023:

An Ahmadi teacher in government service, Mr. Saddam Hussain, was appointed last year in Jhuddo. Some time ago, a journalist interviewed the students of the school and asked them the reason for not attending the school. They alleged wrongfully that the Qadiani teacher there stopped them from offering prayers. This, of course, was a lie; these students were not attending the school for quite a long time.

The journalist then went to Mr. Saddam Hussain and confirmed his religious identity. The former recorded their conversation and uploaded it on social media.

Mullas then protested against Mr. Hussain's appointment at the school and demanded his transfer. Yielding to this protest, his department called him to Mirpur Khas.

AHMADI BUSINESSMEN HARASSED IN RAWALPINDI

Palingari Kahota, District Rawalpindi: November 2023:

Mulla Anjum, a teacher in a local madrassah, incited his students and locals against Ahmadis. After this, a student came to the shop of Mr. Adeel Ahmad, an Ahmadi, and shouted the slogans "Qadiani Kafir, Tajdar Khatman Nabuwwat."

Given this situation, the local Ahmadiyya

leadership contacted the SHO and informed him of the situation. The police called Mr. Adeel and his father, Mr. Mubarak Ahmed.

Similarly, the miscreants were called by the SP Rawalpindi. After which, there was peace. But opponents continue to hold internal meetings. Boycott posters were also put up in the area, and efforts were made to shut down the businesses of Ahmadis and pressurize Ahmadis to leave the area.

A BASELESS APPEAL REJECTED BY PESHAWAR HIGH COURT

Peshawar; November 14, 2023:

A fabricated case was registered on September 10, 2020, in Phandu Police Station District Peshawar, under PPC 295-C, against an Ahmadi youth Mr. Abdul Majeed for allegedly committing blasphemy against the Holy Prophet PBUH. He was subsequently arrested on September 14, 2020.

According to details, before the registration

of the case, a violent mob attacked the house of the accused. They tried to torch the building along with its residents. The police evacuated him and his family and they temporarily moved to Rawalpindi. Succumbing to the pressure from the opponents, the authorities registered a case and arrested him.

The case continued in Session Court Peshawar. On November 23, 2022, Additional Session Judge Tahir Auragzaib Khan found PPC

295-C inapplicable and converted it to PPC 295-A for allegedly outraging religious feelings. In his verdict, he sentenced the youth to 5 years imprisonment and fined him 500,000 Rupees.

During his incarceration, the national festivals and other concessions in imprisonment resulted in his early release after two years, seven months, and twenty days. After serving his time in prison and payment of the fine, he was released on May 6, 2023. The opponents

then filed an appeal against this verdict of the Sessions Court in Peshawar High Court and demanded a re-imposition of PPC 295-C and penalty of death. The accused also filed appeal before Peshawar High Court for his acquittal.

On November 14, 2023, a two-member bench of the Peshawar High Court comprising Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Sahibzada Asad Ullah, rejected the appeals of the opponents and of the accused maintained the verdict of the Sessions Court.

ANTI-AHMADIYYA CONFERENCE IN RABWAH

Muslim Colony, Rabwah; November 11, 2023:

Qari Shabbir Usmani presided over another Annual Khatme Nabuwwat Conference here. The proceedings started at 12:30 and concluded at 15:30. Approximately 175 men attended the conference. Maulvi Hanif Mughal of Chiniot, Maulvi Muhammad Yousaf Sheikhupuri, Maulvi Muhammad Ilyas Chinioti, Qari Umair Arshad Khateeb Masjid Bukhari, Qari Muhammad Mughaira of Madrassa Ahrar ul Islam and Qari Shabbir Usmani were among those who delivered speeches at this event and openly disparaged and insulted the Ahmadiyya Com-

munity and its holy founder. A gist of their rhetoric is as follows:

Qadianis are apostates, idolaters, and banished from the compass of Islam. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian misled innocent Muslims and tried to disunite them, but the Ulama confronted Qadianis and forced them to flee abroad. They also got their remaining community members declared non-Muslims in Pakistan, and they live now as a minority here. With the help of the European Union, America, etc., Qadianis try to pressure every regime in Pakistan to repeal this law against them but no government can dare to do that.

ANTI-AHMADIYYA CONFERENCE IN KOTLI

Kotli, AJK; November 3, 2023:

An anti-Ahmadiyya meeting was held in Milad Chowk, Old Bazaar, Kotli under the management of Tehrik-e-Labaik and Khatm-e-Nabuwwat. Provocative speeches were made against Ahmadis. The speakers said that the filthy, impure infidels and the pure believers cannot be equal because they (Qadianis) have the filth of disbelief, and Allah has given us the sweetness of religion. They do all the

work based on money, and they have similarly bought our administration. The law of our country says that Mirzais cannot build minarets like our mosques (sic), but our administration does not believe that, because there is a hidden hand behind them.

This meeting took place near the house of Mr. Mubarak Ahmed and Mr. Kashif, Ahmadis against whom a case is going on. Before this, there had never been such a gathering here.

IN PAKISTAN

TO PARTAKE IN ELECTIONS AHMADI MUSLIMS ARE PLACED ON A SEPARATE ELECTORAL LISTS, THEY ARE GIVEN THE CHOICE;

- 1. REMAIN ON THE LIST AND VOTE AS A NON-MUSLIM
- 2. COME OFF THAT LIST AND VOTE AS A MUSLIM

REMAINING ON THE LIST REQUIRES AHMADIS TO SELF IDENTIFY AS NON-MUSLIMS

COMING OFF THE LIST REQUIRES AHMADIS TO SIGN A DECLARATION STATING THEY ARE NOT AHMADIS AND DO NOT ACCEPT THE FOUNDER OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY AS A PROPHET OR RELIGIOUS REFORMER.

NEITHER OPTION IS ACCEPTABLE TO AHMADI MUSLIMS AND THIS IS A GROSS VIOLATION OF THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS TO VOTE.

DECLARATIONS BY THE CANDIDATE
ELECTION ACT 2017
AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OF PAKISTAN

(iii) I believe in the absolute and unqualified finality of the Prophet-hood of Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), the last of the Prophets and that I am not the follower of anyone who claims to be a prophet in any sense of the word or of any description whatsoever after Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), and that I do not recognize such a claimant to be prophet or a religious reformer, nor do I belong to the Qadiani group or the Lahori group or call myself an Ahmadi.

[Note: This paragraph is for Muslim candidates only and is not applicable to non-Muslim candidates.]

DECLARATION AND OATH TO REGISTER
AS A MUSLIM VOTER
ELECTION ACT 2017
AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OF PAKISTAN

I, _____ (name of the voter), do solemnly swear that I believe, in the absolute and unqualified finality of the Prophethood of Muhammad (Peace be upon him), the last of the prophets and that I am not the follower of anyone who claims to be a Prophet in any sense of the word or of any description whatsoever after prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), and that I do not recognize such a claimant to be prophet or a religious reformer, nor do I belong to the Qadiani group or the Lahori group or call myself an Ahmadi.

(Name & Signature of Voter)

DESPITE JOINT ELECTORATES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED AHMADIS ON A SEPARATE LIST OF VOTERS, AS NON-MUSLIMS. THEY AMENDED THE LATEST ELECTION ACT 2017 TO INCLUDE ALL THE DISCRIMINATORY AND PROHIBITIVE PROVISIONS TO PREVENT AHMADIS’ VOTING.

RESULTANTLY, AHMADIS HAVE NO REPRESENTATION ANYWHERE IN PAKISTAN.

EVEN IN RABWAH, WITH 95% OF AHMADI RESIDENTS, THE LOCAL COUNCILS DO NOT HAVE A SINGLE AHMADI REPRESENTATIVE. PRACTICALLY, AHMADIS HAVE NO SAY IN THEIR LOCAL AFFAIRS. THEREFORE, ESSENTIAL CIVIC SERVICES LIKE WATER, STREETS, SEWAGE, ETC. ARE IN A DEPLORABLE STATE IN THIS TOWN OF 60,000 POPULATION.

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 May.
- 57 new cases have been registered against Ahmadis under the blasphemy laws & Anti-Ahmadi laws.
- 61 Ahmadis were booked under anti-Ahmadi laws during October. 21 Ahmadis are arrested during 2023 in different religion based cases. 108 Ahmadis were booked in 2022 and 110 Ahmadis were booked in different religious base cases.
- 35 mosques were targeted and desecrated during 2023. This figure was 14 last year, 14 in 2021, and 7 in 2020.
- 10 Ahmadis arrested during August. Previously 26 Ahmadis are nominated in cases for sacrificing animals on Eid festival, 7 of them are arrested.
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died in custody, they were imprisoned for their faith.
- 425 graves have been desecrated, 197 of these were during 2022. 100 during 2023 so far. Burial of an Ahmadi lady denied and the graveyard sealed in Nov 2022. Burial of three Ahmadis denied in 2023.
- Sacred inscription from 22 houses and shops have been removed.

AHMADI 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.

AHMADIS 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, allegedly for sharing a WhatsApp message regarding a religious Quiz program and a General Knowledge competition arranged by the youth organization of the Ahmadiyya 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 trial did not provide complete copies of documents appended with Police Report under section 173 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

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 Salammat" 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.

3

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 PECA-11. 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 by Additional Session Lahore Mr Nawaz Bhati. The accused filed application for acquittal under section 265K CrPC. This application is pending before the trial court.

4

Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani Principal of 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.

5

The police booked Syed Ali Ahmad Tariq for having 'Syed' in his name, under PPC the anti-Ahmadiyya 298-B with FIR No. 54 on April 27, 2023, in the police station City Court Karachi. He was arrested and sent to jail.

Sindh High Court allowed his release on bail on May 27, 2023, but due to a production order in an old case of October 20, 1992, his release has been stalled.

On 14.07.2023 the Government of Sindh allowed for an inside jail trial of his cases (under FIR No: 54/23 and 121/92) concerning Mr. Syed Ali Ahmad Tariq at Central Prison & C.F Karachi by the concerned notified sitting Judge(s).

An application for his release stating that his detention is illegal was filed before the trial court. The Trial Court dismissed it on 27th September 2023. The Sindh High Court directed the trial court for his release in Petition against the order of the trial court dated 27.09.2023. He was released on 11.11.2023.

IMPRISONMENTS - AS OF NOV 30, 2023:

- Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani - principal Hifz School Rabwah was arrested in Jan.
- Mr. Syed Ali Ahmad Tariq - advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan arrested in Apr.
- 6 Ahmadis are behind bars solely on account of their faith.
- Fabricated cases against 8 Ahmadis were registered during Nov 2022 and an FIR is registered against some members of Ahmadiyya leadership in Pakistan in Dec.
- A 20-year-old Ahmadi student has been awarded 5 years imprisonment in Nov 2022, for hurting the religious feelings.
- 13 Ahmadis were arrested last year for sacrificing animals on Eid. This year 26 Ahmadis were nominated in 6 cases and 7 were arrested on Eid festival.
- A 65 year old Ahmadi lady and another Ahmadi were arrested under blasphemy clauses during February for allegedly tearing off an anti-Ahmadiyya poster. She was released on bail. Her trial continues.
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died while in police custody (Feb. 2021 & Jan 2022.)

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMA'AT IS A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATION, INTERNATIONAL IN CHARACTER, WITH ESTABLISHED BRANCHES IN OVER 210 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES IN ASIA, AFRICA, THE AMERICAS, EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA. IT HAS TENS OF MILLIONS OF MEMBERS WORLDWIDE AND IS GROWING. THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY WAS FOUNDED IN 1889 BY HADRAT MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD OF QADIAN, ON TEACHINGS THAT HE SAW AS AN EMBODIMENT OF THE BENEVOLENT MESSAGE OF ISLAM: PEACE, UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD, AND SUBMISSION TO THE WILL OF GOD. HE CLAIMED TO BE THE LATTER-DAY MESSIAH AND REFORMER AWAITED IN LEADING WORLD RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD. HE OPPOSED VIOLENCE AS A MEANS OF ADVANCING RELIGION AND REJECTED TERRORISM IN ANY FORM OR FOR ANY REASON.

DECLARING AHMADIS AS NON-MUSLIMS

THE PAKISTANI RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT BRANDS THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY HERETICAL IN NATURE AND DOES NOT APPROVE OF ITS REFORMATORY NATURE. POLITICIANS HAVE ALSO FOUND IT EXPEDIENT TO SUPPORT THE RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT IN THEIR ANTI-AHMADIYYA STANCE. THE FIRST COUNTRYWIDE WAVE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE COMMUNITY ERUPTED IN 1953. FOLLOWING THE EXTENSIVE RIOTS, AN IN-DEPTH JUDICIAL INQUIRY BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND A JUDGE OF LAHORE HIGH COURT FOUND POLITICS TO BE THE MAIN CAUSE OF DISTURBANCES. MANY YEARS LATER, IN 1974, MR ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO, THE THEN PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN, FOUND IT POLITICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO HAVE AHMADIS DECLARED A NON-MUSLIM MINORITY, WHICH IN PAKISTAN IS A FORM OF SECOND RATE CITIZENSHIP. IT WAS A UNIQUE INNOVATION; WHILE OTHER NON-MUSLIM RELIGIOUS GROUPS, LIKE CHRISTIANS AND HINDUS, WERE NON-MUSLIM MINORITY BY THEIR PROFESSION, AHMADIS WERE FORCIBLY DECLARED A NON-MUSLIM MINORITY THROUGH LEGISLATION.

ORDINANCE XX

FOLLOWING BHUTTO'S LEAD, GENERAL ZIA UL HAQ, THE MILITARY DICTATOR OF PAKISTAN FROM 1977 TO 1988, TRIED TO COURT EXTREMISTS BY PROMULGATING THE NOTORIOUS ANTI-AHMADIYYA ORDINANCE XX IN 1984. THE ORDINANCE ADDED SECTIONS 298-B AND 298-C TO THE PAKISTAN PENAL CODE. THROUGH THIS ORDINANCE, THE RELIGIOUS RIGHTS OF AHMADIS WERE DIRECTLY VIOLATED. UNDER ITS PROVISIONS, AHMADIS COULD BE IMPRISONED FOR THREE YEARS AND FINED AN ARBITRARY AMOUNT FOR ORDINARY EXPRESSION OF THEIR FAITH. ADDITIONALLY, TO PROHIBIT AHMADIS FROM PROSELYTIZING, IT EXPRESSLY FORBADE THEM FROM CERTAIN RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AND THE USAGE OF ISLAMIC TERMINOLOGY. THIS ORDINANCE EFFECTIVELY MAKES A CRIMINAL OUT OF EVERY AHMADI BY INCLUDING THE BROAD PROVISION OF "POSING AS A MUSLIM" A COGNIZABLE OFFENCE, GIVING THE EXTREMISTS À CARTE BLANCHE TO TERRORIZE AHMADIS WITH THE BACKING OF THE STATE.

Human rights section

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