

PERSECUTION OF AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

Monthly Report December 2023



Contents

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 01. | DESTRUCTION OF MINARETS OF AHMADIYYA MOSQUE BY AUTHORITIES | 4 |
| 02. | AN ULTIMATUM TO AUTHORITIES OVER AHMADIYYA MOSQUE | 5 |
| 03. | POLICE REMOVED KALIMA FROM AHMADIYYA MOSQUE | 5 |
| 04. | HATE CAMPAIGN IN KHUSHAB | 6 |
| 05. | AHMADIYYA MOSQUES IN CROSS-WIRE IN DISTRICT SARGODHA | 6 |
| 06. | UPDATE OF AN IMPORTANT POLICE CASE | 6 |
| 07. | AGITATION IN DISTRICT KOTLI AFTER ATTACK ON AHMADIYYA MOSQUE | 7 |
| 08. | AHMADI TEACHERS & STUDENTS HARASSED | 8 |
| 09. | ANTI-AHMADIYYA PROTEST IN MANDI BAHAUDDIN | 8 |
| 10. | AHMADI STUDENTS EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL FOR THEIR FAITH | 8 |
| 11. | RIGHT TO VOTE FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN | 9 |
| 12. | AHMADIS BEHIND BARS | 10 |
| 13. | IMPRISONMENTS - AS OF DEC 31, 2023: | 11 |
| 14. | SOME RELEVANT PAKISTAN PENAL CODES | 12 |
| 15. | SINCE JANUARY 2021 | 13 |
| 16. | AHMADI CENSORSHIP | 13 |

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

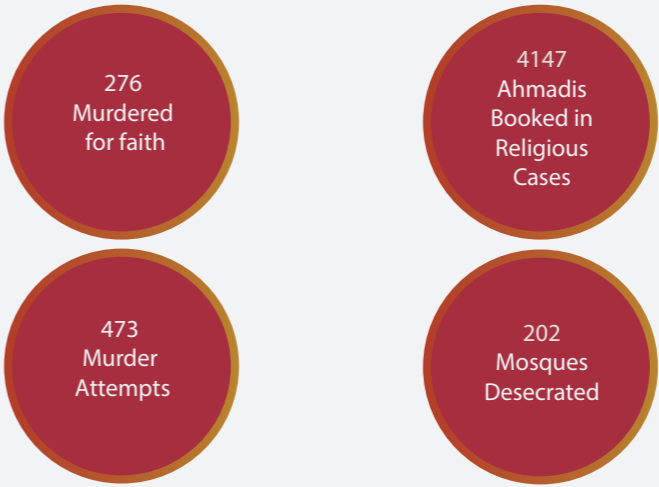
AHMADIS HAVE TO DECLARE THEMSELVES
NON-MUSLIM

TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE AND STAND FOR ELECTION

SEE PAGE 9 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.
- 37 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.
- Four Ahmadi students expelled from school. The principal of another college asked two other students not to come to the college to avoid harm.

As the year 2023 drew to a close, the Ahmadiyya Muslim community continued to face surge in persecution, marking a distressing year in its struggle for religious freedom. December witnessed a disturbing series of events, showing an escalation in the assault on the religious freedom. Government authorities, in a blatant display of religious insensitivity and intolerance, demolished the minarets of an Ahmadiyya mosque and removed the Kalima from another. The wave of aggression that began with an attack on an Ahmadiyya mosque in Kotli extended to other nearby locations, perpetuating an atmosphere of fear and insecurity.

In an unjust act of discrimination, two Ahmadi brothers were expelled from school solely due to their faith, denying them their fundamental right to education. Simultaneously, Ahmadi teachers and students faced harassment within educational institutions. Adding to the distressing narrative, opponents actively campaigned to prevent Ahmadis from offering Friday prayers, as exemplified by an incident in Khushab.

As Pakistan nears elections, the persistent denial of voting rights to Ahmadis, detailed on page 9 of our report, remains a crucial issue. Despite their peaceful nature, Ahmadis lack representation in the government.

As we step into a new year, it is imperative for the international community to unite in solidarity, working collectively to end the persecution and safeguard the principles of religious freedom and tolerance for all.

* SINCE THE PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCE XX

DESTRUCTION OF MINARETS OF AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN SAMUNDRI, BY AUTHORITIES

Samundri, District Faisalabad, Punjab; 21/22 December 2023:

District administration and the police jointly destroyed the minarets of the local Ahmadiyya mosque at about midnight.

The Assistant Commissioner (AC) accompanied by the SHO and a dozen policemen arrived at the mosque before sunset and demanded entry. Accordingly, the AC, the SHO, a few policemen, and the person who had initiated the unjustified complaint went inside. There, on inquiry, the complainant replied that he objected only to the minarets. At this, the AC told the Ahmadi present there to send his seniors to his office.

Accordingly, the local Ahmadi president and another went over to the AC's office after the Isha prayer. There they were told that the internal situation was very sensitive and the administration had received orders that peace must be maintained at all costs. The AC conveyed that as for the minarets, the Deputy Commissioner would like us to finish the task the same day. The AC showed the orders to our president but did not provide a copy. The president briefed the AC on Ahmadiyya position and referred to the recent Lahore High



Before

Court verdict that the minarets of Ahmadiyya mosques built before 1984 should not be demolished; this worship place was built in 1956. The president also conveyed that Ahmadis would not obstruct official action and knew that in the prevailing circumstances, any disturbance is not in Ahmadiyya interest.

Later, the same evening, the AC sent for the president at 9 pm and said that he had to complete the task at hand that day. "The RPO is here, and I have to report to him that the task is done," he said. He frankly threatened that if Ahmadis cooperated, there would be no problem, but if there was some damage during the action, the responsibility would not lie with the administration.

Accordingly, at about 00:30 on the 21/22 December night, the AC sent for the president to come to the mosque gate and told him to have the gate opened, otherwise, he would break his way in. At this, the gate was opened for them.

The minarets of the Samundri mosque were then destroyed in the presence of the SHO and five policemen. The task was assigned to half a dozen Christian laborers of the town council. They climbed up to the roof to do the destruction. Thereafter they loaded the debris of the minarets on a vehicle and sent it away.



After

AN ULTIMATUM TO AUTHORITIES OVER AHMADIYYA MOSQUE

Bhabra, Tatta Paani, District Kotli AJK; November, 2023:

A few days ago, local TLP leader, Malik Zaheer led a rally in the main market of Tatta Paani. Afterwards, in a press conference, he gave an ultimatum to authorities to destroy the minarets and niche of the Ahmadiya mosque in Bhabra by December 16. Threatening the authorities, the extremists said that Muslims

are with them. They added that more people than those who gathered on 12 Rabbi ul Awwal would move to Bhabra, in case the authorities fail to meet their demand. They said that the authorities would be responsible for any unpleasant incident, if they did not take action as demanded.

The authorities have formed a peace committee under the supervision of the Mufti of the District to deal with the situation.

POLICE REMOVED KALIMA FROM AHMADIYYA MOSQUE



After

ning to take over the mosque.

Thereafter, on December 9, 2023, a police contingent came and erased the Kalima and told Ahmadis that prayers should not be offered there unless the security instructions are followed. Two Ahmadis are permanent residents in the locality. Repairs to the mosque are underway, and one policeman is always there on duty.

Khakhi, District Multan; December 8, 2023:

SHO Police Station Sadar Shujaabad came over and told Ahmadis to tear down the niche and efface the Kalima written on their mosque. Ahmadis told him that they would not do that themselves. Later, the district Ahmadiyya Amir spoke to the SHO who said that there is a threat to peace; evil-doers are making mischief under this excuse and are plan-



Before

HATE CAMPAIGN IN KHUSHAB

Joharabad, District Khushab; December 2023:

Malik Adnan Qadri filed a petition with DC Khushab against Mr. Tariq Virk Ahmadi, saying that he arranges Friday prayers in his house, while Qadianis are not allowed to do so under PPC 298-C (sic); therefore, a case should be registered against the accused and others, and legal action should be taken.

The same applicant Adnan Qadri made a statement on the occasion of the inaugura-

tion of a mosque that their political leaders who were present there and others should answer whether the Qadiani Friday gatherings in every city should be banned. At this the participants raised their hands. Adnan Qadri demanded that either he should be expelled from the town or the Qadiani Friday gatherings should be stopped; otherwise, they would stop these themselves. "After that, if there is any disturbance in the town or any harm comes to the Mirzais, we shall not be responsible," he added. In this regard, a local Ahmadiyya delegation met the DPO, who understood.

AHMADIYYA MOSQUES IN CROSS-WIRE IN DISTRICT SARGODHA

Sargodha; December, 2023:

Religious bigots, encouraged by the official response to their such initiatives in numerous places in the Punjab, have sent applications to the administration here against the minarets and Islamic resemblances in Ahmadiyya mosques in three villages.

The opponents planned hostile action in Chak Nr. 38 and sent for the Ahmadis. Ahmadis sensed the danger and informed the Incharge Security, Sargodha. The police took notice accordingly. The DSP visited the location and briefed the Incharge, so did the Ahmadiyya Amir, Sargodha. Thereafter the police

sent for both the parties in PS Karana. The opponents left the meeting in disagreement. A police contingent then came over to Chak 38 and stayed there till the Friday prayer, to ensure peace. The opponents in the meantime sent a message to Ahmadis to cover up their minarets. This bizarre wish was not met.

Similarly, the opponents have approached the administration regarding Ahmadiyya mosques in Thatta Joyia and Hajka. The AC visited these locations.

The Ahmadiyya district Amir sought an appointment with the DPO.

UPDATE OF AN IMPORTANT POLICE CASE

Rabwah; December 19, 2023:

We had reported and followed up occasionally with updates on a police case registered in P.S. Chenab Nagar on December 06, 2022, in FIR Nr 661/22 under PPC 295-B, etc. against some very senior Ahmadi community officials,

including a lady and the principal of a madrasa where children memorize the Holy Quran, Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani. Mr. Sani was subsequently arrested on January 07, 2023. The accused were charged under the blasphemy law PPC 295-B for the distribution of an allegedly

"corrupted" translation of the Holy Quran. This applied section of the PPC provides a penalty of life imprisonment. The prime mover of the case is the notorious Hassan Muawia, brother of Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi; the Special Representative of the Prime Minister on Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony.

After the arrest of Mr. Sani, his bail plea was rejected by the sessions court and later by Justice Farooq Haidar of Lahore High Court. He

has now moved the Supreme Court with a bail plea.

The trial of this case goes on in the court of ASJ Lalian, Raja Ajmal. The latest hearing was on December 19, 2023, when the police submitted the challan under section 512. The judge declared the other accused proclaimed offenders.

The next hearing is scheduled for January 11, 2024.

AGITATION IN DISTRICT KOTLI AFTER ATTACK ON AHMADIYYA MOSQUE

Doliyan Jattan, Kotli; December, 2023:

Last month, anti-Ahmadiyya extremists attacked the Ahmadiyya mosque here. They vandalized the building and demolished its minarets. After the incident, the authorities formed a peace committee, under the supervision of the Mufti of the District. The committee, after listening to the stance of the Ahmadiyya delegation, postponed the meeting. The shopkeepers in Doliyan Jattan have socially boycotted Ahmadis. Local Ahmadis go to far off places to buy groceries.

After the incident, TLP organized processions and rallies at various locations, in which they even threatened some Ahmadis by name, and pasted anti-Ahmadiyya posters on shops. TLP candidate Malik Zaheer addressed a press conference in Tatta Paani, where he gave one-week ultimatum to the authorities. Similarly, in Aghar, a rally was organized on December 8, in which Ahmadis were threatened and disparaged.

On Ahmadis' request, a police case was registered against the miscreants; 19 of them have secured bail. The opponents now turned to the High Court for the quashment of the FIR. Meanwhile, Ahmadis are facing difficulties in finding legal representation, as no lawyer is willing to represent them and pursue the case under these anti-Ahmadiyya circumstances.



For the protection of the of Tahaffuz Khatm-e-Nabuwwat, any delay even for a minute, starting from 10th Muharram at 10 o'clock, will not be tolerated.

Otherwise, the general public in the area will take matters into their own hands.

Demands:

1. The minaret of the Qadiani center in Kotli Gulbahar Colony should be removed.
2. The most stringent restrictions should be imposed on the activities of Qadianis and the use of Islamic symbols by Qadianis.

On behalf of the lovers of the Holy Prophet peace be upon him.

AHMADI TEACHERS & STUDENTS HARASSED

Chak Chatha, District Hafizabad; December 2023:

A non-Ahmadi homeopath made a false claim against an Ahmadi, Mr. Saadat Ahmad, that he had sprayed him with something that nearly killed him. After that, the daughter of this homeopath, who is a teacher in a local school, started harassing the Ahmadi teachers and students. She wrote a questionnaire

and told Ahmadi students to bring their book of hadith. Then, she used abusive language against the Ahmadis in the staff meeting and demanded that the Ahmadi teachers be fired. These opponents considered a plan to expel the elder Ahmadi students and indoctrinate the younger one. This school belongs to Master Ehsan, the Imam of the local Masjid Noor. Similarly, Tehreek-e-Labaik is busy planning against the Ahmadiyya mosque.

ANTI-AHMADIYYA PROTEST IN MANDI BAHAUDDIN

Mandi Bahauddin; December 2023:

The opponents had called for a protest outside the Shah Taj Sugar Mill on December 10, 2023, pertaining to the situation that no arrests had been made in the case over the Ahmadiyya mosque built in the sugar mill. Ahmadiyya delegation met the DPO in this regard. The other party was also present. Similarly, the area's landowners were also present who informed the police about their concerns and losses after the likely road closures. The

police expressed no tolerance for any industrial unrest. On 10 December 2023, the protesters gathered in front of the sugar mill and tried to block the road, but the police force, which was already present inside and outside the sugar mill, did not allow the miscreants to gather there. Thereafter, these people went to the city bus stand and tried to block the road there. On being opposed by the police, the miscreants, who numbered around 50, pelted stones at the police, and dispersed.

AHMADI STUDENTS EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL FOR THEIR FAITH

Gulshan Park, Lahore; November 15, 2023:

Two Ahmadi students, Farhan Ahmad and Zeeshan Ahmad, sons of Mr. Abdul Waheed, were students in an academy here. On November 15, their father, Mr. Abdul Waheed, was called by the school administration. His wife went to the school. The principal told her that he was unaware of their Qadiani faith and

told her that he could not keep her children enrolled in the school. He even returned the tuition fee and notebooks' charges and told her to return the notebooks afterwards. The students were not told that they were being expelled from the school; they came to know of it when they returned home. The distressed family is now looking for some other school to enroll their sons.

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.

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 trial court and 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 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.

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 Noor Academy 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 has been filed before the 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 the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

IMPRISONMENTS - AS OF DEC 31, 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.)

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 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. 108 Ahmadis were booked in 2022 and 110 Ahmadis were booked in different religious base cases.
- 37 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.

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

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS OFFICE UK

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