

PERSECUTION
OF **AHMADIS**
IN PAKISTAN

Monthly Report

MARCH 2024



HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION
AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSION

Cover Photo: Tombstone removed from the grave of Ghulam Shafi, a courageous soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for Pakistan.

CONTENTS

1. AHMADI SHOT DEAD IN PUNJAB FOR HIS FAITH	4
2. ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER KOTLI, AJK RESTRICTS AHMADI CITIZENS	4
3. AHMADI STUDENT FORCED TO BREAK HIS FAST	5
4. TEN GRAVESTONES DEMOLISHED IN DISTRICT KOTLI, AJK	6
5. WHITHER GOES THE EDUCATION IN AJK?	6
6. UPDATE ON SC BAIL CASE OF MR. MUBARAK SANI	7
7. HATE BANNERS OUTSIDE FAISALABAD HOSPITAL	8
8. AHMADIS BEHIND BARS	10
9. ALARMING FACTS & AHMADI CENSORSHIP	12
10. RIGHT TO VOTE FOR AHMADIS	13
11. NATIONALIZATION OF AHMADI SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES	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

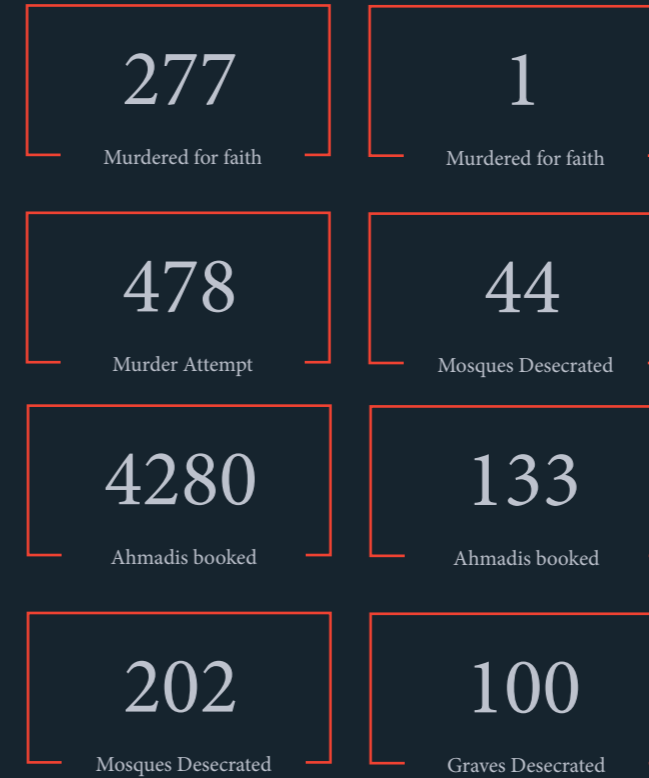
AHMADIS HAVE TO DECLARE THEMSELVES NON-MUSLIM

TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE AND STAND FOR ELECTION

HIGHLIGHTS

DURING 2023

FROM 1984* TILL DEC 31, 2023



DURING 2024 SO FAR

- One Ahmadi murdered for his faith, another Ahmadi survived a murder attempt.
- Three Ahmadiyya mosques desecrated by the police, another Ahmadiyya mosque attacked.
- 98 gravestones destroyed by the police and unknown attackers.
- Burial of an Ahmadi deceased denied by the TLP
- One Ahmadi booked under anti-Ahmadi law PPC-298-C, that carries three-year imprisonment.
- The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan were compelled to boycott the Pakistan General Elections.
- Six Ahmadi teachers transferred due to their faith.

This March, one Ahmadi Muslim lost his life to merciless violence, highlighting the persistent hostility towards this peaceful community. Disturbingly, the reported motive behind the murder revealed a troubling mindset, as the assailants sought guidance on the easiest path to attain heaven from their madrasa teacher.

Additionally, the desecration of ten Ahmadiyya gravestones in Kotli AJK added to the sorrow. Among them was Ghulam Shafi, a valiant soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. The perpetrators showed blatant disregard for his service, even disrespecting the Pakistani flag on his grave.

Further distress arose from oppressive measures targeting Ahmadis, including a 15-point notice by the Assistant Commissioner curtailing basic rights. This included concealing Muslim-like structures in Ahmadiyya mosques and tombstones. Similarly, a circular from the District Education Officer restricted Ahmadi teachers from teaching Arabic, raising concerns about equality in educational institutions.

Moreover, banners outside Faisalabad's Allied Hospital, inciting violence against Ahmadis, serve as a reminder of pervasive discrimination. Linked to a Supreme Court ruling, these banners prominently featured the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA), raising concerns about influential institutions perpetuating intolerance.

As we present this report, we urge greater awareness and advocacy to combat systemic persecution faced by Ahmadis in Pakistan. Solidarity with marginalized communities is crucial for fostering a society based on tolerance and respect for all faiths.

* Since the promulgation of Ordinance XX

AHMADI SHOT DEAD IN PUNJAB FOR HIS FAITH

HASILPUR, DISTRICT BAHAWALPUR; MARCH 4, 2024

Mr. Tahir Iqbal Cheema, local Ahmadiyya president, aged 54, was shot dead in a heinous act of violence. Mr. Cheema, a devoted family man, with no personal enmities, was targeted by two assailants on his way outside the village.

The assailants, riding motorcycles, ambushed Mr. Cheema and shot him. Mr. Cheema succumbed to his injuries.

After the mulla-led protests in the area, the police had to transfer the case and the accused to the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD). This shows the resultant state of law and order in the province after years of leniency and tolerance exercised towards religious bigots and extremists who preach and practice violent extremism.

In the wake of this senseless tragedy, Mr. Tahir Iqbal Cheema's family, consisting of his wife and three grown up children, mourns the loss of a beloved husband, father, and Community leader. His untimely death serves as a stark reminder of the dangers posed by extremism and the urgent need for tolerance, understanding, and unity within the society.

The police initially tried to give the incident a different touch. Speaking to Dawn.com, Bahawalpur District Police Officer (DPO) Syed Abbas Shah claimed that the initial investigation suggested that the motive behind the murder was not a religious one but was related to 'honor'. The tragic murder of Mr. Cheema was also mentioned by the



media. A number of media platforms featured the attack and its aftermath. Voice.pk wrote that DPO Abbas denied having made this statement (about honor) while talking to the said media outlet. Furthermore, Voice.net¹ claimed a link to Lashkar-e-Jhangvi for this murder, asserting that the two accomplices arrested were associated with a local Muslim cemetery and had studied in the cemetery of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi.

¹<https://voicepk.net/2024/03/suspects-of-ahmadi-leaders-murder-linked-to-lashkar-e-jhangvi/>

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER KOTLI, AJK RESTRICTS AHMADI CITIZENS

KOTLI; MARCH 11, 2024

AC (Assistant Commissioner) Kotli, AJK (Azad Jammu and Kashmir) had a meeting with Ahmadis of Tatta Paani and Goi sectors, and their opponents on March 11, 2024. The SHO City and the in-charge police post Goi were also

present there. These officials met with the opponents of the Community first and then had a separate meeting with the Ahmadiyya delegation. In the presence of both the parties, the AC announced the following decision (translation):

1. No Qadiani/Ahmadi worship place should be built in the style of a mosque. Restrictions will be imposed on (their) construction of minarets and domes, to maintain a distinction from a mosque.
 2. Quranic verses/Kalima Tayyaba shall not be inscribed on any Qadiani/Ahmadi worship place.
 3. No Qadiani/Ahmadi, according to the Constitution of Pakistan, would call oneself Muslim.
 4. Qadiani/Ahmadi worship places would not be referred to as masjid; "Bait-ul-Zikr" would be written outside them. Similarly, for Qadiani/Ahmadi's cemeteries, a board identifying the graveyard as such would be installed (outside).
 5. Before everything else, the niche in the existing Bait-ul-Zikr will be concealed by constructing a wall so that it does not become a cause of misunderstanding for Muslims, and it should not be visible in a way that anyone, unwilling to enter it, accidentally does. Likewise, the tombstones of the graves of Ahmadis/Qadianis will also be concealed, and if not possible, Islamic symbols (verses of the Quran and Kalima Tayyaba) will be removed from them.
 6. Individuals belonging to the Qadiani/Ahmadi religion will be forbidden to teach compulsory Islamic studies or any Islamic content in other textbooks, in any school or college.
 7. Ahmadis/Qadianis will not be allowed to construct wells for non-members unless permission is obtained from the local councillor, district councillor, administration, and the DC (Deputy Commissioner).
 8. Affluent individuals from the Ahmadi/Qadiani community will not provide any financial assistance, whether covertly or overtly, to ordinary Muslims through any means and introduce no scheme (of benefit) to them. In a dire situation, they would have to seek permission from the local councillor, chairman union council, district councillor, or the local administration.
 9. Ahmadi/Qadiani students will have the freedom to continue their education, including admission and studying all subjects, including Islamic Studies, in all schools and colleges.
 10. People of the Ahmadi/Qadiani faith have the full right to facilities provided by the State, including education, health, security of life, property, business, etc.
 11. People of the Ahmadi/Qadiani community will be free to worship in their own way and lead their lives according to their teachings.
 12. Speeches and sermons inciting agitation and hatred in mosques and Bait-ul-Zikr will be totally avoided. However, programs or speeches about the issue of Khatme Nabuwwat may be conducted.
 13. Posting of hateful material on social media will be totally avoided. Likewise, both sides will refrain from shouting slogans against each other, engaging in verbal abuse, slander, or cursing.
 14. In case of any illegal or unethical act committed by either side, relevant state authorities will be informed in writing, instead of reacting.
 15. Any complaints from both sides will be referred to the administration, and the law will be applied equally to both sides. These restrictions and conditions will apply to both in Goi and Tatta Paani sectors."
- Our comment:** This order of the Assistant Commissioner Kotli is a gross violation of the fundamental rights enshrined under Pakistan's Constitution as well as it violates the commitment by the State of Pakistan under international covenants such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which Pakistan ratified it in 2010. It is obvious that the AC's order should be declared null and void for being violative of the Constitution and the law.

AHMADI STUDENT FORCED TO BREAK HIS FAST

KASRAAN, DISTRICT ATTOCK; MARCH 26, 2024

Hazeem Ahmad, an Ahmadi student at Quaid-e-Azam Public School, had undertaken Ramadan fasting when

he was forced by a classmate to break his fast, citing Hazeem's religious identity as the reason. Hazeem was

told that he was a Kafir (an infidel).

Hazeem's mother later complained to the school principal, seeking redress for the maltreatment of her son. Instead of being sympathetic and upholding religious freedom, the principal expressed annoyance that worsened the situation. Rather than taking action

against the perpetrator, he threatened Hazeem's mother of disenrollment of all Ahmadi students from the school. He told her to take Hazeem home forthwith.

Ahmadi children are still there attending the school. Efforts are in hand to reconcile the issue, however, such behavior in a school is very regrettable.

TEN GRAVESTONES DEMOLISHED IN KOTLI, AJK

DISTRICT KOTLI, AJK; MARCH 7 & 8, 2024



On the night between March 7 and 8, 2024, some unidentified miscreants destroyed tombstones on eight Ahmadiyya graves in Barmoch Goi, District Kotli, and took away the debris with them. Ahmadis came to know about this vicious crime when someone visited the graveyard next morning. Ahmadis informed the authorities. The police visited the place, recorded the statements of Ahmadis and registered a case against unnamed perpetrators.

Another incident took place on March 12, when some unknown malefactors demolished tombstones on two Ahmadiyya graves in Patriara, Barmoch Goi, and took away the debris with them. One of these desecrated graves was that of Mr. Muhammad Din and the other of Naik Ghulam Shafi, a soldier who died fighting for his country on the Siachen front, almost 33 years ago.

Kotli has become a hotbed of anti-Ahmadi activism. One reason for this is the apparent lack of rule of law.

WHITHER GOES THE EDUCATION IN AJK?

KOTLI; AJK; MARCH 2024

The District Education Officer, Elementary and Secondary (Males) has issued a circular to schools that as per the Act of 1974 of the Government of Pakistan, Ahmadis are non-Muslims, as such Ahmadi teachers should not be assigned

to teach the Arabic language. He also directed the schools to provide him with their list of non-Muslim teacher's staff in each school. The DEO's circular is highly inappropriate and uncalled for while clearly violating the Constitutional protection provided to the minorities.

This DEO might like to revisit his policy on faith, education, governance and may take guidance from the following:

Freedom of faith and beliefs and its protection, freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, human rights and fundamental rights; principle of equality, denominational neutrality, religious pluralism; reformation, renaissance, tolerance through religious education, developing shared

values and common citizenship, humanism, interfaith dialogue; the rule of law, humanitarian law, International human rights standards; ostentatious religiosity, Islamic radicalism, extreme fundamentalism, symphony of church and state, Islam vs Islamism, sectarianism, extremism, ultra-conservatism leading to extremism (then to terrorism), terrorism; ICCPR (1966), ICESCR (1966), general information on 2001 UN Conference in Madrid on School Education in Relations with Freedom of Religion and Belief, Tolerance and Non-discrimination (available at w.w.w.unhchr.ch/; Articles 2.2 and 14.1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), etc.

UPDATE ON SC BAIL CASE OF MR. MUBARAK SANI

RABWAH MARCH 2024

A two-member bench of the Supreme Court, comprising CJ Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Musarrat Hilali had released Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani, principal of an Ahmadiyya madrasa, on bail on February 6, 2024—he had already served twice the time in prison than the prescribed punishment for the alleged crime.

The decision spiked anger in religious circles against the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Ahmadis. The Government of Punjab, Jamaat e Islami and numerous other religious organizations filed a review petition against the decision. A three-member bench of the Supreme Court, under the supervision of the Chief Justice, is now dealing with the review petitions.

The Express Media Group published a news item on the update of this case on March 28, 2024. We produce its translation below:

Qadiani citizen bail case, Ulama asked for written opinion within 2 weeks

Web Desk Thursday, March 28, 2024

Islamabad: The Supreme Court has asked ulama for their opinions in writing within two weeks in the case of bail for a Qadiani citizen.

The Supreme Court heard the review petitions on the decision for bail of Mubarak Ahmad. The court told all the applicant ulama to submit their written opinion within two weeks.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said that if there is any mistake in the court's decision, they would rectify it. It is better to adopt the right course than to indulge in violence by taking up arms, he added. A religious issue should be handled with care and consideration. We shall not seek legal advice from the ulama. We shall seek guidance from scholars with reference to Sharia in which their knowledge is greater. What is the definition of a Muslim in Islam?

The court said that the ulama should confine their opinions to the points raised in the court's decision. Opinions received after the specified time will not be entertained. Relevant individuals can be made party in civil cases, but in criminal cases, only the plaintiff, defendant, and the government can be parties. Even without making them parties, the opinions of all ulama will be heard. Further hearing will take place after receiving the opinions of the ulama.

<https://www.express.pk/story/2623416/1>

HATE BANNERS OUTSIDE FAISALABAD HOSPITAL

FAISALABAD; MARCH 16, 2024

Faisalabad, March 16, 2023: Multiple banners, and the constitution. This sentiment echoed on social media, where some users resorted to insulting the Chief Justice. Exhibiting derogatory language and inciting public sentiment against Ahmadis, were prominently displayed outside Faisalabad's Allied Hospital. These banners are associated with a Supreme Court ruling granting bail to an Ahmadi. This did not sit well with religious hardliners who expressed outrage, claiming the verdict contradicted Islam

Notably, they prominently featured the name of the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA). Translations of the banners include:

- "Qadianism is a cancer. Muslims will not allow it to spread."
- "The verdict by the Chief Justice of Pakistan is the same as encouraging Qadianiat and playing with the emotions of Muslims."
- "The CJP's verdict in favor of Qadianiat goes against Pakistan's Constitution."

These banners reflect a worrying trend of intolerance and discrimination against Ahmadis in Pakistan. Spokesperson Amir Mehmood criticized the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) for allowing such displays, calling it a blatant attempt to influence a subjudice matter. He emphasized the need for accountability and action against those responsible for inciting violence and spreading hate speech.

Following intervention by authorities, these banners were removed on the night of March 16. However, this incident highlights an ongoing trend of discrimination and disenfranchisement faced by Ahmadis in their daily lives.

Further details can be found at; <https://voicepk.net/2024/03/banners-of-hate-violence-against-ahmadis-continues-in-ramazan/>



AHMADIS BEHIND BARS

1 Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad, etc. were booked on May 26, 2020, with FIR No: 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 in Pakistan.

Pakistan's Cyber Crime Department, Lahore which works under Federal Investigation Agency arrested Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad 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. Now a Statutory Bail application is being filed for these individuals before the Court of law. 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 appointed 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 the Lahore High Court, Lahore.

2 Mr. Shiraz Ahmad etc. were booked by Cyber Crime Police Station Lahore on June 20, 2019, under FIR No: 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 of Pakistan.

3 Malik Zaheer Ahmad was arrested on September 30, 2020, in a fabricated case under Sections 295-B, 298-C, PECA-11, and 109 with FIR No: 77/20. He was granted bail on February 23, 2021, and was expected to be released in four to five days after the paper formalities. The trial court has acquitted Mr. Malik Zaheer sb in this. On February 27, when Malik Zaheer Ahmad was expected to be released from the Camp Jail, Lahore the FIA with malefide intention re-arrested him under FIR No: 88 (the said case is outlined above) under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, and PECA-11. He was not even formally nominated in this case.

His bail plea was rejected by the Supreme Court. His bail on statutory ground has been dismissed by Additional Session's Judge, Lahore Mr. Nawaz Bhatti. Currently the bail application is pending before the Lahore High Court, Lahore. The accused filed application for his acquittal under section 265K CrPC. This application is pending before the trial court.

AS OF MARCH 31, 2024:

- 5 Ahmadis are behind bars solely on account of their faith.
- 24 Fabricated cases against 133 Ahmadis were registered during 2023.
- 13 Ahmadis were arrested during August 2022 for sacrificing animals on Eid.
- 26 Ahmadis were nominated in 6 cases and 7 were arrested in 2023.
- A 65 year old Ahmadi lady and another Ahmadi were arrested under blasphemy clauses during February for allegedly tearing off an anti-Ahmadiyya poster. They both were released on bail. Their trial continues.
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died while in police custody (Feb. 2021 & Jan 2022.)

ALARMING FACTS

SINCE JANUARY 2022

- 5 Ahmadis have been murdered for faith, raising the total to 278 since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 16 murder attempts, 10 attacks during 2022, 5 attacks during 2023, 1 attack during 2024
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died in custody, they were imprisoned for their faith.
- Police case against 107 and 133 Ahmadi Muslims were registered in 2022 and 2023 respectively.
- 51 new cases have been registered against Ahmadis under the blasphemy laws & Anti-Ahmadi laws, 26 of these were registered during 2022 and 24 in 2023. One Ahmadi arrested under PPC 298-C in Jan 2024.
- 20 Ahmadis were arrested for sacrificing animals on Eid. 26 Ahmadis were nominated in 6 cases in 2023.
- 56 Ahmadiyya mosques desecrated, 14 in 2022 and 39 in 2023. 3 places of worship sealed during 2023. 4 Ahmadiyya mosque desecrated in 2024, so far.
- 395 graves have been desecrated, 197 of these were during 2022 and 100 in 2023. 98 gravestones desecrated so far in 2024.

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.

RIGHT TO VOTE FOR AHMADIS

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 (REQUIRES TO ACCEPT NON-MUSLIM STATUS)
2. COME OFF THAT LIST AND VOTE AS A MUSLIM (REQUIRES TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION)

BOTH CHOICES ARE INCONCEIVABLE TO AHMADI MUSLIMS

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)

NATIONALIZATION OF AHMADI

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

- Between 1947 and 1972, Ahmadiyya Community owned and operated a number of educational institutions in Punjab, Pakistan. In 1972, the government of Pakistan introduced a policy of nationalization of educational institutions throughout Pakistan. Hence, 8 schools and 2 colleges were nationalized by the government.
- In 1996, the Government of Punjab issued a notice giving the owners of nationalized educational institutions the option to regain control of their institutions upon fulfillment of certain criteria and in fact returned numerous other institutions to their original owners.
- **Despite fulfilling all terms & conditions & repeated requests from the Community, the Punjab Government has taken no action.**
- The supreme court in its ruling of Feb 22, 2000 clearly stated that the ownership of nationalized institutions rests with the original owners. **However, this right of ownership has been denied to the Community despite the clear verdict of Supreme Court of Pakistan.**
- The community thus moved writ petitions in the Lahore High Court. However, the hearing on these writ petitions is also pending for the last two years and this matter is still lingering.

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 BLANCHETO TERRORIZE AHMADIS WITH THE BACKING OF THE STATE.

HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS OFFICE UK

Contact Info

 +44 (0) 20 3988 3862

 humanrights@tabshir.org

 2 Sheephatch Lane, Islamabad
Tilford, GU10 2AQ, UK