

PERSECUTION OF **AHMADIS** IN PAKISTAN

Monthly Report

02

FEBRUARY 2024



HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION
AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSION

Cover Photo: Ahmadiyya Mosque, Bhabra Kotli Azad Kashmir

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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

FROM 1984* TILL DEC 31, 2023

DURING 2023

277

Murdered for faith

1

Murdered for faith

478

Murder Attempt

39

Mosques Desecrated

4280

Ahmadis booked

133

Ahmadis booked

202

Mosques Desecrated

100

Graves Desecrated

DURING 2024 SO FAR

- Three Ahmadiyya mosques desecrated by the police, another Ahmadiyya mosque attacked.
- An Ahmadi survived murder attempt during Feb.
- 88 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.

The persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Pakistan persists with alarming intensity, as recent events in February starkly illustrate. Amidst a backdrop of religious intolerance, two Ahmadiyya mosques were defiled, serving as poignant reminders of the relentless hostility and vandalism faced by Ahmadis simply for practicing their faith. Furthermore, an Ahmadi Muslim narrowly escaped a targeted murder attempt, shedding light on the grave dangers individuals face due to their religious identity.

In addition to these distressing incidents, the forced transfer of six Ahmadi teachers underscores the pervasive discrimination Ahmadis endure in various spheres of society, including educational institutions. These cases highlight the systematic targeting and marginalization of Ahmadis, perpetuating an environment of fear and persecution.

Despite these challenges, there have been glimmers of hope. Two Ahmadis, who unjustly spent years behind bars solely for their religious beliefs, were finally granted bail by the Supreme Court. While this development offers a modicum of relief, it serves as a sobering reminder of the systemic injustices faced by Ahmadis in Pakistan's legal system.

As the international community observes these ongoing violations of religious freedom, it is imperative to advocate for the protection of Ahmadis' fundamental rights and call for an end to the persecution they endure on a daily basis.

* Since the promulgation of Ordinance XX

ANOTHER AHMADIYYA MOSQUE SEVERELY DEFILED IN KASHMIR

DOLYAN JATTAN, AJK; FEBRUARY 12, 2024

The following news was published online at <https://www.asianews.it/news-en/In-Kashmir,-extremists-target-Ahmadis,-injuring-worshippers,-tearing-down-minarets-60147.html>:

In Kashmir, extremists target Ahmadis, injuring worshippers, tearing down minarets

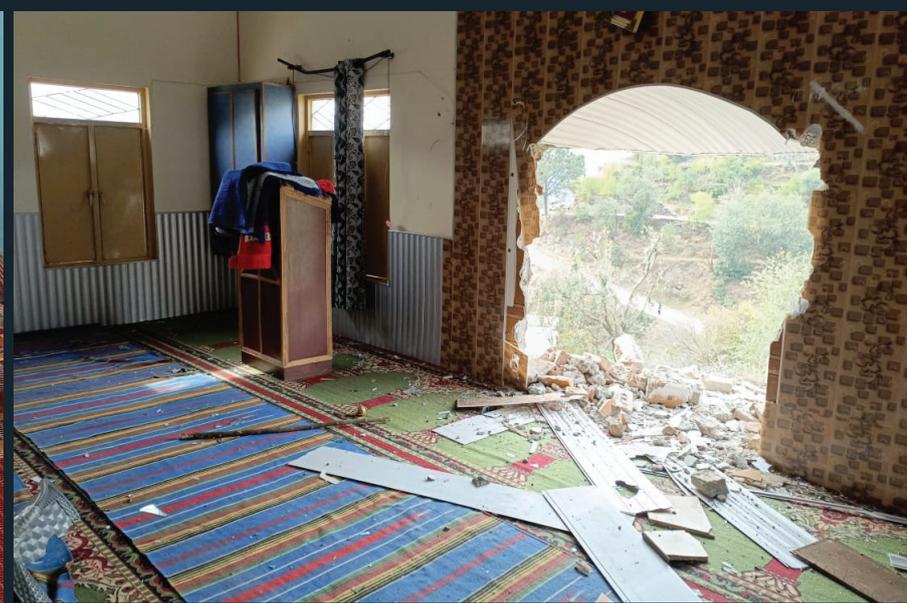
Azad Jammu Kashmir (AsiaNews) – Pakistan's Ahmadi community has once again been targeted by extremist groups.

The latest attack took place on Monday in Bhabra, Kotli district (Azad Jammu and Kashmir), involving an Ahmadi place of worship.

During the attack, which included beatings and the use of firearms, several Ahmadis suffered injuries, with about eight men and five women seriously wounded. The attackers ransacked the Ahmadi mosque and tore down its minarets (pictured).

Despite being alerted by the victims, police were slow in reaching the scene of the incident, and by the time they arrived, the attackers, a group of 60 to 65 people, had fled the scene.

During the attack, CCTV cameras were smashed and the mosque vandalised as the mob stormed the building, the preliminary investigation shows.



Upon entering the building, the attackers beat the caretaker, Wajid Hussain, with iron rods and hammers. He is currently in hospital in critical condition.

When other members of the community rushed to the victim's aid, they too were violently beaten and abused by the attackers, who also stoned local houses injuring some residents, later taken to the district hospital in Kotli for medical treatment.

Since November last year, the place of worship has been targeted by extremists while complaints and reports to the police proved useless.

Some radical leaders had given Ahmadiis until 16 December to clear the area and take down the minarets, or they would act themselves, which is what they did.

The raid comes at a troubled period for the country, after a general election that ended in an uncertain outcome with former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and

his Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz forming a coalition government with Bilawal Bhutto and his Pakistan Peoples Party.

The new cabinet has not yet been agreed to, but it is already in the crosshairs of adversaries and independents linked to the jailed retired cricket champion and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who has a large following in the electorate.

"Last year a total 42 incidents of persecution were reported against the Ahmadiyya community and dozens of minarets were demolished; this year two incidents have been reported so far," said Ahmadi leader Aamir Mehmood speaking to AsiaNews.

While demanding justice and the culprits' arrest, he does not mince his words about the authorities who are "duty-bound to protect citizens" and yet have "failed miserably". "We have videos of this attack and police can easily identify the attackers," he added.

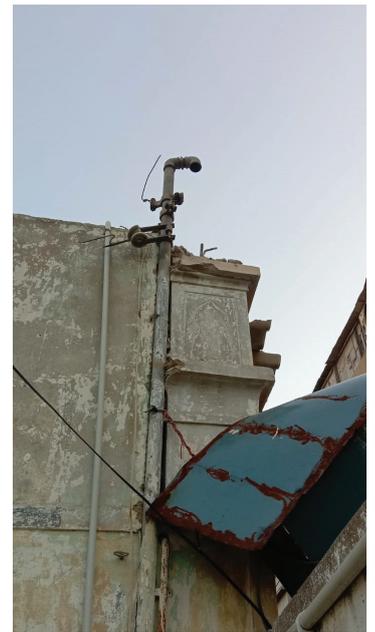


MINARETS OF THE AHMADIYYA MOSQUE DEMOLISHED

AZIZABAD, KARACHI; FEBRUARY 28, 2024



A group of 15 to 20 extremists, with their faces covered and carrying sticks and one ladder, attacked the local Ahmadiyya mosque and demolished the minarets. Some of them also had Palestinian flags in their hands. At that time, there were two policemen on duty outside the mosque. The attackers were violent with them, threw chili powder at them and detained them. Three to four individuals climbed onto the roof using the ladder and began dismantling the iron sheets already covering the minaret. Some miscreants started breaking the outer walls of the mosque with hammers. According to the police, gunfire was heard, and fireworks were thrown. The individuals who climbed onto the roof harassed the caretaker and his family there. The attack lasted approximately 10 minutes.



The violent extremists broke two external cameras. Ten minutes after the incident, some police personnel arrived at the scene. A few months ago, an attempt to dismantle the minarets was made on September 10, 2023, but at that time, the police, by mutual agreement, had required the minarets to be covered with iron sheets. Since then, the police have been on duty here.



Registration of an FIR of the incident is in process.

AHMADI ACCUSED GRANTED BAIL AFTER FOUR YEARS

LAHORE; JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2024

A case was registered against Mr. Rohan Ahmad and other elders of the Ahmadiyya Community on May 26, 2020, at FIA Police Station Lahore in case number 29, under PPCs 295-B, 298-C, 120 B, 109, 34, and 11-PECA. Mr Rohan Ahmad was subsequently arrested. Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shahzad were arrested on September 30, 2020. Later, on June 29, 2021, the PPC 295-C was added to the case, on demand of the complainant.

The bail application of the accused was rejected by the Supreme Court's three-member bench (Mr. Justice Mazhar Alam, Mr. Justice Khan Miankhail, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel) on April 27, 2022. Later, on February 22, 2023, the three-member bench rejected the review petition and directed the High Court to determine whether the offenses (295-C, 295-B, 298-C) imposed by the FIA fall within the jurisdiction of the FIA or not..

Mr. Rohan Ahmad, after spending more than two years in custody, filed a bail application on Statutory Grounds in the Lahore High Court. The application was rejected by Justice Muhammad Amjad Rafiq on June 8, 2023, without even hearing the argument of the defendant's lawyer, Advocate Usman Kareemuddin. An appeal was then filed in the Supreme Court of Pakistan against this decision. On November 15, 2023, the designated bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan asked reports from the

High Court and Sessions Court in reference to this case.

The Supreme Court finally granted his bail on January 15, 2024. Before his release, the FIA re-arrested Mr. Rohan Ahmad from Camp Jail Lahore and registered a new case under FIR No: 11 on January 23, 2024 under 295-A, 295-B, 298-C, 109, 34, PECA-11. He was presented the next day before a court for physical remand but the court dismissed this newly registered case, after hearing the argument of defendant's lawyers.

Upon this, the FIA then added two more sections PPC 295-C and PECA-26 to the newly registered case on February 2, 2024, and once again took Mr. Rohan Ahmad into custody from Camp Jail Lahore. The next day, he was again presented before the court for physical remand. The defendant's lawyers then presented their argument; the court thereby dismissed the newly added sections, and he was released on bail the same day—after remaining in prison for three years and nine months. However, the other two accused, Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shahzad, are still incarcerated.

The opponents have filed Writ Petition against the dismissal of the newly registered case in High Court while the trial of the previous case is ongoing in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Lahore, Naveed Anjum Saleemi.

AHMADI ACCUSED RELEASED ON BAIL BY SC—EVENTUALLY

RABWAH; FEBRUARY 2024

On the complaint of anti-Ahmadiyya religious cleric Muhammad Hassan Muawiyah, the police registered a case on December 6, 2022, at Police Station Chenab Nagar in FIR No: 661 under sections PPCs 298-C, 298-B, and The Punjab Holy Quran

(Printing and Recording) Act, 2011 9(1) against Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani and others including any printer, publisher, author, composer, proof reader, assistants, and others unnamed were accused of distributing the Holy Quran with allegedly 'altered

translation’.

Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani, the principal of Madrasatul Hifz (school where children memorize the Holy Quran), was subsequently arrested on January 7, 2023, in the aforementioned case. On February 6, 2024, the Supreme Court of Pakistan accepted the bail of Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani. Following the completion of paperwork on February 13, 2024, the accused was released from Faisalabad Jail after spending more than a year behind bars.

An appeal against the decision and the dismissal of the sections of the FIR was filed by the Punjab Government in the Supreme Court again, whereas the Jamaat-e-Islami also requested to become a party. On February 26, 2024, the Chief Justice Faiz Isa heading a three-member bench heard the appeal of the opponents. Chief Justice of Pakistan stated during the hearing that there would be no debate on the bail of the accused; however, if any religious aspect is affected, it can be identified. Chief Justice stated that he would be happy if any appeal against his decision is filed. Surely, through appeal, there is an opportunity to correct mistakes. “We do not claim to have all the wisdom, therefore, the court welcomes assistance. If there is any error in the decision, it will be corrected, with gratitude for the assistance,” he added.

Apart from Jamaat-e-Islami’s leaders Sirajul Haq and Farid Paracha, Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, Special

Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, was also present during this hearing.

Advocate Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui (a sacked judge of IHC) represented the Jamaat-e-Islami. Siddiqui said that they think that in Mubarak Sani’s case, proper assistance was not provided to the court, and the petitioner did not even request for dismissal of the sections against him.

The Supreme Court gave a notice to various religious institutions including the Council of Islamic Ideology, Jamaat Ahl-e-Hadith, Quran Academy, Jamaat Al-Muntazar Lahore, and Darul Uloom Karachi for the next three weeks, that if they want to give their opinion or assist in this matter, they should inform the Supreme Court of their opinion.

The trial of the case is ongoing in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Lalian, Raja Ajmal. As the dismissal of the sections of FIR in a case is beyond the jurisdiction of an Additional Sessions Judge, he referred the case to the Sessions Judge Chiniot, Arif Khan Niazi. The SJ Chiniot has sent the SC’s decision of Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani’s release on bail and the dismissal of sections of FIR to Magistrate Lalian Afzal Allah to conclude the case.

Mr. Sani was released on bail on February 13, 2024, He had already spent twice the time in prison compared with the penalty prescribed by the applicable law in force when the said offence was allegedly committed.

SIX AHMADI TEACHERS TRANSFERRED

DOLYAN JATTAN, AJK; FEBRUARY 2024

Seven Ahmadi female teachers were serving in the Government Girls High School Dolyan Jattan, District Kotli. As a part of recent anti-Ahmadi campaign, they were subjected to harassment in various ways. Following the attack on the Ahmadiyya mosque on February 12, 2024, opponents launched a campaign against the Ahmadi teachers. They incited the local community and students against these teachers,

even threatening violence and demanding their expulsion from the school. This campaign was also propagated on social media. An ‘action committee’ of the institution called for protests against these teachers and threatened an indefinite closure of the institution. Consequently, the administration transferred six Ahmadi teachers to different schools elsewhere.

Ms. Talat Qayyum was transferred third time within a month despite a stay order from the court. Ms. Parveen Akhtar was transferred from Dolyan Jattan to Chouk Sahiban. Ms. Sofia Tazeen, who was transferred from Kara to Dolyan Jattan, has now been sent back to Kara. Ms. Mubashirah Siddiqa was transferred from Dolyan Jattan to Saral. Ms. Jameela Siddiqa was transferred to Gond. Similarly, another

teacher, Ms. Rafat Qayyum, who had returned to her home station after 18 years, was transferred for the second time within two months despite a court stay order.

It is relevant to mention that such transfers cause a great deal of hardship and inconvenience to most of the affected teachers.

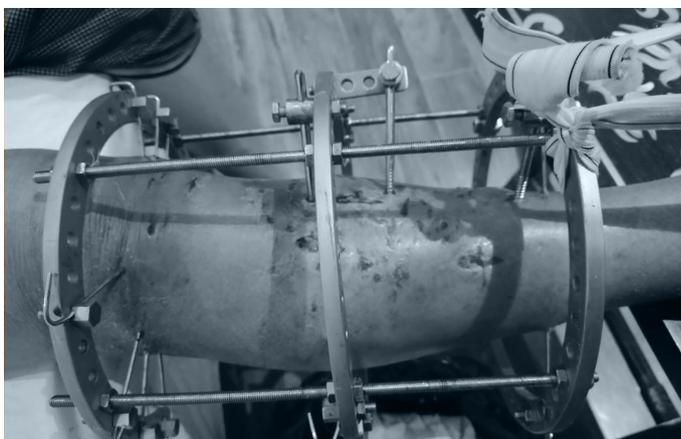
MIRACULOUS ESCAPE: AHMADI SURVIVES TARGETED SHOOTING

BERIANWALA, TOBA TEK SINGH; FEBRUARY 2024

Mr. Muhammad Afzal left his house at 7 a.m. for the market when he came across a local non-Ahmadi acquaintance, Saddam. Saddam fired 4 or 5 shots at him, one of which hit near Mr. Afzal's shin. However, he was fortunate to avoid any serious injury. After the shooting, the assailant fled the scene, while shouting a religious slogan.

Mr. Afzal was taken to the Civil Hospital in Gojra, where he was treated.

The incident was reported to the police, who, then, raided the home of the shooter. He had absconded. Efforts are being made to have an FIR formally registered. Two days prior to this incident, opponents held a conference in Berianwala where they declared Mr. Muhammad Afzal 'a prominent Ahmadi' and suggested that his removal would help achieve all their objectives.



HOSTILE CONFERENCE IN CHINIOT

CHINIOT; FEBRUARY 26, 2024

The Central Institute Dawat o Irshaad Chiniot organized its 62nd Annual Fath e Muabahilah

Conference here under the presidency of Maulvi Ilyas Chinioti. The conference continued from 1:20

pm to 2:40 pm, with more than 200 men attending the event. Following prominent mullas addressed the conference: Ismatullah Bandialvi of Sargodha, Shah Nawaz Farooqi of Gujranwala, Nauman Zia Farooqi of Faisalabad and Masroor Nawaz of Jhang.

In their addresses, with reference to SC's verdict in Mubarak A. Sani's case, these mullas emphasized that delivering justice is the responsibility of the judiciary, but unfortunately, the Supreme Court, which stands as the backbone of the judiciary, is not providing fair judgements. They further exclaimed, "Qadianis are enemies of Islam and traitors to the country. We cannot show any leniency towards them. Our elders have sacrificed for the dignity of the Khatme Nabuwat and the Respected Companions (of the Holy Prophet); we will continue to make sacrifices for it. The Supreme Court should reconsider its decision so that Qadianis cannot take advantage of it. Muslims are the custodians of the Khatme Nabuwat and can sacrifice anything for it. We will defend the Khatme Nabuwat in the footsteps of our elders. We reject the decision made for a fake prophet and an incomplete personality."

Following anti-Ahmadiyya resolutions were moved at this event (translation):

- Qadianis are a divisive group unrelated to Islam. According to the Constitution of Pakistan, they are a non-Muslim minority and an illegal organization (sic). This gathering demands that the government take action to enforce the Constitution and laws against this anti-state and anti-Islam group. If Qadianis do not accept their constitutional status and call it "black law", how do they deserve any constitutional rights?
- This gathering expresses grave concern over a recent ambiguous decision regarding Qadianiyyat by the Supreme Court. It also expresses strong reservations about the European Union's unreasonable interference. Although the Supreme Court's public relations officer has attempted to eliminate the ambiguity by the explanation of the verdict on February 22, 2024, we are aware of the mischiefs of Qadianis and the way they disseminate the Holy Quran around the world with their own translations; surely, they would refer to this decision according to their own interpretation. Hopefully, the Honorable Chief Justice, while issuing the decision on the review petition, will also consider this aspect as well, InshaAllah.



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

ALARMING FACTS

SINCE JANUARY 2022

- 4 Ahmadis have been murdered for faith, raising the total to 277 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.
- 385 graves have been desecrated, 197 of these were during 2022 and 100 in 2023. 88 gravestones desecrated in the first month of 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.

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.

Pakistan's Cyber Crimes 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 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 No: 88, under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, PECA-11, for allegedly creating a group "Sindh Salamati" 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 with malefide intention the Cyber Crime Wing Lahore team re-arrested him under FIR No: 88 as outlined in the above case, 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 Lahore Mr. Nawaz Bhati now the bail application is pending before Lahore High Court. 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 Mudarassatul Hifz was arrested on January 7, 2023 from his home in Rabwah. He was booked with FIR No: 661/22 under the blasphemy section PPC 295-B, 298-C, and Section 9 of 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 was rejected by the Additional Sessions Judge Lalian, District Chiniot and Lahore High Court, Lahore. Thereafter his Levae to Appeal petition was filed before the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Mr. Mubarak Sani challenged the framing of charges under section(s) 295-B PPC and section 9(1) of The Punjab Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) Act, 2011 but the trial court and Lahore High Court subsequently dismissed his petition. Thereafter the said matter was taken up before the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan accepted Mr. Mubarak Sani's Post Arrest Bail Application on 06.02.2024 and the petition for amendment of charges. The Supreme Court deleted the criminal charges under section(s) PPC 298-C, 295-B and 9(1) of The Punjab Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) Act, 2011. Mr. Mubarak Sani has returned home safely after being incarcerated for more than 1 year.

5 Imtiaz Ahmed is currently behind bars. An FIR No: 1/2024 under section 298-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 he has been granted Bail after arrest by the Session's Court vide its judgment dated 27.02.2024.

AS OF JAN 31, 2024:

- 6 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.
- 20 Ahmadis were arrested for sacrificing animals on Eid. 26 Ahmadis were nominated in 6 cases 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.)

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

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