

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS OFFICE

Tabshir Office: Osman Chou Block, Islamabad, 02 Sheephatch Lane, Tilford, Surrey GU10 2AQ, UK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jun 12, 2024

HISTORIC AHMADIYYA MOSQUE DESECRATED DESPITE PRE-1984* EXISTENCE AND PROTECTION GUARANTEED BY THE LAHORE HIGH COURT

POLICE COMPLICITY IN RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION CONTINUES

June 10, 2024: It is with profound sorrow that we report the recent desecration of the Ahmadiyya Muslim mosque in Jahman, district Lahore. This grave incident marks another distressing chapter in the ongoing persecution faced by the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan.

Opponents of the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Jahman submitted an application to the authorities, demanding the removal of the minarets, asserting that they resembled traditional Islamic architecture. On June 9, 2024, police arrived with the orders to remove the minarets. The Ahmadiyya Community firmly informed the authorities that they would neither carry out this action nor allow opponents to do so. A delegation from the Ahmadiyya Community met with the police authorities again on June 10, 2024, reiterating their stance. Despite these discussions, the SHO of Heare Police Station indicated an intention to carry out the demolition that same night.

In the early hours of June 12, 2024, the police, consisting of 10-12 uniformed officers and four individuals in civilian clothing, desecrated the minarets of the Ahmadiyya mosque. This attack, conducted around 1 a.m., also involved the removal of the DVR system.





Ahmadiyya Mosque, Jahman, District Lahore, before the incident

The desecration of Ahmadiyya mosques has been a recurring issue, with 2023 being particularly dire, witnessing the desecration of 44 mosquesⁱ. In 2024 alone, desecrations occurred in Thatta Joyia, Sargodhaⁱⁱ (Jan 4), Dolyan Jattan, AJKⁱⁱⁱ (Feb 12), and Aziz Abad, Karachi^{iv} (Feb 28). Additionally, an Ahmadiyya place of worship was sealed in Baldia Town, Karachi, a few days ago on June 7, with related detentions and FIR against community members.

The spokesperson for the Ahmadiyya Community Pakistan^v condemned these actions, highlighting that such atrocities by law enforcement agencies blatantly disregard the

^{*} Before the promulgation of Ordinance XX





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orders of Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh of the LHC^{vi}, which stated that Ahmadi worship places built before 1984 require no amendments. The mosque in Jahman was completed in 1971.

Furthermore, the landmark decision by Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani in 2014^{vii}, which called for the establishment of a Special Task Force to protect worship places, is being ignored as police instead appease societal elements that undermine Pakistan's integrity.



Baldia Town, Karachi

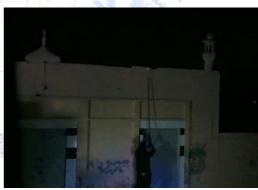
Call to Action:

We urge national and international organizations to voice their concerns to the relevant authorities and ensure the protection of all citizens' mosques and worship places. The international community must act now to halt the cycle of violence and hatred against the Ahmadiyya Muslim community and uphold justice and religious freedom in Pakistan.









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 $^{^{}i}\,\underline{www.persecution of ahmadis.org/featured\text{-}reports/}$

[#] www.persecutionofahmadis.org/persecution/removal-of-sacred-inscriptions/2024/02/01/police-erased-kalima-from-the-ahmadiyya-mosque-thatta-joiya-sarqodha/

^{##} https://thefridaytimes.com/12-Feb-2024/five-women-among-eight-injured-as-armed-mob-targets-ahmadi-worship-place-in-ajk

www.persecutionofahmadis.org/persecution/desecration-of-mosques-in-the-name-of-religion/2024/03/01/minarets-of-the-ahmadiyya-mosque-demolished-in-karachi/

v https://x.com/PressSectionSAA/status/1800773024162996436

vi www.sys.lhc.gov.pk/appjudgments/2023LHC4565.pdf

www.www.refworld.org/jurisprudence/caselaw/paksc/2014/en/105975