

PERSECUTION OF AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

Monthly Report August 2023



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HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION
AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS

Contents

• Police arrest 6 Ahmadis in Lahore	4
• Very hostile situation for Ahmadis in District Kasur	5
• Ahmadi arrested on fabricated charge of preaching Ahmadiyyat	6
• Community president imprisoned	6
• Burial denied to Ahmadi	6
• Ahmadi doctor persecuted by the Faisalabad police	7
• Ahmadiyya mosque vandalized in Sanghar city	7
• Unidentified hoodlums destroyed the minarets of Ahmadiyya mosque	8
• Police destroy the minarets of another Ahmadiyya mosque	8
• Officials interfere with Ahmadis' freedom of worship	9
• Police gets religious inscriptions destroyed in Ahmadiyya mosque	9
• Police destroyed minarets on Independence Day	10
• Ahmadiyya mosque vandalized three days after the Jaranwala horror	11
• Threats to Ahmadiyya mosques in Jhang	11
• Fate of another mosque in Sanghar	12
• Partial demolition of Ahmadiyya mosque by state officials	12
• Kalima in Ahmadiyya mosque over-painted black	13
• Sacred inscriptions defiled and demolished by the Police	13
• Mullas target Ahmadiyya mosque in Lahore	14
• The gravity of a Qurbani case!	14
• A whiff of fresh air from Lahore High Court	15
• Ahmadis behind bars	16
• Right to vote for Ahmadis in Pakistan	18
• Imprisonments - As of July 31, 2023:	18
• Alarming Facts - Since January 2021	19
• Ahmadi censorship	19
• Annex (<i>Intention needs action - by Muhammad Amir Rana - Daily Dawn</i>)	20
• Unveiling the Hard Facts - Ahmadis' Persecution in H1 2023 - A Snapshot	22
• Some Relevant Pakistan Penal Codes	23
• Patriotism Prevails: <i>Rabwah's vibrant Pakistan Independence Day festivities</i>	24

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

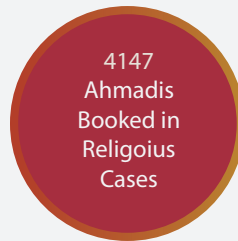
AHMADIS HAVE TO DECLARE THEMSELVES
NON-MUSLIM

TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE AND STAND FOR ELECTION

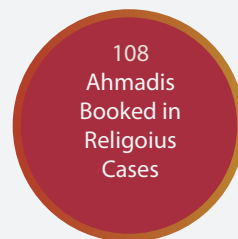
SEE PAGE 18 FOR DETAILS ON VOTING RIGHT FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

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.
- 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.
- 21 Ahmadiyya Mosques attacked, minarets of another mosque concealed by a wall, another prayer centre besieged by a violent mob. Another mosque sealed by the authorities in July.
- Burial of 3 Ahmadis denied in a common cemetery in Jan, Jul and Aug. 19 gravestones destroyed.
- Sacred inscriptions removed from three Ahmadi houses.
- Two Ahmadi students expelled from school.

In the month of August, a time when Pakistan marks its independence, a disheartening narrative unfolds for the Ahmadiyya Muslim community. A stark contrast to the ideals of freedom and equality, ten Ahmadiyya mosques fell victim to desecration in thirteen separate incidents. Alarmingly, three mosques still face imminent threats, indicative of a sustained campaign against the community.

The fundamental rights of Ahmadis were further violated with ten arrests, accompanied by cases filed under oppressive anti-Ahmadiyya laws. Shockingly, an Ahmadi was sentenced to five years in prison, illustrating a troubling erosion of justice and basic human rights.

Even in death, the persecution persisted as the burial of an Ahmadi was denied in a local graveyard, compelling the community to find an alternative distant burial ground. This blatant discrimination reflects a callous disregard for humanity and compassion.

In an additional act of discrimination, the authorities shut down a clinic run by Syed Kal-eem Ahmad, an Ahmadi, citing the mere presence of 'Syed' in the clinic's name.

As Pakistan reflects on its independence, it must grapple with the urgent need to protect the rights and dignity of all its citizens, regardless of their faith, in the true spirit of freedom and inclusivity.

* SINCE THE PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCE XX

POLICE ARREST 6 AHMADIS IN LAHORE

Badami Bagh, Lahore; August 2023:

Mr. Muhammad Mubashar and his two brothers are running a small factory here that produces shoe soles. Around 20 workers currently work in the factory. For some time, the mullas are inciting the workers and the neighbors against the Ahmadis.

On August 1, 2023, the mullas gathered and went to the factory and told the owners to denounce their Ahmadiyya belief. They threatened and badmouthed them before leaving and got a case registered against them with the police. The police registered a case Nr. 1783 against two Ahmadis, Muhammad Mubashar and his son Musharraf Ahmad, on August 1, 2023, in Badami Bagh Police Station, Lahore under PPC 298-C for allegedly propagating their belief.

On August 15, a Sessions Court approved interim pre-arrest bail of the two accused, pending a confirmation hearing on August 22.

Three brothers of Mr. Mubashar, Wajahat Ahmad Qamar, Shafeeq Adil, Nasir Ahmad, his son Mudassar Ahmad, accompanied by two other Ahmadis Sheraz Ahmad and Umar Ahmad Bajwa went to the shoe factory on August 18 to get some of the belongings and documents from there. When they reached the factory, the opponents gathered in a mob, created a tumultuous situation, and called the police. The factory was neither sealed nor the police had forbidden anyone to visit the premises.

The police arrested the six Ahmadis present at the scene and transferred them to Badami Bagh police station. They later booked them in a supplementary of the afore-mentioned case and sent them to Camp Jail Lahore on judicial remand.

The TLP fervently campaigned against the accused Ahmadis and called their hoodlums to

protest on August 22, 2023, thereby pressurizing the authorities to get their bail denied. Pertaining to the aggressive and hostile situation which could easily turn into an unbecoming event, Mr. Muhammad Mubashar and his son Musharraf Ahmad could not appear in court and Additional Sessions Judge Abdul Qudoos dismissed their bails for non-prosecution.

A poster of the above-mentioned TLP campaign is shown and translated below:

This was most wrongful of the authorities to do that. The Jaranwala tragedy had occurred only three days before, and the country was hurt to the core by the Mulla's mischief. And, the police in the provincial capital yielded again to the same group of mullas and committed a serious wrong against members of a marginalized small community.

The media and the foreign human rights elements took note of the incident and mentioned

it in reports and dispatches.

We quote here a very relevant and sagacious comment made in the prestigious Dawn in its editorial on August 23, 2023:

...But, unless the root causes that give rise to such extremist violence are addressed on a thorough and sustained basis, nothing will change. Our minority communities will continue to live on a knife-edge, not knowing when a misspoken word, a festering resentment or some manufactured pretext will be used against them to bring a murderous mob to their door-

step. The first order of business must be to track down the perpetrators of the Jaranwala outrage and punish them to the fullest extent of the law. No one must harbour delusions about there being any mitigating factors whatsoever behind faith-based violence, no exceptions to the rule. All minorities deserve the protection of the law; every Pakistani has the right to freedom of religion. But this is the 'easier' part of what is required if there are to be no more Jaranwalas. Changing society's triumphalist mindset — the outcome of decades of state-sanctioned indulgence of



ultra-right pressure groups to achieve political ends — is a more arduous, multi-faceted task. Only the state is in a position to undo the grievous harm its tunnel vision has caused. But, one must ask, will it?

VERY HOSTILE SITUATION FOR AHMADIS IN DISTRICT KASUR

Bhulair, District Kasur; August 2023:

The opposition against Ahmadis has recently spiked here as there has been a huge increase in activities like armed assaults and registration of police cases. Recently, a baseless case was registered here against 13 Ahmadis, five of them were then arrested.

On August 4, 2023, an Ahmadi Mr. Shafiq Ahmad (who was living with his relatives due to the immensely hostile situation) was stopped by the opponents when he tried to return to his own home. The opponents are trying their best to make Ahmadis flee from the village.

The local president, upon receiving the news, arrived at the scene with two or three other Ahmadis. According to their plot, the opponents called the police helpline 15 and told them that Ahmadis had attacked their house and opened fire at them. Ahmadis had no arms, no ammunition and they surely did not indulge in any violent activity. The police took Shafiq Ahmad and his brother Parvez Ahmad along with the complainant to the police station and registered a case against them under

PPC 107/151. They were bailed out the next day. The police proceeded further and upon not finding any evidence of firing, sent the complainant Abdul Rauf to Kasur Jail and registered a case against him for disrupting the peace.

On August 5, 2023, the opponents intercepted an Ahmadi Mr. Irfan Ahmad, and badmouthed him. The police, upon receiving the information, arrested him and the complainant, proceeded under PPC 107/151, and sent them to prison. Why both, one may ask? Ahmad was released on bail on August 7, 2023.

On August 7, 2023, it was announced from the loudspeakers of the mosques of village Chilhar—a neighboring village of Bhulair—that Ahmadis had committed blasphemy against the Prophethood. They urged the public to gather and tell the authorities to take action against them. An Ahmadiyya delegation contacted the higher authorities and informed them about the situation that the opponents were airing fabricated allegations to disrupt peace. The police arrested 5 persons including the mulla who was making these announce-

ments. Three of them were later released while two are still behind bars.

Authorities have taken the same action against both sides 'to maintain law and order',

but justice is not served if the victim is treated as the aggressor. Authorities should handle the sponsors and leaders of the mischief firmly, in order to forestall a situation like that in Jaranwala.

AHMADI ARRESTED ON FABRICATED CHARGE OF PREACHING AHMADIYYAT

Chak 5/1-R Rinala Khurd, District Okara; August 06, 2023:

Mr Basharat Ahmad, Mr Ayaz Nasir along with two unnamed persons, were booked on August 06, 2023, in a fabricated case of preaching Ahmadiyyat under Section 298-C with FIR Nr. 711 at P.S. City Renala Khurd. Police arrested Mr Basharat Ahmad on the same day and was sent to jail on judicial remand.

One Muhammad Asif was a friend of Shahzad Sohail, Ahmadi of Germany, a brother of the victim Mr Basharat. Mr Sohail lent € 30,000 to Mr Asif on his request for business investment. Later, Mr Asif refused to return the loan, on which Mr Sohail registered his complaint via the Pakistan Citizen Portal. Reacting to the complaint, Asif got this fabricated FIR registered through an intermediary Muhammad Ejaz as the complainant.

COMMUNITY PRESIDENT IMPRISONED

Nagarparkar, Sindh; August 15, 2023:

Mr. Mubashar Ahmad, president of the local Ahmadi Community of Bara, Nagarparkar was sentenced to five years' imprisonment by the ASJ Mitthi, Sindh.

Seven persons including Mr. Mubashar, his

three Hindu relatives, and three others were booked in a baseless case under various clauses of the Pakistan Penal Code concerning scuffles, etc.

The ASJ acquitted the six accused but sentenced Mr. Mubashar to five years' imprisonment. He is going to appeal before the Sindh High Court against the verdict.

BURIAL DENIED TO AHMADI

Jatoi, District Muzaffargarh; August 15, 2023:

Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Ahmadi, died on 15 August 2023. He joined the Ahmadiyya Community about 30 years ago, while the rest of his family is non-Ahmadi. Arrangements were made in the village for his burial. When they were taking the dead body for burial, it was found that some bigots were trying to obstruct the burial. Those people had said that if Ahma-

dis tried to bury this infidel here, there will be bloodshed.

On this occasion, a local politician also supported them. Given the situation, alternative arrangements were made for burial in a distant Ahmadiyya graveyard at Bet Daryai.

After the funeral prayer and burial, the opponents shared a video on social media and declared their victory, and shouted anti-Ahmadiyya slogans.

AHMADI DOCTOR PERSECUTED BY THE FAISALABAD POLICE

Naimat Colony, District Faisalabad; July 25, 2023:

Police came over to the clinic of Syed Kaleem Ahmad during their security visit. The DSP saw the board of Mr. Kaleem's clinic, on which his name carries the prefix "Syed". He ordered to erase the word "Syed", on which he was intimidated that the Doctor wasn't around. He arrogantly told the dispenser to remove the board itself; this was done as ordered.

After removing the board, the DSP wanted to check the clinic for undeclared reason; he

asked the dispenser to open it. He replied, "The key is with the doctor, who is not here." The DSP ordered the clinic to be locked and called the Doctor to the police station. When the Ahmadiyya delegation went to the police station, it was learned that all this was done due to a demand made by the TLP. After talks, Ahmadis were permitted to open the clinic. Earlier, an undertaking was similarly obtained from Ahmadis not to sacrifice on the occasion of Eid.

Faisalabad is the district where Jaranwala is located.

AHMADIYYA MOSQUE VANDALIZED IN SANGHAR CITY

Sanghar, Sindh; August 5, 2023:

Unidentified miscreants arrived at about midday, and using hammers inflicted damage on the Ahmadiyya mosque in MaliPara.

A few days earlier, mullas reported to the police about the ongoing renovation and repair of the mosque located

inside the farmhouse of the Ahmadi district Amir's personal property. The police officials came to the site and saw that the worship place was old and needed repairs, still, they sealed the mosque and registered a police case against the Amir and his brother. The brother lives in Rabwah, almost a thousand kilometers away.

On August 9, 2023, at approximately 10:30 PM, a group of six assailants targeted the mosque again. They launched an attack on the dome, causing significant damage to nearly half of its structure.

Sanghar is a district city in Sindh where PPP, led by Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, prevails supreme.



UNIDENTIFIED HOODLUMS DESTROYED THE MINARETS OF AHMADIYYA MOSQUE

168 Murad, District Bahwalnagar; August 6, 2023:

Since Eid ul Adha this year, the situation is very hostile here, as the campaign against Ahmadis has become more intense. There were continuous threats to destroy the minarets of the Ahmadiyya mosque and announcements for agitation and mob attacks were frequently made. Ahmadis informed the authorities. They even met the DPO Bahawalnagar and in-



formed him about the egregious circumstances. He appeared considerate, and the matter seemed settled for a while.

On August 6, 2023, around 11 PM at night, the opponents attacked the Ahmadiyya mosque and demolished the minarets. Ahmadis immediately informed the police about the incident. The police arrived and after inspection, registered an FIR against unknown miscreants.

POLICE DESTROY THE MINARETS OF ANOTHER AHMADIYYA MOSQUE

Chak Nr. E.R 373, District Vehari; August 8, 2023:

Earlier, the opponents demanded the demolition of the minarets of Ahmadiyya mosque. The minarets were covered on the instructions of the police. (see pic)

On August 8, 2023, the police sent for Ahmadiyya delegation including the local president, and after discussing the matter, sent them back. Before Ahmadis could reach their village, the police arrived, destroyed the minarets and took the debris with them.



OFFICIALS INTERFERE WITH AHMADIS' FREEDOM OF WORSHIP

Kasur; August 2023:

On August 11, opponents did anti-Ahmadiyya graffiti inscriptions at 7 locations in Model Bazar here in front of the Ahmadiyya mosque. They wrote: Ahmadis were out of the pale of Islam; they cannot call themselves Muslim; they cannot adopt Islamic practices; etc. (translation).

Ahmadis informed the district police chief. The same night, authorities had the graffiti effaced.

Having done that they asked Ahmadis to leave the mosque, and they left. However, a

week later, on August 18, security officials came over and knocked at the mosque door when the Friday prayer was in progress. They stated that they had orders to close the mosque immediately and the worshippers should leave.

One of these officials conveyed that Ahmadis should talk to the SHO if needed. Ahmadis have experienced the latter to be harsh with them. He pressurizes Ahmadis to have his way, and has twice threatened to close down the mosque.

Ahmadis of Kasur are greatly upset and disturbed.

POLICE GETS RELIGIOUS INSCRIPTIONS DESTROYED IN AHMADIYYA MOSQUE

Bhera, District Sargodha, Punjab; August 12, 2023:

It was reported earlier that the Ahmadis here were undertaking essential repairs in the residence of the local missionary, semi-detached with the Ahmadiyya mosque. Mullas protested and demanded that the construction work be stopped and the minarets be demolished.

The next day, on July 24, the AC Bhera and DPO sent for Ahmadis. Mullas and media personnel were also present there.



The administration appeared helpless in their presence, and Ahmadis were made to sign an agreement.

On August 12, 2023, the AC, DSP, SHO, and CEO visited the Ahmadiyya mosque and ordered the committee workers to remove the inscriptions of "Al Hukmulillah" and "La Ghaliba Illaallah". They demolished these inscriptions in the presence of the police. It is noteworthy that they had earlier removed Kalima from the same mosque.



POLICE DESTROYED MINARETS ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Chak Nr. 543 E.B, District Vehari; August 13-14, 2023:

The SHO Machiwal visited the Ahmadiyya mosque here on July 22 and said that TLP activists had complained against the minarets of the Ahmadiyya mosque. He insisted that Ahmadis demolish the minarets and told them that the TLP workers had otherwise threatened to demolish these themselves. After two days, the police again told Ahmadis to demolish the minarets and threatened them to face consequences. After a discussion with the police, abiding by their instructions, Ahmadis covered the minarets with the help of fiber sheets.

On August 13, the DSP Burewala and SHO Machiwal came again to visit the Ahmadiyya mosque and took the Secretary General Affairs with them to the police station. They pressurized him to destroy the minarets and treated him harshly. Moreover, they threatened him with detention for 60 days. Meanwhile, some other Ahmadis also



went to the police station along with an Ahmadi advocate Mr. Sarwar Khan. The policemen got annoyed on the legality of their demand and sent them out of the police station. Then the police themselves drafted a statement and forced Ahmadis to sign it. Later that night around 2 PM, one police officer and two laborers arrived at the Ahmadiyya mosque and destroyed the minarets with the help of a cutter. Later in the morning, the SHO Machiwal visited the Ahmadiyya mosque and got the remains of the minarets removed in his presence.

It is noteworthy that the mosque was built in 1963— long before the Ordinance XX.



AHMADIYYA MOSQUE VANDALIZED THREE DAYS AFTER THE JARANWALA HORROR

Sambriyal, District Sialkot; August 18, 2023:

The police and civil administration at the demand of the Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) undertook the demolition of the niche of the Ahmadi place of worship on the night of August 18.

Earlier, the TLP filed a demand with the authorities against the niche of the Ahmadiyya mosque. On 14 August, Independence Day, a few mullas called on the AC and threatened that if the authorities failed, they will demolish the niche. Thereafter the AC, DSP and SHO sent for Ahmadis and told them to demolish the niche. Ahmadis refused to comply with this unlawful directive.

Thereafter on the night of August 18, a dozen officials blocked the street from both sides and started breaking the niche. The municipal employees took the debris with them.

This desecration of the Ahmadiyya mosque was undertaken by the authorities three days after the mob rampage in Jaranwala, which brought a bad name to the Pakistani state and society worldwide. The Caretaker PM stated

firmly: *“No compromise on minorities’ rights.*



Miscreants will be brought to justice definitely.”

This is easier said than done. Amir Rana, a well-known intellectual wrote an op-ed for the daily Dawn, with the title: Intention needs actions. Its theme was summed up in the top line: A moderate image needs societal transformation, which in turn requires humanization. Considering the high merit and necessity of this motion, Mr. Rana’s op-ed is reproduced at Annex.

THREATS TO AHMADIYYA MOSQUES IN JHANG

Jhang, August 22, 2023:

Ahmadi seniors received a phone call from the police station, Jhang Sadr, telling them to come over to the Ahmadiyya worship place in Mohallah Piranwala. The district secretary (public affairs) went there. An official there told him that the TLP deputy Amir, Usman Gujjar had sent in a complaint against the minarets and niches of the Ahmadiyya worship places in Piranwala and on Bhakkar Rd. They demanded the removal of any similarity of these places with Islamic mosques.

While inspecting the worship place and making a video of its interior and exterior he remarked that there was nothing objectionable, and the locals were not demanding their demolition.

The Ahmadi secretary told him that this

mosque was built before the Partition, and no extension has been undertaken since then. Also, the locals have no complaints about these. In 1988, a group destroyed the Kalima from the exterior; the damaged wall was not repaired to avoid any mischief.

Thereafter, the official interviewed the next-door non-Ahmadi neighbor who told him that Ahmadis were on good terms with the locals and they all enjoyed good mutual relations.

Then these people went over to the Ahmadiyya mosque, Bhakkar Rd. The official took pictures of the mosque and talked to the locals who expressed mutual harmony with Ahmadis.

The officials said that he will make his report to the DPO in the inter-departmental meeting.

FATE OF ANOTHER MOSQUE IN SANGHAR

Chak No. 24, District Sanghar; Aug 27, 2023:

In Chak 24, District Sanghar there exists an Ahmadiyya Community mosque within the boundaries of Dr. Azhar Iqbal's agriculture farmhouse (District President of Ahmadiyya Community Sanghar) and his brother Mr. Mazhar Iqbal's (Director Waqf e Jadid Rabwah) property. This place of worship has been a part of the community for an extended period. Renovation work commenced in July due to its deteriorating condition. However, opponents lodged a complaint with the police, urging them to dismantle the arch and minarets of the worship place. In response, vandals attempted to set the worship place ablaze

through mob attacks. The local DPO and SHO inspected the area, sealing the worship place, despite being informed of its historical significance. To compound matters, both brothers were unjustly charged on July 4, 2023, although no arrests were made. Under the duress of imminent arrest and threats from opponents, Mr. Azhar Iqbal reluctantly allowed his adversaries to proceed as they pleased. Consequently, on August 27, 2023, a group of opponents, emboldened by this acquiescence, vandalized the mosque's mehrab.



PARTIAL DEMOLITION OF AHMADIYYA MOSQUE BY STATE OFFICIALS

Sheikhupura, August 28, 2023:

Almost a thousand activists of notorious TLP gathered outside the DPO's office and agitated against the Ahmadiyya mosque. They demanded that the minarets of all the Ahmadiyya mosques in the entire district should be demolished. They had invited leading TLP mullas from nearby districts who informed the crowd of their great achievements in Hafizabad, Gujarat, Jhelum, etc. In the meantime officials of security agencies kept on visiting the Ahmadiyya mosque off and on. The crowd dispersed in the evening after giving the ultimatum that if the police do not do the demolition till 11 Rabiul Awwal (late September) they will do it themselves.

Thereafter the security chief came over to the mosque, where the Jamaat elders told him

of the Jamaat stand on the issue. They told him that the security of Ahmadis and their worship places is the responsibility of the state, and the authorities till then had done a good job (in Sheikhupura city), that should continue. Ahmadis would extend them co-operation and best wishes. He appeared not very optimistic.

On August 30 evening, the district security chief came to the mosque and talked of the possibility of demolition. Ahmadis tried to dissuade him. Later, at about 11 p.m., security personnel came over, switched off the electric supply to the entire neighborhood, as well as to the security cameras, and using a cutter destroyed the minarets of the worship place.

Two days later, on September 1, the police took action in Chak 79, Nawan Kot, damaged the minarets of the Ahmadiyya mosque there and removed the steel pinnacle.



KALIMA IN AHMADIYYA MOSQUE OVER-PAINTED BLACK



Shadiwal, District Gujrat; August 29, 2023:

Ahmadiyya mosque of Shadiwal was built in 1983. A TLP activist took a photo of the Kalima (Islamic creed) written in the yard of the mosque and filed an application with the Kunjah police station, and demanded its erasure.

An Ahmadi delegation went to meet the SHO of P.S. Kanjah. He told Ahmadis to either erase the Kalima or make it invisible from outside. The roof of the courtyard of the mosque is made of fiber, it was raised so high that the Kalima and other sacred writings could not be seen from outside. However, the SHO was not satisfied, he insisted on erasure of the Kalima, to which the Ahmadiyya delegation refused compliance and said that they will not allow any civilian to do so.

On August 29, 2023, at around noon, the police and special branch officials came to the mosque and said that the TLP had given an ultimatum for August 30. On this, they were shown that the Kalima and other sacred writings were not visible to anyone from outside. However, they called a labourer working in a nearby building and got the Kalima and other writings blackened.

At this time the SHO P.S. Kunjah, the in-charge police post and a representative of the Special Branch were present there.

SACRED INSCRIPTIONS DEFILED AND DEMOLISHED BY THE POLICE

Chooknawali, District Gujrat; August 29, 2023:

The local Ahmadiyya mosque was built in the 1960s. Eleven Ahmadi families live here. There was no opposition in the village. People join on occasions of happiness and sadness. However, a few days ago, a person who is not a local came to the village to sell some eatables. He saw the Ahmadiyya mosque, and in league with TLP filed a report in Kunjah police station objecting to its construction. An Ahmadiyya delegation called on the SHO. He told Ahmadis to erase the Kalima, on which the delegation stated their position.

On the afternoon of August 29, the Assistant Commissioner contacted Waleed Ahmed, son of the local Ahmadiyya president, and asked him to erase the Kalima, and added that if he

did not do so, there was a fear that the next day these people would come in a procession, enter your place of worship and destroy the minarets and niche, and thus do more damage. The Ahmadi youth refused to do as told. Later, after 11:00 pm, the police came to the mosque, knocked on the door of the Ahmadi house in front of the worship place and told the resident Ahmadi youth to erase the Kalima. On his refusal, an official painted the Kalima black, and took pictures.

On August 30, 2023



at around 1 P.M, police officials, under the supervision of the SHO of Kanjah Police Station, revisited the Ahmadiyya mosque. They proceeded to demolish the sacred inscriptions using a hammer and removed the debris from the site.

Following the incident, Tehreek e Labbaik extremists commended the removal of sacred inscriptions in Chooknawali. They demanded the minarets at the Ahmadiyya Worship Place in Shadiwal be brought down by the upcoming Sunday, declaring Monday as a day dedicated

to their cause. SHO Shafqat Mahmood Butt expressed support for their actions and assured them of solidarity.



MULLAS TARGET AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN LAHORE

Islamia Rd; August 2023:

Ahmadis had recently undertaken repairs to the depleted sections of their mosque here. One evening, they checked their security cameras; they showed that someone had undertaken recce and photography of the mosque at mid-day. This lout turned out to be the same who had quarreled with an Ahmadi official last year and had threatened to kill him.

Ahmadis considered it appropriate to inform the police. The police sent for this fellow, and he turned up accompanied by 20 mullas. They took the position that a criminal case should be registered against Ahmadis for having min-

arets in their worship place.

The police decided to visit the worship place, in the company of three mullas. They found nothing objectionable at the site.

The mullas at the P.S. seemed unhappy with the youth for being indiscreet, not consulting them, and not being first in reporting to the police.

Mullas, in fact, had planned to agitate in front of the Ahmadiyya mosque on a Friday creating a law and order problem to worsen Ahmadis. Most of them were from the nearby neighborhood of Sham Nagar where they had succeeded in getting the Ahmadiyya center closed.

THE GRAVITY OF A QURBANI CASE!

Lahore; July, August 2023:

It would be recalled that religious bigots and the police, at various locations, booked some Ahmadis over offering sacrificial animals at the festival of Eid ul Adha this year. The law does not forbid Ahmadis this rite. The Constitution gives them freedom to practice their religion. The state has undertaken commitments to the world community to uphold Human Rights and Freedom of Religion and Belief in the land. However.....

In one such case, Mr. Javed Iqbal and his son

Aftab Iqbal were booked on June 30, 2023, with FIR Nr. 508 at PS Gojra, District Toba Tek Singh Punjab, under the anti-Ahmadiyya section PPC 298-C. The police arrested the two accused.

The Civil Judge Gojra and the ASJ Toba rejected their bail plea. The accused then appealed to the Lahore High Court.

The plea of the prisoners was placed before Mr. Justice Amjad Rafiq for a hearing. The honorable judge recused himself from this hearing and sent the case back to the Chief Justice. The case will now be heard by some other judge.

A WHIFF OF FRESH AIR FROM LAHORE HIGH COURT

Lahore; August 31, 2023:

A case of bail of 5 Ahmadis of Wazirabad was pending before the Lahore High Court on their role in the local Ahmadiyya mosque built in 1915, with minarets, etc. Mr. Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh, confirmed the bail and wrote the following in his verdict inter alia:

15. In the present case, the gravamen of the complaint against the Petitioners is the Islamic-style minaret of their worship place. True, the minaret is a religious symbol for Muslims, but it is also an architectural feature. The earliest mosques lacked minarets. At the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the call to prayer (Azan) was made from the highest roof near the mosque. Varying theories exist about the origin of minarets. Some scholars think that early Muslims adopted Greek watch towers to call people to prayer, which Muslims used for their own purposes before deciding to create their own architectural structure. Others believe that the Ziggurat towers of the Babylonian empire inspired the minaret.
16. I do not need to determine in these proceedings whether sections 298-B and 298-C PPC prohibit and criminalize the construction of a worship place by Qadianis resembling a mosque. However, in my opinion, they do not mandate that the structures built before the promulgation of Ordinance XX of 1984, by which these provisions were introduced, should be razed or altered.
17. As adumbrated, Qadianis built the worship place in question way back in 1922 and have inscribed Bait-ul-Zikar at its doorway. The Petitioners are just its caretakers. I wonder if they can be punished for an architecture crafted a hundred years ago. Admittedly, there is no allegation that they call the aforementioned worship place a mosque or have otherwise done anything that may hurt the feelings of Muslims within the contemplation of section 298-C PPC. The Complainant has not explained why he kept mum for about 38 years after the promulgation of Ordinance XX of 1984 and what prompted him to lodge FIR No.699/2022. The Petitioners allege that he is attempting to score political points.
18. I cannot understand how the doctrine of continuing offence is attracted to the facts and circumstances of the instant case. It is a settled principle that the prosecution must prove that the accused possessed mens rea when he committed the act which caused the actus reus. However, as the case of Fagan explained, where an actus reus may be brought about by a continuing action, it is sufficient that the accused had mens rea during its continuance, albeit he did not have mens rea at its inception. When Qadianis built their worship place, its architectural design did not violate any law then in force. They have not committed any continuing act to bring about actus reus now. Even if sections 298-B and 298-C PPC are assumed as strict liability offences, the prosecution must show that the Petitioners did something to constitute actus reus. It has not done so.
19. In **Tahir Naqash and others v. The State others (PLD 2022 SC 385)**, the Supreme Court of Pakistan stated: *"Article 260(3) of the Constitution, though declares the Ahmadis/Qadianis as non-Muslim, it neither disowns them as citizens of Pakistan nor deprives them of their entitlement to the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution. The Constitution treats, safeguards and protects all its citizens equally, whether they are Muslims or non-Muslims. Article 4 of the Constitution is an inalienable right of every citizen, including minority citizens of Pakistan, which guarantees the right to enjoy the protection of law and to be treated in accordance with law."*
20. I have accepted the application and admitted the Petitioners to pre-arrest bail by short order of even date. These are reasons for it.

-Sd-

(Tariq Saleem Sheikh) Jdg

This noble judgement is a step in the right direction. One hopes that the TLP and the authorities will refrain now onward from the crime of demolishing the minarets and niches in Ahmadiyya mosques.

AHMADIS BEHIND BARS

1

Mr. Rohan Ahmad, Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad, etc. were booked on May 26, 2020, with FIR Nr. 29/2020 at Police Station FIA Cyber Crimes Wing, Lahore under PPCs 295-B, 298-C, 120-B, 109, 34 R/W, 2016-PECA-11, allegedly for sharing a WhatsApp message regarding a religious Quiz program and a General Knowledge competition arranged by the youth organization of the Ahmadiyya community.

Pakistan's Cyber Crimes Department, Lahore which works under Federal Investigation Agency, arrested Mr. Rohan Ahmad.

Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad were arrested later on 30.09.2020 on reporting to the FIA office; they are in Camp Jail Lahore.

Addl. Sessions Judge Lahore added the blasphemy clause PPC 295-C to the charge sheet on June 29, 2021, exposing them to the penalty of death.

The Supreme Court rejected their post-arrest bail application. Thereafter the High Court rejected Rohan's bail on statutory grounds on June 8, 2023. The statutory ground here means 'trial not concluded within 2 years of the arrest of the accused'.

2

Mr. Shiraz Ahmad etc. were booked by Cyber Crime Police Station Lahore on June 20, 2019, under FIR Nr. 88, under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, PECA-11, for allegedly creating a group "Sindh Salammat" and sharing Ahmadiyya content in it. He was arrested from Hafizabad on February 25, 2021. Subsequently, the trial court added the Blasphemy section 295-C of PPC to the said case.

His bail plea was rejected by the Supreme Court.

3

Malik Zaheer Ahmad was arrested on September 30, 2020, in a fabricated case under Sections 295-B, 298-C, PECA-11, and 109. He was granted bail on February 23, 2021, and was expected to be released in four to five days after the paper formalities. On February 27, when Malik Zaheer Ahmad was expected to be released from the Camp Jail, the Cyber Crime Wing Lahore team arrested him under FIR Nr. 88 as outlined in the above case, under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, and PECA-11. He was not even formally nominated in the case.

His bail plea was rejected by the Supreme Court.

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 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 Additional Sessions Judge Lalian, District Chiniot.

5

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

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

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

An application for his release stating that his detention is illegal has been filed before the trial Court in Karachi, Pakistan. The proceedings of the said Application are currently underway.

6

Mr. Javed Iqbal and Mr. Aftab Talib of Chak 433 GB, District Toba Tek Singh were booked and arrested under PPC 298-C with FIR No. 508 at police station Gojra Saddar, District Toba Tek Singh on June 30, 2023, for sacrificing animals on Eid-ul-Adha.

7

Mr. Asad Ijaz and Mr. Ahmad Shiraz of Chak 433 GB, District Toba Tek Singh were booked and arrested under PPC 298-C with FIR No. 509 at police station Gojra Saddar, District Toba Tek Singh on June 30, 2023, for sacrificing animals on Eid-ul-Adha.

8

Mr. Mubashar Ahmad including four others from Nagar Parkar, District Tharparkar was booked in a police case on December 27, 2022, in Nagar Parkar police station under PPCs 337 (iv), 337A (i), 334, 337F(i), 337L (ii), 147, 148, 149, 504 with FIR No. 59. On January 10, 2023, Additional Sessions Judge Mithi, District Tharparkar rejected Mubashar's plea for bail confirmation. An appeal was filed against this decision in Sindh High Court where they rejected his bail request. An appeal was then filed in the Karachi Registry of the Supreme Court which also rejected his bail on June 30, 2023. On July 7, 2023, he presented himself before the Sessions Court where the police took him into custody and sent him to prison.

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)

IMPRISONMENTS - AS OF JULY 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.
- 19 Ahmadis are behind bars solely on account of their faith.
- Fabricated cases against 8 Ahmadis were registered during Nov 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.)

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.
- 55 new cases have been registered against Ahmadis under the blasphemy laws & Anti-Ahmadi laws.
- 21 Ahmadis are arrested during 2023 in different religion based cases. 108 Ahmadis were booked in 2022 and 110 Ahmadis were booked in different religious base cases.
- 21 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.
- 29 Ahmadiyya mosques desecrated, 1 mosque sealed by the authorities. 9 attacked during 2023
- 344 graves have been desecrated, 197 of these were during 2022. 16 during July 2023. Burial of an Ahmadi lady denied and the graveyard sealed in Nov. 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.

INTENTION NEEDS ACTION

IT was not just an isolated incident of religious prejudice, a backlash to Islamophobia in the West, or a display of socioeconomic pressures on the average person, when a mob set fire to several churches and looted Christian homes in Jaranwala, Faisalabad district. It is indicative of the society the power elite has shaped. The state institutions' responses to this tragedy are as insincere as their pledges to root out extremism, given their lack of meaningful action.

Following each tragic incident, state institutions condemn the act and vow to take strict action against those responsible. However, after brief confrontations, the administration often capitulates to religious extremists. While the superior courts tend to rule in favour of the victims in such cases, their interventions seldom bring about lasting change. Many are aware of the outcome of the one-man commission set up to enforce a landmark Supreme Court ruling on minority rights, and how its recommendations were dismissed by both the executive branch and religious factions. Following the recent tragedy, Islamabad police set up a religious minorities protection force. However, this move seemingly underscores the state's inability to safeguard its citizens of diverse faiths. Many are aware of the police's often indifferent attitude towards marginalised citizens. Deploying such a force might only exacerbate the hardships faced by Pakistanis belonging to minority faiths.

Power elites strengthen radical religious groups by arming them with legal tools against religious minorities and those that the majority refuses to accept. When questioned about the state's policy, institutions might produce numerous documents that have never been put into practice, with no display of genuine intent to do so. While they have drafted internal security policies, a National Action Plan (NAP), counter-violent extremism strategies, established CVE centres, and issued decrees like the state-endorsed fatwa Paigham-i-Pakistan, these efforts have consistently failed to manifest as effective state policy. They serve merely as a facade, masking the state's and society's more troubling aspects.

The PDM government tried to introduce another CVE measure through a bill. However, it was thwarted by a few brave parliamentarians who believed its motivations were politically driven. The government reviewed numerous documents in its last weeks, including the CVE policy. Ironically, the interior ministry and the so-called National Counter-Terrorism Authority refined a CVE policy that was never put into action. Similarly, Paigham-i-Pakistan has been unsuccessful in influencing the religious clergy.

A moderate image needs societal transformation, which in turn requires humanisation.

The challenge of extremism is not as simple as imagined. A moderate image cannot be manufactured; it needs societal transformation, which in turn requires a humanisation process. The dehumanisation of others cultivates the tendencies of extremism, and state- or society-run strategic communications or counter-narratives slowly impact these tendencies. Equal citizenship rights can cultivate humanisation tendencies in society.

State institutions are faced with the immediate challenge of bridging the discrepancies between declared policies and their actual implementation. However, beyond bridging these gaps, there is a pressing need for these institutions to adapt their strategies to address new and emerging threats. Rather than relying on general approaches like the NAP and CVE policies, Pakistan should formulate specific policies targeting extremist groups. This includes creating distinct strategies for groups like the TTP and TLP.

However, the state still believes religion can unite the nation and create a cohesive society. Religiously inspired actors often exploit this notion to promote their own goals and motives, largely embedded in their sectarian and religious ideologies. This is why such groups, including their political wings, have failed the state's ideological project and undermined the common good of society. The common good is the well-being of the entire community, including its weakest and most vulnerable members. It is essential for the sustainability of society. Religious groups undermine the common good by exploiting the state's ideological design. This is because they prioritise their interests over those of the wider community.

Instead of looking at the diversity of religious, cultural, and societal opinion in Pakistan as a sign of inclusiveness and plurality, power elites see it as a drawback. The state institutions do not have the orientation of how to manage diversity. This has significantly damaged the country's social fabric, mainly its humanistic values such as empathy and compassion, safeguarding individuals and societies from hate and aggression.

The state's insistence on using religious groups to achieve its purposes has also contributed to this dilemma. By outsourcing its national project to sectarian groups, the state has given them a platform to promote their agendas, which often conflict with the common good. In order to address this dilemma, the state needs to stop exploiting religious groups for its purposes. It also needs to create a more inclusive and secular society where all people, regardless of their religious beliefs, can have a voice. Pakistan's state institutions and power elites often compare the country's situation to the rest of the world, particularly India. They attempt to suggest that religious persecution in Pakistan is not as severe as elsewhere. While such arguments might satisfy the elite, they do not alter the reality: Pakistan's situation is as dire as that of India. Comparing the two does not absolve the power elites of their duty to protect citizens of all faiths. It is understood that transformation processes take time, but they need to begin in the first place.

Saudi Arabia is updating its textbooks, removing anti-Semitic and anti-Christian references, and moderating negative depictions of non-believers and polytheists. Can Pakistan take similar steps? Beyond textbooks, Pakistan faces a more intricate challenge. Religious scholarship institutions in the country often fail to meet even the basic standards of other Muslim societies with fewer religious institutions. Many imams who incite violence are the products of these institutions, and currently, the state shows little intent to reform them or their curricula.

By Muhammad Amir Rana

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1771126>

UNVEILING THE HARD FACTS - AHMADIS' PERSECUTION IN H1 2023 - A SNAPSHOT

ATTACKS ON AHMADI PLACES OF WORSHIP IN PAKISTAN | JANUARY - JULY 2023

10 

Between January and July 2023 there have been ten attacks on Ahmadi places of worship across the country.



10 Jan | Minarets Desecrated in Wazirabad



4 Feb | Gun Fire attack in Settallite Town, Mirpur Khas



18 Jan | Minarets Desecrated in Martin Road Karachi



25 Mar | Minarets Desecrated in Kalra Kalan, Gujrat



02 Feb | Minarets Desecrated of Ahmadiyya Hall Karachi



16 Apr | Minarets Desecrated in Ghogyat, Sargodha



3 Feb | Arson Attack in Noor Nagar, Umer Kot



4 May | Minarets Desecrated in Dholanabad, Mirpur Khas



3 Feb | Minarets Desecrated in Goth Ghazi Khan Murrani

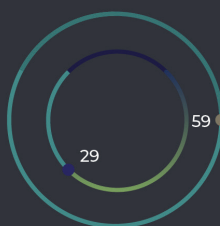


11 Jul | Minarets Desecrated in Kala Gojran, Jehlum



Since the enactment of Ordinance XX and the subsequent anti-Ahmadi laws by former military dictator General Zia-ul-Haq in 1984, Ahmadi places of worship have regularly suffered acts of vandalism and desecration perpetrated by both authorities and vigilante mobs. These attacks often involve the destruction of minarets and domes, and religious inscriptions. While the assailants cite the law, legal experts argue it doesn't apply to worship sites. The Islamic exclusivity of minarets and domes is also debated. Shockingly, 173 Ahmadi places of worship have been targeted.

* SINCE 1984



- Ahmadi Places of Worship Sealed by Authorities
- Ahmadi Places of Worship Set on Fire or Damaged
- Ahmadi Places of Worship Forcibly Occupied
- Construction of Ahmadi Places of Worship Barred
- Ahmadi Places of Worship Demolished

* Since the Promulgation of Ordinance XX

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

PATRIOTISM PREVAILS: RABWAH'S VIBRANT PAKISTAN INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVITIES



PAKISTAN INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED IN THE HEADQUAR



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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