



INTERNATIONAL  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
COMMITTEE

SPECIAL ISSUE  
**#2**

**NEWSPAPER, PRINT &  
ELECTRONIC MEDIA  
CLIPPINGS**

**2021**



Extremist Mullas celebrating their success after desecrating an Ahmadiyya Mosque in district Gujranwala, Pakistan - March 17, 2021

- ***VERDICT GUILTY***
- ***SENTENCE DEATH***

**AHMADI MUSLIMS  
FACING UNPRECEDENTED  
PERSECUTION IN PAKISTAN**

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1.

# VICIOUS HATE CAMPAIGN AGAINST AHMADIS CONTINUE TO BE RUN BY STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS



## TRANSLATION:

### Qadiani products - Harmful to faith, Harmful to Ramadhan

In the moments of the blessed month of Ramadhan, when keeping and breaking fast, protect yourselves from the Qadiani products and drinks.

Do social boycott of Qadianis, the rebels of Holy Prophet (PBUH) to express your full devotion to Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Famous corporations of Qadianis:

Mashmoom, Shezan, Punjab oil mill, Zaiqa oil, Canolive, Natutelle, Oliva, Zathune, Warsan, Turbo plastic, Matab Hameed, Curative, Combined Fabrics Limited, Universal Stabilizer, Megna Textile Mills, bita pipes, Shahtaj Sugar Mill, Shahtaj textile



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2



**ٹھہریے!!!**

کہیں آپ اسپن ہوٹل، کالج، یونیورسٹی، آفس  
میں مشموم کپنی کا پانی پی کر آب کوڑ سے  
محروم تو نہیں ہو رہے؟؟  
کیا آپ کو معلوم ہے کہ  
مشموم کپنی کی تمام مصنوعات قادیانیوں کی ہیں؟  
اور قادیانیوں سے مکمل بائیکاٹ ہر مسلمان پر  
لازم ہے۔  
بائیکاٹ کیجیے اور کروائیے!  
شفاعت نبوی ﷺ کے مستحق بن جائیے!

www.shubban.com    shubban.official    shubbanmedia    shubbankn

### TRANSLATION:

**Stop!!!**

Aren't you depriving of Holy water by using water of Mashmoom company in hotel, college, university or office? Do you know that Qadiani is an owner of Mashmoom company? Boycotting all Qadianis is obligatory for every Muslim. Boycott all Qadianis and also ask others to do so. Be eligible for intercession of Holy Prophet (PBUH).

**Web:** [www.shubban.com](http://www.shubban.com), **Facebook:** shubban.official, **Youtube:** shubbanmedia, **Twitter:** shubbankn

### BOY RAISING SLOGANS IN STREETS OF PAKISTAN: "WHOEVER ABUSES THE HOLY PROPHET (PBUH), KILL HIM!"



<https://youtu.be/OIIPkYwJI-U>



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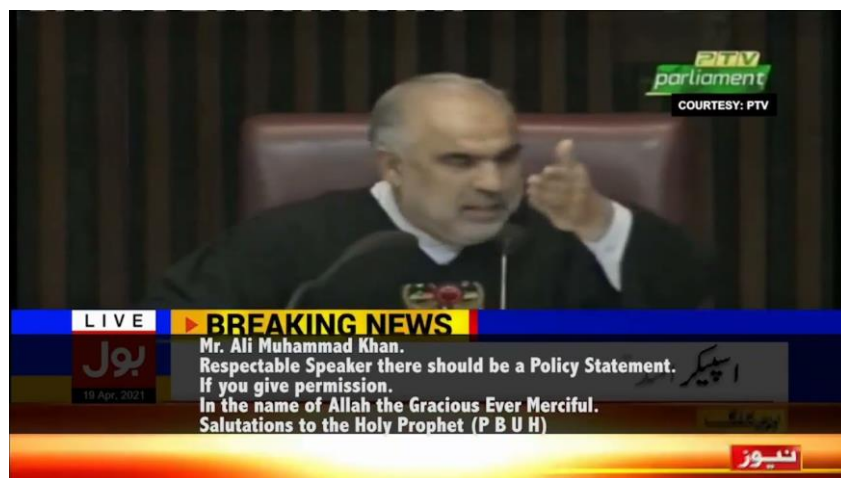
NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS – PRINT & ELECTRONIC MEDIA



## TRANSLATION:

Now we have reached him, and we will try to talk to him. Assalam o Allaikum. Wa Allaikum Salam. What is your name? Muhammad Abu Bakar. From long have you been part of this sit-in? It's been a week. For a week? Yes. Why have you come here? And from are you? I am from Khurianwala? Why have you come here? I have come here to expel France. You have come here to expel France? Who has told you that it is to expel France. My Baba Jee has told me. I have seen this in video that stones are being thrown, sticks are being used, shelling is being done and you are fighting the Police. Aren't you afraid? If Police comes and the Police catches you, what will you do? No problem, we are here to sacrifice our life. What does the Baba Jee used to say while delivering speeches from the stage? What does he used to say? Please tell us all? Baba Jee our Ameer ul Mujahideen used to say that if to safeguard the Prophethood of the Holy Prophet (P B U H) is terrorism, then this terrorism will happen every minute, every second, this will happen in the middle of the town and in sha Allah if time comes it will happen on the deathbed. Whoever abuses the Holy Prophet (P B U H) Kill him, Whoever abuses the Holy Prophet (P B U H) Kill him, Whoever abuses the Holy Prophet (P B U H) Kill him. Whoever abuses the Holy Prophet (P B U H) Kill them the meaning of this is that my Master has that whoever speaks against me, he should be torn to pieces. The Blasphemer should not get sleep till night. There is only one punishment for the Blasphemer, destroy his head, There is only one punishment for the Blasphemer, destroy his head. Till the time there is Sun and Moon Rizvi's Name will live. Till the time there is Sun and Moon Rizvi's Name will live. Salaam to the Courage of Rizvi. You should tell the Blasphemers of the Holy Prophet (P B U H), the dignity of the Muslims is alive, to attitude to die for the honour of the Holy Prophet (P B U H) is present today as it was present yesterday. Who can stay down, who can stay down, the one who has been raised by the Truth. He has got mentioning in both the worlds today as well as Yesterday. Tajdaar e Khatm e Nabuat Zindabad Zindabad. Tajdaar e Khatm e Nabuat Zindabad. O Master for your Faith, we present our hearts and life. O Master for your Faith, we present our hearts and life. You say we will not expel the Ambassador, even your Father will have to expel the Ambassador. Whoever abuses the Holy Prophet (P B U H) Kill him. Whoever abuses the Holy Prophet (P B U H) Kill him. Whoever abuses the Holy Prophet (P B U H) Kill him. Whoever abuses the Holy Prophet (P B U H) Kill him. Our Ameer ul Mujahideen used to say that nor we are Grey, neither do we speak grey things. We are bright servants of the Holy Prophet (P B U H) and we speak of Bright things.

## MNA SHAKOOR:"WHOEVER ABUSES THE PROPHET, KILL HIM!" & MNA ALI MUHAMMAD AGREES IN PAK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



<https://youtu.be/dRLLGmxwfy>



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## TRANSLATION:

**MNA Abdul Shakoor:** With thousands of apologies I would like to say that the punishment received by the Policemen in D-Chowk. Sticks were used to beat them. The ones who attacked PTV over here, the ones who attacked the Parliament over here. Who were they? Were the bullets fired at them? Were they declared terrorist? Is this the way to do the things. And then all of us including you are part of this that we are all Muslims and it is the demand of the faith that they **Holy Prophet (PBUH) himself states that "Whoever abuses the Prophet, Kill him"**.

**This is the statement of Holy Quran and it is part of our law and constitution 295-B and 295-C** you should read these clauses by yourself. The one who humiliates the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is liable to death punishment. This is all included in our law and constitution. 2200 hundred cases are registered in connection to the Blasphemy of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). In the state of Republic of Pakistan 1500 FIR's are registered and still those people are roaming around freely. What is the responsibility of the sitting government? If they will not carry out their responsibilities, the sentiments of the lovers of the Holy Prophet will flare up. They will not come to the battlefield, even you will be forced. You are Muslim, I am a Muslim too. You people made Peer Sahab get involved in this. We respect him on personal level. He belongs to a Noble Family. A person who has committed a murder, is a murderer and is the Home Minister should face this Parliament. He should come in front of this Parliament, he should not act as an absconder. This should be sponged. The one who cannot face the Parliament should not be a part of this. This should be sponged. I order this to be sponged. It is his responsibility. He could not face you, nor he can face us.

Today we are with the oppressed workers of Tehreek e Labbaik those who have been subjected to violence and persecution. The whole population of Pakistan is with the lovers of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). **We can die but we cannot let any harm being done to the Honour of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)**. We cannot do any trade on the love of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Thank you. The government should make it clear whether it is with France or with the lovers of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

**National Assembly Speaker:** Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan.

**MNA Ali Muhammad Khan:** Respectable Speaker there should be a Policy Statement. If you give permission. In the name of Allah the Gracious Ever Merciful. Salutations to the Holy Prophet (PBUH). If you are loyal to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) then we are yours. What's the value of this world the pen and the ink is yours. There is no doubt in it that every person who is present in this Parliament has the same sentiments to that of every lover of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). I am very satisfied on it and happy on it that the Parliament in which I am standing is whenever the issue of Khatme Nabuwat has come up, and whenever the issue of the Honour of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) has come up this Parliament has stood up. Keeping aside your association with your Political Party.

This Pakistan was formed in 1947 respected Speaker so Kalima Tayyaba was not there. Mr. Jinnah was asked that you want to create Pakistan. This Pakistan what kind of Pakistan will be this. Muhammad Ali Jinnah spoke about the Holy Quran and he spoke about the Holy Prophet (PBUH) afterwards a couplet of Allama Iqbal was recited. **So this Parliament when the issue of Qadianiat was raised, so the Khatme Nabuwat law was passed in this Parliament and the seal of confirmation was applied by this Parliament on Khatme Nabuwat that there will not be any Prophet (PBUH) after the Holy Prophet and the one who doesn't recognise the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as the Final Prophet, cannot be a Muslim.**

## CLERICS GET TOGETHER TO CONDEMN EU PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION & FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN PAKISTAN



<https://youtu.be/IC0qcKphsV4>

### TRANSLATION:

In the Name of Allah the Gracious, the Merciful. Salutations to the Holy Prophet (P B U H). Today on Saturday 01st May after Isha Prayer. Central Meeting of the Majlis e Shoora of Tehreek e Labbaik Pakistan was held at Central Rehmatullil Alameen Mosque. All members of the Central Shoora attended this meeting. Today the resolution passed out by France and the European Union against Pakistan, there was discussion about it and it has been decided that the Muslim Ummah on the whole and the workers and the responsible persons of Tehreek e Labbaik Ya Rasool Ullah denies this resolution categorically and we condemn it in strong words. And we announce that Pakistan is an independent and Sovereign Islamic State And this Resolution from the European Union is an intervention in the Internal Affairs of Pakistan. The State of Pakistan and the courageous Muslims of Pakistan do not give permission to anyone to intervene in our internal religious matters. Therefore the whole world should accept the independent and sovereign status of Pakistan. Pakistan has its own Constitution and Law, and to precise the Blasphemy Law will not be allowed to go through any change. This is the law which safeguards the honour of the Holy Prophet (P B U H). Therefore this demand of the European Union is totally unconstitutional and unethical and we completely reject it. Today the Central Majlis e Shoora of Tehreek e Labbaik Pakistan has made a demand to the sitting government to take a courageous step for the Honour of the Holy Prophet (P B U H) and the whole nation keeping aside all Political Associations and followers from all School of thoughts are ready to sacrifice their life's and to do any sacrifice for the Honour of the Holy Prophet (P B U H). Therefore we say this to the Claimers of State of Medinah to take a Bold Step And to gather the whole nation on the issue of the Honour of the Holy Prophet (P B U H). The recent Persecution being carried out against Tehreek e Labbaik ya Rasool Ullah, our workers got injured. Despite taking 27 dead bodies TEHREEK e Labbaik, and still number of our workers are in jail. Still we have decided that if the Government decides to take any step for the Honour of the Holy Prophet (P B U H) all of the workers of Tehreek e Labbaik Ya Rasool Ullah Pakistan will be standing in the front row while forgetting all of the persecution. The Government must take a courageous step, once we talk with the infidels eye to eye than Allah will help us, and we will have the consent of the Holy Prophet (P B U H) too. Pakistan will progress more and will be able to stand on its own as well. Mr. Imran Khan should take a courageous step. The whole nation is looking towards the Government. The more you accept the things from the infidels, the more you will be pressurised. Therefore we have to die one day, and we have to emerge successful in the Court of Allah the Almighty and the Holy Prophet (P B U H). This is the last chance for the Government to come forward for the Honour of the Holy Prophet (P B U H). The Lovers of the Holy Prophet (P B U H), the whole nation will be behind them. May Allah grant





wisdom to our Leaders, and for the sake of the Honour of the Holy Prophet (P B U H) and to efface their sins, let them stand this time for the Honour of the Holy Prophet (P B U H). Labbaik Labbaik Labbaik Ya Rasool Ulah Labbaik Labbaik Labbaik Ya Rasool Ulah Tajdaar e Khatm e Nabuat Zindabad

## TAHIR ASHRAFI (PM'S SPECIAL ADVISOR ON RELIGIOUS HARMONY) BLATANTLY REJECTS THE EU PARL. RESOLUTION

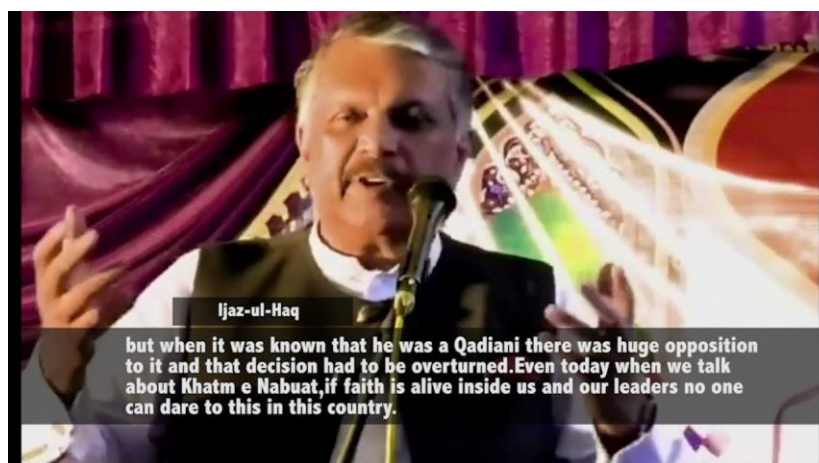


<https://youtu.be/yHVva-2nc528>

### TRANSLATION:

You have seen in the past days that the European Union Parliament has approved a Resolution in which discussion has been made on the laws of Blasphemy of Religion, and the Blasphemy of the Holy Prophet (P B U H) in Pakistan. **During the last 24 hours there has been Contact with the leaders of all school of thoughts and all religions refuse this report categorically.** The Law of Blasphemy in Pakistan is such that, during the last seven months no one can point out even a single incident in which this law has been misused.

## IJAZ UL HAQ (ZIA UL HAQ'S SON): "THE BIGGEST EVIL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IS THE EVIL OF QADIANIAT (AHMADIYYAT)"



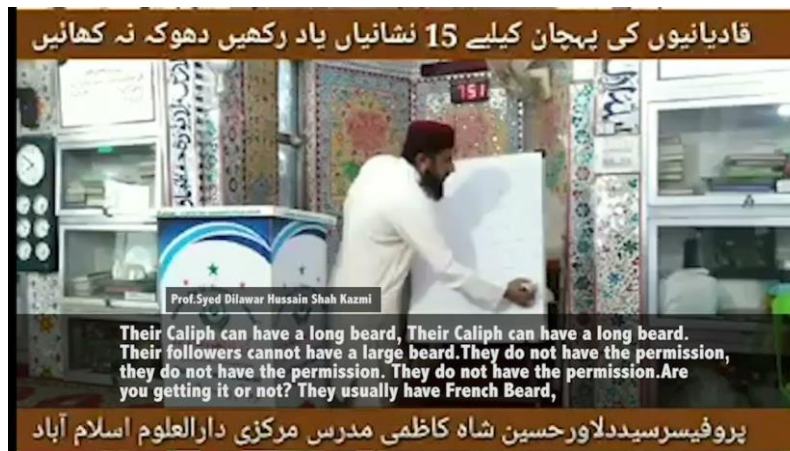
<https://youtu.be/x9jMoFJd2oo>



## TRANSLATION:

Why it is needed to raise the flag of Khatm e Nabuat in Pakistan, because the biggest evil throughout the world is the evil of Qadianiat has its basis in Pakistan. This country came into existence in the name of "La Illaha Illah", so this should not be needed here, but the enemies are very active too. They have been doing this slowly slowly. The ordinance issued by General Zia ul Haq, you would have heard about it. It was the final nail in their coffin from General Zia ul Haq. Meaning that if that had not been imposed, and that ordinance would not have been issued. This caused the General Public to know about this that now if any Qadiani, like our current Prime Minister Mr. Imran Khan tried to appoint a Qadiani as an Economic Expert, but when it was known that he was a Qadiani there was huge opposition to it and that decision had to be overturned. Even today when we talk about Khatm e Nabuat, if faith is alive inside us and our leaders no one can dare to this in this country. When I was the Minister for Religious Affairs I went to America I had a meeting with them in the State Department where I told them about this. I also went to the European Union in Belgium, where European Parliament is. People from all over the Europe gather there that are elected. The question that was asked from me that in Pakistan there is extreme persecution, you do not allow them to do this, not to do that. We will impose sanctions on you. We will stop your textile import, they pressurise the Governments too. At least in Pakistan the Governments too should make the public to act upon the ordinance issued by General Zia ul Haq. If they receive any pressure than they should tell them openly that we will not do any compromise on this.

## CLERIC TEACHING 15 DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF MIRZAIS (AHMADIS), ASKS MUSLIMS "NOT TO BE FOOLED"



<https://youtu.be/aNpbOCJhT-k>

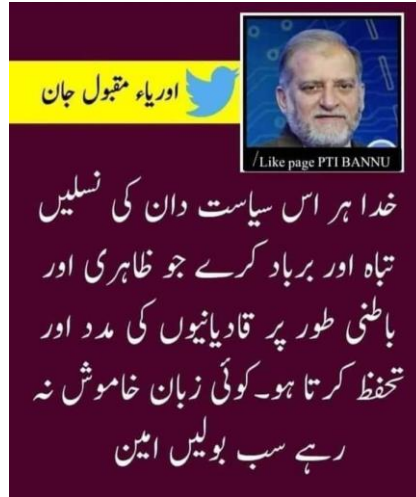
## TRANSLATION:

1. Mirzayee use Ahmad as their surname instead of Muhammad to relate themselves to Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani i.e. Abu Ul Mustafa Ahmad, Abdullah Ahmad, Abdul Qayum Ahmad etc.
2. They have a satellite channel known as Mta. Mta stands for Muslim Television Ahmadiyya. Every Mirzayi will have knowledge about this tv channel.
3. A dish antenna is found in the homes of an Ahmadi house because Mta is not aired on Cable. Hence Mirzayees install Dish antennas in order to watch Mta.



4. As we consider Khana Kaaba and Masjide Nabvi sacred holy symbols and dear to us similarly mirzaees consider a place in Qadian known as Minaratul Masih Holy and dear to them and try to influence the visitors by making them visit this place.
5. Mirzaees do not wear turban. Only their Caliph wears turban.
6. Mirzaees wear a special cap similar in design to Jinnah cap.
7. Those lower in status wear Sindhi Cap.
8. Their Caliph can only have long beard normally a handful of beard. His followers are not allowed to grow their beards long.
9. Mirzaees have french beards or trimmed beards or are clean shaved. You should let your children know that they should trim their beards in french style as this is the style of Mirzaees.
10. Mirzaees wear a ring made of green stone on which **اليس الله بكاف عبده** is engraved.
11. They hold the belief that Jesus did not die on the cross rather he escaped it and fled to Kashmir where his grave is found. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad at another place wrote that his grave is found in Palestine.
12. They are against maulvis or mullah and assert false allegations against them in abundance.
13. If we speak about 1973 in front of them their face turns pale and blue.
14. The burqa or veil worn by the Mirzaee woman has large pockets on both sides.
15. Their women wear tight fitting burqas or veils.

## PAKISTANI "SCHOLAR" ORYA MAQBOOL JAAN WISHES THAT ALL SUCH POLITICIANS BE DESTROYED WHO HELP AND PROTECTS AHMADIS



### TRANSLATION:

#### Oria Maqbool Jaan:

May Allah destroy and tear down every politician who helps Qadianis to all extents and purpose and protect them. Everyone must say Aameen, no one would stay quiet.

<https://www.facebook.com/100000736165388/posts/4159307050770459/>





2.

## CHRISTIAN NURSES CHARGED WITH COMMITTING BLASPHEMY IN PAKISTAN



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*Ensuring Justice for All*

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IHRC/IR/120421/2  
12 April 2021

### INCIDENT REPORT

### TWO CHRISTIAN NURSES CHARGED WITH COMMITTING BLASPHEMY IN PAKISTAN

Two Christian nurses in Pakistan have been charged with blasphemy because one of them was accused of destroying a sticker on a notice which might have contained a Verse of the Holy Quran. Pakistan has statutes targeting people of other faiths and Muslim sects. Any person with a personal grudge can falsely complain against such persons with a complaint which often leads to imprisonment or execution. This is exactly what happened to those two nurses.

Pakistan is constantly guilty of such unprovoked attacks on minorities such as Muslims of the Ahmadiyya Muslim sect and Christians in recent times. Any individual can initiate legal process which can be extremely harmful. The two nurses have been imprisoned allegedly “for their own protection” from the mobs incited by clerics but their location is not fully known.

Blasphemy case has been registered against the two Christian nurses in Faisalabad and the International Human Rights Committee is fearful of the punishment that might be given to them. Nurses have not admitted any wrong-doing at all.

Pakistan was created for the protection of minority faiths by its founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, but the country does not seem to be following those ideals anymore. Therefore, the international community is urged to seek quick justice and get the accused acquitted, as soon as possible, if they are not guilty. Pakistani government is as well urged to bring new legislation to stop the ongoing blatant misuse of the blasphemy law.

END

Web: [www.hrcommittee.org](http://www.hrcommittee.org) - Address: International Human Rights Committee - 22 Deer Park Rd, London, SW19 3TL



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**NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS – PRINT & ELECTRONIC MEDIA**

**10**

## PAKISTAN: FALSE BLASPHEMY CHARGES AGAINST CHRISTIAN NURSES MULTIPLY

05/07/2021, 12.50, PAKISTAN

by Shafique Khokhar

**In the Mental Government Hospital in Lahore, false accusations of blasphemy, the Nursing Superintendent Khalida Suleri organized a group of Muslim nurses and occupied the church located inside the hospital. James Channan OP clarified the facts and informed the superior authorities of the Punjab police.**



Lahore (AsiaNews) - In the space of four months in Pakistan there have been three episodes of false accusations of blasphemy against Christian nurses. It started with the incident of Nurse Tabita from Karachi [then Mariam Lal and Nehwish Urooj](#) from Faisalabad were accused of tearing a sticker and now another recent incident took place in the Mental Government Hospital, Jail Road, Lahore, in the province of Punjab, Pakistan.

On April 29, 2021, three Christian nurses Sakina Bibi, Jessica Khurram and Treeza Eric were on duty in the Mental Government Hospital, Jail Road, Lahroe and they were falsely accused that they were insulting Islam. The incident began the day before when one of the Christian nurses had shared a video of a person in which he had been speaking about the situation of Pakistan due to Tehreek-e-Labaik (TLP) to a *WhatsApp* group of medical staff of the Hospital. The same video became the source of blasphemous charges against her along with two other Christian nurses.

In response the Nursing Superintendent Khalida Suleri organized a group of Muslim staff and went to the Church located inside the hospital and said their Islamic prayers organizing a rally against Christian staff while threatening Christian nurses.

The Hospital Church was allocated in 2019, at the requested of the Christian Nurses staff to the Secretary Health of Punjab, to allow staff and patients to celebrate Christmas in the premises of the hospital.

There are 700 employees working in the hospital among whom there are 339 staffers including 105 nurses who are Christian and they are given permission to pray for 30 minutes' once a week by the hospital administration.

Christians in Pakistan have served their country in various fields, especially in education, nursing and in the field of charity. Since Pakistan was founded, Christians have played an important role in the field of nursing, having many hospitals that have set an extraordinary example of loving humanity towards those whom no one wants to care for or even touch. One of the great examples is the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Center (MALC) in Karachi, Pakistan, run by Dr. Ruth Pfau, who has been working in the field of leprosy control since 1956.

Country Coordinator of Human Liberation Commission Pakistan Holland, Nadeem Samuel said he found no offense against Islam in the video, and Mr. Aslam Pervaiz Sahotra investigated and asked Sakina and Jessica about this incident. According to the nurses, Mr. Samuel said, some Muslim nurses hate Christian nurses and face discrimination even in their work.

James Channan OP, a famous and well-known figure in interreligious dialogue, also met the nurses, clarified the real facts of this incident and promptly informed the higher authorities of the Punjab police. He asked the authorities to provide protection for Christian nurses. He also reassured the nurses for their safety. He also asked both sides not to make any further statements or complaints against each other. Christians will continue to use this auditorium for weekly worship as before.

Recently, the accused nurses were granted a month's leave from the hospital and thanks to the priest, social activist and government officials no charges (FIR) were filed for this bogus case. Now, with the intervention of government officials, Catholic priests and social activists, the church in the hospital is once again used for the church. But on the other hand, Christian nurses from Pakistan from different cities have come forward and started to raise their voices for their protection and dignity, expressing deep reservations about these cases of false blasphemy allegations.

Madam Rosaline, one of the senior nurse from Karachi along with other nurses have condemned this sad incident of occupying church and are requesting government to take notice against this type of incidents. Rosaline also said "we the Christian nurses have been serving the country peacefully and have never discriminated on the bases of religion. The type of incidents brings unrest among the people and destroys the peace of the country and nations gets destroyed where there is violence against the innocent people. Minorities are the responsibility of the Majority; they are less in number but are doing great service to all. Nursing is a profession which is acknowledged and appreciated by all, but what has been done here in our country, Christian nurses have given the foundation of greatness to this field in Pakistan but now other nurses are destroying the peaceful atmosphere and are trying to harass Christian nurses so that we Christian nurses may leave the jobs."

Rosaline has also requested the Prime minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, Chief Justice and other government officials take the notice of this incident and uphold justice against the incident of Mental Hospital Lahore, providing protection to the Christian nurses everywhere in Pakistan.

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pakistan:-false-blasphemy-charges-against-Christian-nurses-multiply-53079.html>





## TWO CHRISTIAN NURSES IN PAKISTAN FALSELY ACCUSED OF BLASPHEMY BY MUSLIM COWORKER

### Mob shuts down hospital calling for Christians to be hanged

21.04.2021 [Pakistan](#)

International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that two Christian nurses in Pakistan have been formally accused of committing blasphemy against Islam. According to local sources, the Christians were accused by a Muslim coworker of desecrating wall hangings that contained Quranic verses.

On April 9, Mariyum Lal and Newsh Arooj, two Christian nurses working at Civil Hospital in Faisalabad, were falsely accused of committing blasphemy. Local sources report that Lal was directed to remove old wall hangings and stickers from a wall by Rukhsana, a senior nurse at the hospital. Following Rukhsana's instructions, Lal removed the wall-hangings and stickers.

Rukhsana, who reportedly holds a grudge against Lal, provoked other Muslim staffers at Civil Hospital by claiming Lal desecrated wall hangings that contained Quranic verses. In response, a Muslim staffer at the hospital's pharmacy, named Waqas, attacked Lal with a knife as she was attending a patient in the hospital's medical ward. Lal received several injuries to her arm but survived the attack.

The false blasphemy allegation against Lal soon spread to the broader community and a mob of enraged Muslims staged a protest outside of Civil Hospital. Members of the mob demanded Lal be arrested and hanged for committing blasphemy.

"This is an alarming situation for the weaker segments of society," Asif Munawar, a member of the Ministry of Human Rights and Minority Affairs Punjab, told ICC. "This is the second case within three months where a nurse is being accused of committing blasphemy."

"The authorities must take notice of these practices," Munawar continued. "Mariyum Lal must be protected in police custody for a fair investigation to take place."

Police registered a First Information Report (FIR # 347/21) in connection with the blasphemy allegation. According to the FIR, Mariyum Lal and Newsh Arooj are both accused of violating Pakistan's blasphemy laws under Section 295-B.

In Pakistan, false accusations of blasphemy are widespread and often motivated by personal vendettas or religious hatred. Accusations are highly inflammatory and have the potential to spark mob lynchings, vigilante murders, and mass protests.

Since Pakistan added Section 295-B and 295-C to the country's blasphemy laws in 1987, the number of blasphemy accusations have skyrocketed. Between 1987 and 2017, 1,534 individuals in Pakistan have been accused of blasphemy. Out of that 1,534, 829 accusations (54%), were made against religious minorities. With Christians only making up 1.6% of Pakistan's total population, the 238 accusations (15.5%) made against Christians is highly disproportionate.

ICC's Regional Manager, William Stark, said,



“We here at International Christian Concern condemn the false blasphemy accusation that has been leveled against Mariyum Lal and Newsh Arooj. In Pakistan, blasphemy allegations ruin the lives of the accused, even if proved to be false. We call on Pakistani authorities to thoroughly and fairly investigate this false allegation and bring the false accuser to justice. Pakistan’s blasphemy laws must no longer be allowed to settle personal scores or incite religious hatred. Too often these laws have been a tool in the hands of extremists seeking to stir up religiously motivated violence against minorities.”

<https://www.iirf.eu/news/other-news/two-christian-nurses-in-pakistan-falsely-accused-of-blasphemy-by-muslim-coworker/>



## TWO CHRISTIAN NURSES IN PAKISTAN ACCUSED OF BLASPHEMY

By Ayaz Gul, April 10, 2021 03:37 PM



[Map of Pakistan showing the location of Faisalabad](#)

Police in eastern Pakistan have registered blasphemy accusations against two female Christian nurses and launched an investigation into a crime that carries the death penalty in the majority-Muslim nation.

The accusation against members of the minority community is the latest in a series of controversial blasphemy cases in Pakistan, where critics say such charges often are motivated by personal vendettas, or religious hatred.

Police said that Muslim coworkers at a government hospital in the city of Faisalabad accused the nurses Friday of insulting Islam by removing and desecrating a wall-hanging that contained verses from the Quran.

The allegations quickly spread around the building and provoked scores of staffers to stage a demonstration to demand legal action against their Christian colleagues. An enraged Muslim mob, largely activists of an Islamist party from a nearby locality, later also joined the crowd.



Witnesses said an angry protester assaulted one of the nurses, Mariyum Lal, with a knife and injured her before riot police arrived at the facility to take both the women into “protective custody” and get them out of the hospital building.

Lal reportedly told police she had been asked to clean up the cupboard of the hospital’s female head nurse, who is Muslim. Lal said that while doing the job, she removed the adhesive wall-hanging and gave it to the head nurse before finishing the night shift along with the other accused Christian colleague and returning home.

Lal said the next morning the head nurse in the presence of other Muslim staffers accused her of desecrating the holy inscription.

Human rights groups say blasphemy cases lately have increased in Pakistan, where blasphemy is a highly sensitive issue. Those who are accused are sometimes lynched by mobs even before they reach court.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) last year designated Pakistan as a Country of Particular Concern because of its "systematic enforcement" of blasphemy and other controversial laws against religious minorities.

<https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/two-christian-nurses-pakistan-accused-blasphemy>



## THE CLOCK IS TICKING FOR PAKISTAN'S BELEAGUERED CHRISTIAN NURSES

**Christian rights activists must continue the peaceful struggle of Bishop John Joseph to end the misuse of blasphemy laws**

[Kamran Chaudhry, Lahore , Published: May 06, 2021 10:29 AM GMT ▾](#)





Christian staff nurse Maryam Lal (left) and Catholic nursing student Newsh Arooj were arrested on blasphemy charges in Faisalabad last month. (Photo supplied)

"Religiously charged staff of Lahore mental hospital take over the building." This headline may seem like something ripped straight out of a psychological horror film, but it actually happened on April 27 when Muslim nurses occupied a chapel at the hospital that was used for Sunday services after they accused a Christian nurse of committing blasphemy by sending an "objectionable" video to a nurses' unofficial WhatsApp group.

Videos of nurses reciting *naats* (devotional hymns to the Prophet Muhammad) in front of a wooden cross and a banner with Biblical verse, and then raiding the premises, quickly [went viral on social media](#).

The facility has 700 employees, of whom 339 staffers including 105 nurses are Christian. Since 2019, the hospital administration has designated a multipurpose auditorium as a chapel for Christian staffers for 30 minutes of weekly prayer.

On May 3, Dominican Father James Channan, regional coordinator of United Religions Initiative Pakistan, joined interfaith leaders and hospital staff to sign an agreement to end the conflict.

"Both parties will not issue any statement or complaint against each other. The atmosphere of love will be prevailed. The Christians will continue using this auditorium for weekly worship as before," it stated. Meanwhile the accused nurse has been granted a month's leave.

This is the third reported incident of blasphemy allegations against Christian nurses this year.

### ***The increasing blasphemy cases against Christian nurses have increased their deep insecurity***

On April 9, two Christians nurses were [detained by police](#) after a first information report under section 295-B of the blasphemy law was made by a doctor at Civil Hospital, Faisalabad, who accused them of scratching a sticker inscribed with "Durood Shareef," a salutation for the Prophet Muhammad.

In January, Christian nurse Tabitha Nazir Gill was slapped and stripped for alleged blasphemy at a hospital in Karachi in Sindh province where she had worked for nine years. She remains in hiding.

The population of minority women in Pakistan is estimated to be around 3 million, of whom around 2 per cent work as nurses, doctors, teachers, professors or do office work, claims the Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development (CREID) in [a recent study](#) titled "Violence and Discrimination against Women of Religious Minority Backgrounds in Pakistan."

The increasing blasphemy cases against Christian nurses have increased their deep insecurity. In recent weeks I have spoken to several Christian families who described urging their daughters to ignore discourse on religion in hospitals.

A group of Christian nurses, hiding behind face masks, took to social media to [plead for protection](#) and bread for their family.

"It will ruin us as a nation. Minorities are at your mercy. While the world is appreciating the services of health workers [amid the pandemic], look at what you are doing. We worked hard to be here. Other nurses are irritating us so that we quit our jobs. You are threatening us," they stated in a video.



“For God we urge the chief justice of Pakistan and prime minister to review the blasphemy laws being used to settle personal scores. The law should prevent this tyranny. Keep this profession peaceful and for service only. Don’t use it for terrorism.”

Minority places of worship are not enemy posts to be conquered. Religious assaults on Christian nurses may be a start. If the trend continues, other Christian professionals including doctors and lawyers will be next. Protests against the ongoing assaults will further isolate Pakistan in the international community.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom in its annual report for 2021, released last month, retained Pakistan as “a country of particular concern” while seeking the repeal of the “blasphemy and anti-Ahmadi laws” and the release of blasphemy accused.

Last week the European parliament adopted a resolution demanding Islamabad allow freedom for religious minorities and asked the European Union to reconsider its GSP (Generalized Scheme of Preferences) plus status for Pakistan amid the increasing number of blasphemy cases.

***Instead of looking at Europe and the US, Pakistani Christians are waiting for their leaders in these tough times***

The European parliament also appealed for the freedom of Christian couple Shagufta Kausar and Shafqat Emmanuel, who have been on death row since 2014 after being convicted of insulting the Prophet Muhammad.

“The prime minister intends to take the leaders of the Muslim countries into confidence and tell the European Union and the United Nations not to hurt the feelings of 125 million Muslims in the world. What about the feelings of the non-Muslims in Pakistan? Fix up your own house first,” said Father Abid Habib, former president of the Major Superiors Leadership Conference of Pakistan.

Today marks the 23rd anniversary of the death of Bishop John Joseph of Faisalabad, who killed himself on May 6, 1998, in front of the courthouse in Sahiwal after a Christian, Ayub Masih, was sentenced to death for blasphemy.

Besides his sacrificial death, [the activist bishop](#) is also remembered for kissing the feet of Manzoor Masih, another Christian victim of blasphemy, killed extrajudicially in 1993.

Perhaps the Catholic leaders of today should express the same concern for the persecuted minority. Even the occasional appearance of bishops accompanying the faithful in police stations wins our hearts. Instead of looking at Europe and the US, Pakistani Christians are waiting for their leaders in these tough times.

As we continue to wait for another Bishop John Joseph to emerge, I would recommend Christian human rights activists to continue the peaceful struggle of our late bishop to end the misuse of blasphemy laws.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of [Pakistan](#) has proclaimed 2021 the Year of St. Joseph the Worker. Let us take a step forward and form a multi-tiered support plan for Christian health workers who are on the front line against the double pandemic of prejudice and Covid-19.

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/the-clock-is-ticking-for-pakistans-beleaguered-christian-nurses/92367#>

### 3.

## ABUSE OF CYBERCRIME AND BLASPHEMY LAWS OF PAKISTAN AGAINST THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY AND VIOLATIONS OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF FAIR TRIAL AND DUE PROCESS



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IHRC/BR/190621/2  
19 April 2021

#### BRIEF REPORT

### ABUSE OF CYBERCRIME AND BLASPHEMY LAWS OF PAKISTAN AGAINST THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY AND VIOLATIONS OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF FAIR TRIAL AND DUE PROCESS

The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (PECA) and rules made thereunder define the whole range of cybercrimes along with their punishment, set down the process of investigation and conduct of trial of cases before the designated court.

The Ahmadiyya Community which is facing the brunt of state sponsored persecution for the last many decades under the Anti-Ahmadiyya laws (Ordinance XX of 1984), Anti Terrorism laws (Anti Terrorism Act, 1997) and the blasphemy laws (sections 295-A, 295-B & 295-C of Pakistan Penal Code) are now being further oppressed and victimised by the state apparatus by misusing rather abusing the power under PECA.

In order to comprehend the precarious situation of the Ahmadis living in Pakistan we need to understand the process of their victimisation in which the antagonists of Ahmadiyya Community with the active support and connivance of officials of the state has created such a hostile atmosphere in which no Ahmadi living in Pakistan can feel to be safe and a constant fear of persecution has crept in their ranks and their peace of mind has been completely shattered.

#### ROLE OF MR. HASSAN MUAVIYAH:

Mr. Hassan Muaviyah, the brother of a known religious scholar Maulana Tahir Ashrafi (presently holding the positions of Special Assistant to Prime Minister, Member of Islamic Ideology Council and Chairman of Mutahidda Ulema Board of Province of the Punjab) a known nemesis of Ahmadiyya Community who first came in picture nearly a decade ago when he got registered first criminal case against an Ahmadi in Lahore under section 295-A PPC and thereafter he and his associates got registered number of case against Ahmadis under Anti-Ahmadiyya, Anti Terrorism and blasphemy laws and many Ahmadis had to undergo many years of imprisonment in different



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areas of Punjab. At one point of time the Punjab Police was actively supporting Mr. Muaviyah in his endeavour to persecute Ahmadis and in this regard many unauthorised raids were conducted in the worship places and homes of Ahmadis living in Lahore resulting in arrest of a number of worshippers and inmates.

After a couple of years Mr. Muaviyah started a campaign against the Ahmadis living in Rabwah, especially the prominent Ahmadis. One of his targets was Abdul Shakoor commonly known as Shakoor Bhai in the community who ran a bookshop in the main bazar of Rabwah. He tried to manage the local police in order to register a case against Shakoor Bhai on the ground of selling books to Ahmadis. The local police resisted him and did not register case against Shakoor Bhai, then he turned towards the Counter Terrorism Department, Punjab (CTD) and with the connivance of CTD a case was registered against Shakoor Bhai under the provisions of Anti Terrorism Act, 1997 and Anti Ahmadiyya laws and he was arrested and remained in jail for more than three years. On the instigation of Mr. Muaviyah the CTD raided one of the offices of the Ahmadiyya Community and the Ahmadiyya Press and also arrested a number of officials of the community during these raids and those arrested remained incarcerated for more than a year.

### **ROLE OF MR. MUAVIYAH IN THE PRESENT SCENARIO OF REGISTRATION OF CASES AGAINST AHMADIS BY THE CYBERCRIME WING OF THE FEDERAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (FIA):**

In the year 2019 Mr. Muaviyah approached the Lahore High Court, Lahore by filing a Constitutional Petition seeking a declaration that Ahmadis are not allowed to keep copies of the Holy Quran with them and they are also not allowed to translate the Holy Quran and he further seek a direction in the name of law enforcement agencies to take action against Ahmadis who are in possession of copies of Holy Quran or who are involved in translating the same. The Lahore High Court, Lahore through its judgment rendered on 05.03.2019 in W.P. No. 214966 of 2018 (reported as PLD 2019 Lahore 448) allowed the petition of Mr. Muaviyah and declared that Ahmadis are not allowed to translate the Holy Quran and if any translation of the Holy Quran of the Ahmadiyya is surfaced then law enforcement agencies would take action not only against the individual but also against the community. This judgment of the Lahore High Court is the starting point of persecution of the Ahmadiyya Community under the PECA.

### **CYBERCRIME WING, LAHORE AND ITS CONNIVANCE WITH MR. MUAVIYAH:**

After the decision of the Lahore High Court the Cybercrime Wing, Lahore which is an organ of the FIA has registered a number of cases against Ahmadi life devotees and missionaries who were performing their duties in Rabwah. One of those cases has been registered by Mr. Muaviyah while the other has been registered by other members of his group while in one of the cases the complainant is an official of the Cybercrime Wing, Lahore. It is strange to note that all these cases have been registered in Cybercrime Wing, Lahore while there is not a single case in any other Cybercrime Wing all over Pakistan. It is also important to note that Rabwah is situated in the jurisdiction of Cybercrime Wing, Faisalabad and almost all the accused Ahmadis are residents of Rabwah but not a single case has been registered in Faisalabad which shows that Mr. Hassan Muaviyah who is resident of Lahore has purposefully managed things with Cybercrime Wing, Lahore so that he can supervise the issues conveniently.

Another important aspect which needs to be highlighted is that some of those cases have been registered by practicing lawyers and those lawyers represent Mr. Muaviyah in courts against Ahmadi accused persons while one of the cases, which has already been mentioned, has been registered by an official of Cybercrime Wing, Lahore. This shows the nexus of all the complainants of different cases with each other and their connivance with the Cybercrime Wing, Lahore.

### **COURT PROCEEDINGS AND VIOLATION OF RIGHTS OF FAIR TRIAL AND DUE PROCESS:**

Application seeking release of an accused during trial is considered an urgent issue and there are instructions to the courts to decide the application for grant of bail as early as possible but in cases





of Ahmadis the courts do not decide the applications for months and on the pressure of the complainant the courts keep these applications sometimes for indefinite period. Even the High Court does not decide applications for Ahmadis for months. There are four applications pending in the Lahore High Court, Lahore. Two of them are pending since 19.03.2021, third is pending since 23.04.2021 while the fifth is hanging fire since 03.05.2021.

On the second last date of hearing the counsel for the complainant appeared before Mr. Justice Shehram Sarwar Ch, and made a statement that his client, the complainant of the case, has no trust on the judge. Such a statement amounts to contempt of court but the judge instead of taking any action against the complainant or his lawyer recused himself from hearing the case and sent the file to the Chief Justice to refer the case to another judge.

On the last date of hearing the case was taken up by Mr. Justice Anwaar-ul-Haq Pannu and the same episode repeated and once again on showing distrust on the judge by complainant counsel the judge refused to hear the case and once again referred the case to the Chief Justice to nominate any other judge for hearing these bail applications.

These incidents clearly show that the judiciary is either not free of bias against the Ahmadis or the judges are not brave enough to face the pressure of the rowdy elements which results in serious violation of fundamental rights of fair trial and due process of Ahmadis.

The trial of these cases are being conducted by the Additional Sessions Judge, Lahore which is subordinate to the Lahore High Court, Lahore and the said court is even more vulnerable than the High Court. Under the law the accused persons are entitled to receive the copies of all the evidence which has been collected by the investigation agency before the commencement of trial but in all the cases against Ahmadis the Additional Sessions Judge, Lahore has refused to deliver the most important evidence to the accused Ahmadis. The evidence which has been withheld includes the forensic and technical analysis reports as well as the data collected by the Cybercrime Wing, Lahore and stored in DVDs and USBs. How an Ahmadi accused would be able to know what evidence is going to be produced against him during the trial and how their lawyer would be able to cross examine the witnesses if he would not be in possession of the relevant evidence.

It is also important to mention here that the Additional Sessions Judge, Lahore remains in constant pressure of Mr. Muaviyah and his group who dictates the judge to pass orders of their choice. The judge has even been dictated by the complainant party in fixing dates for hearing. If an independent observer may be able to access the video recordings of the proceedings which are available in the Sessions Court then it would become crystal clear that what kind of hostile atmosphere has been created by the complainant party in which the rights of fair trial and due process of accused Ahmadis could not be protected at all.

It is deplorable that the Government of Pakistan especially Maulana Tahir Ashrafi continuously claiming that there is no misuse of blasphemy laws in Pakistan while situation on the ground is in complete contrast with his claim and his real brother with his active support is persecuting the innocent Ahmadis only because of their beliefs.

#### **AHMADIS ARE NOT SAFE EVEN IN THEIR HOUSES AND WORSHIP PLACES:**

Another very alarming development has taken place in Pakistan. A couple of weeks ago the Lahore High Court, Lahore has passed an order whereby it has been declared that writing Kalma (the basic creed of Islam) by Ahmadis inside their worship place is an offence under section 295-C PPC. It has further been held that reciting the Holy Quran by Ahmadis is an offence under sections 295-B and 295-C PPC. The court also stated in the judgment that keeping the copies of Holy Quran in Ahmadiyya worship place, which (as per the decision) is an unholy place is an offence under section 295-B PPC. This judgment of the Lahore High Court, Lahore has given a licence to the opponents of the Ahmadis to rope in any Ahmadi of their choice and register a case against him on the charges of blasphemy. Police would be allowed to raid the worship places and houses of



Ahmadis in order to search whether Kalma is written inside or whether there is any copy of Holy Quran therein.

In present circumstances there is no hope that the State of Pakistan would protect the rights of Ahmadis rather it is evident that the apparatus of the State is being ruthlessly used by the Mullahs with impunity. It would be appropriate that the international community should raise its voice against the abuse of power by the State of Pakistan and make it answerable for its violations of international commitments.

END

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## STATE LEGISLATED PERSECUTION: AHMADIYYA IN PAKISTAN

March 17, 2021 [Zachary Skidmore](#)

On 12 February 2021, a member of Pakistan's Ahmadiyya sect was gunned [down](#). Abdul Qadir, 65, was killed at the entrance to his homoeopathic clinic on the outskirts of Peshawar. Police sources confirmed the attacker to be a 16-year-old, with the attack appearing to be religiously [motivated](#). The attack is another in a long line of attacks against the Ahmadiyya sect, which has been subject to increasing violence over the past two decades. The most notable being the 2010 Lahore massacre, where 87 worshippers were murdered during their Friday prayers. The question is, what motivated a 16-year-old to commit this latest heinous and unprovoked attack?

### LEGISLATED PERSECUTION

The answer can be found in the constitution of the Pakistani state itself. Pakistan is the only country in the world where anti-Ahmadi legislation is enshrined in the constitution. The basis of this persecution is in a rejection of the Ahmadi belief that their founder, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, was divinely appointed as the promised Messiah and Promised Mahdi (Guided One), prophesied in to bring about the final triumph of [Islam](#). Opponents of this sect view it as a dangerous deviation from Islam, and argue that Ghulam Ahmad is a false prophet and Messiah, who established his sect to serve the British. Many Muslims, therefore, consider the Ahmadiyya as either Kafirs (infidels) or Zindiqs (heretics). Despite playing a critical early role in Pakistan's formation, the community has suffered increasing state legislated discrimination since the 1970s.

In [1974](#), under Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a constitutional amendment explicitly targeting Ahmadi Muslims was enacted. The amendment declared that the community were "not Muslims for purposes of law and constitution"—representing the proverbial nail in the coffin of Mohammed Jinnah's vision of a secular and religiously free Pakistan. This state-sanctioned persecution was to be intensified ten years later, when the then military ruler, General Zia-ul-Haq, enacted Pakistan's infamous anti-Ahmadi laws and amended its blasphemy laws under the Ordinance XX on April 26 [1984](#). The laws made it a criminal offence, punishable by three years imprisonment (or death under the blasphemy laws), for an Ahmadi to call themselves Muslim or practice Islam. Thousands of Ahmadi Muslims were charged under these laws, and Pakistan developed a culture of anti-Ahmadi harassment, violence and murder.



Thirty-six years on, these laws remain in Pakistan's statute books, leading Pakistani Ahmadis to be plagued by institutional discrimination, harassment and persecution. Openly declared as “Wajibul Qatl” ([deserving to be killed](#)), the community is vilified throughout civil society, with corruption, judicial failings, and the fear of mob violence ever-present within their lives. This hatred has fed into the next generation with anti-Ahmadi propaganda taught to children in schools, including in their textbooks. The Ahmadi community also faces constant oppression and discrimination in eligibility to hold government positions, contesting elections, in their businesses, and the destruction of their homes and places of worship at the behest of the Pakistani [establishment](#). Most, if not all, Ahmadis in Pakistan live in great anxiety about their safety, fearing the day they are accused of being a [Qadiani](#) (a derogatory term).

Playing a central role in this persecution is the right-wing clerical base, whose power at the local and government levels is significant. According to partial data collated by South Asia Terrorism Portal, since March 6, 2000, at least 128 Ahmadis have been killed and 113 injured in 28 incidents of [killing](#). The murder of Abdul Qadir follows a trend of random attacks made upon the Ahmadi populace. In July 2020, Tahir Ahmad, who was on trial for blasphemy, was shot dead in a Peshawar courtroom. What is particularly sobering is, despite engendering community outrage, the perpetrators of these crimes are usually never prosecuted. In fact, these killings are often [celebrated](#). For instance, after the killing of Mr Ahmad, the gunman was hailed as a hero within the local community, underscoring the seriousness of the threats they face and the callous indifference of the authorities towards the risks many Ahmadi's face in their day to day lives.

## LOOKING FORWARD

Without a democratic voice, the community continues to suffer in silence, with no action taken to redress the situation. Any conversation on the Ahmadi community's situation has been wholly suffocated, with the right-wing clerics and politicians dominating the civil discourse, leading many ordinary Pakistanis to become radicalised against the community, subsequently leading to the incessant violence subjected upon people like Abdul Qadir. It seems likely that this violence will continue unabated unless significant international pressure is brought down on the Pakistani regime to support the Ahmadiyya community's rights.

<https://www.humanrightspulse.com/mastercontentblog/state-legislated-persecution-ahmadiyya-in-pakistan>



## BIDEN MUST PRESS PAKISTAN TO END PERSECUTION OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES



Last year the U.S. State Department labeled Pakistan a [country of particular concern](#) over its increasing persecution of religious minorities.



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This label is the State Department's strongest condemnation under the International Religious Freedom Act, and normally mandates sanctions for the designated country. Secretary of State [Mike Pompeo intervened](#), however, with a presidential waiver to avoid such punishment.

The alliance between the two nations has sent \$70 billion in economic and military aid to Pakistan since Pakistan's founding. If not for the sake of sheer justice, then at least for the sake of protecting American interests, President Joe Biden must hold U.S. ally Pakistan accountable to repeal its [discriminatory anti-Ahmadi legislation](#) and actions. While the legislation particularly targets Ahmadi Muslims, it tragically also enables societal discrimination and violence against Pakistan's Christian, Sikh, Hindu, and Shia communities.

Most recently, the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) has intensified the government's decades-long violent persecution of religious minorities — particularly that of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community. For the first time, the PTA has [filed a lawsuit](#) against two American citizens who belong to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, seeking to shut down a U.S. based website, [trueislam.com](#). The PTA argues that because Ahmadis built the U.S.-based website, it violates Pakistan's anti-Ahmadi laws. The PTA applied the same convoluted logic to [order Google to remove](#) any app built by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community from the tech giant's Play store.

Google has, sadly, capitulated to the draconian demands. Sam Brownback, the former U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, has compared Pakistan's persecution of Ahmadi Muslims to the Chinese dictatorship, [exclaiming](#), “[This is] Pakistan following in the China model.”

### **A Brief History of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan**

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was founded in 1889 by a man named [Mirza Ghulam Ahmad](#), who claimed to be the awaited Messiah to reform Muslims, peacefully revive Islam, and reject all forms of religious violence. Despite suffering decades of violent religious persecution, [it is well documented](#) that Ahmadi Muslims have maintained their position against all forms of religious violence. Pakistan's persecution of Ahmadis escalated in 1974, when, in an unprecedented vote, the General Assembly amended [the country's Constitution](#) to formally declare the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community 'outside the fold of Islam.'

Imagine, for a moment, if the United States passed a constitutional amendment declaring Catholics outside the fold of Christianity? Notwithstanding this absurd amendment, [in 1984 Pakistan added Ordinance XX to its penal code](#), criminalizing any Ahmadi Muslim who proclaims to be a Muslim with arrest and fine. By 1986, [Pakistan added Section 295-C](#), mandating up to and including the death penalty for Ahmadi Muslims.

These draconian laws have predictably left Ahmadi Muslims to languish in apartheid conditions. All books, literature, events, speech, and websites belonging to the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Pakistan are criminalized. Pakistan denies Ahmadis free and fair voting and forces Ahmadi Muslims to declare their faith on their passports as a means to prevent them from performing the Hajj pilgrimage. To perform Hajj, a Pakistani citizen must have “Muslim” on their passport for religious affiliation. To obtain a passport with “Muslim” as the religious affiliation, Pakistan requires applicants to complete a form declaring Ahmadi Muslims as “non-Muslim.” Since Ahmadis refuse to declare themselves non-Muslim, they are identified as “Ahmadis,” and thus denied the ability to perform Hajj. In other words, Pakistan's government has created [special ID cards](#) to single out Ahmadis.

These apartheid conditions have led to systemic persecution of Ahmadi Muslims, including [mass murder, grave desecration, expulsion](#) of school children for their faith, and a complete [lockdown](#) of all religious practice. Pakistan has faced repeated condemnation





from [Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), and U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom ([USCIRF](#)) for its incessant violation of religious freedom, yet the discriminatory laws remain.

### **The U.S. Must Demand Justice for Ahmadi Muslims**

When President Biden [repealed the 'Muslim Ban'](#) his first day in office, he condemned the ban as “contravening our values, undermin[ing] our national security, jeopardiz[ing] our global network of alliances and partnerships and a moral blight that has dulled the power of our example the world over.” Indeed, we cannot ignore the connection between persecution of religious minorities and collapse of national and economic security. Look no further than the last four years in the United States. The United States has seen [historic highs](#) in hate crimes targeting American Muslims, Jews, and Black, Indigenous, and persons of color (BIPOC) individuals — all of which has undermined [American national security](#).

Pakistan’s government has traversed this dangerous road for several decades, suffocating its own national security, and becoming “a [safe haven](#) for certain regionally focused terrorist groups,” according to the State Department. Pakistan’s economy also suffers as a consequence. For example, in the 1960s—prior to enacting discriminatory legislation—Pakistan’s economy grew at a rate of 6% per year, double neighboring India’s growth. By the 1990s, as Pakistan was in full swing of enforcing discriminatory legislation and implicitly legitimizing extremist groups, India surpassed Pakistan’s growth, and has never looked back. Major U.S.-based companies have already [threatened to leave Pakistan](#) due to its censorship laws.

The persecution of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan is increasing, with yet another innocent Ahmadi [gunned down](#) last month in a spate of targeted murders. The U.S.-Pakistan alliance should continue. However, it should not be indiscriminate. If we do not emphatically demand justice of Pakistan’s government to its own citizens, we give a greenlight to not only continue that violent persecution, but also escalate in targeting American citizens. Advancing the U.S.-Pakistan alliance on the principles of justice and protecting religious minorities is imperative for a just, prosperous, and secure future.

*Image: LAHORE, PAKISTAN – JULY 16, 2010: Two months after gunmen attacked several Ahmadiyya mosques during prayers, killing 93 people and injuring more than 100 more, an Ahmadi man looks nervously over his shoulder as members of the persecuted Ahmadiyya community listen to the sermon during Friday prayers at the Garhi Shahu mosque on July 16, 2010 in Lahore, Pakistan. The Pakistani Ahmadis, who define themselves as Muslim but could face years in prison if they openly declare or practice their faith, have suffered persecution and discrimination in this country for decades. (Photo by Daniel Berehulak/Getty Images)*

<https://www.justsecurity.org/75383/biden-must-press-pakistan-to-end-persecution-of-religious-minorities/>



### **BLASPHEMY LAW: 2020, THE YEAR OF THE MOST ABUSES**

02/03/2021, 13.35, PAKISTAN

by Shafique Khokhar



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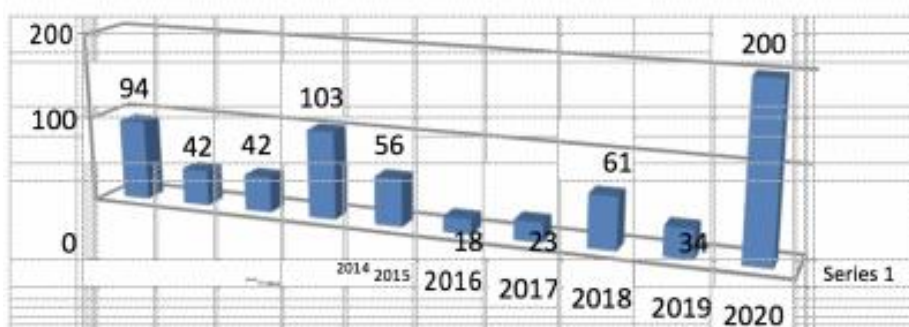
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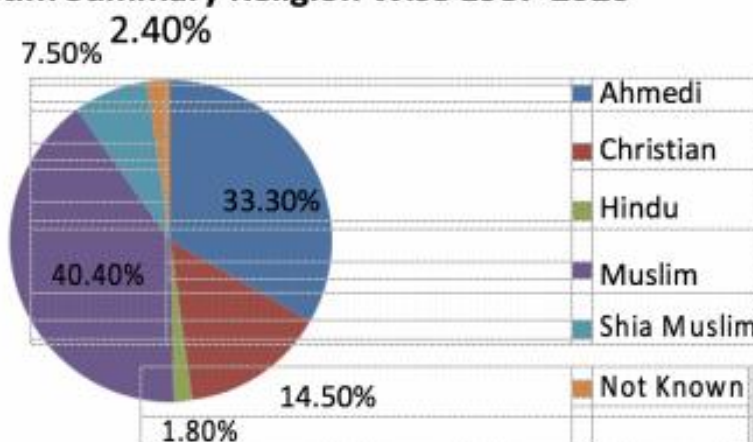
Some 200 people were accused of blasphemy last year, 75 per cent Muslims (70 per cent Shi'as), 20 per cent Ahmadis, and 3.5 per cent Christians. if in the beginning Muslims tended to accuse non-Muslims, Muslims now mostly accuse other Muslims. At least 78 people were killed extra-judicially over blasphemy or apostasy. For Peter Jacob, the government should focus on those who drive the machine of religious intolerance.



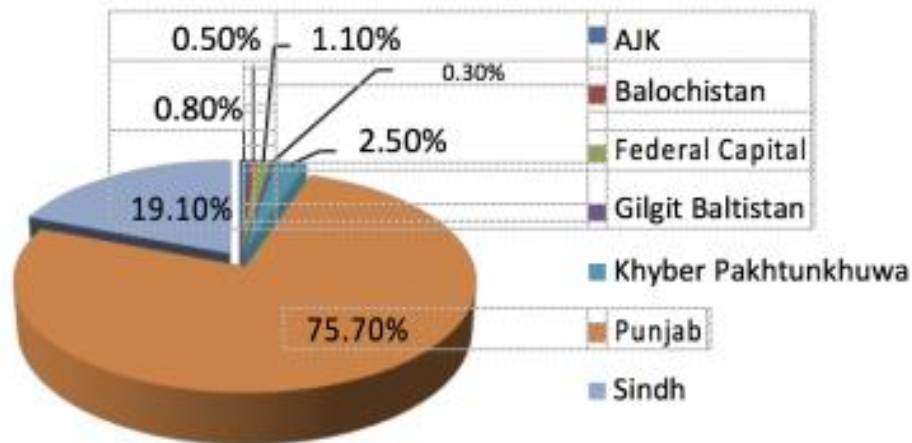
Accused under blasphemy 2011-2020



Victim Summary Religion Wise 1987-2020



### Victim Summary- Province Wise 1987-2020



Lahore (AsiaNews) - Recent data released by the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) show that Pakistan's blasphemy legislation is creating more and more victims.

Between 1987 and December 2020, at least 1,855 people were charged with offences related to religion, especially under Sections 295 B and C and 298 C of the Penal Code of Pakistan, generally referred to as the "blasphemy laws".

Last year saw the highest number of cases: 200 (*picture*). It is worth noting that 75 per cent of the accused are Muslims, mostly Shi'as (70 per cent), followed by Ahmadis (20 per cent), Sunnis (5 per cent), Christians (3.5 per cent), Hindus (1 per cent) and other/unconfirmed religions (0.5 per cent) (*picture 3*).

One of the victims best known to world opinion is [Asia Bibi](#), a Christian woman sentenced to death over accusations of blasphemy made by some women and the imam of her village. She was eventually released upon appeal but not before spending 10 years in prison.

Noting that 1987 saw only 19 cases, we realise that the rising number of case is indicative of how the law has become a tool to easily get rid of economic, political, or religious rivals.

While in the beginning, Muslims tended to accuse non-Muslims, now the trend sees Muslims mostly accuse other Muslims, which does not preclude the fact that members of various minority groups are still targeted with accusations of blasphemy.

The trend of the past few years also highlights Pakistan's great sectarian divide (especially Sunni vs Shi'as) and the increasingly abusive use of religion hanging over all Pakistani citizens.

Interestingly, since 1987, Punjab has had the most blasphemy complaints (76 per cent), followed by Sindh (19 per cent) (*picture 4*).

As of December 2020, Punjab prisons were holding 337 prisoners for blasphemy, both those convicted and those awaiting trial. The largest number of inmates are in the Lahore district jail (60).

At least 78 people have been killed extra-judicially after being accused of blasphemy or apostasy: 42 Muslims, 23 Christians, 9 Ahmadis, two Hindus and two whose religion could not be ascertained.

These figures do not include the targeted killings of members of sects considered heretical or apostate, so the overall number far exceeds those mentioned above. In fact, the killings of Hazaras, Ahmadis and Shi'as are often attributed to terrorist actions.

The notion of blasphemy is frequently and openly used in fund raising, hate speech and the indoctrination of violent groups.

For CSJ Executive Director Peter Jacob, "These statistics depict Pakistan as a place where abuse of blasphemy is the highest in the world. The law is frequently used to made despicable and multiple human rights violations, including physical violence, loss of property and livelihood, evictions and even loss of life

"It is not only the accused but some time entire families and communities who experience suffering after allegations are levelled. The government needs to pay serious attention to the drivers of religious intolerance."

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Blasphemy-law:-2020,-the-year-of-the-most-abuses-52245.html>



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IHRC/PR/012021/2  
24 January 2021

## PRESS RELEASE

### PAKISTAN TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITY (PTA) ISSUE ORDER TO REMOVE AHMADIYYA-RELATED DIGITAL CONTENT ON GOOGLE AND WIKIPEDIA

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a victim of state-sponsored persecution in Pakistan for the last many decades and a number of Ahmadis are prisoner of conscience for their religious beliefs. Recently, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority of the Pakistan Government has enacted new regulations that would extend the reach of Pakistan's blasphemy laws to even Ahmadi Muslims living outside of Pakistan, including Europe and the United States.

On December 25, 2020, PTA issued takedown notices to Google and Wikipedia to remove content associated with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The Pakistan Government is (1) requiring Wikipedia to remove articles portraying the worldwide head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad, as a Muslim; and (2) requiring Google to remove a Google play app published by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, which provides Arabic and English translations of the Qur'an, and (3) requiring Google to change their algorithm for the search queries "Khalifa of Islam" and "Caliph of Islam". PTA has threatened penalties and prosecution for non-compliance.

On December 30, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court heard a petition "Seeking Removal of Qadiyani [Ahmadi] Caliph name as Muslims Caliph from Google Search." The Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court instructed high-ranking federal officials to find a way to issue criminal warrants for any individuals or entities outside Pakistan who are publishing online content deemed "blasphemous" by Pakistani authorities. The PTA Chairman assured the Chief Justice that his agency was working tirelessly toward this goal.



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**SPECIAL ISSUE #2, 2021**

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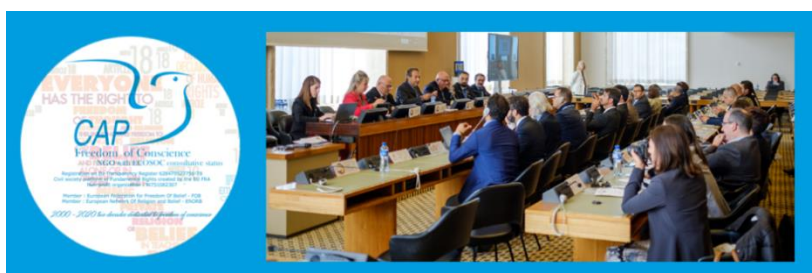
**27**



It is astonishing to note here that neither the Lahore High Court nor PTA has any authority of policing anyone who is not subject to their jurisdiction. Pakistan is acting in complete disregard of its international human rights commitments to protect the basic human rights of Ahmadi Muslims, and if concrete steps are not taken for compelling Pakistan to fulfil its international obligations, state-backed vigilantism will harm all peaceful religious communities living in Pakistan.

END

Web: [www.hrcommittee.org](http://www.hrcommittee.org) - Address: International Human Rights Committee - 22 Deer Park Rd, London, SW19 3TL



## CAP Freedom of Conscience NGO

## PAKISTAN TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITY (PTA) ISSUE ORDER TO REMOVE AHMADIYYA-RELATED DIGITAL CONTENT ON GOOGLE AND WIKIPEDIA

news



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Règlement Général de l'Union Européenne sur la Protection des Données (RGPD)  
INFORMATIONS LEGALES ET CONDITIONS GENERALES D'UTILISATION

Translate » P Liberté de Conscience NGO with ECOSOC consultative status

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/pakistan-telecommunication-authority-pta-issue-order-to-remove-ahmadiyya-related-digital-content-on-google-and-wikipedia/>

**AP** ASSOCIATED PRESS

## PAKISTAN SEEKS TO BLOCK US-BASED WEBSITE OF MINORITY AHMADIS

By KATHY GANNON  
January 21, 2021

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan has ordered a U.S.-based website propagating the faith of Pakistan's minority Ahmadis shut down over allegedly blasphemous content, one of the site's managers said Thursday.

Harris Zafar said Pakistan's Telecommunication Authority earlier this month issued a legal notice for him and fellow American Amjad Mahmood Khan, who also manages Trueislam.com, demanding that the site be shut down.

Zafar said the website is based in the U.S., where both he and Khan live and work, and called Pakistan's action "a brazen act of suppression of freedom of expression and freedom of religion."

"All content is U.S. based and all activities are in the U.S. as well," said Zafar. "There is nothing about Pakistan on the site."

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority did not immediately respond to an AP request for comment and Zafar and Khan's website is not available in Pakistan.

Zafar, who lives in Portland, Oregon but has relatives in Pakistan, said in an email to The Associated Press that he and Khan were also threatened with a \$3.1 million fine and warned of charges under Pakistan's controversial blasphemy law, which can carry the death penalty for insulting Islam.

Blasphemy has been a contentious issue in Pakistan where domestic and international human rights groups say blasphemy allegations have often been used to intimidate religious minorities and to settle personal scores.

Pakistan's parliament declared Ahmadis non-Muslims in 1974. Since then, they have repeatedly been targeted by Islamic extremists in the Muslim-majority nation. An Ahmadi can get 10 years in prison for claiming to be a Muslim.

The legal notice accuses Zafar and Khan, a lawyer, of violating Pakistani laws for hosting and disseminating content on their website related to members the Ahmadi community who are “not allowed to preach or propagate their faith or invite others to accept their faith.”

Zafar said he and Khan were both born in the U.S. and did not flee persecution in Pakistan, though he stressed they “do get involved in helping persecuted Ahmadis in Pakistan and other parts of the world.”

The Ahmadi faith was established on the Indian subcontinent in the 19th century by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, whose followers believe he was the messiah that was promised by the Prophet Muhammad. Pakistan’s parliament declared Ahmadis non-Muslims in 1974. Since then, they have repeatedly been targeted by Islamic extremists in the Muslim-majority nation.

<https://apnews.com/article/religion-pakistan-freedom-of-religion-3fbecffb2b0a1152f8524d6af325a3c2>

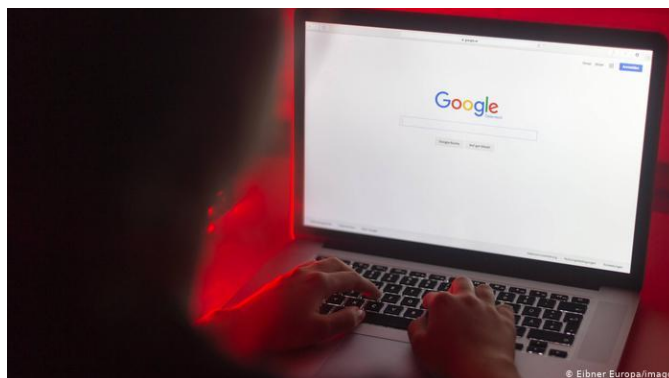


## PAKISTAN THREATENS GOOGLE, WIKIPEDIA OVER 'SACRILEGIOUS CONTENT'

Pakistan authorities have sent notices to Google and Wikipedia over content like caricatures of Prophet Mohammed and an "unauthentic" version of the Quran.

Pakistan regulators on Friday decried internet giants Google and Wikipedia for "disseminating sacrilegious content."

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) called for the immediate removal of "unlawful content" from Google. The regulators pointed to pages that name religious leader Mirza Masroor Ahmad as the current "Khalifa" or leader of Islam, thus contradicting dominant religious beliefs in the country. They also decried an "unauthentic version of Holy Quran" on Google Play Store.



Pakistan has sent notices to Google and Wikipedia for disseminating 'sacrilegious content'.

"Complaints were also received regarding hosting of caricatures of Holy Prophet (PBUH) and dissemination of misleading, wrong, deceptive and deceitful information through articles published on Wikipedia portraying Mirza Masroor Ahmad as a Muslim," the PTA said in a statement published on its official Twitter handle.





Mirza Masroor Ahmad is honored as a Khalifa by members of the [Ahmadiyya Muslim community](#), a persecuted minority in Pakistan.

"In case the platforms remain non-compliant, PTA shall be constrained to initiate further action under Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 (PECA) and Rules 2020," the Pakistani regulator added.

### **Clampdown on TikTok, Tinder, Grindr**

In recent months, the government of Pakistan has sought to exercise greater control over the digital sphere by approving [a draft policy](#) which critics say opens the door to mass censorship.

The move triggered a backlash from rights groups and tech companies, with activists saying that authorities are seeking to control the digital space to prevent criticism against the government and Pakistan's powerful military.

In October this year, Pakistan [banned video-sharing platform TikTok](#) over objectionable content. Weeks earlier, the country had [banned several dating apps](#), including Tinder and Grindr, in a bid to restrict "immoral" and "indecent" content.

<https://www.dw.com/en/pakistan-threatens-google-wikipedia-over-sacrilegious-content/a-56061236>



## **PAKISTAN REGULATORY BODY ISSUES NOTICES TO GOOGLE, WIKIPEDIA FOR 'DISSEMINATING SACRILEGIOUS CONTENT'**

Madhur Bhatt | Hidayatullah National Law U., IN



INTERNATIONAL  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
COMMITTEE

**SPECIAL ISSUE #2, 2021**

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS – PRINT & ELECTRONIC MEDIA



DECEMBER 27, 2020 07:43:14 PM

The **Pakistan Telecommunication Authority** (PTA) on Saturday **issued** notices to Google and Wikipedia for “disseminating sacrilegious content” through their platforms.

According to the authority, these websites are hosting misleading content about the present khalifa (spiritual head) of Islam. The searches on these platforms show the current leader of the Ahmadiyya community as the “present khalifa of Islam.” Additionally, the PTA asked the platforms to remove the unauthentic version of the Quran on Google Play Store, published by the Ahmadiyya community.

Ahmadiyyas are a highly **persecuted** Islamic group in Pakistan who are referred to as non-believers (kafirs) for their belief that their founder Mirza Ghulam Ahmad is the prophesized Messiah. Mainstream Muslims believe that Muhammad is the “final” prophet, which clashes with Ahmadiyya belief. The penal code of Pakistan **explicitly discriminates** against religious minorities and targets Ahmadis by prohibiting them from indirectly or directly posing as a Muslim, declaring or propagating their faith publicly, building mosques, or making the Muslim call for prayer.

Successive Pakistani governments have **failed to protect** the human rights and security of the Ahmadiyya community. Arbitrary arrests, detentions and charges of blasphemy are regular occurrence. A **major part** in this is played by the country’s blasphemy or sacrilege laws which are amongst the harshest in the world. Insulting Islam’s Prophet Mohammad carries a mandatory death penalty and other offences can lead to jail time.

The PTA has informed the two search engines that if no relevant action is taken, the authority will have to initiate further action under the **Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016** (PECA) and Rules 2020.

<https://www.jurist.org/news/2020/12/pakistani-regulatory-body-issues-notices-to-google-wikipedia-for-disseminating-sacrilegious-content/>



## PAKISTAN THREATENS TO IMPRISON US-BASED AHMADI MUSLIMS

By [News Desk](#) Published on January 25, 2021

Two Ahmadiyya [Ahmadi] Muslims in the U.S., Amjad Mahmood Khan and Harris Zafar, are being threatened by the government of Pakistan with prison sentences of up to a decade if they fail to remove what the Pakistani government calls a “blasphemous” website, TrueIslam.com, which is based in the US Khan and Zafar are the spokesmen for TrueIslam.com.

Ironically, years ago Robert Spencer exposed Zafar as “a sly and cunning advocate for authoritarianism and Sharia restrictions on the freedom of speech.”

The question at hand now, however, is that of what business Pakistan has in America. The vision that Islamic supremacists have for America is clear: subjugation, and not just of America, but of the entire infidel world. Pakistan seeks to impose upon the West its infamous blasphemy laws, which are infamous for being used to abuse religious minorities, especially Christians. A Muslim

villager can target a Christian neighbor in a minor dispute and falsely accuse the Christian of blasphemy, and then the Christian will face lynching by a mob, and/or prison.

Back in December 2018, FrontPage Magazine Managing Editor Jamie Glazov actually received a warning notice from Twitter:

*We are writing to inform you that Twitter has received official correspondence regarding your Twitter account, @JamieGlazov. The correspondence claims that the following content is in violation of **Pakistan law: Section 37 of PECA-2016, Section 295 B and Section 295 C of the Pakistan penal code**...Twitter has not taken any action on the reported content at this time. We are only writing to inform you that content posted to your account has been mentioned in a complaint.*

Then only three months ago, Twitter sent a notice to **Robert Spencer**, saying that his tweet violated the laws of Pakistan, to which he rightly responded:

*In sending out these notices, Twitter is behaving as if Islamic blasphemy law applied to people outside of Sharia domains. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation has been working for years at the UN to compel Western countries to criminalize criticism of Islam (under the guise of prohibiting 'incitement to religious hatred').*

These outrageous messages are the responsibility of Barack Obama, who surrendered American control of the Internet to an international organization.

Now Pakistan's threats to Americans have increased, as it has warned that Khan and Zafar face prison time, amid "repeated vows from Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan that he would endeavor to criminalize speech that offends Muslims globally."

Recently Pakistan saw a surge in jihad murders of members of the Ahmadiyya community, because Ahmadis are deemed to be apostates in mainstream Islam. Human Rights organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have accused Pakistani authorities of downplaying or otherwise encouraging violence against Ahmadis. Now Ahmadis may begin to be hunted abroad as well.

In late December, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority warned Google and Wikipedia about "disseminating sacrilegious content" through two Ahmadi platforms. In a press release, the Authority said that it was receiving complaints regarding "misleading search results associated with 'present khalifa of Islam' and an unauthentic version of the Holy Quran uploaded by the Ahmedi community on Google Play Store."

Now Harris Zafar, reversing his anti-free speech stance that Spencer exposed years ago, has issued a warning that applies not just to Ahmadis, but to all Americans, and, in fact, to all free people:

This overreaching censorship effort seeking to criminalize online speech speaks volumes to how far Pakistan's authoritarian government is willing to go to target and persecute a religious community that it has persecuted for decades.

Of course, Zafar and Khan will face no consequences unless they decide to visit Pakistan, which is unlikely. Ahmadis face persecution there and elsewhere. Four months ago, in Bangladesh, Muslims reportedly dug up a three-day-old baby girl's body from a cemetery and left it by the roadside because she was Ahmadi. Not long after that, a Pakistani Muslim who was on trial for blasphemy was shot dead in a courtroom and the perpetrator said that "Muhammad ordered him to do it," because the victim was Ahmadi.

According to the Economic Times in India: “Ahmadis from Pakistan have steadily moved to the West, fleeing persecution, seeking refuge in countries such as the UK, Germany and Canada.” Given the pattern unfolding in countries ruled by globalists, their freedoms are threatened, along with those of infidels.

The greater warning that stems from this case is the confident advance of the stealth jihad worldwide, perpetrated not only by countries such as Pakistan, but also by Muslim Brotherhood operatives, who are also working to erode the freedom of speech via the “Islamophobia” subterfuge.

As the world saw when French teacher Samuel Paty was beheaded for showing his class a cartoon of Muhammad, the death penalty for blasphemy can, in the view of many Muslims, be carried out by an individual, or by a mob via lynching, or by government authority. Western countries should not be encouraging any further erosion of the freedom of speech, despite the persistent whining by Muslim Brotherhood affiliated groups, screaming “Islamophobia” at every turn. But the freedom of speech is under severe assault from the Left today as well.

The freedom of speech, including criticizing and even offending Islam, is a constitutional right. The more politicians surrender this right on the altar of identity politics, the more countries such as Pakistan will be empowered, and the more anyone who offends Islam is endangered. The jihad is progressive, aggressive, and highly responsive to advancement through appeasement.

<https://www.weeklyblitz.net/world/pakistan-threatens-to-imprison-us-based-ahmadi-muslims/>

**RNS Religion News Service**

## PAKISTAN ATTEMPTS TO PROSECUTE AHMADI US CITIZENS FOR DIGITAL BLASPHEMY

*In 2016, Pakistan enacted digital regulations that allow authorities to block online content in the 'interest of the glory of Islam.'*

January 13, 2021

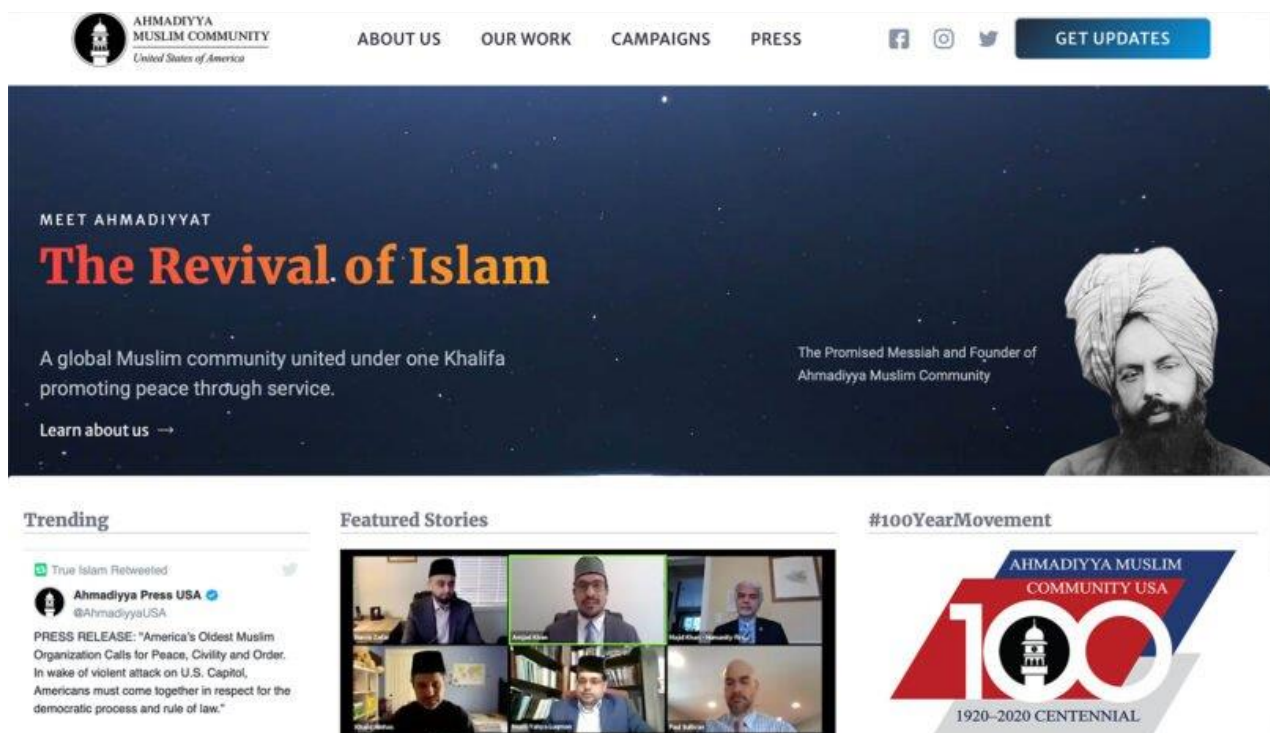
By [Aysha Khan](#)

(RNS) — Pakistani authorities have asked leaders of the American Ahmadiyya Muslim community to take down its official website, claiming that the U.S.-based site violates Pakistan’s strict blasphemy laws and new cybercrime regulations.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority said in a legal notice issued on Dec. 24 to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA’s spokesmen, Amjad Mahmood Khan and Harris Zafar, that failure to remove the website TruelIslam.com would result in fines of up to \$3.14 million or criminal sanctions, including possible 10-year-prison sentences.

“This is a new frontier in persecution of Ahmadi Muslims in the digital space,” said Khan, a lawyer in Los Angeles who has testified before Congress about blasphemy and religious freedom. “Pakistan wants to impose its abominable blasphemy laws on the whole world by targeting U.S. citizens and U.S. websites.”

Brad Adams, who heads Human Rights Watch’s Asia Division, said “censoring Ahmadis and using blasphemy laws to airbrush them from Pakistani society” is part of the “widespread and rampant discrimination and social exclusion” Ahmadis face in Pakistan.



The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community website TrueIslam.com. Screenshot

In Pakistan, home to about 4 million Ahmadis, the constitution and penal code declare members of the Ahmadiyya sect non-Muslims and impose harsh penalties — including death — for those who call themselves Muslims or publicly engage in religious activities. Ahmadis accept the sect’s 19th-century founder, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, as the messiah and as a subordinate prophet to the Prophet Muhammad, a belief many Muslims consider blasphemous.

“This is a malicious attempt to chill free speech and expression by a Muslim American website,” attorney Brett Williamson of O’Melveny & Myers, which is representing TrueIslam.com pro bono, wrote in a letter to PTA on Monday (Jan. 11).

He described the takedown notice as “legally infirm, but also patently absurd in its reach.”

The website is registered and hosted in the U.S. and is aimed at an American audience. Zafar and Khan are both U.S. citizens and the threat of extradition is virtually nil, but both have relatives in Pakistan and say penalties would make it impossible to travel there.

Law professor Arturo Carrillo, who directs George Washington University Law School’s Global Internet Freedom Project, said this case shows that the Pakistan government is now using its controversial cybercrime laws in an effort “to repress online expression and content emanating from outside the country’s borders because the government has deemed it to be undesirable and unlawful.”





Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA spokesmen Amjad Mahmood Khan, left, and Harris Zafar. Photos via Twitter

PTA officials did not respond to requests for comment.

In 2016, Pakistan enacted digital regulations that allowed authorities to block online content in the “interest of the glory of Islam.” Last year, the government passed [blanket](#) censorship laws that would allow authorities to order tech companies to remove digital pornography, blasphemy and anti-state content, drawing [ire](#) from Google, Facebook, Twitter and other platforms.

But human rights experts say the takedown notices also come amid increased targeting of Ahmadi’s online religious expression.

One day after issuing the takedown notice to TrueIslam.com, PTA also [sent](#) notices to Google and Wikipedia, threatening penalties and prosecution if the platforms failed to remove “sacrilegious content” associated with the Ahmadi sect’s beliefs.

PTA said it was responding to complaints regarding an “unauthentic” Ahmadi translation of the Quran on the Google Play Store; “misleading” search results that returned the [Ahmadi leader Mirza Masroor Ahmad](#)’s name when the term “Khalifa (caliph) of Islam” was searched; and “deceitful” Wikipedia articles that suggested that the Ahmadi caliph is Muslim.

Officials also demanded that all internet service providers serving Pakistan block content from Ahmadi websites, including TrueIslam.com, the English-language magazine Al Hakam and the international satellite TV network MTA.

Five of Pakistan’s top Ahmadi leaders have also had cases filed against them in recent weeks over religious activity on WhatsApp, Khan told Religion News Service.

Earlier in December, Khan told a [hearing](#) of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom that extremists in Pakistan were intent on using the country’s cyber crime statutes to initiate blasphemy cases against Ahmadi’s.

But this latest action, Khan told Religion News Service, is “a very slippery slope in terms of what this could mean for other minorities. We’re the canaries in the coal mine. This would mean any potential website or digital content that is quote-unquote blasphemous can be the subject of criminal prosecution.”

USCIRF Commissioner Johnnie Moore described the takedown notices as “recklessly brazen” and said he expected fierce bipartisan condemnation from both the Trump and Biden administrations.





“Surely, the Pakistani government doesn’t intend on threatening American citizens within the United States?” Moore asked. “Surely, Prime Minister Imran Khan doesn’t want this controversy, now?”

<https://religionnews.com/2021/01/13/pakistan-attempts-to-prosecute-ahmadi-us-citizens-for-digital-blasphemy/>



## PAKISTAN WANTS TO PROSECUTE ONLINE “BLASPHEMY” COMMITTED ABROAD

Pakistan is setting its sights on an American website.

- [By Dan Frieth](#). Posted 8:10 pm

Pakistan is threatening to prosecute non-Pakistanis in foreign countries for breaking its blasphemy laws online. The country, which is no stranger to censorship, seems to be copying China, which also tries to prosecute foreigners found guilty of criticizing the Chinese communist party.

The decision seems to be focused on Ahmadis, an Islamic sect whose beliefs are considered blasphemous in Pakistan. The Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) sent a legal notice to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA demanding that it shuts down its website, trueislam.com, or get charged with blasphemy, a crime that carries a ten-year prison sentence.



The Pakistan laws consider Ahmadiyya illegal and adherents are charged with blasphemy. However, the website trueislam.com is run by a US-based organization. So the legal notice is the government’s way of saying that the Pakistan Blasphemy Laws can apply to non-Pakistanis and beyond the Pakistan territory.



Several people have blasted the Pakistan government over the legal notice the PTA sent the organization behind trueislam.com.

On January 14, the House Foreign Affairs Committee tweeted that it was “very concerning to see Pakistan using attempts to apply its controversial cybercrime laws —used to stifle expression within PK—to repress Americans’ freedoms of speech and worship well outside of Pakistan’s own borders.”



According to the lawyer representing trueislam.com, the legal notice by the PTA is “a malicious attempt to chill free speech and expression.”

That the US government would extradite American citizens for breaking the ridiculous blasphemy laws is unimaginable.

However, people who break the law abroad could be arrested if they travel to Pakistan or any other country friendly with Pakistan, such as its neighboring Islam-majority countries. Additionally, relatives of people who were breaking the law abroad who live in Pakistan could be persecuted.

Like China, Pakistan also has strict internet censorship laws. The government blocks and censors any content online that is “immoral or indecent,” or is critical of the government. The law also prohibits content threatening the “glory of Islam,” a provision that makes Ahamdiyya illegal in the country.

However, this is the first time Pakistan has attempted to prosecute a foreigner for breaking the blasphemy law outside of Pakistan. That said, previously, the government had threatened taking legal action against Wikipedia and Google for publishing “blasphemous” content.

<https://reclaimthenet.org/pakistan-wants-to-prosecute-online-blasphemy-committed-abroad/>



## PAKISTAN'S DISTURBING DIGITAL THREAT TO AMERICANS

By [JIMMY QUINN](#)

February 2, 2021 2:37 PM



*(Akhtar Soomro/Reuters)*

Pakistani authorities have taken their campaign of religious oppression worldwide, threatening U.S.-based Ahmadi Muslims with imprisonment.

For decades, the government of Pakistan has relentlessly persecuted the members of the messianic Muslim Ahmadiyya sect within Pakistani borders. Although Pakistan is a Muslim-majority country, its constitution states that Ahmadi Muslims are non-Muslims, and blasphemy laws that criminalize public displays of worship of the Ahmadi faith empower courts to hand down the death penalty. U.S. officials have long spoken out against such laws, and since 2018 the State Department has added the country to its “countries of particular concern” list, comprising the world’s worst opponents of human rights.

“Despite repeated calls from the international community for Pakistan to abolish their antiquated blasphemy laws, peaceful groups like the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community continue to be subjected to them,” said Representative Michael McCaul, the co-chair of the Congressional Ahmadiyya Caucus and the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in a statement. “No individual should ever be targeted, penalized, or attacked because of their religious beliefs — Pakistan must take meaningful steps to protect the rights of religious minorities.”

Instead, in recent months, Pakistan has stepped up its campaign of repression against the Ahmadis, attempting for the first time to enforce its notoriously draconian blasphemy laws on U.S. soil.

At first glance, [trueislam.com](http://trueislam.com) doesn’t seem to be the kind of website that would attract a foreign government’s attention: It hosts information about U.S.-based Ahmadis’ activities, such as blood drives and campaigns to remember fallen American soldiers. But even the mere act of calling the Ahmadi community a Muslim group is punishable by law in Pakistan. (In a case that garnered international notoriety, [Ramzan Bibi](#), an Ahmadi woman from Punjab province, was imprisoned



last year after local clerics objected to her donation to a mosque. She could face the death penalty if convicted.)

On December 24, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) sent a legal notice to Harris Zafar and Amjad Khan, spokesmen for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, which runs the website, demanding it be taken offline. The notice states “that Ahmadiyya//Qadiani’s can neither directly/indirectly pose themselves as Muslims nor call or refer to their faith as Islam” under Pakistan’s blasphemy laws, and claims that the website violates those proscriptions. It was followed by a press release on January 22, in which the PTA publicly announced that it had served the notice and blocked the website within Pakistan.

Zafar told National Review that while the group hasn’t complied with the order, its members remain worried. “We’re not fearful for ourselves,” he said. “But we do have family in Pakistan.”

Khan, meanwhile, said that the PTA seems more interested in persecuting U.S.-based Ahmadis through press releases than in taking legal action. But while Zafar and Khan remain safely out of the Pakistani authorities’ reach, and have not yet been criminally charged, they have sought pro bono legal representation offered by the firm O’Melveny and Myers and are considering bringing their own lawsuit against the PTA. “We haven’t yet decided to do that,” Khan said. “But we’re prepared. Our lawyers are prepared. And we are prepared to take this the full distance.”

In addition to the blasphemy laws, which enjoy widespread popular support, Pakistani authorities have also used Pakistan’s cybercrime statutes and new regulations enacted in November to justify their ambitious claim of jurisdiction over the website. Responding to the PTA’s demands in a sharply worded rejoinder in January, Brett Williamson, the lawyer representing Zafar and Khan, addressed this aspect of the conflict:

If the PTA’s absurd reading of the reach of [Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act] were correct—and it is not—the PTA could assert extraterritorial jurisdiction over every website in the world. PTA seeks an unprecedented application of PECA, unmatched by virtually any other cybercrime bill in the world. Since it is implausible that the PTA could enforce an action on a U.S.-based website (and the PTA surely recognizes that), the PTA’s intentions are clear: This is a malicious attempt to chill free speech and expression by a Muslim American website. The embassy of Pakistan in the United States did not reply to National Review’s request for comment.

The PTA’s aggressive assertion of global jurisdiction poses tough questions for tech companies. In addition to its harassment of U.S. citizens, Pakistan has also gone after foreign companies that host Ahmadiyya Community content that can be accessed from Pakistan.

On December 25, the PTA announced that it had asked Google and Wikipedia to take such content off of their platforms. In particular, it singled out the Ahmadiyya USA app available on Pakistan’s Google Play Store. The app, which was commissioned by the U.S. Ahmadi community and developed by Canadian software engineers, merely gave users access to the Quran, but the PTA called it “sacrilegious content” — and on December 27, Google complied with the order to remove it from the Play Store in Pakistan. The PTA later sent another order demanding the removal of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA’s remaining four apps as well.

Although the other four apps remain on the Google Play Store in Pakistan, “basically at this stage all the content digitally on Google Play is threatening to be removed, and we expect they’ll probably comply again and remove those apps as well,” Khan said. He added that he and representatives of the Ahmadiyya communities in the U.K. and Canada participated in a call with Google staffers last month to discuss the matter. According to Khan, they were told that the Pakistani government threatened to ban Google from the country if it did not comply with the PTA’s demand.

“To me, moral courage means fighting against the tide of religious repression, even if that means risking short term commercial harm. . . . And the fact that that’s not being exercised is disappointing,” Khan said. Google did not respond to National Review’s request for comment.

The PTA’s sudden attempts at extraterritorial law-enforcement are part of a larger, incredibly worrisome trend. They echo China’s attempts to apprehend non-citizens beyond its borders under the [Hong Kong National-Security Law it enacted](#) last spring, which claimed for the Chinese Communist Party the right to prosecute non-Chinese citizens who have never stepped foot in the country on the basis of things that they say. The law’s provision on extraterritorial enforcement was put into action for the first time last July, when Beijing reportedly sought [the arrest of Samuel Chu](#), an American democracy activist based in the U.S.

Especially in light of that context, U.S. officials who have worked to raise awareness of the persecution of the Ahmadis agree on the need to do *something* to push back on the PTA’s efforts. The question is what that something should be.

This is “Pakistan following in the China model,” said Sam Brownback, the former Kansas senator and governor who, as ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom during the Trump administration, spent years pressing the government of Pakistan on these issues and was monitoring the PTA’s conduct in the weeks before Biden took over. He favors sanctioning Pakistani officials, to send a clear message to other countries tempted to combine religious persecution with curbs on Internet freedom: “We’re going to react strongly to it.”

At the very least, the PTA-initiated conflict is sure to pose new challenges to the already-strained, yet strategically important, bilateral relationship between the U.S. and Pakistan. The two countries maintained a troubled partnership in the post-9/11 era as Washington fought a war in neighboring Afghanistan. And even after the State Department’s re-designation of Pakistan as a “country of particular concern” under the International Religious Freedom Act last year, then-secretary of state Mike Pompeo approved a waiver overriding the sanctions that the label would otherwise have triggered. He cited “the important national interests of the United States” to justify his decision.

These complexities are already at play in the Biden administration’s dealings with Pakistan. Just weeks into Biden’s presidency, the relationship has been tested by the Pakistani Supreme Court’s decision to order the release of the individuals behind *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl’s 2002 beheading. During a call with Pakistani foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in January, Secretary of State Antony Blinken raised the matter. And though Blinken did not mention the PTA’s threats to Qureshi, Biden’s State Department doesn’t intend to give the Ahmadis the cold shoulder.

“We are aware of the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA)’s recent communication threatening U.S. citizens with legal action for content on a website hosted in the United States,” a State Department official told National Review in a statement. “The United States strongly believes in the right to freedoms of expression and religion or belief; we defend U.S. citizens’ and all peoples’ exercise of those rights, including online.” The official added that the administration had “raised our concerns with the appropriate Pakistani authorities,” and would continue to engage the government of Pakistan on broader religious-freedom issues.

Heightened congressional attention to the problem could also shame the Pakistanis into backing down, because Congress has the power to limit the foreign aid on which Pakistan is heavily reliant. McCaul and Representative Jackie Speier, his fellow co-chair of the Ahmadiyya Caucus, are preparing a letter to the government of Pakistan objecting to the PTA’s harassment.



At least until Pakistan can be persuaded to halt its assaults on religious liberty more permanently, such pushback from Congress and the Biden administration might be the best way of protecting Americans who wish to live, speak, and worship freely from the threats of foreign autocracies.

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/02/pakistans-disturbing-digital-threat-to-americans/>



## CRIMINALISED, KILLED AND CURSED: THE PLIGHT OF PAKISTAN'S AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY

Posted on [19/04/2021](#) by [cswpress](#) in [Asia](#), [Pakistan](#)

On 11 February, Abdul Qadir, a 65-year-old Ahmadi homeopathic doctor, was [shot dead](#) outside his homeopathic clinic in the Bazikhel area of Peshawar in north-western Pakistan. His killing marked the latest in a concerning uptick in religiously motivated attacks on Ahmadis, particularly in Peshawar.

Last year, CSW documented at least five other instances in which Ahmadis were killed, including an incident in which 31-year-old doctor, Tahir Mahmood, was [murdered](#) in front of his family at his home in Murch Balochan in Nankana Sahib District, Punjab.

***The fact that Pakistan's Ahmadiyya community has a long history of experiencing harassment, discrimination, violence and other human rights violations within Pakistani society leaves little doubt that these murders are religiously motivated. A pattern is also clearly emerging whereby prominent doctors and [academics](#) have been specifically singled-out by extremists.***

It is likely that, to some extent, the fact that many of those killed have held prominent places in society is exactly why they were targeted. For extremists in the country who refuse to accept Ahmadis as Muslims, the idea that members of the community could hold positions of authority such as in hospitals or at universities is no doubt an affront to their fundamentalist interpretations of Islam.

Radical Islamists have long been responsible for encouraging violence towards the community, including incidents in which Islamic teachers, known as *mullahs*, have announced over mosque loudspeakers that anyone who kills an Ahmadi will go to paradise, and anyone who loots their houses will be blessed with money.

### No clean hands

While the Pakistani authorities often make arrests following the killings of Ahmadis, it's also important to remember that they too bear some responsibility for the culture of intolerance towards the community.

In 1974 the government introduced a constitutional amendment which made Pakistan the only country in the world to declare Ahmadis to be non-Muslims by law. This was further exacerbated a decade later, when in 1984 the introduction of Ordinance XX made it a criminal offence for Ahmadis to call themselves Muslims.

*Since then, the Ahmadi community has faced intolerance and an array of right violations in virtually all aspects of life. Ahmadi children face hardship, bullying and [discrimination at school](#), whilst adults suffer similar experiences in the world of employment. In addition, the community endures the regular [desecration](#) of their grave sites and the [destruction](#) of their mosques at the hands of sizable mobs.*

In the most extreme cases, like that of Dr Qadir and Dr Mahmood, Ahmadis are even killed for their beliefs. A [report](#) published last July by the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community found that 269 Ahmadis had been killed because of their faith since 1984.

### Hatred fuelled

These horrific statistics are fuelled by the Pakistani government legislation which contributes to the marginalisation and othering of the Ahmadiyya community, but, to make matters worse, there are also members of the government who are responsible for directly encouraging hatred and violence towards Ahmadis.

In April 2020 for example, Pakistan’s State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr Ali Muhammad Khan [issued](#) a tweet (which has since been deleted) which endorsed beheading as an acceptable punishment for blasphemers, who he went on to make clear referred to members of the Ahmadiyya community.



*Caption: The tweet from Minister Muhammad Khan which reads in Urdu as “Blasphemer of the Prophet has only one punishment, Behead! Behead!”*

The APPG for the Ahmadiyya community [reported](#) that the minister’s tweet subsequently resulted in “atirade of abuse and hate speech against Ahmadi Muslims” which culminated in the arrest of two members of the community on blasphemy charges.

This was hardly the first time a government official had fuelled religious intolerance towards the Ahmadi community in Pakistan. In 2019 Pakistan’s Parliamentary Affairs Minister Azam Swati [claimed](#) in a television interview that he and the Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan sent curses towards the Ahmadi community, whom he referred to as Qadianiyat – a religious slur.

### An inclusive Pakistan?

*Prime Minister Khan has repeatedly taken pride in making repeated claims to an inclusive Pakistan in which the rights of all citizens are upheld and respected, however it’s clear from the*



*plight of the Ahmadis that this is not the case. That's before the often dire situation of other minority communities in the country, including that of [Christians](#) and [Hindus](#), is even considered.*

Last year, the government announced the establishment of a [National Commission for Minorities](#) (NCM), but thus far it has been ineffective in securing real improvements in the lives of Pakistan's minority communities, who have [termed the commission](#) 'toothless.' This is perhaps unsurprising: unlike previously empowered commissions in Pakistan, the commission lacks power, autonomy, or even a budget, and many of its members selected specifically because of their partiality to the ruling party.

Until the government of Pakistan takes steps to ensure that the NCM is genuinely empowered and appropriately resourced, it will remain unable to proactively respond to the myriad of FoRB violations taking place in the country, leaving Ahmadis and other religious minorities vulnerable to further discrimination, harassment, and even violence.

It is essential that Pakistan's bilateral partners, including the UK, which enjoys a close relationship with the country as a member of the Commonwealth, remain committed to raising the plight of the Ahmadis and other religious minorities with Pakistan's government at every opportunity, to ensure that Prime Minister Khan's supposed vision of a tolerant and inclusive Pakistan moves from rhetoric to reality.

*By CSW's Public Affairs Officer Ellis Heasley*

<https://forbinfull.org/2021/04/19/criminalised-killed-and-cursed-the-plight-of-pakistans-ahmadiyya-community/>

## WSJ | OPINION

### PAKISTAN'S RELIGIOUS PURITY TEST

Prominent economist Atif Rehman Mian was forced out as the wrong kind of Muslim.

By Tunku Varadarajan

April 13, 2021 7:06 pm ET

When the Guggenheim Foundation announced the winners of its fellowships for 2021 last week, a name caught my eye. It was Atif Rehman Mian, a Pakistani-American professor of economics at Princeton.

Mr. Mian, 45, has been in the spotlight before. In 2014, the International Monetary Fund named him one of 25 young economists "who are shaping the way we think about the global economy." Then things got turbulent for this self-described "nerdy academic." Imran Khan was elected prime minister of Pakistan in August 2018 and invited Mr. Mian to join his government's Economic Advisory Council. The prof said yes.

"I love economics," Mr. Mian tells me. "It's a study of what's in our collective good. At its core, it's about human welfare." When Pakistan "reached out for advice," he was "of course exceedingly happy to be of service" to the people of his native land, which he'd left at 18 on a full scholarship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "It did not work out, due to the religious discrimination that I faced."





Economist and Ahmadi Muslim Atif Rehman Mian.

PHOTO: SAMEER KHAN/FOTOBUDDY

Within days of Mr. Khan's invitation, Mr. Mian had resigned from the council. Mr. Mian is an Ahmadi, belonging to a Muslim sect named Ahmadiyya, which was founded as an Islamic revivalist movement in British India in the late 19th century. Present-day Pakistan officially regards Ahmadis as heretical. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, an ostensibly liberal former prime minister, oversaw an amendment to Pakistan's constitution in 1974 that classified Ahmadis as non-Muslims—not an enviable status in an Islamic country. Zia-ul-Haq, the military dictator who executed Bhutto in 1979, made it a criminal offense for Ahmadis even to call themselves Muslims.

Mr. Khan appears to have been unaware that Mr. Mian was an Ahmadi when he appointed him to his council. Sunni religious extremists wasted no time in bringing this fact to his attention. Ugly protests ensued, berating the prime minister for his decision to favor a reviled heretic with public office. Mr. Khan caved in to the mob. "Anti-Ahmadi prejudice is one of the ways Pakistan's religious hard-liners mobilize support," says Husain Haqqani, a former Pakistani ambassador to the U.S., in an email to me. "Islamist extremists attack all minorities, but Ahmadis are treated worse than others for insisting that they are Muslims."

As he resigned, Mr. Mian tweeted that "serving my country is an inherent part of my faith"—to the indignation, no doubt, of the extremists who drove him away. So hard-core is their hatred of Ahmadis that the word "Muslim" has been effaced from the gravestone of Abdus Salam, the Ahmadi Pakistani scientist who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1979.

Mr. Mian is "really saddened" about the intolerance in his land of birth. "I could not even give an economics lecture via Zoom recently to a private university in Pakistan," he says, "because some religious fanatics threatened violence. Young minds deserve better."

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/pakistans-religious-purity-test-11618355176>



## THE UNHEARD AHMADIS OF PAKISTAN

The 5-million-strong Ahmadi community faces many challenges and persecution at the hands of the Sunni Muslim majority



[Kamran Chaudhry, Lahore](#)

[Updated: March 19, 2021 04:00 AM GMT](#)



Ahmadis in Pakistan face murder, assault, tyranny, attacks on places of worship, persistent hate campaigns and deprivation of jobs and education. (Photo: YouTube)

Amir Mehmood avoids wishing "*Assalamo Alaikum*," the Islamic greeting of peace, while addressing audiences in consultations on human rights.

"I apologize. I may end up in prison for three years if someone complains about it. Such practices have led to a brain drain. Many Ahmadis have left the country in the past two decades," he said.

"Anti-Shia stickers, similar to those targeting our community, are now appearing on multiple shops. Tomorrow it will be Christians or Hindus. The fire that destroys us will reach you as well. I request you to counter this trend in your own interest."

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Mehmood, in charge of the press section of the Anjuman Ahmadiyya association, was referring to the commonly found stickers banning the entrance of Ahmadis to restaurants and business centers around Pakistan.

"Caution! Ahmadis first enter Islam, then this shop," states a sticker on the door of the burger shop in front of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Lahore.



Saeeda Diep, a female activist, posted [a similar sticker](#) on her Facebook page.

“Here there is no dealing of any kind with Qadiani and Shia, the enemies of Allah, his Prophet Muhammad, the companions of the prophet and the worst infidels on earth. Therefore don’t bother,” stated a banner at a hardware paint shop.

Mehmood was addressing the Provincial, Policy Advocacy Consultation organized by the Catholic bishops’ National Commission for Justice and Peace in Lahore on March 17.

The commission [launched its policy brief on hate speech](#) in Punjab following year-long group discussions with sectarian and religious minorities including Ahmadis.

The Ahmadi community is often referred to by pejorative terms like *Lahori group*, *marzai* — a slur that plays on the rank of nobleman or prince — or *Qadiani*, a reference to Qadian, birthplace of the "prophet" Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.

Qadian is located in Gurdaspur district of the Indian-controlled side of Punjab, where the sect was first established in 1889. However, Rabwah, which sits on the banks of the Chenab River, is now considered a sanctuary for Pakistani Ahmadis.

Pakistan's 5-million-strong Ahmadi community faces many challenges and persecution at the hands of majority Sunni Muslims and a legal system that protects Sunni interests, they claim.

Activists say they are punished for their belief system, which posits sect founder Ahmad as a prophet and Masih Maud as the promised Messiah, or a metaphorical second coming of Jesus. This is considered heresy in mainstream society.

As a result, former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto declared them non-Muslims via a constitutional amendment in 1974, one year into his four-year term in office, after he had already served as president for nearly two years.

Zia-ul-Haq, a four-star general and the nation's sixth president, followed up on this by promulgating an ordinance that made it a punishable offense for Ahmadis to practice Islam.

The law states that the minority community cannot call themselves Muslim or "pose as Muslims," an act punishable by three years in prison. By law it is also a punishable offense for Ahmadis to refer to their call to prayer as *azan* or their places of worship as a mosque.

Since then, the community has issued an advisory to its members to avoid protests and media appearances. Meanwhile, Ahmadis face murder, assault, tyranny, attacks on places of worship, persistent hate campaigns and deprivation of jobs and education.

### **Persecution in Peshawar**

Last week three Ahmadi households in Bazid Khel, Peshawar, fell victim to direct gunfire. In recent months, four Ahmadis were killed in Peshawar, capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. In February, a procession in Peshawar threatened Ahmadis and demanded they abandon the city.

The spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya community expressed concern over the increase in hate campaigns against Ahmadis in general, especially in Peshawar.

“These attacks are creating a sense of deep insecurity among members of the community while the Ahmadis of Peshawar are living in a deep atmosphere of fear. The perpetrators of this vicious attack [in Bazid Khel] should be brought to justice and the government must put an end to such hate campaigns,” Mehmood said.

According to Mehmood, the violence against Ahmadis in Peshawar escalated after [a teenager killed Tahir Nasim](#), a US citizen accused of blasphemy, inside a court in the northwestern city last July. Nasim was a former member of Pakistan's Ahmadi minority.

Lawyers and Peshawar police's elite force later shared selfies with the murderer, who became an instant hero on Pakistani social media.

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/the-unheard-ahmadis-of-pakistan/91809>



## ATTACKS ON MUSLIM AHMADI CONTINUE IN PAKISTAN

Three Ahmadi houses have been fired upon in recent months and four members of the group were killed in Peshawar



Violence against Muslim Ahmadis continues in Pakistan as the community has been denouncing in recent times. **Three Ahmadi houses were recently shot at and four members of the congregation were killed in Peshawar over the past few months in attacks related to their religious faith.**

The Ahmadiyya Community demands the Pakistani state to stop this hate campaign against them and demand that effective protection measures be provided.

At around midnight on 12-13 March 2021, three Ahmadi homes in Bazid Khel, Peshawar, became the target of gun shots. **Fortunately, no one was injured in this horrific incident. The case was**



**registered at Budh Bair Police Station.** According to the information provided, the three households belonged to the following Ahmadi nationals: Arshad Iqbal, Rooh al-Amin and Muhammad Rafiq.

The spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan, while expressing his grief over this unfortunate incident, **expressed concern over the increasing hate campaign against the Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan in general, and particularly in Peshawar.**



**This is the ninth recent serious attack against the Ahmadiyya Community.** On 11 February 2021 in Bazid Khel, Peshawar, Abdul Qadir, a 65-year-old Ahmadi, was shot dead outside a medical centre owned by a Muslim Ahmadi.

Soon after Abdul Qadir's murder, a hate campaign was launched against the Community. **On 25 February 2021, a demonstration took place in Peshawar inciting violence against Muslim Ahmadis. Participants in the demonstration demanded that Muslim Ahmadis leave the city of Peshawar.**

The spokesman also said that these attacks are creating a sense of deep insecurity among the members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan, **while the Ahmadis of Peshawar are living in a deep atmosphere of terror.**

He demanded that the perpetrators of this vicious attack be brought to justice and that **the Government of Pakistan stop this hate campaign against Muslim Ahmadis.**

<https://atalayar.com/en/content/attacks-muslim-ahmadi-continue-pakistan>



4.

## A CONTEMPTUOUS ACT OF DESECRATION OF AN AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN DISTRICT GUJRANWALA, PAKISTAN



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IHRC/IR/032021/2  
18 March 2021

### INCIDENT REPORT

#### A CONTEMPTUOUS ACT OF DESECRATION OF AN AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN DISTRICT GUJRANWALA, PAKISTAN

We are gravely shocked to share with you an abhorrent shameful incident that took place in a rural settlement in District Gujranwala, Pakistan.

On 17th March at about 12 noon, a contingent of Police force raided the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Garmolavirkhan, District Gujranwala, Punjab, Pakistan and forcefully wiped off the Islamic Creed (Kalima) from the forehead of the mosque. They also demolished and destroyed the dome and the Minarets of the Mosque. When questioned, they said:

*'They had been ordered to do so by the senior officials of the Government of Pakistan.'*

The fact is that the Government of Pakistan law enforcing agencies had allowed this to happen at the behest of a staunch opponent of the Ahmadiyya Community:

Sajjad Hussein. He had been distributing hate mongering literature against Ahmadis in the area instigating the public to violence against members of the Ahmadiyya Community.

Please find enclosed some disturbing pictures of the incident below.

However, it is shameful that the very officials who have the responsibility of protecting the life and honour of all citizens and promoting religious tolerance in the country themselves vilifying the members of a peaceful and peace loving community.

We implore the international Human Rights organisations and those who are striving and protecting freedom of religion to take serious notice of such disastrous attitude especially by a Government which claims to be a democratic State.



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### CAP Freedom of Conscience NGO

## A CONTEMPTUOUS ACT OF DESECRATION OF AN AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN DISTRICT GUJRANWALA, PAKISTAN

Mar 19, 2021 | news



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<https://freedomofconscience.eu/a-contemptuous-act-of-desecration-of-an-ahmadiyya-mosque-in-district-gujranwala-pakistan/>



## POLICE DESTROYS MINORITY COMMUNITY'S PLACE OF WORSHIP IN PAKISTAN

*The Ahmadis, a persecuted community of 4 million in Pakistan, are banned from posing as Muslims.*

By [Kunwar Khuldune Shahid](#) March 25 , 2021 [Asia](#)



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**SPECIAL ISSUE #2, 2021**

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS – PRINT & ELECTRONIC MEDIA



### The Ahmadi place of worship before the attack. (Aamir Mahmood)

LAHORE, Pakistan — After months of social media hate speech targeting, the Ahmadis or Ahmadiyyas — a minority community in Pakistan — continue to live in fear.

In Garmola Virkan, a village located in Gujranwala in Pakistan’s Punjab province, the situation was on the edge after a few locals raised complaints against an Ahmadi mosque.

But nothing could’ve prepared the community for what ensued on March 17.

A mob assembled near the mosque in board daylight. Soon, the local municipal authority members — armed with axes, hammers, and rods — came and climbed atop the building. They began tearing the minarets and desecrating the *kalma* (Islamic phrase) inscribed on the mosque’s facade.

The locals said eight police officers, including the local station house officer, were complicit in this act.

“We won’t let anyone from the outside touch the minarets or the *kalma*,” Aamir Mahmood, a spokesperson for the Ahmadi community and head of their media cell, told Zenger News. “Police, however, is a representative of the state, so we can’t stop them.”



“But we told the police that their acts were unlawful, unethical, and in violation of human rights and the Constitution of Pakistan,” he said.

[Article 20](#) of the Constitution of Pakistan grants all citizens the right to profess their religion. In 1974, through the Second Amendment to the Constitution, Ahmadis were declared non-Muslims in the country.

In 1984, under the military dictatorship of Zia-ul-Haq, [Ordinance XX](#) was passed, which introduced two sections in the Pakistan Penal Code, further limiting the Ahmadis’ religious freedom.

The two sections ([298B and 298C](#)) state that any person of the “Quadiani group or the Lahori group (colloquially known as the Ahmadis or Ahmadiyyas), who refers to his place of worship as a ‘Masjid’ (mosque)” or “directly or indirectly poses himself as a Muslim or refers to his faith as Islam” shall be punished with imprisonment for up to three years with a fine.

When contacted for comments, the office of Gujranwala’s Sub-Divisional Police Officers and the [Counter-Terrorism Department](#) of Pakistan’s Punjab Police declined to speak.

Following the destruction of the Ahmadi place of worship, the locals and the mob chanted “Tajdar-e-Khatm-e-Nabuwwat zindabad,” meaning “long live the crown bearer of the finality of the prophethood.”

Muneeb Rizvi, a member of the local Islamist political party named Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), led the mob.

Members of other Islamic sects deem the belief of the Ahmadis in their community’s founder [Mirza Ghulam Ahmad](#) as heresy and denial of Prophet Muhammad being the final prophet of Islam.

Groups such as Majlis-e-Tahaffuz-e-Khatme Nabuwwat were established across Pakistan for decades to stifle Ahmadis from preaching and protecting the belief in the finality of the prophethood.

“The police had no legal right [to demolish the worship place]. They had no court order. The police can’t decide which places of worship can, and cannot, have a minaret or the *kalma*,” said Mahmood.

The attack on the community’s place of worship is the latest in a continuum of gory incidents [targeting](#) the Ahmadis in Pakistan. The surge in violence came after the murder of Ahmadi-born [Tahir Naseem](#), an American citizen from Illinois, on blasphemy charges inside the Peshawar Judicial Complex in July 2020 ahead of a hearing.

“Though Naseem had left the Ahmadi community, his killing gave momentum to violence against the Ahmadis in the city. Many local members of the community have since left Peshawar and moved elsewhere,” said Mahmood.

According to a report by the Religious Prosecution of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Naseem was the 77th person killed for blasphemy in the country. Since Ordinance XX, more than 270 Ahmadis were murdered and 395 assaulted for their faith. At least 54 Ahmadi places of worship were demolished and 43 sealed and thousands of Ahmadis booked for “posing as Muslims”.





*A person desecrating the kalma (Islamic phrase) inscribed on the facade. (Aamir Mahmood)*

Many from the community find refuge in Rabwah, a small town around 200 kilometers south-west of Gujranwala. Rabwah, or Chenab Nagar (official name following the removal of its Islamic name), is the only Ahmadi-majority city in Pakistan. Of the 4 million Ahmadis living in Pakistan, Rabwah is home to around 65,000 members.

At least a million Ahmadis live in Pakistan's neighbor India. The community has established its international headquarters in the United Kingdom.

Law enforcement agencies often raid the town to clamp down on Ahmadi preaching. The Counter-Terrorism Department has conducted multiple raids to seal printing presses and seize literature propagating the faith.

"We feel threatened and insecure when the state supports the elements that target us," Mehmood Iftikhar, an Ahmadi resident from Rabwah, told Zenger News. "In the past two to three years, fear has significantly increased after law enforcement agencies started arresting Ahmadis from Rabwah."

Iftikhar said there is anger among the community since they are patriotic and law-abiding Pakistanis.

"Also, because of social media, we are issued threats online even in Rabwah," he said.

Scores of Twitter trends aimed at Qadianis like #QadianiAqalliyatNahiGhaddar (Qadianis aren't a minority, but traitors) and #QadiyaniatSePakPakistan (A Pakistan free of Qadianis) have made matters worse for the community.

"Qadianis aren't just non-Muslims; they are blasphemers as well," Ijaz Ashrafi, co-founder of TLP and former information secretary, told Zenger News. "They openly violate the Constitution, and the state isn't taking any action."



*A picture of the facade before the attack. (Aamir Mahmood)*

Sections [298B and 298C](#) of the Pakistan Penal Code mandate prison sentence and fine, but Section 295C states that whoever "defiles the sacred name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad" shall be punished with death.

Ashrafi's party uses these clauses to issue open calls to persecute religious minorities and citing the blasphemy law to influence their diplomatic relations.

In 2017, Ashrafi's radical Islamist party held Pakistan's capital hostage for weeks following a change in the anti-Ahmadi clauses in the [Electoral Reforms Bill](#). The government removed





renowned economist [Atif Rehman Mian](#) from the Economic Advisory Council owing to his Ahmadi faith following pressure from Ashrafi's party.

The TLP also demanded the [expulsion of the French ambassador](#) over the publication of Prophet Muhammad's caricatures in the satirical French magazine Charlie Hebdo.

Human rights organizations such as [Amnesty International](#) and [Human Rights Watch](#) regularly condemn the Ahmadi persecution in Pakistan.

While some politicians such as Shireen Mazari, Pakistan's minister for human rights, have occasionally [condemned](#) attacks on the Ahmadi community, others uphold the marginalization of the community.

Ali Muhammad Khan, the minister of state for parliamentary affairs, [tweeted](#) last year that blasphemers should have their "heads chopped off".

Though the tweet is unavailable now, there are other [tweets](#) by the minister attacking the community. Minister for Religious Affairs Noor-ul-Haq Qadri also appeared on numerous TV shows to express anti-Ahmadi vitriol.

Ahmadis can't vote in elections unless they agree to be a part of a separate voters' list for non-Muslims. In May 2020, the Ahmadis were [kept off](#) the [National Commission for Minorities](#), underlining the state's refusal to recognize the sect as a minority.



*A picture of the facade after the attack. (Aamir Mahmood)*

"Our principle stance remains that we are not a non-Muslim minority. We will continue to strive for our constitutional and democratic rights," said Mahmood.

Rights groups and activists have long called out the institutionalized and non-state persecution of minorities in Pakistan, which ranks among "countries of particular concern" under the U.S.' International Religious Freedom Act.

In addition to the violence against the Ahmadis, at least 1,000 non-Muslim girls were forcibly converted to Islam in Pakistan in 2018 as per the [Human Rights Commission of Pakistan](#).

Scores of temples and churches have been vandalized and demolished by mobs or jihadist groups. Almost 95 percent of pre-Partition Hindu temples no longer exist in the country. However, the targeting of the Ahmadi community remains unique as the sect is denied the freedom of self-identification with their religion.

<https://www.zenger.news/2021/03/25/police-destroys-minority-communitys-place-of-worship-in-pakistan/>



## PAKISTAN POLICE DESTROYS AHMADIYYA MOSQUE

By [News Desk](#)

Published on March 28, 2021



Members of the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan have been facing state-patronized terror and cruelty for decades. Although Article 20 of the Constitution of Pakistan grants all citizens the right to profess their religion, members of the Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, Ahmadiyya, Baha'i and non-Muslim communities are not granted the rights to their religion. In the eyes of Pakistani Muslims, Ahmadiyya community members are "infidels" while other religious minority members are "enemies of Allah". Sadly, members of the international community, including rights groups, especially the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) have miserably failed in exerting pressure on the radical Islamic government in Pakistan in stopping intimidation and persecution of religious minorities.

According to media reports, after months of social media hate speech targeting, the Ahmadiyya community's place of worship was destroyed in Garmola Virkan, a village located in Gujranwala in Pakistan's Punjab province.

A mob had assembled near the mosque in board daylight. After that, the local municipal authority members — armed with axes, hammers, and iron rods — came and climbed atop the building. They tore the minarets and desecrating the Shahada (the basic creed of Islam) inscribed on the mosque's façade.

We won't let anyone from the outside touch the minarets or the kalma," Aamir Mahmood, a spokesperson for the Ahmadi community and head of their media cell, told reporters. "Police, however, is a representative of the state, so we can't stop them".

In 1974, through the Second Amendment to the Constitution, Ahmadis were declared non-Muslims in Pakistan.

Hundreds of Ahmadis were killed in the 1953 Lahore riots and the 1974 Anti-Ahmadiyya riots. The May 2010 Attacks on Ahmadi mosques, infamously known as the Lahore Massacre, resulted in the murder of 84 Ahmadis by suicide attack. The 1974 riots resulted in the largest number of killings of Ahmadis.

Approximately 2~5 million Ahmadis live in Pakistan, which has the largest population of Ahmadis in the world. It is the only state to have officially declared the Ahmadis to be non-Muslims as they do not consider Muhammad to be the final prophet; and their freedom of religion has been curtailed by a series of ordinances, acts and constitutional amendments. In 1974, Pakistan's parliament adopted a law declaring Ahmadis to be non-Muslims; the country's constitution was amended to define a Muslim "as a person who believes in the finality of the Prophet Muhammad".

In 1984, General Zia-ul-Haq, the then military ruler of Pakistan, issued Ordinance XX. The ordinance, which was supposed to prevent “anti-Islamic activities”, forbids Ahmadis to call themselves Muslim or to “pose as Muslims”. This means that they are not allowed to profess the Islamic creed publicly or call their places of worship mosques.

Although derogatory religious slurs, the terms ‘Qadiani’, ‘Qadianism’, ‘Mirzai’ and ‘Mirzaian’ are widely used in Pakistan to refer to Ahmadis and the term ‘Qadiani’ is also the term used by the government in its constitution.

Ahmadis in Pakistan are also barred by law from worshipping in non-Ahmadi mosques or public prayer rooms, performing the Muslim call to prayer, using the traditional Islamic greeting in public, publicly quoting from the Quran, preaching in public, seeking converts, or producing, publishing, and disseminating their religious materials. These acts are punishable by imprisonment of up to three years. In applying for a passport or a national ID card, all Pakistanis are required to sign an oath declaring Mirza Ghulam Ahmad to be an impostor prophet and all Ahmadis to be non-Muslims.

The word Muslim was erased from the gravestone of the Nobel prize winning theoretical physicist Abdus Salam, because he was an Ahmadi.

As a result of the laws and constitutional amendments regarding Ahmadis in Pakistan, persecution and hate-related incidents are constantly reported from different parts of the country. Ahmadis have been the target of many attacks led by various religious groups. All religious seminaries and madrasas in Pakistan belonging to different sects of Islam have prescribed essential reading materials specifically targeted at refuting Ahmadiyya beliefs.

For the five million Ahmadis, religious persecution has been particularly severe and systematic in Pakistan, which is the only state to have officially declared that Ahmadis are non-Muslims. Pakistani laws prohibit the Ahmadis from identifying themselves as Muslims, and their freedom of religion has been curtailed by a series of ordinances, Acts and constitutional amendments.

As a result, persecution and hate-related incidents are regularly reported from different parts of the country. Ahmadis have been the target of many violent attacks by various religious groups in Pakistan. Madrasas of all sects of Islam in Pakistan prescribe reading materials for their students specifically targeted at refuting Ahmadiyya beliefs.

In a recent survey, students from many private schools of Pakistan expressed their opinions on religious tolerance in the country. The figures assembled in the study reflect that even among the educated classes of Pakistan, Ahmadis are considered the least deserving minority in terms of equal opportunities and civil rights. The teachers from these elite schools showed lower levels of tolerance towards Ahmadis than their pupils.

Another example is Abdus Salam, the only recipient of the Nobel Prize for Physics who identified as a Muslim. For his mere allegiance to the Ahmadiyya sect, he had been ignored and excommunicated. There are no monuments or universities named after him. The word “Muslim” has been erased from his grave stone epitaph.

<https://tribune.com/police-destroys-minority-communitys-place-of-worship-in-pakistan/>



5.

## ANOTHER AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN PAKISTAN DEVASTATED AND DESECRATED, MUZAFFAR GARH, DISTRICT GUJRANWALA, PUNJAB PAKISTAN



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IHRC/IR/120421/1  
12 April 2021

### INCIDENT REPORT

#### ANOTHER AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN PAKISTAN DEVASTATED AND DESECRATED, PUNJAB PAKISTAN

We reported last month the demolition of the Minarets and domes of an Ahmadiyya Mosque in District Gujranwala, Pakistan carried out under the eyes of the local Police force.

Today, unfortunately we come back to you with the report of the destruction and demolition of another Ahmadiyya Mosque in a rural settlement in Muzaffar Garh, Punjab, Pakistan. This act of profanity again happened under the cover of the local Police.

In both of these cases, assurances given for the protection of the places of worship of all religious faiths in Pakistan given by the Supreme Court in 2014 were ignored.

Moreover, Government Officials in Punjab unfortunately are engaged in such illegal activities to win the pleasure and approval of the ferocious opponents of the Ahmadis.

The incident we are reporting today happened on 11th April 2021 under the guard of the local police force. A violent mob gathered round the Ahmadiyya Mosque in a village in District Muzaffar Garh. The Minarets and the Prayer Arch of the mosque were destroyed. This wild act has been condemned by all particularly the advocates of Freedom of Religion. Such incidents openly expose the fact that not only the lives and honour of Ahmadis in Pakistan is at stake but also their places of worship. Please find enclosed pictures.

We request the Government of Punjab to respect and follow the eight-point directive given by the Supreme Court in 2014 which emphasised the provision of protection for the places of worship of all religions in Pakistan.

The destruction of Ahmadiyya Mosques in Pakistan is a glaring contravention of Article 20 of the Constitution of Pakistan and also the Supreme Court verdict of 2014. The Government must stop the Police force engaging in and supporting such disdainful acts of hooliganism.

We request your support, along with your friends and contacts, for a powerful action to call for Freedom of Religion and safeguard of fundamental Human Rights from the Government of



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Pakistan. The world should pressurise the Government of Pakistan to harness these culprits to save the image of Islam and the image of their own country, which they profess to be an Islamic democratic state.

Most importantly, the Government of Pakistan should ensure that all citizens enjoy Freedom of Religion and equal citizen rights as stipulated in the Constitution of Pakistan article 20 and United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights article 2, 18.

END

## MUZAFFAR GARH MOSQUE



Web: [www.hrcommittee.org](http://www.hrcommittee.org) - Address: International Human Rights Committee - 22 Deer Park Rd, London, SW19 3TL



### CAP Freedom of Conscience NGO

## A CONTEMPTUOUS ACT OF DESECRATION OF AN AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN DISTRICT GUJRANWALA, PAKISTAN

Apr 13, 2021 | news

We reported last month the demolition of the Minarets and domes of an Ahmadiyya Mosque in District Gujranwala, Pakistan carried out under the eyes of the local Police force.

Today, unfortunately we come back to you with the report of the destruction and demolition of another Ahmadiyya Mosque in a rural settlement in Muzaffar Garh, Punjab, Pakistan. This act of



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profanity again happened under the cover of the local Police.

In both of these cases, assurances given for the protection of the places of worship of all religious faiths in Pakistan given by the Supreme Court in 2014 were ignored. Moreover, Government Officials in Punjab unfortunately are engaged in such illegal activities to win the pleasure and approval of the ferocious opponents of the Ahmadis.

## **MUZAFFAR GARH MOSQUE**



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Most importantly, the Government of Pakistan should ensure that all citizens enjoy Freedom of Religion and equal citizen rights as stipulated in the Constitution of Pakistan article 20 and United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights article 2, 18.

MUZAFFAR GARH MOSQUE



Règlement Général de l'Union Européenne sur la Protection des Données (RGPD)  
INFORMATIONS LEGALES ET CONDITIONS GENERALES D'UTILISATION

Translate »

Liberté de Conscience NGO with ECOSOC consultative status

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/another-ahmadiyya-mosque-in-pakistan-devastated-and-desecrated-punjab-pakistan/>

## BITTER WINTER

A MAGAZINE ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS

### PAKISTAN: ANOTHER AHMADI MOSQUE ATTACKED

04/15/2021 [MASSIMO INTROVIGNE](#) A+ | A-

A mob demolished the minarets and mihrab of the building in Muzaffargarh. Again, the police sided with the thugs.

*by Massimo Introvigne*

Despite international protests, [attacks against Ahmadi mosques in Pakistan](#) continue unabated.

On April 11, a crowd gathered around the Ahmadi mosque in a village in the area of Muzaffargarh, in Punjab, and started demolishing the minarets and mihrab.



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*Traces of the attack against the mosque in Muzaffargarh (from Twitter).*



*The Muzaffargarh Ahmadi Mosque before the attack (from Twitter).*

Local Ahmadis called the police, which sided with the attackers, and actually arrested five members of the minority religions.

The incident proved, once again, that the Supreme Court 2014 directives for the protection of places of worship of minority religions are not respected in Pakistan.

The Ahmadis are regarded as “heretics,” and officially declared non-Muslim by Pakistani law. Referring to their places of worships as “mosques” is prohibited.



*Other signs of the attack. Courtesy of International Human Rights Committee.*

Apart from any theological dispute, Pakistan should guarantee the freedom of religion or belief to all its citizens, and protect them from harassment coming from violent mobs and militias. When it comes to the Ahmadis, this almost never happens, and hundreds of them have been killed, with perpetrators rarely punished.

[Hindu](#), Sikh, and [Christian](#) minorities are also subject to various forms of discrimination and persecution in the country.

<https://bitterwinter.org/pakistan-another-ahmadi-mosque-attacked/>



## ANOTHER AHMADI WORSHIP PLACE ATTACKED IN POLICE PRESENCE

[News Desk](#) April 12, 2021



An Ahmadi worship place was vandalised by an extremist mob in the presence of police in Muzaffargarh. A contingent of police led by DSP Allah Yar Saifi and SHO Munir Mohana allegedly partook in the vandalism.



Members of the Ahmadi community of the area were reportedly arrested on trumped up charges.



<https://nayadaur.tv/2021/04/another-ahmadi-worship-place-attacked-in-police-presence/>



## TWO AHMADI MEN ARRESTED FOR HAVING MINARETS ON WORSHIP PLACE

*Muzaffargarh police arrested two ahmadi brothers for having minarets on their place of worship and for engraving islamic verses on their father's grave stone.*

April 13th, 2021 By Staff Reporter | LAHORE

The Muzaffargarh police have arrested two Ahmadi brothers for having minarets as well as a *mahrab* in their place of worship. Both brothers were booked under Sections 298-B and 298-C of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

Section 298-B of the PPC outlaws members of the Ahmadiyya community from the usage of epithets, descriptions and titles reserved for certain holy persons, while Section 298-C prohibits them to call or refer to their faith as 'Islam', or preach or propagate their faith. Violating these Sections is an offence punishable with a fine and imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years.





These Sections along with a few other amendments in the PPC and Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C.) were introduced by former military dictator General Zia ul Haq through a Presidential Ordinance known as the “Anti-Islamic Activities of Qadiani Group, Lahore Group and Ahmadis (Prohibition and Punishment) Ordinance 1984”.

Earlier, a spokesperson the Ahmadiyya community Saleemuddin took to Twitter and alleged that a violent mob with the aid of the police attacked an Ahmadiyya place of worship in Chak 604.



He added that the police allowed the mob to destroy the minarets and the *mahrab* of the building. He urged Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar and police authorities to address this issue and release all the arrested Ahmadis.

However, SDPO Kot Addu, Allahyar Saifi denied the involvement of the police in demolishing the Ahmadi place of worship.

He told *Voicepk.net* that the police did not desecrate the worship place, rather only asked the two brothers to demolish the minarets and *mahrab* as the law and order situation in the area was deteriorating.

“Had the police not taken action, it would be very much possible that these Ahmadis would have been attacked by a violent mob,” Saifi said. The cop also said that the police demolished a grave stone affixed on the grave of the father of the two arrested Ahmadis because of the Islamic verses engraved on it.

It is the second such event in a month. On March 17, 2021, a mob demolished an Ahmadiyya worship place in district Gujranwala.

After the promulgation of the 1984 ordinance, a number of Ahmadiyya worship places were desecrated and demolished by enraged mobs and sometimes by official authorities.

According to Jamat Ahmadiyya, at least 29 Ahmadi places of worship have been demolished between 1984 and 2020 while 43 places have been set on fire or damaged by angry mobs.

According to the data, at least 161 Ahmadis have been booked for using Islamic epithets since 1984.

<https://voicepk.net/2021/04/two-ahmadi-men-arrested-for-having-minarets-on-worship-place/>



6.

## LOCAL POLICE DISGUISED AS CIVILIANS DESECRATE ANOTHER AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN CHAK 261 R-B, ADHWALI DISTRICT FAISALABAD, PAKISTAN



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IHRC/IR/180621/1  
18 June 2021

### INCIDENT REPORT

## LOCAL POLICE DISGUISED AS CIVILIANS DESECRATE ANOTHER AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN FAISALABAD, PAKISTAN AS PART OF CONTINUED STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF AHMADIS

**SUMMARY:** A few months ago, we reported about the demolition of the minarets and domes of the various Ahmadiyya mosques in Pakistan carried out under the supervision of local police authorities.

Unfortunately, we again regret to report another destruction and demolition in a rural settlement called 261 R-B, Adhwali district Faisalabad, Pakistan. This profane act was orchestrated by the local police itself disguising themselves as civilians.

**INCIDENT:** The incident occurred on 17 June 2021 under the guard of the local DSP (District Superintendent of Police, Pakistan) and his unit who gathered around the Ahmadiyya Mosque at 261 R-B, Adhwali district Faisalabad, Punjab in order to desecrate the Mosque. The local police later on removed all debris and added cement on the parts of the mosque they themselves desecrated as their cover up strategy. Please find enclosed photos.

The Qur'anic inscriptions were also erased from the houses of Ahmadis in the nearby vicinity. Such incidents openly expose the fact that not only the lives and honour of Ahmadis in Pakistan are at stake but also their places of worship and homes. Please find enclosed photos.

**BACKGROUND:** The Local Ahmadiyya Muslim Community reported the fear of a potential attack a week prior to 17 June 2021 to the Inspector General of Police Punjab, and the higher central governmental authorities.

**REQUEST:** We request your support, along with your friends and contacts, for a powerful action to call for Freedom of Religion and safeguard of fundamental Human Rights from the Government of Pakistan. The world should pressurise the Government of Pakistan to harness these culprits to save the image of Islam and the image of their own country, which they profess to be an Islamic democratic state.



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Most importantly, the Government of Pakistan should ensure that all citizens enjoy Freedom of Religion and equal citizen rights as stipulated in the Constitution of Pakistan Article 20 and United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 2, 18.

END

**ORIGINAL MOSQUE IN 261 R-B, ADHWALI DISTRICT  
FAISALABAD, PAKISTAN**



**MOSQUE BEING DESCERATED BY LOCAL POLICE**





**CEMENT ADDED TO COVER UP DESECRATION**



**QURANIC INSCRIPTIONS REMOVED FROM NEARBY AHMADI HOUSES**

Web: [www.hrcommittee.org](http://www.hrcommittee.org) - Address: International Human Rights Committee - 22 Deer Park Rd, London, SW19 3TL



## CAP Freedom of Conscience NGO

**LOCAL POLICE DISGUISED AS CIVILIANS DESECRATE ANOTHER AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN FAISALABAD, PAKISTAN AS PART OF CONTINUED STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF AHMADIS**

Jun 19, 2021 | news



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## CEMENT ADDED TO COVER UP DESECRATION



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**REQUEST:** We request your support, along with your friends and contacts, for a powerful action to call for Freedom of Religion and safeguard of fundamental

Human Rights from the Government of Pakistan. The world should pressurize the Government of Pakistan to harness these culprits to save the image of Islam and the image of their own country, which they profess to be an Islamic democratic state.

Most importantly, the Government of Pakistan should ensure that all citizens enjoy Freedom of Religion and equal citizen rights as stipulated in the Constitution of Pakistan Article 20 and United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 2, 18.

**Pakistan must stop using state action — including local police authorities — to repress vulnerable religious communities like the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Such state action further emboldens extreme groups to commit targeted attacks on these communities.**



**ORIGINAL MOSQUE IN 261 R-B, ADHWALI DISTRICT  
FAISALABAD, PAKISTAN**



**MOSQUE BEING DESECRATED BY LOCAL POLICE**



**QURANIC INSCRIPTIONS REMOVED FROM NEARBY AHMADI HOUSES**



Règlement Général de l'Union Européenne sur la Protection des Données (RGPD)  
INFORMATIONS LEGALES ET CONDITIONS GENERALES D'UTILISATION

Translate »

IP Liberté de Conscience NGO with ECOSOC consultative status

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/local-police-disguised-as-civilians-desecrate-another-ahmadiyya-mosque-in-faisalabad-pakistan-as-part-of-continued-state-sponsored-persecution-of-ahmadis/>



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## AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY DENOUNCES DESECRATION OF ANOTHER MOSQUE IN PAKISTAN

The Ahmadiis issued a statement protesting what they see as a continued state-sponsored persecution of their community

### [Comunidad Ahmadiya](#)



**The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Spain has issued an official statement denouncing the desecration of a new Ahmadiyya mosque in Faisalabad, Pakistan, by local police disguised as civilians, under the ongoing state-sponsored persecution of Ahmadiis.**

**The Ahmadiyya Community urges the Government of Pakistan to ensure that all citizens enjoy freedom of religion and equal rights as citizens, as stipulated in the Pakistani Constitution.**

The following text is the press **statement** of the Ahmadiyya Community:

LOCAL POLICE DISGUISED AS CIVILIANS DESECRATE ANOTHER AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN FAISALABAD (PAKISTAN) UNDER CONTINUED STATE SPONSORSHIP IN PERSECUTION OF AHMADIIS  
COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

Unfortunately, we have to report yet again another destruction and demolition of a Muslim Ahmadi Mosque in a rural settlement called 261 R-B, Adhwali district, Faisalabad, Pakistan. This desecration was orchestrated by the local police themselves in civilian disguise.



**INCIDENT:** The incident took place on 17 June 2021 under the vigilance of the local Superintendent of Police and his team who gathered around the Ahmadiyya Mosque at 261 R-B, Adhwali District Faisalabad, Punjab with the aim of desecrating the mosque. Later, the local police removed all the debris and put cement in the parts of the mosque which they desecrated.

The Koranic inscriptions were also erased from the houses of the Ahmadis in the immediate neighbourhood. Such incidents openly expose the fact that not only the lives and honour of the Ahmadis in Pakistan are at stake, but also their places of worship and homes.



**REQUEST:** We ask for your support, along with that of your acquaintances and contacts, in calling for religious freedom and the safeguarding of Human Rights under the current Government of Pakistan.

Pressure must be brought to bear on the Government of Pakistan to arrest the culprits in order to safeguard the image of Islam and that of its own country, which claims to be an Islamic democratic country.

What is essential is that the Government of Pakistan ensures that all citizens enjoy freedom of religion and equal rights as citizens, as stipulated in the Constitution of Pakistan, Article 20, and in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 2, 18.

<https://atalayar.com/en/content/ahmadiyya-community-denounces-desecration-another-mosque-pakistan>

7.

## PAKISTAN POLICE ATTACKS ANOTHER AHMADIYYA MUSLIM MOSQUE OF CHAK 57 J-B KHALA KALAN, FAISALABAD, PUNJAB



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IHRC/IR/240621/4  
24 June 2021

### INCIDENT REPORT

#### PAKISTAN POLICE ATTACKS ANOTHER AHMADIYYA MUSLIM MOSQUE

The persecution of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan continues to intensify. Since January 2021, police authorities in Pakistan have been targeting mosques belonging to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

On June 24, 2021, at around 8:30 pm, police and senior government officials from Faisalabad attacked another Ahmadi Mosque in the village of Chak 57 JB Khiala Kalan, Faisalabad, Punjab. This village is located approximately 10 miles north of Faisalabad city and has a sizeable Ahmadi community. The authorities illegally imposed curfew in the village and announced that no Ahmadi Muslim was allowed to leave their home. The police authorities then turned off the streetlights and ordered that no Ahmadi was allowed to take a photo or a video even from inside their own home. The police then broke into the compound of the Ahmadiyya mosque and demolished the minaret of the Ahmadi Mosque. All debris were removed from the site to ensure that no trace of the demolition was left behind.

According to sources, these attacks are being carried out at the behest of some high-ranking police officials in Faisalabad, who have been involved in various attacks on Ahmadiyya mosques in Faisalabad District in recent months.

It should be noted that in our last incident report, IHRC had warned that another attack on an Ahmadi Mosque was imminent. Similarly, the local Ahmadiyya Muslim Community had informed the provincial chief (IG) of Punjab police last week and sought his help to prevent additional attacks.

The State is supposed to protect its citizens but repeatedly Pakistan is intent on persecuting Ahmadi Muslims for no crime other than them being Ahmadis. Sadly, it is reported that the minarets of this mosque have also been demolished. We request that you call on the government of Pakistan to put an immediate stop to these indiscriminate and unjustified attacks against Ahmadi Muslim mosques in Pakistan by Pakistan's police and government officials. We also urge you to call on the Pakistan government to ensure that the rights of the beleaguered Ahmadiyya



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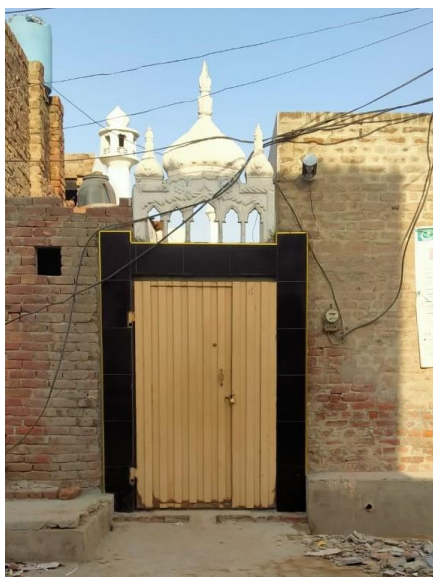
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Muslim Community are protected and their right to worship and practice their faith is guaranteed. The Government of Pakistan must act immediately and punish these culprits to save the image of Islam and the image of their own country, which they profess to be an Islamic democratic state. Most importantly, the Government of Pakistan should ensure that all citizens enjoy freedom of religion and equal citizen rights as stipulated in the Constitution of Pakistan Article 20 and United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 2, 18.

END

**ORIGINAL PICTURE OF AHMADI MOSQUE IN 57 JB, KHIALA KALAN, DISTRICT FAISALABAD, PAKISTAN WHICH WAS BUILT IN 1948**



**AHMADI MOSQUE IN 57 JB, KHIALA KALAN, DISTRICT FAISALABAD BEING DESECRATED IN THE NIGHT WITHOUT STREETLIGHTS**



Web: [www.hrcommittee.org](http://www.hrcommittee.org) - Address: International Human Rights Committee - 22 Deer Park Rd, London, SW19 3TL



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## CAP Freedom of Conscience NGO

### PAKISTAN POLICE ATTACKS ANOTHER AHMADIYYA MUSLIM MOSQUE

Jun 25, 2021 | news



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Règlement Général de l'Union Européenne sur la Protection des Données (RGPD)  
INFORMATIONS LEGALES ET CONDITIONS GENERALES D'UTILISATION

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<https://freedomofconscience.eu/pakistan-police-attacks-another-ahmadiyya-muslim-mosque/>



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## EU PARLIAMENT ADOPTS RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REVIEW OF PAKISTAN'S GSP+ STATUS OVER BLASPHEMY LAW ABUSE



CAP Freedom of Conscience NGO

## EU PARLIAMENT ADOPTS RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REVIEW OF PAKISTAN'S GSP+ STATUS OVER BLASPHEMY LAW ABUSE

by CAPLC2021 | May 5, 2021 | EU Parliament, news



On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the European Parliament [has adopted a resolution calling for a review of the GSP+ status granted to Pakistan](#) in view of an “alarming” increase in the use of blasphemy accusations in the country as well as rising number of online and offline attacks on journalists and civil society organisations, it emerged on Friday.

The resolution also calls on the Government of Pakistan to “unequivocally condemn” incitement to violence and discrimination against religious minorities in the country.

Here are some points of the resolution concerning religious minorities:

*“4. Is concerned at the continued abuse of blasphemy laws in Pakistan, which is exacerbating existing religious divides and thus fomenting a climate of religious intolerance, violence and discrimination; stresses that Pakistan’s blasphemy laws are incompatible with international human*





rights laws and are increasingly used to target vulnerable minority groups in the country, including Shias, Ahmadis, Hindus and Christians; calls, therefore, on the Government of Pakistan to review and ultimately abolish these laws and their application; calls for judges, defence counsel and defence witnesses to be protected in all so-called blasphemy cases;

7. Calls on the Government of Pakistan to unequivocally condemn incitement to violence and discrimination against religious minorities in the country; calls on the Government of Pakistan to put in place effective, procedural and institutional safeguards at the investigative, prosecutorial and judicial levels to prevent the abuse of the blasphemy laws pending their abolition; deplores the continuing discrimination against and violence towards religious minorities in Pakistan, including Christians, Ahmadiyya Muslims, Shias and Hindus; recalls the 2014 mob attack on the Ahmadi community in Gujranwala following allegations of blasphemy against its member Aqib Saleem, who was acquitted in court, that resulted in the deaths of three members of the community, including two children; notes that it has been made a requirement that no police officer below the level of police superintendent may investigate charges before registering a case;
1. Whereas the situation in Pakistan continued to deteriorate in 2020 as the government systematically enforced blasphemy laws and failed to protect religious minorities from abuses by non-state actors, with a sharp rise in targeted killings, blasphemy cases, forced conversions, and hate speech against religious minorities including Ahmadis, Shi'a Muslims, Hindus, Christians and Sikhs; whereas abduction, forced conversion to Islam, rape and forced marriage remained an imminent threat for religious minority women and children in 2020, particularly those from the Hindu and Christian faiths;"

The parliamentarians in this resolution also request the intervention of the EEAS "to immediately review Pakistan's eligibility for GSP+ status in the light of current events and whether there is sufficient reason to initiate a procedure for the temporary withdrawal of this status and the benefits that come with it, and to report to the European Parliament on this matter as soon as possible;"

And to the "EEAS and the Commission to use all the tools at their disposal, including those provided for by the EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Religion or Belief, to assist religious communities and pressurise the Pakistani Government to do more to protect religious minorities"

And they also "Urges the EEAS and the Member States to continue to support Pakistan with judicial reform and capacity-building to ensure that lower courts are equipped to promptly hold trials for those detained and to dismiss blasphemy cases that are not supported by sufficient reliable evidence;"

The resolution also encourages and welcomes initiatives in favor of interreligious dialogue, human rights and assistance to victims of religious and gender-based violence.

Règlement Général de l'Union Européenne sur la Protection des Données (RGPD)  
INFORMATIONS LEGALES ET CONDITIONS GENERALES D'UTILISATION

Translate »

P Liberté de Conscience NGO with ECOSOC consultative status

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/eu-parliament-adopts-resolution-calling-for-review-of-pakistans-gsp-status-over-blasphemy-law-abuse/>





## CAP Freedom of Conscience NGO

### BLASPHEMY LAWS IN PAKISTAN, IN PARTICULAR THE CASE SHAGUFTA KAUSAR AND SHAFQAT EMMANUEL

by [CAPLC2021](#) | Apr 28, 2021 | [news](#)



We have been informed that on April 29th the blasphemy law in Pakistan will be discussed in the European Parliament as a plenary debate – in particular the case of Ms. Shagufta Kausar and Shafqat Emanuell.

[https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=en&reference=2021/2647\(RSP\)](https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=en&reference=2021/2647(RSP))

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2021-0254\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2021-0254_EN.html)

This resolution is an opportunity to highlight the plight of the Ahmadi community in Pakistan.

The resolution mentions twice the persecution suffered by the Ahmadi community :

*„ whereas accusations of blasphemy in Pakistan are most often made against Muslims in particular **Ahmadi Muslims**, followed by Christians and Hindus; whereas attacks of places of worships also take place as a result of such accusations; “*

*„ Calls on the Government of Pakistan to put in place effective, procedural and institutional safeguards at the investigative, prosecutorial and judicial levels to prevent the abusive use of these laws, pending the abolition of the blasphemy laws; recalls the 2014 mob attack on the **Ahmadi community** in Gujranwala, following allegations of blasphemy against its member Aqib Saleem, who was acquitted in court, that killed three members of the community, amongst whom two children; notes that it has been made mandatory that no police officer below the level of a police superintendent will investigate charges before registering a case; “*

The Ahmadiyya Muslims are victims of state-sponsored persecution in Pakistan.

One of the most recent examples is the target killing of doctor Abdul Qadir on 11 February simply due to the profession of his Islamic faith.





On November 9, Mahmood Khan, 82, was fatally shot while waiting at a bus station. On October 6, two men on a motorcycle stopped the car of Dr. Naeemuddin Khattak, 57-year-old professor, and fired five shots, killing him.

On August 12, Meraj Ahmed, 61, was fatally shot as he was closing his shop in Peshawar. On July 29, an alleged 19-year-old assailant killed Tahir Ahmad Naseem, 57, inside a high-security courtroom. Naseem was facing trial for blasphemy accusations.

On 17th March at about 12 noon, a contingent of Police force raided the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Garmolavirkan, District Gujranwala, Punjab, Pakistan and forcefully wiped off the Islamic Creed (Kalima) from the forehead of the mosque. They also demolished and destroyed the dome and the Minarets of the Mosque.

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021 under the guard of the local police force. A violent mob gathered round the Ahmadiyya Mosque in a village in District Muzaffar Garh. The Minarets and the Prayer Arch of the mosque were destroyed.

We found it necessary to bring this matter in your kind notice. If we can support in this regard, please feel free to contact us.

CAP LC : [contact@coordiap.com](mailto:contact@coordiap.com)

IHRC

Règlement Général de l'Union Européenne sur la Protection des Données (RGPD)  
INFORMATIONS LEGALES ET CONDITIONS GENERALES D'UTILISATION

Translate » P Liberté de Conscience NGO with ECOSOC consultative status

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/blasphemy-laws-in-pakistan-in-particular-the-case-shagufta-kausar-and-shafqat-emmanuel/>



## PAKISTAN'S BLASPHEMY LAWS THREATENING EU RELATIONSHIP

**Pakistani government's approach to religious discrimination is incompatible with human rights commitments, writes Barbara Matera.**

By [Barbara Matera](#)

08 Oct 2014

For years now, the international community and human rights activists within Pakistan have been trying to draw the attention to minorities' rights in the country and the use of the blasphemy laws by hardline groups as a tool to oppress and prosecute minorities.

In the most recent incident, a 70 year old British citizen of Pakistani descent who had been sentenced to death on blasphemy charges was shot by his guard in a high security prison.



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Earlier, in late July violence erupted in the town of Gujranwala, 140 miles south-east of Islamabad, after a rumor spread that a young man of the Ahmadi community had posted 'objectionable material' on Facebook.



According to reports from the incident, a crowd of 150 people went to the police station demanding the registration of a blasphemy case against the accused, and as police were negotiating with the crowd another mob attacked and started burning the houses of Ahmadis. Homes were looted, their belongings were dragged to the street and lit on fire, and gunshots were also reported.

"Pakistan's blasphemy laws have... fostered a climate of religiously motivated violence, and are used indiscriminately against both Muslims and non-Muslims"

The most tragic consequence of the religious violence though was the loss of human life. The mob killed an Ahmadi woman and two of her granddaughters, a seven-year-old girl and her baby sister. None of the three were in any way related to the blasphemy accusation. According to witnesses, the police stood by without interfering in the incident.

Ahmadis have faced prosecution under Pakistan's blasphemy laws as well, which carry the death penalty for insulting the prophet Muhammad. According to the 2014 annual report by the US commission on international religious freedom, there are 17 Pakistanis on death row for blasphemy. Even the accusation often results in mob attacks and lynching. Human rights activists in Pakistan say the laws are often used to persecute minorities or settle personal and financial issues.

In May, a group of 68 lawyers was charged with blasphemy charges. Lawyers themselves regularly become targets because they defend those accused of blasphemy. Christians also often face aggression, last year a 3000 person mob burned about 200 Christian homes in Lahore.

According to Amnesty International, while purporting to protect Islam and the religious sensitivities of the Muslim majority, Pakistan's blasphemy laws have instead fostered a climate of religiously motivated violence, and are used indiscriminately against both Muslims and non-Muslims. They violate the basic human rights of freedom of religion and thought. According to the United Nations' human rights committee, blasphemy laws are incompatible with human rights commitments, and more specifically the international covenant on civil and political rights



The dangers created by this long standing legal framework are serious. Yet developments such as the rise of a new leadership in Pakistan willing to enact reforms aimed at protecting minorities and establishing a higher level of EU-Pakistan cooperation has created a fertile landscape for reform. However, this relationship is dependent upon the Pakistani government implementing a series of human rights treaties. Europe will be there to support Pakistan, but will only allow that support to materialise into actual policies if Pakistan first realises that it can no longer ignore the situation with regard to religious discrimination.

<https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/news/article/pakistans-blasphemy-laws-threatening-eu-relationship>



## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE REASSESSMENT OF EU-PAKISTAN TRADE REGIME

Apr 29, 2021

The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) welcomes the European Parliament's 29 April 2021 resolution on the blasphemy laws in Pakistan. The resolution is significant not only for its forceful condemnation of the terrible state of religious freedom in Pakistan, but also for its recognition that the European Union (EU) the EU's trading relationship with Pakistan is failing to uphold human rights, and its demand that the European Commission immediately reconsider it.



On 29 April 2021, the European Parliament [passed a resolution](#) decrying the deterioration of what was already a terrible record of religious persecution in Pakistan. The resolution was [overwhelmingly passed](#), 662 to 3, with 26 not voting.

Significantly, the resolution also called for the "Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) to immediately review Pakistan's eligibility for GSP+ status in the light of current events and whether there is sufficient reason to initiate a procedure for the temporary withdrawal of this status and the benefits that come with it, and to report to the European Parliament on this



matter as soon as possible.” This provision was [voted on separately](#) and received even more votes in favor, passing with 678 votes in favour, 8 against, and 10 not voting.

This is an unprecedented and crucial action by the European Parliament.

### **Pakistan’s failure to uphold religious and minority rights**

Pakistan’s blasphemy laws provided the impetus for the referendum. These laws have led to Muslims, Hindus, Christians and others to face stiff prison sentences, including the death penalty, for statements related to Islam. They have also led to people accused of violations of these laws to be killed in mob violence.

But the problem’s for Pakistan’s religious and ethnic minorities go much deeper than just these laws, as the European Parliament recognized. Religious minorities, including Hindus, Christians, and Sikhs, as well as Sufi, Ahmadiyya, and Shia Muslims, are regularly discriminated against by society at large and are targets of extremists. The practice of targeting religious minorities goes hand-in-hand with targeting ethnic groups, particularly those, such as the Sindhi who have large populations of Sikhs and Hindus and who also reside in economic important regions. The Sindh and Baluch, for example, are regularly subjected to major human rights violations caused by economic development programmes tied to Pakistan’s Belt and Road Initiative Agreement with China, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

A [March 2020 UNPO study](#) and [June 2020 submission](#) to the UN General Assembly highlight, the UNPO’s membership includes some of the most vulnerable religious minorities and that this applies to Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, and others, alike. Yet, consistently Pakistan tops lists of the very worst offenders by international religious freedom experts, a finding that is confirmed by the UNPO’s experience. In 2018, for instance, the US government placed Pakistan on a list of the very worst offenders of religious freedom, as a Country of Particular Concern. As of 2020, just 12 other states are on this list: Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Vietnam.

### **The EU’s complicity in these violations**

In January 2014, the EU granted Pakistan status under its flagship trading scheme, the General Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+). The GSP+ provides enhanced and preferential free trade between the EU and a small list of countries that are meant to be among those developing countries with the best human rights records. Specifically, to be part of the GSP+ scheme, country partners are required to adhere to 27 international human rights treaties and show positive progress in their implementation. This is because, the GSP+ scheme was designed as critical human rights instrument of the EU, a tool to leverage advancement of the EU’s human rights agenda.

In practice, as it relates to Pakistan, the GSP+ regime has had an opposite effect. As a [UNPO policy paper](#) published in February 2020 outlines, since signing onto the GSP+ programme Pakistan has reinstated the death penalty and signed into agreements with the Communist Party of China that have increased repression of ethnic minorities and freedom of speech (particularly online) and endangered the delicate peace in Kashmir. All the while, the government of Pakistan has done little to address an ever-worsening situation for religious minorities in the country.

In order to maintain Pakistan’s status in the GSP+ programme the European Commission and its foreign affairs arm, the European External Action Service, is required to assess positive human rights progress. That Pakistan’s record on some of the human rights that the EU claims to care most about – the death penalty, equality and non-discrimination – has only worsened significantly since the signing of the GSP+ agreement is hard to dispute. Yet throughout this time, Pakistan’s

GSP+ status has been upheld and, in so doing, Pakistan has been given relatively positive encouragement by the EU.

### **A challenge to EU rule of law**

The European Commission and EU member states both have strong geopolitical reasons to do this. Pakistan has long been a key strategic partner in efforts to tackle terrorism. And the EU is engaged in a battle of influence with China, thanks to China's Belt and Road Initiative and its China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Moreover, as a [UNPO report](#) issued in April 2020 highlights, the EU member states are also in competition amongst each other for the benefits of EU-China trade. Together, these factors limit will at the highest levels in the EU to take concrete action against human rights violations in China and Pakistan.

Nonetheless, geopolitical concerns, however valid they may be, have no place in the GSP+ process or, indeed, in a European Union governed by the rule of law. The regulations governing the GSP+ process do not allow for such geopolitical concerns to trump clear evidence of a decline in human rights compliance. By continuing to certify Pakistan as eligible for the GSP+ the European Commission and European External Action Service are potentially doing so in clear violation of the EU's own rules. This is particularly troubling at a time when the European Commission is working to address a decline of rule of law across the EU, taking to task certain member states directly.

As a result, the UNPO has long been working for significant reform of the GSP+ process, both [towards Pakistan](#), and as a whole.

### **Overwhelming concern of the European Parliament**

The European Parliament's resolution potentially marks a major turning point. Of the seven major political groups in the European Parliament, [all tabled resolutions](#) on religious freedom in Pakistan, with six specifically containing provisions on the GSP+. Five of those six demanded a reassessment of Pakistan's eligibility, while one also requested that the European Ombudsman initiate an investigation into the European Commissions compliance with EU rules.

Ultimately, a joint motion for a resolution was agreed upon, demanding a reassessment of the EU's GSP+ relationship with Pakistan and a Commission report to the European Parliament. Six of the seven major political groups joined that motion, but one did not. The seventh, which has originally tabled a resolution calling for a reassessment of the GSP+, instead requested raised a second motion, [styled as an amendment](#), calling for a separate vote on the GSP+ provision and then a vote on the resolution as a whole.

The vote on the GSP+ provision ultimately passed with 678 votes in favour, 8 against, and 10 not voting. The vote on the resolution as a whole, including the critical GSP+ provision, passed 662 to 3, with 26 not voting.

### **UNPO's Reaction**

The UNPO General Secretary, Ralph Bunche, issued the following statement on behalf of the UNPO:

"The process through which the European Parliament promulgated this resolution leaves little room for the European Commission.

"By voting separately on the GSP+ provision, the European Parliament has sent a clear message. It is absolutely concerned about the human rights situation in Pakistan and is demanding change from the government of Pakistan. But it also clearly concerned with how the European



Commission and European External Action Service are implementing the GSP+ and their ability to achieve positive human rights change through trade incentives.

“The demand for a reassessment of the GSP+ relationship with Pakistan and a report to the European Parliament on that reassessment cannot be ignored. It is the UNPO’s position that temporarily withdrawal of Pakistan’s GSP+ status is more than warranted in light of the significant problems regarding the death penalty, civil society and media freedom, religious freedom and minority rights that we have witnessed since the GSP+ relationship was established.”

<https://unpo.org/article/22141>

# Forbes

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONDEMNS PAKISTAN’S BLASPHEMY LAWS

May 26, 2021,03:03am EDT

[Dr. Ewelina U. Ochab](#)

On April 28, 2021, the European Parliament adopted a [joint motion for a resolution on the blasphemy laws in Pakistan](#) calling for more comprehensive approaches to address the abuses of blasphemy laws in Pakistan.

The motion refers to two specific cases, those of [Shagufta Kausar and Shafqat Emmanuel](#). They are a Pakistani Christian couple convicted of blasphemy by a Pakistani court, and sentenced to death by hanging back in 2013. They are alleged to have sent a blasphemous message against the Prophet. Despite the couple being illiterate and the message being in English, the couple did not stand a chance of succeeding in their defense against the dangerous blasphemy provisions and a failed legal system. In 2014, they appealed, however, the High Court of Lahore has since postponed the trial. Both suffer from medical conditions, Shafqat Emmanuel from damage to his spinal cord and Shagufta Kausar from depression. They are not provided with any adequate medical assistance.



A Pakistani supporter of the Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ), a hardline religious party, holds an ...  
[+] AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Understandably, their cases are not the only ones. The [Centre for Social Justice in Pakistan](#) reports that at least 1,855 people have been charged under the blasphemy laws between 1987 and February 2021, with a significant spike in 2020.



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Blasphemy laws seek to restrict any speech that may be perceived as offensive to Prophets and holy personages. Despite a global movement to abolish blasphemy laws, many countries maintain these laws. In fact, at least thirteen countries sentence the death penalty for offenses committed in contravention of blasphemy laws. Blasphemy laws have always been problematic as they rely on the notion of causing offense, which is subjective and vague. Blasphemy laws are based on the notion of statements outraging religious feelings and representations insulting the religion or religious beliefs. Both outrage and insult are inexact concepts which create legal uncertainty and encourage an unhelpful degree of subjectivity.

Apart from being subjective in nature, what is also glaring is that despite the fact that blasphemy laws tend to apply to all religions, they are being disproportionately used against religious minorities in states where such laws exist. Public support for strict blasphemy laws in Pakistan is reportedly strong. However, it is clear that those who are calling for strict blasphemy laws are unlikely to ever have to face the charges of blasphemy. The majority of those convicted under blasphemy laws are minorities, especially Ahmadiyya and Christian minorities. The targeting of religious minorities confirms the numerous problems posed by blasphemy laws. They are not being used to prosecute genuine claims of blasphemy but are instead used to persecute religious minorities for daring to live in accordance with their religious beliefs.

In Pakistan, blasphemy laws have often been used by groups of mobs to exact [extrajudicial justice](#). Reports suggest that, since 1990, at least [80](#) people have been killed in Pakistan over claims of blasphemy. Among others, in April 2017, Mashal Khan, a Muslim student, was killed by an angry mob following allegations that he posted blasphemous content online. In 2014, a Christian couple in Kot Radha Kishan were reportedly beaten to death and burnt by a crowd of over a thousand people for allegedly desecrating the Quran.

Furthermore, anyone who tries to help those charged with blasphemy, are also subjected to threats and violence. [Shahbaz Bhatti](#), a Christian Minister, was killed in an ambush for attempting to reform the blasphemy law. The house of [Shahbaz Gurmani](#), a lawyer defending a university lecturer accused of blasphemy, Junaid Hafeez, was raided by gunmen on motorcycles warning him to withdraw from the case. The lawyer of Asia Bibi, [Saif-ul-Mulook](#), had to flee the country in fear of his life.

Such attacks are also common online, particularly, on journalists, academics and civil society organizations.

The situation did not change, as one would have hoped, with Imran Khan becoming the Prime Minister. To the contrary, [reportedly](#), Imran Khan has been calling for the introduction of blasphemy laws in other countries. He is reported to say that “Together, we should ask Europe, the European Union and United Nations to stop hurting the feelings of 1.25 billion Muslim like they do not do in case of Jews. (...) I want the Muslim countries to devise a joint line of action over the blasphemy issue with a warning of trade boycott of countries where such incidents will happen. This will be the most effective way to achieve the goal.”

Considering how dangerous blasphemy laws are in Pakistan, it would be a significant damage to human rights of all to have such provisions adopted in other countries, as reportedly proposed by Imran Khan. The case of Pakistan is a clear warning of the dangers of blasphemy laws.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ewelinaochab/2021/05/26/european-parliament-condemns-pakistans-blasphemy-laws/?sh=5ab897b7344f>





## PAKISTAN: BLASPHEMY LAW AND THE ECONOMIC PITFALLS

Pakistan's business community has expressed concern over a possible revocation of the EU's preferential trade status. The country's economy is under pressure from the COVID crisis and the government's mismanagement.

Prime Minister Imran Khan finds himself in a difficult situation after the EU Parliament passed a unanimous resolution last week to review its preferential trade agreement with Pakistan over the country's controversial blasphemy law.

On the one hand, [the EU's GSP+ status](#) is economically beneficial for the country, on the other, blasphemy is an extremely sensitive issue — both religiously and politically.

The EU resolution expressed alarm over a spike in blasphemy cases and human rights abuses in Pakistan. It also showed concern over [rising anti-French sentiment](#) in the Muslim-majority South Asian nation over President Emmanuel Macron's actions against Islamic extremism in his country.

"The immediate initiative was connected to the case of a Christian couple. They have been languishing in a Pakistani jail because they have been accused of blasphemy," Reinhard Bütikofer, a German member of European Parliament, told DW. "But obviously, this is just one case among many. It may not need to be a Christian couple; [people of] other religions also suffer under the strict control of, what we consider, a medieval blasphemy law."



The Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan party's anti-French protests paralyzed Pakistan for several days in April

"It is a clear political signal that the GSP+ status is not a one-way street. It is premised on the understanding that the partnering country would stick to some human rights, transparency, accountability and other criteria," Bütikofer said, adding that the GSP+ is a major economic support for Pakistan because it allows an EU partner country to send 66% of its exports to the European Union free of any tariff. "I think it fair to insist that the conditionality that applies should be taken seriously."

An 'untouchable' law

[Pakistan's right-wing groups](#) have strongly criticized the EU Parliament's resolution and vowed to safeguard the country's blasphemy laws. They said the West would not be allowed to insult Islam or its prophet, Muhammad.



## EU-Pakistan row: 'GSP+ status is not a one-way street'

Earlier this week, PM Khan presided over a Cabinet meeting to discuss the implications of the the EU resolution. Instead of showing pragmatism over the issue, Khan reportedly decided to not compromise on the blasphemy law. His ministers also asserted that the blasphemy laws would remain untouched.

However, the government said it would introduce legislation to address the other human rights concerns in the resolution.

Blasphemy is a sensitive topic in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, where around 97% of the 180 million inhabitants are Muslim. Hundreds of [victims of blasphemy charges](#) have been languishing in Pakistani jails for years. People have been lynched by angry mobs, or assassinated, on allegations of insulting Islam or its Prophet Muhammad.

In 1947, Pakistan inherited the blasphemy laws from its British colonial rulers who had made it a criminal offense to commit "deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religious belief."

In the later decades, the Islamic military dictator General Zia-ul-Haq introduced extensions of the laws between 1977 and 1988, including life imprisonment for those defiling or desecrating the Holy Quran. Later, the death penalty was declared mandatory for anyone blaspheming against the Prophet Muhammad.

Business community urges pragmatism

While the government is reluctant to address the EU's concerns, Pakistan's business community is wary of the possibility of the GSP+ withdrawal.

### Christians living in fear in Pakistan

Ahmed Chinoy, the director of the Pakistan Stock Exchange and former chairman the Pakistan Cloth Merchants Association, says that not addressing the EU's reservations could damage the country's economy.

"Pakistani manufacturers will be left with no option but to export textile and garments goods at a much cheaper rate, which means they will have to lay off their workers and reduce their wages substantially. The government needs to sort out this issue instead of resorting to emotional rhetoric," Chinoy told DW.

Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, former president of the Karachi Chamber Commerce and Industries, says the GSP+ status has greatly benefited Pakistan. "Before Pakistan was granted this status, we had around \$6 billion (€4.94 billion) exports to the EU. It increased to \$8 billion dollar as a result of the EU's preferential trade agreement," Sheikh told DW, adding that \$2 billion are now at stake.

"More than 18 million Pakistanis have [lost their jobs because of the COVID pandemic](#)" and more could be unemployed as a result of the GSP+ withdrawal, he said.

Nasir Mansoor, a labor rights activist, told DW the GSP+ status added 1.6 million more jobs to Pakistan's economy, and if it is withdrawn, around a million people will lose their jobs.

The country's business community says PM Khan needs to deal with the issue pragmatically.

Aisha Ghaus Pasha, an economist and a former lawmaker, says that if the EU revokes Pakistan's GSP+ status, it will put the country in a very challenging position.





Activists say it is high time [the state stopped appeasing Islamists](#) and focused on economic development.

"The government can easily address the EU concerns if it wants," said Mansoor.

<https://www.dw.com/en/pakistan-blasphemy-law-and-the-economic-pitfalls/a-57465059>

# BITTER WINTER

A MAGAZINE ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: PAKISTAN BLASPHEMY LAW INCOMPATIBLE WITH TRADE BENEFITS

05/03/2021 [MASSIMO INTROVIGNE](#)

A motion asks the Commission to reconsider the privileged GSP+ status accorded to the country, because of its gross violations of religious liberty.

*by Massimo Introvigne*



*European Parliament and its President, David Sassoli ([credits](#)).*

On April 30, 681 members of the European Parliament voted in favor of [a motion censoring Pakistan](#) for its human rights and religious liberty violations. Only three MEPs opposed it.

The motion focuses on Pakistan's law on blasphemy, and on the case of the Christian couple Shagufta Kausar and Shafqat Emmanuel. They were arrested in 2013 and sentenced to death in 2014 for blasphemy. The case originated from messages insulting Prophet Muhammad sent to a Muslim cleric using a SIM card registered in Shagufta's name. However, the couple denies any knowledge of the messages, and claims that the SIM card was purchased and used by an unknown person who impersonated Shagufta when registering it.

While their appeal hearing keeps being delayed, the couple remains in jail. Shagufta is in solitary confinement. Shafqat's lower body is paralyzed, and he relies on prison guards for mobility. He



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also has multiple pressure ulcers that are not being properly treated. In March, the motion says, “he was reportedly in a coma for three days and was not taken to the hospital.”

The motion states that this is not a unique case. Unfortunately, “the blasphemy laws of Pakistan are notoriously broad, vague and coercive, and establish the automatic and mandatory imposition of the death penalty.” These laws “violate the State’s human rights obligations, inter alia, to respect and fulfil the right to life, equality before the law, prohibition of discrimination, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief.”

Defendants cannot expect a fair trial, the European Parliament says. “Judges are pressured and intimidated into convicting defendants, defense lawyers have been killed in court and witnesses and families have had to go into hiding out of fear,” In general, “fear of violence prevent lawyers, the police, prosecutors and judges from conducting their work in an effective and impartial manner.” Today, at least 17 people remain on the death row on blasphemy charges, with new accused being constantly added to the list.

The motion notes that “blasphemy laws create a climate of terror and coercion in Pakistan, which affects all religious minorities, including Christians, Hindus, Sikhs as well as “Sufi, Ahmadiyya and Shia Muslims,.” All religious minorities “are prevented from freely and safely engaging in religious activities and express their beliefs and non-beliefs, as they are vulnerable to violence, arbitrary detention and persecution.”

More broadly, the motion says, “blasphemy laws in Pakistan are also used to silence voices that are critical of the government,” including journalists and artists. Women are taken into forced marriages. “The religious party Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) is building considerable barriers to human rights by persecuting politically and religiously dissenting voices and accusing them of blasphemy.”

Noting that Pakistan has ignored United Nations appeals to repeal its blasphemy laws, the Parliament calls on the European Commission “to urgently submit a report to the Parliament explaining why Pakistan remains eligible for the GSP+; when preparing the report, calls on the Commission to take into consideration the persistent and serious human rights violations.”

The GSP is the Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP), that allows products to come into the EU market from vulnerable developing countries without import duties. However, European regulations stipulate that countries not respecting human rights are not eligible for GSP+ status. The European Parliament now suspects that this may have been ignored, and the status accorded to Pakistan, by those who made the fact that European Union is #1 Pakistan trading partner prevail on human rights concerns.

<https://bitterwinter.org/european-parliament-pakistan-blasphemy-law-incompatible-with-trade-benefits/>



## PAKISTAN REJECTS EU RESOLUTION CONDEMNING PAKISTAN’S BLASPHEMY LAW

**05/10/2021 Pakistan** (International Christian Concern) – Pakistani leaders have rejected the European Union’s resolution condemning the blasphemy law of Pakistan. Lawmakers gathered for



a press conference to issue statements of support for Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and the blasphemy law, while reiterating Pakistan's commitment to the country's religious minorities.

With increasing pressure and communication surrounding the negative nature of blasphemy laws around the world, Pakistan's leaders have been defending the law vigorously, dismissing evidence proving the flawed nature of the law and its constant misuse against religious minorities.

Greater awareness about the nature of the law has come about through cases like Asia Bibi's, who was sentenced to death for claims that she had committed blasphemy. Her case drew international attention and advocacy, and she was acquitted after ten years on death row.

Religious minorities make up a small percentage of Pakistan's population, yet make up more than half of all blasphemy victims.

Widespread misuse of the law has empowered the majority Muslim community to muzzle religious minorities, holding the threat of blasphemy charges as leverage over them in the public and private square. Muslims threaten Christians and other religious minorities with potential accusations of blasphemy if they refuse to do as they are told. A mere accusation of blasphemy can ruin a person's career and their ability to conduct a normal life. Flash mobs are riled up by radical clerics and religious leaders to intimidate and threaten the accused, often even before proper legal procedure can take place.

The European Union was correct to condemn the blasphemy law and take a strong position in standing for religious freedom, freedom expression, and freedom of speech.

<https://www.persecution.org/2021/05/10/pakistan-rejects-eu-resolution-condemning-pakistans-blasphemy-law/>

**AP** ASSOCIATED PRESS

## PAKISTAN DECRIES EU PARLIAMENT'S MOVE ON BLASPHEMY LAWS

By MUNIR AHMED April 30, 2021

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan on Friday decried a move by the European Parliament, which a day earlier adopted a resolution demanding Islamabad allow freedom for religious minorities and asked the EU to reconsider the South Asian country's preferential trade status.

The European Parliament appealed on Islamabad to free a Christian couple — Shagufta Kausar and her husband Shafqat Emmanuel — who have been on death row since 2014. The two were convicted of insulting Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

It also urged Pakistani authorities to repeal the country's controversial blasphemy laws, provide Kausar and Emmanuel with needed medical care and "immediately and unconditionally" overrule their death sentence.

It also expressed concern at increasing online and other attacks on journalists and human rights activists and asked Pakistan to take steps to ensure their safety.

Under Pakistan's blasphemy laws, anyone accused of insulting Islam can be sentenced to death if convicted. Just the mere accusation of blasphemy can cause riots and incite mobs to violence and killings.

The foreign ministry in Islamabad released a statement expressing the government's disappointment at the European resolution, saying it "reflects a lack of understanding in the context of blasphemy laws and associated religious sensitivities in Pakistan — and in the wider Muslim world".

However, it is unlikely that Islamabad will act on the charged issue. Radical Islamists parties have in recent years held violent rallies to stop the government from making any changes in the blasphemy laws.

Kausar and Emmanuel were arrested in 2013 on suspicion of sending a blasphemous text message to a local cleric in eastern Punjab province, an allegation they denied. The two were tried and sentenced to death in 2014. Since then, their appeals have been pending in the Lahore High Court.

According to domestic and international human rights groups, blasphemy allegations in Pakistan have often been used to intimidate religious minorities and to settle personal scores.

A Punjab governor was killed by his own guard in 2011 after he defended a Christian woman, Aasia Bibi, who was accused of blasphemy. She was acquitted after spending eight years on death row and left Pakistan for Canada to join her family after receiving threats.

<https://apnews.com/article/pakistan-europe-religion-1923a66391e7433ffae75c29b45d6ab4>

## INTERNATIONAL **THE NEWS**

### **RELIGIOUS LEADERS, GOVT REJECT EU RESOLUTION: 'NOT A SINGLE CASE OF BLASPHEMY LAWS MISUSE REPORTED IN COUNTRY'**

LAHORE: Special Aide to Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has said the leadership of different religions and religious schools of thought in the country, as well as the government of Pakistan, have rejected the recent European Union (EU) resolution.

Addressing a joint press conference with representatives of different religions and religious sects here on Saturday, he said the EU resolution was based on ignorance of facts and false propaganda, as not a single case of misuse of blasphemy laws was reported in the country during the last six months.

Hafiz Ashrafi, who is also chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC), said that difference between freedom of expression, freedom of religion and blasphemy was very explicit and clear. The laws of Pakistan guarantee protection of rights of all citizens of the country. The Constitution protects the rights of minorities living in Pakistan, added Ashrafi.





“We invite the representatives of the European Union and the US Ambassador for Religious Freedom to visit Pakistan to find out the facts. “The protection of minorities' rights is the responsibility of the state, which it is fulfilling,” added Hafiz Ashrafi.

The PUC chairman disclosed that the government of Saudi Arabia had decided to set up an 80-kanal Jamia Masjid King Salman at Islamic University Islamabad where more than 12,000 faithful would be able to offer prayers at a time. He said that was a great gift from the Saudi government for the people of Pakistan and the students of Islamic University, ahead of the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Saudi Arabia.

Others present at the press conference were: Maulana Asadullah Farooq, Allama Zubair Abid, Maulana Hafiz Kazim Raza, Maulana Muhammad Khan Leghari, Maulana Abdul Wahab Rupari, Pastor Emanuel Khokhar, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Maulana Muhammad Ashfaq Pitafi, Maulana Aslam Siddiqui, Maulana Abdul Qayyum Farooqi, Qari Shamsul Haq, Maulana Qari Abdul Hakim Athar, Qari Mubashir Rahimi and others.

Ashrafi said all minorities living in Pakistan were satisfied with the laws of Pakistan. He said the blasphemy law was not being misused. Some individuals and institutions wanted to damage Pakistan's dignity, honour and relations with other nations by spreading false and baseless propaganda, added Ashrafi.

He said Pakistan's judiciary made decisions in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the land, adding that the instances regarding forced conversions had reduced significantly during the past months.

Hafiz Ashrafi said freedom of expression and religious freedom did not mean committing blasphemy of other religions. He said the international community should respect the sanctity of all religions. He said that for Muslims, the honour of all prophets and the sanctity of all heavenly books was part of the faith.

Ashrafi said Pakistan could not support riotous writings and hateful speeches and the entire Pakistani nation stands with Prime Minister of Pakistan over his stance regarding elimination of Islamophobia and blasphemy.

Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi said Prime Minister Imran Khan would leave for Saudi Arabia on a three-day visit where he would meet Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman and political and religious leaders of Saudi Arabia and perform Umrah and also visit the Roza-e-Rasool. He said the PM would discuss practical steps on legislation regarding Islamophobia and blasphemy with the Saudi Arabia political and religious leadership and the OIC secretary general.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/829644-religious-leaders-govt-reject-eu-resolution-not-a-single-case-of-blasphemy-laws-misuse-reported-in-country>



# UNITED NATIONS



## Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

## Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.



# PAKISTAN



## Article 20

Freedom to profess religion and to manage religious institutions. — Subject to law, public order and morality-

- (a) every citizen shall have the right to profess, practise and propagate his religion; and
- (b) every religious denomination and every sect thereof shall have the right to establish, maintain and manage its religious institutions.

Nasim Malik ( *International Human Rights Commission Sweden* )  
[www.eurotimesbelgium.be](http://www.eurotimesbelgium.be)

*A compilation by*

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