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PRESS RELEASE

TELEVISION DISCUSSION JUSTIFIES MURDER OF PEACEFUL MINORITY GROUP

**GEO Television's 'Aalim Online' openly preaches hatred of Ahmadiyya
Muslim Community**

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community condemns in the strongest terms the broadcast on September 7th 2008 of the television programme 'Aalim Online' on the GEO Television Channel which broadcasts in a number of different countries including Pakistan and the United Kingdom. The broadcast which was presented by Aamir Liaquat Hussain sought to 'commemorate' the 34th anniversary of members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community being declared non-Muslim in Pakistan. The programme which included both a panel discussion and telephone conference was both extremely inflammatory in its tone and highly provocative.

During the broadcast the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him) was spoken of in the most vile and grotesque language. The language used offended the sentiments not only of all Ahmadi Muslims but indeed those of all peaceful and tolerant peoples.

Further, during the broadcast members of the discussion panel when speaking in reference to the beliefs of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and its Founder spoke of how people who held such beliefs were 'Wajib-ul-Qatl', that

is 'Liable to be Killed'. This phrase was used repeatedly and at no point did the moderator Aamir Liaquat Hussain interject to stop such obscene and inflammatory language being used. In this respect the broadcaster completely failed in its duty to exercise a proper degree of responsibility with respect the content of its broadcast.

As mentioned earlier the programme was broadcast in Pakistan amongst other countries. There is no doubt that the language and tone of the programme served only to further inflame the anti-Ahmadiyya sentiment which has been perpetrated by the extreme clerics (Maulvis) over many decades in the country.

The programme was broadcast on 7th September 2008. On 8th September 2008 Dr Abdul Mannan Siddiqi, President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Mirpurkhaas, Sindh was murdered whilst working in the local hospital. The very next day on 9th September 2008, Seth Muhammad Yousuf, President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Nawab Shah, Sindh was also murdered. Both of these victims were killed simply due to their membership of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Both murders took place in broad daylight.

The International Community is urged to take notice of the ever increasing persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. In an era where Islam has been tainted by numerous terrorist acts that have been falsely conducted in its name, the world should take notice that the one Muslim group that has always practiced and preached a truly peaceful message has been targeted by the hateful acts and words of the fanatical Muslim clerics.

End of Release

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