



AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM COMMUNITY

United States of America



*Muslims who believe in the Messiah,
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani^{ra}*

Press Release

For Immediate Release:
May 28, 2010

Contact:
Waseem Sayed, Spokesperson
909-636-4397
waseem.sayed@ahmadiyya.us

Terrorists kill 70 in Pakistan Mosque for practicing faith

Pakistani Government sanctions religious extremism and persecution against the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Extremists killed over 70 worshipers at two Mosques belonging to the Ahmadiyya Muslim community during Friday prayer services. Early reports indicate several hundred hostages. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has faced intense governmental and extremist persecution in Pakistan for nearly 40 years.

The Tahreek e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is taking credit for the attacks. Terrorists attacked Bait ul Noor Mosque and Darul Zikr Mosque with automatic weapons and hand grenades while thousands of members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community were offering their Friday prayer services. Each had over 1,500 worshipers present.

Those Muslim groups responsible for the attack have broken cardinal rules within Islam, such as the Quranic directives, “*And create not disorder in the earth*” (7:57) and “*whosoever killed a person ... it shall be as if he had killed all mankind*” (5:33). Islam condemns violence and the taking of innocent lives, and the Ahmadiyya Muslim community rejects any claims from those who do so that they are following Islamic principles.

There is no place for violence of any kind in Islam, and Islam has no need for those who resort to violence in a so-called defense of their faith. “*Reverence for life is a part of Islam,*” said Nasim Rehmatullah, Vice President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA. “*The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community calls on the Pakistan government and other influential parties to dispense justice in the area.*” The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community sends condolences to the families of the victims of the tragedy.

These attacks against the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community are the latest in a history riddled with persecution. Since declaring members of this community non-Muslim in 1974 – and then passing the blasphemy law in 1984 – Pakistan has seen over 100 members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community murdered for their faith. Roughly 5 million Ahmadiyya

Muslims live in Pakistan without basic rights to freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Despite these human rights violations, members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community continually advocate and work towards peace.

It is a matter of great shame for any civil society where evil instigators inculcate hate against the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community by attacking their places of worship.

In the face of increasing violence in the Muslim world, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's worldwide spiritual leader, Mirza Masroor Ahmad, has exhorted members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to "*follow peace in your life.*" Furthermore, the founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani, emphatically declared that an aggressive "jihad by the sword" has no place in Islam. In its place, he taught his followers to wage a peaceful, intellectual "jihad of the pen" to defend Islam. Through his teachings, the Ahmadiyya Muslim community has become the leading Islamic organization to categorically reject violence and terrorism in any form.

About the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community:

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a dynamic, reformist and fast growing international movement within Islam. Founded in 1889, the Community spans over 190 countries with membership exceeding tens of millions. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, established in 1921, is the first American-Muslim organization.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the only Islamic organization to believe that the long-awaited messiah has come in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) of Qadian. Ahmad claimed to be the metaphorical second coming of Jesus of Nazareth and the divine guide, whose advent was foretold by the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad. The Community believes that God sent Ahmad, like Jesus, to end religious wars, condemn bloodshed and reinstitute morality, justice and peace. Ahmad's advent has brought about an unprecedented era of Islamic revival and moderation. He divested Islam of fanatical beliefs and practices by vigorously championing Islam's true and essential teachings.

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