

Executive Summary

During the last three years, 127 Ahmadi Muslims have been killed because of their faith.

The targeted killing of Ahmadi Muslims continues with the murder of two Ahmadi Muslim brothers within a month of each other. This month's newsletter also reports on violent attacks, increasing persecution of Ahmadi Muslim students by their cohorts and teachers, the smashing of 120 gravestones by 15 armed anti Ahmadi extremists, the banning of more Ahmadi Muslim publications by State authorities and police incursions on properties and Ahmadi Muslim Mosques. This month's editorial focusses on the rise of extremism within educational institutions.

EDITORIAL

If education is the transmission of civilisation, and a report by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom is to be believed, the nation of Pakistan seems to be experiencing something of an educational gridlock. Educational establishments almost universally present a curriculum of passive hatred and active intolerance towards Ahmadi Muslims and Pakistan's minorities. In fact, the report suggests that only 4% of Madrassa teachers and 13% of their students consider that Ahmadi Muslims should have equal rights. Those figures are stark and worrying. Ahmadi Muslim students and teachers are increasingly being subjected to violence, threats to their lives, arrest under anti Ahmadi laws and deprivation of the right to education.

The origins of such persecution lie in the Amendment to Pakistan's Constitution by the National Assembly on 6 September 1974 under President Z.A Bhutto's leadership, in which Ahmadi Muslims were deprived of their identity as Muslims. That set a dangerous precedent of State sanctioned persecution encouraging fundamentalist elements to intensify a viciously expressed hatred. Once Ahmadis were declared non-Muslims, extremists began to target other groups including Shias, Sufis, Christians and Hindus. Almost 40 years later, empirical evidence suggests that schools have become yet another breeding ground for extremism. Of significant concern is that religious intolerance has increasingly become a socially acceptable part of the fabric of society. This is despite the preamble to Pakistan's constitution which guarantees that *"adequate provision shall be made for the minorities freely to profess and practise their religions and develop their cultures."*

The promotion of sectarianism within educational institutions by extremist groups and the exploitation of public unawareness, often for political gain, has had a devastating effect on religious harmony in Pakistan. It is also a further example of the increasing manifestations of religious apartheid in Pakistan.

The facts speak for themselves. This month, we report on instances of violence against Ahmadi Muslim students perpetrated by their peers and teachers. In one case, an Ahmadi Muslim student was told that he was liable to be killed. This follows numerous other instances of attacks on Ahmadi Muslim students, some of whom have been imprisoned without charge in contravention of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and others who have been removed from University just before their final exams. The misuse of blasphemy laws to target minority groups and schools that do not toe the xenophobic line is well documented and on-going.

Ahmadi Muslims and minorities are part of Pakistan's rich tapestry and they offer valuable contributions to its success. Some argue that education is the soul of society bequeathing itself from one generation to the next. If that is true, Pakistan's inheritance is being whittled away by groups of politically motivated extremists.

Pakistan needs to institute wholesale reform of its educational system to remove biases about minorities from textbooks and train teachers on their constitutional rights and fundamental freedoms. We hope and pray that Pakistan's educators leave for its coming generations a healthier and less tumultuous legacy.

MURDERS OF AHMADI MUSLIMS

In this month's newsletter, we report on two well-known Ahmadi Muslim brothers who were shot and killed within a month of each other because of their faith. They had been victims of persecution for many years and were both prominent businessmen.



Quetta:

33 year old Mr. Manzoor Ahmad was shot twice in the head and died at the scene. He leaves behind a wife and three young children. Mr Ahmad was the 16th Ahmadi Muslim to be killed in Pakistan in 2012 due to his faith.



Quetta:

31 year old father of two Mr. Maqsood Ahmad, the younger brother of Mr Manzoor Ahmad who was murdered four weeks earlier, was shot in the head four times and killed. He had just taken his two children to school. Mr Ahmad was kidnapped two years earlier by anti Ahmadi extremists. He was released having paid a sizeable ransom.

VIOLENT ATTACKS ON THE INCREASE

Ahmadi Muslims across Pakistan continue to suffer violent attacks because of their faith. Incitement to religious hatred by anti Ahmadi extremist clerics, combined with the failure of law enforcement authorities to prosecute widespread agitation, remains a source of growing concern. The anti-Ahmadi extremist strategy of targeting religious leaders, businessmen, doctors and those connected with education continues to be implemented.

Chatthadar: Mr. Asmatullah Ahmadi, an Ahmadi Muslim businessman was attacked by a group of armed men. Reports suggest that the attacks were connected with anti Ahmadi sermons delivered by a local cleric.

Orangi Town, Karachi: Mr. Rasheed-ud-Din Butt an official of the local Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Organisation was attacked with an explosive device. Mr. Butt and his family have relocated due to the on-going threat to their personal safety.

AHMADI STUDENTS TOLD THEY ARE WORTHY OF BEING KILLED

Attacks against Ahmadi Muslim school children and teachers are becoming increasingly common. Widespread and institutional religious discrimination against Ahmadi Muslims in educational institutions was highlighted by the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy and the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom in a report dated 30 November 2011. In one section, the report documents the extremist opinions held about Ahmadis "Ahmadis are also kafir [infidels]. Our constitution has declared them non-Muslims. They are the ones who were Muslim but then turned kafir or non-Muslim by changing Islam. They are more or bigger kafir [sic] than the Christians, Jews, and Hindus. They have no rights in Islam and if there is an Islamic government it will give the death penalty to Ahmadis." The consequences of such opinions are extensive and deep-seated attitudes of hate towards Ahmadi Muslim students and teachers.

The continued incitement to religious hatred by anti Ahmadi extremist clerics and teachers has resulted in three separate attacks on Ahmadi Muslim students in Chak Chata, including Ayaz Ahmad who was told that Ahmadi Muslims are liable to be killed, Asad Ali who experiences regular violent attacks at the hands of teachers and students and Sabih Ahmad who was also violently attacked because he is an Ahmadi Muslim.



“Ahmadis are the result of a grim conspiracy of Christians and Jews, and they are just like them; they have turned away from their religion [Islam] and are liable to be killed.”

— Madrasa Teacher (Balochistan)

P71, United States Commission on
International Religious Freedom
“Connecting the Dots: Education and
Religious Discrimination in Pakistan. A Study
of Public Schools and Madrassas”

NO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION FOR AHMADI MUSLIMS

Ahmadiyya Muslim publications have been subjected to sanction by the State of Pakistan for decades. Assaults by State supported anti Ahmadi extremists on Ahmadi Muslim publications such as against the 99 year old *Al Fazl* newspaper and the banning of the Women's education magazine, *Misbah* in March 2012 are becoming increasingly common.

Karachi: Proceedings were brought by an anti Ahmadi extremist against the editor, publisher, typist and writers of the Ahmadi Muslim *Al Musleh* newspaper ("the Victims") whose readership is Ahmadi Muslim. The grounds for such proceedings were that *Al Musleh* publishes Ahmadiyya Muslim beliefs. A judge has ordered that the Victims be charged under anti Ahmadi laws.

Given the peaceful nature of such publications, such infringements violate the spirit of Article 19 of Pakistan's Constitution guaranteeing Freedom of Speech and Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which guarantees freedom of opinion and expression.

ATTACKS ON GRAVES AND THE DEAD

Lahore: In a story reminiscent of the recent 'Nazi' attacks on Jewish graves in Auckland, anti Ahmadi extremists have now attacked 120 Ahmadi Muslim graves. 15 men desecrated the graves in a premeditated attack at an Ahmadi Muslim Cemetery in Lahore.

Muhammad Younis, the cemetery guard at the graveyard and 20 other people were imprisoned by the attackers in the night-time



raid. Before the grave-smashing began, Mr. Younis was told that the reason for the attack was that Ahmadis were not Muslims and could not be buried as such.

Lahore is also the city in which 86 Ahmadi Muslims were murdered in twin bomb attacks on Ahmadi Muslim Mosques in May 2010.

Chak Chatha: Police desecrated the Ahmadiyya Muslim cemetery in Mangat Uncha. This follows another night time attack by anti Ahmadi extremists in October.

POLICE ATTACK ON PROPERTY

District Sheikhpura: Police and anti Ahmadi extremists attacked a shop owned by Mr. Abdul Ghaffar and desecrated a portion of the Quran on display. The complicity of Police as a State Actor in committing this encroachment upon established religious freedoms violates Article 18(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Pakistan is a signatory.

FAMILY CHARGED UNDER ANTI AHMADI LAWS

Allama Iqbal Town, Lahore: a bridegroom's mother and brother were arrested under the anti Ahmadi law PPC 298-C because their son married a girl who had converted to Islam Ahmadiyyat. State intimidation of those that choose to marry of their own free-will contravenes Article 23 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees a person the right to marry of their own volition and for their rights to be protected by society and State.

AHMADI MUSLIM GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL AND DOCTORS THREATENED WITH KIDNAPPING AND DEATH

Ahmadi Muslim doctors, businessmen and other prominent individuals in Pakistan are progressively being placed at greater risk of kidnap by anti Ahmadi extremists.

Kotli, Azad Kashmir: Dr. Munawwar Ahmad a child-specialist in the District Hospital has received specific advice that he is at high risk of being kidnapped. This follows the previous kidnapping of a prominent Ahmadi Muslim doctor in the same region. No arrests were made.

Peshawar: Government Department of Mines Assistant Director, Mr. Farooq Ahmed is the subject of an internal hate campaign calling for his kidnap because he is an Ahmadi Muslim.



They [Ahmadis] have no rights in Islam and if there is an Islamic government it will give the death penalty to Ahmadis."

- Madrassa Student (Sindh)

P97, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom

"Connecting the Dots: Education and Religious Discrimination in Pakistan. A Study of Public Schools and Madrassas"

NO RIGHT TO WORSHIP

The right of Ahmadi Muslims to manifest their religion alone, in community with others, in public and in private remains severely restricted. Increasing opposition from government officials and anti Ahmadi extremists have and continue to result in violent attacks and the forced closure of places of worship. Neither are investigated or prosecuted. In this months' edition we report on three further incidents.

Rawalpindi: Having cancelled the Holy festival and prayer rituals of Eid for Ahmadi Muslims, police officials have now permanently banned both Friday prayers and the entry by Ahmadi Muslims into a building used for prayer during prayer time.

Goleki: After a successful 15-year legal battle to re-open a sealed Ahmadi Muslim Mosque, anti-Ahmadi extremists succeeded in initiating the unlawful arrests of many Ahmadi Muslims, including the President of the local Ahmadiyya Muslim community.

Rachna Town: Two anti Ahmadi extremists were arrested along with the seizure of firearms and explosives. They were conspiring to attack an Ahmadi Muslim Mosque. Two others escaped arrest.



Increasing opposition from government officials and anti Ahmadi extremists have and continue to result in violent attacks.

Connecting the Dots: Education and Religious Discrimination in Pakistan

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy

<http://www.uscirf.gov/images/Pakistan-ConnectingTheDots-Email%283%29.pdf>

Attackers Of Graveyards Remain Untraced

Daily Dawn.

<http://dawn.com/2012/12/05/attackers-of-graveyard-remain-untraced/>

PAKISTAN: Military demolishes temple, Ahmadi graves desecrated, a six-year-old Hindu girl was raped and a 70 year old Christian missionary shot

Asian Human Rights Commission

<http://www.humanrights.asia/news/urgent-appeals/AHRC-UAC-200-2012>

Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad calls for peace through unity in historic address at European Parliament.

<http://www.alislam.org/egazette/press-release/khalifa-of-islam-makes-historic-address-at-european-parliament/>

Minorities Report

International Herald Tribune

<http://latitude.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/06/ahmadis-a-special-target-of-discrimination-in-pakistan/>

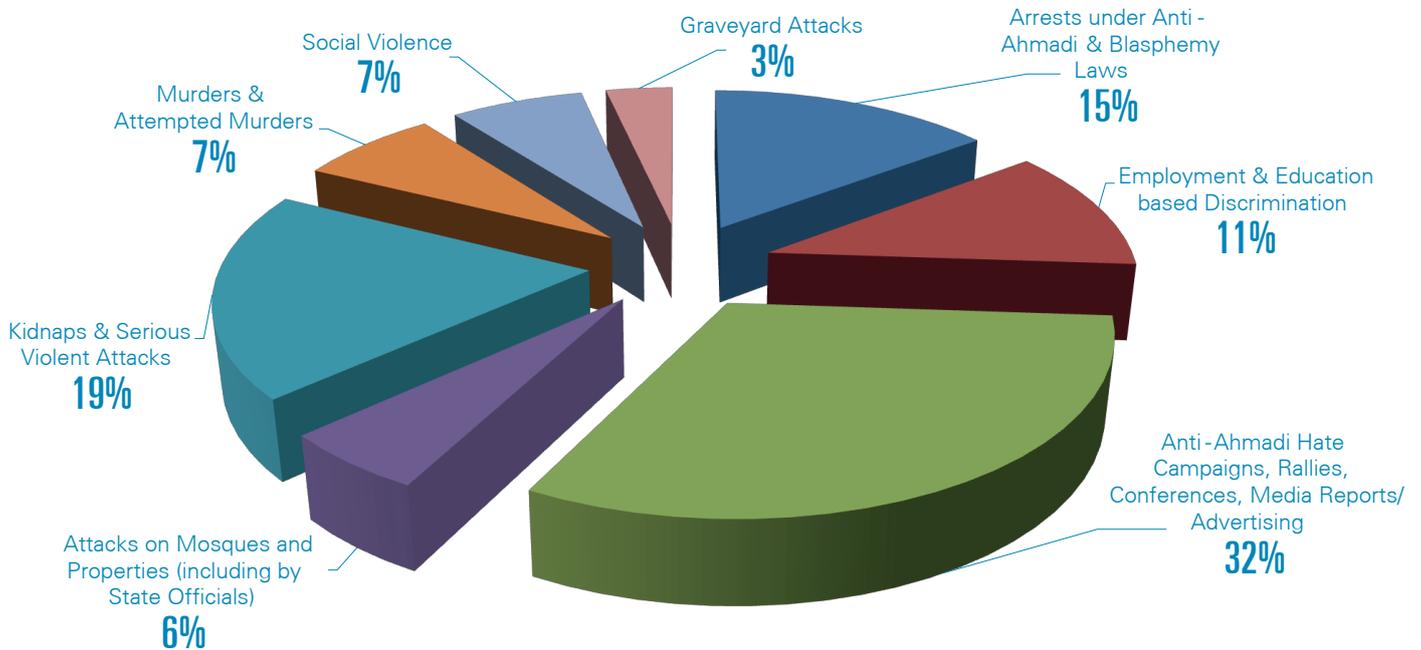
Pakistan: Violence against the Ahmadi community, a religious minority, continues unabated

Asian Human Rights Commission

<http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-ART-121-2012>

Anti-Ahmadi Attacks: 01/01/2011 - 31/12/2012

(Formal Incident Reports only)



ABOUT THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Founded in 1889 by its founder Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him) who claimed to be the Promised Messiah and Mahdi awaited by all major religions, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is now established in 202 countries with tens of millions of adherents worldwide. Its motto is *“Love for All, Hatred for None.”*

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the largest organised Muslim Community in the world and is led by a system of spiritual Successorship known as Khilafat. Its current Khalifa is the Fifth Successor to the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him); his name is His Holiness, Mirza Masroor Ahmad. His title is Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V.

Ahmadi Muslims believe the Promised Messiah, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian to be a non-law bearing Prophet who came in servitude of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). They also believe that violent Jihad is prohibited. As a result of its beliefs, members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at are severely persecuted by radical groups in some, mostly Muslim countries, often with the support of government. In Pakistan, specific legislation (Ordinance XX, s298 Pakistan Penal Code) has been passed which criminalises the practice of Islam by Ahmadi Muslims. This has resulted in hundreds of murders of Ahmadi Muslims and thousands of instances of violence. In contravention of Article 25 of the ICCPR, Ahmadi Muslims are denied many of their civil rights, including the right to vote without distinction on the basis of religion or other status.

This newsletter aims to provide short summaries of the regular denial of human rights suffered by Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan where persecution is most widespread.



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