

NEWS

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Executive Summary

In Karachi, a series of target-killings have been ongoing for a period of weeks against prominent Ahmadi Muslims. The authorities are either unwilling or unable to prevent their occurrence.

Persecution in Pakistan is not limited to one city. Across the country, Ahmadi Muslims live in fear that the constant threats, abuse and discrimination they face could develop into blatant attacks.

Meanwhile the authorities are partially complicit in persecution. Often they acquiesce to the demands of extremists against Ahmadi Muslims and their places of worship.

Even children are not spared. In schools, an organised propaganda campaign is using the curriculum to brainwash and stir hatred against Ahmadiyya while Ahmadi Muslims can be mistreated or even effectively expelled from their schools and universities because of their faith.

In this November edition of the newsletter, we will examine just some of the examples of persecution which Ahmadi Muslims have faced in recent months.

EDITORIAL

Increasing lawlessness in Pakistan and a growing reluctance of state authorities to challenge religious extremists is resulting in the widespread 'religious cleansing' of minorities in Pakistan.

More than 300 Ahmadi Muslims have been killed by anti-Ahmadi extremists because of their peaceful religious beliefs. While Shias, Christians and Hindus suffer too, Ahmadi Muslims remain the only religious community to be persecuted through specifically targeted legislation.

The result has been profound. In every aspect of civil, political and social life, persecution has become increasingly common and in many parts of Pakistan is culturally ingrained. In its 2013 report, Human Rights Watch said:

"Members of the Ahmadi religious community continued to be a major target for blasphemy prosecutions and subjected to specific anti-Ahmadi laws across Pakistan. They faced increasing social discrimination as militant groups used provisions of the law to prevent Ahmadis from "posing as Muslims," forced the demolition of Ahmadi mosques in Lahore, barred Ahmadis from using their mosques in Rawalpindi, and vandalized Ahmadi graves across Punjab province. In most instances, Punjab provincial officials supported militants' demands instead of protecting Ahmadis and their mosques and graveyards."

While Ahmadi Muslim doctors, teachers, lawyers, religious leaders and businessmen have long since been targeted, the killing of prominent Ahmadi Muslim families has become a critical new strategy for anti-Ahmadi extremists. In the last three months alone, three members of the Kiyani family were murdered in separate

incidents. In one case a child accompanying one of the victims was also shot at. An Ahmadi Muslim doctor in Karachi was also brutally killed.

The apathetic response of the authorities germinates the most profound of exclamations not just from Pakistan's own citizens, but from Human Rights Organisations worldwide. Far from protecting their inalienable human rights the Pakistani government, implicitly or explicitly, is unwilling or unable to stop the rampant sectarian killing that has devastated the social landscape for so long.

With the recent announcement of the Pakistani Bill, which many have dubbed Pakistan's Patriot Act, the Pakistan government is trying to tell the international community that it is doing everything it can to deal with terrorists. This should be commended and we welcome every effort to support the stabilisation of Pakistan and maintaining the human dignity of all its citizens. But in the same breath, the Pakistan government must not on the one hand say that it will deal harshly with terrorists but on the other give legitimacy to religious extremists by allowing anti-Ahmadiyya legislation used to justify such violence to remain on the statute books. Equally, as Human Rights Watch has reported, Provincial officials must not support the demands of militants and extremists.

Terrorism and anti-Ahmadiyya extremism in Pakistan, both of which are inextricably linked, can be routed, but to do so requires the Pakistan government to; (1) undo the 1974 second amendment to Pakistan's constitution which introduced sectarianism into Pakistan, (2) repeal section 295 and 298 of Ordinance XX which has introduced religious apartheid in Pakistan; and (3) make consistent and concerted efforts to arrest and punish all those who take the law, that means any law, into their own hands.

TARGET KILLING AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

The continued failure of authorities to arrest and prosecute perpetrators of violence against Ahmadi Muslims is an aggravating factor in the continued homicidal line of attack by Anti Ahmadiyya extremists. In this month's edition we report on four further attempted murders.

FIVE AHMADIS MURDERED IN KARACHI

Mr Zahoor Ahmad Kiyani (1965/1966 - 21 August 2013) was killed outside his home by two motorcyclists in Orangi Town. When his non-Ahmadi friend, Mr Noorul Haq, rushed to help him, he was also shot and killed. As the gunmen fled, they began shoot at Mr Kiyani's young daughter, who luckily remained unharmed. He is survived by his wife, three sons and four daughters - aged between 5 and 20. Mr Kiyani worked as an officer in Karachi Law Enforcement.

Dr Syed Tahir Ahmad (31 August 2013) was shot and killed by assailants posing as patients in his clinic, in Karachi.

Mr Malik Ajaz Ahmad (4 September 2013) was taking his motorbike to work in the morning when gunmen on motorbikes killed him.

Ijaz Ahmad Kiyani (1983/1984 - 18 September 2013) was heading to work in the morning when two gunmen on motorbikes opened fire. Having been shot, he struggled to get up and was shot again. Mr Kiyani was hit by six bullets. Married in 2009, he left behind his wife and a daughter, 4, and son, 1. A month earlier, Mr Kiyani's brother-in-law, Zahoor Ahmad Kiyani (see above) had been murdered in the same area: Orangi Town, Karachi, Pakistan. Mr Kiyani worked for Pakistan Military Ordinance.

Bashir Ahmad Kiyani (1 November 2013), a third victim from the Kiyani family (see above) was murdered in Orangi Town, Karachi.

Other Ahmadis in Karachi have also been attacked and had their lives threatened. Mr Naseer Alam was shot on his way to work. A bullet hit his jaw and left him fighting for his life.

CULTURAL PERSECUTION

Cultural violence is that aspect of culture exemplified by an ideology that is used to justify and legitimize direct or structural violence. For Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan, it means persecution by extremists is becoming so common that it infects every aspect of Ahmadi Muslims' lives. The result is that, in some sections of society, persecution of Ahmadi Muslims is now an accepted part of social practice.

CULTURAL PERSECUTION IN LAHORE

Lahore: On 2 October 2013, a press conference was held by anti-Ahmadi clerics. The press conference was presided by Hafiz Zakir Rahman Siddiqui,



Three men from the Kiyani family have been murdered in separate incidents outside of their homes in Orangi Town, Karachi in the period between 21 August and 1 November. Other members of the family, including a young girl, have also survived attacks.

the president of the youth force. The press conference was arranged so that the All Punjab Khatme Nabuwwat conference which was due to be held in Multan could be promoted. During the press conference,

CULTURAL PERSECUTION CONTINUED...

Hafiz Siddiqui said that a detailed plan to stop Ahmadiyya activities in certain areas of Lahore would be presented during the Multan conference. He also said that the group wanted to expose those Ahmadis working in important posts.

Lahore: A cleric present at a local grocery store, knowing that Mr Ra'a Bashir Ahmad was an Ahmadi, openly said that it is quite alright for Ahmadis to be killed. Mr Ahmad was threatened by the same cleric on another occasion when he was walking in the street; the latter stating that since Mr Ahmad was a Mirzai (a derogatory term often used to describe Ahmadi Muslims), his killing was quite 'permissible'.

Lahore: Upon the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, it is part of the Muslim Faith to sacrifice animals as a sign of gratitude to God the Almighty. Unfortunately this year, in three separate incidents, clerics created problems for Ahmadis who wanted to fulfil this religious obligation. Though the difficulties were eventually circumvented, it is increasingly difficult for Ahmadi Muslims to exercise their basic religious rights.

Lahore: Sheikh Salman Mamoon has been receiving threatening phone calls for quite a while. Moreover, some people have been seen doing reconnaissance of his house at times and on Eid, a threatening note was thrown inside his house.

ATTACKING PLACES OF WORSHIP

Across Pakistan there has been an ongoing campaign to desecrate Ahmadi Muslim mosques and to prevent Ahmadis from worshipping.

DESECRATING MOSQUES

Chak 307 JB: A complaint has been lodged concerning the local Ahmadi Muslim mosque. The complainant said that he and his friends mistook the Ahmadi place of worship for a mosque after seeing the minarets and he requested the local police authorities to have them removed. The complainant also threatened that if the police fail to do so then, possible clashes could erupt.

Sialkot: The police in this city have already complied with the wishes of clerics in the past and have desecrated three Ahmadiyya mosques. Recently the clerics gathered a throng of people and encouraged the blocking of a road in the Naikapura area. The anti-Ahmadiyya elements had banners and voiced their demand to have all the minarets of Ahmadi mosques destroyed and the Kalima (Islamic creed) written on their mosques removed.

Rawalpindi: The Ahmadis in this city wanted to gather for their Eid congregational prayer at Aiwwan-e-Tauheed. The permission that they had sought from authorities was rejected. This was not the first time that this had happened.

THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

Ahmadis commonly face public threats and abuse in Pakistan

DAY-TO-DAY THREATS

Multan: Dr Abdul Wali is an Ahmadi working in the Nishtar Hospital. He received a letter in which his family, his six year old daughter included, and himself have been threatened .

Nawab Shah: Mr Muhammad Amjad has been threatened and persecuted at his place of work. He has had to change his work locations persistently because of this. Recently his employers pressured him to resign explaining that since he is 'liable to be killed' he should resign his position as his life is in danger.

BRAINWASHING CHILDREN

In Pakistan, schools and universities are quickly becoming central to the dissemination of anti-Ahmadiyya propaganda. The national syllabus for schoolchildren is now comprised of such text books that encourage intolerance towards the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The book entitled "Islamiyat for Class VI" is an example of such a textbook. The syllabus also directs teachers to inculcate to children the harms that Ahmadiyyat causes, which it is fair to assume will allow teachers to impart fictitious information to the innocent children concerning the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam.

JAILED AHMADIS

The two Ahmadi Muslims arrested for publishing religious literature are still in jail. Despite the fact that the ground upon which their request for bail was not accepted has been rejected by the Supreme Court, their bail has still not been granted.

ARTICLES FROM AROUND THE WORLD WIDE WEB

FOURTH AHMEDI KILLED IN FOUR WEEKS
<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-4-202868-Fourth-Ahmadi-killed-in-four-weeks>

AHMADI MAN GUNNED DOWN
<http://dawn.com/news/1043843/ahmadi-man-gunned-down>

AHMADI COMMUNITY'S COMPLAINT
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1050307/ahmadi-communitys-complaint>

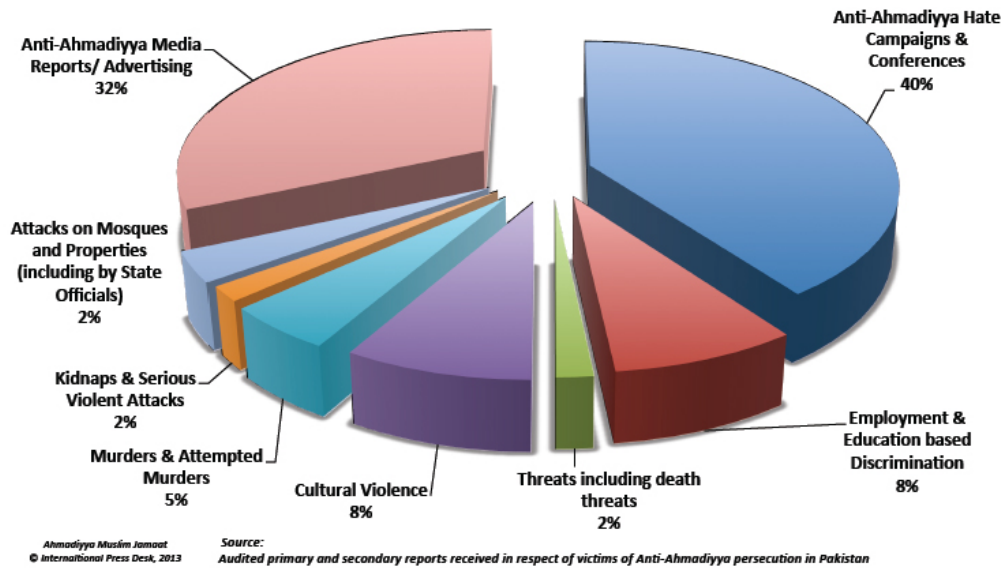
TWO AHMADIS AMONG EIGHT GUNNED DOWN
<http://beta.dawn.com/news/758960/two-ahmadis-among-eight-gunned-down>

NO "QURBANI" FOR YOU: POLICE STOP AHMADIS FROM RITUAL SACRIFICING IN LAHORE
<http://tribune.com.pk/story/619038/no-qurbani-for-you-police-stop-ahmadis-from-ritual-sacrificing-in-lahore/comment-page-2/>

RIGHTS OF MINORITIES: 'AHMADIS NOT ALLOWED TO BUSINESS IN MUSLIM AREAS'
<http://tribune.com.pk/story/593922/rights-of-minorities-ahmadis-not-allowed-to-do-business-in-muslim-areas/>

AHMADIS FACE PASSPORT PERSECUTION
<http://www.newreligion.eu/2013/11/pakistani-ahmadis-face-passport.html>

Anti-Ahmadiyya Attacks: 01/09/2013 - 30/09/2013



ABOUT THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Founded in 1889 by its founder Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{pbuh} 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; his name is His Holiness, Mirza Masroor Ahmad. His title is Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V.

Ahmadi Muslims believe the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian to be a non-law bearing Prophet who came in servitude of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh}. They also believe violent Jihad is prohibited. As a result of its beliefs, members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat 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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