

## INCIDENT REPORT

# DETENTION AND HARASSMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY IN CHAKWAL

**Date:** 10 June 2024

**Location:** Chakwal, Punjab, Pakistan

### Summary of Incident:

On 10 June 2024, Deputy Commissioner Chakwal, Qurat-ul-Ain Malik, ordered the detention of three prominent members of the Ahmadiyya Community in Chakwal under section 3(1) of the Punjab Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1961. The detained individuals include Malik Naveed Ahmad, the current President of the Ahmadiyya Community in District Chakwal; Malik Riaz Ahmad, the former President of the same district; and Malik Tahir Ahmad, the Secretary General Affairs of the district.

### Details:

The three Ahmadis were summoned for a meeting on 9 June 2024, with the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Station House Officer, and Assistant Commissioner Choa Saidan Shah regarding the upcoming Eid ul Adha festival. The meeting was also attended by local resident's hostile to the community who applied immense pressure on the Ahmadiyya delegation to refrain from performing the ritual animal sacrifice during Eid. Despite being harassed and coerced to submit a surety bond prohibiting any Ahmadi in the district from performing the sacrifice, the Ahmadiyya representatives asserted that there is no legal prohibition against them performing this sacred rite.

Citing the recent Supreme Court judgement in the case of Tahir Naqash vs. The State, authored by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, the delegation emphasised their right to practice their faith within the confines of their homes. The state representatives, however, dismissed the Supreme Court judgement and continued their demands. Following the meeting, while the complainants were allowed to leave, the members of the Ahmadiyya delegation were unlawfully detained until the evening. Later, they were officially detained for 30 days under section 3(1) of the MPO, 1961, and transferred to Jhelum Jail.

## **Request for Action:**

We urge the relevant authorities to:

1. Investigate the unlawful detention and harassment of the Ahmadiyya Community members.
2. Ensure the protection of the fundamental rights of Ahmadis as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan.
3. Take appropriate action against those responsible for these human rights violations.

## **Conclusion**

Ahmadis are increasingly targeted during Eid ul Adha due to deep-seated religious intolerance and legal discrimination in Pakistan. This sacred festival, which involves the rite of Qurbani (sacrificial slaughter), is a focal point for escalating harassment against members of the community. In 2017, police in Punjab province arrested eight Ahmadis for performing Qurbani, citing blasphemy laws to justify the arrests. In 2018, in Faisalabad, local authorities forcibly prevented Ahmadis from conducting their Eid prayers and Qurbani, threatening them with severe consequences. Each year, the pressure and coercion against Ahmadis intensify, with 2023 seeing increased violence and legal actions specifically designed to deter them from their religious observances. This year, the situation has deteriorated further with unlawful detentions and heightened restrictions on their religious practices. To address this worsening crisis, it is imperative for the Pakistani government to uphold the constitutional rights of all citizens, enforce the Supreme Court's rulings that protect religious freedom, and take stringent action against those who perpetrate such human rights violations. Additionally, fostering a culture of tolerance and coexistence through education and dialogue is essential to mitigate long-term sectarian strife.

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