



PRESS RELEASE

TOMBSTONES OF AHMADI MUSLIMS SMASHED INTO PIECES IN VILE ATTACK ON GRAVEYARD IN JHELUM, PAKISTAN

Graves of Ahmadi Muslims have once again been desecrated and vandalised in a malicious and senseless attack by vigilantes' elements in Pakistan.

The grievous attack took place on 16th July 2023 in Mehmoodabad, a town near Jhelum city.

Unknown assailants attacked the tombstones of two graves in a combine graveyard. The tombstones were smashed into pieces and splashed with black paint obscuring the writing on the tombstone.

The graves belong to two senior elders of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. There was a protective boundary constructed around these graves, but even that was damaged.

Persecution against Ahmadis has ramped up as of late, as the IHRC has reported almost daily incidents against the minority group. Graveyard vandalism has been a favoured tactic of the anti-Ahmadi element in Pakistan for years. This shameful tactic means Ahmadis are not free from persecution even after their death.



Images: Graves of Ahmadi Muslims were desecrated and vandalised by vigilantes' elements in Pakistan on 16th July 2023 in Mehmoodabad, a town near Jhelum city.

Intolerance and hatred towards Ahmadis in Pakistan is nothing new, rather it has a history spread over decades which is gaining momentum day by day under State supervision. Systematic marginalisation of Ahmadis in all walks of life because of their religious beliefs is not considered condemnable and Ahmadis are being treated as such a class which has no basic human rights.

This must be stopped at all costs and the perpetrators and brought to justice immediately. Unfortunately, there is no simple solution as the government and authorities encourage this behavior. They must be discouraged from using cheap tactics to achieve political gain.

IHRC has continuously raised our voice since many months over attacks on Ahmadiyya Muslims places of worship and graves. Attacks on their members have intensified. Most have come to light through social media and International NGOs.

Unfortunately, the persecution against Ahmadis has ramped up as of late, as the IHRC has reported almost daily incidents against the minority group. Graveyard vandalism has been a favoured tactic of the Anti-Ahmadi element in Pakistan for years. This shameful tactic means Ahmadis are not free from persecution even after their death.

We once again strongly urge the international community to impress upon the Government of Pakistan the need to discharge any absurd cases against Ahmadis and release all held in custody and thus honor its responsibility to provide effective protection and freedom of religious practice to Ahmadis, and ensure that perpetrators of such vicious actions should be brought to justice, to bring its laws and practices in conformity with international standards as ordained by Article 20 and United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 2, 18, and 20, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Article 25, 26.

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