IHRC/IR/300923/13 30 September 2023

INCIDENT REPORT

STATE-SPONSORED ANTI-AHMADIYYA VIOLENCE A DAILY EVENT IN PAKISTAN, AS 39 AHMADIYYA MUSLIM MOSQUES DESECATED IN 2023

IHRC has reported several times that a wave of bigotry against Ahmadis has intensified since the start of 2023. In an extremely worrying sign of growing crisis in Pakistan, **39** Ahmadiyya Mosques have been desecrated.

Open death threats, demolition of minarets and desecration of Mosques have become daily morning news in Pakistan since the beginning of 2023.

The International Human Rights Committee (IHRC) reports that extremist opponents of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan, supported by law enforcement agencies of the Government, desecrated, and ruined two more Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosques on 29th September 2023.

There seems to be no stoppage on the persecution of the Ahmadis in Pakistan. The latest act of the miscreants caught on a CCTV <u>video</u>¹ is the desecration of the Arch at the Ahmadiyya Muslims Mosque 55/2L, Okara on 29.09.23 at around 6 pm, CCTV Cameras being destroyed too.

And on the same night around 20 miscreants demolished the Arch of the Ahmadiyya Muslims Mosque Mahmoudabad, district Jhelum. This is the same Jhelum district where the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) has been at the forefront against the Ahmadis.





Pictures: On September 29, 2023, miscreants desecrated the Arch at the Ahmadiyya Muslims Mosque 55/2L, Okara and on the same night around 20 miscreants demolished the Arch of the Ahmadiyya Muslims Mosque Mahmoudabad, district Jhelum.

Muslims around the world celebrate the 12th Rabbi ul Awwal the Birthday of the Personality who is a Blessing for Mankind. It should have been celebrated highlighting his attributes, but the evil forces did not stop their evil activities against the already marginalised Ahmadiyya.

¹ Link to video on social media: https://twitter.com/i/status/1707848085186220430

The recent decision from the Lahore High Court (LHC) clearly mentions the fact that the minarets of Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosques built before 1984 neither need to be altered nor demolished. Also, few weeks ago, the Prime Minister of Pakistan said that the State will protect the places of worship of all citizens, but his speech seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

These incidents of desecration are not without cause. There is an orchestrated hate campaign against Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosques led by TLP who openly challenges the writ of State. Authorities are not only failing to provide protection but in some cases are acting as accomplices.

It has become impossible for Ahmadis to practise their faith while ruthlessly hunted by fundamentalist gangs. The latest acts of the Mosque desecrations carried out by the locals and Police is open proof that there is no improvement in the law-and-order situation for the Ahmadis in Pakistan.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan's judgement (PLD 2014 SC 699), authored by the then Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jillani, guarantees the protection of all places of worship and instructs the police to protect places of worship. Destroying minarets is also a violation of Article 20 and the same Supreme Court verdict of 2014 (PLD 2014 SC 699).

The same Supreme Court judgement of 2014 (PLD 2014 SC 699) had asked the Government of Pakistan to form a special task force for the protection of worship places of minorities. On the contrary, an extremist agenda sponsored by the state is being pursued against the Ahmadiyya community with authorities encouraging this type of violent behaviour which defies this Supreme Court judgement of 2014 (PLD 2014 SC 699) and all norms of religious sanctimony.

Human rights groups have repeatedly expressed their deep concern over the lack of attention to the serious human rights violations perpetrated against the Ahmadiyya community around the world and called on the international community to step up efforts in bringing an end to the ongoing persecution of Ahmadis.

On July 13, 2021, UN human rights experts expressed their deep concern over the lack of attention to the serious human rights violations perpetrated against the Ahmadiyya community around the world and called on the international community to step up efforts in bringing an end to the ongoing persecution of Ahmadis.

We once again urge the international community to pressure the Government of Pakistan to honor its responsibility to provide protection to all its citizens, ensure freedom of religious practice to Ahmadis, and bring perpetrators of such vicious attacks to justice. The Government of Pakistan must also bring its laws and practices in conformity with international standards as ordained by Article 2, 18 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Article 25, 26.

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