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PRESS RELEASE

AHMADI MUSLIM LAWYERS BARRED FROM PRACTICE BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA, PAKISTAN

The world would be shocked to hear that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council Peshawar will require that all new lawyers who will join the Bar Council will submit a declaration for admission in the Bar Council to declare that they "do not have any affiliation with either the Qadiani or Lahori groups (who associate themselves with the name of Ahmadis or any other name)." The rule was endorsed on May 3rd, 2023, by the Bar Council Executive Committee.

It is the most hurtful and disdainful act of malice and professional degradation. If those entrusted to provide and maintain justice in the country have no shame to debar their cohorts on account of their faith and belief, what sort of justice can you expect of them.

This rule is blatantly discriminatory and violates the principle of freedom of religion and Pakistan's international legal human rights commitments.

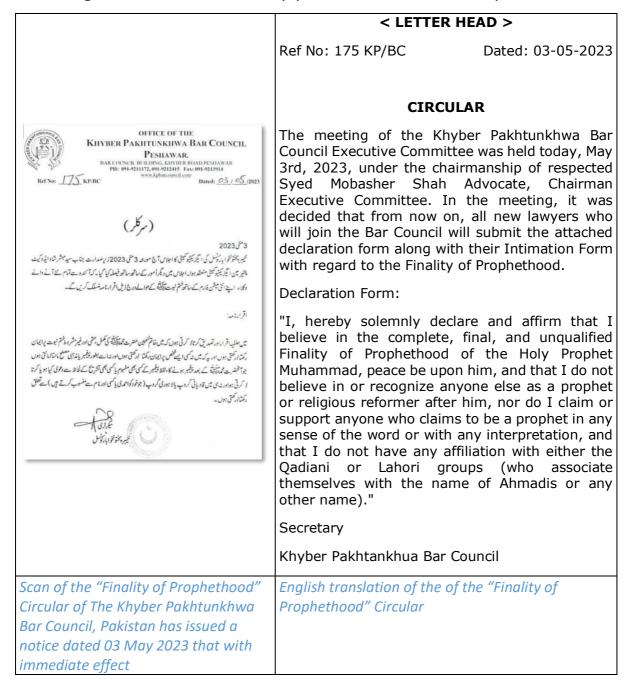
Pakistan's legal discrimination against Ahmadis has resulted not only in widespread and lethal violence, but also to their exclusion from professional service in several sectors. Prohibiting Ahmadi lawyers from membership in bar associations in practical terms denies members of the Ahmadi community legal representation and thus the right to a fair trial, which is a universal human right. Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone is entitled to a fair trial. The right to legal counsel is a key element of the Rule of Law.

We keep on briefing the world community in the hope that they will take some solid action to stop such vulgar treatment of the members of the beleaguered Ahmadiyya community.

On 13 July 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.

This dire situation requires urgent international intervention. Political and faith leaders from across the world recently met in London to secure Freedom of Religion and Belief for everyone worldwide. But here in Pakistan these values are not being upheld. For the respect of all that was resolved in the international conference, the world must take immediate and urgent

action to ensure that Ahmadis in Pakistan enjoy their full rights to follow their religion and be able to freely practice their faith as required.



We strongly urge the international community to impress upon the Government of Pakistan to honour its responsibility, to provide effective protection and freedom of religious and professional practice to Ahmadis, that perpetrators of such campaigns should be brought to justice, and to bring its laws and practices in conformity with international standards as ordained by Article 20, United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 2, 18 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Article 25, 26.

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