



## PRESS RELEASE

### **GRAVES OF AHMADIS VANDALISED AND DESECRATED IN 'MALICIOUS' ACT OF VANDALISM IN CEMETRY AT QAZIYAN CHOWK, AJK'S KOTLI**

Ahmadi graves have once again been desecrated and vandalised in a "malicious and senseless" attack by vigilantes' elements in Pakistan.

On 5th July 2023, unidentified individuals vandalized and desecrated 3 tombstones of the graves of Ahmadi Muslims in the shared cemetery at Qaziyan Chowk, Kotli. This act of desecration is deplorable and goes against the principles of respect and tolerance.



Images: Tombstones of the graves of Ahmadi Muslims vandalized and desecrated by unidentified individuals in the shared cemetery at Qaziyan Chowk, Kotli on 5th July 2023.

A few days ago, in the first week of July 2023, the administration removed the inscriptions from the graves of 10 Ahmadis from the joint cemetery of Kijar wala district Sheikhpura.



Images: The administration removed the inscriptions from the graves of Ahmadis from the joint cemetery of Kijar wala district Sheikhpura, in the first week of July 2023.

It has to be noted that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is facing opposition from the opponents throughout Pakistan especially in the

province of Punjab where the opponents are not causing trouble to the Ahmadis while they are alive, they are busy in finding ways to trouble the Ahmadis that are no more alive by desecrating their graves and their tombstones. The opponents are leaving no stone unturned with regards to the opposition of the Ahmadiyya Community throughout Pakistan.

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.

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.

END