

Human Rights and Freedom of Religion

Ahmadis in Pakistan

Reported incidents | January - September 2026

Love for All, Hatred for None

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Adapted for presentation by the Department of External Affairs,
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Netherlands.

WORSHIP AND EID RESTRICTIONS

Eid-ul-Fitr on 21 March demonstrated how readily the underlying system could be activated at a major religious flashpoint. Authorities in Gujranwala, Sargodha, Karachi, Sialkot, Mandi Bahauddin and Faisalabad moved to prevent or severely restrict Ahmadi Eid congregations. In Gujranwala, places of worship were ordered closed after Fajr; in Sargodha, police cleared worshippers and locked Ahmadi places of worship; in Karachi, Ahmadis were unable to hold Eid prayers at any place of worship across the city; and in Sialkot, permission was withheld in several localities.

The same pattern reappeared on a much wider scale at Eid-ul-Adha. Ahmadis faced restrictions on Qurbani in 47 districts and on Eid prayers in 19 districts, while 21 bar associations demanded restrictions on Ahmadi observance. Police and district authorities required written undertakings and surety bonds, threatened criminal proceedings, detained members of the community and interfered with religious observance even in private homes. In Nankana Sahib, the Deputy Commissioner publicly announced that Ahmadis would not be permitted to perform Qurbani and warned of “strict action” against violations.

These events are important because they show that restrictions are not merely the product of sporadic mob hostility. They can be implemented through police, district administrations, bar associations and existing law, and can operate across multiple districts at the same time.

MOSQUES, BURIAL AND RELIGIOUS SPACE

Ahmadi religious space remained vulnerable throughout 2026. Between April and June, two Ahmadi mosques were attacked and one was sealed. In District Khairpur, local authorities demolished minarets and sealed the niche of an Ahmadi mosque after pressure from anti-Ahmadi activists, despite the community having already complied with police directions to conceal the building’s religious features. In Lahore, police instructed Ahmadis to close a prayer centre during Friday prayer hours and advised them to alter congregational prayer times to make worship less visible.

Burial rights were likewise subject to coercion and interference. In February, police obstructed the burial of 80-year-old Amat-ul-Manzoor in Gajju Chak, District Gujranwala, and allowed the burial to proceed only after community representatives signed an undertaking relinquishing future burial rights in the shared cemetery. On 16 March, seven Ahmadi graves were desecrated in Chichawatni, District Sahiwal, with the names “Muhammad” and “Ahmad” deliberately removed from the headstones. In June, police in Badin attempted to

prevent Ahmadis from holding a funeral prayer and sought to restrict mourning arrangements following the death of a community member.

LEGAL PRESSURES, HOSTILITY AND VIOLENCE

Key developments in the second half of 2026 also show that the underlying mechanisms of persecution remained active across law, administration, public mobilisation and physical violence. In June, police in Pakpattan removed Islamic inscriptions from an Ahmadi home and compelled the owner to sign an undertaking renouncing their future use. In August, police in Gujrat registered an FIR under sections 295-A and 298-C over the alleged distribution of Ahmadi literature, while anti-Ahmadi conferences and processions in Rabwah included calls for Ahmadis to be opposed at neighbourhood, legal and constitutional levels. In September, 65-year-old Safdar Mahmood was shot dead in Mandi Bahauddin, while the Federal Constitutional Court left in force the ban on the 23-volume *Ruhani Khazain*. Together, these developments demonstrate the continued presence of legal restrictions, organised hostility and serious physical risk.

CONCLUSION

Documented incidents from January to September 2026 do not support the conclusion that the position of Ahmadis in Pakistan has materially improved. Short-term fluctuations in recorded incidents are not, by themselves, a reliable measure of structural change. The relevant legal and institutional framework remains intact, and throughout 2026 it continued to facilitate restrictions on worship, interference with mosques and burial, criminal prosecution and coercive administrative action.

The more meaningful question is whether Ahmadis can now live, worship, identify themselves religiously, bury their dead and use their places of worship without discriminatory legal constraint or fear of official intervention. The incidents documented above show that these constraints remain active. Short periods of reduced incident reporting are not, by themselves, a reliable basis for assessing country conditions. Meaningful change must be judged against longer-term trends and patterns, including whether the underlying legal framework has been dismantled, whether administrative practices have changed, and whether restrictions on religious life have materially receded. On those measures, the evidence does not indicate a sustained improvement.

INDEX OF INCIDENTS OF PERSECUTION 2026

JANUARY

ID	Date	Location	Incident type	Incident
2026-001	22 Jan 2026	Karachi, Sindh	Assaults	Defence counsel representing Ahmadis in the Ahmadiyya Hall case was physically assaulted by opposing counsel while entering court, causing an injury near his eye.
2026-002	28 Jan 2026	Dunyapur, District Lodhran, Punjab	Workplace discrimination	Police compelled Ahmadi businessman Sheikh Muhammad Ahsan to remove his own legal name from his shop signboards and threatened criminal proceedings and closure of the business.

FEBRUARY

ID	Date	Location	Incident type	Incident
2026-003	1 Feb 2026	Lahore, Punjab	Hate advocacy and rallies	Daily Ausaf published anti-Ahmadi statements portraying Ahmadis as agents of imperialism and threats to national security, including calls for mobilisation against the community.
2026-004	24 Feb 2026	Gajju Chak, District Gujranwala, Punjab	Violations against the dead	Police blocked the burial of 80-year-old Amat-ul-Manzoor and permitted it only after Ahmadis signed an undertaking relinquishing future burial rights in the shared cemetery.
2026-005	24 Feb 2026	Hyderabad/Larkana, Sindh	Legal	Bail was again refused to four Ahmadis who had already spent more than 18 months in pre-trial detention under sections 298-B and 298-C, despite an earlier High Court direction for an expedited trial.

MARCH

ID	Date	Location	Incident type	Incident
2026-006	Mar 2026	Mirpur Khas, Sindh	Legal	Police named two Ahmadis in an FIR over the death of an anti-Ahmadi activist despite no disclosed evidence linking either man to the crime; a hostile social-media campaign preceded the FIR.
2026-007	Mar 2026	Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura, Punjab	Legal	Saleem Qadri, convicted of the 2014 custodial killing of Ahmadi Khaleel Ahmad, was released after about 12 years while the community's appeal concerning the sentence remained unresolved.
2026-008	16 Mar 2026	Chichawatni, District Sahiwal, Punjab	Violations against the dead	Seven Ahmadi graves were desecrated in a community-owned cemetery; the names "Muhammad" and "Ahmad" were deliberately effaced from the headstones.
2026-009	21 Mar 2026	Gujranwala, Punjab	Restrictions on Worship	Authorities ordered Ahmadi places of worship closed after Fajr, effectively preventing normal Eid-ul-Fitr congregations.
2026-010	21 Mar 2026	Sargodha, Punjab	Restrictions on Worship	Police entered Ahmadi places of worship across the district, cleared worshippers and had the buildings locked before Eid-ul-Fitr prayers.
2026-011	21 Mar 2026	Karachi, Sindh	Restrictions on Worship	Police prohibited Ahmadi congregational worship, preventing Eid prayers at Ahmadi places of worship across Karachi.
2026-012	21 Mar 2026	Sialkot, Punjab	Restrictions on Worship	Authorities withheld permission for Ahmadi Eid prayers in several localities, including Changrian, Kaleke Nagra, Ban Bajwa, Klaswala, Dadowali and Malyanwala.
2026-013	21 Mar 2026	Chak 89-RB, District Faisalabad, Punjab	Restrictions on Worship	Police ordered Ahmadis gathered for Eid prayers to leave their place of worship and subsequently cleared the premises by force.
2026-014	21 Mar 2026	Mandi Bahauddin, Punjab	Restrictions on Worship	The district administration prohibited Ahmadis from holding the Eid-ul-Fitr prayer.

APRIL

ID	Date	Location	Incident type	Incident
2026-015	2 Apr 2026	Sillanwali, District Sargodha, Punjab	Other	Authorities cancelled an already approved property transfer to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community after a hostile crowd gathered; the written cancellation cited the “Ahmadi/Qadiani factor”.
2026-016	16 Apr 2026	Marro Bhattian, District Chiniot, Punjab	Legal	Police charged Ahmadi Amir Iqbal under PPC 298-A after anti-Ahmadi activists targeted religious material he had shared on social media.
2026-017	18 Apr 2026	Shah Miskeen, District Sheikhpura, Punjab	Assaults	Three armed men attacked four Ahmadi households, assaulted residents and attempted to force them to renounce their faith and convert.
2026-018	18 Apr 2026	Chak 295 GB Berianwala, District Toba Tek Singh, Punjab	Workplace discrimination	Religious groups secured the removal of Ahmadi headteacher Wasim Ahmad from a government-appointed committee because of his faith and also demanded his dismissal from his school post.

MAY

ID	Date	Location	Incident type	Incident
2026-019	8-15 May 2026	Hayatabad, Peshawar, KP	Mosque attacks	Police closed an Ahmadi mosque after activists circulated footage of Friday prayers; Ahmadis were ordered to vacate it and an FIR under PPC 295-A was later registered.
2026-020	8–15 May 2026	Jamalpur, District Khairpur, Sindh	Mosque attacks	Authorities ordered Ahmadis to conceal the minarets and mihrab of their mosque following pressure from local clerics.
2026-021	10 May 2026	Karoondi, District Khairpur, Sindh	Hate advocacy and rallies	Anti-Ahmadi threats and a social-media campaign followed the arrest of two men accused of harassing an Ahmadi shopkeeper; a JUI-F leader threatened street protests.
2026-022	14 May 2026	District Khairpur, Sindh	Mosque attacks	Local authorities demolished the minarets and sealed the niche of an Ahmadi mosque after anti-Ahmadi activists demanded further action despite earlier compliance by the community.
2026-023	May 2026	Lahore, Punjab	Workplace discrimination	Religious and political figures organised opposition to Ahmadi diplomat Nabeel Munir receiving the Sitara-e-Imtiaz and called for Ahmadis to be removed from senior state positions.

ID	Date	Location	Incident type	Incident
2026-024	May 2026	Khuda Abad, District Badin, Sindh	Violations against the dead	Police ordered Ahmadis to remove canopies and carpets erected outside the home of deceased Muhammad Khan for mourners and later removed the canopies themselves.
2026-025	19 May 2026	Khuda Abad, District Badin, Sindh	Restrictions on Worship	Ahmadis were forced to leave their mosque immediately after Isha prayers following complaints and mobilisation by local clerics.
2026-026	20 May 2026	Hyderabad/Larkana, Sindh	Legal	Four Ahmadis were convicted under PPC 298-B and 298-C in the Goth Masan Bara mosque case after more than 19 months in custody; they were released the following day on time served/remission.
2026-027	24 May 2026	Nankana Sahib, Punjab	Restrictions on Worship	The Deputy Commissioner publicly announced that Ahmadis would not be permitted to perform Qurbani and warned that violations would result in "strict action".
2026-028	29 May 2026	Rabwah, District Chiniot, Punjab	Hate advocacy and rallies	An anti-Ahmadi convention called for further restrictions on worship; speakers said Ahmadis would eventually have nowhere to live and urged clerics to act if authorities did not.
2026-029	30 May 2026	Township, Lahore, Punjab	Restrictions on Worship	Police instructed the Ahmadi community to close its prayer centre during Friday prayer hours and alter other congregational prayer times following activist complaints.
2026-030	30–31 May 2026	Goth Molvi Ataullah, District Khairpur, Sindh	Mosque attacks	Ahmadis were compelled to conceal the minarets of their mosque amid an organised campaign targeting Ahmadi religious sites in the district.
2026-031	Eid-ul-Adha 26	Peshawar, KP	Restrictions on Worship	Police summoned Ahmadis and required a written undertaking that they would not perform religious rites regarded by authorities as similar to those of Muslims.
2026-032	Eid-ul-Adha 26	Islamabad	Restrictions on Worship	The SHO at Bani Gala threatened Ahmadis with a terrorism case if they failed to comply with restrictions imposed on Eid observance.
2026-033	Eid-ul-Adha 26	Shorkot, District Jhang, Punjab	Restrictions on Worship	Police required senior Ahmadis to sign surety bonds undertaking not to perform Qurbani, initially carrying a penalty of Rs10 million, later reduced to Rs1 million following objections.

ID	Date	Location	Incident type	Incident
2026-034	Eid-ul-Adha 26	Sialkot, Punjab	Restrictions on Worship	Officials instructed Ahmadis to complete their Eid prayer by 5.45 am and prohibited Qurbani; police said the restrictions had been communicated verbally across Punjab.
2026-035	Eid-ul-Adha 26	Kot Shera, District Gujranwala, Punjab	Restrictions on Worship	Police warned an Ahmadi woman that she could face criminal charges merely for accepting sacrificial meat.
2026-036	Eid-ul-Adha 26	Kheuwali, District Gujranwala, Punjab	Restrictions on Worship	Three police vehicles were dispatched after a report that an Ahmadi had performed Qurbani.
2026-037	Eid-ul-Adha 26	Bhuriwal, District Sheikhupura, Punjab	Restrictions on Worship	Police raided a suspected Qurbani site and detained an Ahmadi, releasing him only after discovering that another person had performed the sacrifice.
2026-038	Eid-ul-Adha 26	District Gujranwala, Punjab	Legal	Police registered a criminal case under PPC 298-C against Muhammad Anwar in connection with Eid-ul-Adha observance.
2026-039	Eid-ul-Adha 26	Narowal, Punjab	Restrictions on Worship	Bilal Ahmad and Naveed Ahmad were detained on the Deputy Commissioner's orders and remained in custody throughout the three days of Eid.
2026-040	Eid-ul-Adha 26	Kotli, AJK	Hate advocacy and rallies	An anti-Ahmadi group demanded that officials prevent Eid prayers and threatened to impose the restriction themselves if authorities failed to act.
2026-041	Eid-ul-Adha 26	District Bahawalnagar, Punjab	Hate advocacy and rallies	A TLP member circulated a video threatening to hang any Ahmadi found performing Qurbani using the same rope used for sacrificial animals.

JUNE

ID	Date	Location	Incident type	Incident
2026-042	5 Jun 2026	Rabwah, District Chiniot, Punjab	Assaults	A masked gunman opened fire on an Ahmadi security patrol outside Aqsa Mosque, seriously injuring Waqas Ahmad, Bilal Ahmad and Abdul Jabbar.
2026-043	6 Jun 2026	Khuda Abad, District Badin, Sindh	Violations against the dead	Police attempted to prevent the funeral prayer of Shams-ud-Din Gurgez and sought to prohibit mourning arrangements; the community refused and the funeral proceeded.
2026-044	21 Jun 2026	Lodhi Nangal, District Faisalabad, Punjab	Assaults	Two individuals affiliated with TLP verbally abused and assaulted Ahmadi Ghulam Mustafa. Police later arrested one accused and registered a criminal case.
2026-045	Jun 2026	Pakpattan, District Sahiwal, Punjab	Legal	Police erased Islamic inscriptions from Muhammad Ali's home and compelled him to sign an undertaking apologising for and renouncing future use of Islamic terminology and symbols.
2026-046	30 Jun 2026	Pattokey, District Kasur, Punjab	Legal	An Additional Sessions Judge acquitted the two accused in the targeted killing of Ahmadi Muhammad Asif; both had previously been refused bail by lower courts and the Supreme Court.
2026-047	30 Jun / 1 Jul 2026	Kasur, Punjab	Hate advocacy and rallies	The District Bar Association promoted a district-wide "condemnation strike" framed partly around Khatm-e-Nubuwwat and appealed for broad public participation.

JULY

ID	Date	Location	Incident type	Incident
2026-048	6 Jul 2026	Lahore, Punjab	Hate advocacy and rallies	Daily Mashriq carried clerical statements opposing any change to blasphemy and Khatm-e-Nubuwwat provisions and declaring that Ahmadis must not be "promoted or supported" on any platform.
2026-049	21 Jul 2026	Talhar Bali, District Khushab, Punjab	Other	Police ordered the removal of boundary foundations on an Ahmadi-owned plot after opponents falsely alleged that a mosque was being constructed and mobilised against the property.

AUGUST

ID	Date	Location	Incident type	Incident
2026-050	11 Aug 2026	Gujrat, Punjab	Legal	Police registered FIR No. 625 under PPC 295-A and 298-C against unidentified Ahmadis over the alleged distribution of Ahmadi literature to an educational institution.
2026-051	Aug 2026	Lalian / Lahore, Punjab	Workplace discrimination	Revenue Officer Naghman Ahmad was transferred from Lalian after anti-Ahmadi clerics and organisations protested his appointment and pressured the administration.
2026-052	Aug 2026	Rabwah, District Chiniot, Punjab	Hate advocacy and rallies	Clerics associated with the International Khatm-e-Nubuwwat Movement publicly described Ahmadis as enemies of Islam and Pakistan and called for strict implementation of anti-Ahmadi laws.
2026-053	13 Aug 2026 (reported)	Rabwah, District Chiniot, Punjab	Hate advocacy and rallies	Maulvi Shabbir Ahmad Usmani publicly portrayed Ahmadis as a threat to Pakistan's ideological and geographic frontiers while promoting the forthcoming Khatm-e-Nubuwwat conference.
2026-054	20 Aug 2026	Lahore, Punjab	Hate advocacy and rallies	Daily Mashriq published anti-Ahmadi rhetoric describing Ahmadis as traitors to both Islam and the country.
2026-055	25–26 Aug 2026	Rabwah, District Chiniot, Punjab	Hate advocacy and rallies	A Khatm-e-Nubuwwat conference in Rabwah featured speeches calling for Ahmadis to be opposed at neighbourhood, legal and constitutional levels.
2026-056	26 Aug 2026	Rabwah, District Chiniot, Punjab	Hate advocacy and rallies	A Majlis-e-Ahrar procession in Rabwah included speeches warning Ahmadis and a claim that Ahmadiyya buildings would eventually be demolished; attendance was approximately 2,000.
2026-057	26 Aug 2026	Rabwah, District Chiniot, Punjab	Hate advocacy and rallies	Eid Milad-un-Nabi processions in Rabwah included derogatory anti-Ahmadi speeches and slogans, with speakers warning Ahmadi observers to leave procession routes.

SEPTEMBER

ID	Date	Location	Incident type	Incident
2026-058	2 Sep 2026	Mandi Bahauddin, Punjab	Murder	Safdar Mahmood, 65, an Ahmadi, was shot dead by unidentified assailants near Eidgah Road. Police investigated the killing as a suspected targeted attack; an FIR was later registered under PPC 302/34 and the Anti-Terrorism Act.
2026-059	8 Sep 2026	Islamabad	Legal	The Federal Constitutional Court dismissed petitions challenging the Punjab government's ban on the 23-volume Ruhani Khazain, leaving the 2014 prohibition and forfeiture order in force.