

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	727
Land:	Pakistan
Kilde:	Amnesty International
Titel:	Escalating attacks on minority Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan must end
Udgivet:	21. juni 2024
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	29. oktober 2024

Document #2111236

Amnesty International (Author)

Escalating attacks on minority Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan must end

The Pakistani authorities must immediately end the harassment, intimidation and attacks on Ahmadiyya community and uphold their right to freedom of belief and religion in the lead up to, during and after the Muslim religious holidays such as Eid ul-Azha, said Amnesty International today.

The human rights organization documented 36 cases of arbitrary arrests and detention in addition to dozens of cases of police harassment of Ahmadis, as well as orders barring religious rites by members of the minority group, from 10 to 19 June. Several attacks on Ahmadi places of worship also took place, with the authorities failing to ensure the safety and security of members of the community.

Authorities must end the growing attacks on Ahmadis. They must respect, protect, promote and fulfil the human rights of the members of the community.

Livia Saccardi, Deputy Regional Director for South Asia at Amnesty International

"These incidents of human rights violations by district administrations across Pakistan have demonstrated a pattern that Ahmadis remain one of the most systematically discriminated communities in Pakistan. Authorities must end the growing attacks on Ahmadis. They must respect, protect, promote and fulfil the human rights of the members of the community," said Livia Saccardi, Deputy Regional Director for South Asia at Amnesty International.

Multiple arbitrary arrests and detention

At least 36 cases of arbitrary arrests and detention of Ahmadis to prevent them performing the religious rites of sacrificing animals were reported in the province of Punjab.

Speaking to Amnesty International, a 60-year-old man from the Ahmadiyya community in Punjab province said that the police entered his house without lawful authority by scaling the walls as his family were sacrificing a goat on the first day of Eid. "The Ahmadiyya community faces threats every year, but this year has been unprecedented. They took eight of my family members into custody, including my sons, nephews and brother-in-law simply because we were practicing our faith within the four walls of our home. A sense of fear pervades (the lives) of all Ahmadis in my locality, many have been arrested," he said.

Amnesty International has reviewed 11 First Information Reports (FIRs) which were filed against at least 14 members of the Ahmadiyya community on 17 and 18 June in the Punjab cities of Toba Tek Singh, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Sargodha, Khushab and Gojra. These FIRs contain charges under the draconian blasphemy laws of the Pakistan Penal Code which Amnesty International has been advocating to be repealed. Several of these FIRs are based on complaints filed by affiliates of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), a party known for [fueling](#) hate speech and violence against religious minorities in Pakistan.

On 10 June, the Deputy Commissioner in Chakwal issued [orders](#) enabling the preventive detention of three Ahmadi men for 30 days on the basis that they might perform the ritual of sacrificing an animal on Eid. The men were released two days later after agreeing to sign an affidavit, as shared with Amnesty International by their lawyers, that they would refrain from performing the ritual. Similar orders were issued by the Sialkot district administration to detain and prevent 16 Ahmadi men from observing religious rites during Eid under the guise of maintenance of public order.

Attacks on Ahmadiyya religious sites

In the early hours of Eid day, 17 June, a violent mob of around 150 people [attacked](#) the Ahmadiyya place of workshop in Kotli, Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir. The assailants opened fire and subsequently destroyed the minarets and arch of the building.

On 12 June, 17 graves of the Ahmadiyya community were [desecrated](#) in Basti Shukrani, Bahawalpur district, Punjab. Members of the community alleged that the local TLP chapter was responsible for the desecration. These violent attacks came in the aftermath of the religiously motivated [killing](#) of two Ahmadi men in Saad Ullah Pur, Mandi Bahauddin on 8 June by a teenage student from a local madrassah.

“Religious groups have been issuing open threats for weeks leading up to Eid and despite a notification from the Ministry of Interior to provincial Inspector Generals and Chief Secretaries instructing an increase in security for Ahmadiyya places of worship, we have seen that the police and provincial governments have acted in extrajudicial ways across the country. It is clear that there is a lack of ownership of Ahmadis as citizens of Pakistan,” said Mahmood Iftikhar, a Pakistani lawyer and human rights activist.

The Government of Pakistan and provincial authorities must put in place safeguards to guarantee and ensure the safety and security of the Ahmadiyya community.

Livia Saccardi

In an [open letter](#) to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif on 10 June, the National Commission for Human Rights called on the government to ensure protection of minorities “during vulnerable times such as the upcoming religious holidays.” Despite the plea, judicial and district authorities in Quaidabad in Punjab (15 June) and Mirpur (15 June) and Kotli (7 June) in Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir actively issued orders, seen by Amnesty International, preventing sacrifice of any animal by Ahmadis. In Kotli, additional restrictions were placed on the distribution of meat by Ahmadis during the days of Eid ul-Azha.

“The active role of state bodies, such as the police and district authorities, in denying the community’s right to freedom of belief and religion is a grave violation of Pakistan’s international human rights obligations and Article 20 of the country’s own Constitution. The Government of Pakistan and provincial authorities must put in place safeguards to guarantee and ensure the safety and security of the Ahmadiyya community. Authorities must immediately release all those arbitrarily arrested and detained. Amnesty International urges the authorities to urgently repeal the pernicious blasphemy laws which are routinely used to target and discriminate against minorities in Pakistan,” said Livia Saccardi.

Background:

The 500,000-strong Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan is a religious minority that considers itself Muslim but is barred from referring to themselves as such, and from practicing aspects of their faith under Pakistan’s strict blasphemy laws. On Eid-ul-Adha, which fell on 17 June this year, Ahmadis were even denied the right to partake in the ritual animal sacrifice carried out by Muslims around the world.

ecoi.net description:

According to human rights organisations, there have been 36 cases of arbitrary arrests and detention and several instances of police harassment of members of the Ahmadiyya community from 10 to 19 June 2024, the period of the Muslim Eid ul-Azha holidays

Country:

Pakistan

Source:

[Amnesty International](#) (Author)

Published:

21 June 2024

Original link:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/06/end-escalating-attacks-on-minority-ahmadiyya-community/>

Document type:

Appeal or News Release

Language:

English

Available on ecoi.net since:

25 June 2024

Document ID:

2111236

Austrian Red Cross
Austrian Centre for
Country of Origin and
Asylum Research and
Documentation
(ACCORD)

Wiedner Hauptstraße
32, 1041 Wien
T +43 1 589 00 583
F +43 1 589 00 589
info@ecoi.net

Contact
Imprint & Disclaimer
F.A.Q.
Data Protection Notice

ecoi.net is run by the Austrian Red Cross (department ACCORD) in cooperation with Informationsverbund Asyl & Migration. ecoi.net is funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and Caritas Austria. ecoi.net is supported by ECRE & UNHCR.

