



PRESS RELEASE

URGENT: Bail Denied for Innocent Ahmadi Muslim Worshippers

Pakistan Arrests 22 Ahmadi Muslims For Praying – A Shameful Assault On Human Rights

Sialkot, Pakistan – The International Human Rights Committee (IHRC) sounds the alarm on an outrageous and unconscionable violation of fundamental freedoms in Pakistan. Twenty-two (22) Ahmadi Muslims have been arrested and face criminal charges for the “crime” of offering Friday prayers – a basic act of worship that has ignited a firestorm of persecution and exposed Pakistan’s flagrant disregard for its international obligations.

The bail application of all 22 was dismissed by the Court in Daska Punjab on 05-03-2025, and the copy of the judgement is attached.



The IHRC has obtained and translated an explosive document – the original Urdu complaint filed with Sialkot police by Mr. Hamza Asif Butt under Article 154 of the Criminal Procedure Code. This chilling account reveals the depths of intolerance gripping the nation. Butt recounts passing a building, hearing the sound of prayers, and intruding further to discover 26 “Qadiani’s” – a derogatory slur for Ahmadi Muslims – engaged in Islamic worship. He alleges this act is illegal, claiming it “preaches against Islam,” “deeply hurts Muslim sentiments,” and “causes unrest.” His response? A call to a police hotline that triggered swift arrests and a formal case against these peaceful worshippers.

This is not justice – it is a travesty. The IHRC declares unequivocally: this case is baseless, legally bankrupt, and a grotesque assault on international human rights standards to which Pakistan is bound. It defies universal morality, common decency, and the very principles of humanity.

Pakistan's Broken Promises to the World

Pakistan cannot hide behind its borders. As a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified in 2010, Pakistan is legally and morally obligated to protect freedom of religion or belief. Article 18 of the UDHR and ICCPR thunders with clarity:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom... to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance, either alone or in community with others, in public or private."

The Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief further cements this sacred right. Yet, in Sialkot, Pakistan has trampled these commitments underfoot, rounding up Ahmadis for daring to pray – an act of faith now branded a crime.

A Call to the World: Act Now!

The IHRC demands immediate action. This shameful case must be dismissed, and the 22 Ahmadis unjustly detained must be freed without delay. We call on Pakistan's partners in the international community – nations, leaders, and human rights defenders – to raise their voices in outrage and compel Pakistani authorities to end this travesty. Silence is complicity.

The persecution of Ahmadi Muslims is not a domestic quirk; it is a global disgrace. Pakistan's actions mock the treaties it has signed and the values it claims to uphold. The time for accountability is now.

Pakistan is thus egregiously flouting international religious freedom standards. The IHRC calls upon governments, including that of the European Union, United States and UK, which have affirmed their support for religious freedom, to urgently engage with Pakistani authorities at this critical juncture, when escalating, state-sanctioned religious persecution is rising to unprecedented levels.

END

ANNEXURES:

- **First information report 487/25 dated 28.02.2025**
- **Petition for post arrest bail**

Translation form Urdu to English Version
POLICE FORM NO. (1)5-24

FIRST INFORMATION REPORT FOR OFFENCES COGNIZABLE OF POLICE REPORTED UNDER SECTION 154
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE.

Serial No – **SKT-CNT-001022** Case No. 487/25, Police Sialkot E Tag No: 2969
Date and time of Occurrence on this day 11-06-2018 at 11:30 PM

1	Date and time of report	As per report No.34 dated 28-02-2025 on 04:55 PM	6	Special report
2	Name & address of reporter and complainant	Hamza Asif Butt, Address: Mohalla Tootiyan Wala, Old Daska, District Sialkot CINC: 90403-0200299-3, Phone No: 0300-0059979		
3	Brief Particulars Of Offense (With section) and description of goods if lost.	Offence under sections 298C TP		
4	Place Of Occurrence and Distance from police station and direction	IN the vicinity of Mohallah Chodhrian, Distance from Daska police station 1.5 KM towards South		
5	Proceeding of police investigation and reasons of delay in reporting	According to the complaint received, case registered		

Signature: Muhammad Tanzeel Anwar Baryar Belt No. GL/403 Designation: ASI Cell No. 03005485902

To The Honorable SHO, City Police Station Daska
Subject: Request for Filing a Case

Respected Sir,

I, the petitioner, am a resident of Mohalla Tootiyan Wala, Old Daska, and a law-abiding citizen. On Friday, February 28, 2025, at approximately 1:30 PM, I was passing by Haveli Nasrullah Khan Sahi Qadiani when I heard a speech/sermon being delivered from inside a building opposite me. Upon hearing the voice, I stopped and looked inside, where I saw Arshad Sahi, son of an unknown person, who is a Qadiani missionary, delivering a speech.

Around 26 Qadianis were sitting in front of him with the intention of offering the Friday prayer. This gathering was specifically arranged for the purpose of leading and performing the Friday prayer, which Qadianis are legally not permitted to offer, as it is an Islamic religious practice. They use Islamic symbols to mislead simple-minded Muslims and preach against Islam while distributing their misleading materials among them.

This act of holding a Friday congregation by Qadianis has deeply hurt the sentiments of Muslims, causing widespread unrest among the public. I immediately called 15 (police helpline), and a police team arrived at the scene, arresting those who were offering the Friday prayer.

The incident was personally witnessed by Muhammad Irfan (son of Muhammad Riaz, resident of Gaga), Farman Ali (son of Rehmatullah, resident of Mohalla Tariqabad, Daska), Haji Muhammad Akmal (son of Muzammil Hussain), and other locals.

I request that legal proceedings be initiated, and a case be registered against them to ensure appropriate punishment.

Applicant: Hamza Asif Butt

Son of: Muhammad Asif Butt

Resident of: Mohalla Tootiyan Wala, Old Daska

Thumb Impression & Signature (in English): Hamza Asif Butt

Police Proceedings

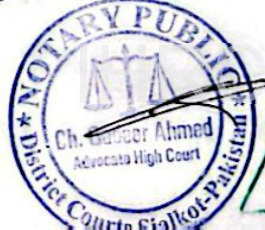
At this time, a written application from Hamza Asif Butt, the complainant (as per entry No. 2), has been submitted in the police station for necessary action. Based on the contents of the application, an offense under Section 298-C of the Pakistan Penal Code is found to be established.

An initial case report has been prepared, and the original written application, along with a copy of the FIR, is being forwarded to Ali Hassan 493/C for investigation, under the supervision of Abid Mahmood SI. Additionally, previous reports are being sent to the higher authorities.

ASI MUHAMMAD TANZEEL ANWAR BARYAR

28-02-2025

ATTESTED



The State

FIR No. 487/25 dated 28.02.2025
Offences U/Ss 298-C PPC
Police Station City Daska

(PETITION FOR POST ARREST BAIL)

Present: Mr. Parvez Ahmed Cheema Advocate, counsel for accused persons/petitioners.
Counsels for the complainant.
ADPP for the State.

ORDER:

As per certificate, this is first post-arrest bail of the accused persons/petitioners in this case.

2. Brief facts, as mentioned in the FIR, are that on 28.02.2025 at about 01:30 pm, the accused/petitioners namely Arshad Mehmood alongwith others were offering Jumma prayer and were posing themselves as Muslim and were preaching/propagating Qadiani faith. Hence, this case.

3. It is argued by the learned counsel for the accused persons/petitioners that accused persons have been implicated in this case falsely and due to mala fide on the part of local police with connivance of the complainant; that the accused persons/petitioners, being member of Qadiani faith, have the right to perform their religious rituals; that case of the accused persons/petitioners is one of further inquiry and prayed for acceptance of the petition.

4. Conversely, it is argued by the learned ADPP for the State assisted learned counsels for the complainant that Qadiani have no right to preach and propagate religion/faith; that the accused persons/petitioners have posed themselves as Muslim by offering Jumma prayer; that the accused persons/petitioners are implicated in this case with specific role; that there is sufficient incriminating material is available against the accused persons/petitioners and prayed for dismissal of the petition.

5. Arguments heard, record perused.

6. Record reflects that accused/petitioner namely Arshad Mehmood is specifically nominated in FIR whereas, rest of the accused persons/petitioners are implicated in this case through supplementary statement of the complainant. Version of the complainant is supported by the statements of the witnesses u/s 161 Cr.P.C. There is sufficient

incriminating material available on the record to connect the accused persons/petitioners with commission of this offence.

Resultantly, instant post-arrest bail petition of the accused persons/petitioners above named is **dismissed** being without merits. Be annexed with the report u/s 173 Cr.P.C.

Announced:
05.03.2025


(QAISAR HUSSAIN MARL)
Magistrate Section-30,
Daska, District Sialkot

Certified that this order consists of 03 pages which has been dictated, read, corrected and signed by me.

Announced:
05.03.2025


(QAISAR HUSSAIN MARL)
Magistrate Section-30,
Daska, District Sialkot
05/03/25