



PRESS RELEASE

AUTHORITIES BLOCK JOURNALISTS FROM REPORTING ABOUT AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

A shocking report has come to light about the freedom of the press and censorship of minorities in Pakistan which the IHRC is extremely disturbed to hear.

A majority of journalists in Pakistan say they are stopped from reporting about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

In a [survey](#)¹ by the non-profit organisation Lok Sujag, 73% of Pakistani journalists said that even if a report about Ahmadis was filed, it was not published.

Ahmadis in the country are already facing severe discrimination and hardships - now their stories are being censored by the news media which is tasked with standing-up for the voiceless, exposing injustice and speaking truth to power.

With religious freedom already decimated in the country as minorities are frequently under attack by religious extremists and authorities, a free press is also becoming a distant memory.

Lok Sujag reports that TV channels in particular neglect injustices against minorities, as do most Urdu newspapers. Editors argue that such reports are suppressed to prevent the situation from getting worse. These policies are self-made by media groups who indulge in self-censorship when it comes to reporting on this highly crucial issue.

Journalists say they have faced threatening calls and even physical attacks when reporting on minorities and have to leave the country to escape danger.

The Secretary-General of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) Rana Azim told Lok Sujag:

"Journalists face challenges in reporting on minority issues. Sometimes government institutions create obstacles, and at other times, media houses impose censorship under self-made policies."

¹ Link to the survey news: <https://loksujag.com/story/media-and-minorities-eng>

But it's not just Ahmadi Muslim voices that are being censored. 18% of journalists in the survey said Christian stories are restricted and 9% said Sikh stories were censored.

Human rights groups have repeatedly expressed their deep concern over the lack of attention to the serious human rights violations perpetrated against the minorities of Pakistan like 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.

On July 13, 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.

We once again urge the international community to pressure the Government of Pakistan to honor its responsibility to provide protection to all its citizens, ensure freedom of religious practice to Ahmadis, and bring perpetrators of such vicious attacks to justice. The Government of Pakistan must also bring its laws and practices in conformity with international standards as ordained by Article 2, 18 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Article 25, 26.

END