



INCIDENT REPORT

TWO MORE AHMADI MUSLIM MOSQUES DESECRATED DESPITE PEACE PETITION BY LOCALS, IN SHEIKHUPURA, PAKISTAN

IHRC has reported several times that a wave of bigotry against Ahmadis has intensified since the start of 2023. In an extremely worrying sign of growing crisis in Pakistan, **34** Ahmadiyya Mosques have been desecrated.

As per reports received by IHRC, on September 23, 2023, in the latest act of desecration of the Minarets, two separate Ahmadi Muslim Mosques in district Sheikhpura, in the areas of Kirto, Narang Mandi and Nano Dogar were desecrated. These acts were done in the presence of the Police. All of this was done to please a religious extremist group known as the Tehreek-e-Lubbaik Pakistan (TLP). The aftermath can be seen in this [video](#)¹.



Pictures: On September 23, 2023, two separate Ahmadi Muslim Mosques in district Sheikhpura, in the areas of Kirto, Narang Mandi and Nano Dogar were desecrated.

In Kirto area, within the remits of the Narang Mandi police station in Sheikhpura, the local Superintendent Police (SP) arrived at the Mosque at around 9:30 PM and used a hammer to demolish the top part of the minarets and ordered to cover the remaining portion of the minarets.

It is important to notice that the residents of Kirto had earlier in the week signed a petition on an Rs100 stamp paper carrying around 50 signatures from residents belonging to different faiths and sects, certifying that they had no objection to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosque and that no action was required against it. Further, they argued that the building had been constructed in 1963, and thus, per a recent order of the Lahore High Court, those buildings older than 1984 cannot be subject to the law. The petition had been submitted to the SHO of Narang Mandi police station and was addressed to the Shiekhupura District Police officer. Despite the petition, the police proceeded to demolish the minarets.

The second Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosque targeted was in the Nano Dogar area, within the remits of the Sharqpur Police Station in Sheikhpura. The local SHO, along with others, arrived on Saturday night and demolished the

¹ Link to video on social media: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1705942860707541452>

minarets. The opponents threatened the local community president, stating that there was no other option except to tear down the minaret.

Recently, the Prime Minister of Pakistan said that the State will protect the places of worship of all citizens. Yet a new trend has been observed where the local police demolish the minarets rather than the extremists and that it is becoming more and more evident that the police are the ones carrying out the desecrations.

The Minarets of these Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosques have existed long before Ordinance XX of 1984. The recent decision from the Lahore High Court clearly mentions the fact that the minarets of Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosques built before 1984 neither need to be altered nor demolished.

It has become impossible for Ahmadis to practise their faith while ruthlessly hunted by fundamentalist gangs. The latest desecration act of the Mosques desecration carried out by the locals and Police is open proof that there is no improvement in the law-and-order situation for the Ahmadis in Pakistan.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan's judgement (PLD 2014 SC 699), authored by the then Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani, guarantees the protection of all places of worship and instructs the police to protect places of worship. Destroying minarets is also a violation of Article 20 and the same Supreme Court verdict of 2014 (PLD 2014 SC 699).

The same Supreme Court judgement of 2014 (PLD 2014 SC 699) had asked the Government of Pakistan to form a special task force for the protection of worship places of minorities. On the contrary, an extremist agenda sponsored by the state is being pursued against the Ahmadiyya community with authorities encouraging this type of violent behaviour which defies this Supreme Court judgement of 2014 (PLD 2014 SC 699) and all norms of religious sanctimony.

Human rights groups have repeatedly 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.

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.

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