

INCIDENT REPORT

MOB ATTACK ON AHMADIYYA HALL IN KARACHI CLAIMS THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT AHMADI MAN



Date: 18 April 2025

Location: Ahmadiyya Hall, Preedy Police Station Jurisdiction, Karachi

Overview

On 18 April 2025, a violent mob affiliated with Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan rallied outside the Ahmadiyya Hall in Karachi while Friday prayers were under way. During the agitation, Laiq Ahmad Cheema, an Ahmadi man, was identified near the site and killed in a targeted assault. Police did not intervene.



The 18 April attack on Ahmadiyya Hall marks the third assault on this mosque since early 2023. Its minarets were previously demolished in separate incidents on 2 February and 4 September 2023. The most recent incident also forms part of a wider nationwide campaign that began in Ramadan 2025, in which the Friday prayer services of Ahmadis have been targeted across Pakistan by police action, which has seen dozens of worshippers arrested, mosque closures, and mob violence. The killing in Karachi marks a new and deadly phase in this ongoing campaign.

Incident Details

On the afternoon of 18 April 2025, a mob affiliated with Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan gathered outside Ahmadiyya Hall in Karachi during Friday prayers and surrounded the site. Worshippers



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were blocked from exiting. Slogans were raised, and the situation escalated without any police intervention.

During the agitation, Laiq Ahmad Cheema was identified by members of the mob approximately 150 metres from the mosque. He was pulled aside and beaten with bricks and sticks. He died at the scene. Police were present but did not intervene. Emergency services were not called. Cheema was 46 years old and is survived by two widows, three sons, and four daughters.

The site where the attack took place has previously been identified as a high-risk location and was vandalised twice in 2023. Despite this, no protective measures were implemented by the authorities even after the local community had submitted complaints and requested assistance.



Pattern of Attacks on Friday Prayers

Since Ramadan 2025, Ahmadi Friday congregations have been systematically obstructed or criminalised across the country. In Daska, 22 Ahmadis were arrested on 28 February for attending prayers. In Surjani Town, Karachi, a mosque was sealed after six Ahmadis were taken into custody. In Bhagtanwala, Sargodha, 23 Ahmadis were charged under blasphemy laws following similar events.

The attack in Karachi did not occur in isolation. It reflects an ongoing campaign aimed at dismantling the ability of Ahmadis to hold Friday prayers through the combined use of legal threats, police action, and mob violence.

Recommendations

1. Arrest and prosecute those responsible for the killing of Laiq Ahmad Cheema.
2. Provide permanent police protection for Ahmadiyya Hall and other vulnerable Ahmadi mosques in Pakistan.
3. Enforce constitutional guarantees of religious freedom for all citizens without discrimination.
4. Facilitate independent monitoring by international bodies with a mandate to document religious freedom violations.

Conclusion

The 18 April attack on Ahmadiyya Hall and the killing of Laiq Ahmad Cheema form part of a wider, coordinated effort to suppress Ahmadi religious life. Friday prayers have become a central point of pressure, where mob violence, police inaction, and misuse of legal provisions are used to prevent worship and threaten those who attend.

Ahmadis in Pakistan are no longer able to pray in congregation without facing the risk of violence, arrest, or harassment. The right to worship, guaranteed under Pakistan's Constitution and international human rights law, is being denied in practice. If this matter continues unchecked, it will no longer be viable for Ahmadis in Pakistan to observe even their most basic religious obligations.