

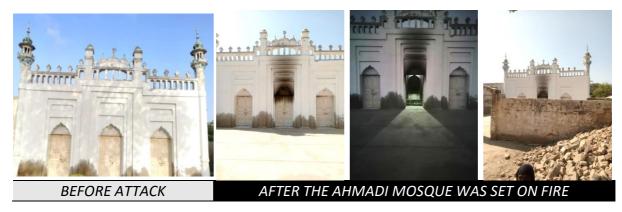
IHRC/IR/040223/3 04 February 2023

## **INCIDENT REPORT**

## TWO MORE MOSQUES VANDALISED AND SET ABLAZE IN A WAVE OF ANTI-AHMADIYYA HATRED IN PAKISTAN

IHRC reported yesterday that on 2nd February 2023 at around 3.30 in the afternoon the opponents of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community razed to ground the minarets of the Ahmadiyya Hall built in 1950 in Saddar Karachi. A wave of bigotry against Ahmadis has intensified since the start of 2023.

Once again, we want to inform you that in the late night on 3rd February 2023, unknown assailants while entering the boundary wall of the Ahmadi Mosque in Noor Nagar district Umerkot, Sindh Pakistan, set the fire on mosque by pouring gasoline. Due to the fire, all mats and chairs were burned. Local residents became aware of the fire when they arrived for the early morning prayers.



Pictures: Ahmadi Mosque in Noor Nagar district Umerkot, Sindh Pakistan, set on fire by pouring gasoline by unknown assailants in the late night on Feb 3, 2023.

And in another targeted attack, some unknown persons on 3rd February 2023, during late night, damaged the minarets of the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Goth Chaudary Javed Ahmed at Goth Ghazi Khan Mirani, also in district Mirpurkhas, Sindh Pakistan. The Ahmadiyya Mosque was set on fire.



Pictures: Ahmadi Mosque in Goth Chaudary Javed Ahmed at Goth Ghazi Khan Mirani, in District Mirpurkhas, Sindh Pakistan after vandalism of minarets and setting on fire during late night on of Feb 3, 2023.

Intolerance and hatred towards Ahmadis in Pakistan are nothing new; rather it has spread over decades and gaining momentum each passing under the State supervision. Systematic marginalisation of Ahmadis in all walks of life because of their religious beliefs is not considered condemnable and Ahmadis are being treated without even basic human rights.

Such brazen acts with impunity violate fundamental rights of religious freedom and also fly in the face of the Supreme Court of Pakistan's decision in 2014 to protect places of worship. There is no legal justification for this action. These are state-sanctioned incidents of violence by extremists against the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Unfortunately, Government Officials in Pakistan are engaged in such illegal activities to win the pleasure and approval of the ferocious opponents of the Ahmadis. We request the Government of Pakistan to respect and follow the eight-point directive given by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 2014, which emphasised the provision of protection for the places of worship of all religions in Pakistan. The destruction of Ahmadiyya Mosques in Pakistan is in glaring contravention of Article 20 of the Constitution of Pakistan and the Supreme Court of Pakistan verdict of 2014.

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**