

AHMADIYYA



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Priority - Human Rights

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Ahmadi dead denied peace in death – in the capital of the Punjab 120 graves vandalized in posh Model Town, Lahore

Approximately 120 tombstones were vandalized by 10 to 15 armed men wearing masks at about 02:30 on December 2, 2012 at the Ahmadiyya graveyard located not far from the family home of the Sharif brothers.

The vandals tied up the grave-digger, his family and the lone security guard, roughed them up and moved fast to defile the headstones with the heavy tools they brought along.

The guard had succeeded in telephoning the police before his capture. The whole vandalism episode lasted for about 35 minutes. The vandals ran away on arrival of the police. No arrests were made.

The policemen casually took brief statements from the roughed up staff and went back to rest. The next day when contacted by a press reporter the SHO of Liaquatabad police station reportedly said he was not aware of any such incident.

Earlier, activists of Khatme Nabuwwat Lawyers Forum had approached Liaquatabad police station seeking removal of Islamic inscriptions from tombstones at this graveyard. The case was under police and judicial process.

Such cases had occurred in the recent past in the Punjab in District Lodhran, District Hafizabad, and also in Jaranwala, District Faisalabad where the police not only broke up the headstones but also took away the pieces – only to placate the mullas.

The Ahmadiyya Community spokesperson said, "The administration has entirely failed in protecting Ahmadis' human rights granted in Article 20 of the Constitution. Ahmadis' lives and property are not safe; this treatment of their dead is an insult to humanity."

The HRCP Chairperson Zohra Yusuf stated, "This is an unmistakable act of intimidation and escalation in the campaign of hate and violence against the Ahmadi community. ... The message the attackers wanted to convey was simple: that they could act with impunity and without fear of any repercussions if Ahmadis were at the receiving end. If the authorities want to send a different message, the time to act is now."

"Even in a country where unspeakable violence is inflicted on the living as a matter of course, the visceral hatred evident in Monday's attack on an Ahmadi graveyard in Lahore is chilling," commented DAWN.COM