

Nizarat Umoor E Aama

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Ahmadis in Rawalpindi deprived of their right to congregate for Eid prayers. Saleem ud Din spokesperson Jama'at Ahmadiyya Pakistan.

Rabwah (PR): This year on 20 August 2012 Ahmadis in Rawalpindi had nowhere to offer their Eid prayers as they were deprived from this right by the district authorities. There has been false propaganda and baseless accusations about the place of worship and its locality. As a result the Ahmadis were deprived from their fundamental right to worship at the premises.

The sad part of this whole episode is that the local administration seems to be only concerned about the demands of miscreants. The authorities always pressurise Ahmadis to compromise rather than allowing them to perform their religious duties that are guaranteed by the constitution and the international conventions that Pakistan has signed.

The spokesperson of Jama'at Ahmadiyya Pakistan Saleem ud Din said that "the government and local administration has violated the article 20 of constitution of Pakistan after stopping Ahmadis from congregating for Eid prayers. The article 20 ensures every citizen of its right to freely perform its religious duties."

Mr Saleem ud Din said that Ahmadi would never compromise or accept any pressure on their fundamental right to worship. This is not only a denial of religious freedom but also depriving the Ahmadis of an annual ritual where worship goes with social activity. Eid is a religious event but it also has a huge social impact that brings people closer together and the authorities have deprived them of their right to peacefully gather on this annual event.

From last many years Ahmadis have been gathering at Ewan e Tawheed for worships on Juma and Eid plus regular prayers but now they have been forcefully stopped against their will. This year till the last minute the local authorities gave false hopes to Ahmadis that they could congregate and gather for Eid worship. This was not meant to materialise as at the eleventh hour local Ahmadiyya administration was informed that they cannot gather for Eid. This left the local Ahmadis with no choice and no hope for a gathering fitting for an Eid and leaving them disheartened and marginalised.

The larger question arise from this whole scenario is that how far this government and its cronies at the district level are going to go in order to appease the miscreants who seem to have an endless list of demands?

End of Press Release