



## Press Release

**For Immediate Release:**

December 15, 2016

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### Extremism Fear in Canada After Vicious Mob Attack on Mosque in Pakistan

*Ahmadi Muslims concerned for their safety in Canada after hate-filled attackers invade mosque in Punjab*

*Hundreds to gather in mosques across Canada in memory of those subjected to extremist violence in Canada and Pakistan*

*Canadian politicians and human rights groups condemn recent acts of violence against Ahmadi Muslims*

A premeditated attack on a mosque in Pakistan this week by supporters of an extremist movement with ties to Canada has caused widespread fear amongst Canadian Muslims. An emergency meeting of faith leaders in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada was called after news that a charged mob of more than 1,000 people attacked their mosque, resulting in the death of one Ahmadi Muslim.

The attack occurred on Monday in Punjab, Pakistan, after extremists targeted a mosque belonging to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at.

There is deep concern that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada will be subjected to more hate and targeted attacks. It has been reported that one of the primary instigators of this violent attack is a resident of Canada who is known to frequent a mosque in Mississauga.

Ahmadi Muslims are now asking others to join them in a show of solidarity against extremism at Friday prayers in mosques throughout Canada. **Canadian government officials** will be joining a large gathering at the **Baitul Islam Mosque on Friday, December 16**. Relatives of the deceased, Malik Khalid Javaid, who died of a heart attack during the violence, will also join the gathering at Baitul Islam Mosque.

Canadian politicians and human rights groups continue to speak out against the unjust persecution of peaceful Ahmadi Muslims. In a strong condemnation letter, the Executive Director of the **Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights** wrote, "I condemn the recent round of violence targeting the Ahmadi Muslim community in Pakistan. The fact that a Canadian is reportedly to be the instigator of the recent hate and violence directed at this vulnerable group is even more worrying."





Prayers will be offered in mosques throughout Canada in memory of all those who have been subjected to extremist attacks in Canada and Pakistan. Amongst the congregation at the Baitul Islam Mosque in Vaughan will be individuals from Dulmial/Chakwal in Pakistan – the locality where the mosque was attacked.

**Mr. Lal Khan Malik**, National President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada, said:

"The Chakwal attack was a targeted and premeditated campaign by supporters of Khatme Nabuwwat. This group has branches in Canada and is linked to spreading hate in this country.

"The attack followed the first ever attack by the Pakistan authorities on our headquarters in Rabwah under the guise of anti-terror laws – despite no evidence of any violence by our community in the history of our existence – where four Ahmadis were arbitrarily arrested and have been tortured in custody.

"Extremists are being given free rein in Pakistan and one must not forget that this has implications in Canada. There is heightened concern about radicalization in Canada, especially after it was found one of the culprits of the recent mob attack in Pakistan is a resident of Canada.

"We express our absolute shock and outrage at the continuous attacks upon minorities in Pakistan. Pakistan's draconian blasphemy laws and religious apartheid allows fundamentalists to peddle their hate and whip up attacks upon minorities. Ahmadiyya, along with Shias and Christians and Hindus are often the victims of such attacks.

"We call upon the international community to put pressure on Pakistan for the immediate release of the Ahmadi Muslims arrested and prevent any further attacks on the community and to ask for Pakistan to end its harassment and persecution of Ahmadi Muslims. Bringing swift justice to the perpetrators of this heinous attack is of utmost importance."

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#### About the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at is a dynamic, fast-growing international Muslim community. Founded in 1889, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community spans over 200 countries with membership exceeding tens of millions. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at is the only Islamic organization to believe that the long-awaited messiah has come in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) of Qadian, India. The Community believes that God sent Ahmad, like Jesus, to end religious wars, condemn bloodshed and reinstitute morality, justice and peace.

