

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

AHMADIYYA ---- FOREIGN MISSIONS OFFICE

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Priority – Human Rights

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Police demolish Ahmadi mosque minarets in Kharian

Kharian, District Gujrat, Punjab: The Punjab Police undertook demolition of minarets of the Ahmadiyya mosque in Kharian and removal of the *Kalima* there at about 9:30 p.m. on July 10, 2012.

Prior to this, anti-Ahmadiyya incidents happened in the district and the authorities took no action to stop malicious acts of extremist elements. An End of Prophethood rally was permitted in Kharian on June 15, 2012 in which the mullas used extremely foul language against Ahmadis and demanded demolition of the minarets of this mosque.

Two mullas, Ghazi Jalali and another applied to the police on June 26, in the name of an obscure organization, ‘Tahaffuz Islam Pakistan’, to register a criminal case against Ahmadis, and demolish the minarets. If not, the applicants threatened to do the demolition themselves.

The police obligingly moved into action, and sent for Ahmadis to explain. Ahmadis told them that the mosque was built in 1980, four years before the anti-Ahmadi law; the law did not bar Ahmadis from construction of minarets; and there is no mention of a standard design for a mosque in Shariah; as such Ahmadis had violated no law.

The police, however, told Ahmadis to demolish the minarets as demanded and threatened by the mullas. Ahmadis took the position that they could not undertake this sacrilege, nor would they allow the mullas to do that; however, if the police decided to do that Ahmadis would not resist, as it was not Ahmadis’ practice to fight the authorities.

An armed contingent of police accompanied by the staff of the municipal administration arrived at the site after dark and undertook the shameful operation. They had no court order in support of their act outside law.

The police visited the mosque again later, and demolished the remaining small minarets. The DPO, however, approved building a wall around the two big minarets. How will that be done remains an open question. Also, the police effaced the *Kalima* and other sacred writings from the mosque.

The police appear to be more adept in the art of deceptive language than maintenance of law and order and upholding fundamental rights of citizens. The SHO told the press that the action was taken “*after a mutual consensus of the parties involved and the Qadiani Community who were very cooperative.*”

According to a press report, Mr. Husain Naqi, a senior member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan said, “The police and state are not timid in such incidents, they are not even appeasing to the extremist elements but conniving with them.” The PPP Human Rights Cell reportedly “requested Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry on Friday to take *suo motu* notice of the demolition of minarets.”

This is the third major attack on Ahmadis’ places of worship this year in the Punjab. The first major incursion was in Rawalpindi, followed by violations in the provincial capital, Lahore, and the latest blow now in Kharian.

In all the above incidents, the authorities were involved in curbing the freedom of religion of Ahmadis. They violated Article 20 of the Constitution of Pakistan and also committed serious violation of Art 18 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights and also the ICCPR to which Pakistan is signatory.

It is relevant that sometimes back when the Swiss government intended some action against minarets of mosques, the Pakistani society and state were among the most vocal against such a violation of religious tradition.