



PAKISTAN: IHRC and the LANTOS FOUNDATION
CONDEMN TREATMENT OF AHMADI MUSLIMS

For immediate release

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The International Human Rights Committee (IHRC) and the Lantos Foundation condemn the recent police raid on the offices of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community headquarters in Pakistan, the first such raid since Pakistan amended its constitution 42 years ago, declaring that Ahmadis are non-Muslims and also the recent attack on the Ahmadi mosque in Chakwal, Pakistan. We urge the country's government to protect the religious freedom and basic rights of Ahmadi Muslims.

We are clearly very concerned about the recent developments and the use of anti-terrorism legislation which is being used to profile and target Ahmadis. Clearly this is not what was intended by this legislation. Let us be clear that Pakistan's anti-terrorism law should not be applied to the peaceful Ahmadiyya Muslim Community simply because they are Ahmadis.

"The Lantos Foundation joins with other human rights defenders in condemning the escalating violence and persecution directed at the Ahmadi community of Pakistan. The police raids, beatings, arrests and mob violence against the peaceful Ahmadis is outrageous and



a gross violation of fundamental human rights. We call upon the government of Pakistan to live up to the principles of religious freedom espoused by the father of Pakistan, Ali Jinnah, and protect and defend the fundamental rights of all communities of faith, including the Ahmadis who have contributed so much to the nation.”

“The IHRC has regularly noted its concerns about the state sponsored persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan which includes the basic denial of human rights such as freedom of religion and the right to vote. It is unfortunate that Pakistan's constitution and penal code, both of which impede religious freedom as they prevent Ahmadis from exercising their faith and even calling themselves Muslim. We believe such laws are inconsistent with Pakistan's international obligations and urge the government of Pakistan to reign in extremist elements and protect the religious freedom and basic rights of all members of its population, including Ahmadi Muslims.”