## *Press Release*

## Aided by the Local Administration, Miscreants Demolish the Ahmadiyya place of worship and a House of historical significance for Ahmadis in Sialkot.

## To destroy a house of God in the name of God during the holy month of Ramadan is an act that must be condemned in the strongest terms possible.

Chenab Nagar – Rabwah (Press Release) Aided and supported by the local administration, miscreants in Sialkot City demolished the Ahmadiyya place of worship along with a house of historical significance for members of the Ahmadiyya Community worldwide.

According to details, at about 11 pm on 23rd May, 2018, around 30 – 35 personnel of the Municipal Committee of Sialkot City showed up at the house of late Hakim Hassamuddin and began to demolish it while the police kept watching the vandalism going on in front of their eyes. Soon a mob of about 600 men also showed upon the spot and began to demolish the Ahmadiyya place of worship close to the house mentioned above. The mob continued the destruction up to 3 am, as no one tried to stop the barbarity. At around 4.30 am, the mob once again began demolishing and vandalizing the buildings.

Condemning the barbaric act that has taken place right during the holy month of Ramadan, Mr Saleemuddin – the spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan – said:

‘The place of worship and the house that has been demolished by the mob in Sialkot have great historical significance for members of the Ahmadiyya Communityall over the world. Both buildings have been in existence for more than a century and were, therefore, renovated a few weeks back. The Municipal Committee of Sialkot City had taken action against the renovation and sealed off the buildings. After this, the Ahmadiyya Community Pakistan was in the middle of a legal process to acquire access to the building when the local administration began to demolish the buildings without having acquired permission from the court merely to appease the extremist elements in society. This shows that the state institutions have surrendered before the elements that are exploiting the name of religion in order to gain their vested interests. Ahmadiyya places of worship have been under attack in the past as well, and so far not even a single culprit has been brought to justice.

Mr Saleemuddin further said:

‘Pakistan’s founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, made an historical speech on 11th August, 1947, whereby he issued a policy statement saying *every Pakistani is free to go to his place of worship*. It is indeed sad that today the golden principles enunciated by the founder of the country are being trampled underfoot. Hence, the state should come forward and provide security to the Ahmadi places of worship and bring to justice the hooligans. Also, it should compensate the damage that has been caused to the buildings and amounts to millions of rupees.

End