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Flash — Human Rights

F A X
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Spate of murderous violence against Ahmadis in Pakistan

We regret to report that Mr. Meraj Ahmad, Ahmadi of Peshawar was shot dead at about 9 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 by unidentified assassins, near his business. He was a well-known practicing Ahmadi of good reputation. He had received threats in the recent past and faced hostile propaganda on Facebook. This was reported to authorities.

Mr. Meraj Ahmad was 61. He left behind a widow, three sons and one daughter a student in medical college.

A few days earlier, Mr. Tahir Naseem, presumed to be Ahmadi, facing blasphemy charge, was murdered in a court room in Peshawar in the presence of the judge. In fact he had committed no blasphemy but claimed to be a sort of prophet and reformer. He was a U.S. citizen. His murder was upheld by some mullas and far-right elements. Hardly any high-level state authority condemned the ghastly murder.

Two days ago, Sheikh Nasir Ahmad, Ahmadi of Lala Musa, District Gujrat, Punjab was shot at 21:30 hr by unidentified attackers, when he was walking back home from the bazaar. The attackers achieved four hits and fled from the scene of crime. He was rushed to a hospital where he survived, although his fracture in pelvis will take time to heal.

In our opinion these and such other incidents are happening partly due to the insensitivity and heedless attitude of political authorities towards Ahmadis' human rights. Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan, a federal minister of state released a video statement: **"Qadianiat basically is a great mischief (*Fitna*) against Islam We are soldiers of *Khatme Nabuwat* (End of Prophethood) and *Shane Risalat* (Honor of Messengership)."** UCAnews quoted him: **"Beheading is the only punishment for those who mock Prophet Muhammad."** (ucanews.com/news/Pakistan-minister-calls-). Another federal minister Mr. Azam Swati stated in public last year in November: **"I curse them (*Ahmadis*), and Imran Khan also curses Qadianiat."** Similarly Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, President of the official Ulama Board Punjab asserted in an open multi-religious meeting: **"... I am not willing to accept them in the country....To speak against Qadianis is Religious Harmony."** (<https://youtu-be/rGTeEG3or7K>)