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PRESS RELEASE

Ruthless murders of Ahmadis continue unabated in Pakistan

The targeted killings of Ahmadis continue unabated and has risen in its intensity recently. As a result of the recently concerted hate campaign against members of the Ahmadiyya community throughout Pakistan the mullahs and their accomplices are out campaigning and inciting people to kill Ahmadis without any restraint. Ahmadis, on account of their faith, belief and practice have not only been declared non-Muslims under the government legislation, but they are brutally persecuted, tortured and killed in the name of religion.

On Wednesday August 12 2020, a 61 year old Ahmadi Meraj Ahmad was shot dead by religious fanatics. He had received threats recently and was told to give up his faith or face death. There was hostile propaganda against him on Facebook. The matter was reported to the police and other law-enforcement agencies, but it was all ignored and according to reports even after his murder, no serious action has been taken so far.

During the same week, another Ahmadi Sheikh Nasir Ahmad was shot in Lala Musa, district Gujrat by unidentified attackers. He was known as a very kind and helpful person in the area where he lived. He was walking home from the market when he was shot four times and the attackers fled from the scene of crime. He was taken to a hospital where he is reported to have received life-threatening injuries.

Prior to this, Tahir Naseem, an American citizen, who was facing blasphemy charges was murdered in a courtroom in Peshawar in the presence of the Judge. The murderer is being hailed in Pakistan as an Islamic hero and he openly announced that he has killed a "Qadiani" (Ahmadi). The extent of anti-Ahmadi sentiment is now so entrenched into the fabric of Pakistani society that even members of the security forces took pictures with the murderer as killing of Ahmadis is seen as a religiously meritoriously act.

Ahmadis remain vulnerable in every corner of Pakistan and the government of Pakistan is shamefully failing in its duty to curb the hate mongering and torturous persecution of Ahmadis. Both the Police and Judiciary completely ignore criminal cases against Ahmadis and in fact embolden extremist elements and legitimise their ferocious acts against Ahmadis which in several instances leads to the murder of members of the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan.

Pakistan professes to champion human rights and protect the rights of minorities. Nothing could be further from the truth. The reality is that the draconian anti-Ahmadi laws mandates the persecution and killing of Ahmadis. The State is complicit in this resulting in killing of Ahmadis on the basis of their faith, belief and practice.

Once again, we urge the international community to take up this issue seriously with the government of Pakistan to ensure it fulfils its responsibilities towards its citizens and bring this blood bath of Ahmadis in Pakistan to an end.

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