



Pakistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 21 February 2011

Any reports of Ahmadiyya children being harmed or targeted or discriminated against in Pakistan because of their religion? Specially if their father is open about Ahmadi religion? Any reports of Ahmadiyya children being excluded from schools or education because of their religion?

The 2010 *United States Department of State* country report on Pakistan, in a section titled “Freedom of Religion”, states:

“There were no developments in the 2007 case in which an Intelligence Bureau district officer ordered the arrest of five Ahmadis, including two minors, after a teacher discovered the minors carrying an Ahmadi children's magazine. After the case received wide media coverage, the charges were dropped but then re-filed in February 2007 against two adults.” (United States Department of State (11 March 2010) *2009 Human Rights Report: Pakistan*)

A *Daily Times* article states:

“Ahmadis in a Layyah village are facing a social boycott after four children from the minority community were detained on charges of blasphemy last week. Shopkeepers in Chak 172/TDA refuse to deal with Ahmadis and 10 students of a private tuition centre have been expelled because of their faith. Handbills distributed in the village tell the Ahmadis to leave by February 9, and the local MNA's uncle heads the 'movement' against the community, locals said. The children and a 45-year-old fifth suspect have denied the charges –of writing blasphemous material in the latrines of the central Gulzar-e-Madina mosque – and the local police station house officer, Khalid Rauf, said there were no witnesses and no evidence. The children were charged ostensibly because of their faith. Rauf said the case was registered because the complainants believed no Muslims could possibly commit blasphemy. The imam of the mosque has said his January 27 statement about the children's involvement was made under pressure from a group of people that included the local head of the banned Jamaatud Dawa and some local journalists.” (Daily Times (4 February 2009) *Blasphemy charge on four children: Ahmadis face social boycott in Layyah village*)

A *Daily Press* article states:

“The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community confirmed that five members of its community residing in Chak 172/TDA, District Layyah, Pakistan have been arrested and charged under Section 295-C of the Pakistani Penal Code. Four of the accused are children. Under the terms of Section 295-C any person found guilty is subject to either the death penalty or life imprisonment.” (Daily Press (23 February 2009) *Ahmadi children arrested in Pakistan*)

A fact-finding mission report published by the *United Kingdom Parliament Human Rights Group*, in a section titled “Areas where discrimination against Ahmadis is institutionalised by law or state policy” (paragraph headed “De-nationalisation of schools policy”), states:

“In Rabwah the Mission was told that in Pakistan all private educational institutions that had been nationalised, have by now been returned to private ownership as part of a de-nationalisation policy. However, Ahmadiyya educational institutions have not been de-nationalised. In the course of its visit to Rabwah the Mission saw the site of an empty, abandoned school, owned by the Ahmdaiyya community but not permitted to be used as a school.” (United Kingdom Parliament, House of Commons All-Party Group (24 September 2010) *Report of the PHRG Fact Finding Mission to Pakistan to Examine the Human Rights Situation of the Ahmadiyya Community*, p.36)

References:

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted:

Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Google
Human Rights Watch
Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
International Federation for Human Rights
IRIN News
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
United Kingdom Home Office
United Kingdom Parliamentary Human Rights Group
UNHCR Refworld
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