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**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related
forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation
of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

Written statement* submitted by Action Aides aux Familles Demunies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 May 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Desecration of Ahmadiyya's Prayer Hall

Pakistan was formed a homeland for the muslims of then British India. However, not all the muslims are accepted as muslims by Pakistani society. As a result they face untold discrimination.

The discrimination against Ahmediyas is an issue that has been raised in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Parliament. Answering a question, the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland answered as follows:

“Protecting freedom of religion or belief for minority communities continues to be central to the UK Government's human rights engagement in Pakistan. The Minister of State for South Asia, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, raised the treatment of Ahmadi Muslims with Pakistan's Minister for Human Rights, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, on 30 January. On 9 January, Minister of State for Development Andrew Mitchell raised this issue with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The British High Commission in Islamabad continues to engage at a senior level with government representatives and civil society, including on recent attacks on Ahmadi mosques.”

However, the intervention of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland does not seem to have been sufficient. A shocking incident of desecration of a Ahmadiyya mosque in Karachi has surfaced. As reported in media:-

“Ahmadi mosque in Pakistan's Karachi was allegedly desecrated by unknown attackers on Friday (February 3). A video of the incident, which is said to have happened in the Saddar area, has gone viral on social media forums. In the video, the attackers wearing helmets can be seen vandalising the mosque reportedly in the presence of police.

Media reports have stated that the group of miscreants were allegedly from the extremist group Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), but the exact date of the attack is not clear.

The Rise News, a non-profit news organisation, tweeted that "Qadiani prayer place being attacked by extremists in Karachi, Hashoo Market Saddar".

This is the second such incident in a month as the minarets of Ahmadi Jamaat Khata on Jamshed Road in Karachi were demolished earlier. In Pakistan, such hate incidents against the Ahmadiyya community are quite common.”

This comes on the heels of an incident where the grave of Pakistan's first nobel laureate – Abdus Salam was desecrated for being an Ahmadiyya. The religious nature of the crime was clear from the nature of the defacement.

As reported by BBC:

“Abdus Salam may be Pakistan's first and only Nobel prize winner for his work in theoretical physics, but he was an Ahmadi and his gravestone has been defaced to remove the word Muslim.”

Pakistan should be urged to tackle the deep seated hatred in sections of society towards the Ahmadiyyas.

1. <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-17/146837>

2. <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/watch-ahmadi-mosque-in-pakistans-karachi-desecrated-by-unknown-attackers-558647>