

<http://www.freedomtalk.net>/Monitors Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Expression in Pakistan. Pakistan has formed the National Commission for Minorities (NCM), excluding the Muslim-minority Ahmadiyya community from NCM. The government of Pakistan openly incited hatred, and the partisan media widely used TV shows to air hate-speech against long-prosecuted and targeted Ahmadiyya (Qadyani) minority. Pakistani Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony, Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, claimed that the “sympathizers and supporters of the Muslim-minority Ahmadiyya minority can never be loyal to Islam and Pakistan,” in a TV show hosted by Nadeem Malik. Another Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Ali Muhammad Khan, used his verified Twitter account (@Ali_MuhammadPTI), reiterating a long-standing demand of religious fanatics to behead the blasphemers while commenting on the inclusion of Muslim minority Ahmadiyya and Shia-Hazara community, in the Minorities Rights Commission. Details <http://www.freedomtalk.net/home.html>

The Ahmadis are one of the most persecuted minorities in Pakistan. A former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, has declared Ahmadiyya or Qadyani as non-Muslim in 1974. Since then, hundreds of the members of the Ahmadiyya community have been killed, thrown in jails, and deprived of employment opportunities. Tens of thousands have left Pakistan. Since the declaration, the Ahmadiyya community subjected to continuous persecution and discrimination by the succeeding governments and vigilantes.

Since 2018, at least 515 members of the Shia-Hazara minorities have been killed and an estimated 700 injured in Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan. The community has limited mobility and self-restricted activities, fearing deadly attacks.

There are many tragic and painful stories of brutal killings linked to false accusations of blasphemy, such as Christian couple Shama and Shahzad, who were burnt alive in a kiln, and people like Asia Bibi, Junaid Hafeez and Wajeeh-ul-Hassan who spent several years in jail over blasphemy in Pakistan.

Both Muslims and non-Muslim minorities live with the fear of being arbitrarily accused of blasphemy. In 2019, at least 26 occurrences of Blasphemy or targeting Muslims and non-Muslim minorities were committed while many cases were not reported in Pakistan. In January 2020, Islamabad and Multan Bar Association barred Ahmadis from membership. Later, Islamabad Bar retracted the notification, but anti-minority sentiments strongly flared up. Pakistani courts have started validating forced conversions and legalizing kidnappers marrying teenaged girls such as a 14-year-old Christian girl Huma Younus, and a Hindu teenaged girl, Mehak Kumari.

JOIN OUR CALL TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN; IMRAN KHAN TO INCLUDE AHMADIYYA AND OTHER PERSECUTED MINORITIES LIKE SHIA-HAZARA IN THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES (NCM).

Real democracy is not possible without full restoration of Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Expression in Pakistan.

We at <http://www.freedomtalk.net/> are very grateful for your cooperation!

<http://www.freedomtalk.net/> has successfully intervened and protested in such cases voluntarily, and responding to the calls of our colleagues.