

PRESS RELEASE

AHMADI MUSLIM MURDERED IN PAKISTAN

It is with great sadness that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat confirms that yet another member of its Community has lost his life in a senseless attack in Pakistan. Mr Saeed Ahmad, 55, from Kotri in the Sindh Province has been murdered for no other reason than for his faith. He becomes the 96th martyr of Ahmadiyyat since the infamous anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinances were issued in 1984 during the Presidency of General Zia-ul-Haq.

On the evening of 19th January 2009, Mr Ahmad had returned from work and was about to enter his home when a person waiting for him fired a shotgun directly at his head. Mr Ahmad died there and then.

The assassin fled the scene and although a case has been registered at the local police station, no person has been arrested thus far.

The deceased leaves behind his wife and four children. He was a much loved member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat and was kind and compassionate in his manner towards all.

The Press Spokesman of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Abid Khan said:

“The religious extremists within Pakistan have taken yet another innocent life. What they do not realise is that through their actions they are harming the entire peace and stability of Pakistan as a nation. They say that they are defending their religion, yet they fail to realise that their actions are in direct contradiction to the peaceful teachings of Islam.

In 2008 prominent members of the Jamaat were killed throughout the year and upon the dawn of a new year the extremists have not waited long to continue with their barbaric acts.”

Persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat is not limited to incidents of this kind. Due to the influence of Mullah’s (religious extremists) all forms of the media in Pakistan continually propagate and promote hatred of the Jamaat. In September 2008, GEO Television broadcast an edition of its programme ‘Aalim Online’ in which a number of Mullahs openly promoted hatred and violence towards the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat.

The International Community, Media and Human Rights organisations are all urged to take action to safeguard the basic human and civil rights of Ahmadi Muslims both in Pakistan and in other countries where they face discrimination. In an era where freedom of religion and belief is accepted as a basic human right throughout the world it is of disbelief that anti-Ahmadiyya legislation is still active and indeed still being enforced in Pakistan.

End of Release

(Further info: Abid Khan, Press Secretary (44) 07795490682)