

**PRESS RELEASE**

**UPDATE ON SITUATION IN DISTRICT LAYYAH, PAKISTAN**

Further to Press Releases issued on 30<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat confirms that the situation in District Layyah, Pakistan continues to deteriorate. Although there are elements within the local community who are supportive of the Jamaat, the pressure of the local Mullahs<sup>1</sup> is such that the situation is becoming increasingly tense.

The four children arrested by the authorities on fabricated charges under section 295-C of the Pakistani Penal Code were moved to Dera Ghazi District Jail on 4<sup>th</sup> February. Even though they have been in custody for over a week they continue to be denied access to Jamaat officials and to their family. An official at the Jail has said that some limited access to family will be granted in the near future however until such meetings actually occur, doubt remains.

A natural consequence of the continued detention of the children is that they are falling behind in their studies. They are all due to sit exams in one month and therefore are all concerned at their lack of preparation and schooling.

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<sup>1</sup> Extremist clerics

In a further worrying move the local Mullahs have announced that a large scale rally will be held at Chak TDA/172 in opposition to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat. It is more than likely that this event will be used to incite hatred against the Jamaat and to urge people to act against Ahmadis. The organisers of this event are inviting people from nearby cities such as Dera Isamael Khan and Muzafargarh to take part in this rally. The local authorities and police are seriously concerned about the event which they fear they will be unable to control.

Ahmadi Muslims throughout the world are urged to write to their local media and officials in protest of what is happening in District Layyah.

The International Community is once again urged to take immediate action.

**End of Release**

Further Info: Abid Khan, [press@ahmadiyya.org.uk](mailto:press@ahmadiyya.org.uk) / (44) 07795490682