

27 August 2008

PERSECUTION REPORT

DATE OF INCIDENT

Night of 21 / 22 August 2008

PLACE OF INCIDENT

Saharanpur, U.P. State, India

VICTIMS

- 1) Hameed-ullah Khan Afghani
- 2) Zakir Khan
- 3) Muhammad Afzal
- 4) Shoaib Muhammad
- 5) Majid Ahmad
- 6) Munir Ahmad

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

There are few Ahmadi families in the town of Saharanpur in U.P. State, India. They live very much in the minority and are surrounded by non-Ahmadi Muslims and two local Madrassas. In the recent past the Ahmadi families have felt an increase in the opposition they have faced from local non-Ahmadis, as a result of their faith. In this respect the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has previously informed the local authorities.

On 19 August 2008 an extreme and fanatical cleric by the name of Maulvi Habib-ur-Rehman from Ludhiana went to Saharanpur and incited people at a rally with a hate filled speech regarding the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Thereafter on the night of 21/22 August 2008 the homes of three Ahmadis in Saharanpur were attacked. The homes belonged to Messrs Hameed-ullah Khan Afghani, Zakir Khan and Muhammad Afzal. Much damage was caused to all three properties and left the victims and their families greatly traumatised.

The aforementioned Muhammad Afzal is 60 years old and was physically attacked and suffered severe head injuries. At the point where his assailants mistakenly thought he had died they fled the scene. However before leaving they burnt two of his personal vehicles and looted precious and valuable items from his home.

Other Ahmadis who have faced opposition in recent weeks include Messrs Shoaib Muhammad, Majid Ahmad and Munir Ahmad who have all recently joined the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

ACTION

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in India has met with senior officials with regard the incidents that have taken place. The local police has apologised for the fact that it was not aware of the significant danger the local Ahmadis were in. They are insistent that they will take action, though the assailants remain at large currently.

End of Report

For more information:

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