



Mob-led destruction of churches in Jaranwala, Punjab

An HRCP fact-finding report



Human Rights Commission of Pakistan



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Introduction

On 16 August 2023, an attack was perpetrated on the Christian community in tehsil Jaranwala in Faisalabad district. In a single day, at least 24 churches and several dozen smaller chapels as well as scores of houses in 11 different localities of the town were torched and looted. The attacks followed rumours and allegations of blasphemy against a Christian man that circulated early in the morning in Christian Town (also known as Cinema Basti) in Jaranwala. Following announcements and calls for action by Muslims from mosque loudspeakers, thousands of men gathered in the town, attacking Christian churches and houses in multiple locations.

Initiated by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), a mission comprising representatives of HRCP, the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) and the Women's Action Forum (WAF) conducted a solidarity and fact-finding mission to Jaranwala on 17 August 2023. HRCP chairperson Hina Jilani, CSJ executive director Peter Jacob, senior WAF member Neelam Hussain, and historian and minorities' rights activist Dr Yaqoob Bangash led the mission. The mission was accompanied by Ali Haider (HRCP), Kashif Aslam and Yasir Talib (CSJ).

The primary aim of the mission was to show solidarity with the victim community and to ascertain the facts surrounding the brutal attacks that targeted the Christian community in Jaranwala on 16 August, in which their places of worship were burnt down, holy book and religious symbols desecrated, and homes burnt and looted. The fact-finding team visited four sites which came under attack and met survivors from the affected localities and other people in the area. The mission also spoke to members of the police and civil administration in order to gauge their assessment of the incidents and assess their response in controlling the situation.

The mission thanks all those who provided information on these incidents as well as members of the police and local administration who gave the team their time and put forward their assessment of the situation.

Background information

According to data compiled by the CSJ, 51 attacks took place against Christian settlements and churches between 1997 and 2016, including 22 terrorist attacks and the remaining attacks by mobs and individuals (Appendix 1). As a result of these attacks, 69 churches were desecrated and hundreds of houses damaged. Between 2016 and 2023, no major attack was reported on Christian churches. However, Hindu and Ahmadiyya places of worship were attacked a number of times in various parts of the country during this period.

The incidents that occurred in Jaranwala on 16 August 2023 present a pattern replicating what happened in Shanti Nagar in 1997, Sangla Hill in 2005, and Gojra and Korian in 2009, among numerous other incidents in which mobs gathered, following provocative announcements of alleged acts of blasphemy, usually emanating from mosques or centres run by organized Islamic religious groups. The failure of the police and administration to stop mob violence—inflicting harm on members of Christian communities, causing fatalities in some cases, committing arson and looting properties, desecrating churches and damaging Christian homes—has been a recurring concern for the human rights community in Pakistan.

Information received by the mission

About 500 families reside in the city of Jaranwala itself, while hundreds more dot the neighbouring villages, making them a small but visible community. A concentration of about 300 families reside in the Christian town/Essa Nagri area while others are mixed neighbourhoods, with different communities in other parts of the city. A large proportion of the community works in either the municipal government or in various factories around the city, with a small number in white-collar jobs.



From the information received by the mission, it appears that, at about 5 AM, a woman in one locality of the town claimed she had found allegedly blasphemous material affixed to a gas meter outside the house of two brothers in the same locality. Allegations against the two brothers spread throughout the town and by 6.30 AM, local leaders of a religious party—reportedly the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP)—accompanied by several people, approached the police to register a case against the two accused.

The local police, led by the Superintendent of Police (SP) Bilal Suleri, held a meeting with representatives of the TLP and local peace committee and attempted to diffuse the situation. The mission was informed that, in the meanwhile, reports of the growing tension reached different areas and Christian residents fled their homes, fearing imminent violence.

At the same time, announcements continued to be made from different mosques calling on Muslims to gather and take action against the alleged blasphemy. As attested by several eyewitnesses and as mentioned in FIR no. 1260/23, the first announcement was made by Yasin s/o Shafi at 9.20 AM from Mehtab Mosque, followed by announcements from several other mosque loudspeakers calling on people to gather. The language used in these announcements contained abusive language against Christians and incited violence.

By 7 AM, a crowd had begun to gather at the police station and a first information report (FIR) was registered against the two accused, Raja Saleem Masih and Rocky Masih. The police also tried to pacify the crowd and asked the leaders not to react and to give the police time to arrest the accused. It appears that the station house officer, who visited the locality where the accused lived, discovered that they had already fled their home.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations, Faisalabad, Dr Rizwan, told the mission that he was informed of the developing situation by about 8 AM, whereupon he left for Jaranwala and instructed other police officers to reach there. En route, he was informed that SP Bilal Suleri had reached an agreement with the leaders of the Muslim groups that they would wait for the police to arrest the accused and not take any reactive action to disturb law and order in the area. The SSP, nevertheless, reached the 'band gali' area, where the two brothers lived at about 9.15 AM. He stated that a large crowd had already gathered in that area and several properties, including churches and smaller chapels and houses, had already been set ablaze by the crowd. Churches were being vandalized and private property looted everywhere in that locality. The SSP stated that he called for reinforcements, as at this stage he had only 12 police personnel with him and his efforts to control the crowd had become ineffective.

Reportedly, by this time, many other Christian localities in the town had also been attacked by violent crowds who torched and desecrated several churches and small chapels as well as burning and looting private homes. One such crowd had gathered outside the home of the assistant commissioner, Shaukat Masih who, as a Christian, was a target of the violence being perpetrated by the gathering crowds. The assistant commissioner and his family were, however, evacuated and shifted to a place of safety by the police.

Reinforcements to support the local police reached Jaranwala and the majority of localities under attack were cleared of rioters and arsonists by noon. Reportedly, crowds continued to gather nonetheless and were not dispersed till late in the evening. The Rangers were called in and took charge of the operations by 9 PM, when peace and order was finally restored in the town.

The extent of the damage

By the time the last fire had been put out in Jaranwala, at least 24 churches, several pastors' houses and over 80 homes had been burnt to the ground (Appendix 2).

The attacks were not just limited to Jaranwala city, but also engulfed nearby villages where a systematic attack was perpetrated on Christian places of worship. The destroyed churches belonged to several Christian denominations, including the Catholic Church, the Presbyterian Church, Salvation Army, Church of Pakistan and various Pentecostal and Congregational churches.

The houses that were gutted included the home of the two accused brothers. The whole street, known as 'band gali', was torched, destroying over a dozen houses. Several adjacent streets were also attacked where Christian households were clearly singled out for attack. In Essa Nagri, many houses next to the churches



and chapels were attacked and their contents set on fire, while the boundary wall of the graveyard opposite a church was demolished. A similar pattern occurred in all the adjoining villages where places of worship were attacked.

The mission's findings

The timeline above highlights several critical issues, many of which are neither new nor surprising, but are part of a longer trajectory. Such incidents indicate weakening rule of law and governance as well as social safety nets in Pakistan. This affects the most vulnerable and marginalized groups more severely than others.

The use of blasphemy allegations to perpetrate mob violence against religious minorities is a recurring phenomenon that has exposed not only the poor capacity of the state to prevent loss of life and property, but also the absence of a sound policy for preventing religiously motivated crimes.

Impunity for spreading religious hatred against non-Muslim communities and for inciting violence has encouraged religiously motivated groups to organize and orchestrate situations such as those witnessed more recently in Jaranwala, but also in several other incidents in the past. Not only have Christian churches and communities come under attack, but Hindu temples and Ahmadiyya places of worship have also been attacked.

The mission has, in particular, noted the role of imams of the mosques from where violence was incited. This is now a common practice in religiously motivated crimes, particularly in the killing of persons against whom allegations of blasphemy have been made. Many such allegations lack any concrete evidence and are spread through mosques to raise religious frenzy that precedes mob attacks against minority communities.

From the information gathered from locals and conversation with the administration, the mission cannot rule out the suspicion that this was not a spontaneous or random crowd, but part of a larger campaign of hatred against the local Christians. Police officers have confirmed that some Muslim religious groups have raised issues that have created communal tension in the near past, although none culminated in the disastrous attacks that occurred on 16 August. The mission has also learnt that several videos made during the attacks in different localities of Jaranwala are in circulation, showing members of a particular religious political party inciting the crowd to violence. Other factors reported above indicate that there could be larger political and social motives behind the attack.

Numerous witnesses stated that many of those who committed the arson were not from the city itself but had come from the adjoining villages. One person attested that a tractor trolley full of people as well as several persons on motorbikes had arrived from a village, transporting men who then burnt down a church and houses, thus giving more credibility to the notion that the attack was premeditated.

The mission's inspection of the damage by fire points towards planned arson and deliberate desecration of religious symbols, even though the looting of homes may have been more opportunistic.

The mission also appreciates the role of some of the Muslim residents of neighbourhoods that came under attack. Members of the victim community in some neighbourhoods informed the mission of efforts made by their Muslim neighbours to help them evacuate in time before the attackers reached their locality. In Cinema Basti, neighbours from the Shia community came to victims' aid the day their neighbourhood was attacked.

Role of the police

The mission fully recognizes the operational difficulties that the police may have confronted in a small town with meagre administrative and law enforcement resources to deal with a situation of widespread violence. Nevertheless, the information gathered by the mission raises some concerns with respect to the timeliness of the response as well as weaknesses in the strategy employed by law enforcement personnel to restrain the crowd and limit the spread of its mischief and violence.

It appears that the local SP was unable to assess the seriousness of the situation and did not fully apprise himself of the situation that was brewing outside while he was closeted with those who were in negotiations focused on demands for the arrest of the persons accused of blasphemy. It is unfortunate that he remained uninformed of the announcements from mosques and of crowds coming into town from outlying villages.



Had he been both more vigilant and more astute in correctly assessing the genuineness of the negotiating groups, he would have been able to warn his superiors of the threatening climate being created by the crowds determined to wreak violence against the Christian population and their places of worship. His assurances to the SSP that the situation was under control resulted in failure to procure sufficient reinforcements in time to restrain the crowd, which had gone on a rampage of arson, vandalism, looting and desecration of churches and holy symbols.

The SSP justified his restraint in using force against the violent crowd, claiming this was done to prevent the situation from escalating, had any casualties occurred at the hands of the police. The mission does understand that such restraint in confined spaces to prevent any casualties may have some genuine grounds. We are, nevertheless, aware that these crowds were moving from one locality to another and law enforcement personnel had sufficient opportunities to deploy the necessary force to disperse the crowds and to prevent mischief from spreading. It is our considered opinion that there was an inexplicable holding back on the part of the police despite clear evidence of the level of violence that merited the use of force proportionate to the havoc that these crowds were creating. Neither tear gas nor any other methods to restrain or disperse the mob seem to have been deployed in any of the affected localities. The only reason that no deaths occurred at the hands of these violent crowds was that, being pre-warned, the residents of the localities under attack had fled these areas.

Several hours elapsed between the situation escalating and the arrival of police reinforcements. It seems that it took over ten hours from the requisitioning of the Rangers to their arrival. This operational delay gave the mobs enough time to go on a rampage against churches, houses and one cemetery.

The mission also heard reports that, in some areas, the police stood by and did not take any action against the attackers. While police numbers were certainly low at the start, it is difficult to understand why police personnel chose to stand aside while a mob indulged freely in arson and looting.

The mission attributes the police's hesitation in taking definitive and deterrent action against religiously motivated crowds—especially mobs led by certain religious political parties—to the ambiguity in state policies and lack of clarity in general instructions given to law enforcement personnel for dealing with such situations.

Transfer of the Christian assistant commissioner in Jaranwala

Shaukat Masih Sindhu, a Grade 17 officer of the Provincial Management Service, had been posted as assistant commissioner to Jaranwala Tehsil since 2022. He too became a target of the religious groups leading the mobs because he was a Christian. He and his family had to be evacuated from their home, ostensibly to save their lives. The mission heard that his removal from his post as assistant commissioner had been a demand of some of the local Muslim religious groups even before the 16 August attacks.

The mission finds it highly objectionable that Mr Sindhu's transfer notification stated it was being done on 'administrative grounds'. This gives the impression that his removal from his post was a result of some default on his part in rendering service. This is unfair and needs immediate rectification by issuing a clarification to clear him of any blame. While it was proper to evacuate him when his life was in danger, it was just as necessary to respect his dignity and reputation. The manner of his summary removal from his post was not fair execution of an administrative necessity to protect a civil servant. It is also noteworthy that none of the high officials of state who visited Jaranwala mentioned the threats to this official and showed regret that this had necessitated his transfer. The visiting dignitaries should have condemned these threats and warned that appropriate action would be taken against those responsible for such threats to government officials.

Arrest of the perpetrators of the attack

The senior police officers who spoke to the mission confirmed that over 130 people have been arrested. Nine juveniles were also arrested, who were later released into the custody of their parents as per the law. At least five FIRs have been initiated against those arrested, citing several provisions of the Pakistan Penal Code, including the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997, sections (i)(g)(h)(d), 295A, 452, 324, 353, 426, 427, 186 and 153 and the Sound Systems Regulation Act.



While a number of people have been apprehended—and we are told that more arrests will be made—the local political leaders who incited and led the violence have yet to be booked. It should be ensured that none of the police officers who were in dereliction of their duty to protect the Christian population are in any way connected with the investigation into the 16 August mob-led attacks.

Aftermath

The incident has been widely condemned throughout the country, including by political parties and their leadership, the Christian religious leadership and community as well as by leaders of all religions, civil society, law enforcement officials and the public at large. As soon as news of the attacks on Christians in Jaranwala spread, reactions began to pour in. The chief secretary and inspector general of police, Punjab, arrived by nightfall the same day and took stock of the situation. Both the caretaker prime minister and caretaker chief minister, Punjab, visited Jaranwala to show solidarity with the victim community and promised justice by holding those responsible accountable for these attacks as well as compensation for the victims commensurate with their losses. They have also promised to repair all the churches that were damaged.

Even though a number of perpetrators have been arrested, fear among the Christian population of Jaranwala is preventing an easy return to normalcy. The first night after the attacks, many of them slept in the open, while others sought shelter with friends and family. Hundreds have nothing to come back for as all their belongings have either been burnt or looted. Several houses have also become uninhabitable and will have to be torn down and rebuilt.

A delegation comprising Hina Jilani, Peter Jacob, advocate Saqib Jillani, Dr Yaqoob Bangash and Maheen Pracha held a meeting with the caretaker chief minister of Punjab and the inspector general of police, Punjab, on 24 August 2023 and conveyed the preliminary findings of the mission to Jaranwala. They were assured that the mission's recommendations would be given due consideration in the ongoing investigations and in devising policies for better protection of minority communities.

HRCP and CSJ will continue to monitor the implementation of all promises held out to the affected population in Jaranwala.

Recommendations

1. As HRCP has demanded repeatedly, the blasphemy laws have to be reviewed so that they are not misused against individuals or any religious minority. Not only should it be far more difficult to bring forward charges under these laws, but investigations should also be carried out in a fair and transparent manner so that the accused are given a fair hearing. The law also needs to provide a punishment for making false accusations.
2. Policies and strategies to deal with organized extremist groups should be devised, especially with regard to enforcement of law and order, so that these groups, whether political or religious, are neither able nor allowed to undermine the writ of the state or constitutional guarantees of protection of religious minorities.
3. We urge the Punjab government to take measures to implement the recommendations of the judicial inquiry held after the tragic communal riots in Gojra in 2009.¹ Impunity for organized Muslim religious groups that openly declare their intentions of violent action against any community or individual should be held accountable in accordance with laws against hate crimes and incitement to violence.
4. Escalation into violence often occurs when the police fails to ensure the writ of the state. Clear mechanisms need to be devised on how to deal with such situations, with the stipulation that, if matters get out of hand, the extent of force permitted within the law should be used.
5. While the government has claimed that the perpetrators will be brought to justice, this has often not been the case in the past. No one has been held liable for the Gojra killings of 2009, while all those

¹ https://csjpak.org/pdf/Recommendations_of_Gojra_judicial_Inquiry_report.pdf



accused of burning down Joseph Colony in 2017 have also been released prematurely. Deterrence of such violent action by mobs can only be possible where the law is applied strictly and perpetrators are held fully accountable for their actions. Nothing less than this will instil confidence in the Christian residents of Jaranwala or other minorities who are feeling even more vulnerable and insecure in the wake of the violence in Jaranwala.

6. The government must take stern action against any instances of hate speech against any community, be it on the basis of religion, ethnicity, sectarian or caste differences. The mission has been made aware of videos, in which a number of people, especially from a particular religious party, are still spewing slurs and inciting violence against members of the Christian community—not only in Jaranwala but also throughout Pakistan. Measures need to be taken and those indulging in hate speech should be apprehended, investigated and sentenced.
7. The government needs to take urgent measures to compensate the victim community and rebuild the Christian neighbourhoods damaged in Jaranwala. The announcement to this effect by the caretaker prime minister on 21 August in Jaranwala is certainly welcome, but the government must ensure that the compensation money is commensurate with the damage and is disbursed swiftly. Rebuilding the churches and houses damaged also needs to commence immediately and finished in good time.
8. The assistant commissioner, Shaukat Masih Sindhu, escaped the violence intended against him, but could not escape what appears, *prima facie*, as unfair treatment. He must receive redress and the administration must publicly clarify the notification issued to remove any impression that his removal from his post and transfer resulted from any fault on his part. More generally, the mission also recommends that the civil service take concrete steps to build the confidence of its members from non-Muslim backgrounds, so that they are able to serve their country without fear that their religion will become a hinderance in carrying out their duties.
9. More than anything, the Jaranwala incident exhibits how broken Pakistani society has become. Hatred towards this small and impoverished community was patent during the team's visit and several people complained of discrimination both socially and in access to services and opportunities. Concerted efforts need to be made through education, religious training, peace-building groups and other measures to create interfaith harmony, understanding and mutual respect. Only then will members of the Christian community and other minorities feel they are an integral part of the polity.
10. In the past several years, there has been little effort to implement the directives of the 2014 Supreme Court judgment handed down by Justice Tassaduq Jilani. A one-man commission under Dr Shoaib Suddle has been functioning for several years to ensure its implementation, but many of its directives—including one that states a separate police force is to be created to protect religious minorities' places of worship—have yet to be implemented. If this specific directive had been made operational, there is a good chance that the attacks of 16 August on churches in Jaranwala could have been prevented or, at the very least, contained. The mission recognizes that this is a mammoth task requiring both financial and human resources, but the social and political trends that have caused extreme insecurity among the non-Muslim population and are a gross violation of the fundamental right to religious freedom and guarantee of protection of minorities in Pakistan, have made it both urgent and necessary to initiate such a measure.



Appendix 1: Attacks on religious minorities, places of worship, settlements and graveyards (1997–2015)

Table 1: Mob violence and attacks on places of worship

#	Incident	Instigation/Motive	Victims/Damage	District	Date Reported	Source
1	Organized mob attack	Blasphemy	14 churches, schools, houses	Shantinagar, Khanewal	06/02/97	HRM 1998
2	Attack on church	Hatred	Glass panes of church windows broken by heavy firing	Jhelum	04/05/01	Daily Jang
3	Attack on Seventh Day Adventist church	Religious intolerance/terror	Assailants entered church during a prayer service, climbed the altar, and threatened the pastor to stop prayers or the Church and houses would be demolished	Dawood Nagar, Faisalabad	16/06/01	HRM 2002/03
4	Mob attack on place of worship (Ahmadiyya)	Hatred	Ransacked the place, broke the TV set & dish receiver & set some articles on fire	Syedwala, Sheikhpura	28/08/01	Daily Dawn
5	Attack on Ahmadis	Hatred	Killed five & injured six Ahmadi worshipers	Ghalotian, Sialkot	10/10/02	Daily Pakistan
6	Attack on church	Jealousy	Attacked a family & 2 Churches & nearby shops	Mohammad Abid, Colony, Karachi	12/11/04	Jehd-e-Haq
7	Attack on churches and schools	Blasphemy allegation	2 Churches, Christian houses, a convent, a girl's hostel, a school building	Sangla Hill	11/11/05	NCJP report 2006
8	Attack on church	Hatred	Three Bible & a wooden rack were guttered	Jivanpura, - Lahore	02/02/06	MCP
9	Attack on churches	Blasphemy allegation	2 Churches, 1 school & Pastor's House burnt	Sukkar	19/02/06	HRM 2007
10	Attack on Ahmadis	Blasphemy allegation	Ahmadiyya place of worship demolished	Village Jhandoo, Daska	20/06/06	HRM 2007
11	Attack on church	Land dispute	Dismantled the cross, Church demolished	Chak 348, Gojra	12/08/06	Jehd-e-Haq
12	Attack on church by Muslim landlord	Land dispute	Threw grenades, / set ablaze two houses / Church, and beat Christian men, children & women.	Sharqpur	14/08/06	Daily Times
13	Attack on church	Religiously charged violence/terrorism	The gate & tube lights were broken	Manga Mandi	12/11/06	HRM 2007



#	Incident	Instigation/Motive	Victims/Damage	District	Date Reported	Source
14	Attack on church	Hatred	Cross on Saint Xavier was damaged, and Church was set on fire.	Sukkar	10/05/07	HRM 2008
15	Attack by mob	Hatred/use of loudspeaker for the church	Desecrated the Church and verbal provocations	Village Gowindh, Lahore	11/10/07	HRM 2008
16	Attack by mob	Land grabbing	Desecrating and occupying the Church compound	Abubakar block, Garden Town, Lahore	16/12/07	The News
17	Attack by mob	Religious intolerance/hatred	Desecrated the Church	Chak 248, Faisalabad	17/06/07	HRM 2008
18	Attack on church	Religious intolerance/terrorism	Desecrated Holy books & used derogatory words	Garjak, Gujranwala	03/03/08	Daily Nawa-e-Waqt
19	Attack on church and community	Hatred/honour revenge	Burnt a copy of the Bible & damaged Church furniture	Kot Lakha Singh, Narowal	14/01/09	MCP
20	Attack on Ahmadis	Religious intolerance/hatred	Place of worship & houses were besieged, three Ahmadis received injuries	Faisalabad	25/07/09	NCJP report HRM 2009 - 10
21	Local Muslims attacked church	Blasphemy allegation	Damaged & set the Church building on fire	Village Jaitheke, Sialkot	11/09/09	HRM 2009 - 10
22	Mob attack on Ahmadis	Hatred	Place of worship	Sialkot	27/10/09	Ahmadi community
23	Attack on midnight Christmas service	Hatred/stop construction of church	65 Christians consisting men, women and children	Kalar Kahar	24/12/09	Christian Voice January 2010
24	Attack by mob	Revenge	Two churches and a Christian settlement were attacked after a Christian boy stole plums from a fruit cart	Pahar Ganj, Karachi	21/02/10	UCAN report
25	Attack on Ahmadi place of worship	Religious intolerance/terrorism	Firing though no damage	Moghalpura, Lahore	18/11/10	Ahmadi community
26	Attack on Pentecostal church	Hatred	Killing two Christians and burning some copies of the Bible	Hyderabad	24/03/11	Asia News
27	Attack on St Joseph's Church	Religious intolerance/hatred	Threw stones and vandalized the sacristy	Karachi	27/08/11	The Christian Voice
28	Full Gospel Assembly Church attacked	Blasphemy allegation	The church was set on fire, and copies of the Bible were thrown into the street, claiming they found pieces of	Lahore	Not known	Asia News



#	Incident	Instigation/Motive	Victims/Damage	District	Date Reported	Source
			the Quran, not far from the church			
29	Attack on Ahmadi place of worship	Religious intolerance/hatred	The minarets of the Ahmadiyya worship place demolished	Kharian, Jhelum	12/07/12	Ahmadiyya Times
30	Attack on St Xavier Church	Religious intolerance/hatred	Pelted stones /breaking the church windows, shots fired, a driver Amir Masih was wounded by a gunshot	Hyderabad	16/09/12	Agenzia Fides
31	Attack on St Paul Lutheran Church	Religious intolerance/hatred	Burnt the church and looted the surrounding residential quarters	Mardan	21/09/12	Express Tribune
32	Attack on St Francis of Assisi Church	Religious intolerance/hatred	Smashed the cars and vandalized the windows, doors & holy books	Old Haji Camp, Karachi	12/10/12	Weekly Aagahi /Pakistan Christian Post
33	Attack on Philadelphia Church	Religious intolerance/hatred	Wrecked windows, threw the Bibles on the floor and took away cash donations worth Rs. 40,000	Essa Nagri, Karachi	20/10/12	Express Tribune

Source: Centre for Social Justice.

Table 2: Mob violence and attacks on communities

#	Incident	Instigation/Motive	Victims/Damage	District	Date Reported	Source
1	Attack on a local Christian Community	Hatred	Beat the worshippers & damaged furniture, etc. of a Church	Chak 165-GB, Faisalabad	28/11/03	Daily Dawn
2	Christian community attacked by a mob	Blasphemy	Looted belongings & torched 140 houses including a Church. 6 burnt alive	Village Korian / Gojra	01/08/09	NCJP report HRM 2009 - 10
3	Attack on church	Reaction to anti-Islamic film "Innocence of Muslims"	An angry mob set the Church, St Paul's high school, a library, a computer laboratory, and four houses on fire.	Madran	Sept. 21, 2012	Economic times
4	Attack on Christians and churches	Blasphemy	An attack resulted in setting over 200 houses and two Churches on fire.	Joseph Colony, Lahore	March 9, 2013	SWI.org
5	Attack on churches and Christians attacked	Blasphemy	A violent mob attacked the Christians living in "Dhup Sarri", ransacked the Churches, opened fire.	Sanda area in Lahore	May 25, 2015	Daily Times



#	Incident	Instigation/Motive	Victims/Damage	District	Date Reported	Source
6	Attack on churches and Christian settlements	Blasphemy	Mob burned down 24 churches and over 80 houses belonging to the Christian community	Jaranwala, Faisalabad,	Aug. 16, 2023	

Source: Centre for Social Justice.

Table 3: Threats of violence against Christian communities

#	Incident	Instigation/Motive	Victims/Damage	District	Date Reported	Source
1	Attack at Christmas night, Gospel Church	Hatred	Harassed the Christians by heavy firing	Sahiwal	December - 2000	Jehd-e-Haq January - 2001
2	Disrupting prayer service/intimidation	Hatred	Aerial firing during a prayer services	Gujranwala	17/08/03	HRM2002-2003

Source: Centre for Social Justice.

Table 4: Land grabbing incidents

#	Incident	Instigation/Motive	Victims/Damage	District	Date Reported	Source
1	Attack on Church	Land grabbing	The church was demolished by locals	Chak 321, Toba Tek Singh	12/02/04	HRM 2005
2	Attack on Church	Land grabbing/terrorism	Broke in during the prayer, humiliated congregants & demolished Church, using tractors	Chak. 321, Distt. Toba Tek Singh	12/02/04	HRM 2005

Source: Centre for Social Justice.

Table 5: Incidents of terrorism targeting religious minorities

#	Incident	Instigation/Motive	Victims/Damage	District	Date Reported	Source
1	Attack on Church	Terrorism	Catholic Church, 15 worshippers and a Muslim guard died on the spot, six injured	Bahawalpur	28/10/01	HRM2002-2003
2	A Church attacked	Terrorism	Five persons killed & more than 40 injured in a grenade attack during the prayer.	Islamabad	17/03/02	HRM 2002-2003
3	Grenade attack on a Church	Terrorism	Three girls died, 18 were injured	Daska	25/12/02	HRM2002-2003
4	Attack on Ahmadis under-construction Place of worship	Terrorism	Set some articles on ablaze and the construction material taken away	Sargodha	20/12/04	Jehd-e-Haq



#	Incident	Instigation/Motive	Victims/Damage	District	Date Reported	Source
5	Ahmadis' place of worship attacked	Terrorism/Hatred	8 died & 18 injured	Mandi Bahauddin	07/10/05	The news
6	Attack on Ahmadiyya place of worship	Terrorism	Intimidating the worshippers by firing	Talwandi Musa Khan, Gujranwala	31/01/06	Ahmadi Community
7	Church set on fire	Terrorism	The main door & six windows of the church were damaged	Sargodha	28/02/06	Daily Times
8	Attack on Pastor's house/church	Hatred	Bible, furniture, sound system, academic certificate were burnt	Stunzabad - Mian Channun	04/04/06	MCP
9	Attack on Ahmadi place of worship	Terrorism/Hatred	8 killed by firing	Mandi Bahauddin	16/07/06	Daily Pakistan
10	Attack on Church	Terrorism	Church was attacked & desecrated	Muridke	25/12/06	HRM 2007
11	Attacked by mob	Terrorism	Desecrated the Church, insulted & injured the worshippers including Pastor.	Quetta	26/08/07	HRM 2008
12	Attack on different Churches	Terrorism	Smashed windows pans, desecrated Holy articles	Karachi	04/01/09	MCP
13	Attack on Ahmadis	Terrorism	Place of worship with grenades	Sialkot	11/02/09	Ahmadi community
14	Attack by an armed group	Terrorism & Robbery	Desecrated Gordon college Chapel	Rawalpindi	02/04/10	MCP May, 2010
15	Attacks at Ahmadi places of worship	Terrorism (2 attacks)	90 Ahmadis killed and 124 injured	Garhi Shahu and Model Town, Lahore	28/05/10	Dawn
16	An Ahmadi place of worship	Terrorism	Pelted stones and abusive language	Khanewal	02/09/10	Ahmadi community
17	A suicide bomb attack on Ahmadi place of worship	Terrorism	A man killed and three injured	Muslimabad, Distt. Mardan	04/09/10	Daily Dawn
18	Attack on a Church	Terrorism	Desecrated the Church wall	Sardar Town, Raiwind	17/11/10	Daily Nawa-e-Waqt
19	Attack on Catholic Church	Terrorism	Threw stones at the windows, destroyed the light towers and tried to force into the Church door	Wah Cantt	28/03/11	NCJP report



#	Incident	Instigation/Motive	Victims/Damage	District	Date Reported	Source
20	Attack on a Church Service	Terrorism	Disrupted the Sunday service and desecrated a copy of the Bible and Cross	Kahna, Lahore	May, 2011	The Express Tribune
21	Attack on church	Terrorism	A twin suicide bomb attacks caused over a hundred deaths and injuries.	Peshawar	Sept. 22, 2013	The Express Tribune
22	Attack on two Churches	Terrorism	Two suicide bombers attacked the two churches during Sunday services which resulted in dozens of casualties.	Youhanabad, Lahore	March 15, 2015	The Express Tribune

Source: Centre for Social Justice.

Table 6: Sites of worship demolished by government authorities

#	Incident	Instigation/Motive	Victims/Damage	District	Date Reported	Source
1	Attack on the place of worship	Hatred	A prayer / community centre was demolished by Government Officials to construct a tube-well	Attock	January 2007	Jehd-e-Haq
2	Attack on Grace Ministry Church to grab property	Religious Intolerance/ Terrorism	Injured two men Sajid Masih & Boota Masih in an attack	Faisalabad	19/02/12	Pakistan Christian Post

Source: Centre for Social Justice.

Table 7: Attacks on Ahmadiyya places of worship in 2023

Details	Place	Date	No
The Police brought down the Minarets	Ahmadiyya Place of Worship, Moti Bazaar, Wazirabad	10/11 January, 2023	1
A Mob of Miscreants damaged the Minarets of the Place of Worship	Ahmadiyya Place of Worship Martin Road, Karachi	18th January, 2023	2
A Mob of Miscreants damaged the Minarets of the Place of Worship	Ahmadiyya Hall, Saddar, Karachi	03rd February, 2023	3
Unknown Persons brought down the Minarets and set the Place of Worship on fire	Village of Chaudary Javed Ahmad, Mirpurkhas	03rd February, 2023	4
Unknown Persons set the Place of Worship on Fire	Noor Nagar, Umerkot	03rd February, 2023	5
Unknown Persons fired at the Place of Worship, while the Ahmadis were inside.	Satellite Town, Mirpurkhas	04th February, 2023	6
The Police brought down the Minarets	Kalra Kalan , Gujrat	24,25th March, 2023	7



<i>Details</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No</i>
A mob brought down the Minarets of the Ahmadiyya Place of Worship	Ghooghiat, district Sargodha	16th April, 2023	8
A mob brought down the Minarets of the Ahmadiyya Place of Worship and damaged other things	Dholan Abad, Mirpurkhas	04th May, 2023	9
The Police razed the Minarets to ground at night.	Kala Gojra, District Jhelum	14th July, 2023	10
A Mob of Miscreants damaged the Minarets of the Place of Worship	Drig Rod Karachi	24 July 2023	11
Miscreants damage the arch with hammers	Mali Para Sanghr	5 Aug 2023	12
In the middle of night the assailants while desecrated the Minarets of the Ahmadiyya Place of Worship.	168 Murad Bahawalnagar	6&7 Aug 2023	13
Police demolish the Minarets	Chak E R 373 Distt Vihari	8 Aug 2023	14
Miscreants again attack and damage the remaining arch with hammers	Mali Para Sanghr	9 Aug 2023	15
Police demolish the sacred words.	Bhera Distt Sargodha	12 Aug 2023	16
Police demolish the Minarets	543 EB Thana MachiWal Distt Vihari	14 Aug 2023	17

Source: Centre for Social Justice.



Appendix 2: List of churches burned down in Jaranwala (16 August 2023)

<i>No</i>	<i>Church name</i>	<i>Address</i>
1	AEC Church	Basti Esse Nagri Shurwana Jaranwala
2	Presbyterian Church	Basti Esse Nagri Shurwana Jaranwala
3	KGM Church	Chak # 126 Shurwana Jaranwala
4	Salvation Army Church	Telephone Exchange City Jaranwala
5	Presbyterian Church	Chak # 61 GB Maharan Wala Village Jaranwala
6	Presbyterian Church	Chak # 126 Shurwana Jaranwala
7	Church of God	Chak # 238 Komoana Jaranwala
8	Salvation Army Church	Chak # 61 GB Maharan Wala Main Jaranwala
9	FGA Church	Farooq Park Jaranwala
10	Fresh Oil Church	Asad Town Jaranwala
11	Catholic Church	Nasrat Colony Jaranwala
12	Catholic Church	Christian Colony Jaranwala
13	Presbyterian Church	Chak # 238 Komoana Jaranwala
14	Calvari Church	Chak # 61 GB Bora Colony Jaranwala
15	Calvari Church	Chak # 240 Jaranwala
16	Salvation Army Church	Chak # 240 Jaranwala
17	Catholic Church	Basti Esse Nagri Shurwana Jaranwala
18	Pak Khushkhabri	Chak # 61 GB Nora Colony Jaranwala
19	PMI Church	Chak # 120 Jaranwala
20	SAAT SANGAT Church	Chak # 120 Basti Maharan Wala
21	New Apostolic Church	Chak # 120 Basti Maharan Wala
22	Salvation Army Church	Chowk Mor Lahore Road Jaranwala
23	Christian Community Church	Wood Market Cinema Chowk Jaranwala
24	Amazing Grass Church	Chak # 126 Shurwana Jaranwala

Source: Centre for Social Justice.

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