

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write to express urgent concerns about the escalating persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan. Extremist groups, most notably the far-right Islamist party *Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan* (TLP), have recently intensified a coordinated campaign against Ahmadi Muslims,¹ often in complicity with local authorities. Since January, authorities have destroyed Ahmadi mosques,² arrested scores of innocent worshippers,³ and levied blasphemy charges against them. Many remain in detention without bail and face severe threats to their safety. This wave of systematic human rights abuses—which has serious implications for U.S. national security—demands immediate international attention.

As documented by the State Department,⁴ the persecution of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan has been legally institutionalized. In 1974, the Government of Pakistan officially declared Ahmadis as non-Muslims through the Second Amendment to the Constitution, making them the only religious community to be legally identified in this manner. In 1984, the passage of Ordinance XX under the regime of General Zia-ul-Haq targeted Ahmadi Muslims by criminalizing any act of worship, identification, or preaching that could be perceived as an attempt to “pose” as Muslims.

This legal framework provides cover for extremists,⁵ including adherents of *Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan* (TLP), and allows for the unchecked escalation of violence⁶ against Ahmadis. Since the beginning of the year, Ahmadi Muslims have faced numerous incidents of targeted violence and incendiary rhetoric, including the following:

- **January 16, Daska:** A 100-year-old Ahmadi mosque built by Sir Zafrullah Khan, the first Foreign Minister of Pakistan and former President of the UN General Assembly, himself an Ahmadi, was demolished by local authorities⁷ under TLP pressure.
- **March 7, Karachi:** A TLP-led mob gathered outside of an Ahmadi mosque, resulting in 25 Ahmadis, including 8 children, being taken into protective custody by local

¹ <https://www.uscifr.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/2025%20USCIRF%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1886020>

³ <https://x.com/amnestysasia/status/1899355341021970741>

⁴ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-report-on-international-religious-freedom/pakistan/>

⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2007/05/06/pakistan-pandering-extremists-fuels-persecution-ahmadis>

⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/pakistan>

⁷ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1886020>

authorities. Upon the complaint of a TLP functionary, police later registered criminal charges⁸ against dozens of Ahmadis under Pakistan's blasphemy laws.

- **March 15, Lahore:** The Lahore High Court Bar Association invited Saad Rizvi, the head of TLP, to speak at a public event. Pakistani legal institutions have demonstrated a pattern of legitimizing or capitulating to⁹ figures such as Rizvi, which emboldens extremist violence against Ahmadis and other minorities.
- **March 31, multiple cities:** On the holiday of Eid ul-Fitr, authorities in several cities prevented Ahmadis from congregating for prayers, sealed mosques, and detained peaceful worshippers.¹⁰ Members of TLP disrupted Ahmadi prayers and intimidated congregants across the provinces of Sindh and Punjab.
- **April 18-May 19, multiple cities:** Four Ahmadis were reportedly targeted and killed on account of their faith.

The escalation of attacks and arrests signals a deteriorating human rights situation that requires urgent diplomatic intervention.

We respectfully urge you to:

1. **Encourage the Pakistani government to abide by its obligations** under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and take stronger measures to protect religious minorities.
2. **Demand the immediate release of all Ahmadis imprisoned** for their faith, including the children imprisoned in Daska, and an end to the destruction of Ahmadi places of worship.
3. **Advocate for equal citizenship rights for Ahmadis in Pakistan**, ensuring that they may freely practice their faith without fear of persecution or political disenfranchisement.¹¹
4. **Redesignate Pakistan as a Country of Political Concern (CPC)** under the International Religious Freedom Act to hold Pakistan accountable to its commitment to safeguarding religious minorities and taking decisive action against extremist organizations.
5. **Lift the existing waiver, or do not issue a waiver**, releasing the administration from taking otherwise legislatively mandated action as a result of the CPC designation.

The worsening persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan demands your urgent attention to prevent extremist forces from further undermining religious freedoms and the rule of law. We look forward to your response.

⁸ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1896487>

⁹ <https://www.uscifr.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/2025%20USCIRF%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://voicepk.net/2025/04/ahmadis-face-widespread-restrictions-on-eid-prayers-escalating-persecution/>

¹¹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/12/08/pakistan-denies-voting-rights-religious-community>

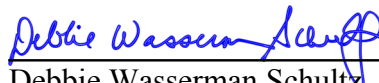
Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



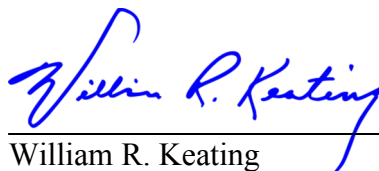
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



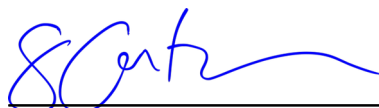
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



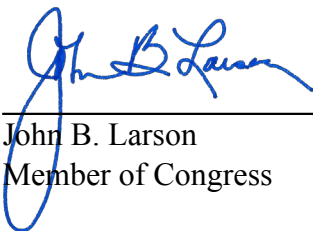
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



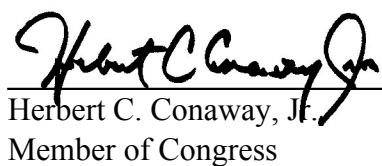
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



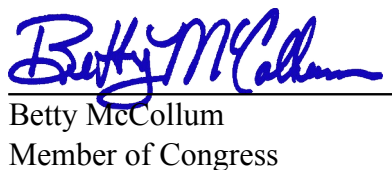
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



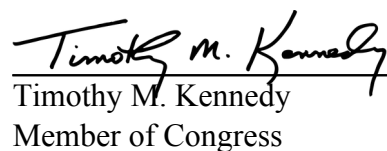
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



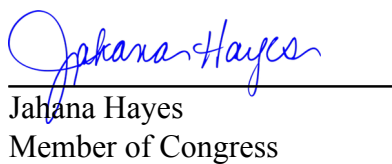
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



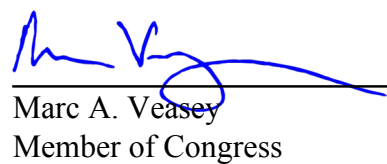
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



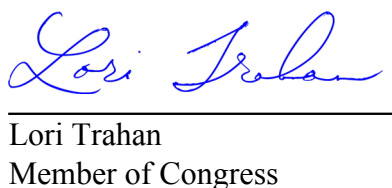
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



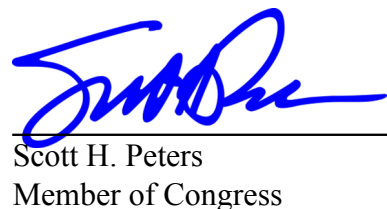
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



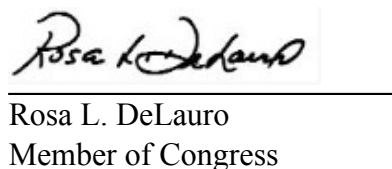
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



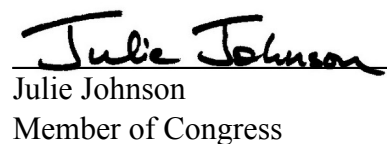
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



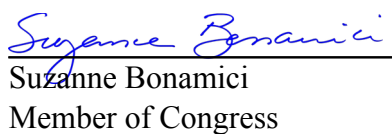
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress