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### DISCLAIMER

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

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### COI QUERY RESPONSE

#### PAKISTAN – AHAMDI

In December 2023 *Human Rights Watch* states that: “Discriminatory provisions in Pakistan’s electoral law effectively exclude members of the Ahmadiyyah community because of their religious beliefs...In addition to being denied suffrage, the Ahmadiyya community faces deadly violence from militant Islamist groups. Having a separate list of all registered Ahmadi voters with contact information places them at greater risk of targeted attacks. In recent years, hundreds of Ahmadis have been injured and killed in bombings and other attacks. Pakistani law effectively legalizes and even encourages persecution of the Ahmadiyya community.”<sup>1</sup>

In 2024 the *Human Rights Commission of Pakistan* points out that: “Cases of blasphemy and religion-related offences combined with PECA charges tend to be applied disproportionately against the embattled Ahmadiyya community.”<sup>2</sup>

This document also states that: “One Christian lawyer and HRD eventually had to leave the country after a sustained series of threats by members of the Khatm-e-Nabuwat Lawyers Forum, a TLP affiliate.”<sup>3</sup>

A report issued in 2024 by *Freedom House* reviewing events of 2023 points out that: “Ahmadis are legally prohibited from calling themselves Muslims and face discrimination.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Watch (8 December 2023) Pakistan Denies Voting Rights to Religious Community

<sup>2</sup> Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (2024) A Culture of Hate Mongering, Freedom of Religion or Belief in 2022/2023, p.13

<sup>3</sup> *ibid*, p.18

<sup>4</sup> Freedom House (2024) Freedom in the World 2024: Pakistan, p.8

In June 2024 *Voice of America* points out that: “Ahmadis consider themselves Muslim, but the Pakistani parliament declared them to be non-Muslim in 1974 and further amended its laws in 1984 to prohibit community members from "indirectly or directly posing as Muslims." The minority sect is also barred from declaring or propagating its faith publicly and building places of worship in Pakistan.”<sup>5</sup>

The *Associated Press* in June 2024 states that: “Pakistan’s Parliament declared Ahmadis non-Muslims in 1974, and they have repeatedly been targeted by Islamic extremists, drawing condemnation from domestic and international human right groups. Homes and places of worship of Ahmadis have been attacked by Sunni militants who consider them heretics.”<sup>6</sup>

A publication issued in June 2024 by *Agence France Presse* points out that: “The Ahmadiyya sect, considered heretics by fundamentalist groups, has been persecuted for decades in Pakistan but threats and intimidation have risen in recent years.”<sup>7</sup>

In June 2024 *Amnesty International* states that the: “...Pakistani authorities must immediately end the harassment, intimidation and attacks on Ahmadiyya community...”<sup>8</sup>

## References

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<sup>5</sup> Voice of America (8 June 2024) Gunmen kill 2 members of Pakistan’s Ahmadi minority

<sup>6</sup> Associated Press (9 June 2024) Pakistan police arrest man accused of killing 2 minority Ahmadis in Punjab province

<sup>7</sup> Agence France Presse (15 June 2024) Ahmadis in Pakistan say intimidated ahead of Eid al-Adha feast

<sup>8</sup> Amnesty International (21 June 2024) Pakistan: Authorities must end escalating attacks on minority Ahmadiyya community, p.1

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