



INCIDENT REPORT

ENRAGED MOB ONCE AGAIN ATTACKS CHRISTIANS OVER ALLEGED DESECRATION OF QURAN IN SARGODHA, PAKISTAN

The wounds of the Christians from Jaranwala were still bleeding when another tragic incident unfolded, targeting Pakistani Christians in Sargodha.

According to IHRC sources, on May 25, 2024, Lazar Masih, a Christian factory owner, and his family faced violent assault by a mob in Mujahid Colony. Fuelled by false allegations of Quran desecration, the mob ruthlessly attacked Masih and set fire to his property, while bystanders, including children, joined in the chaos, recording the events on their phones.

Ayub Gondal, Masih's jealous neighbour, was identified as the instigator of the violence, exploiting existing tensions to sow communal discord. By falsely accusing Masih of blasphemy, Gondal incited the mob's rage, resulting in the destruction of Masih's home and factory. Despite Masih's innocence, the mob continued its rampage.

Regrettably, from the creation of Pakistan until today, there have been countless cases in which Christians and Ahmadi Muslims have been unjustly targeted, falsely implicated in blasphemy cases, and later proven innocent. Despite these past incidents, no action has ever been taken against anyone, leading to impunity and the recurrence of such events time and again.

The IHRC has previously observed the same type of mob violence after the blasphemy allegations, which later proved to be false and based only on a personal grudge. The IHRC condemned the attack and demanded the state to take stern action against the culprits in accordance with law of the land.



Picture: On May 25, 2024, Lazar Masih, a Christian factory owner, and his family faced violent assault by a mob in Mujahid Colony, fueled by false allegations of Quran desecration.

Human rights groups have repeatedly expressed their deep concern over the lack of attention to serious human rights violations perpetrated against minorities around the world and called on the international community to step up efforts in bringing an end to the ongoing persecution of Christians and Ahmadis.

We once again urge the international community to pressure the Government of Pakistan to honor its responsibility to provide protection to all its citizens and bring perpetrators of such vicious attacks to justice.

We once again strongly urge the international community to impress upon the Government of Pakistan that it must bring its laws and practices in conformity with international standards as ordained in United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 2, 18, and 20, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Article 25, 26.

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