



Christian Conference of Asia

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17 August 2023

CCA Statement on Violence against Christian Homes and Churches in Pakistan

It is with great dismay that the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) has received reports from Pakistan about violent attacks on churches and Christians in Jaranwala, Faisalabad district, of the Punjab province in Pakistan.

The violence ensued after two Christians were allegedly accused of committing blasphemy.

Eleven churches have been burnt and destroyed so far, including Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Full Gospel Assembly, Salvation Army, and other independent churches. Christian households have also been targeted, looted, and burnt, which has compelled over 500 families in Maharanwala Basti to vacate and hide in fields for fear of their lives. Local clergy members have also been threatened and harassed.

The CCA condemns the attacks on the Christian community in Pakistan, a minority community that has faced escalating persecution and prejudice from extremist groups. The Jaranwala incident is the latest in a string of alleged accusations of blasphemy against Christians in different Pakistani cities.

Pakistani Christians have long been marginalised and have become targets of violence and forced conversions. They have suffered the destruction of their places of worship and homes due to growing intolerance. A lack of meaningful action from authorities further propels widespread impunity.

The CCA has repeatedly denounced the weaponisation of Pakistan's blasphemy laws against Pakistan's minorities. Pakistan has one of the strictest blasphemy laws in the world, with a possible death sentence for anyone found guilty of insulting Islam. The threat of being accused of blasphemy is used to intimidate and persecute the minority Christians, and the law is exploited to settle personal vendettas.

The CCA calls for immediate police intervention and the safeguarding of Christian residences and churches. The CCA also calls for the prevention of further escalation of violence. The Government of Pakistan must uphold its commitment to religious freedom and safeguard all citizens, going strictly by the principles enshrined in its constitution and in line with international covenants to which Pakistan is a signatory.

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General Secretary, CCA