

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Declared Infidels in The Gambia

The following report provides an update on the relentless persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Specifically, we wish to draw attention to a recent alarming decision by the Supreme Islamic Council ("Council") in The Gambia, declaring the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community as a community of "infidels."

Basing its declaration on widespread false allegations about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and its beliefs, the Council states that the beliefs of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community are not in accordance with the Holy Qur'an and the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. Additionally, the Council wrongfully alleges that Muslim scholars have universally declared Ahmadis as infidels.

Further, the Council refers to the anti-Ahmadi riots in Pakistan in 1953 and the Parliamentary proceedings in Pakistan in 1974 in which Ahmadis were declared a non-Muslim minority to give credence to its declaration.

Most disturbingly, the Council's declaration calls for the public to boycott Ahmadis, not engage in any dealings with Ahmadis and prevent Ahmadis from burying their dead in Muslim cemeteries.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community rejects the declaration in its entirety as discriminatory, based on wholly false information, and inciting hate towards the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in The Gambia. By making this declaration, the Council is creating religious disharmony and destroying the peace and unity amongst the citizens of The Gambia.

BACKGROUND AND RESPONSE

- The Gambia Supreme Islamic Council was established in 1992 and consists of around 50 "Islamic Scholars" who are all volunteers. There is also a Supervisory Board made up of Imams from various communities in The Gambia as well as leaders of various institutions, business people, lecturers and opinion formers.
- The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has been and continues to provide long-standing and significant humanitarian projects around the world. Particularly in West Africa, schools and hospitals have been established on compassionate grounds for the benefit and well-being of humanity.

- The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is also carrying out many other projects, including establishing model villages and providing clean water and electricity for the citizens of West African countries.
- The allegations that have been made against the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community are an absolute falsehood and are entirely unreflective of Ahmadiyya beliefs. Ahmadi Muslims follow Islam in its pristine purity.
- The Counsel's declaration will create disorder and civil strife within The Gambia. It will endanger the safety and security of Ahmadis and affect their civic and human rights.
- The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community implores the government of Canada, NGO's and Human Rights organizations to urgently raise this matter with the Government of The Gambia in an effort to curtail such discriminatory practices within the country.
- The President and the Government of The Gambia should take immediate action to halt this wrongful act.
- As Muslims who believe in the Messiah, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community will continue to respond with peace, education, and prayers—as it has for over 125 years.
- As the world's single largest Muslim community with a central spiritual leader, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community strives to demonstrate Islam's true teachings of moderation, tolerance, and love.