



THE CANADIAN  
BAR ASSOCIATION  
L'ASSOCIATION DU  
BARREAU CANADIEN

Office of the President  
Cabinet du président

September 6, 2023

Via email: [info@pakistanbarcouncil.org](mailto:info@pakistanbarcouncil.org); [pakbarcouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:pakbarcouncil@yahoo.com)

Mr. Hassan Raza Pasha  
Chairman, Executive Committee  
Pakistan Bar Council  
Supreme Court Building  
Constitution Avenue, G-5/2  
Islamabad  
Pakistan

Dear Mr. Pasha:

**Re: Discrimination against Ahmadi Muslim Lawyers in Pakistan**

I write on behalf of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) to express our grave concerns over the ongoing violations of the rights of lawyers belonging to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan.

The CBA is a national association representing over 37,000 jurists across Canada. We work to promote the Rule of Law and improve the administration of justice in Canada and around the world. It is from this perspective that we wish to raise our concerns regarding the current situation in Pakistan – which has spurred international condemnation and calls to action.

We understand that in March 2023, the District Bar Association of Gujranwala issued a new requirement for any individual seeking admittance to the Bar Association of Gujranwala. We understand that the notice requires any applicant to declare that they are not an Ahmadi Muslim and denounce the teachings of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and its founder Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. A similar notice was issued by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council in May 2023. We enclose copies of both notices.

These notices target and prevent Ahmadi Muslims from being called to the District Bar Association of Gujranwala and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council. There is also concern that the notices may restrict the rights of those already called to the Bar and may prevent applicants from any religious or non-religious background other than Islam from being called to the Bar.

The legal profession must be open to all, regardless of religion and background. We are concerned about the impact of this requirement on the broader justice system in Pakistan. These new requirements are discriminatory and undermine basic principles including those set out in the [United Nations' Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers](#).

We call on you to take immediate steps to end the persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. All qualified individuals seeking to be called to any Bar Council or Association must be able to do so without discrimination.

The CBA stands with lawyers in their efforts to uphold the rule of law and respect for human rights, in Canada and internationally.


Sincerely,

*(original letter signed by John D. Stefaniuk)*

John D. Stefaniuk, K.C. / c.r. (he/him/il/lui)


**Appendix A:**

Scan of Khatm e Nabuwat Pamphlet with English translation provided by the International Human Rights Committee, reference: IHRC/PR/150323/3 15 March 2023

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DISTRICT BAR ASSOCIATION GUJRANWALA.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Phone: 055-3449001, Fax: 055-3442171, Web: www.dbagw.org E-Mail: members@bagw.org</p> <p> <span style="float: left;">* President <b>Ch. Pervez Akht Haid</b> Advocate High Court 055-3442171 / 055-3449001</span> <span style="float: right;">* Secretary <b>Hafiz Wazir Ali Malik</b> Advocate High Court 055-3442171</span> </p> <hr/> <p> <span style="float: left; font-size: x-small;">Senior Vice President <b>Dr. Raza Ghani Nizami, B.A.</b> Advocate High Court 055-3442171</span> <span style="float: right; font-size: x-small;">Vice President <b>Muhammad Nisar Ahmad</b> Advocate High Court 055-3442171</span> </p> <p> <span style="float: left; font-size: x-small;">Joint Secretary <b>A. I. Anwar Usman Haidari</b> Advocate High Court 055-3442171</span> <span style="float: right; font-size: x-small;">President Elect <b>Imran Ahmad Ishaq</b> Advocate High Court 055-3442171</span> </p> <p> <span style="float: left; font-size: x-small;">Liaison Secretary <b>Abdullah Far</b> Advocate High Court 055-3442171</span> <span style="float: right; font-size: x-small;">Auditor <b>Dr. Asif Haidari</b> Advocate High Court 055-3442171</span> </p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Ref No: 33/2023 <span style="float: left;">Date: 07-3-2023</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Long Live Tajdar Khatm e Nabuwat Notice Announcement</b></p> <p>All honourable members of the bar are informed that following affidavit has been included in the membership form in accordance with the resolution passed in the meeting of General House on 23rd February 2023. From now onwards, membership of the District Bar Association will be handed over in accordance with the affidavit related to Tajdar e Khatm e Nabuwat (PBUH).</p> <p>I am Muslim and have unconditional belief in Khatm e Nabuwat and finality of Prophethood of Holy Prophet (P B U H). I do not accept anyone who claims to be a Prophet after the Holy Prophet (P B U H) by amending the known definition of the word, Prophet. I do not accept such claimant of Prophecy as Prophet or Religious Preacher. I do not consider such person Muslim. I consider Mirza Ghulam Ahmed Qadiani, liar (God forbid) and his Lahori and Qadiani followers, non-Muslims.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Secretary Bar Hafiz Wazir Ali Malik Advocate</p>
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**Appendix B:**

Scan of the "Finality of Prophethood" Circular of The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council with English translation provided by the International Human Rights Committee, reference: IHRC/PR/060523/2 06 May 2023

 <p>OFFICE OF THE KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA BAR COUNCIL PESHAWAR</p> <p>2023 مئی 3</p> <p>(محرر)</p> <p>پشاور</p> <p>پشاور</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>&lt; LETTER HEAD &gt;</b></p> <p>Ref No: 175 KP/BC                      Dated: 03-05-2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CIRCULAR</b></p> <p>The meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council Executive Committee was held today, May 3rd, 2023, under the chairmanship of respected Syed Mobasher Shah Advocate, Chairman Executive Committee. In the meeting, it was decided that from now on, all new lawyers who will join the Bar Council will submit the attached declaration form along with their Intimation Form with regard to the Finality of Prophethood.</p> <p>Declaration Form:</p> <p>"I, hereby solemnly declare and affirm that I believe in the complete, final, and unqualified Finality of Prophethood of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and that I do not believe in or recognize anyone else as a prophet or religious reformer after him, nor do I claim or support anyone who claims to be a prophet in any sense of the word or with any interpretation, and that I do not have any affiliation with either the Qadiani or Lahori groups (who associate themselves with the name of Ahmadis or any other name)."</p> <p>Secretary Khyber Pakhtankhua Bar Council</p>