



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP (2018) 0129 | 22 May 2018

Persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

House of Commons Chamber
Thursday 24 May 2018
Backbench Business debate
Debate led by Siobhan McDonagh

Compiled by:
Nigel Walker

Subject specialist:
Ben Smith

Contents

1.	Background	2
2.	Press Articles	3
3.	PQs	5
4.	Early Day Motions	15
5.	Further reading	16

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

Ahmadiyya is a religious sect that originated in India in the 19th century. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the founder, claimed to be the Mahdi, the Muslim equivalent of the Messiah. The movement of his followers grew to several million people, and is now represented in many countries, particularly in South Asia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Tanzania and Indonesia. Several countries have blasphemy laws that discriminate against Ahmadis; some of these laws have been described as a legacy of Empire.¹

Pakistan

The world's largest Ahmadi community is in Pakistan, with about 4 million adherents. The Pakistani constitution singles out Ahmadis, declaring that they are not Muslims, and the Penal Code bans them from describing themselves as such. [According to Amnesty International](#), a general crackdown on freedom of expression is intensifying in Pakistan and the mood of hostility against Ahmadis has led to scenes such as [those in May 2018](#), when neighbouring villagers destroyed the houses of 23 Ahmadis, who had to be evacuated to another town.

Violent jihadi groups such as Lashkar-e-Jhangvi are accused of targeted assassinations of Ahmadis in Pakistan. The worst attack to date was in 2010, when 86 worshippers were killed during an assault on two Ahmadi mosques in Lahore.

Algeria

In December 2017 [50 Ahmadis](#) were tried on charges related to their religion. Sentences ranged from fines to five years in prison.

Indonesia

Members of the large Ahmadi community in Indonesia have [found it difficult](#) to get identity documents because the documents must show an authorised religion and Ahmadiyya is not one of them. There have been killings of Ahmadis by Islamic militants.

UK

In 2016 a man killed an Ahmadi shopkeeper from Glasgow for, the killer claimed, "disrespecting Islam". He was jailed for murder.

¹ [HL Deb 21 May 2018, c872](#)

2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

[How Pakistan Weaponized 'Love for Prophet Muhammad'](#)

The Diplomat
Kunwar Khuldune Shahid
8 May 2018

[Ahmediyya community complains authorities using election law issue to deprive them of voting rights](#)

Daily Times (Pakistan)
30 April 2018

[Pakistan's Ahmadi community releases damning persecution report](#)

Reuters
Saad Sayeed
28 April 2018

[Forbidden truth: Ahmadis in the social fabric of Pakistan](#)

Daily Times (Pakistan)
Busharat Elahi Jamil
13 March 2018

[Ahmadia persecution in Pakistan: a matter of faith](#)

Daily Times (Pakistan)
Busharat Elahi Jamil
23 January 2018

[Ahmadi mosques on guard over death threats from Muslims](#)

The Times
Richard Kerbaj
26 November 2017

[Three Ahmadis sentenced to death for blasphemy](#)

Al-Jazeera
12 October 2017

[Algeria: Stop Persecuting a Religious Minority](#)

Human Rights Watch
4 September 2017

[Meet the Ahmadiyya Muslims fighting Islamist extremism and Islamophobia](#)

New Statesman
Lilian Maingi
15 June 2017

[Pakistan Ambassador Refuses To Acknowledge State-Sponsored Persecution Of Ahmadi Muslims](#)

Huffington Post
Kashif N Chaudhry
30 March 2017

[The persecution of the Ahmadis must not be allowed to spread](#)

The Guardian
Giles Fraser
7 July 2016

[Who are the Ahmadi?](#)

BBC News Online
28 May 2010

3. PQs

[Pakistan: Blasphemy](#)

26 Apr 2018 | 136684

Asked by: Tom Brake

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions has he had with his counterpart in Pakistan on the effect of blasphemy laws on minority communities in Pakistan.

Answering member: Mark Field | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The FCO remains deeply concerned by the misuse of the blasphemy laws and the treatment of religious minority communities in Pakistan.

We regularly raise our concerns about the protection of minority communities and misuse of the blasphemy laws with the Government of Pakistan at a senior level. During my most recent visit to Pakistan in November 2017, I discussed the treatment of religious minorities, including discrimination against the Ahmadiyya and Christian communities, with the Ministry of Human Rights. My colleague, the Minister of State for Commonwealth and the UN, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, raised the issue of freedom of religion and belief with Pakistan's Interior Minister in February 2018.

[Religious Freedom](#)

27 Feb 2018 | 127894

Asked by: Gavin Shaker

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to support freedom of religion and belief in other countries to meet the strategic commitment to supporting freedom of religion and belief set out in the FCO Departmental Plan 2015-2020.

Answering member: Mark Field | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Departmental Plan 2015-2020 was replaced in December 2017 with the FCO Single Departmental Plan which can be found on gov.uk. In step with the new plan, the FCO continues to promote and defend human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB).

In our ongoing dialogue with foreign governments and through public statements, the FCO raises individual cases and highlights practices and laws that discriminate against people on the basis of their religion or belief. For example, during my visit to Pakistan in November 2017, I raised the treatment of religious minorities, including discrimination and violence against the Ahmadiyya and Christian communities, with Pakistan's Ministry of Human Rights.

The United Kingdom also actively promotes FoRB through multilateral diplomacy. At the United Nations, we work to maintain consensus on the adoption and implementation of the European Union sponsored Resolution on 'Freedom of Religion or Belief' and the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation sponsored Resolution on 'Combating Religious Intolerance'.

Through the Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy, the FCO continues to support a number of projects to promote tolerance. Current projects include work to promote religious tolerance through secondary school curricula in Iraq, Morocco and Lebanon, and a project which supports a network of human rights defenders in South Asia working on this priority.

Indonesia: Religious Freedom

08 Feb 2018 | 126535

Asked by: Theresa Villiers

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the extent of religious freedom in Indonesia; and whether he is taking steps to raise the importance of freedom of religious belief with the Indonesian Government.

Answering member: Mark Field | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Government of Indonesia has taken steps to address the issue of freedom of religion, including through the creation of a new Presidential Working Unit which aims to promote, among other things, tolerance of the 6 officially recognised religions of Indonesia. We also welcome the ruling of the constitutional court in November 2017 permitting followers of traditional beliefs to state their faith on their identity cards. However, we remain concerned about treatment of non-Sunni Islamic groups, such as the Ahmadiyya and Shia communities who often face intolerance. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN most recently discussed it with the Indonesian Ambassador to London in January.

Egypt: Religious Freedom

25 Jan 2018 | 123428

Asked by: Siobhain McDonagh

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make representations to the Egyptian Government on the arrest of 25 Ahmadi Muslims in that country on the grounds of their religion; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I refer the Honourable Member for Mitcham and Morden to my answer to her earlier PQ on this matter (121319) on 15 January. We will continue to raise our concerns around the discrimination of religious

minorities in Egypt. This includes concerns over the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly in Egypt. These rights are essential to improving the protection of Freedom of Religious Belief in Egypt.

Kazakhstan: Religious Freedom

23 Jan 2018 | 122810

Asked by: Dame Caroline Spelman

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the level of religious freedom in Kazakhstan; and what steps the Government is taking to promote and protect the right to freedom of religion or belief in that country.

Answering member: Sir Alan Duncan | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Kazakhstan has a relatively tolerant environment and constitutionally does not single out or allow preference for any particular religion.

Groups such as the Ahmadiyya and Jehovah's Witnesses have experienced some problems with the Kazakh authorities over registration and taxation issues. A recent draft law on religious activity has imposed a further regulatory burden on religious organisations.

During my visit to Kazakhstan in August 2017 I encouraged respect for human rights, and publicly addressed a Kazakh audience on the importance of human rights and equality of all citizens.

Pakistan: Blasphemy

21 Nov 2017 | 112663

Asked by: Siobhain McDonagh

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what reports his Department has received on the case of three Ahmadi Muslims who were sentenced to death in early November 2017 by a court in Pakistan for allegedly breaking that country's blasphemy laws; and whether his Department has made representations to the Government of Pakistan on behalf of those three people.

Answering member: Mark Field | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The UK remains firmly opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances. We have repeatedly called upon the Government of Pakistan to end capital punishment and, at a minimum, commit to renewing the previously imposed moratorium. We regularly raise our concerns about freedom of religion or belief and the misuse of the blasphemy laws with the Pakistani Government at a senior level. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), raised religious tolerance and misuse of the blasphemy laws during his visit to Pakistan in November 2016. During my visit to Pakistan earlier this month I raised the death penalty and the treatment of religious

minorities, including discrimination and violence against the Ahmadiyya community with Pakistan's Ministry of Human Rights.

During the Universal Periodic Review of Pakistan on 13 November in Geneva we expressed our concerns about human rights and limits on freedoms of expression and religion or belief, particularly for the Ahmadiyya Muslim and Christian communities. We called for a clear timeline for the review of legislation carrying the death penalty with the aim of limiting the scope of crimes to which it applies.

The Government will continue to urge Pakistan to honour in practice its human rights obligations, including those related to the death penalty and freedom of expression and religion.

Commonwealth: Religious Freedom
20 Nov 2017 | HL2807

Asked by: The Lord Bishop of Leeds

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are taking steps ahead of the Commonwealth Summit in 2018 to document levels of government restrictions and societal hostility towards religious freedom across the Commonwealth.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon
| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Her Majesty's Government remains firmly committed to the promotion and protection of Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) in all countries. Throughout our diplomatic network, including our High Commissions, diplomats are instructed to take account of human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief and report back to London.

On International Religious Freedom Day, I wrote to all Ambassadors and High Commissioners regarding the Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s work to protect and promote FoRB globally. I have also initiated a series of roundtable discussions on FoRB with civil society and faith leaders to increase our collaboration in this area. Ministers and officials raise individual cases with relevant authorities and highlight practices and laws that discriminate against people on the basis of their religion or belief. We also speak out publicly in support of FoRB, for example during my recent visit to Bangladesh in August 2017, I visited the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Dhaka and made a call for religious tolerance. We also include reporting on FoRB in our Annual Human Rights Report, which includes some Commonwealth countries.

To support staff working on these issues, the FCO has re-issued its revised "toolkit" on FoRB and continues to provide training and seminars to increase religious literacy amongst staff.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom**27 Sep 2017 | HL1569****Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last raised with the government of Pakistan (1) the anti-Ahmadiyya laws set out in Penal Code Article 298, and (2) that government's obligations to protect freedom of religion or belief; and whether they intend to encourage the government of Pakistan to invite the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief to make a country visit to Pakistan.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon**| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The UK Government remains firmly committed to the promotion and protection of Freedom of Religion or Belief. We regularly raise concerns about the protection and persecution of minority communities, including Ahmadiyya Muslims, the blasphemy laws and the protection of freedom of religion or belief to the Government of Pakistan at a senior level. The Foreign Secretary raised the importance we attach to religious tolerance and safeguarding the rights of all Pakistan's citizens during his visit to Pakistan in November 2016. The former Minister for Asia and the Pacific, my hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Mr Sharma), discussed the protection of religious minorities with Kamran Michael, former Minister for Human Rights, and Barrister Zafarullah Khan, Prime Minister's Special Assistant for Human Rights, during a visit to Pakistan in January 2017.

We continue to urge Pakistan to take the steps necessary to comply in full with its human rights obligations, including engaging with the UN and other international bodies, and to ensure that the rights of minorities are respected.

Algeria: Ahmadiyya**11 Sep 2017 | 6488****Asked by: Siobhain McDonagh**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to his counterparts in Algeria on the arrest and detention of Ahmadi Muslims across Algeria since June 2016 on grounds of practising their faith.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We are aware of a number of reports of Ahmadiyya being arrested in Algeria. We have raised this with the Algerian government, who said that the arrests relate to breaches of laws which apply to all religions in Algeria. The Algerian constitution provides freedom of religion and we encourage them to make domestic law fully compatible with that. The promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief for all individuals internationally remains a high priority for the UK.

[Algeria: Ahmadiyya](#)

17 Jul 2017 | HL328

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Algeria about the six Ahmadis sentenced on 28 June to up to four years in prison for charges relating to the exercise of their religion; and when they last discussed with the government of Algeria its obligations under Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which requires states to guarantee freedom of religion and belief.

Answering member: Baroness Goldie | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

On the issue of the 28 June sentencing, we have raised this with the Algerian Embassy in London. We noted that the constitution protects freedom of conscience and religion but that domestic law might limit these rights. During Algeria's last Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in May, we raised the question of whether domestic law was to be changed to allow full freedom of religion as per the constitution. Algeria will consider the recommendations of the UPR and reply by September.

[Pakistan: Ahmadiyya](#)

25 Jan 2017 | 60700

Asked by: Richard Burden

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations he has (a) received and (b) made to the government of Pakistan on reports of persecution and mistreatment of the Ahmadi community in Pakistan.

Answering member: Alok Sharma | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I am aware of reports of the persecution of the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan. I condemn the attack on the Ahmadiyya mosque in Chakwal on 12 December. The Government strongly condemns the persecution of all minorities, including the targeting of people based on their beliefs.

We regularly raise our concerns about the protection of minority communities, including religious minorities, with the Government of Pakistan. During my visit to Pakistan earlier this month, I discussed the protection of religious minorities, including the Ahmadiyya, with Kamran Michael, Pakistani Minister for Human Rights, and Barrister Zafarullah Khan, the Prime Minister's Special Assistant for Human Rights. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson), raised religious tolerance and the importance of safeguarding the rights of all Pakistan's citizens when he visited Pakistan in November 2016. The Government continues to urge Pakistan to honour in practice its human rights obligations, including those related to religious minorities, and to uphold the rule of law.

Pakistan: Ahmadiyya**16 Jan 2017 | 58775****Asked by: Tom Brake**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether the Government has asked the Pakistani High Commissioner to lift the seal on the Ahmadi mosque in Chakwal.

Answering member: Alok Sharma | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I condemn the attack on the Ahmadiyya mosque in Chakwal on 12 December. The Government strongly condemns the persecution of all minorities, including the targeting of people based on their beliefs.

We regularly raise our concerns about the protection of minority communities, including religious minorities, with the Government of Pakistan. During my visit to Pakistan last week, I discussed the protection of religious minorities, including the Ahmadiyya, with Kamran Michael, Pakistani Minister for Human Rights, and Barrister Zafarullah Khan, the Prime Minister's Special Assistant for Human Rights. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Boris Johnson), raised religious tolerance and the importance of safeguarding the rights of all Pakistan's citizens when he visited Pakistan in November 2016. The Government continues to urge Pakistan to honour in practice its human rights obligations, including those related to religious minorities, and to uphold the rule of law.

Pakistan: Ahmadiyya**11 Jan 2017 | HL4354****Asked by: Lord Pearson of Rannoch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Pakistan about the recent attacks on the Ahmadi mosque in Chakwal, and on the headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Raburah; and about the arrest of Ahmadis in these incidents.

**Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns
| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The UK Government is aware of reports of the raid on an Ahmadiyya Muslim office in Rabwah on 5 December and condemns the attack on the Ahmadiyya mosque in Chakwal on 12 December. The Government strongly condemns the persecution of all minorities, including the targeting of people based on their beliefs. Our concerns are reflected in the latest update to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office annual human rights report.

We regularly raise our concerns about the protection of minority communities, including religious minorities, with the Government of Pakistan. During his visit to Pakistan in November 2016, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), raised religious tolerance and the importance of

safeguarding the rights of all Pakistan's citizens. During his visit to Pakistan in January 2017, the Minister for Asia and the Pacific, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Mr Sharma), raised the protection of minorities, including the Ahmadiyya, with Kamran Michael, Pakistani Minister for Human Rights, and Barrister Zafarullah Khan, the Prime Minister's Special Assistant for Human Rights. The Government continues to urge Pakistan to honour in practice its human rights obligations, including those related to religious minorities, and to uphold the rule of law.

[Pakistan: Ahmadiyya](#)

05 Jan 2017 | HL4310

Asked by: Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Pakistan about the treatment of Ahmadi Muslims following a recent attack on the Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Chakwal in Pakistan.

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns

| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We condemn the attack on the Ahmadiyya mosque in Chakwal on 12 December. The Government strongly condemns the persecution of all minorities, including the targeting of people based on their beliefs. Our concerns are reflected in the latest update to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office annual human rights report.

We regularly raise our concerns about the protection of minority communities, including religious minorities at senior level, with the government of Pakistan. During his visit to Pakistan in November, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) raised religious tolerance and the importance of safeguarding the rights of all Pakistan's citizens. The Government continues to urge Pakistan to honour in practice its human rights obligations, including those related to religious minorities, and to uphold the rule of law.

[Pakistan: Ahmadiyya](#)

04 Jan 2017 | HL4254

Asked by: Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with the Ahmadi Muslim community in the UK concerning the welfare of their co-religionists in Pakistan.

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns

| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We regularly meet representatives of the UK Ahmadiyya Muslim community to discuss the human rights of Ahmadiyya in Pakistan.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Alok Sharma) met members of the community at the Annual General Meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK on 23 November. I met community leaders in May. Earlier this week, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials met members of the community to discuss the raid on the Ahmadiyya offices in Rabwah on 5 December and the attack on the mosque in Chakwal on 12 December. We regularly raise our concerns about the protection of minority communities, including religious minorities, with the Pakistani Government at a senior level.

[Pakistan: Ahmadiyya](#)
23 Dec 2016 | HL4111

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the attack on 12 December on the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Dolmial, in the district of Chakwai, Pakistan; and what representations they have made to the government of Pakistan about the treatment of Ahmadiyyas.

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns
| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We condemn the attack on the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Chakwal on 12 December. The Government strongly condemns the persecution of all minorities, including the targeting of people based on their beliefs. Our concerns are reflected in the latest update to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office annual human rights report.

The Government regularly raises our concerns about the protection of minority communities, including religious minorities, with the Pakistani Government at a senior level. During his visit to Pakistan in November, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), raised religious tolerance and the importance of safeguarding the rights of all Pakistan's citizens. The Government continues to urge Pakistan to honour in practice its human rights obligations, including those related to religious minorities, and to uphold the rule of law.

[Muslims](#)
22 Dec 2016 | HL4253

Asked by: Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the contribution of Ahmadi Muslims to the UK.

Answering member: Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth
| Department: Department for Communities and Local Government

Faith communities make a vital contribution to Britain, guiding the moral outlook of many, inspiring great numbers of people to public

service and providing help to those in need. Ahmadiyya Muslims have made an immeasurable contribution to this country through their representation in business and public services, as well as charitable work such as the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association's support for The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal which has raised thousands of pounds.

Engagements

20 Apr 2016 | 608 c914

Asked by: Angus Robertson

It is believed that the recent murder of Glasgow shopkeeper Asad Shah was religiously motivated. This week, Christian, Jewish, Sikh and Ahmadiyya Muslim faith leaders launched a campaign across Scotland entitled United against Extremism. Will the Prime Minister join me and colleagues from all parties in supporting the aims of that campaign to support and foster understanding and stand up to extremism?

Answered by: The Prime Minister

I will certainly join the right hon. Gentleman. This was an absolutely shocking murder. What it demonstrates, and what his question hints at, is that we need to stand up not only against acts of appalling violence such as this, but against the extremist mindset that sometimes tries to justify such events and other such outrages.

Asked by: Angus Robertson

I am in total agreement with the Prime Minister. The murder of Asad Shah is just the most recent example of sectarian extremism targeting the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in the UK, including reports of Ahmadiyya being refused employment, businesses being boycotted, schoolchildren being bullied and shunned, and people such as Aamer Anwar who have worked to bring faith leaders together facing death threats. Does the Prime Minister agree that such extremism is totally unacceptable in a country where we believe in free speech and religious tolerance? The time has come for all community and all faith leaders of all religions to stand up against extremism.

Answered by: The Prime Minister

I certainly agree that faith leaders can play a huge role in standing up against extremism and I welcome what they do, but we need to be very clear about what we are facing. The attack on Ahmadiyya Muslims by other Muslims demonstrates once again that what we face is not some clash of civilisations between Islam and Christianity or Islam and Buddhism. What we are seeing is a small minority within one of the great religions of our world, Islam, believing that there is only one way—a violent, extremist way—of professing their faith. This is a battle within Islam, and we have to be on the side of the moderate majority and make sure that they win it. We have to really understand what is happening, otherwise we will take the wrong path.

4. Early Day Motions

POLICE RAID OF THE OFFICES OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN RABWAH, PAKISTAN

EDM 806 (session 2016-17)

14 December 2016

Margaret Ferrier

That this House expresses concern over the raid of the offices of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Rabwah, Pakistan by the Counter-Terrorism Department of the Punjab Police on 5 December 2016; notes that four Ahmadis were arrested during the raid, and that they were office workers affiliated with the Ahmadiyya community's magazine, Tehrik-e-Jadid; further notes that the printing press used to publish the magazine and the daily newspaper Al Fazl was sealed; welcomes the position of the US State Department that it is very concerned about these reports that Punjab counterterrorism police have raided the international headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Rabwah and that laws that restrict peaceful religious expression, particularly by the Ahmadiyya community, are inconsistent with Pakistan's international obligations; understands that Ahmadi communities are a marginalised minority in Pakistan and face persecution because of their faith; acknowledges that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a peaceful strand of Islam, with its UK community abiding by the motto Love for All, Hatred For None; and on a cross-party basis calls on the Government to use its diplomatic channels to make representations to the Pakistani authorities regarding this incident.

5. Further reading

[Al Islam: The Official Website of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community](#)

[Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK](#)

[Stop the Persecution](#)

About the Library

The House of Commons Library research service provides MPs and their staff with the impartial briefing and evidence base they need to do their work in scrutinising Government, proposing legislation, and supporting constituents.

As well as providing MPs with a confidential service we publish open briefing papers, which are available on the Parliament website.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publically available research briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email papers@parliament.uk. Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing only with Members and their staff.

If you have any general questions about the work of the House of Commons you can email hcinfo@parliament.uk.

Disclaimer

This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties. It is a general briefing only and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. The House of Commons or the author(s) shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and may remove, vary or amend any information at any time without prior notice.

The House of Commons accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. This information is provided subject to the [conditions of the Open Parliament Licence](#).