



AN EXTREMIST EXPRESSING HIS JOY OVER BURNT HOUSES OF CHRISTIANS AT LAHORE

Christians condemn the Badami Bagh incident

Hundreds of people in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore attacked a Christian neighbourhood on 9 March 2013, and set fire to homes after accusations that a Christian man had committed blasphemy against Islam's prophet, said a police officer.

Blasphemy is a serious crime in Pakistan that can carry the death penalty but sometimes outraged residents exact their own retribution for perceived insults of Mohammed.

Pakistan is overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim and people of other faiths, including the nation's small Christian community, are often viewed with suspicion.

The incident started on Friday when a young Muslim accused a Christian man of committing blasphemy by making offensive comments about the prophet, according to Multan Khan, a senior police officer.

The Diocesan Protest Rally

On March 11, 2013, a protest rally with more than two thousand Christian participants, led by the Rt. Revd. Humphrey Sarfraz Peters, Bishop of Peshawar marched from the St. John's Cathedral, Peshawar to the Peshawar Press Club passing through the busiest Sadar Bazar. The young, the old, men and women and children all staged a strong protest in front of the Press club and demanded justice and compensation from the rulers.

While addressing the Rally in front of Peshawar Press Club, Bishop Humphrey Pters said that present government has failed in provision of security to minorities because two churches and 178 houses and their assets were burnt in the Joseph Colony, Lahore on 9 March, and the alleged Holy Bibles had been blazed and desecrated.

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Bishop Humphrey leading the Protest Rally



Bishop Humphrey addressing the Rally

The Bishop's Press Conference

Later, speaking at a separate press conference, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Fata, Bishop Humphrey Sarfaraz Peter also expressed concern over the Badami Bagh incident. He said the authorities had not taken serious steps, because of which Christian community was targetted. He termed the compensation package for the victims of Badami Bagh eyewash and urged the government to increase the amount and ensure recurrence of such incidents in future.



Bishop Humphrey Peters along with Mr. Asif Bhatti, MPA and Mr. Prince Javed, MPA.

Meanwhile, hundreds of members of Christian's community held a protest rally in front of Peshawar Press Club. The demonstrators were holding

banners and placards inscribed with different slogans against the Badami Bagh incident. They blocked the busy Sher Shah Suri Road for almost an hour which created problems for the motorists.



CommDesk adds:

"This is the forth big incident after Shanti Nagar, and Gojra in Punjab where Christians have been massacre and their houses torched by the mob, led by the extremist religion leader.

The same has happened yet again, and the same question arises if the Pakistan government (whosever regime it may be) will ever be able to protect the unarmed minorities from the hyenas killing Christians and other minorities in the name of God.

This incident has been condemned by Christians along with civic society and enlightened Muslims of Pakistan.