

## QUARTERLY SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

June-Aug 2022

**34**

**Forced conversions/ Abductions**

**12**

**Blasphemy-related incidents**

**83**

**Faith-based discrimination**

**1,866,300**

**Hate speech**

### TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

- 11 June – Muskan Kumari was abducted and forcibly converted.
- 16 June- A pregnant Hindu woman was raped by Suleman Chutto in Sindh.
- July 4 - Pakistan has sentenced a Christian man, Ashfaq Masih, to death. He was convicted of blasphemy in 2017.
- July 7 - Christian Man killed by sickles then tied around neck with hose and dragged through streets.
- July 7 – 53 Ahmadi graves were desecrated in Gujranwala.
- July 10 – Three Ahmadis were arrested for celebrating and sacrificing on Eid-ul-Adha.
- July 27 – Chashman Kanwal, 14, was kidnapped and forcibly converted to Islam.
- August 12 – 60 years old, Ahmadi stabbed to death by a few religious extremists in Rabwah, Sargodha.
- August 21 – Dina Kaur of Sikh Community was kidnapped and forcibly converted.
- August 21 - Mob laid siege on the house of a Hindu sanitary worker, Ashok Kumar, who was falsely accused of Quran desecration.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- In the last three months, more than 130 incidents targeting religious minorities took place with 34 cases of abduction and forced conversion, 83 cases of faith-based discrimination, and 12 incidents relating to blasphemy.
- In addition, over 1,866,300 tweets propagating hate speech mainly targeting the Ahmadi and Shia communities were found.
- In most cases of forced conversions, the converted were minor Hindu girls. Families of these girls claim that these girls were abducted, raped, and forced to sign marriage contract and conversion certificates.
- Faith-based persecution is on rise as more than 83 cases were reported of people suffering rape, murder, violence and torture during the reporting period. Some suicide cases of Hindus have also been reported with no clue of the reason behind such rise of suicide cases in minorities.
- Hate speech against Ahmadis was widespread throughout the quarter with many tweets openly inciting grievous violence against the community. Not surprisingly, on August 21, an Ahmadi was stabbed to death by a religious extremist in Sargodha.
- Sectarian hate speech between members of the Shia and Sunni communities is also a frequent sight on the social media with both hurling abuses at each other.
- This quarter also saw weaponization of blasphemy by ruling and opposition political parties against one another.

## Forced Conversions

The abduction and forced conversion of minor girls and women from the Hindu and Christian communities have steadily been **normalized** in Pakistan. The state usually either plays accomplice or looks the other way. The *Movement for Solidarity and Peace* – a Pakistan-based minority rights watchdog – reports that about 1,000 Hindu and Christian girls aged 12-25 are forcibly converted every year in Pakistan. In June alone, 17 minor girls were reported to be abducted, raped, or forcibly converted to Islam. Among these were Ponho Kohli, Muskan Kumari, Moonki Kohli and Ganga from the Hindu community.



**Voice of Pakistan Minority** @voice\_minority · Jun 2

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Just in: A 16 yr old minor [#Hindu](#) girl Ponho Kolhi has been abducted and forcibly converted by Maan Hussain Laghari in Mirpurkhas, Sindh. The family was threatened by the culprit to take any action.

[#SavePakistanMinorityGirls](#)

[@VeengasJ](#) [@Xadeejournalist](#) [@bilalfqi](#) [@gabeeno](#)



**CFATM** @CFATM2 · Jun 2

...

Another abduction of a [#minority](#)!!!!

A [#Hindu](#) married woman Moonki Kohli was kidnapped at gunpoint by some highly influential people in [#Sindh](#).

[#SaveMinorityWoman](#) [@FaqirShiva](#) [@NarainDasBheel8](#) [@Pak\\_Hindus](#)



**Narain Das Bheel** @NarainDasBheel8 · Jun 10

...

10 Jun '22 at Chambar, Sindh, Pakistan: 5months ago Hindu girl Ganga d/o Misri Kohli abducted & forcibly converted/married to Mazhar Khoso managed to escape and reach her parents few days ago has now been handed over back to her abductor by the court as she turned hostile.



**Voice of Pakistan Minority** @voice\_minority · Jun 14

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One after another case.

On 11th June, a 14 yr old minor [#Hindu](#) girl, Muskan Kumari has been abducted from Dholi Chowk, Ghouspur, [#Sindh](#).

Her whereabouts remain unknown, soon she will be forcibly converted & married.

[#SpeakUpForPakMinorities](#)

[@Xadeejournalist](#) [@bilalfqi](#)

In Lahore, Safia Bibi, the wife of a Christian Pastor Maqsood Rafique, suffered a miscarriage after two Muslim men allegedly attempted to rape her. Rafique claimed the police freed the perpetrators and refused to register an FIR. Reportedly, the victim was later threatened by the culprits to back off. In another identical case in Sindh, a pregnant Hindu woman, Soni Kohli, was allegedly raped by a Muslim Suleman Chutto. Likewise, two minor sisters aged 16 and 17 were gang-raped in Punjab. The victim families were threatened with consequences if they pursued the case. Similarly, the daughter of a Hindu laborer was abducted and gang-raped by a local landlord Raja Zafar on June 6 in Jhelum, Punjab. The police recovered the victim from Bahawalpur days after her abduction.



**ramfoundation** @ramfoundation · Jun 15 ...

Safia Bibi, a Christian pastor's wife, suffered a miscarriage of her 3-month-old child during an attempted rape by Muslim men. The pastor's employer threatened that if he pursue justice for his wife, he will bribe the police & cause the pastor to lose his job and housing.



**Shahid Mobeen** @ShahidMobeen1 · Jun 10

Pak Christian News | Christian woman loses three month pregnancy during attempted rape pakchristiannews.com/details/464



**WoF Updates** @WoF\_Updates · Jun 17 ...

16 Jun '22 at village Sodho Chutto, Uderolal, Sindh, Pakistan: Hindu pregnant lady **Soni** w/o Chetan **Kohli** raped by Muslim Suleman Chutto in the banana fields, influential people threatened of dire consequences if matter taken to police.



**Narain Das Bheel** @NarainDasBheel8 · Jun 19 ...

05 Jun '22 at Chak 281/HR, Fort Abbas Town, Dist. Bhawalnagar, Punjab, Pakistan: **#Hindu** sisters age 16 & 17 gangraped at gunpoint by Umair Ashfaq & Kashif Ali, victim's father was threatened later case registered after 36 hrs no arrest  
source: Dawn News report Dt. 16 Jun '22



**Narain Das Bheel** @NarainDasBheel8 · Jun 19 ...

06 Jun '22 at Singhoi, Dist. Jhelum, Punjab, Pakistan: **#Hindu** girl d/o a labourer abducted & gangraped by her land lord Raja Zafar, she was recovered on 13 Jun from Bahawalpur after police complaint, family r/o Badin shifted to Singhoi for work  
Dawn News report 14 Jun '22

Furthermore, cases of abductions of two married Hindu women from Mithi and Hyderabad were also reported on the social media. The fate of these women remained unknown till the writing of this report. On July 8, a 25-year old Hindu women along with her child were reported abducted and converted in Ghotki, Sindh. Similarly, another three Hindu girls aged 13-23 were kidnapped in Sindh and South Punjab.



**Voice of Pakistan Minority** @voice\_minority · Jun 20 ...

The man in this pic is Bhemonmal Meghwar, his daughter who is the mother of these 2 children has been abducted by a Muslim boy of the Samejo community from Mithi, Sindh.

Why is the **#Hindu** community suffering in their own homeland?

Recover their mother.

[#SpeakUpForPakMinorities](#)

-  **Faraz Pervaiz** @FarazPervaiz3 · Jul 11 ...  
July 8 at Raja Colony, Deharki, Sindh, #Pakistan: #Hindu Married girl Farzana (25) (looks minor) d/o Satwari Bheel abducted with her child, Forcibly converted to #Islam, projected as she reached Bharchundi Sharif Dargah embraced Islam on her free will, her new name kept Ayesha.
-  **Naya Daur Media** @nayadaurpk · Jul 14 ...  
A 13-year-old Hindu girl who was allegedly abducted in Rahim Yar Khan and later found at a Dar-ul-Aman after her disappearance, is being denied the right to meet her family, despite the court granting permission to the family to meet their child.
-  **The Rise News** @Therisenews\_ · Jul 7 ...  
Pooja Kumari's case is on the back burner | He is pressurized to arrive at a compromise. However, he has refused to accept a settlement over the brutal killing of his daughter. [therisenews.com/2022/07/07/poo...](https://therisenews.com/2022/07/07/poo...) reports @Therisenews\_

Similarly, in yet another gruesome case of violence and persecution in Sindh, a Hindu girl Pooja Kumari was murdered for refusing to convert and marry a Muslim man. The victim awaits justice. *The Rise News* reported that Kumari's father was being coerced to accept monetary compensation for the murder of her daughter. Likewise, in another incident, a Hindu citizen Chandar Kohli was beaten up and his wife kidnapped and gangraped by five Muslim men in Umerkot, Sindh. The Hindu community staged a protest demonstration outside the Umerkot Press Club. On the other hand, the *Pakistan Christian Post* also reported a Christian woman's sexual assault at gunpoint in Gujranwala, Punjab.

-  **Stand with Minorities** @SaveMinorities\_ · Jul 30 ...  
Minority #Hindus are protesting at Umarmkot Press club for Justice, against the abduction of **Chander Kohli's** wife by 5 Muslim men Mumtaz Mushtaq Akbar Imran and Asgar from their home and beat **Chander** at their farm house, while they gang raped his wife in Umerkot, #Sindh #Pakistan.

August began with the story of forced conversion of 15-year old Chashman Kanwal who had been kidnapped in 2021. Likewise, a 12-year old Christian girl, Zarvia, was stolen from her family and married off to an aged Muslim man in Rawalpindi. Another Christian girl who was kidnapped and forcibly converted to Islam at the end of July was recovered by the Police in August.

-  **Abolish Blasphemy Laws** @EndBlasphemyLaws · Aug 1 ...  
15-year-old Chashman Kanwal, for example, was stolen away from her family to be forcibly converted and married this month; authorities have yet to recover her.
-  **Sherkan Malik** @SherkanMalik · Aug 7 ...  
12 yr old Christian girl #Zarvia kidnapped, forcibly converted, and illegally married to 40yr old man in RWP & ISB area. She was kidnapped by a husband wife duo, drugged her & took her to Faisalabad 3 mths ago. The parents not sure if she's alive anymore or sold as a slave. (1/3)

Rupa Oad and Dina Kaur were similarly subjected to abduction and conversion. Dina Kaur, a Sikh, was reportedly raped and married off to her abductor. Additionally, a five-year-old girl from the Meghwar Hindu community was sexually assaulted by a group of men in Sindh. It has been reported that the victim's family is constantly being threatened by the assailants.

## Faith-based Violence

Members of minority faith groups like the Ahmadis, Hindus, and Christians etc. continued to face violence during the reporting quarter. In the first week of July, a Christian farmer Younis Masih was beaten to death by two Muslim men in a village of Sialkot. The victim's body was also dragged around the village streets. Likewise, a Muslim fanatic stabbed to death Naseer Ahmad – an Ahmadi – in Rabwah, Sargodha. Reports said that before stabbing the man, the culprit demanded of the victim to chant the TLP's trademark slogan on the finality of the Prophet Mohammad. Upon refusal, the Ahmadi man was fatally stabbed. Likewise, two Hindu men Salamat Rai and Pawan Kohli faced similar fates. As per social media reports, Rai was stabbed to death in Karachi, while Kohli was gunned down in Badin, Sindh.

In June, a Hindu woman was brutally beaten up by a Muslim shopkeeper over a petty argument in Dadu, Sindh. Another Hindu woman, Jami Meghwar, was physically assaulted and injured by police personnel deputed at a bank where financial aid for flood victims was being distributed. Similarly, a Hindu tailor, Rano Meghwar, was also roughed up by a customer over some petty dispute.



Voice of Pakistan Minority @voice\_minority · Jun 1 ...  
A woman belonging to the #Hindu community has been brutally beaten by a shopkeeper over a little argument in Dadu, Sindh.  
[#StopSuppressingPakMinorities](#)  
Is being a minority a crime in [#Pakistan](#)?

Simultaneously, communal targeting of the Hindus in various areas of Sindh occurred in the previous quarter. In Tando Allah Yar, a Muslim mob attacked homes of the Kohli community, beating residents with sticks. Likewise, a house owned by a Meghwar family was set ablaze in Mirpur Khas. The family reportedly fled the area. In addition, members of the Hindu's Jogi caste were attacked in Umerkot.

Furthermore, about 22 cases of suicide among the Hindu community of Sindh were reported. The age groups of the deceased varied, ranging from below 18 to over 30. The problem of suicide among the Hindu community is aggravating, while there is no serious effort by the government or civil society to investigate it. While social injustices including economic marginalization are believed to be the driving force behind these suicides, many Twitter users claim the suicides may have actually been coverups for murders. Some claim the victims' bodies are hung to the trees to portray them as suicide cases.



Voice of Pakistan Minority @voice\_minority · Jul 28 ...  
Has anyone given a thought to this, that why minorities committing suicide in [#Pakistan](#), especially in [#Sindh](#)?  
A minor girl, Savi has committed suicide by jumping in a well in Village Phulio, Sindh.  
[#RampantSuicideInSindh](#)



Voice of Pakistan Minority @voice\_minority · Jun 20 ...  
A few days ago on 18th June, the dead body of a Hindu woman, Laxmi Bheel has been found hanging by the neck on a branch of a tree in Kalo, Sindh.  
Why this kind of incident has become a daily phenomenon in Sindh?  
[#RampantSuicideInSindh](#)

Apart from incidents of killings, ransacking of Hindu temples in various areas of Sindh was also reported. In at least 5 incidents reported on the Twitter from June to August, temples were attacked and damaged in Karachi, Ghotki, Rohri, and Maan Singh Colony.



Like Hindu temples, the graves of Ahmadi citizens were also attacked and desecrated in parts of Punjab. As per reports on social media, at least 53 Ahmadi graves were desecrated in Gujranwala, and another 16 were demolished in the industrial city of Faisalabad by Muslims. Commenting on the plight of the Ahmadis, a Twitter handle wrote, ***“Even after death, there is no peace for minorities in Pakistan.”***



During the Eid-ul-Azha, five Ahmadis were arrested for performing the Islamic ritual of animal sacrifice in Faisalabad and Sheikhpura in Punjab. The law bars the Ahmadis from performing Islamic rituals, and this provision has effectively been weaponized by the extremists. The Ahmadis were arrested on the ground that their performing of Islamic rituals *hurt the feelings* of Muslims. There were mixed responses to the incident with many condoning the arrest while some condemning the police.



**Usama Khilji**  @UsamaKhilji · Jul 11

You know **Ahmadi** genocide in Pakistan is real when members of the community are **arrested** by Police for slaughtering animals inside their houses on Eid.



**Saleem ud Din** @SaleemudDinAA · Jul 10

2 Ahmadies were arrested in Safdarabad, Sheikhpura because the complainant heard sound of Islamic words & later saw blood coming from an Ahmadi house.

Ever compliant @OfficialDPRPP were ready to register an FIR.

This 2nd among many such incidents of police harassment today.



**wrangler vortex** @WVortex · Jul 10

Replying to @IHumanRightsC @LantosSwettK and 6 others

Ahmedis cannot celebrate Eid UL Adha as per constitution of [Pakistan.as](http://Pakistan.as) they are not Muslims and cannot name their religious obligation under Islamic name

Using religion for politics is a sad old tradition in Pakistan. In August, PML-Q leader Malik Ilyas Awan demanded the removal of security from around an Ahmadi neighborhood and eviction of the community from Khushab. Awan formally requested it through a letter to the deputy commissioner. In a separate incident, an Ahmadi was assaulted for putting a name plague outside his home.



**PressSectionSAA** @PressSectionSAA · Aug 2

PML-Q Leader Calls For Eviction Of Ahmadies From Khushab via [@tft\\_](https://twitter.com/tft_)

## Blasphemy Related Crimes

Blasphemy remained a hot topic on the Pakistani Twitter. On June 24, a Christian man Rehmat Masih was reportedly accused of blasphemy after he refused to convert to Muslim faith. As per reports on Twitter, at least four persons were accused of blasphemy in different areas. In Ghotki, a person Zahoor Lashari was reported to have committed blasphemy by allegedly altering the Islamic *Kalima*. Likewise, Muslim clerics in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Mardan district filed a blasphemy case against a drug addict for allegedly insulting Allah in a video shared on social media. Moreover, a Muslim woman who had married a Hindu was accused of blasphemy. Some users expressed concerns over the safety and security of the couple.

In July, rumors made rounds that the Samsung Company was using a QR code that was somehow insulting to Islam. This led to instant vandalizing of Samsung billboards and advertisements by mobs across the country. Likewise, in early August, a mob of enraged students at *Mirpur University of Science and Technology* in Azad Kashmir forced a student to publicly apologize for allegedly insulting the Prophet's Companions. Similarly, on August 21, a Muslim mob laid siege to the house of a Hindu sanitary worker Ashok Kumar after he was accused of desecrating the Quran in Hyderabad. Later, it came out that the blasphemy allegation was levelled by a Muslim Bilal Abbasi who had an argument with Kumar over some business matter earlier in the same week. The law enforcement responded quickly by dispersing the mob and rescuing the victim from potential lynching.



**Mubashir Zaidi** @Xadeejournalist · 12h

...

Hyderabad police dispersed a violent mob which was demanding handing over a Hindu sanitary worker accusing him of [#blasphemy](#) Police claims the sanitary worker was targeted because of a personal clash with a local resident



**Ailia Zehra** @AiliaZehra · 13h

...

Another landmark judgement by Justice Qazi Faez Isa who notes that false **blasphemy** allegations are levelled to settle personal scores and cases are also registered for “mischievous purposes or on account of ulterior motives”.

In the last week of August, three Shias were accused of blasphemy in the tribal Kurram district. This was followed by violence in which three people were killed and a police station was torched. Footages of the violence were posted on the social media. In Pakistan, the blasphemy law has also been used to silence political dissent and curb free speech. In late August, the Punjab government registered a blasphemy case against journalist Waqar Satti for posting a video on social media.



**Azaz Syed** @AzazSyed · Aug 28

...

**Blasphemy case against journalist** : Punjab govt has registered a case of **blasphemy** against senior journalist [@waqarsatti](#) for merely posting a video of [#PTI](#) leader [@ImranKhanPTI](#) . [@ShireenMazari1](#) [@fawadchaudhry](#)

On the other hand, people raised voice on social media in support of Ashfaq Masih – a Christian – who was awarded death sentence in a blasphemy case. There was also report of a Christian woman Mary facing threats and harassment even after having been acquitted in a blasphemy case earlier. In this quarter, the judiciary played a positive role in curbing the misuse of blasphemy laws, as Stephen Masih, Salamat Masih, Patras Masih and Raja Waris were granted bails. They had been in custody for years over blasphemy charges.

## Hate Speech

This quarter witnessed a spike in sectarian hate speech on the Twitter as trends targeting Shias and their beliefs made rounds during the Moharram. The anti-Shia hate speech aggravated after an attack on an ASWJ rally to commemorate the Sahaba. In a video footage posted on social media, a Sunni man was shown being threatened and harassed by a suspected ASWJ activist for distributing water to Shia mourners during Moharram processions. Many Twitter users described their experiences of witnessing “Shia kafir” (Shia infidel) slogans at Sunni religious gatherings.

In addition to sectarian hate speech, abusive and derogatory contents about Christian, Hindu, and Ahmadi faiths were posted on Pakistani social media. A user reported that a Christian girl was denied admission in a college due to her faith. On the other hand, a Christian woman was harassed on the Twitter by a Muslim man who bluntly asked her to convert to Islam.



Extreme hate speech inciting violence against the Ahmadis was also noted during the quarter. They were called infidels, hypocrites, terrorists, etc. An organized Twitter handle warned its followers to not support a certain flood relief organization because it was allegedly owned by the Ahmadis. Another user castigated Ahmadis, saying they were deserving of murder. On the other hand, there were also some voices in support of the persecuted community.

 **ختم نبوت میڈیا** @KN\_Media64 · Aug 26  
یہ قادیانیوں کا ادارہ ہے محتاط رہیں بغیر تصدیق کے ہر ادارے کو رقم مت  
دیجئے  
اس پیغام کو تیز ہوا کی طرح کونے کونے میں پہنچا دو  
ختم نبوت پر مشتمل یوسٹوں اور نفی ایڈیٹس کے لیے ہمیں فالو کریں



Iranian Revolution as “Un-Islamic” and a “Shia Revolution”. One wrote “*The Un-Islamic Revolution continues to push sectarianism & instability in the Muslim World along with covert blessings of the United States of America.*” Many directly targeted Shia religious beliefs and declared Khomeini to be a blasphemer and an infidel. Since Khomeini is a revered figure among many Shias in South Asia, such tweets clearly meant to hurt the sentiments of Shia community, which responded with trends (not among the top) such as “Khomeini is for everyone” and “#Khomeini\_TheGreatLeader.”

The most dramatic spike in sectarian trends occurred in late June after some Shias were accused of abusing the Sahaba in Parachinar. Tensions flared up between the Shia and Sunni tribes in the valley which reportedly has 80% Shia population. The Kurram district has a record of violent sectarianism. However, religiously motivated violence is often also the outcome of tribal feuds over lands etc. Most tweets under the trend of “#JusticeforParachinarSunnis” and “Sunni Genocide in Parachinar” called for government action against alleged atrocities committed by Shia majority in Parachinar. Few hateful tweets called the Shias agents of Iran and accused them of disrupting peace in Pakistan. On the other hand, on July 1, “Namoos e Sahaba Bill” was among the top trends as many users claimed a bill protecting the sanctity of the Sahaba had been introduced in the National Assembly. However, the database of the National Assembly showed no record of such a bill, and it seemed the trend was a fake propaganda.

The anti-Shia trends saw another rise around Eid-e-Ghadeer – a festival Shia celebrate to mark the beginning of spiritual heirship (*Imamat*) of Hazrat Ali. “Boycot Eid Ghadeer” was among the top 10 trends on 17 July with over 39,000 tweets. Some users claimed the Shias observed Ghadeer to celebrate the death of Hazrat Usman – the third pious caliph. Sectarian debates between Sunni and Shia on social media have a strong tendency to morph into tit-for-tat hate speech. Under the Ghadeer trends, many Sunnis used terms rafiz/rafidh (rejectionist) for the Shias, meaning the latter had rejected true Islam. Similarly, others called them infidels.

Interestingly, however, during Moharram when the Shias mourn the death of Imam Hussain, there was considerable opposition to sectarianism on the Pakistani Twitter. Top trends rebuking sectarianism included “Farooq O Hussain”, “Karbala”, and “Shia Sunnis” etc. The death anniversaries of two noted figures of Islam i.e., Hazrat Omar and Imam Hussain fall in Moharram. Therefore, users called for respecting both the personalities. During the month, many Sunnis shared stories of how their families observed the Ashura like Shias, further saying that Imam Hussain belonged to all.



پروفیسر عرشمہ فاطمہ  
@ArushmaFatima

...

Hussain A.S is not only for #Shia or Sunni Hussain is the Light of Guidance for Humanity.

#SalamYaHussain  
#سلام\_یا\_حسین

However, one exception was a recurring trend of “We Condemn Enemies of Sahaba” that appeared on top trend charts multiple times during Muharram. This anti-Shia trend disseminated sectarian hate speech against the Shia community. Some users demanded a ban on Moharram processions on the ground that Shias allegedly disrespected the Sahaba at such gatherings.

### Reaction on derogatory comments by Nurpur Sharma

In early June, Nurpur Sharma, a BJP politician in India stirred an outcry in many Muslim-majority countries by passing blasphemous remarks about Prophet Mohammad. Later, another BJP leader Naveen Kumar defended Nurpur and uttered words deemed Islamophobic by audience. Under pressure, the BJP suspended party memberships of both leaders, and the Indian Supreme Court ordered Nurpur to apologize the “whole nation”. In response to this episode, condemnations by users trended on top for a whole week in Pakistan, starting from June 5. Later, on June 17, the issue resurfaced with a trend “Hang Nurpur Sharma”.

Pakistani users linked the blasphemous remarks with BJP’s Hindutva politics. Others hailed the Arab states for taking note of the incident, claiming the Muslims were one on the honor of the Prophet. Some called for expulsion of Indian ambassadors from all Muslim countries. Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto also condemned what he called “repugnant and derogatory remarks” by BJP officials.



**BilawalBhuttoZardari**  @BBhuttoZardari · Jun 5



We strongly condemn the completely repugnant & derogatory remarks by BJP officials about our beloved Prophet Muhammad PBUH. Totally unacceptable; hurting sentiments of billions of Muslims around the world. Time for intl comm to stop the ‘**Hindutva**’ inspired Islamophobia in India

### Attack on Salman Rushdie

Following the assassination attempt on Salman Rushdie in New York on 12 August, a trend “Salam Rushdi” condoning the murder attempt surfaced in Pakistan in which users hailed the culprit as “Mujahid” and abused Rushdie in superlatives.

However, some renowned scholars and celebrities came forward with condemning the attack and some even explained the context behind the novel. Under the trend of “Satanic Verses” a Twitter user explained the religious background of the story while many explained that the novel was a work of fiction, and most have never read it.



**Marvi Sirmed** ✓  
@marvisirmed

...

Attack on Salman Rushdie is condemned in strongest possible manner. I join my friend @cyalm in expressing solidarity with an author who has been under threat for his writing for over three decades and finally got stabbed by some low life.

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan while talking to international media criticized the attack, describing it as “terrible” and “sad,” and saying while the anger of the Muslim world over Rushdie’s book *The Satanic Verses* was understandable, it could not justify the assault. The Twitterati again gave a very harsh reaction to this comment, to the degree that Imran Khan had to give a statement claiming that his comments were taken out of context.



**PTI** ✓ @PTIofficial · Aug 20

...

دی گارڈین نے میری گفتگو سیاق و سباق سے ہٹ کر پیش کی۔ میں نے بھارت میں ملعون سلمان رشدی کو مدعو کرنے پر سیمینار میں شرکت سے انکار کیا۔ انٹرویو میں، میں نے گستاخ رسول ﷺ کو سزا دینے کے اسلامی طریقہ کار کی وضاحت کی۔ سانحہ سیالکوٹ کا حوالہ کیا، اسی تناظر میں رشدی کی بات کی۔

عمران خان



## Debate on Ahmadi’s Freedom of Religion

While the persecution of Ahmadis continues in Pakistan, still voices supporting the Ahmadis’ freedom of religion have emerged recently. Social media spaces have been used to highlight their plight and underline Pakistan’s constitutional commitment to freedom of religious beliefs. A twitter trend “Ahmadis” topped twice in August. Most tweets under this trend discussed the violence as well as legal and structural issues the community faced in Pakistan.



## Ahmadi Man Stabbed To Death By Fanatic in Chenab Nagar



**a** @diorstheticc · Aug 20

Pakistan recently voted AGAINST a bill that would ban forced conversions. Non-Muslims cannot hold significant political offices and **Ahmadis** cannot get a passport unless they declare their religion as false. The plight of minorities in Pakistan is literally state-sponsored

### Sentiment Analysis of Trends

Based on the tone of majority of tweets made under each top trend, a sentiment analysis was conducted to determine how many negative trends were observed on Twitter during the three months (June-Aug 2022). Negative trends refer to trends that promote hate speech, target freedom of religious beliefs, or incite violence against religious minorities. Positive trends, in contrast, refers to trends highlighting any incident of violence or hate speech or promoting any movement for civil rights and liberties of minorities.

The graph below plots the percentage of tweets in each trend category. As shown, the majority of tweets made under relevant twitter trends were negative that can be explained by the rising sectarian hate speech in this quarter. A little lower than the last quarter, less than 50% of tweets under partially relevant trends were negative, indicating a slight shift towards positive tweets under religious hashtags. However, the difference is just of 2% and to comment on a trend, we need to wait for the next quarter. All irrelevant trends were automatically marked as neutral for the chances of having a negative or positive tweet under these trends was minuscule.

