



VIOLENCE IN PAKISTAN

On 16 August 2023, several Christian churches and homes were looted and set alight by the religious fanatics in Jaranwala, Punjab Province, after allegations of having committed blasphemy were made against two Christian men. The initial mob violence has been followed by other individual attacks. On 16 August 2023, several Christian churches and homes were looted and set alight by the religious fanatics in Jaranwala, Punjab Province, after allegations of having committed blasphemy were made against two Christian men. The initial mob violence has been followed by other individual attacks.

The APPG for Pakistani Minorities officers met Lord Ahmad, FCDO Minister, in order to discuss a UK response to the violent attacks on the tiny Christian minority. Lord Ahmad gave assurance that the British Government strongly opposed the attacks and stood solidly with the victims. The delegation consisted of Jim Shannon MP APPG Chairman, Lord Alton Co-chair, Fiona Bruce MP Treasurer, Marie Rimmer MP, Bishop Andrew Watson Vice-Chair, Dr Ewelina Ochab APPG Senior Researcher and Morris Johns APPG Admin Secretary.

EDM (EARLY DAY MOTION) 1593 TABLED BY JIM SHANNON MP

That this House is concerned that at least five churches were burned in Pakistan's Punjab province on 16 August 2023 following allegations of blasphemy made against two members of the Christian community; is alarmed

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All-Party Parliamentary Group for
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NewsLetter September 23'

..... that at least 91 homes were destroyed during the violence; notes reports that hundreds of additional homes were looted; acknowledges that Pakistan's Government has committed to protect the religious minorities and pay compensation to the victims; is greatly troubled over recent attacks on Ahmadi mosques and Hindu temples; and urges action to be taken so that the perpetrators of the recent attacks are held accountable.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/61336>



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS TABLED BY LORD ALTON

TO ask His Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to measure and evaluate (1) the effectiveness, and (2) the impact of projects that monitor the evacuation of religious minorities from areas affected by religious persecution in Pakistan.

TO ask His Majesty's Government what projects they are currently funding to improve (1) the quality of education, and (2) access to education for the Christian community, in Pakistan.

TO ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how many Christian students in Pakistan have (1) benefited from, and (2) graduated from, university as a result of projects funded through UK foreign aid to improve the quality of, and access to, education for their local community.