



## **CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY, PLURALISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **Weekly Human Rights Watch Report**

(17-06-2024 to 23-06-2024)

23 June 2024. New Delhi. This week state-led violence against the Ahmadis continued in Pakistan. Furthermore, there was another incident of mob-based violence wherein an accused of blasphemy was killed. In Iran, a man was given a long prison sentence for leaving Islam. Beyond the region, the human rights situation remains worrisome. Antisemitism continues to be a global problem. There were reports of antisemitic attacks from Western countries like France, Canada and the US. In Russia's Dagestan region too at least two synagogues were attacked by Islamist terrorists on Sunday. Canada continues to embrace Khalistani extremists as the state mourns a dead radical activist in parliament thereby jeopardizing the lives of Indo-Canadian minorities in the country.

### **I. Pakistan**

#### **1. Another Blasphemy Related Lynching**

In the Swat district of Pakistan, a man named Muhammad Ismail from Punjab was lynched over blasphemy allegations on Thursday. The victim was visiting the valley as a tourist and staying in a local hotel in Madyan city. This is the second blasphemy-related lynching in Pakistan in recent weeks. Last month, a Christian man was attacked, and his home and business were burned down by a crowd in Punjab.

For more details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/pakistan-man-lynched-by-mob-over-alleged-quran-desecration-in-swat/3532476/>

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/pakistan-rights-group-condemns-lynching-of-blasphemy-accused-in-swat20240621151850/>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimeads.com/world/pakistan/pakistan-rights-group-condemns-lynching-of-blasphemy-accused-in-swat/articleshow/111165459.cms>

<https://theshillongtimes.com/2024/06/21/tourist-lynched-and-burnt-by-islamist-mob-in-pakistans-swat/>

<https://english.jagran.com/world/pakistan-mob-lynching-tourist-burnt-alive-in-swat-region-over-blasphemy-allegation-video-surfaces-10168634>

[https://x.com/AbsaKomal?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauth](https://x.com/AbsaKomal?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauth)  
[or](#)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1841453/at-least-23-arrested-after-man-lynched-in-swats-madyan-police>

## **2. Targeting of Ahmadis Continues This Week**

Last week CDPHR reported large-scale societal, and state-led harassment and violence against the minority Ahmadi community. This week their harassment continued. On Monday, the day of Eid ul Adha, several incidents of police arresting, entering the homes of Ahmadis and an attack against their place of worship came to light. Cases were filed against the community [under section 298-C](#) of the penal code. This section of the penal code is used to prevent Ahmadis from practising the Islamic faith and is a tool to harass the members of the community. The harassment of the community on the occasion of Eid al Adha this year was extremely concerning.

For more news:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1840855/several-ahmadis-detained-by-police-for-violating-constitution-gujranwala-cpo>

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1840855/several-ahmadis-detained-by-police-for-violating-constitution-gujranwala-cpo>

<https://www.firstpost.com/world/pakistan-arrests-ahmadis-saying-eid-rituals-violation-of-constitution-why-its-not-13784662.html>

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1841097>

## **II. Iran Sentences a Man to 15 Years for Leaving Islam**

This week a court in Iran sentenced a man to 15 years in prison. A local court in Ahvaz charged, the man named Yasin Mousavi, with “membership in groups aimed at disrupting national security and propaganda against the Islamic Republic through promoting Zionist Christianity.”

He was arrested in December 2023 along with other Christian converts in the city of Izeh. Leaving Islam is a punishable sentence in the country. The country has given harsh sentences to several Christian converts in the past too.

For more information:

<https://www.asianews.it/news-en/Iran,-Ahvaz:-15-years-in-prison-for-Christian-convert-Yasin-Mousavi-60984.html>

<https://iranwire.com/en/religious-minorities/130723-iran-court-hands-christian-convert-15-years-in-prison/>

<https://hengaw.net/en/news/2024/06/article-51>

<https://x.com/ShayanX0/status/1803863723356098570>

### **III. Canada: Tolerating Antisemitism and Coddling Khalistani Radicals**

#### **1. Antisemitism Growing Unabated in Major Canadian Cities**

Since last month CDPHR has constantly monitored reports of antisemitic incidents in Canada. This week too there were few cases of antisemitism in the country. This points to the worsening political culture in the country and its policy towards religious extremists. The Canadian state has tolerated Islamist extremist-led hate protests and events since the October 7 attacks against Israel last year. This week, in Montreal, a Jewish-owned business called Falafel Yoni was attacked on Tuesday night/Wednesday morning. The restaurant's windows were shattered. According to [the owner](#), "his business was targeted because he is Jewish and was born in Israel". This attack came [after a Jewish school](#) was attacked in Montreal just a few days back. Montreal's McGill University campus has seen several antisemitic incidents by the radical students occupying the campus space for weeks. Last week a poster emerged from the encampment which depicted several keffiyeh-wearing armed men reading books. Seen within the larger context of several antisemitic incidents in the city the Jewish students were rightly alarmed. In this case, Montreal police have so far refused to act against the illegal encampment at the University. Montreal and Toronto have been the centre of several antisemitic attacks against the Jewish community and businesses since the anti-Israel protests began in the country. Trudeau's administration has failed to protect Jews who feel more vulnerable during the last few months.

For more information:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10576954/montreal-antisemitism-restaurant-targeted/>

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/police-investigating-possible-bullet-holes-in-window-of-mile-end-restaurant>

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/montreal-restaurant-hit-with-projectiles-owner-says-it-s-because-he-is-jewish-1.6933290>

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/montreal-jewish-school-hit-by-gunfire-in-second-such-attack-in-canada-within-days/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jun/14/pro-palestinian-canadian-students-youth-summer-program-antisemitism>

<https://x.com/PierrePoilievre/status/1803208578662064337>

## **2. Canadian Parliament Mourns Dead Canadian Extremist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar**

Whereas in the case of anti-Israel protests, the Canadian state is ignoring the growing problem of antisemitism from Islamists, however when it comes to the Khalistani extremists, the government of Canada seems to be openly embracing them. This week, the Canadian parliament observed a minute of silence for the dead extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on the occasion of his death anniversary. The Canadian state has historically ignored the Khalistani extremists which has in the past led to a bomb attack against the Air India flight in 1985. In this terrorist attack, dozens of Indian-origin Canadian citizens lost their lives. For geopolitical and domestic electoral reasons Trudeau's government is embracing the extremists which makes the Canadian citizen of Indian origin vulnerable to future terrorist attacks. This embrace of fanatics directly violates the rights and security of Indo-Canadians.

For more information:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/39th-anniversary-of-kanishka-bombing-india-says-it-stands-at-the-forefront-of-counterterrorism/article68307520.ece#:~:text=Canadian%20parliamentarians%20stood%20for%20a,between%20the%20two%20countries'%20Prime>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/canada-parliament-honours-khalistani-separatist-nijjar-with-moment-of-silence/articleshow/111100598.cms>

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/justin-trudeau-hardeep-singh-nijjar-india-canada-ties-canada-parliaments-moment-of-silence-for-terrorist-indias-kanishka-reply-5921468>

<https://x.com/sidhant/status/1803254034427683135>

#### **IV. France: 13-year-old Jewish Girl Raped in an Antisemitic Attack**

France regularly registers one of the highest rates of antisemitism among the Western countries. The situation has only worsened since the beginning of the latest Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This week a teen Jewish girl was raped by two teens in the suburbs of Paris. Police are treating the crime as antisemitic as the accused referred to the girl as a “dirty Jew” during the crime. The country has become extremely unsafe since October 7 and the regular protests led by Islamists and far-left parties have worsened the situation for the country’s Jews. After the attack, France’s far-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon [has been criticized](#) for his antisemitic dog whistles.

For more information:

<https://www.wionews.com/world/france-on-boil-after-alleged-rape-of-12-year-old-jewish-girl-733763>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/06/20/antisemitism-rape-france-courbevoie/>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/06/20/europe/france-alleged-rape-anti-semitism-intl-latam/index.html>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cljj9x8lj2jo>

<https://apnews.com/article/france-antisemitism-election-campaign-d7abcccdc89650190723e55a1716228d>

<https://www.politico.eu/article/emmanuel-macron-gabriel-attal-jean-luc-melenchon-antisemitic-assault-france-left/>

<https://www.voanews.com/a/antisemitism-comes-to-fore-in-french-election-campaign/7666028.html>

#### **V. United States: Antisemitic Attacks in the Country Continues**

This week reports of an antisemitic hate crime in Manhattan, New York emerged. A man was seen in a video verbally abusing and spitting on a Jewish man. The state of New York (NY) and the United States in general have continued to see antisemitic incidents in the country.

Most of these acts of hate crimes are targeted against the visibly Jewish people or their businesses. Last month CDPHR documented several antisemitic incidents in the US. Last week too the state of NY saw an antisemitic protest inside the New York subway. [Protestors were recorded harassing people in the subway and asking “Zionists” to disembark the subway train.](#)

For more information:

<https://nypost.com/2024/06/12/us-news/jewish-leaders-call-for-new-mask-ban-to-fight-antisemitic-hate/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/antisemitism-jewish-man-spit-on-in-manhattan-nypd/>

<https://forward.com/fast-forward/624367/new-york-prosecutors-hate-crimes-campus-antisemitism/>

## **VII. Russia: Islamist Terrorists Attack Church and Two Synagogues in Dagestan**

In the Russian province of Dagestan, a series of coordinated terrorist attacks were orchestrated against two synagogues and a church. As per the latest reports at least 6 people have been killed so far. This includes one Christian priest. At the time of the attacks, there were no worshippers in both the Jewish synagogues. Looking at the pattern and choice of places, the attacks could be due to the recent global upsurge in antisemitism and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the region.

For more information:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/06/23/europe/dagestan-synagogue-attack-russia-intl-latam/index.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jun/23/gunmen-kill-police-priest-attacks-russia-dagestan>

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/terrorists-attack-multiple-sites-in-russias-dagestan-killing-six-police-officers-priest/3256274#>