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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
INTOLERANCE AND OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF

Report submitted by Mr. Angelo Vidal d'Almeida Ribeiro, Special Rapporteur
appointed in accordance with resolution 1986/20 of the Commission on
Human Rights

Corrigendum

Page 5, paragraph 13

The paragraph should read

"19. The controversy engendered by the Ahmadi issue has aroused deep religious sentiments and regretably led to violence between Ahmadis and Muslims, at times resulting in loss of life on both sides. In the 'Sahawal incident', during an altercation between a group of Muslims and Ahmadis outside an Ahmadi centre, two of the Ahmadis, Ilyas Munir and Naeem ud-Din, shot at two Muslims, dragged them inside the centre and denied them medical help, as a consequence of which they succumbed to their injuries. Ilyas Munir and Naeem ud-Din were tried for murder. It was established that as the deceased were unarmed there was no threat or danger to the accused, invalidating their claim of acting in self-defence. They were sentenced to death in accordance with the law. Their faith had no relevance to their trial and conviction."

12. The allegations regarding the treatment of the Ahmadi community which the Special Rapporteur has forwarded to the Government of Pakistan for comments are baseless. The Government of Pakistan has consistently discharged its

obligations to ensure the equitable and just treatment of all its citizens regardless of their religious belief. There is no discrimination against Ahmadis. They have the freedom of expression and bring out religious and other publications. They have the right of association and hold religious meetings and conventions, as well as prayer congregations. The necessary facilities are provided for such meetings. Appropriate measures are taken to protect Ahmadi places of worship and to maintain their sanctity.

13. The controversy engendered by the Ahmadi issue has aroused deep religious sentiments and regretably led to violence between Ahmadis and Muslims, at times resulting in loss of life on both sides. In the "Sahwal incident", during an altercation between a group of Muslims and Ahmadis outside an Ahmadi centre, two of the Ahmadis, Ilyas Munir and Naeem ud-Din, shot at two Muslims, dragged them inside the centre and denied them medical help, as a consequence of which they succumbed to their injuries. Ilyas Munir and Naeem ud-Din were tried for murder. It was established that as the deceased were unarmed there was no threat or danger to the accused, invalidating their claim of acting in self-defence. They were sentenced to death in accordance with the law. Their faith had no relevance to their trial and conviction.

14. In the "Sukkur incident", a bomb exploded in a mosque resulting in the death of one Muslim and serious injuries to 12 others. Police investigations led to the arrest of two Ahmadis, Nasir Ahmad and Rafiq Ahmad, who were tried and sentenced to death for murder in accordance with the law. The religious beliefs of the accused had no bearing on their trial and conviction.

15. In Pakistan, there is no discrimination as regards employment. Article 27 (1) of the Constitution provides that "no citizen who otherwise qualifies for appointment in the services of Pakistan shall be discriminated against in respect of any appointment on the ground of race, religion, sex, residence or place of birth". The Government has not, as is alleged, required private employers to dismiss Ahmadi employees. Nor have Ahmadis been dismissed from government employment on grounds of religion. Ahmadis hold important positions in the services of Pakistan, both civil and military, and are leading figures in the economic and business community.

16. The assertion that Ahmadis have been denied their voting rights is false. Pakistan has adopted a system of separate electorates for each religious community in order to ensure that all minorities are represented in the legislatures. The size of the minorities in Pakistan is so small that in a unified electorate they would not be assured of any representation. Under articles 51 and 106 of the Constitution seats have been reserved for the minorities in the National and Provincial Assemblies. The Ahmadis have been allocated one seat in the National Assembly, and one each in three provincial assemblies. However, unlike other minority communities, the Ahmadis chose not to nominate candidates for these seats during the elections held in February 1985.

17. The allegation that the Ahmadis have been denied access to medical care in government hospitals and admission to schools or universities is without any foundation whatsoever. Public and welfare institutions in Pakistan are open to all its citizens without regard to their religion or social or ethnic background. Judicial remedies are available if discrimination is practised against any person.

18. After the lifting of martial law in Pakistan in December 1985, the constitutional guarantees relating to the fundamental rights of all citizens were restored and the authority of the judiciary fully re-established. The restoration of democracy and the restitution of fundamental rights in Pakistan, as well as the full authority of the judiciary, ensure that the rights of the Ahmadis, as of every citizen of Pakistan, are fully safeguarded by the due processes of law.

19. The Government of Pakistan deems it a duty to promote the welfare of the non-Muslim citizens, to ensure tolerance for their faith and to provide them with opportunities to lead their lives honourably and according to their beliefs. A Federal Ministry of Minorities Affairs is charged with the responsibility of protecting their rights and taking all possible measures for their well-being and economic, cultural, social and educational advancement.

20. The Government of Pakistan, consistent with its commitment to the ideals and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations as well as to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, has always upheld and endeavoured to promote fundamental rights and freedoms. The Government has, therefore, always extended its fullest co-operation to United Nations human rights forums. It hopes that the clarifications provided will serve to allay any misgiving about the situation in respect of Ahmadis in Pakistan.