UPR 14, October 30, 2012

Recommendations by Canada

**Pakistan**

**Question**

In 2008, Canada recommended that Pakistan remove restrictions on freedom of religion by amending legislation, including provisions of the Penal Code, which discriminate against persons belonging to minorities. Canada specifically noted the restrictions upon members of the Ahmadiyya minority, including the 2nd Amendment to the Pakistan Constitution, which outlaws the Ahmadiyya religion, and the provisions of the Penal Code that permit the imprisonment of Ahmadis for preaching their beliefs. Could the Delegation of Pakistan inform us of the progress made so far?

**Recommendations**

Canada recommends that Pakistan:

1.  Adopt measures to ensure the protection of religious minorities, including Ahmadis, Christians, Hindus and Sikhs, prevent the abuse of blasphemy legislation, halt forced conversions, and take necessary steps to prevent violence against members of religious minority communities.

2.  Take steps to implement laws and policies with a view to eliminate early and forced marriage.

3.  Take steps to bring to justice those who have threatened, or attacked human rights defenders, children, and others who are working to promote democracy and accountability in Pakistan.

**Observations (if time allows)**

We are encouraged by Pakistan’s condemnation of recent appalling crimes targeting human rights defenders and children.

Canada notes that some provinces and territories in Pakistan are making efforts to address the propagation of hate material in the education system. Canada encourages Pakistan’s federal and provincial governments to cooperate in the fight against the spread of this material all across the country.

Canada encourages Pakistan to decriminalize homosexuality and take steps to address the violence targeted towards people based on their sexuality.

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