



PIL chief for making judicial probe report public



Our Staff Reporter

Islamabad, Top Stories

March 13, 2013



ISLAMABAD - Chairman Pakistan Interfaith League (PIL) and Advisor to Chairman PTI on Minority Affairs Sajid Ishaq on Tuesday demanded that report of judicial probe of Badami Bagh incident should be made public and cases be registered under section 295-B of Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) against those persons who are found to be allegedly involved in burning two Churches and Holy Bible in Joseph Colony Lahore as that also comes under blasphemy.

He further demanded that those who have been arrested should be brought to task and awarded

HISTORY

exemplary punishment. Chairman PIL said that it is not sufficient to dismiss the police personnel who showed traditional negligence and played a role of spectators during this incident but it is imperative to take legal action against them and punish them accordingly.

While addressing a press conference here in a local hotel along with Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, prominent religious scholar and Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC), Sajid Ishaq said that relief package of Rs. 5 lacs announced by the Punjab and Federal Governments for the affected families of Badami Baghi incident is insufficient therefore they have refused to accept it saying that they will not accept charity.

He said that the affected families have estimated the loss of their household items alone as being over Rs. 18 to 20 lacs and this amount should be paid to them over and above the reconstruction of their houses.

“Provincial Government should also bear the expenditures of all those unmarried Christian girls whose dowry items and gold ornaments were either stolen by the mob or destroyed when their houses were set on fire,” he demanded.

Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said, “Presently Pakistan is undergoing barbaric incidences of religious extremism. During the last one and a half months the fire of religious extremism has spread from Quetta to Karachi to Lahore and if this fire is not put out soon then it will engulf the whole country. The recent incident of Badami Bagh in Lahore is strongly condemned by Muslim Religious Scholars who have termed it a conspiracy against Islam, Pakistan and Humanity on the whole”.

Allama Ashrafi added that PIL and PUC have formulated a six member inquiry committee headed by Hafiz Zahid Kazmi, Secretary General PUC. This Committee will submit a detailed report of the incident after which a future strategy will be evolved in the light of facts revealed in the report. He said that the need of the hour was for the Muslims to unite against these negative elements. “

PIL and PUC declared that Friday March 15 will be observed as a “Day for Solidarity with the Christian Community” whereby the Badami Bagh Incident will be highlighted in the Friday sermon in all the Mosques of Pakistan. Likewise on Sunday March 17 all Churches will observe solidarity with the Badami Bagh Affectees. “

Maulana Ashrafi expressed resentment saying that if the culprits of Rimsha Case had been dealt with in a severe manner and awarded strict punishment by the Government, may be the Badami Bagh incident could have been avoided. He said that the proper procedures for registering cases under the Blasphemy Law should be formulated and if the person is found to have filed a wrong accusation under the law then he should also be awarded the same punishment as the one committing Blasphemy.

He said that Muslim Religious Scholars will not let the Blasphemy Law be exploited and they will keep raising voice if anyone is found guilty for doing so, be it a Muslim or a Non-Muslim. Maulana Ashrafi added that PIL and PUC will not remain quiet till the culprits of Badami Bagh Incident are arrested and brought to task and till the affected families of Joseph Colony do not get compensation to their satisfaction. Maulana Asrafi announced that PIL and PUC have decided to form committees at District level where representatives from all Religions will work for the unity of people belonging to different Religious beliefs. During his address, Bishop Ishaq Mazhar implored the Christian Community to refrain from violence and carry out peaceful protests. He urged them to wait for the findings of the Judicial Inquiry so that the process may continue in accordance with the law.

The press conference was attended by a large number of representatives from the Media, Religious clerics, Civil Society representatives, prominent members of Pakistan Ulema Council and Pakistan Interfaith League.



China's High Quality Development Model offers new opportunities for Pakistan: Amb Jiang Zaidong