



PAK YOUTH OBSERVATORY

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

September 19, 2022

The Prime Minister's Office,
Islamabad

Subject: **INSENSITIVE REMARKS AGAINST A PERSECUTED MINORITY BY
MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL CABINET**

Dear Sir,

It was alarming to see a sitting member of the Federal Cabinet Mr. Javed Latif passing insensitive remarks about Pakistan's Ahmadi community – a social group already subjected to systemic and structural discrimination in the country. The community continues to face persecution under laws that negate fundamental human rights as enshrined in the Constitution. In addition, members of this community have suffered targeted attacks by extremists.

In this context, the disparaging remarks against the Ahmadi community by Mr. Javed Latif would only aggravate the problems and hardships for the community. Pakistan's National Security Policy (2022-26) underlines "*national cohesion*" as a significant pillar of national interest and security. One cannot agree more that Pakistan needs a socially cohesive and religiously inclusive society to achieve prosperity and promote its national interests. Therefore, a member of the Cabinet flouting a declared policy (NSP, 2022-26) and defaming and demonizing a section of the public i.e., the Ahmadis is condemnable in the strongest terms.

We hope that the worthy office of the Prime Minister would take appropriate measures to ensure that such expressions of religious bigotry do not come from the members of the Cabinet in future.

Thank you and kind regards

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**Established by Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), the Pakistan Youth Observatory is a group of educated Pakistani youth that monitors violations of religious freedoms in Pakistan.*