

Senior Assistant Director of the State Bank of Pakistan, Mr. Naeem Ahmed Gondal was shot dead on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in an act of hatred because he belonged to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

At the time of the incident, he was leaving his home for work when two unknown assailants on a motorcycle approached him and shot him in the head, instantly killing him. Mr. Gondal was 52 years of age and was also President of the Ahmadiyya Community, Orangi Town for the last 11 years.

Mr. Gondal is survived by his widow and his body has been brought to Rabwah, Pakistan for burial.

Those who knew him have been left in a state of shock as they say he had no personal conflicts or quarrels with anyone. However, this does not come as a surprise because a climate of anti-Ahmadi sentiments have been cultivated by the extremist elements in Pakistan and this sad event has become a regular occurrence.

“He is the 7<sup>th</sup> person to be killed [this year] in the name of religion,” said Saleem ud Din, spokesperson for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Pakistan.

So far in Karachi, 11 Ahmadi’s have been killed because of their faith, including Mr. Ahsan Kamal who was shot dead on January 18 2012.

According to Mr. Saleem ud Din, there has been an increasing number of threatening letters, wall chalking and anti –Ahmadi hate posters propping up in various areas of Karachi and other parts of Pakistan. He urged authorities to “stop the spread of hate material and ensure hate mongers are curtailed.”

The police and law enforcement agencies are urged to investigate this brazen attack and bring the culprits to justice.