

# DISPLACED AND FORGOTTEN

AHMADIYYA IN INDONESIA

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***‘They brought machetes and petrol to burn [our] houses. The police were only watching.’***

Displaced person in Mataram shelter



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In 2006, the Ahmadiyya community fled their homes in West Lombok, Indonesia, after being attacked by mobs because of their religious beliefs. Four years on, they remain in temporary, poor housing.

## AHMADIYYA

The Ahmadiyya are a religious group who consider themselves a part of Islam, although many mainstream Muslim groups view them as not adhering to the accepted belief system. The Ahmadiyya claim about 200,000 followers in Indonesia.

## DISPLACED BY ATTACK

In recent years, the Ahmadiyya have been attacked because some groups view them as heretical. In Lombok, civil society organizations have documented intimidation and attacks against the Ahmadiyya community since 1998, including the burning of their homes and place of worship and destruction of their property.

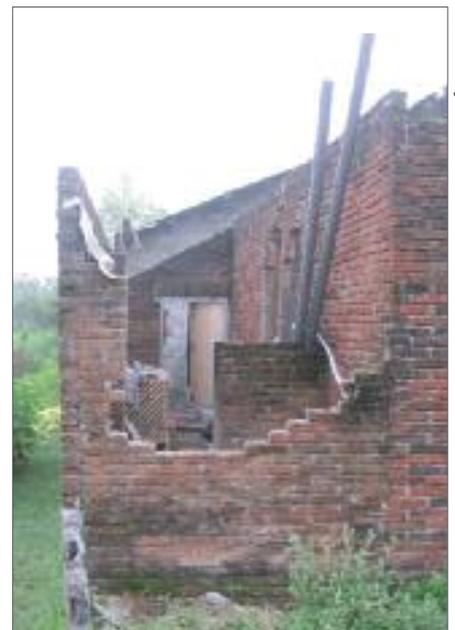
On 4 February 2006, a local religious leader incited people in the hamlet of Ketapang, West Lombok to attack houses belonging to the Ahmadiyya. This was the second attack in a period of five months. The mob carried

machetes, threw stones at the houses and set them on fire. At least 24 houses were completely or partially burned while most of their property was either destroyed or stolen. Dozens of police including the public order police unit were present but did little to prevent the attacks. The Ahmadiyya families were evacuated in trucks and eventually transferred to a shelter in Mataram city.

Although the police carried out investigations to identify those responsible, no one involved in the attacks is known to have been brought to justice.



above: Map of Indonesia - adapted from a UN map.



top and above: Ruins of Ahmadiyya homes in Ketapang village after being attacked in February 2006.

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## LIVING IN LIMBO

Twenty-five families, amounting to about 90 people, including pregnant women and small children, live at the Wisma Transito shelter in Mataram, Lombok, in West Nusa Tenggara province. While conditions in the shelter are reasonable they all share three small dormitories. Each family use cloth and sarongs tied with string to divide off their tiny three-meter sleeping space to attain some semblance of privacy.

Before being forced to flee their homes, many Ahmadiyya were subsistence farmers or ran small businesses to support themselves and their families. In the shelter, there is no farm land and paid work is scarce. A few have been able to find work at the local market but earn barely enough to feed their families.

Water supplies are frequently cut by the authorities and there is no electricity because the community have no money to pay the bills.

*'They have cut off the water five times now... how are we to live without water... many go thirsty... especially the women and children?'*

Displaced person in Mataram shelter

Around 30 primary school students living in the shelter have to study during daylight hours because the only light at night comes from candles and kerosene lamps.

**above:** For privacy, families hang cloth around their tiny three-meter living space.

**above right:** A woman washes plates under a standpipe. The water supply is often cut by the authorities.

Indonesia provides various subsidies for the very poor but an identity card is needed to access them. Adults in the shelter face many obstacles and some have been unable to obtain an identity card. For example, the local authorities have told them they must return to their village of origin to apply. Consequently they cannot access basic services such as free health care.

## NO RETURN

The displaced families are unable to return to their homes. The local authorities and police say they cannot guarantee their safety if they return to their hamlet.

*'We have asked the authorities to protect us like other Indonesian citizens. They should not differentiate between us and other people.'*

Displaced person in Mataram shelter

The Ahmadiyya's numerous attempts to seek a resolution to their situation with the local authorities have failed.



**above:** It is difficult for men at the Mataram shelter to earn a living.



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## GOVERNMENT FAILURES

The Indonesian government bears responsibility, under international law, for failing to take adequate steps to prevent the attacks against the community in 2006 or to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators.

The government has also disregarded its international human rights obligations by its continual failure to resolve the situation of the displaced Ahmadiyya community in Mataram.

The government has a duty to ensure that the Ahmadiyya can voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, return to their homes, or ensure that they are voluntarily resettled in another part of the country. The government also has a responsibility to inform the Ahmadiyya about the choices available to them and consult them about possible solutions.

## ACT NOW

### Call on the Indonesian authorities to:

- Ensure immediate access to basic services such as water and energy for lighting in the shelter.
- Ensure that local authorities issue the Ahmadiyya with all the documents necessary for the enjoyment and exercise of their legal rights, without imposing unreasonable conditions.
- Take immediate steps to ensure the safe, voluntary and dignified return of the Ahmadiyya community back to their homes or permanently resettle them elsewhere in the country.
- Ensure that all those who intimidate and use violence against the Ahmadiyya community are speedily brought to justice and that victims are provided reparations.

### Write to:

Governor of West Nusa Tenggara  
Muhammad Zainul Madjdi  
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Mataram, Lombok  
West Nusa Tenggara Province  
Indonesia  
Fax: + 62 370 631 000

Minister for Justice and Human Rights  
Patrialis Akbar  
JI HR Rasuna Said Kav No. 4-5  
Kuningan  
Jakarta Selatan 12950  
Indonesia  
Fax: + 62 21 525 3095

*above left:* Children born at the Mataram shelter still wait for a proper home.

*above right:* Woman cooking on makeshift kerosene stove four years after being displaced.

*cover:* Men and women collecting wood at the shelter to prop up their limited living space. © Amnesty International

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