

No Freedom of Religion

2019

Pakistan Citizen Portal—a flaw introduced!

Toba Tek Singh; November 2019: Mr. Shehzad of Pir Mahal and his family were facing great difficulties on joining the Ahmadiyya Jamaat. In this, a local mulla was in the forefront leading the agitation against the poor victim.

A few decent community elders took up the issue with the mulla and told him to consider leaving alone the poor fellow. The mulla told them that if Shehzad shares with him the money he received from Ahmadis on ‘conversion’, he would spare him. At this Shehzad told them that he had been given no money. The mulla refused to accept his statement and demanded that Shehzad make that statement on oath of the Holy Quran. Shehzad did that, and was spared—at least for the present.

The worsening security situation for Ahmadis in Pir Mahal was reported and a complaint was made on Prime Minister’s Pakistan Citizen Portal. In response, Ahmadis were told that this issue is a sensitive one; as such the Portal is unable to proceed further on this.

In our opinion, this Portal idea by the Prime Minister Imran Khan is a good one. However, we are not sure that the PM has instructed its officials to stay clear of sensitive issues. This self-restrictive condition has perhaps been applied at a lower level without due authority. Surely the PM would not tell his functionaries to look the other way if a community’s frail security situation is reported to them on his meritorious Portal.

This report from Ahmadis of District Toba Tek Singh deserves an inquiry for a policy decision.