
**Weekly Report of
Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme**

Religious Conflicts

1. Boko Haram murder 24 at village funeral – mostly women

24 people, mostly women, were killed by the Boko Haram at the funeral of a local leader in Kuda village in Adamawa state, northern Nigeria. The militants shot at the crowd, looted food supplies and burnt the homes of villagers. Although Boko Haram had previously been chased out of the nearby town Gulak, militant presence can still be found in the villages surrounding it.

Keywords: Nigeria, Adamawa, Islamic extremism, Boko Haram

2. Somali militants kill five police in north Kenya

Five Kenyan police officers were killed when they were ambushed by Somali Al-Shebaab militants at the border region between the two countries. The militants were targeting the Kenyan security forces to compel the latter to withdraw troops from the African Union Force fighting the militants in Somalia.

Keywords: Kenya, Somalia, Al-Shabaab, African Union Force, extremism

Religious Controversies

1. Bahrain revokes top Shia cleric Isa Qassim's citizenship

Bahrain has stripped the country's top Shia cleric Sheikh Isa Qassim of his citizenship for using his position to "serve foreign interests" and promote "sectarianism and violence". Sheikh Qassim had supported the Shia majority for greater civil and political rights. The revocation of Sheikh Qassim's citizenship followed a series of moves by the government to shut down the Shia political opposition group, Wafaq National Islamic Society.

Keywords: Bahrain, Islam, Shia, Sunni, politics

2. Pakistan cop accused of beating Hindu man for not fasting

An elderly Hindu man in Pakistan's Ghotki district was beaten up by a policeman for not fasting during Ramadan. The case sparked an out roar in Pakistan as it was seen to be imposing the religious practices of the majority Muslims on other religious minorities, although the laws enforcing fasting during Ramadan only applied to Muslims. The policeman was subsequently arrested.

Keywords: Pakistan, Ghotki, Islam, Hinduism, Ramadan, Violence

3. Israeli judge orders mayor to remove 'modesty signs' after previous ruling was ignored

The Jerusalem District Court ordered the mayor of Beit Shemesh to remove "modesty signs" that tell women to wear long sleeves and long skirts and no tight-fitting clothing within three weeks. The court ruled that these signs were offensive and humiliating to women and wanted the municipality to prevent future occurrences and recommended fines for those who install the signs. Surveillance cameras are also to be installed to identify and apprehend culprits.

Keywords: Israel, Beit Shemesh, Judaism, Ultra-orthodox, Modesty, Feminism

Secularism, Religious Freedom and New Religious Movements

1. Will Muslims lose their freedom of religion without hudud?

Two Malaysian Islamic scholars have refuted claims by the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party that the Hudud law is a divine law in Islam and downplayed its importance by highlighting that it is not an integral component of the Qu'ran. Consequently, they believed that assertions that Malaysian Muslims will be denied their constitutional right to practise Islam without hudud have no basis either in law or the religion.

Keywords: Malaysia, Hudud law, freedom of religion, politics

Peace, Reconciliation and Interfaith Dialogue

1. Why A Mosque Invited A Church To Use Its Space For Worship

The Islamic Center of East Lansing provided their mosque to the Michigan Unitarian Universalist congregation as a temporary place for worship free of charge while the Church building was under construction. Imam Sohail Chaudhry hope that this would not be a "one-off" event between the different religious communities but instead inspire further interactions.

Keywords: United States, Michigan, Christianity, Islam, Inter-religious harmony