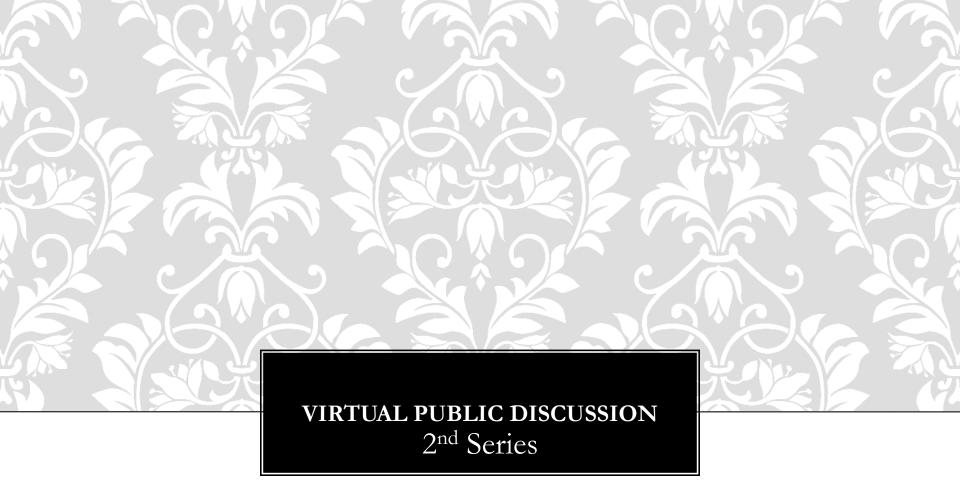
### RAMADAN CELEBRATION

During COVID-19



#### **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

How countries and communities in Indonesia, the United Kingdom and Pakistan ensure a safe Ramadan amidst the pandemic?

#### MY INTRODUCTION

### Mr. Faisal Ilyas

Working as an Executive Secretary Peace Center, Lahore since 2017.

Executive Director Peace Hope Pakistan

United Religions Initiated (URI) CC Coordinator in Pakistan

I am a member of Amnesty International since June, 2018.

Selected Project Leader for the project "Peace Education for Inter & Intra-faith Youth in Pakistan" at 1st Edition of Paris Peace Forum 2018.

Selected and invited by PyeongChang Global Peace Forum 2019 as a Peace Promoter from Pakistan and joined panelists for sharing views on "The role of NGOs, CSOs & CBOs working at grass root levels.

Core team member at YATRA; Youth in Action into Transformation for Religious Amity, a project of Ecumenical Commission for Human Development (ECHD) working in Pakistan with the help of Church of Scotland; World Mission Council.

Campaigning Global Week of SDGs, ACT4SDGs in Pakistan and conducted a Youth Conference on Peace & Education on 28th September, 2019.

Selected and invited as a Former Project Leader among 121 Projects Leaders from the world to participate in the 2nd Edition of Paris Peace Forum 2019, in the month of November.

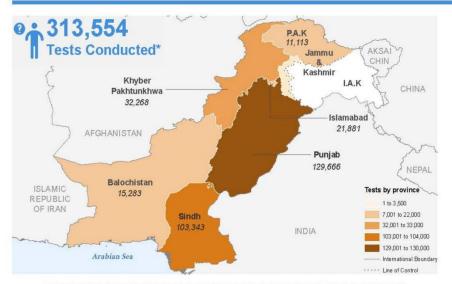
Member at Asia Youth Network since November, 2019.

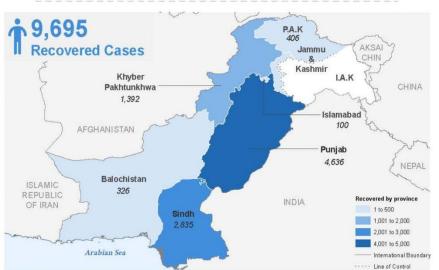
#### **CORONA VIRUS IN PAKISTAN**

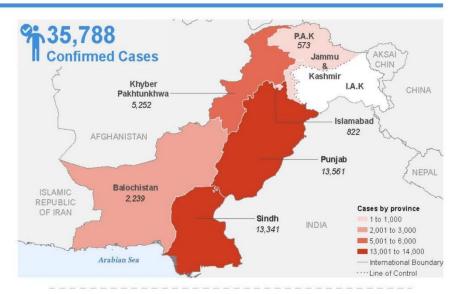
The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Pakistan has risen to 35,788 as of 14 May. Increase of 1,452 new cases in the last 24 hours. The most affected province due to COVID-19 virus is Punjab 13,561, followed by Sindh 13,341. A report released by United Nations has named Pakistan among 10 countries where deaths from preventable diseases in children under five could rise by almost 45% over the next six months as the coronavirus pandemic could divert scarce health resources. The number of confirmed patients has been increasing in Rawalpindi with each passing day as on Wednesday 133 more tested positive for Covid-19 in the garrison city while a person died and three recovered. Pakistan sees a record jump in Covid-19 cases only days after the reopening of markets, as blatant violation of the government's standard operating procedures (SOPs) continued despite repeated warnings by the relevant authorities and sealing of some overcrowded shopping areas. The government on Wednesday allowed air transportation of Covid-19 infected bodies to bring back to the country the bodies of Pakistanis who died of the coronavirus abroad.

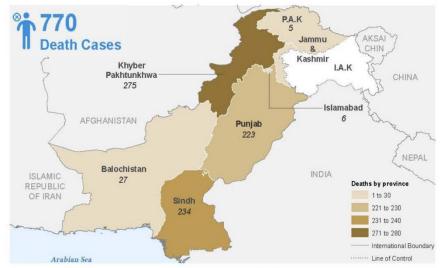
#### **CORONA VIRUS IN PAKISTAN**

Pakistan is in Lock down since 14th March, 2020 and later after the start of Ramadan on 25th of April, Lock Down strategy has been revised twice, to give relaxation. Since the 1st case reported in Pakistan, we have lost 803, 37,218 people are in hospitals for treatment and 10, 155 are recovered till May, 15. With the passage of time we learned how to beat COVID-19, Government of Pakistan with the kind support of Armed Forces, Doctors & Paramedical staff, Media and Civil Sector, handling the situation. Due to the poverty conditions, Government gave grocery relief packages and support amount of 12,000 Rupees each family, to the people living bellow the poverty lines and the number is very high. Critics and Political opposition are willing to extend the lock down without relaxation.









\*As of 14 May 2020

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan.

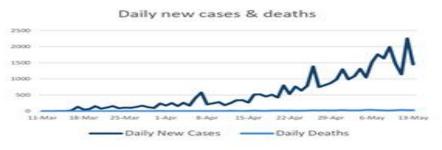
Creation date: 14 May 2020 Sources: NDMA Map Doc Name: PAK850\_COVID-19\_update\_L\_A4\_v45\_20206514 Feedback: aniwara@jun.org www.covid.org.pk www.reliefweb.int

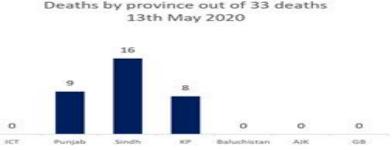
This report is produced by OCHA Pakistan in collaboration with humanitarian partners and Government as of 14 May 2020.

313,554 Test Conducted 35,788 Confirmed Cases 9,695 Recovered Cases 770 Deaths

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Pakistan has risen to 35,788 as of 14 May. Increase of 1,452 new cases in the last 24 hours.
- The most affected province due to COVID-19 virus is Punjab 13,561, followed by Sindh 13,341.
- A report released by United Nations has named Pakistan among 10 countries where deaths from preventable diseases in children under five could rise by almost 45% over the next six months as the coronavirus pandemic could divert scarce health resources.
- The number of confirmed patients has been increasing in Rawalpindi with each passing day as on Wednesday 133 more tested positive for Covid-19 in the garrison city while a person died and three recovered.
- Pakistan sees a record jump in Covid-19 cases only days after the reopening of markets, as blatant violation
  of the government's standard operating procedures (SOPs) continued despite repeated warnings by the
  relevant authorities and sealing of some overcrowded shopping areas.
- The government on Wednesday allowed air transportation of Covid-19 infected bodies to bring back to the country the bodies of Pakistanis who died of the coronavirus abroad.
- To many farmers in southeast Pakistan, an impending locust attack when summer crops of cotton, sugarcane
  and rice are being sown, and fruit and vegetables are ready to be picked is a much bigger problem than the
  coronavirus pandemic.





# RAMADAN CELEBRATION IN PAKISTAN

Ramadan is the 9th month of the Muslim calendar year. It is considered the most holy and spiritual month of all 12 months. This year Ramadan is being celebrating in a different way, as most cities remain locked down, mosques are also closed so all rituals and prayers will be held at home. In Pakistan people will perform evening perform special long prayer of 20 Rakaa known as Taraveeh at home. Offices usually open earlier than normal routine and close earlier, same is the case for banks and government departments. Our Government of Pakistan is trying hard to come out from this situation, but the conditions are very complicated, people are also dying due to starvation and COVID-19 is also a life threatening Virus. They give relaxation in lock down which does not mean to violate the SOPs. We should wear mask, gloves and use of hand sanitizer should be compulsory.

# PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES 20-POINT CONSENSUS GUIDELINES FOR CONGREGATIONS DURING RAMADAN

ISLAMABAD, Apr 18 (APP):President Dr. Arif Alvi Saturday in complete consensus with Ulema announced a 20-point strategy, containing guidelines for congregations at Masajid and Imambargahs during the Holy month of Ramazan, advising the faithful to keep sticking to the precautionary measures while performing the religious obligations without dropping the guard against the Coronavirus pandemic.

The president made a joint announcement after chairing hours long consultative meeting with all the provincial governors, president Azad Jammu and Kashmir, governor of Gilgit Baltistan, and Ulema from all provinces at the President House via video link.

Minister for Interior Brig. retired Ijaz Ahmad Shah and Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Pir Noor ul Haq Qadri, Chairman Islamic Ideology Council Qibla Ayaz and a number of prominent ulema including Pir Naqeeb ur Rehman, Allama Arif Wahidi, Pir Chiraghuddin Shah, Maulana Hafiz Ishaq Zafar, Mufti Gulzar Naeemi, Raja Nasir Abbas, Maulana Tanveer Alvi, Pir Aminul Hasnat Shah, Maulana Abubakar Siddique and Dr Sahibzada Sajid ur Rehman were also present during the meeting.

# PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN ARIF ALVI





# APPEAL FROM THE GOVERNMENT

However, it was emphasized that the administrations of Mosques and Imambargahs were given this conditional permission of holding these congregations with strict adherence to the precautionary measures. If the government felt that these steps were not fully implemented, or in case the affected number of people had increased, the government could review its policy. The government also reserved the right to change its directions and policy in view of an affected vicinity.

The president addressing the media prior to making announcement said he held a lengthy meeting in which historic consensus was evolved after submission of recommendations and guidelines about Taraweeh prayers in view of the current Corona pandemic.

He thanked the political leaders, governors, chief ministers and ulema for helping in devising a comprehensive policy over the congregations and Taraweeh during the holy month of Ramazan.

He also stressed upon the people to continue their generosity of Zakat and donations through the Masajid and madaris in this Holy month.

The meeting also prayed for the alleviation of miseries and sufferings of the Kashmiri people in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the resolution of the issue.

In his opening remarks during the meeting, the president said the Muslims had great attachment with the Mosques, especially during the Holy month of Ramazan, therefore, a policy should be drafted by developing a consensus among the nation under the recommendations of the ulema and output by the government.

# APPEAL FROM THE GOVERNMENT

According to the announcement, the use of rugs and carpets in the Mosques and Imambargahs should be discarded whereas the floors should be properly disinfected with use of chlorine mixed water. Congregation and Taraweeh prayers should be held in the open spaces adjacent to the Mosques and Imambargahs.

- Other significant points included; people older than 50 years of age, those suffering from flu, cold and cough symptoms and young children should avoid visiting Mosques and Imambargahs.
- The faithful were encouraged to bring with themselves rugs and small mats. Stress was made upon social distancing and avoidance of gatherings after prayers time.
- Ablution should be performed at homes with frequent adherence to hand washing as advised.
- A distance of about 6 feet among faithfuls should be maintained during prayers. The announcement also contained a sketch of how people should occupy places while offering prayers. Taraweeh and prayers should not be offered at footpaths and roads.
- In collaboration with the administrations of Mosques, Imambargahs and concerned administration, a committee should be constituted which would ensure implementation of these precautionary measures.
- Masks should be used during visits to Mosques and Imambargahs and people should avoid touching their faces with hands. Proper hand washing should be made after return from performing religious obligations.
- Collective arrangements for Sehar and Iftar should not be made, whereas the people should make arrangements for 'Itikaf' at their homes.

  PRESENTATION FOR FPCI

#### **DOCTORS POINT OF VIEW**

During press conference at Karachi Press Club, Pakistan Medical Association Secretary General, Dr Qaisar Sajjad said that "Doctors have repeatedly warned the government that the country's healthcare system will collapse if a strict lockdown is not imposed to curb the spread of the virus.

Doctors across the country have complained that the medical community was not being provided with personal protective equipments, making them vulnerable to the virus. They have also urged the government to impose a strict lockdown, saying that if not controlled, the healthcare system will not even have enough beds to accommodate all patients.

On the other hand Government of Pakistan is being pressurized by the Religious Leaders, Traders and Business Stakeholders to give relaxation in Locked down.

### Here;

I would like to mentioned Christianity Community in Pakistan is almost 2% (4.0 million) of the total population, having the holy Lent Season or 40 days of fasting. Since 14<sup>th</sup> March, Locked down was being announced, all Mosques, Churches and other worship places were closed to avoid gathering. Easter was being celebrated on 12<sup>th</sup> April by staying at home, Churches were closed globally. Online sermons were shared by the Churches on Social Media and Local TV Channels. Being responsible citizen of the country, everybody should follow the guidelines/SOP announced by the heads to avoid emergency crises.

### HIS HOLY POPE FRANCIS CALL FOR PRAYER, FASTING & CHARITY

His Holy Pope Francis called on all people of good will to join together for a world day of prayer, fasting and works of charity to bring an end to the coronavirus pandemic. The day of prayer will be May 14. In announcing the special event May 3, Pope Francis said:

"(S)ince prayer is a universal value, I have accepted the proposal of the Higher Committee for Human Fraternity for believers of all religions to unite spiritually this May 14 for a day of prayer, fasting and works of charity, to implore God to help humanity overcome the coronavirus pandemic. Remember: May 14, all believers together, believers of different traditions, to pray, fast and perform works of charity."

By following the call mentioned above, National Commission for Inter-religious Dialogues and Ecumenism (NCIDE) organized interfaith prayers at Cathedral Church, Lahore. Archbishop of Lahore His Excellency Sebastian Shaw presided the collective prayer program. Fr. Francis Nadeem OFM Cap Executive Secretary NCIDE, was the organizer and host of the program. Fr. Dr. James Channan OP Director Peace Center and Regional Coordinator URI Pakistan, Allama Mufti Ashiq Hussain Principal Madrassa Bait-ul-Quran, Sardar Bhishon Sing from Nankana Sahib, Fr. Qaisar Feroze OFM Cap, Fr. Mushtaq Piyara, Maulana Sahibzada Asim Makhdoom Chairman Board of Ullema Mushaik and Qari Khalid Maqbool Qari at Punjab Assembly devotedly participated in this assembly of interreligious prayers.

# COLLECTIVE PRAYERS IN PAKISTAN

His Grace Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw said; "I pay tribute for this call initiated by His Holy Pope Francis to pray, fast and do the charitable work on this day 'May 14, 2020', may our Lord answer our prayers for mercy. We see Pope Francis with sad and worried face for the whole world but he is very hopeful too. He used to pray alone in The Vatican for healing of the world from the Corona virus. We should join his spirituality, prayers, fasting and belongingness with humanity. Now it's a time to save HUMAN & FAITH, by following the instructions of World Health Organization (WHO), dealing this pandemic on international level.

Furthermore "This pandemic is attacking all human beings, it does not consider any sort of boundaries or boarders etc. It's travelling city to city and country to country, killing people in large number. In Pakistan we have a big community living in slums and populated areas can raise the Corona affected patients rapidly. This unseen Virus is not finding people of specific religion or creed, it hits everybody and everyone is in danger. He further continued by saying, "Human beings today and forever must eliminate all sorts of differences and discrimination from their hearts and unite people in social and religious harmony." He also urged leaders and scholars of all religions to continuously pray after an hour for the complete eradication of this pandemic.

His Grace led a collective prayer as, "We pray to our God save the world and heal it from COVID-19, we pray for our Government of Pakistan to take good decisions for our safety, we pray for our Armed Forces fighting in and outside the country, we pray for doctors and paramedical staff fighting with the situation as front liners, we pray for all families; children, youngsters and old members to stay healthy, we pray for all our Muslim brothers and sisters fasting 20th fast in the holy month of Ramadan and we also pray for upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr, may our God Almighty answer our prayers and save us all. Amen!

## INTERFAITH PRAYERS IN PAKISTAN

Fr. Dr. James Channan OP said, "I humbly welcome and own the call, called by His Holy Pope Francis that pray, fast and perform the charitable work all around the globe. I also congratulate Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw for inviting all religious leaders from Islam, Christianity and Sikh religions to offer their prayers by following the call. Thank you very much Fr. Francis Nadeem for inviting me to participate. This call invites all religions, sects and faiths to pray for COVID-19 free world soon. We know it, whole world is disturb, every one of us is worried, and all are wishing to restore their lives and routine. He also offered a prayer, "God Almighty we are human beings and sins are being committed by us many times, please forgive us and heal the world in Jesus Christ name. Amen!"

Maulana Mufti Ashiq Hussain said, "I appreciate and welcome the global appeal of His Holy Pope Francis to pray & fast together. I must say, he showed a great gesture to be the Pope for whole humanity in the world as he invited all from various faiths and religions. Being responsible citizens of the country, we have to follow the instructions to save us, our families and the whole world at large. We pray to Almighty Allah for mercy and heal the world from COVID-19." Amen! Whole world responed well and offered prayers for the sake of humanity on Earth.

### **GROUP PHOTO**



### **FUTURE LIFE DUE TO COVID-19**

As it is mentioned earlier that 20 points of precautionary measures should be followed by all for safety. If we talk about up coming religious events i.e. Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Adha and Christmas, so on and so forth. Until we defeat COVID-19 pandemic, we have to follow the precautionary instructions shared in 20 points in Pakistan, and worldwide according to the country's' situation.

### Role of a Religious Leader;

; "I pay tribute for this call initiated by His Holy Pope Francis to pray, fast and do the charitable work on this day 'May 14, 2020', may our Lord answer our prayers for mercy. We see Pope Francis with sad and worried face for the whole world but he is very hopeful too. He used to pray alone in The Vatican for healing of the world from the Corona virus. We should join his spirituality, prayers, fasting and belongingness with humanity. Now it's a time to save HUMAN BEINGS & FAITH, by following the instructions of World Health Organization (WHO), dealing this pandemic on international level. A religious leader should play a role model character to avoid more corona virus patients worldwide.

#### LESSON LEARNED

There are number of examples, where whole community responded nicely. China, Japan, South Korea and Germany etc., have played very good role to safe their people. Unfortunately, Italy, Spain and USA lost many people. All over the world, more than 50 percent population belongs to two religions Christianity and Islam. And I believe religious leaders from these two big religious communities can play a very positive role to save human beings around the world.

Thank you!

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

# Mr. Faisal Ilyas Executive Director PEACE HOPE PAKISTAN

Whats' App no.: +92 331 4491 840, Mobile Phone: +92 302 8428 132

Email: peacehopepk@gmail.com, faisaliono@yahoo.com

Web: www.peacehope.org, Twitter: @faisal\_malik021

Facebook: facebook.com/faisal.ilyas,Instagram: @faisaliono

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/faisal-ilyas

PEACE IS THE HUMAN AGENDA: Peace Hope Pakistan is working in five major areas i.e., 1-Peace through education, culture and awareness. 2-Interfaith harmony through training workshops, seminars and dialogues among inter and intra-faith community. Targeting 3-Youth to raise their voices, aware and sensitize them for progress. 4-Women are the integral part of our society, their rights and empowerment is the need of the hour. 5-Environment is the medium to live a happy, prosper and peaceful life, we need to make it clean and green throughout our surrounding through needful steps. We are also following the 17 SDGs set by The United Nations, the celebration of all national and international days with collaboration of NGOs & CSOs working at grass root levels in Pakistan or elsewhere in the world. PHP is the member organization with United Religions Initiative Pakistan.