

Ambassador  
Ali Hafrad

**Your Excellency,**

I am writing to express my concern about the increasing human rights violations against religious minorities in Algeria, especially the Christian Protestants and the Ahmadis.

During the past year, Christians in Algeria have experienced increased arrests, closures of churches and imposition of fines. These actions harm Christian believers' peaceful practice of their faith and therefore violate their freedom of religion in a way that cannot be justified according to human rights law. Algeria has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and is therefore obligated to ensure the right to freedom of religion, thought and conscience of everyone under its jurisdiction. This right includes the freedom to exercise the religion or belief of one's choice publicly or privately, alone or with others.

Another religious minority, the Ahmadis, has experienced numerous arrests since the beginning of 2016. This development raises serious concern and the high number of arrested believers cannot be justified under the law. Ahmadis enjoy the right to practice their faith peacefully, and any action taken against Ahmadis based on the peaceful practice of their faith constitutes a violation of international human rights law.

The Algerian government is obligated to ensure the freedom of religion of Christians and Ahmadis in its territory. I therefore urge the Algerian government to:

- immediately stop all actions targeting religious minorities in Algeria, including arresting members of religious communities for peacefully practicing their faith and closing places of worship;
- ensure that the Algerian authorities respect and uphold the freedom of religion or belief for all religious groups in Algeria, including Christians and Ahmadis.

I thank you in advance for using your influence as ambassador and conveying this message to the relevant authorities in your home country.

Yours sincerely,