

# Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

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## Responses to Information Requests

Responses to Information Requests (RIR) respond to focused Requests for Information that are submitted to the Research Directorate in the course of the refugee protection determination process. The database contains a seven-year archive of English and French RIRs. Earlier RIRs may be found on the UNHCR's [Refworld](#) website.

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26 November 2007

#### PAK102650.E

Pakistan: Procedure followed by the headquarters of the Ahmadiyya movement in London to issue certificates or letters confirming membership, including the procedure to verify whether a person is an Ahmadi; offices that are authorized to issue membership certificates or letters including the persons who are authorized within those offices to issue such letters or certificates; significance of the registration number, including whether there is any difference if a person is a born Ahmadi or whether a person joined the movement as an adult; whether donations need to be made for a letter or certificate to be issued

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

The vice-president of the Ahmadiyya headquarters in London, United Kingdom (UK) provided the following information to the Research Directorate in correspondence dated 2 November 2007 regarding the procedure to issue membership certificates or letters:

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK (the 'Association') makes relevant inquiries to the headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in the country of origin (usually in Pakistan, the Ahmadiyya Foreign Missions Office at Rabwah) and seeks the required information. Based on that information, the Association either confirms the individual's membership or declines.

In a subsequent telephone interview with the Research Directorate, the Vice-president specified that for membership verification, members will be asked to fill out a form which includes their address, whether they are born Ahmadi or the date of their "conversion," their date of birth and their photograph, all of which will be sent to the office in Rabwah, which is responsible for membership verification (8 Nov. 2007). This verification can take a few days because the office in Rabwah will then send the member's information to the appropriate branch where the president of that community will confirm whether the person is an Ahmadi and, if so, will provide a character reference (Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK 8 Nov. 2007). The Vice-president added that if the Ahmadi is not from Pakistan, giving as example Bangladesh, then they will send the verification to the country in question, i.e., Bangladesh (ibid.).

With regards to which offices are authorized to issue membership certificates or letters, the Vice-president stated that they did not have that information; however, to their knowledge the "Amir/national president of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in every country or a community official duly appointed or designated by him is authorized to issue the certification" (ibid. 2 Nov. 2007). The Vice-president added that it would be too onerous to send a list of all the persons authorized to sign on behalf of the Ahmadiyya community worldwide (ibid.).

Ahmadis reside in more than 190 countries and, as such, there is no unique identifying registration number issued to members (ibid.). In the UK, an Ahmadi's membership registration number is the next computer generated sequential number and the fact the person is an Ahmadi by birth or by conversion does not affect this number (ibid.). However, the Vice-president added that this system might be different in other countries (ibid.).

Donations are not required for a letter or certificate of membership; however, Ahmadis are expected to make donations of at least one sixteenth of their income (ibid. 7 Nov. 2007). The Vice-president specified that these amounts are only for the UK as he was not aware of the amount of required donations for Ahmadis in Canada or elsewhere (ibid. 7 Nov. 2007).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

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## References

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK. 8 November 2007. Telephone interview with the vice-president.

\_\_\_\_\_. 7 November 2007. Telephone interview with the Vice-president.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2 November 2007. Correspondence from the Vice-president.

## Additional Sources Consulted

**Internet sites, including:** Al Islam: the Official Website of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

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