

SON RETURN AFTER BURYING BRITON

A day after the horrific attacks, Abid Ashraf of Southfields, London, travelled to Pakistan to bury his father, Bilal Ashraf who was brutally killed in the Darul Zikr mosque massacre of 28th May 2010.

Abid flew out to Lahore along with his mother, sister, brother-in-law, uncle and aunties on 29th May. His father's body was taken to Rabwah, where graves had been dug in the cemetery. Abid said, "I saw with my own eyes so many dead bodies, it was uncountable". It was clear that many people had been affected as there was a huge rush of people everywhere.

Abid then returned to Lahore to visit the Darul Zikr mosque. Abid said, "I went to the mosque to see what it was like where my father had died. I saw where my father was lying down. It wasn't a nice feeling." Abid added, "There was a lot of blood spots everywhere, blood and body parts were stained everywhere. One of the armed gunmen self-detonated himself under a fan, it was totally destroyed and blood was sprayed everywhere. I could see bullet holes everywhere and there were over seven grenades lying around that never exploded." The number of casualties could have been much higher.

Abid expressed his discontent with the authorities handling the rescue. He said, "the police had waited over 3 hours before entering and engaging the attackers in the mosque. My dad could have been saved if they acted quickly." Abid added, "I've lost my father, but there're others who lost all their family. I know a lady who lost all 3 of her sons". To date, 84 are confirmed dead and hundreds injured from mosque massacres. Over 200 families in the UK are in mourning.

Abid said, "The situation is still very bad, very bad. There're banners and posters outside judges houses and on the roads in Shalimar town that say 'No dogs and Ahmadis allowed'. The situation is not getting any better."

Since the attacks on Friday 28th May, a further two Ahmadi Muslims have been murdered by extremists and many more Ahmadis have received death threats.

As yet, the Government of Pakistan has failed to offer any protection to the Ahmadi Muslims and maintains legislation that permits further persecution of Ahmadis for following their peaceful faith.