

## **Muslim Worshippers Say They Have Nowhere To Go If They're Not Allowed Namaz In Noida**

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Police asked the companies in Noida's industrial hub to ensure that their employees can't offer in open spaces including parks.

**Uttar Pradesh:** After the police asked the companies in Noida's industrial hub to ensure that their employees can't offer in open spaces including parks, the Muslim workers have no place to offer prayers. Police have asked that Muslim worker need to offer Friday prayer during work hours in mosques, Idgahs or they need to premises inside the company to offer prayers.

Nouman Akhtar, Adil Rashid and Ehsaan Alam - the three Muslim youths say that they just need to a ground where the community can gather, spread their prayer mats and offer Friday congregational prayers in peace.

The three had been doing this for the last five years in public park in Sector-58, Noida until the authorities new order.

"We don't want to fight with anyone; we just want to pray peacefully," Akhtar told News18.

Nouman Akhtar is a the imam who until now would preside over the Friday prayers at the park in question since February 2013. But after the new orders Muslims who live and work in sectors 57, 58, 59, and 60 don't have any place of offer prayers.

### **Nouman Akhtar, News18**

"There is no mosque in a five-kilometre radius; the park was the only place for us. Now where do we go?" asked Alam.

Alam works in the garment factory in Sector-58 and has been praying at the park for five years.

"Hamare office mein bhi notice bhej di. Ab hum kya kahin bhi namaaz na padhein ( They even sent a notice to our offices. Can we not pray anywhere now?" asked Alam.

Rashid the third person told that the prayer group christened as the Mohammadiya Trust and even Muslim policemen from the area would come and offer prayers. The district authority and police, however, insist that group didn't have the permission to pray in public parks.

The DM and the SP of the area addressed a press conference on the matter on Thursday.

"For permission, you must first see whose land is it. The park is a Noida Authority land and the request for

permission did not have a NoC from the Noida Authority,â€• DM Brajesh Narayan Singh said.

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