

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan News Report February 2015

Two Ahmadis arrested again – on pretensions of ‘impartiality’

Aalam Garh, District Gujrat; February 09, 2015: On 27 November 2014, a case was registered against Mr Munir Ahmad, Mr Faisal Shehzad and Mr Saleem Ahmad, Ahmadis, under PPC 298-C.

Earlier anti-Ahmadi bullies distributed anti-Ahmadiyya literature and put up banners in the area to create sectarian unrest, at which Ahmadis got an FIR registered with police who arrested three of the opponents. The miscreants protested strongly against the arrests and pressurized the police. Succumbing to the pressure the police registered a counter FIR against the above mentioned three Ahmadis on 27 November 2014. They were arrested and later released on bail on December 03, 2014.

All this disturbed the peace of the village, as desired by the mullas. The police consequently proceeded to register a case against 4 named and many un-named individuals under Anti-Terrorism Act 8 and 9. By some strange logic, understood only by the police, they included two Ahmadis Mr Faisal Shehzad and Mr Munir Ahmad in the charge sheet and arrested them. It is queer justice whereby the aggressors and their victims are both punished.

Whither National Action Plan?

Lahore and Chiniot; February 26, 2015: Impression prevails that after the APS Peshawar massacre, the state is committed to root out religious extremism and sectarianism as these provide firm jumping ground to terrorism. National Action Plan (NAP) is designed to be the remedy. However, the mullas are clever enough to circumvent such official designs through permissive backdoors of End of Prophethood, Honour of the Prophet (PBUH), Imposition of Sharia, etc.

Clerics of the Khatme Nabuwat faction, despite the NAP, held *Khatme Nabuwat wa Fatah Mubahila* conferences at not only Chiniot but also at a choice location in Lahore, Aiwan-e-Iqbal which is under state management (Fed Ministry of Information and National Heritage). They availed this occasion to fan the fire of religious hatred and promote their extremist agenda, to the full. This report is filed based on what was reported in the national press.

The scheduled conference in Lahore was advertised boldly in the extreme right-wing jihadi daily Islam, on behalf of the International Khatme Nabuwat Movement (Jauhar Town, Lahore). Among the VIPs to address the conference were Maulana Abdul Hafeez Makki (of Makka in Saudi Arabia) and Maulana Ahmad Ali Siraj (of Kuwait), unabashedly revealing the prime-movers behind the conference.

The daily The Express Tribune, Lahore reported in its issue of February 27 that three retired judges of superior courts including former Lahore High Court chief justice Khawaja Muhammad Sharif, former LHC judge Nazir Ahmad Ghazi (both counsel for Mumtaz Qadri, the assassin of Governor Taseer) and former judge of the Federal Shariat Court Khalid Mahmood spoke at the conference. Other prominent speakers included Orya Maqbool Jan a leading Pakistani Islamist, and Jamaatud Dawa leader Ameer Hamza (of close links with banned Lashkar Taiba). Mulla Ilyas Chinioti (PML-N MPA) reportedly presided over the meeting and thundered, “Then they (Ahmadis) must give up their faith and become Muslims or face consequences.” “Ameer Hamza said one of the reasons why they (Jihadists) wanted to wage Jihad against India was to demolish the graves of Ahmadi leaders in Qadian,” reported The Express Tribune.

The daily Islam of February 27, 2015 covered at length a similar conference held in Chiniot. Following excerpts are from the published statements of mullas who addressed the conference:

- Qadianis are our lost belonging; they can improve their lot here and in the hereafter by moving in to the lap of Islam, otherwise they are destined to disgrace and humiliation.
- Qadianis are agents of British imperialism; they have always effectively harmed Islam and End of Prophethood.
- Qadiani hand is active behind terrorist incidents and sectarian differences in the country.
- Qadianism is name of a terrorist organization; it is not a religion.
- Unless Qadianis accept their constitutional position, our campaign against them will go on. Qadianis are rebels of the constitution; it is essential to exterminate them in every way.

The daily Islam also published the mullas' set of resolutions, *inter alia*:

- This session strongly condemns the government decision to allow only one loud-speaker (in mosques).
- This gathering strongly condemns defaming madrassahs and the crackdown against them in the garb of stopping terrorism.
- The Jamia Nusrat Government Girls College and Nusrat Girls High School in Chenab Nagar should be renamed as Jamia Syeda Aisha Siddiqua and Syeda Fatima Zahra, as Nusrat Jehan was the name of Mirza Qadiani's wife.

Note: These institutes are Ahmadiyya property, nationalized in 1972 and not yet reverted to Ahmadi despite government's own general policy.

- Sharia penalty (*death*) of apostasy should be enforced as per recommendation of Council of Islamic Ideology.



Ameer Hamza addressing 53rd Fatah Mubahala wa Kahtam-e-Nabuwwat Conference at Aiwan-e-Iqbal. PHOTO: INP

If the above is not extremism and sectarianism, what else is? It was arguably inappropriate for the authorities to facilitate such a conference in state-owned Aiwan-e-Iqbal in the provincial capital. The terms and conditions of renting the hall include:

12. No political and sectarian matter will be included in program.

18. No speech would be delivered against the ideology of Pakistan, Government Policies and Armed Forces.

Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex authorities are well aware that on such occasions, the mullas indulge in uncontrolled sectarian rhetoric. They should not have been allowed to congregate in the Complex in view of the latest government policy of National Action Plan. Otherwise it is a fair question: Is Aiwan-e-Iqbal being used as a facility for religious extremist elements who in turn are half-brothers of terrorists? Also, if the Government and the Army are on the same page on implementation of the National Action Plan, questions do arise, in view of the above press reports, about its expected success.

Update of the grave Bhoiwal Case

Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura; February 24, 2015: Four Ahmadis were wrongfully charged here under a blasphemy law PPC 295-A in May 2014. They had protested against an objectionable and provocative anti-Ahmadi poster and had allegedly torn it down from the wall of a shop. The mullas mounted a major campaign for police action against Ahmadis and threatened law and order. The police, rather than proceeding against the publishers of the hateful poster, booked the Ahmadis and detained one of them, Mr. Khalil Ahmad.

Three days later, while Mr Khalil Ahmad was detained in the police lock-up, an armed youth from a nearby madrassah run by a banned outfit entered the police station and shot him dead.

Thus a great wrong was done, and the police must have felt ashamed over it. As a result the other three accused Ahmadis wrongfully booked were granted temporary bail.

The sympathy did not last long, and the system yielded soon to the pressure of clerics; the three Ahmadis were denied their bail and were arrested. Since then they are in prison as the sessions judge refused to grant them bail.

The killer of Mr Khalil Ahmad was charged for murder and also under the anti-terrorism law ATA-7. The Anti-terrorist court, for reasons best known to it, removed the ATA-7 clause from the charge sheet.

This is how the system treats the religious zealots and their victims in Pakistan.

A writ-petition has been moved against the removal of ATA-7. A mulla, Mehdi who played a leading role in the grave incident and had agitated the public has been arrested in the post-Peshawar drive against the bigoted brigade.

The plea for bail of the three Ahmadi accused lies before the Lahore High Court. Ten months in prison, while awaiting trial in a fabricated case, is a long time.

An evil conspiracy that failed

Goth Manzoor, District Mirpur Khas; January 31, 2015: Around 200 men led by a few mullas gathered here and accused Ahmadis of having burned pages of the Holy Quran in their mosque. When they were inciting other people, a non-Ahmadi local came forward and said that at the stated time of the incident he saw some ulama of the Tablighi Jamaat leaving that mosque. "You are wrongfully implicating the Qadianis," he added. Thereafter the police arrived at the scene and detained two Tablighi mullas who confessed that they were asked to burn the pages by the local mulla so that members of the Ahmadiyya community could be blamed for it. The police subsequently arrested two local mullas, one Wahabi and the other of Jamaat Islami.

This incident discloses the reality of many such accusations of blasphemy.

Mutahiddah (Joint) Ulama Board seeks to undermine National Action Plan

Lahore; February 14, 2015:

Mutahiddah Ulama Board (MUB) is a government sponsored body in the Punjab and is occasionally convened when the interest of the provincial government and that of the ulama so demands. The Board rarely lets an opportunity pass without having a bash at the Ahmadiyya community. This is part of the price they charge for their services to the provincial authorities.

Recently, as per press report, the Board held a meeting and passed the following resolution as published in the daily Ausaf of February 14, 2015:

“As Mirzais/Qadianis/Lahoris have been declared non-Muslims in the Constitution of Pakistan and they are forbidden by law to use Islamic terms (sic) but they continue to use these in violation of the law, and the Khatme Nabuwat literature that is produced in their rebuttal and designates them *Kafir* is in no way in the category of hate material. Thus the Home Department, the Police in general and the Government of Punjab in particular should take no action whatsoever against the Khatme Nabuwat literature, its drafting, printing, distribution and sale. It was unanimously recommended that the Home Department should issue a notification in this regard. Also police action with regard to the literature on Khatme Nabuwat and rebuttal of Qadianiat was jointly and strongly condemned. Later, a delegation of the MUB met the I.G. Police and told him to stop police action underway at various locations with respect to the End of Prophethood literature.”

In plain language, the MUB demands that in the on-going campaign against sectarianism and terrorism as per National Action Plan (NAP), the mullas should be provided exception in production and distribution of anti-Ahmadiyya hate literature. By opening this back door these mullas intend to continue their divisive and violent activities as before.

Surely, there should be no ban on intellectual debate on the issue of End of Prophethood, but any speech or literature that promotes violence is, of course, counter to the NAP and must attract notice of law-enforcing authorities. For example, during the tenure of the present government, in the context of End of Prophethood:

- Mullas issued a general pamphlet addressed to Ahmadis in these words: “...You Qadianis continue to hurt Islam and the Muslims; and you are quite active in this area. If you denounce Qadianiat and stop performing acts of disbelief in your places of worship, you, your wife and your children will be safe.

“It is our final warning to you; otherwise....!”

- Alami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat recently advertised a book *Tohfa Qadianiat* written by Maulana Muhammad Yousaf Ludhianwi, which contains the following exhortation on P. 680/681 (*translation*):

“...What does the sense of honour and shame (*Ghairat*) demand from Muslims? In fact it demands that not a single Qadiani should be left alive on earth. Seize each one of these malignant individuals and kill them. I am not being emotional when I say this. This is the verity; this is the edict of Islam. This is the law of Islam concerning *Murtad* (Apostates) and *Zindique* (Heretics).”

- A mulla, Qari Masroor Ahmad addressed the crowd in Chenab Nagar in the Annual Khatme Nabuwat Conference on September 7, 2013. He proudly declared that he had murder of one Ahmadi to his credit.

(For full statement in Urdu see Annex VI to the 2013 Annual Report of Persecution of Ahmadis.)

The mullas of MUB thus demand that the authorities should let them continue with such hateful propaganda that aims at violence, bloodshed, and massacre. In fact this is the sort of religious rhetoric and campaigning that the NAP rightly aims to curb.

As the MUB, through this most recent resolution and the fact that its contribution, since its inception, to fight extremism and terrorism is zero, it is fair to propose that it should be disbanded altogether. This board promotes sectarianism rather than restrict it, and the jump from sectarianism to terrorism is not only easy, it is routine with such mullas.

Acquittal of accused declared guilty of murder

Multan: Five years ago an Ahmadi couple Dr Naureen Shiraz and Dr Shiraz A Bajwa were found tortured and suffocated to death by assailants at their residence in Wapda Colony, Multan.

The police, after investigation, detained three accused and put them up for trial in an anti-terrorism court. The court found them guilty and awarded death sentence to two of them and life imprisonment to the third.

The accused appealed to the high court against the verdict, and the judge Mr. Qazi Amin acquitted all three of them.

These three and a fourth were also accused of murder of another Ahmadi Mr. Ata ul Karim in Multan. A special court found them guilty and sentenced one of them to death and the other three to imprisonment for life.

As a result of these trials and appeals, one of the accused Mr. Talha got acquitted in both the cases.

It appears that this gang had taken upon itself elimination of prominent Ahmadis in Multan; the police did well in busting it.

Campaign against a female Ahmadi school head

Lalian, District Chiniot; February 2015: Ms Nasira Begum is working as acting principal in Government School CTSC, Lalian. Some anti-Ahmadi elements hanged some banners in the city against her with the statement: "Qadiani principal should be expelled from the school." An officer of the Special Branch, inquired into the matter and talked to Ms Nasira. He said that his staff had taken photographs of the banners, and he knew about the people who had put them up. He said that when he questioned them about these they replied, "We have no problem with her except that she is a Qadiani." The officer said that he will take action against them.

Hafiz Saeed's rhetoric

Lahore; February 14, 2015: The widely known Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, Amir Jamat Dawa, who is enjoying freedom of movement, speech and action despite international protest and condemnation, recently spoke in public on the issue of sectarianism and *Takfir* (calling others non-Muslim). Although, he denounced the practice of declaring other Muslim denominations Kafir, he made an exception with Ahmadis and said the following which was reported by the daily Pakistan on February 14, 2015 (*translation*):

"The British feared only Muslims. They snatched the sovereignty from Muslims and divided them into sects. Political wars are not as intense as the religious. Muslims did not understand their policy and turned violent in the sectarian strife. He said that the British put forth Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani as a false prophet who declared India an Abode of Peace and prohibited struggle against the British. Thus the British established themselves firmly in the sub-continent through planting the Qadiani mischief and got the Muslims involved in mutual strife...."

It is ironic that during the Raj, the mullas reported to the authorities against Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani and told them that he was more dangerous than the Mehdi of Sudan.

Ahmadis behind bars

1. The police registered a fabricated case under Anti-terrorism clause ATA 8/11 and PPC 295-A a blasphemy clause, against Mr. Aqib Saleem with FIR no. 553/14 in Police Station Peoples Colony, Gujranwala on July 28, 2014. Bail denied, he is still in prison.
2. A baseless case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad, Mubashir Ahmad of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura under

PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 on May 13, 2014 in police station Sharaqpur. Mr. Khalil Ahmad was murdered by a madrassa student while in police custody, on May 16, 2014. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. They are in prison. Their bails were cancelled.

3. The police registered a false case under Anti-terrorism clause 8/9 against two Ahmadis, Mr. Faisal Shehzad and Mr. Munir Ahmad in Aalam Garh, District Gujrat on February 09, 2015 and arrested them. They are in prison.

From the media

Appointment of Qadiani consuls: Protest by Khatme Nabuwat Movement

How can Qadiani consuls represent the Islamic Republic of Pakistan? Statement released to the media

The daily Islam; Lahore, February 12, 2015

Convert or face consequences, Ahmadis told (in KN conference in Lahore)

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, February 28, 2015

Qadianis undertake economic massacre (Qatle Aam) of Muslims in Chenab Nagar. They make all business to shut down after 10.00 p.m.: Protest by religious and social groups

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 22, 2015

'Conquest of Rabwah' celebrated in Chiniot w.r.t. February 27, 1976

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, February 28, 2015

All Qadiani periodicals should be shut down forthwith. Zia ul Islam press should be sealed without delay: Chaudhry Saeed (of ASWJ, Chiniot)

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, February 25, 2015

23 worshippers killed, 60 injured in suicide blast, firing in Imamia mosque in Peshawar

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 14, 2015

Disclosure of billions in aid to 1000 madrassas by 17 countries: Punjab Police report

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, February 19, 2015

Case against IJT for lecturer's kidnap

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 14, 2015

Mumtaz Qadri is a true lover of the Holy Prophet. We'll get him acquitted in the light of Quran and Sunnah: Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 7, 2015

All criminals (in Pakistan) enjoy support from someone powerful: Sarwar (former governor). 5% have enfeathered 95% folk. The accused of Model Town tragedy should face trial in a court.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 2, 2015

Extremism and sectarianism will be axed (Khatima): Decision in Corps Commanders' conference

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 4, 2015

None can stop aid to madrassas: Fazl ur Rahman

The daily Jang; Lahore, February 1, 2015

(Assassin) Qadri's lawyer calls Charlie Hebdo attackers 'heroes': (K.M. Sharif, a former chief justice of Lahore High Court while defending Qadri in Taseer murder case in IHC)

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 5, 2015

No compromise can be made on minorities' rights: Chief Justice Nasirul Mulk

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 12, 2015

We shall defeat all conspiracies to harm the citadels of Islam (madrassas): Ataul Mohaiman Bokhari (Ahrar), Ilyas Chinioti (IMKN), Qari Shabbir Usmani (IMKN) and others address an obituary gathering (in Chiniot)

The daily Express; Faisalabad, February 15, 2015

Incorrect interpretation of Sharia led to hype in extremism: Sheikh Jamia Al-Azhar
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 24, 2015

JI rejects all taxes except zakat, ushr: (Siraj ul Haq, Amir)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 4, 2015

ISIS practices Kufr (disbelief) and is an enemy of Islam: The Chief Mufti of Saudi Arabia
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 7, 2015

Jordanian pilot burnt alive by IS militants
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 4, 2015

183 Ikhwan-sympathisers awarded death penalty in Egypt
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 4, 2015

Tehrik Insaf never mentions Al-Qaeda or IS, while prominent terrorists were taken out from Jamaat Islami homes: Altaf Hussain (MQM)

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 9, 2015

Maulana Abdul Aziz has rendered no apology

Ch. Nisar's statement regarding written apology is false: Hafiz Ehtsham of Lal Masjid
The daily Insaf; Lahore, February 25, 2015

Nanga Parbat attack suspect escapes from prison
Chilas attack perpetrator also flees as one militant killed, another caught

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 28, 2015

Karachi: 257 labourers were burnt alive in factory arson attack for non-payment of extortion money (Bhattah): Rangers report in Sindh High Court

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 7, 2015

Toddler raped, strangled in Nazimabad
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 4, 2015

Lawyers lock court (in Lahore) over bail refusal to client
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 17, 2015

Op-ed: Heading our sectarian divide

...Pakistan's early years were largely peaceful, except for occasional flare-ups around Ashura time. Intermarriages were fairly common, and Shias had joined orthodox Sunnis into enthusiastically supporting Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's 1974 decision to declare Ahmadis as non-Muslim.

But, in a curious flip of history a 2012 Pew Global Survey shows that 41 percent of respondents in Pakistan believe that Shias are non-Muslim...

Pervez Hoodbhy in the daily Dawn of February 21, 2015

Op-ed: Justice on trial

The extremists have gained ground because of the moral bankruptcy of our political leadership.

The divide at the Islamabad High Court when it finally resumed the hearing of Mumtaz Qadri's petition against his conviction was palpable. Those condoning murder in the name of religion stood on one side – against those prevented from standing on the side of justice out of sheer fear...

...No sight could be more decadent than lawyers led by a former high court chief justice and another retired judge standing by a self-confessed murderer. It was perhaps the most shameful moment for a nation when a killer is lauded as a 'soldier of Islam'.

Many others who were at the forefront of the lawyers' movement – heralded as the 'black coat revolution' that paved the way for the country's return to democracy – maintained a criminal silence while their colleagues idolized blatant brutality. Has the bar association, which would otherwise have been active in struggle for rule of law, condemned the action of its members? On trial is our country's system of justice....

...The Qadri case is not only a test for the judiciary, but also for the administration's commitment to eradicate militancy and violent extremism. It is also the responsibility of civil society and the bar to raise their voice for justice. Qadri is not an individual but a mindset that is represented by people like former justices Khawaja Sharif and Mian Nazeer Akhtar and their ilk in the lawyers' community...

Zahid Husain in the daily Dawn of February 4, 2015

Op-ed: Extremism in the Punjab

...Whether we like it or not, we need to turn to every madrassah, school and mosque in the Punjab that is in contact with extremist groups. We also need to inquire into every missionary, mulla, student and donor; without such intervention all our efforts to put an end to religious extremism will come to naught, our soldiers' sacrifices will go waste and our capital of civic life and finances will pare down drastically... Remember, for years we have noticed a trend of increasing extremism in the central Punjab.

Syed Kausar Hashmi in the daily Mashriq of February 10, 2015

Op-ed: When madrassa challenges the state

The biggest challenge for the government and the military courts is the Lal Masjid (Red mosque) madrassa, whose head Maulana Abdul Aziz was under summons in January from a court that he defied. In 2007, al-Qaeda owned up links to it and created the Ghazi Force, which savaged the military personnel of Islamabad-Rawalpindi with suicide attacks.

The killer behind the Ghazi Force, named after the founder of the Lal Masjid, was Qari Husain Ahmad Mehsud, who had graduated from madrasa Jamia Faruqia of Karachi, which was founded by Mufti Shamzai, who went on to found Jamia Banuria too, the biggest factory of sectarian killers, till Shamzai himself was killed. And Mehsud was killed by a drone because he trained the son of an air force officer to attempt blowing up Times Square in New York....

Nobody ever thought that madrassas in Pakistan would become powerful enough to challenge the state itself. In 2015, they have become the most powerful civil society element capable of challenging the state to self-correction. The ideology of Pakistan has finally wrenched the "monopoly of violence" from the state and established the clergy as the arbiter of state behavior. Lawyers, military personnel, doctors, teachers serving in the state sector, journalists and the unemployed, supplement the power of the seminarian boys, who form the frontline against the state without knowing it.

The state today is too weak to enforce the Action Plan against terrorism. Like the Middle East, it is no longer able to undo the textbook biases drilled into the common man's mind. *Khaled Ahmad in <http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/when-madrassa->*

Op-ed: Shikarpur tragedy and its raison d'etre

...This tragedy has shown how ineffective the government is despite its resources and claims. In fact, war against terrorism is being fought as a defensive war. Terrorists are free to strike first. A war that remains defensive can never be won. The government is on the defensive despite all its resources and manpower; it is even apologetic. Unless it turns on the offensive, success will remain elusive.

Dr Rashid Ahmad Khan in the daily Mashriq; February 5, 2015

Report: Hard-line Indian Hindus become Modi's enemies from within

...In recent months Maharaj (Hindu priest-turned-politician Sakshi Maharaj) has created uproar by describing Mahatma Gandhi's Hindu nationalist assassin as a patriot, saying Hindu women should give birth to four children to ensure the religion survives and by calling for Hindus who convert to Islam or Christianity to be given the death penalty...

Maharaj 'seeks death penalty for slaughtering cows, an animal revered by Hindus'.

The daily Dawn of February 4, 2015