

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

News Report June 2014

3 Ahmadis booked and arrested

A number of Ahmadi households are there in Kallar Abadi neighborhood of Gujranwala. On May 27, they celebrated a religious day in their prayer center, and held a seminar.

An ill-wisher reported the event to the police and persuaded them to register a criminal case under PPC 298-C, an anti-Ahmadi law. The police raided the prayer center and arrested the caretaker, Mr. Mubashir Ahmad. Thereafter they registered a case and named three Ahmadis, (1) Mr. Mubashir Ahmad (2) Mr. Khalid Mehmud and (3) Mr. Javed Ahmad in the FIR.

It is learnt that the ‘complainant’ belongs to a Butt family who have a property dispute with the Ahmadi who owns the prayer center.

The case was registered in Police Station Baghbanpura, Gujranwala with FIR Nr. 547/14 on June 2, 2014 under PPC 298-C.

Mr. Mansur Khan, Additional Sessions Judge refused plea for bail of all the three accused. All are now in prison, awaiting trial.

Construction of Ahmadiyya mosque barred

Narowal; June 2014: Ahmadis of village Ramra were building their place of worship. They had raised the walls and had undertaken the shuttering for making the roof.

As usual, anti-Ahmadi elements are opposing the construction and are using the state power in their support. They made the situation volatile by the middle of this month, and assured the police of riots in case Ahmadis succeeded in having a place to worship.

The police willingly accepted the argument of ‘threat to peace’ and told the Ahmadis to stop the construction. Ahmadis met the District Police Officer (DPO) Narowal and explained him their position. The DPO expressed a few words of sympathy but took no concrete action to ensure that Ahmadis would have their place of worship.

In the meantime the local court became handy to the religious bigots; it issued a “Stay Order” against Ahmadis. The construction has come to a stop.

It is decades since the authorities allowed Ahmadis to build a place of worship anywhere in Pakistan.

Since the promulgation of Ordinance XX in 1984, 31 Ahmadiyya mosques have been sealed by the authorities, 16 forcibly occupied by non-Ahmadis with official support, 13 set on fire and 27 demolished. Three have suffered attacks and damage since January this year.

The daily Mashriq, Lahore reported the following on June 18, 2014: *Pak Army to protect all 7 Gurdawaras of Sikhs in Nankana Sahib*
The discrimination is striking.

Ordeal of disinterment

Bharokay, District Sialkot; May/June 2014: An Ahmadi household here went through a traumatic experience following the death of the head of the family, Mr. Majeed Ahmad.

Mr. Ahmad died on May 1, 2014. His non-Ahmadi friends started digging a grave for him in the common graveyard. The local mulla came to know of this and announced that a 'non-Muslim' will not be allowed burial in a Muslim graveyard. Hearing this, the grave diggers filled up the pit and returned home.

On hearing the mulla's announcement some non-Ahmadi elders visited Mr. Ahmad's family and asked them about their burial plan. They were told that they now intended to take the dead body away to some other village where there is a separate Ahmadiyya graveyard. The visitors said that they will not agree to Mr. Ahmad's burial at a far off place, so they called on the mulla to find a solution. The mulla said that as per Shariah (sic) Mr. Ahmad could be buried 70 paces away from Muslims' graves.

Thereafter the mulla accompanied the village elders to the graveyard. The police also arrived at the scene. The mulla himself measured 70 paces; the grave was then dug up there and Mr. Ahmad was buried after the funeral prayers. A few non-Ahmadis joined the funeral prayers.

A few days later, some miscreants sent an application to the police against Ahmadi's burial alleging that 'Qadianis had forcibly buried their dead in Muslim graveyard, so it should be disinterred.' The police sent for the two parties to report to the police station, where the DSP got involved who sent the case to the revenue authorities.

The miscreants aimed at total victory. They threatened agitation. They even posted posters in the area, that urged the people to "Proceed to Ghukal on June 20, where Qadianis had buried their dead, so as to disinter him."

The police got cold feet and sent for the family of the deceased and some village elders, and told them to disinter the deceased and bury him elsewhere; otherwise angry protesters were likely to set their house on fire. At this, Mr. Aslam, a non-Ahmadi nephew of the deceased assured the police that he would have the needful done.

On return Mr. Aslam obtained the signatures of the widow and two daughters of the deceased and a few village elders as consent for disinterment and delivered the paper to the police.

The police, thereafter took some of the agitating mullas in company, went to the site and had the grave dug up and the dead body was disinterred. The coffin was placed on a trolley and taken to the farm of Mr. Aslam where it was reburied in police presence.

It is not possible to find suitable words to describe the trauma, agony and distress of the bereaved family during these weeks.

Government of Pakistan disowns Pak Ahmadi refugees arrested by Sri Lankan authorities

Islamabad; June 22, 2014: The daily Dawn published the following report without naming Ahmadis as the victims:

"FO disowns refugees 'detained' in Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan newspaper says those arrested might have been involved in anti-state activities in India, Pakistan

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office has distanced itself from the reported arrests of registered Pakistani refugees and asylum seekers in Sri Lanka, but aid workers from the island nation have confirmed that Pakistani refugees are being rounded up by the authorities.

Sri Lankan daily Ceylon Today reported last week that nearly 1,500 (sic) Pakistanis, many of whom are registered with the United Nations refugees agency, UNHCR have been picked up by the Sri Lankan Department of Immigration and the Criminal Investigation Department. According to the newspaper, these people were to be deported because of their alleged involvement in 'anti-state activities' in India and Pakistan.

Foreign Office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam was unsympathetic to the plight of the detained refugees in Sri Lanka, saying "These people (asylum seekers) obtained asylum in Sri Lanka by badmouthing Pakistan. If they are in trouble, I have no idea," "I do not know of any operation being conducted by Sri Lankan authorities against Pakistani refugees," she added.

However a UNHCR official in Sri Lanka, Dushanthi Fernando told Dawn: "Some 140 persons were reported to be detained at the Mirthana and Boossa detention centres. UNHCR is intervening and seeking clarification from the authorities on the reasons behind these arrests," she said.

"As of June 9, UNHCR has been receiving reports that a number of Pakistani asylum seekers and a few recognized refugees have been arrested," she said, adding that UNHCR had not been informed of any possible deportations.

"We continuously emphasize the importance and need for respect and observance of the principle of non-refoulement, which is a cornerstone of international refugee protection and a principle of customary international law," Ms Fernando said.

She said UNHCR would continue to raise the issue with the relevant authorities.

The Sri Lankan newspaper, quoting unnamed sources, had reported that, "(an) operation was launched after intelligence sources revealed that some of the Pakistani asylum seekers in Sri Lanka are involved with insurgent groups in India and Pakistan".

The report went on to say that asylum seekers in the city of Negombo are lying under a cloud of fear following the arrests.

Duniya Khan, a UNHCR official in Pakistan, told Dawn that under the law, asylum seekers and refugees could not be harassed by any authority. "Law enforcement agencies of any country can only interrogate suspects on the basis of concrete evidence," she said.

Ahmer Bilal Soofi, who is an expert on international law, told Dawn, "Under International law, asylum seekers have a certain degree of protection, which means they cannot be expatriated. However refugees under the cover of asylum cannot indulge in criminal activities."

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) is the authority that deals with the extradition of wanted individuals detained abroad. However, officials Dawn spoke to indicated that the action against refugees in Sri Lanka may not have been requested by Pakistani authorities at all.

Explaining the process whereby authorities reach out to law enforcement agencies from other countries, FIA Director Inam Ghani said, "For the extradition of a wanted person, FIA

obtains perpetual warrants of the accused from a court of law, and initiates a case for extradition with the country in question, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He said that extradition requests usually pertain to specific individuals and the arrest of large number of people are almost never requested.”

Following is noteworthy:

The FO spokesperson said, “These people (asylum seekers) obtain asylum in Sri Lanka by badmouthing Pakistan. If they are in trouble I have no idea.” Disowning them amounts to a confession of their maltreatment by the Government of Pakistan (GOP). According to press reports this very Foreign Office of GOP allocated \$ 2 million for the legal defence of Dr Aafia Siddiqui during her trial in the US, where she was later convicted of terrorist activities and sentenced to long-term imprisonment.

The Sri Lanka newspaper says those arrested have been involved in anti-state activities in India, Pakistan. This betrays that Sri Lankan authorities could be acting in league with the governments of India and Pakistan. Even if correct, Ahmadi refugees cannot be rubbished because a few non-Ahmadis are accused of anti-state activities. Also, if 85 percent of the detained Pakistanis are Ahmadis, it means targeted tyranny. Ahmadis, of course, have never co-operated with insurgent groups - anywhere.

An Ahmadiyya source reported on June 17, 2014, “There are now approximately 120 Ahmadis in the Detention Centre and the onslaught of the authorities continues to escalate by the day. Our brothers are facing unimaginable hardship and a number of them have serious medical problems.”

Distribution of hateful pamphlet in Sargodha, Punjab

Sargodha: The Khatme Nabuwwat organization, with office in Lakkhar Mandi here, and its auxiliary Shubban Khatme Nabuwwat have recently published and distributed a hateful 4-page pamphlet that targets 77 Ahmadiyya businesses, products and professionals in the city. The pamphlet blatantly violates the law of the land and attracts the penal code PPC 153-A and 298.

The cover page mentions: “**Every drop of (one’s) blood is offered as sacrifice for the honour of the Prophet (PBUH)**”, and also unabashedly: “**None in the caravan of Khatme Nabuwwat is intolerant. Friends, anyone who has no conscience is not a co-traveler with the Prophet.**” The title also includes: “**This is a thought-provoking message for the devotees and moths of the Renowned Master Khatam Nabiyyeen PBUH.**” The cover carries the address of the publishers and their phone numbers: **0300-8651074 and 0300-9606593.**

The pamphlet calls the holy founder of the Ahmadiyya community “conscienceless, hell-bound; follower of the English.” It warns the Muslims “to take notice of the way in which Qadianis are committing blasphemies against the honour of the Holy Lord (PBUH) and how their scorpion-like tongues are poisoning the pure religion of the Chief of Both the Worlds (PBUH)”.

This pamphlet makes a loud call: “O youth in the Islamic Fraternity! Devote your emerging youth to the protection of the Honour of Prophethood. O wealthy and influential, it is your obligation to devote a part of your wealth for safeguarding the End of Prophethood. O

learned writers, use your pens like swords to put an end to this evil of Qadianiyat It is everyone's duty to cut off economic, social and civic ties with the Qadianis."

The pamphlet introduces its auxiliary organization as: "The name Shubban e Khatme Nabuwwat was suggested by master of the masters, honourable Maulana Khan Muhammad, the Central President. On 4th September 1981, Maulana Akram Toofani (typhoon) laid the foundation stone of Shubban e Khatme Nabuwwat." (Note: Akram Toofani is routinely forbidden by DCOs of many districts to enter their district during the month of Muharram, to avoid his mischief and threat to law and order and peace of the population). Also the pamphlet solicits: "Those individuals, especially from colleges and universities, who are interested in setting up branches of Shubbane Khatme Nabuwwat in the districts, contact us at: 0336-6154445; 048-3710474, 0315-4900666; 0300-8651074."

The pamphlet then lists 77 businesses (giving their addresses), products, industries and professionals (doctors etc) and urges their boycott. It gives the *fatwa* at the end: "On account of the heretic beliefs and writings, the ulama of all schools of thought (sic) of the Muslim Ummah have proclaimed Mirzais to be infidels and heretics (*Zindiques*, who must be killed). All dealings with Mirzais such as sharing happiness or grief, business relationship, friendship, or any relationship whatsoever are *Haram* (forbidden). And whoever maintains ties with them is a transgressor, sinner and deserves hell; also he himself is a Kafir who considers the Qadianis to be Muslim."

"Note: There is a famous Qadiani hospital (Tahir Heart Centre) in Chenab Nagar. To visit a doctor there for check-up and treatment is *Haram* and a sin of the highest degree."

It should be mentioned that a few days ago armed pillion riders shot dead an American Ahmadi doctor who had come to this hospital for voluntary free service.

Also, it is for consideration whether failure to take notice of such hateful and unlawful a pamphlet by the administration falls in the category of criminal neglect!

Evil eyes on another Ahmadiyya mosque

Raipur, District Sialkot: Here is story of an Ahmadiyya mosque, that illustrates the nature of threat posed to Ahmadiyya places of worship by the society and the state.

Ahmadiyya mosque in Raipur is located in a 6-acre farm where there are approximately 100 mango trees. One Muhammad Afzal coveted this property and fraudulently got the land transferred to his name. In year 2007, he sought police support and went to a court to claim possession of this property. The judge rejected his plea. Thereafter, Afzal had a police case registered against the village folk to maintain his bogus claim controversial.

Recently he solicited support of an influential Rana Shafiq Pasruri, agitated the issue again and put up posters in neighboring villages, titled: **"Let's go to Raipur and take possession of the Muslims' mosque held by Qadianis."** The police intervened and referred the case to a magistrate on June 20, 2014.

In the past weeks, Afzal had been pushing the courts to decide in his favour. On May 28, a magistrate ordered sealing of the mosque on the absurd plea of 'threat to peace'. Ahmadis appealed against this decision. The judge cancelled the magistrate's orders. The police has now wrongfully approached the judge to revise his order in view of 'law and order'. This non-issue has become hot and remains alive – as desired by the unscrupulous land grabber.

Severe prosecution and harassment of an Ahmadi family

Tatle Aali, District Gujranwala: The family of Rana Muhammad Ilyas, deceased, is having a very rough time from relatives motivated by religious prejudice. It deserves a place on record.

Rana Ilyas along with his wife and children joined the Ahmadiyya community in 2006. He was a resident of Tatle Aali where he had some property comprising a house, three shops and special plots. His relatives were very hostile to his change of denomination. They themselves belonged to extremist and banned organizations. They opposed him tooth and nail, to the extent that Rana Ilyas had to shift his residence to Gujranwala city.

His absence from the town where his properties were located made it easy for his brothers etc to occupy them or to obstruct their sale to other parties. Rana Ilyas had to approach the courts to exercise his rights. The stress of events became unbearable and he had a heart attack in November 2012. He was taken to hospital where he expired. He was buried in the Ahmadiyya graveyard.

Rana Ilyas's death provided further incentive and facility to his hostile relatives to harm his widow and children. They prepared fake transfer deals of properties to claim them. Abu Bakr, a nephew who is a policeman, sent an application to a magistrate that Rana Ilyas had been poisoned to death by his own sons; so his dead body should be disinterred and medically reexamined. This policeman is quite an `operator`. He succeeded in taking a magistrate, escorted by police, to the grave to disinter the dead body of Rana Ilyas who had died more than a year ago. Fortunately the opponents could not pinpoint the grave or produce any witnesses, so the magistrate postponed the proceedings. A judge intervened and issued a stay order against disinterment.

Rana Ilyas's brothers run a madrassa, one of them is an Imam of a mosque, a nephew Rana Faizan has links with Lashkar Jhangvi, a banned organisation, while Rana Shamshad is a police tout. Abu Bakr is himself a policeman. All these have formed a gang who, motivated by religious prejudice and bigotry, as also by greed continue to zealously harass the deceased Ahmadi's family. Their aim is to implicate the victims in some police case and get them behind bars.

Mischief sprouts its evil shoots

Rabwah: It was reported in March this year that Mulla Tooti, a younger brother of the well-known and influential Mulla Tahir Ashrafi, and his acolytes visited Rabwah on a special mission to set up a base of anti-Ahmadiyya activities in this town. They acquired a house owned by Ahmad Yusuf (deceased).

Recently they undertook major alterations to the house, including building a minaret (to convert it into a mosque). This was reported to the police. A son and two daughters of Ahmad Yusuf obtained a 'stay order' from a court against the alteration work. The mullas still did not desist from proceeding further with the masonry work.

At this the police were informed that they would be responsible if the mullah's actions resulted in damage to life or property. At this the SHO moved into action and informed the Area Magistrate that as the situation is a threat to peace, this house should be sealed under Section 145.

The magistrate ordered the parties to present themselves on May 21. The mullas did not turn up, so the magistrate issued their arrest warrants. At this mulla Hasan Muawiya (Tooti), mulla Ilyas Chinioti (PML-N MPA) and Ahmad Saifulla called on the Regional Police Officer (RPO) in Faisalabad. The RPO did not send for the Ahmadis to hear their plea, and suspended the SHO and appointed a new SHO in police station Rabwah. Apparently the RPO has paid no attention to Supreme Court orders for “effective police action to protect minorities”. *The daily Dawn; June 20, 2014.*

Encouraged by RPO’s action the mullas restarted internal reconstruction. They were stopped in this by a court order.

The issue remains ‘live’ and is loaded with great mischief. The mullas intend converting this house into a mosque and madrassah (although hardly a non-Ahmadi lives in this neighborhood.) In this Tooti and one Qari Rafiq are leading this conspiracy in league with Mulla Ilyas Chinioti the PML-N MPA. These heavy weight aggressive bigots have obtained support of a senior police officer (RPO Faisalabad).

The time for reaping the country-wide sown harvest may arrive sooner than expected.

Religion made to serve personal gain

Sahiwal: Mr. Mustansar Salik, Ahmadi had rented his house to someone. Recently Salik gave him a notice to vacate the house. He was reluctant to leave. Someone advised him to allege that Salik had preached Ahmadiyyat to him. On this basis he sought help from the neighborhood to assemble as a procession and mount a raid on Salik’s home. In this he could not succeed.

This tenant then wrote to the police that the landlord had preached Ahmadiyyat to him and told him to convert or vacate the house; he is also not willing to return Rs. 5000/- paid to him in advance. He also managed to invite a team from a TV channel to come to the site to support him through propaganda. They contacted Mr. Salik and the police and put pressure on them.

At this, the police and the neighbors advised the Ahmadi to pay his way out from the predicament. Mr. Salik paid Rs. 20,000 to the tenant and the advance to have his house vacated.

US doctor killed in Pakistan remembered

Groveport, USA: The daily Dawn, Lahore published a story under the above headline in its issue of June 23, 2014. Text:

“Groveport: A memorial service in central Ohio has honoured an American cardiologist shot and killed last month in Pakistan in front of his wife and toddler.

Police say two gunmen riding a motorcycle shot Mehdi Ali Qamar as his family left a cemetery after visiting relatives’ graves.

The 51 year old doctor was from the Ahmadi community.

About 100 relatives, friends and colleagues gathered on Saturday south of Columbus to remember Mr. Qamar, a resident of Pickerington.

Speakers at the memorial remembered Mr. Qamar as a man dedicated to serving humanity – AP.

The daily Jang published an op-ed by US-based Azim M Mian on June 11, 2014 on this subject. An extract (translation):

...Pak-American doctors, member of the New York chapter of APPNA held a protest demonstration in front of the Pakistan Consulate in NY. A representative delegation of the chapter led by its president Dr Pervez Iqbal arrived to present a memorandum to the Consul General who had been informed two days earlier of their intentions. However the Consul General and the Vice Consul did not bother to receive this Memorandum from these distinguished, honoured, educated Pakistani doctors but left it to a staff member to receive it. What impression will that leave with Pakistanis about the attitude of Pakistani officials appointed abroad to serve the overseas Pakistanis?

Update on Tando Allah Yar incident

It was reported in the lead story of our March 2014 report that miscreants arranged stoning at Ahmadiyya missionary's residence in Tando Allah Yar (Sindh) on March 31, 2014 by madrassah boys. A follow-up was provided in April 2014 that this attack escalated into anti-Ahmadi riots in the town, leveling of false blasphemy charges against the missionary and his arrest and a pressure on the local Ahmadi to shift their home and health. The missionary was arrested, wrongfully.

The missionary Mr. Tahir Ahmad Khalid's plea for bail was rejected even by the Sessions Judge to placate the mullas. Mr. Khalid had to apply to the High Court for relief against the fabricated charge.

This month, on June 2, the advocate for the prosecution told the court that he was new to the case, and needed time to prepare his case. The court postponed the hearing till June 9.

On June 9, the prosecution team, indulging in delaying tactics failed to turn up. The judge scheduled the next hearing for June 16.

On June 16, the court could not take up this case for lack of time, and gave June 30 as the next date of hearing.

On July 1, the Ahmadi remained incarcerated. Now, the given date of hearing is July 15.

The accused who is innocent remains behind bars in the 14th week of his incarceration. Whither the speech of 11th August 1947 of the founding father of this Republic!

Year 2013 Report on anti-Ahmadiyya campaign in the vernacular press

Rabwah: The Press Section of the Ahmadiyya central office issued its annual report on the above subject. The report shows no improvement in the policy and conduct of the Urdu press in its anti-Ahmadi drive. In fact, some newspapers have printed more hostile `news` and op-eds as compared to the preceding year.

This year again, the daily Ausaf (**Editor: Mr. Mehtab Khan**) is in the lead for printing anti-Ahmadi `news`, however it has beaten its own total of last year by printing 20 percent more news this year; these news are mostly hostile statement of mullas, leading as well as petty. The

daily Nawa-i-Waqt (**Editor: Mr. Majeed Nizami**) stood first in printing the maximum op-eds, 48 in number. The daily Jang (**Editor: Mir Shakil-ur-Rehman**) was second by publishing 37 op-eds. It printed statements of mullas in headlines like, “**Qadianis are traitors not only of the faith but also the country: Khatme Nabuwwat Conference.**” (*Jang; January 27, 2013*). Very recently when accused in the same terms by their detractors, the Jang protested against the damage done to its prestige: “**Notice of 50 billion rupees damages to Ministry of Defense, ISI and Pemra for calling Jang and Geo traitors.**” (*Jang; June 7, 2014*.)

The daily Pakistan (**Editor: Mr. Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami**) matched the daily Jang in publishing anti-Ahmadi op-eds. For sample we quote headline of a news story from its issue of May 18, 2013: “**Qadianis are rebels and traitors against the Constitution: Maulana Zahid ur Rashidi.**” Rashidi is the mulla who travelled all the way to South Africa last year to beat the drums of war against the so-called `Shia aggression`. On TV shows Mr. Shami preaches unity in the Ummah.

This annual report mentions theme-wise numerous baseless, incorrect and damaging news published by the Urdu press; photo prints of some such headlines are produced in that report. Here we give only a few samples:

Vile allegations

Imran Khan is a Jewish agent and a colleague of Qadianis: Ilyas Chinioti (a PML-N mulla and an MPA)

The daily Jang; May 7, 2013

Qadianiyat is the greatest danger for Muslims: Maulana Irshad

The daily Pakistan; June 5, 2013

Building Qadiani residential areas near sensitive locations is cause of concern: Ulama

The daily Din; December 27, 2013

The Jewish lobby is using Qadianis for its condemnable objectives: Qari Shabbir Usmani

The daily Ausaf; September 11, 2013

State support to Qadianis!

Whenever Nawaz Sharif comes (in power), Qadiani lobby becomes active: (Mulla) Ajmal Qadri

The daily Jang; September 2, 2013

Najam Sethi has promoted the Qadiani mischief; caretaker governments should exercise restraint: Khatme Nabuwwat

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; April 6, 2013

Note: Such headlines have always proven effective in inducing the rulers to prove their credentials by further distancing themselves visibly from the marginalized Ahmadiyya community.

Baseless charge of being anti-Pakistan

Qadianis are busy undoing the roots of Pakistan: Ulama

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; September 9, 2013

Sensitive issue of blasphemy

Qadianis should desist from their hostility towards the Prophet of Allah: Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat

The daily Jasarat; September 6, 2013

Hate promoting statements

Qadianis have done irreparable damage to Islam and the country: Khatme Nabuwwat Conference Chenab Nagar

The daily Jang; November 9, 2013

Qadianis deserve no human sympathy: Majlis Khatme Nabuwwat

The daily Jasarat; May 23, 2013

Qadianis trigger their conspiracies; the youth should remain prepared to annihilate them: Raja Zafarul Haq (a top PML-N leader)

The daily Ausaf; August 29, 2013

Demands

Sharia punishment of apostasy (*death*) should be imposed: Haji Abdul Ghafur Rehmani

The daily Khabrain; June 3, 2013

Military wing of Qadianis should be destroyed: Ilyas Chinioti (PML-N mulla, an MPA)

The daily Dunya; May 25, 2013

The phantom Qadiani lobby

Qadianis holding key posts are busy conspiring against national security: Khatme Nabuwwat Conference

The daily Dunya; October 26, 2013

The Kashmir issue

Kashmir became a problem because of Qadiani manipulations: Speakers

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Sept 8, 2013

Qadiani generals are the hurdle to resolution of Kashmir problem: Majlis Khatme Nabuwwat

The daily Jasarat; April 6, 2013

(Note: These liars know that there is no Ahmadi general in Pakistan Army.)

The Israeli connection

One thousand Pakistani Qadianis are employed in the Israeli army: Report

The daily Ausaf; November 9, 2013

Qadianis are supported by the U.S., Israel and India: Abdul Ghafur Rehmani

The daily Pakistan; December 30, 2013

(Note. Mulla Rehmani and the daily Pakistan obviously have no concern with the `truth` in the statement; the aim is only to incite hate among the ordinary readers.)

The report mentions that during 2013 seven Ahmadis were murdered for their faith, while 16 others were subjected to assaults. In all fairness, more than the attackers, it is their religious and press leaders who should be held responsible for these heinous crimes.

Special editions

Almost all the vernacular dailies issued anti-Ahmadi special editions on various occasions. They never published a rebuttal sent to them by Ahmadi writers.

Ahmadiyya response

Ahmadiyya `Press Section` often sends its versions, explanations, protests to these papers but most of them simply ignore these or occasionally spare space, the size of a postage stamp, for such rebuttals.

The report, in its foreword, urges the vernacular press to stand by its own policy guidelines adopted by their various organisations, APNS, CPNE and PFUJ. What is the use of laying down a `code of conduct` if it is not to be followed, the report asks? Such violations infringe Article 19 of the Constitution, reminds the Report.

This report makes the following statement in the concluding Para:

“Will the media in Pakistan ever use its pen freely and sans religious prejudice? May it happen soon that our media follow high principles so that truth reaches the people and all aspects of an issue become visible to them. May Allah bring it about. Amen”

Situation in Lahore, the capital of the Punjab

Factory Area, Shahdara: This neighborhood has been targeted by anti-Ahmadi elements for long. Assaults, harassments, registration of police cases and hostile propaganda continue uninterrupted.

More recently, on May 18, 2014, religious extremists distributed anti-Ahmadi leaflets in the bazaar. Their title was: ***Key to the love of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.). Why a boycott against Qadianis is essential?*** The distributors of the pamphlets motivated the people verbally as well to have no dealing whatsoever with Ahmadis as that is *Gunahe Kabirah* [major sin, as per Shariah (sic)]. They told them that Qadianis are *Kafir* (infidels) and *Zindqiue* (apostates of a higher degree).

This campaign, although it violates the laws of the land (PPC 153-A, 295-A etc), continues unchecked under the nose of the local police.

Terrorists launched: It is learnt from reliable sources that 3 to 5 suicide bombers have entered Lahore. They have been tasked to attack churches and Ahmadiyya places of worship in the city. They plan to target-kill Ahmadi leaders in the provincial capital. Official agencies are aware of this situation.

Ahmadis have taken suitable precautions. However, the plans and designs of religious extremists can be effectively foiled only by a policy of neutralizing the top leadership of terrorism and their sympathisers and blocking their funds. This requires political will and decision.

Naseerabad: A complaint has been lodged against Mr. Waris Ali, an Ahmadi by local mullas that he sends his children to a Muslim`s house to learn the recitation of the Holy Quran; being a non-Muslim he had no right to do that, they said. Waris Ali is making a prayer area next to his house, he has no right to make it, they alleged. (The building in fact is a house under construction for Mr. Muhammad Yusuf, a brother of Mr. Waris Ali.) Waris Ali had written the `Kalima` on his house, which he had no right, asserted the `complainants`. On request of these bigots, an investigating police team came and told Waris Ali to present himself at the police station on June 6. The issue remains alive.

Rachna Town; June 5, 2014: Hostile mullas pasted offensive stickers in a street that led to an Ahmadiyya mosque. At the corner of that street there is a shop owned by an Ahmadi, Mr. Riaz Ahmad Bhatti who has rented it to a non-Ahmadi butcher. Mullas affixed those offensive stickers inside this shop and told the shopkeeper that he would be held accountable if these stickers were removed.

Township: The daughter-in-law of Mrs. Azar Rasheed went to the market. She stopped by a shoemaker`s shop to get her shoe repaired. A mulla was sitting there. When he saw an Ahmadi woman, he asked the shoemaker to visit the mosque to learn what is to befall Mirzais (Ahmadis).

A few days later, her twelve year old grandson went out to buy some rice. On the way, a mulla stopped him and asked him why he hadn`t come for the prayers. The boy replied that he would deliver the rice at home and then go to the mosque. At the shop, another mulla sitting

there told the shopkeeper to attend to the boy quickly as he wanted to speak to him. The mulla asked the boy if he knew the `Kalima`. The boy replied, "Yes I do" and recited the `Kalima`. When he was about to leave, the shopkeeper told the mulla that the boy was a 'Mirzai'. At this the mulla replied, "Why wasn't I told about this before, I wouldn't have let him go." On hearing this, the boy, who was still nearby, ran back home.

Guldasht; June 2014: Ms. Bushra Wadud, widow of an Ahmadi martyr Mr. Abdul Wadud, lives in Guldasht Town, Lahore. She faced hateful behavior in the local bazaar recently.

Ms. Wadud went out to buy a few school items for her children and visited Farhan Stationary. She noticed that the shop-keeper had stocked numerous anti-Ahmadi publications and had displayed hate-promoting stickers in the shop. The shop-keeper, perhaps recognizing her as an Ahmadi, offered her a calendar issued by a Khatme Nabuwat organization. She looked at it, returned it to the mulla and came back.

A few days later she went there again. There was another customer at the shop at the time. The shopkeeper, noticing her, started telling the customer, "Our people are asleep while the Ummah is in great danger. The threat is not from Jews, Christians nor from Hindus, it is from the Qadiani Jamaat. They have installed their own prophet and are deceiving the people by following Islam. They recite the Kalima of Muhammad, but in fact they adore Ahmad. It is a sin to call their place of worship a mosque. They are good at planning and implementation."

Ms Wadud hurriedly did her shopping and beat the retreat.

Township; May 25, 2014: Mr. Tahir Ahmad Mubashir, the local Ahmadiyya missionary dropped his wife at a relative's place. At about 1 p.m. when she was returning home, a young man started following her and remarked, "Those who are friends with Mirzais (Ahmadis) are traitors to the Master (*Aaqa*)." The lady picked up pace and reached the main road. Here the stalker turned about and disappeared.

Update of the Bhuiowal court case

It was reported last month that a fabricated case of blasphemy was registered under PPC 295-A against 4 Ahmadis of Bhuiowal in Police station Sharaqpur, District Sheikhpura. Mr. Khalil Ahmad was arrested and put behind bars in the police station. On May 16, 2014 a madrassah student went to the police station and shot dead the Ahmadi who was in police custody.

The criminal case proceedings however continue against the remaining three Ahmadis. They were called to appear in the court on June 14, then on June 17, thereafter on June 24.

In case these accused, who are otherwise innocent, are declared guilty they are at risk of being imprisoned for 10 years. Their fourth co-accused has already suffered the penalty of death at the hand of a student from a madrassah run by a banned organization.

This is how the state is administering Pakistan – "the land of the pure".

A report from Layyah

Layyah; June 3, 2014: District Layyah is located in the western Punjab. This is where, in 2009, opponents of Ahmadiyyat arranged for the arrest of 4 Ahmadi school children in a fabricated case of blasphemy. They remained behind bars for months before they were acquitted. The acquittal, however, did not bring them peace; they could not return to their village for fear of

attack. Encouraged by the support or timidity of the state institutions in the face of threats from clerics, the mullas have maintained their aggressive sectarian drive against Ahmadis in this district.

On June 3, mullas held a conference in the Karnamali Mosque in the name of ‘Defense of the Companions (*Difa-e-Sahaba*) and the Integrity of Pakistan’. However the focus of their speeches was Ahmadiyyat and they used extremely foul language to incite the audience against Ahmadis. Mulla Aurangzeb Farooqi told the participants to ensure that no Qadiani is allowed to undertake any construction; keep an eye on their movements and make all efforts to counter their nefarious designs, he said.

The authorities know that such hate speeches violate the law of the land - PPC 153A. However they prefer to avoid confronting the mulla.

Immediate Release of USCIRF

Washington: The United State Commission on International Religious Freedom issued on June 9, 2014 as Immediate Release an op-ed that appeared in The Philadelphia Inquirer the same day. The op-ed is titled: **Pakistan’s War on Conscience**. Its text is reproduced as Annex to this monthly report.

UN rights experts call on Pakistan to ensure the security of the Ahmadiyya ... community

The following news was recently posted on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights website at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14658&LangID=E>

“Stop faith-based killings” – UN rights experts urge Pakistan to protect Ahmadiyya Muslim minorities

GENEVA (2 June 2014) – Three United Nations experts on freedom of religion, minority issues, and summary executions today called on Pakistan to adopt urgent measures to stop faith-based killings and ensure the security of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, whose faith is outlawed in the country.

The human rights experts’ call comes after renewed violent attacks against Ahmadiyya Muslims in Pakistan, in which two members of the community have been killed, as well as a number of arrests on blasphemy charges. These attacks are believed to be related to their choice and peaceful practice of religious beliefs.

“I am very concerned by the recent surge of violent attacks against Ahmadiyya Muslims by militant extremists. Such violence is fueled by existing blasphemy legislation in Pakistan particularly targeting minorities,” the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Heiner Bielefeldt, said. “I urge Pakistan to guarantee the right to freedom of religion or belief of members of minority religious communities.”

“Pakistan must urgently put in place protective measures to ensure the personal security of Ahmadiyya Muslims, as well as any other religious minorities living in the country, under threat

of hostility and violence by militant extremists,” the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Rita Izsák, stressed. “The full range of rights of religious minorities must be guaranteed in law and in practice.”

“In addition to robust protective measures, the authorities in Pakistan need to undertake urgent and firm steps to bring to justice the perpetrators of those killings,” stressed the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Christof Heyns. “Showing determination in ensuring accountability in such cases must be a key element of the Government’s efforts to reduce the attacks and guarantee the safety of not only the Ahmadiyya Muslims, but other vulnerable groups.”

On 13 May 2014, four Ahmadiyya Muslims were arrested by police on blasphemy charges in Sharaqpur, Pakistan. While three were released on bail, Khalil Ahmad was kept in detention, where he was shot dead by a visiting fifteen year-old teenager, who brought a gun, concealed in his lunch box, into the station.

On 26 May 2014, Mehdi Ali Qamar, a US citizen and a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, a doctor on a humanitarian mission to Pakistan, was murdered in Rabwah, Pakistan. He was killed by two unknown men on motorbikes, while taking an opportunity to visit the graves of his relatives at a local cemetery.

Seven members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community were reportedly killed in 2013.

Ahmadis behind bars

1. Mr. Tahir Ahmad Khalid, an Ahmadiyya missionary was charged under PPC 295-B on March 31, 2014 in Tando Allah Yar, Sindh. Sessions court has rejected his plea for bail. He remains behind bars, pending a plea before the High Court.
2. Mr. Muhammad Yar was charged under anti-Ahmadi clause PPC 298-C on March 14, 2014 in Nama Jandekia, District Okara. He remains behind bars. A sessions judge rejected his plea for bail.
3. Mr. Mubashir Ahmad, Mr. Khalid Mehmud and Mr. Javed Ahmad were booked on June 2, 2014 under anti-Ahmadiyya law in a case where the complainant had a property dispute with an Ahmadi who owns a local prayer centre in Gujranwala. A judge refused the Ahmadis’ plea for bail.

From the Media

(Pak) FO disowns Ahmadi refugees ‘detained’ in Sri Lanka

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 22, 2014

No Qadiani will get membership of any press club in the district: Abdul Rehman Kalya (in Chiniot)

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, June 25, 2014

Anti-Qadiani course w.e.f. 14 June under auspices of Minhaj ul Quran Council (Dr Tahir ul Qadri's) in Faisalabad

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, June 11, 2014

Muslims should completely boycott Qadiani products: Maulana Ismail

The daily Islam; Lahore, June 21, 2014

The Qadiani mischief is becoming a cancer in the body of Muslims: Allama Naeem (Tahir ul Qadri's Minhaj ul Quran Council in Faisalabad)

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, June 18, 2014

Qadianis intend to create civil war scenario in the country: Qari Shabbir Usmani

The daily Din; Lahore, June 11, 2014

Mirzais are involved in anti-state activities: Allama Shamsuddin

The daily Jinnah; Lahore, June 23, 2014

Suicide attackers kill 23 (Shia) pilgrims near Iranian border

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 9, 2014

Bid to disable aviation system thwarted (Ref: attack on Karachi airport)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 10, 2014

10 killed in KP, Fata violence

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 12, 2014

Woman dies in shooting at plane (landing in Peshawar)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 25, 2014

Minority MP shot dead by own guard in Quetta

The daily Nation; Lahore, June 15, 2014

Pashto singer Gul Naz shot dead in Peshawar

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 20, 2014

Militants blow up two schools (in Mohmand Agency)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 29, 2014

Two colonels, 3 civilians killed in suicide attack

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 5, 2014

Eight killed in Kurram IED attack

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 4, 2014

Three killed in 'sectarian' attacks

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 15, 2014

4332 civil and military deaths in terror-related activities last year

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 12, 2014

Blasphemy case sought against former LHC judge

The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, June 14, 2014

U.S. includes 4 Pak organizations including Jamaat ud Dawa in terrorist list

Anfa Trust, Tehrik Hurmat Rasul and Tehrik Tahaffuz Qibla Awal are different names of Lashkare Taiba.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 27, 2014

All-out military operation launched in North Waziristan. Most political parties announce support; JU, PTI, still skeptical.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 16, 2014

The government should stop the Operation; we will not co-operate: Jamaat Islami

The daily Jahane Pakistan; Lahore, June 16, 2014

No one has the right to call any Islamic sector Kafir, *Wajib ul Qatl*: Pakistani Ulama Council

The daily Jahane Pakistan; Lahore, June 6, 2014

SC orders effective police action to protect minorities

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 20, 2014

Pakistan condemns all forms of terrorism and extremism: (President) Mamnoon Hussain

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 12, 2014

95% in the Assemblies are corrupt and dishonest: Jamshed Dasti

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 17, 2014

Watching a football match is haraam (forbidden in Shariah, sic):

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 17, 2014

Mr. (Imran) Khan warned Punjab Police personnel that if they stopped or assaulted his workers taking part in the march on August 14, he himself would hang them.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 28, 2014

Hindus, Christians and other minorities in Pakistan must be assured protection: US House of Representatives

The daily Jang; Lahore, June 26, 2014

Taliban cut off voters' index fingers (in Afghanistan)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 17, 2014

Bangladesh: 14 including the chief of the banned Harkat Jihad al Islami sentenced to be hanged

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, June 17, 2014

The use of word Allah: Malaysian court rejects the case (appeal) filed (by the Roman Catholic Church)

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 24, 2014

Sri Lanka: 3 Muslims killed and 70 injured in anti-Muslim riots. Many shops and homes set on fire.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 17, 2014

Boko Haram abducts another 60 women, girls

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 25, 2014

U.S. puts two LeT leaders on global terrorist list

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 26, 2014

ISIS declares 'caliphate'. ISIS declared its chief Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. the Caliph

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 30, 2014

7 troops die in militant raids from Afghanistan

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 5, 2014

Kenya: 47 killed in Islamists' attack, many injured

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 17, 2014

Suspected Nigerian militants kidnap 30 women

The daily News; Lahore, June 11, 2014

Eight killed in raid on Qadri's Lahore HQ

Over 100 injured, 53 activists of Pakistan Awami Tehrik arrested

CCPO, DIG, SP made OSD

Vehicle vandal turns out to be PML-N activist

Opposition wants murder case against CM

CM ready to step down if found guilty

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 18, 2014

Club wielder smashed private vehicles, in police supervision
Gulu Butt is a police informer, N-League supporter, is called the Lion of Punjab: Sources
He looted a poor man's shop and offered cold drinks to the police
He danced after committing vandalism. SP told him, "Well done".
Police unable to arrest him
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 18, 2014

53 automatic weapons recovered from Minhajul Quran Secretariat
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 18, 2014

Shahbaz removes Sana, official (in Minhaj episode)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 21, 2014

Arsalan Iftikhar (son of Chief Justice ® Iftikhar Chaudhary) appointed Vice Chairman of Baluchistan Investment Board, (by The Govt)
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 18, 2014

30 militants killed in Dera Bugti
The daily News; Lahore, June 6, 2014

Injured Muttahida MNA (a woman) dies (in Lahore)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 20, 2014

Altaf (MQM) arrested in London for interrogation
The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 4, 2014

Non-bailable arrest warrants issued against Yousaf Raza Gilani (former PM) and Amin Fahim (former PPP federal minister)
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 3, 2014

Imran to lead 'tsunami march' on August 14
The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, June 2, 2014

Another Rs 701 bn lost due to terrorism
The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 3, 2014

The former home of assassinated Paksitan politician Benazir Bhutto - which comes with its own airfield and hanger - has gone on sale for 10 million.
The daily Telegraph; London, June 30, 2014

Pak Army to protect all 7 Gurdawaras of Sikhs in Nankana Sahib
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 18, 2014

PML-N MPA from Nankana kidnapped for ransom
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 22, 2014

Notice of 50 bn rupees damages to Ministry of Defense, ISI and Pemra for calling Jang and Geo traitors
The daily Jang; Lahore, June 7, 2014

Geo News pulled off air, fined Rs 10m
The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 7, 2014

Three constables held for banditry (in Lahore)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 16, 2014

Couple beheaded in public over love marriage in Satrah (Punjab)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 28, 2014

Tribunal judge gunned down in Quetta
The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 21, 2014

Op-ed: Pakistan: No country of minorities

...Dr Mehdi (US citizen) became a target of hatred like other Ahmadis, virtually authorized by the Pakistani state. If you are an Ahmadi residing in Pakistan, you are liable to be murdered anytime, anywhere. A few days ago a sixty-year old Ahmadi was killed in a Lahore prison for alleged blasphemy. These are only samples. In the past extremists have mercilessly undertaken massacre of this community. Eighty-five Ahmadis were killed in Lahore (in one day) in year 2010. So if you are a Pakistani Ahmadi, you should consider leaving Pakistan, before it is too late....

Gulmina Bilal in the daily Mashriq; June 7, 2014

Op-ed: Lurching right

...Ahmadis are harassed, intimidated, and threatened, beaten and killed. It's just the done thing. This particular death, the dead doctor went global for two very simple, very obvious reasons; he was an American; he was a doctor volunteering to save lives here.

Had he been a Pakistani shopkeeper, you'd never have heard of him. You have though heard of Mehdi Ali actually, his name probably registers less than 50 year old US based cardiologist because he was a cardiologist based in the US and so the international media ran with the story.

Cyril Almeida in the daily Dawn; June 1, 2014

Op-ed: A night of terror (at Karachi Airport on June 10)

...You are an infidel army, shouted one of the militants in Pashto.

The Friday Times June 13, 2014

Op-ed: State Response to Terrorism

...therefore it is not enough to launch 'targeted' military operations against terrorists in the tribal areas. A new and comprehensive socio-political narrative is needed to educate the civil military bureaucracy, media and judiciary about the primacy of the internal enemy and the need to build peace with, and diffuse, the external threat. This narrative has to be woven around nations of civil military balance, democracy, regional amity, global integration and universal human rights, and embedded in revised curricula and textbooks. The sooner the first steps are taken to signal a dynamic reassessment of the new realities, the better.

Editorial in The Friday Times; June13, 2014

Op-ed: Praetorians and the people

.... The critical question is: to what extent has this religiosity formed a Jihadi culture? There is considerable evidence to support the view that without state connivance and support from the religious elite a Jihadi culture could not have flourished in the country. Nor would militancy have become the monster it has. In any case, the main casualty has been the liberal political space which has struck as a consequence. The emerging religious elites are self-confident and have emerged as a potent political force.

Saeed Shafqat in Pakistan - beyond the crisis state; p. 102

Op-ed: Hate speech gains acceptance

Given notes of the hate speech online that the survey has highlighted, was there really an acceptable reason for authorities like the PTA and Ministry of Information Technology to seek to make an overtly political rock band's Facebook page unavailable inside Pakistan? How does peaceful activism set to music come in for censure when promoters of extreme violence and hate are able to operate with impunity?

The lead editorial in the daily Dawn; June 9, 2014

Annex: Immediate Release by USCIRF



The Philadelphia Inquirer -- Pakistan's war on conscience

June 9, 2014 | By [Thomas J. Reese](#) & [Daniel I. Mark](#)

The following op-ed appeared in the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) on June 8, 2014.

The sentencing to death last month of a Sudanese woman, Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, by a court in Khartoum for apostasy garnered international attention. It is almost unthinkable that a court would hand down such a decision in the 21st century.

Sadly, this is not as unusual as some would think: Death sentences on issues relating to religious freedom are a common occurrence in Pakistan, yet most of the world barely notices. Given its longtime relations with Pakistan, the U.S. government should take key steps today to improve the situation.

In 2014, Pakistani courts already have sentenced four people to death for violating Pakistan's blasphemy law, and another has received a life sentence. They join at least 13 others on death row and 19 serving life sentences. Last month, a major television station was charged with blasphemy, and authorities also charged 68 lawyers with blasphemy after they protested police abuse. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), which we recently joined, has found that Pakistan has jailed more people for this "crime" than any other country.

Pakistan's blasphemy law also emboldens militants, who commit violence against perceived transgressors. Note the killing just last month of an Ahmadi American, Mehdi Ali Qamar, who was gunned down in front of his wife and small child while visiting Pakistan for volunteer medical relief work. Recall the fate in early May of Rashid Rehman, a member of Pakistan's Human Rights Commission. A brave and well-respected legal expert, Rehman was defending a high-profile blasphemy case. It cost him his life.

Such actions confirm the finding of our 2014 Annual Report that religious freedom conditions in Pakistan have reached new lows, with religious minorities suffering accordingly.

Besides its blasphemy law, the government imposes what amounts to an apartheid-like system on Ahmadis through both its constitution and criminal law that penalizes basic acts of their faith.

The government also tolerates violence by mobs and extremists whom it fails to bring to justice. Hundreds of minority Shi'a Muslims have been killed at the hands of militants who attack their processions, pilgrimage routes, and gathering places. The vulnerable Christian community has endured vigilante and terrorist attacks, such as the horrific September 2013 assault on the All Saints Church in Peshawar. Ahmadis regularly are killed in drive-by shootings. Hindus continue to flee the country due to violence and forced conversions, with the recent attack on a Hindu shrine a further example of that community's continuing vulnerability.

What can be done?

Pakistan is complicated, and U.S.-Pakistan relations are fragile. Yet the United States has worked closely with the Pakistani military throughout the country's history. It is time for a similarly steadfast engagement on freedom of religion and conscience. It is time to help Pakistan combat a growing climate of impunity and lawlessness that undermines the security of all citizens so Pakistanis, regardless of their beliefs and religious affiliations, can live without fear.

For starters, USCIRF recommends that the State Department designate Pakistan a "country of particular concern" (CPC) for systematic, egregious, and ongoing violations of religious freedom or belief under the International Religious Freedom Act. The State Department's own reports highlight the fact that Pakistan's repressive laws violate religious freedom. Pakistan currently represents the world's worst religious-freedom conditions among nondesignated countries. Naming Pakistan a CPC is long overdue; the case for designation is overwhelming.

At the same time, USCIRF also recommends comprehensively engaging Pakistan to encourage reform. The United States must urge Pakistani government ministries to address religious-minority concerns, including textbook reform, and prioritize much-needed legal reform and the prosecution of those who perpetrate violence. Combined with a CPC designation, these constructive measures would have a greater impact.

After one year in office, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has taken steps to promote interfaith harmony and denounce attacks. But such steps are dwarfed by the government's relentless enforcement of the blasphemy law and its failure to respond effectively to violence against the vulnerable. By designating Pakistan a CPC, the United States would bear witness to the plight of Pakistan's persecuted religious minorities and shine a spotlight on these terrible abuses.

The United States must do more to persuade Pakistan's government to address the escalating war on religious freedom. A CPC designation is the place to begin.