

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

News Report December 2013

Ahmadi doctor implicated falsely in a police case denied bail by a judge

Sant Nagar, Lahore; November/December, 2013: The police arrested an Ahmadi Mr. Masood Ahmad, a septuagenarian homeopath, from his clinic and booked him under anti-Ahmadi clause PPC 298-C. This law carries three years' imprisonment and fine.

Mulla Mohammad Ihsan lodged an application against him with police that Mr. Ahmad preached him when he went to him for medical advice. He presented the video recording of the proceedings with the doctor, as proof. The police registered an FIR no. 675 on November 25 against the homeopath.

In fact, the whole case was a planned conspiracy. The complainant came to the homeopath and turned the consultation to inquiry in faith matters. Mr. Ahmad, an old man could not sense the trick and replied the question, quoting from the Holy Quran. The mulla was armed with a hidden recording device. He presented that to the police as incriminating evidence.

Mr. Ahmad was arrested and moved to the Camp Jail, Lahore. He holds UK nationality, as well.

A non-Ahmadi lawyer, a former judge, volunteered to defend Mr. Ahmad in court. "It will always be a burden on me if I do not do that," he said.

The magistrate, however, refused bail to Mr. Ahmad on November 30. He remained behind bars. A plea for his bail was then moved before a judge. The judge, despite the mitigating circumstances of the case refused the bail to the elderly doctor. He even echoed the state attorney that the evidence called for levying charges under PPC 295-A and 295-C. The former allows a trial in an anti-terrorism court, while under the latter clause the penalty is death. The Federal Shariat Court insists that it is nothing but death.

In the past the police and the courts generally did not accept such accusations where the accuser had himself approached an Ahmadi at his home or job to discuss faith matters.

It is noteworthy that while the political leadership repeatedly condemns sectarianism and extremism in public, it encourages its law officers to upgrade and intensify religious prosecution of Ahmadis. Also the honorable Supreme Court was quoted early this year on February 9, as, "The state should provide security to minorities, otherwise we shall do that", but a lower judge, while hearing a plea for bail in a case of PPC 298-C shows the way to the authorities to charge the Ahmadi under the law that could lead him to gallows!

Last year the Chairman Moon Sighting Committee, a mulla, himself, admitted: "We are drowned in ignorance and bigotry." (*The daily Aman; Faisalabad, December 5, 2012*)

Ahmadi booked under anti-Ahmadi law

Peeru Chak, District Sialkot; December 20, 2013: Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad Dogar S/O Mr. Bashir Ahmad was booked by the police in FIR No. 618 in Police Station Mootrah on December 20, 2013 under clause PPC 298-C.

The accusation against Mr. Dogar is based on personal vendetta. One Mustaq Ahmad, owner of a piece of land next to Mr. Dogar's farm, developed a dispute with him on 'right of passage' and the litigation reached the level of the High Court. The High Court decided in favour of Mr. Dogar. This annoyed Mushtaq Ahmad who then sought mullas' help.



Almost a week ago, three men approached Mr. Dogar and threatened him with harm. The latter informed the police. However, the opposite party, supported by mullas filed an accusation with police that Mr. Dogar recited the *Kalima* and claimed to be a Muslim in their presence. This was a fabrication.

The police detained Mr. Dogar, and told him that a case had been registered against him.

The parting present of year 2013 – three Ahmadis booked, one arrested

Rajanpur; December 31, 2013: Three brothers, all leading members of the district Ahmadiyya community, were booked by the police in Police Station Rajanpur City under the anti-Ahmadi law PPC 298-C on fabricated complaint of some mullas. One of the accused, Mr. Muhammad Hussain, aged 70, was arrested.

It is learnt that the mullas told the police that three Ahmadis namely Mr. Nasir Ahmad Qamar the District Amir Jamaat, Mr. Laeeq Ahmad president of the city Jamaat, and Mr. Sharif Ahmad distributed a pamphlet at Hamza Chowk (road crossing), Rajanpur. The police, without due inquiry booked the Ahmadi elders and nabbed one, Mr. Sharif Ahmad. They are searching for the other two.

A rabid rally

Wara, District Larkana; December 12, 2013: Local Deobandi mullas held a big anti-Ahmadi conference in their mosque. They had invited some mullas from not only Sindh but Bahawalpur as well. The conference started at 10.a.m. and ended at 2 p.m. The speakers used foul and provocative language against Ahmadis.

One of the mullas, Abdul Ghafoor Haidari told the audience that, “Ahmadis are American agents and are confirmed *Kafirs*.” Another declared, “Ahmadis are *Wajibul Qatl* (must be killed). I shall bear all the expenses of any Muslim who kills them, and assure him release within a month.” He also talked of a ‘Qadiani’ he had got arrested but the local elders and a JCO took money from Qadianis and got him released. “Cursed be the Muslim who maintains any relationship with Qadianis,” said another.

The loud chatter against any possible move to return to Ahmadis their educational institutions

December 2013: The mullas of the Khatme Nabuwat faction seem to have some information that suggests a fresh look by some quarters over the status of nationalized Ahmadiyya educational institutions. So, as per their SOP they undertook a propaganda hype in the vernacular press. They condemned the possibility of any such return and called it an anti-Islam and anti-state move. “We shall never tolerate it,” they threatened.

Protests of these sectarian clerics were published in the dailies Jang, Pakistan, Express, Ausaf, Dunya, Nawa-i-Waqt, Khabrain, Din etc. The daily Islam, an organ of the Jihadi movement in Pakistan, issued regularly from Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Multan and Muzaffargarh published the mullas’ statements under three-column headlines on December 15, 2013. “If this move is not checked, it will initiate an unending crisis in the country,” was attributed to mulla Abdul Majid Ludhianwi.

It would be recalled that the government announced in 1996 its policy to revert the nationalized educational institutions to their original owners if they asked for them and met certain pre-conditions. Accordingly, all have been reverted except those that belonged to Ahmadis, although Ahmadis met all the preconditions. This was a violation by the government of its own declared policy. It is now 18 years since the policy was put in place. It is costing a lot to the government while hurting the education of the next generation. The issue has nothing to do with the ‘end of prophethood’; it is an ‘education’ and ‘good governance’ issue.

Incidents in Lahore

UET College Hostel; December 1, 2013: Mr. Yasir Mahmood son of Mirza Nasir Mahmood, resident of UET College hostel is facing difficulties and hardship at the hand of opponents of Ahmadiyya community in the hostel.

On December 1, Hafiz Rizwan, a rabid opponent of Ahmadiyyat, knocked at the door of Yasir's room at about 10 p.m. When Yasir opened the door, Rizwan hurled a heap of verbal abuse at the holy founder of Ahmadiyyat. This caused an exchange of harsh words, and a number of other students assembled at the spot. Yasir asked the hostel guard to quieten down the visitor, but he also became sympathetic to the aggressor, for his anti-Ahmadi prejudice. Two of the boarders persuaded Rizwan to retire to his room.

Thereafter Yasir reported the incident to the Senior Warden and complained to the Vice Chancellor who directed the Disciplinary Committee to look into it. The Senior Warden advised Yasir to not stay in his room; accordingly, Yasir shifted to share a room with other Ahmadi students.

Hafiz Rizwan is busy in anti-Ahmadi activities for the last one year. A few days earlier he attempted to spit at Yasir, but missed the target. Prior to this, Rizwan had hurled insults against two Ahmadi, Mr. Rizwanullah and Hasan, in their rooms.

Township; December 8, 2013: Mr. Ashfaq Ahmad joined the Ahmadiyya Jamaat in 2005. His brother Hamid Ashiq joined subsequently in 2011. A few days ago their father turned them out of the house for their Ahmadiyyat. On December 8, six persons including three uncles visited Mr. Ahmad's house and asked them to recant and told Mrs. Ahmad to seek divorce from her husband. Upon her refusal one of them even hit her. These visitors were accompanied by a head constable. Thereafter these people met a mulla of the Khatme Nabuwwat band.

Foreseeing more trouble, the entire family immediately shifted residence to an undisclosed location.

Mazang: Mr. Nasir Ataul Haq, Ahmadi works in a local banquet hall. A mulla is also employed there. A few weeks ago this mulla spoke to the colleagues and incited them against Mr. Haq for his religious beliefs. He did not meet much success in that. He, thereafter, consulted a high-ranking cleric in the neighborhood who advised him to have a police case registered against Mr. Haq on the basis of a video recording with him. The mulla, accordingly met the SHO of Litton Rd police station. The SHO sent for Mr. Haq who on arrival found the mulla sitting there. The issue was not settled that day, and the next day the police again sent for Mr. Haq stating that they are under pressure to register a criminal case. Mr. Haq did not go to the police station and absented himself.

Ahmadi elders contacted the proprietor of the banquet hall and urged him to dissuade the mulla from moving against Mr. Nasir Ataul Haq. The mulla responded favourably to this approach, but the senior cleric is still to be persuaded to distance himself from this fabricated scrap.

Mr. Haq has gone into hiding in the meantime.

Agitation against Ahmadiyya worship place in Lahore

November/December, 2013: The anti-Ahmadi sectarian lobby led by the Khatme Nabuwwat leadership has targeted Ahmadiyya mosques in the last two or three year. There are hundreds of Ahmadiyya mosques all over the country and almost all have minarets and niches. Most were built before the anti-Ahmadi ordinance came into being. Even this ordinance does not forbid minarets and niches in Ahmadiyya mosques. The anti-Ahmadi lobby still agitates over these, as these provide the lobby almost unlimited scope for perpetual agitation all across the country. The case of the central Ahmadiyya mosque in Lahore is one such location.

Advocate M Badr Alam, on the pay roll of the Khatme Nabuwwat organisation in Lahore, applied in May 2012 to the DCO that the minaret and the dome in the Ahmadiyya mosque be demolished. Later he asked for the intervention of Lahore High Court. The DCO told the court that these were constructed under the rules with the approval of the city government. The case rested there.

This case was put up again in November this year before Justice Yasar Ali Khan. He read the earlier reports and said that as the DCO had changed, the new DCO should give his own report.

At this, an Ahmadiyya delegation called on the DCO and defended its position. The Legal Advisor of the DCO however insisted that as per decision of another judge, Ahmadis are not to build the minarets, dome and niche in their place of worship. The delegation explained to him that the judge never ordered their demolition, and the two cases, the one before the judge and this one regarding Darul Zikr are different in nature, hence the judgment of one does not apply to the other.

This case came up for hearing before Justice Khan again on December 2, 2013. The DCO's legal advisor requested the judge to send the case to the provincial and federal governments for a solution. Badr Alam insisted that the judgment should be given there and then. The judge however sent the file to the Chief Justice to appoint another judge to hear the case.

The mullas, their attorneys, the administration, the judiciary would do well to read the obvious purport of the law of the land given in PPC 295:

“295: Injuring or defiling place of worship, with intent to insult the religion of any class. Whoever destroys or defiles any place of worship, or any object held by any class of persons, with the intent of thereby insulting the religion that any class of persons is likely to consider such destruction, damage or defilement as an insult to their religion shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term that may extend to two years, or with fine or with both.”

The madrassa education these days!

Puranwala, District Gujrat; December 9, 2013: A few miscreants from the local madrassa under the management of an activist of Jamaat Islami, accompanied by the son of the prayer-leader, dumped animal excretion in the courtyard of an Ahmadi's house. Ahmadis and their president brought this to the notice of village elders who condemned the mischief and assured them action to forestall a repeat of such an incident.

Refusal to allow burial of a little girl in common graveyard

Kuthuwali, District T.T. Singh; December 20, 2013: In a recent case a one and half year old girl was refused burial here. The girl died on 19th of December and was taken for burial on Friday 20th where the local clerics gathered with approximately fifty men who were armed with sticks and batons.

It is important to pin point that these clerics have active support from powerful ruling elite in the Punjab province, and the local administrations always flip flop to make sure that the Ahmadis are always the losers.

These gathered men refused to let Ahmadis bury their girl in this common graveyard. Ahmadis were stopped from digging the grave.

The child was finally buried in a land offered by a God-fearing Muslim resident of the village, a few metres away from the graveyard.

It is appropriate to suggest that while the persecution against the living Ahmadis is rampant, the increasing attacks against graves, graveyards and now this dead child facing such inhuman treatment call for serious concern of the civil society.

Burial denied again

December 29, 2013: The Business Standard reported the following (extract):

A man from the minority Ahmadi community has been barred from burying his wife in a graveyard in Pakistan's Punjab province by a group of Muslims.

The wife of Iqbal Ranhja, a resident of Faisalabad district, died yesterday. When Ranhja and members of the Ahmadi community took the body for burial at the graveyard in Kathowali, a group of Muslims led by a local cleric intercepted them and asked them to bury the dead at some other place.

Before the two groups entered into a brawl, police reached there and persuaded the Ahmadis to bury their dead at some other place.

Finally, the Ahmadis agreed to bury the dead several kilometres away from the town.

...

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/ahmadi-man-barred-from-burying-wife-in-pakistan-graveyard-113122900597_1.html

Complete ban on hate literature and misuse of loudspeakers proposed by a top cleric

Lahore; December 6, 2013: The Friday Times of Lahore published an interview of Maulana Tahir Ashrafi by Raza Rumi. Ashrafi is a member of the official Council of Islamic Ideology and chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council. The interview was held in the aftermath of the Rawalpindi sectarian clash in November in which almost a dozen persons were killed. Extract:

“Rumi: What are the three most important points of your agenda?

Ashrafi: First, no Islamic sect or persons should call another an infidel. Secondly, there should be complete ban on religiously prejudiced literature and misuse of loud speakers. Thirdly, nobody should be allowed to desecrate the sanctity of the Holy Prophet, his holy wives, his companions, and Imam Mahdi. Moreover, seminars and public conferences should be held in order to promote tolerance. Friday sermons should be held on consensus topics that are acceptable to everybody whether a Shia or a Sunni. This is main objective of my (15 points) agenda. Such stern laws should be designed that no sermonizer could insult the other denomination.”

Well said, Maulana Ashrafi; however, he finds it lucrative to take a very hostile stand against a small denomination – Ahmadis. On September 3, 2009 in an Express News TV show he proposed to divest Ahmadis of even their creed. He suggested that Qadianis should have their own logo and *Kalmia* as they believe in Mirza Qadiani. Ashrafi did not mention the fact that Barelvis have their own range of saints whom they are accused of worshipping.

Also, Ashrafi should look closer in the family. His brother Hasan Muawiya *aka* Tooti is full-time involved in harassing Ahmadis and hauling them to police stations and courts in Lahore.

What the Maulana has proposed is right; however there should be no buts and ifs. If Ahmadis are made an exception, others will surely follow, and the 15-points agenda will be rubbished.

At last a code of conduct for mullas – but for how long?

Lahore: The daily Din, Lahore reported the following on December 3, 2013:

- **Complete ban on loud-speakers except for Call to Prayers and Arabic sermon; none will be declared *kafir* (unbeliever); Code of conduct is ready.**
- **Khatibs and Zakirs will not insult the Family and Companions of the Holy Prophet nor the Khulafa Rashidin; hateful speech against other denominations shall not be permitted.**
- **Respect of the great divines and sanctity of holy sites and places of worship will be ensured: Decisions made in meeting under chairmanship of Ata Manika, the (provincial) Minister Auqaf (endowments)**

Lahore: (TV report) A code of conduct was agreed upon among various schools of thought... Nine items from the list proposed by Hafiz Tahir Mahmud Ashrafi were approved. Accordingly... No one will describe the other as *Wajibul Qatl* (must be killed)..... etc (others as mentioned in the headlines above)

The above is a good decision. One hopes that this truce is implemented in letter and spirit. In all fairness, it should be implemented first with regard to Ahmadis. Nevertheless, it will be a great leap forward if the 72 sects can first implement it among themselves.

But *Basa aarzu keh khak shud* (Most of the wishes turn into dust).

Jamaat Islami leader executed in Bangladesh

Dhaka: Jamaat Islami and its supporters are found in a number of countries of the world. Its founder Maulana Maududi lived in Pakistan and the main faction is also based here. Its impact on Pakistani politics and religious landscape is substantial. It has played a significant role in

anti-Ahmadiyya movements and is a partner with others in perpetuating the persecution of Ahmadis in this country. Accordingly, this report of the ABC News by its South Asia correspondent Michael Edwards on Friday, 13 December 2013 merits a place in this document (extracts):

“Bangladesh executes Islamist leader Abdul Kader Mullah for war crimes

.... The 65-years old was convicted of being a leader of pro-Pakistan militia in 1971 that killed some of Bangladesh’s top professors, doctors, writers and journalists.

He was convicted of rape and mass murder, including the killing of more than 350 unarmed civilians.

Prosecutors described him as the Butcher of Mirpur, a Dhaka suburb where he committed most of the atrocities...

“He has told us that he is proud to be a martyr for the cause of Islamic movement in the country,” Mullah’s son Hassan Jamil said afterwards.

..... a judge had stayed the hanging just 90 minutes before the scheduled execution (on Tuesday night) amid international concerns over the fairness of the war crimes trials of many opposition leaders.”

Jamaat Islami Pakistan led a protest campaign in Pakistan against the execution. The National Assembly passed a resolution to the same effect. This led to exchange of display of anger and disapproval between the two countries.

Pak media takes notice of desecration of mosques etc in Angola, and a point to ponder

This month Pakistani press reported news from Angola, where the religion of Islam is held in disfavor by the government, mosques have been demolished and Muslims are facing persecution. The print media reported the following news and opinions, *inter alia*:

- Municipal officials in Viyana (Angola) took to demolition of minarets of mosques without Muslims’ permission or any prior intimation of the intention to act.
- Daud Jah, a Muslim leader, reported that a number of mosques have been sealed, and many demolished (*shaheed*).
- Demolition of minarets is considered acceptable in some western countries as these display Islamic identity.
- Angolan state authorities have put a ban on Islam and Muslims’ activities.
- Muslims have become suspects in the country.
- Islam is not rated as a faith (*Mazhab*) or religion (*Deen*) but merely a school of thought.
- Muslims are a small minority but they are facing great hardships at the hand of authorities.
- There are countless religious denominations in Angola who enjoy freedom of faith, but freedom is denied to Muslims.
- A minister stated that Angola is a Christian majority state, while Islam has no legal standing with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.
- Angolan embassies avoid questions on this issue or pay no attention. They also take the position that the mosques have been built in Angola illegally. Anything constructed illegally will face demolition.
- The entire world denounces this policy of Angolan government.

Well, it all sounds familiar in the Ahmadiyya context in Pakistan – somewhat like a mirror image.

As for Ahmadiyya mosques in Pakistan, following data should help understanding the similitude:

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| • Demolished and damaged | 34 |
| • Sealed by authorities | 33 |
| • Set on fire | 13 |
| • Forcibly occupied | 16 |
| • Construction barred by authorities | 48 |

It is hoped that the mullas and authorities in Pakistan will understand the plight of Ahmadis and will see to it that Pakistan is different from Angola.

Export of sectarian and political animosity and violence to far off lands like South Africa

Cape Town/Lahore: Maulvi Zahid-ur-Rashidi, a top-level cleric of Khatme Nabuwwat movement (KN) from Gujranwala, attended a KN conference called jointly by the Muslim Judicial Council of South Africa and the International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement led by Maulana Abdul Hafeez Makki (based in Saudi Arabia), in Cape Town. He wrote two articles on its proceedings in the daily Pakistan and was indiscreet enough to unabashedly mention details of a sensitive issue that is loaded with awful implications in Pakistan – the Shia-Sunni conflict. His article of 7 December 2013 discloses self-incriminating discourse at the conference held in the sacred name of Khatme Nabuwwat.

Mulla Rashidi has written that he and two other leading Pakistani ulama spoke there on “the theme of the promotion and aggression undertaken by Shias in the Islamic world (*Aalam Islam*). So the International Khatme Nabuwwat will have to work on this front as well.... (T) his aggression is ever becoming severe especially in the Middle East.... I am fully conscious of the need of action in this regard. (T)his task should not be undertaken as a secondary project, but we should form a Front, a separate Forum. ...” he quoted from his own address.

From the above it is obvious that:

- The International Khatme Nabuwwat movement would like to dig deep in the coffers of petro-dollars to avail of the Syrian conflict and the resulting widening of the Shia-Sunni rift.
- It plans to involve in it in ‘action’ mode the Sunni diaspora, especially in countries where the KN movement has bases, like UK, the Middle East, India, Bangladesh, South Africa etc. (These were named in the conference.)
- The KN is not a movement committed merely to the dogma of End of Prophethood, as it poses to be; it is a cover organization for political ends, national as well as international, of the extremist elements.

It is noteworthy that according to Rashidi’s report Maulana Muhammad Ahmad Ludhianvi, the chief of the Ahle Sunnat wal Jamaat (former SSP, now banned for terrorism) was also among those who participated in the Cape Town conference and addressed it. Another mulla well-known for his sectarian activism, who also went there was Ilyas Chinioti, now a PML-N MPA. A number of other mullas also went to South Africa, who are normally gagged or banned entry in other districts during the month of Muharram in Pakistan for their rabid hostility to Shias.

Pakistan needs export surely, but not the extremism and terrorism of its religious bigots.

Note: India was represented in Cape Town by none other than the top cleric of the main Deoband madrasa, Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani, its rector. Khatme Nabuwwat types, former SSP leaders, Deobandis etc – it was a toxic mix in this South African conference.

Ahmadis behind bars

1. On April 10, 2013, the police registered a case against the editor Mr. Abdul Sami Khan, the printer Mr. Tahir Mehdi Imtiaz Ahmad of the daily Al-Fazl and four others, under the Anti-Terrorism Act and (anti-Ahmadi) Ordinance XX. The latter four accused Mr. Khalid Ishfaq, Mr. Tahir Ahmad, Mr. Faisal Ahmad and Mr. Azhar Zareef were arrested in Lahore by the Islampura police. On May 7, 2013 a judge granted bail to two, Mr. Azhar Zareef and Mr. Faisal Ahmad Tahir, but denied bail to the other two Mr. Khalid Ishfaq and Mr. Tahir Ahmad. They remained behind bars. Lahore High Court heard their plea for bail on June 6, 2013 and rejected the same. The Supreme Court rejected the grounds on which the bail was denied but still did not grant them bail, and left it to the lower court to decide. They remain behind bars – 9 months later.

2. The police arrested an Ahmadi Mr. Masood Ahmad a homeopath doctor from his clinic and booked him under PPC 298-C. The magistrate and later a judge refused bail to the elderly doctor. He remains behind bars.
3. Three brothers, Mr. Nasir Ahmad Qamar, Mr. Laeeq Ahmad and Mr. Sharif Ahmad all leading members of the district Ahmadiyya community, Rajanpur were booked by the police under anti-Ahmadi law PPC 298-C on a fabricated complaint of some mullas. Mr. Shareef Ahmad was arrested prior to any due inquiry by the police.

From the media

Ahmadi doctor denied bail

The daily The Express Tribune, Lahore; December 8, 2013

Burial row in Toba (over burial of 2-year old girl)

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 20, 2013

Return of Qadiani educational institutions will result in dangerous consequences. Ulama Karam

The daily Nawa-e-Waqt, Lahore; December 17, 2013

Men carrying sticks prevent burial of Ahmadi girl in Kuthuwali village.

If we do not bury our dead in common graveyard, what are we to do? Saleemuddin, spokesman Jamaat Ahmadiyya

The daily Mashriq, Lahore; December 31, 2013

Qadiani settlements close to sensitive areas are dangerous. (Mulla Shabbir Usmani)

The daily Dunya, Faisalabad; December 12, 2013

5 troops killed in N. Waziristan suicide blast

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 19, 2013

Convicted: Two get death sentence in blasphemy case

The daily The Express Tribune, Lahore; December 29, 2013

Three killed in suicide attack on Imam Bargah

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 18, 2013

TNFJ leader shot dead in Lahore

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 16, 2013

23 Ulama of different sects target-killed in 2013. Punjab govt orders security guards for 70 ulama.

The daily Mashriq, Lahore; December 28, 2013

Polio worker, 2 cops shot dead (in Swabi)

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 14, 2013

Bomb disposal experts (four) die in blast in Peshawar

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 17, 2013

Prayer held for JI-linked engineer killed in drone attack

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 3, 2013

Punjab University: Jamiat's (IJT) violent protest against arrests. Bus set on fire. 21 students arrested.

Evacuation of hostel caused unrest. Traffic blocked on main roads.

Alcohol bottles and bullets recovered. Jamiat's denial

The daily Express, Faisalabad; December 3, 2013

Iranian stall at book fair closed after ASWJ (Deobandi outfit) protest

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 8, 2013

Islamabad has 30 unregistered seminaries: NA told

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 14, 2013

Badin: Situation tense over burial of a Hindu. Muslims stage sit in; throw the dead body out.

The daily Mashriq, Lahore; December 28, 2013

Christian, Jewish and Qadiani lobbies are active against national security: Maulana Ilyas Chinioti (PML-N MPA)

The daily Ausaf, Lahore; December 17, 2013

Dangerous consequences if educational institutions returned to Qadianis: Ulama Karam

The daily Nawa-e-Waqt, Lahore; December 17, 2013

Various religious parties on Sunday termed the increasing sectarianism's bad sign which was driving the country towards anarchy (MJAH, JUI-F, SIC, MWM etc).

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 9, 2013

Pakistan should be a country where we all should be free to celebrate jointly Christmas, Diwali, Beshakhi and Eid: Pervez Rashid (Fed Minister of Info)

(Note: The minister should do something to allow Ahmadis hold their annual Jalsa in Rabwah, disallowed for the last 30 years, by the governments. Ed)

The daily Mashriq, Lahore; December 14, 2013

The constitution does not permit discrimination on the basis of religion; minorities enjoy equal rights. Nawaz Sharif

The daily Jang, Lahore; December 22, 2013

Grand Mufti says suicide bombers hastening their way to hell

The daily The Nation, Lahore; December 13, 2013

BD executes top Islamist for war crimes

The daily The Nation, Lahore; December 13, 2013

(BD) Mullah's execution most painful: Nisar (Pak Interior Minister)

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 14, 2013

NA resolution condemns Mulla's hanging

The daily The News, Lahore; December 17, 2013

Greek neo-Nazi Party protests Athens mosque construction

The daily The News, Lahore; December 15, 2013

Muslim Brotherhood declared a terrorist group

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 26, 2013

27 Muslims killed in a village (in C. African Republic): UN

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 14, 2013

Ataf demands ban on Jamaat (Islami)

JI lashes out at Mutahida

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 4, 2013

Govt berated for NADRA chief sacking, poor security

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 7, 2013

World mourns peace icon Mandela

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 7, 2013

Bouquets and brickbats for Justice Iftikhar (on retirement)

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 12, 2013

Malala bags UN rights prize

The daily Dawn, Lahore; December 7, 2013

Death is the only penalty for blasphemer: Federal Shariat Court

The daily News, Lahore; December 5, 2013

Lahore High Court Bar Association will cut the cake on Christmas to show solidarity with Christians

The daily Mashriq, Lahore; December 22, 2013

Op-ed: License to kill

As a nation, we are bothered about any real or imagined atrocities against the Muslims, for example in Palestine, Myanmar, Syria or India. We are also ready to burn property worth billions of rupees on a blasphemous film and profane cartoons. But we are not pushed when a community is targeted in our own country and subjected to inhuman treatment.

Speaking at a literary seminar, Wusatullah Khan, a senior journalist and commentator, sarcastically said,

“The way Pakistan has been treating the Ahmadi community is reminiscent of The Third Reich's treatment of the Jews in the 1930s and '40s.”

Khan added, “The same thing is happening here day in and day out and it happens to be the only point of reference on which all the sects, namely Sunnis, Shias, Deobandis, Wahabis, Barelvīs, Salafis/Takfirīs, etc, are united.”

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1076534/license-to-kill>

Op-ed: Will you be Pakistan's Mandela?

...I was happily surprised, yet confused. These were the same friends who endorsed – and continue to endorse – the anti-Ahmadi laws of Pakistan in a recent debate. They justified the continued persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan. How could a person celebrate Mandela's fight against discrimination in his society and condone the same bigotry against a community at home? How can we love the doctor and the disease he fights, at the same time?

Kashif N. Chaudhry in the Daily Times, Site Edition on December 2013

Op-ed: Chaudhry's legacy

When Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry was restored as Chief Justice of Pakistan in March 2009, he was the conquering hero of adulatory lawyers, proud judges, hopeful civil society activists, thunderous opposition parties, supportive media and a sober military. Last Wednesday, when Mr. Chaudhry departed the hallowed halls of the Supreme Court in Islamabad, the same lawyers were antagonized, the same judges were defensive, the same civil society activists were disillusioned, the same opposition parties were insulting, the same media was cynical, and the same military was resentful. Significantly, a parliament that had once cheered his return was now readying to strike down some of his cherished judicial interventions; and the PMLN opposition party that had waged and won the battle for his restoration was now in government cursing him and counting the days for his exit.

The Friday Times, Lahore, December 13, 2013

Statement: SAUDI ARABIA: Ahmadis persecuted in the Kingdom

The Asian Human Rights Commission wishes to forward this statement regarding persons who chose to join the Ahmadiyya sect of Islam and the treatment they received thereafter.

It is extremely perturbing that we have to bring to the notice of the world's community the plight of two innocent, loyal citizens of Saudi Arabia who had committed no offence at all, were arrested on 14 May 2012 just because they had chosen to join the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community for the betterment of their understanding and practice of the teachings of Islam.

It is a heart rendering story and nearly a year and a half on they are being shuttled from one prison to another. Their families are not allowed access to them and since May 2013, no one is even aware of their whereabouts or the state of their condition. This is appalling and shocking for the world community...

<http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-247-2013>