

# Administration and Police

2018

## **Police case against two Ahmadi seniors for undertaking repairs and renovation of a historic residence**

*Sialkot; May 12, 2018:* Ahmadis, after due permission, had undertaken repairs and renovation of a historic house adjacent to the Ahmadiyya Mubarak Mosque, in which Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani, the founder of the Ahmadiyya Community had stayed on his visit to Sialkot. The finishing phase was in process when opponents started an agitation against the work. The local administration joined hand with agitators and forbade Ahmadis from further work. Later the administration sealed the house in response to the mullas' agitation.

The police booked two Ahmadis, Mr. Abdus Sattar Butt the city president and Mr. Mumtaz Butt on May 12, 2018 under section 132(2) of Punjab Government Act 2013 with FIR 271/18 at police station Nikapur, Sialkot, on fabricated charge of 'unlawful construction'.

In fact, Ahmadis had undertaken repairs and renovation of the house with permission of local authorities. The house was over a century old and it is ridiculous to accuse the owners that its design violated local rules.

Section 132(2)(b) of Punjab Government Act 2013 provides:

If a person commits an offence specified in—

“...such person shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to one hundred thousand rupees or with both.”

Twelve days later, the council authorities and a mob jointly destroyed this revered building.

## **An Ahmadi elder arrested**

*Chak 23/DNB, District Bahawalpur; November 19, 2018:* Police arrested Mr. Aftab Ahmad, president of the local Ahmadiyya community for not adopting adequate security measures in the local Ahmadiyya mosque. He was arrested on November 19, 2018 and released later on bail on November 22, 2018.

## **Ahmadis are forced to declare non-Muslim status**

*December 2018:* National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has implemented a policy after the decision of Justice Shaukat Saddiqi (now disgraced) in which he told the Government to ensure recording the religious identity of all applicants of CNICs. NADRA got this policy approved by the Federal Ministry of Interior.

According to this policy now there are two declarations, one for Muslims and other for non-Muslims. Previously there was only one declaration for Muslims in which all who declared

themselves Muslims had to sign a declaration in which rebuttal of the founder of the Ahmadiyya community was essential. Now, one who opts not to sign the declaration for Muslims has to sign the affidavit in which he declares himself to be non-Muslim in addition to stating his faith or denomination. To state what an individual is not, is superfluous and bizarre. It is a malicious move to severely hurt Ahmadis.

This creates a major problem for Ahmadis who consider themselves to be Muslims but now have to declare themselves to be non-Muslims for obtaining or renewal of national identity card and other legal documents.

NADRA has introduced a column no. 38 on Form for obtaining a CNIC; it requires declaration:

**“I declare on oath that I am not Muslim and I belong to Qadiani/Ahmadi religion.”**

### **High-level official probe in Ahmadiyya printing presses on demand of a mulla**

**Rabwah; November 29, 2018:** Mulla Hasan Muaviya had wrongfully applied to Lahore High Court that, despite the official ban, Quran was being published in Rabwah; he demanded action. The court ordered the concerned authorities to carry out a fresh inquiry and report results.

Accordingly, the DC, the DPO and the Chairman of Quran Board, Punjab accompanied by a number of mullas came to Rabwah on November 29 and inspected the printing presses. The team was escorted by a sizeable contingent of police. Muaviya demanded his own presence as well, but rightly was not allowed by the police for his hostile and malicious attitude.

First the group went to the Ziaul Islam Press. Maulvi Ghulam Muhammad Sialvi, the Chairman of the board not only inspected the press, he posed penetrating questions to obtain information regarding printing of the Quran, the periodicals, as also Ahmadiyya books and literature. The team found in office records a letter from the Ahmadiyya Private Secretary office with *Bismillah ir Rehman ir Rahim* written on top, and they took it along. They also inquired about any imported Qurans. The mullas wanted to visit Ahmadiyya offices, mosques and educational institutes but the administration told them to refrain from improper scrutiny.

Thereafter the team visited Nusrat Art Press and made similar inspection. They were told that ever since the government has issued orders, the presses are not printing any Qurans, periodicals or Ahmadiyya literature.

At the Ziaul Islam Press they found a receipt-book of Ansarullah under print, so they took away a few of these sheets as also some printed forms ordered by a hospital.

Next hearing of this case was scheduled for December 24, 2018 when this inspection report was to be presented by the high government officials to the LHC judge.

All this is taking place in response to the stipulation of Mulla Hasan Muaviya. No wonder such mullas thereafter morph into the like of Khadim Rizvi and Pir Qadri who pose serious threat and existential challenge to the state.

### **A bizarre move by an ‘agency’**

**Lahore:** The daily 92 News published the following story in its issue of May 16, 2018. As ‘agencies’ are normally well-informed on such issues, a report such as this is indeed surprising. As such, we reproduce below a translation of the newsreport without comment:

#### **Intelligence agency demands ban on Qadianis’ social activities**

**Their website and use of social media should be immediately blocked: A letter to Ministry of Religious Affairs**

Islamabad (Qasim Nawaz Abbasi): A civilian intelligence agency recommended in its letter to Ministry of Religious Affairs to play their role to stop heightened activities of Qadianis on social media in the country and ban their special website. According to a letter by an intelligence agency to Ministry of Religious Affairs, Qadianis are running a website containing blasphemous material; its published content violates religious and constitutional restrictions. According to a copy of the letter held with 92 News, false proselytization continues through the usage of Islamic terms like *Khalifa*, *Masjid*, *Messiah* and *Sahabi*. In the letter, the Interior Ministry is also requested to ban all Ahmadiyya publications and their use of social media in the country. Also, the Ministry of Commerce is requested to ban import of similar publications in Pakistan. According to the sources, immediate instructions have been issued to the Interior Ministry and Ministry of Commerce to ban all such publications and the informative websites in Pakistan with immediate effect. Moreover the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has raised the issue with Ministry of Religious Affairs concerning books which Qadiani community sent as a gift to the prime minister some time ago during the Commonwealth meeting (in London). The prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was also invited for the program by Qadianis, but he didn't attend. After the session the two books containing Qadiani viewpoint were distributed as gift to each attendee. These books are writings of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani and Mirza Masroor Ahmad. The Pakistan High Commissioner in UK received those gifts at the session. The Foreign Office handed over these books to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and has asked for their comment on them. According to the sources, Ministry of Religious Affairs has received these books and will soon send a reply to the Foreign Office.

**Note:** Other press reports named the 'agency' as Intelligence Bureau.

### **Attack on Ahmadi's residence**

**Chak 563 GB, District Faisalabad; January 7, 2018:** Opponents of the Ahmadiyya community held here a *Mehfile Milad* (a religious gathering). Approximately 150 men came from Ganga Pur, and when in front of the house of Chaudhry Aslam, an Ahmadi, they raised anti-Ahmadiyya slogans. After no response from the house, they started abusing the residents of the house. At this Mr. Rafi son of Ch. Aslam came out and told them to stop. The miscreants grabbed him and precipitated a quarrel. His son and nephews also came out to rescue him. The miscreants then started pelting stones on their house. In the face of worsening situation three shots were fired in the air to disperse them. At this they ran away. The Ahmadi informed the police who arrived the next day to compile their report. No follow-up action was taken.

Opponents announced holding another *Mehfile Milad* on January 14. Ahmadi informed the police.

### **Unlawful demands of police**

**Ghatyalian; Distt.Sialkot, January 13, 2018:** A police ASI and an ISI official came to Ghatyalian and asked the local president of the Ahmadiyya community for security check of the Ahmadiyya mosque. Inside they saw a dais with Islamic creed (*Kalima*) written on it. The ASI said that he would take that dais with him to the police station. The president refused him his demand. At this, he ordered, "For the time being, place it somewhere else and come to the police station in the evening." After that, these officials went to Data Zaidka. There, construction of outer walls of the Ahmadiyya prayer centre was going on, and the *Kalima* was written inside. At that, they ordered the acting president of the Ahmadiyya community Data Zaidka to, "Stop the work and come to the police station in the evening."

In the evening, both Ahmadi office holders visited the police station and met the SHO. The SHO told them to demolish the niche, minarets and Islamic creed (*Kalima*) from both the prayer centres. They replied, “We will not do this”. At this he said, “Leave the niche and minarets, but erase the Islamic creed (*Kalima*)”. Ahmadis replied again the same and added that if the police wished to do that, they will have to do that themselves. The SHO gave them some days to reconsider, and added, “The police will not do this; you will have to do it yourselves”.

Thereafter, there was no repeat call, nor follow-up.

It should be mentioned that the law does not forbid Ahmadis constructing minarets, niche or writing *Kalima* in their places of worship.

### **Persistent harassment through the cooperative Punjab government**

Various Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat (Protection of End of Prophethood) organizations are active in the country to promote their sectarian and extremist anti-Ahmadi agenda. One such group calls itself Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat Forum. It is run by mulla Hasan Muaviya alias Tuti, who is a brother of Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, Chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council, a circle close to the officialdom in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the name of fighting extremism and sectarianism.

Mulla Tuti’s Forum avails of Punjab government’s consistent policy of supporting the mullas including doing their wish in every possible way. As such, recommendations of the Motahidda Ulama Board are implemented by the Home Department without question.

It was under this policy arrangement that the CTD and Elite Force of the Punjab raided the only book store in the main Bazaar of Rabwah two years ago, arrested its octogenarian proprietor Mr. Shakoor and his Shia salesman, and got both of them imprisoned for years through an anti-terrorism court. In 2016, the counter-terrorism department mounted unprecedented raid on Ahmadiyya central offices in Rabwah and made arrests.

This *modus operandi* goes on. A member of Tuti’s Forum sent an application to the Home Secretary Punjab that Ahmadis continue to violate the restrictions imposed upon them by the provincial government. In this he named Ahmadiyya theology schools, press, etc. and demanded that the authorities close down these facilities.

In fact, as a result of the government’s unfair and wrongful bans, availability and sales of Ahmadiyya publications in the open market is completely forbidden. Even the central library of the town stocks no Ahmadiyya translation of the Holy Quran. This imposed deprivation on Ahmadi population is dreadful and brazen.

Despite the above, the Forum’s application is being followed up by the provincial agencies and departments. The officials have made visits to Rabwah and carried out investigations and inspections. This does no credit to the governance in Pakistan. Even the international community is now aware of this. Last year US Secretary of State stated: “Religious freedom is under attack in Pakistan”. *The daily Dawn; August 17, 2017*

### **A dutiful upright police officer**

*Lathianwala, District Faisalabad; January 2018:* We are happy to learn and report that there are surely dutiful and efficient officials in the administration and police in the country. One such person is Mr. Khalil Ghuman SHO Khurarianwala Police Station in District Faisalabad.

One, Malik Faisal arranged a religious sitting *Mehfil Milad* in Lathianwala. Ordinarily such get-togethers are held to mention and praise in poetry, the attributes of the Holy Prophet PBUH. However in

that sitting the Ahmadis were bad-mouthed extensively by one invitee mulla Tanwir ul Hasan Madni and another from Lahore. Mulla Madni is named by the police in Fourth Schedule.

An Ahmadi reported the hateful proceedings to the police. The SHO promptly sent for the organizers of the *Mehfil* and the local *Aman* Committee. In the meeting he expressed his anger over the proceedings. In the meeting, it was agreed by all that:

- In future no *Mehfil* shall be held without SHO's permission.
- Permission will be granted on recommendation of the *Aman* Committee.
- The organizer Maulvi will affirm on oath that no sectarian propaganda will be done.
- Loudspeakers will not be used in the *Mehfil*.
- Anyone who violates these terms will be severely dealt with under the law.

The SHO undertook that he will further investigate the conduct of the miscreants involved in this incident and will take appropriate follow-up action.

If there were more such officials, there would be more peace and harmony in society, and the National Action Plan would not be termed a failure.

### **Innocent Ahmadis harassed even after their acquittal by High Court**

An armed contingent of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) carried out a raid on Ahmadiyya central offices and Zia-ul-Islam Press, Rabwah on December 5, 2016 and made unjustified arrests. Mr. Sabah ul Zafar and Mr. Idrees Ahmad were awarded three-year prison sentence by a special court. An appeal against the judgment was made in the Lahore High Court which acquitted them of the charges on February 26, 2018. They were released from jail on March 5, 2018.

The CTD filed no appeal against the judgment. However, Suleman Bin Abdul Rehman from the anti-Ahmadi lobby filed an application in Lahore Registry of the Supreme Court in which he appealed against the judgment passed by Lahore High Court calling it 'impugned judgment'. A notice from the opponent lawyer Mian Ghulam Hussain Advocate on Record (Supreme Court, Lahore) was sent to the victims.