

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

News Report December 2017

Baseless police case against Ahmadis

Haveli Majoka, District Sargodha; November 17, 2017: Opponents of the Ahmadiyya community indulged in slander and quarrel with some local Ahmadis. They had some issue with the selling of a few trees which are on the land of an Ahmadi. A non-Ahmadi youth Mujtaba came to the Ahmadiyya mosque and scuffled there with an Ahmadi elder, Mr. Zafarullah. Another Ahmadi Mr. Ahmad Yar intervened to make peace but Mujtaba did not stop. Mujtaba also misbehaved with the local Ahmadiyya missionary there. Ahmadis had to call the police.

The police arrived and detained not only the mischief makers but also two Ahmadis, Mr. Arif and Mr. Amir who are sons of Mr. Ahmad Yar, under section PPC 7/51. On their way to the police station, the policemen called Ahmadis infidels, deniers of Khatme Nabuwwat (End of Prophethood), etc. Ahmadis had to get bail from the court the next day.

The opponents were not deterred by the police action. They kept on threatening the local Ahmadis and their missionary. Ahmadiyya missionary had to be relocated in the face of these threats.

Ahmadi narrowly escapes assault

Syed Wala, Nankana Sahib; November 17, 2017: Mr. Basharat Ahmad survived an attack on his life when he was returning home from his shop in Syed Wala.

Mr. Basharat is president of the local Ahmadiyya Community. He owns a jewelry shop. He was nearing his home when two unknown persons on motor bike stopped in front of him. One of them asked him, "Are you Basharat?" He replied, "Yes". At this the second man took out his pistol. Mr. Basharat immediately ran inside a nearby house by pushing away a woman standing at the door, and cried for help. The assailant did not fire because of the woman and the ruckus. Some people hurried to the site. The assailants fled waving their pistol in the air.

The attack was reported to the police and a case was registered. However, the inquiry has made little progress as all the witnesses are under pressure of the local mullas and Khatme Nabuwwat activists.

Police action under threats of Khatme Nabuwwat activists

Syed Wala, Nankana Sahib; November 01, 2017: A bogus police case was registered under sections 337/H, 34/B, and 11-20/65 against Mr. Muhammad Zafrullah, a son of Mr. Basharat Ahmad the president of the local Ahmadiyya Community. The police apparently registered the case under duress, on insistence of the local Khatme Nabuwwat group.

Mr. Basharat reported that their private security guard was on duty at their shop. The police came there for routine security check. They told the security guard to fire from his gun, to check if it was in working order. He attempted three times but all were misfires. The police personnel then checked his gun and told him to clean it before further trials.

After the visit, while the police was still in the bazaar, the guard again fired three shots in the air. All were success. The activists of Khatme Nabuwat however made it an excuse and lodged an application in the police station against him, alleging spread of terror. The SHO attempted to calm them down and told them that the trials were conducted on police demand, but the activists remained stubborn and threatened him with protest, procession and strike. At this the SHO registered the bogus case.

The government to celebrate 2018 as the Khatme Nabuwat Year

Islamabad; December 4, 2017: The daily Qudrat, Islamabad published the following story today:

A fabulous plan by the government for End of Prophethood. The entire next year shall be specific to the cognizance of Khatme Nabuwat. What the government will do – shall be a good news for Muslims.

Islamabad (The daily Qudrat; December 04, 2017): Important declaration by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Year 2018 shall be celebrated as Cognizance (*shu'ure*) of Khatme Nabuwat.

The Ministry will hold celebrations, seminars and conferences on the issues of protection of the end of prophethood and its honour (*Namus Risalat*).

On this issue all efforts will be made, through speeches and writings. The next year, the theme of the Worldwide Seerat Conference on 12 Rabiul Awwal shall be Khatme Nabuwat Conference. It will be proposed that the writers write papers on the subject of End of Prophethood.

We hold our comments.

Remarks of a judge concerning Ahmadis

Justice Shaukat Siddiqui of Islamabad High Court was reported in the press as follows (extracts):

IHC restores all 8 laws concerning the end of prophethood.

If heavens fall, I do not care: Justice Siddiqui

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 15, 2017

(Maulvi) Wasaya also asked the government setup a database of government employees belonging to the Ahmadi faith.

...

The judge (Shaukat Siddiqui – ed.) also asked the federal government to submit a reply regarding the request for a database within 14 days.

The daily Dawn, November 14, 2017

Justice Siddiqui also directed authorities to initiate criminal cases against those committing blasphemy and to form a joint investigation team (JIT) to look into the matter, adding that those “who do not fulfill the criteria under the law to be a Muslim should not be made a part of the whole process.”

The daily The Express Tribune, March 9, 2017

He claimed that he knew those who had made Qadianis their ‘darling’.

(Editorial of the daily Mashriq, November 28, 2017)

Ahmadis discriminated through special data-base in official records

Islamabad; November 24, 2017: The daily Jang, Karachi carried the following story (translated):

Work started on data-base of senior Qadiani officials in the Federation

Islamabad (Rana Ghulam Qadir, news reporter): It is learnt that the Establishment Division is preparing a list of Qadiani officials and those who belong to the Lahori group working for the federal government. The report is being prepared to be submitted to the Islamabad High Court. Maulana Allah Wasaya (*an End of Prophethood activist*) had challenged unlawful and unconstitutional activities of the Qadianis and the Lahori group (sic). The case date is now set for 29 November. The Deputy Secretary (Litigation) Muhammad Afzal Chaudhari has told Senior Joint Secretary Admin Establishment Division and the Joint Secretary E-Wing to prepare the list by 27 November for presentation to the high court. They have been told to also mention the assignments of the officials. The High court had instructed the Establishment Division during the hearing on November 14 to prepare data-base of Qadiani and Lahori group officials serving in high posts.

No comments.

Anti-Ahmadiyya pamphlet endorsed by Chairman Ulama Board Punjab circulated

Faisalabad; December 2017: Ahmadi businessmen in Faisalabad, Sialkot, Islamabad and other cities received an Anti-Ahmadiyya pamphlet titled: **An invitation to Qadianis to recant**. It is authored by Maulvi Muhibullah of Khanqa Sirajia Saadia Nakshbandia, Loralai, Balochistan. Abusive language is used in it against the founder of the Ahmadiyya community. An endorsement letter from Maulvi Fazal Raheem Ashrafi, the chairman of Muttahida Ulama Board of Punjab government is added to it, which declares it fulfillment of an obligation on behalf of all the major institutions of Pakistan. Thus the chairman, who gets his allowances and perks from public funds, has made the government a party to fanning fires of religious extremism and hatred, in gross violation of the National Action Plan.

Anti-Ahmadiyya rhetoric on electronic media

In a T.V. program 'Point of View' on Channel '24 News' on 4th of December 2017 a panel comprising Dr. Danish (host of the program), Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Asif Jalali, Mr. Umer Riaz Abbasi and Mr. Arif Hameed Bhatti discussed the issue of 'end of prophethood'. With reference to this doctrine, Ahmadi-bashers bad-mouth the Ahmadi community. This panel did the same; however, one of them indulged in such falsehood and slander that it should be on record. Umer Riaz Abbasi, a member of the Pakistan Awami Tehrik, a politico-religious party headed by Dr. Tahir ul Qadri, ranted as follows:

"I would like to expose some realities today.

- In the *KN* (end of prophethood) movement of 1953 approximately 18,000 people embraced *Shahadat* (martyrdom).
- Shahbaz Sharif handed over 60 schools of Punjab Education Foundation to Qadianis through an NGO; why?
- Khushab DPO is a Qadiani and a class-fellow of Shahbaz Sharif; why?

- Qadianis attacked an Eid Milad-un-Nabi procession in Chakwal; the administration remained silent over the *shahadat* (martyrdom) of our man, and was partial to Qadianis; why?
- Is the Punjab Government *Qadiani nawaz* (well-wisher of Ahmadis)?
- I would like to disclose another fact today: In the Model Town incident, shooters in police uniform were hired Qadianis.”

The above is simply a pack of lies. For instance, in the 1953 riots, a judicial inquiry concluded that 37 men were killed by security personnel. Abbasi raised this total to 18000, 80% more than even the figure of 10,000 to which most of the mullas have settled down 60 years later. Abbasi went truly berserk at the last point in making a very serious, entirely false allegation against Ahmadis.

It is dismal that neither the host nor any participant asked Abbasi to produce the evidence. The Channel management also failed to note the gravity of the charge, and thus sullied their self reputation at the hands of a corrupt and irresponsible guest. A milder comment by us will not do justice to the enormity committed by Riaz Abbasi.

Bigotry pervades in Azad Kashmir government

Muzaffarbad; December 14, 2017: The daily Ausaf today reported at length some ‘resolution’ passed by the AJK Cabinet. Extracts of this report are translated below; these betray the mindset of the current day rulers of this territory:

Protection of End of Prophethood and Rejection of Qadianiyat will be added to the Interim Constitution Act.

Ethnic cleansing of Kashmiris condemned; appointment of Indian negotiator rejected; Kashmir and Palestine deserve attention of the world community....

Muzaffarabad (Staff Reporter): Among the resolutions passed in the cabinet meeting of Azad Kashmir, in one of these the members of the Assembly were gratefully thanked who, in 1973, voted in favour of the Resolution regarding the *End of the Prophethood and Rejection of Qadianiyat* (Radde Qadianiat), thereby earning the honour of passage of that Resolution. The role of Major ® Muhammad Ayub, Member of the Assembly is particularly laudable in moving and steering that resolution...The members further endorsed that the acts and articles contained in the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan will be incorporated, word by word, in the AJK Interim Constitution Act 1974 and other relevant laws. ...

Already the AJK cabinet has approved appointment of a 5-member committee headed by the law minister to propose inclusion word-by-word of Pakistani laws regarding end of prophethood, in Azad Kashmir. ...

The cabinet meeting was held in the Prime Minister’s Secretariat under the chairmanship of AJK Prime Minister Mr. Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan. ...

It is noteworthy that while inviting the attention of the whole world to the plight of Kashmiris, the AJK cabinet unabashedly passes resolutions to deny Freedom of Religion and Human Rights to Ahmadi Kashmiris living in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Rather than learning a lesson from the experience of Pakistan, these headmen declare openly that they intend not only repeating others’ mistakes, they propose the same for the rest of Kashmir they invite to merge.

Mulla-led processions in the Ahmadiyya headquarters town

Rabwah; December 1, 2017: Mullas took out three different processions in Rabwah (Ahmadiyya national headquarters) at the occasion of 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal (birthday of the Holy Prophet PBUH). The administration had permitted these processions who behaved provocatively. Ahmadis had to exercise vigilance and remain on guard.

The first procession was led by Mulla Umair Arshad from Masjid Bukhari at 09:45 a.m. Approximately 100 persons participated in it, mostly boys. It reached the Aqsa Square via the bus stop and returned to the bus stop. The mullas addressed the crowd in the Aqsa Square, the centre of the town. Participants were holding the banners of Tahrike Labbaik Yarasulallah (TLY of the Islamabad sit-in fame).

The second procession was led by Mulla Rizwan from Khichian at 11:30 a.m. It passed through the Aqsa Square and met the first procession at the bus stop. Approximately 200 men participated in it. Some outsiders from Chiniot and suburbs also joined it. They were also carrying banners of TLY.

Majlis Ahrar (an anti-Ahmadiyya organization) held its annual Khatme Nabuwwat conference in the Madrassa Ahrarul Islam in Kot Wasawa at the outskirts of Rabwah. The conference started at 11:45 a.m. and ended at 1:40 p.m. It was presided over by Syed Ataul Muhaiman Shah Bukhari, Central Amir of Majlis Ahrar Pakistan. Approximately 1000 men participated in it. Mulla Ubaidullah of Toba Tek Singh, Sultan Muawiya of Khanewal, Syed Muhammad Muawiya of Chichawatni, Muhammad Zakariya of Faisalabad, Hafiz Hamdullah (a JUI-F senator) addressed the crowd.

These mullas spoke venomously against the Ahmadiyya community; some quotes: “Qadiani is a community of mischief... Qadianio! Listen, you have robbed the Khatme Nabuwwat (End of Prophethood), come to the right path... Why does the Operation *Raddul Fassad* spare Qadianis? Qadianis do not obey the constitution and are busy, in and outside the country, in conspiracies against the country and the constitution... .”

They took out this procession after the Friday prayers. It was the third and the biggest procession in Rabwah. It passed through the Aqsa Square and arrived at the bus stop. On their way they stopped in front of Aiwane Mahmood (central offices of Ahmadiyya youth in Pakistan) and made fiery speeches against the Ahmadiyya community. Mullas Ilyas Chinioti MPA (PML-N), Muhammad Mugira, Abdul Lateef Khalid Cheema, Muhammad Syed Kafeel Shah Bukhari, Syed Ataul Muhaiman Shah Bukhari and Shahid Kashmiri of Lahore addressed the participants. They exhorted, “Qadiani are the mischief created by Jews and Christians. National Assembly has declared them non-Muslims ... We are the heirs of 13000 martyrs who died in defense of End of Prophethood.”

(Note: By this they referred to the anti-Ahmadiyya agitation of 1953 in the Punjab; a high-level judicial inquiry counted the dead rioters as 37)

It reached at the bus stop at 4:00 p.m. and dispersed from there.

Ahmadis remained on guard all day. Ahmadi youth were deployed on security duties, while women were advised to stay at home. The whole town remained like under siege.

Another hostile conference in Rabwah

Rabwah; December 8, 2017: Just one week after inflicting three processions on Rabwah, the Khatme Nabuwwat organization held another anti-Ahmadiyya conference in Jamia Masjid Muhammadia at the railway station, Rabwah. It started at 1:10 p.m. and ended at 2:40 p.m. It was presided over by Maulvi Ghulam Mustafa, incharge of Jamia Arabia, Muslim Colony. Approximately 250 men participated in it. Maulvi Muhammad Ismail of Aalami Majlis Khatme Nabuwwat from Multan also spoke in it. They badmouthed Ahmadis and their elders. They provoked the audience against the Ahmadiyya community with tons of slander and disinformation. A mulla came up with, “We have never even thrown a stone at a Qadianis’ house nor irritated (*cherna*) them.”

Agitation over entrance to an Ahmadiyya mosque

Lodhran; December 2017: The local Ahmadiyya community has a mosque here which has two gates. Its main gate opens on the main-road and is rarely used, while the other opens in the back street. The main gate needed maintenance and reinstallation after essential repairs. The opponents found an excuse therein to raise hue and cry. They said that Ahmadis had fixed a new gate which should be blocked. Mullas sent an application to the administration. Ahmadis approached the Assistant Commissioner, explained him the factual position, and he closed the issue – for the time being.

Pir Zafar Ali Shah Mehrvi led a procession on 12 Rabiul Awwal. He is a rabidly anti-Ahmadi mulla. He stopped in front of the main gate of Ahmadiyya mosque and again agitated the gate issue. At this the Ahmadis received a message from the DPO to close down the gate within two days. Ahmadis approached the AC who had settled the issue earlier, but he also relented and advised Ahmadis to close the gate lest higher officials seal the mosque. Ahmadis had no option but to close the main-gate of their own mosque.

The incident shows the absence of protection of the law, for Ahmadis.

Administration imposes uglification on an Ahmadiyya mosque

Chak 287, Pilasor, District Toba Tek Singh; December 7, 2017: The local administration told Ahmadis to demolish the minarets of their mosque. When asked the reason, they said that they had received no complaint from the locals, but received the photos of minarets of the mosque from the provincial head office, hence demolish these forthwith. Eventually it was settled that the outer wall would be raised high enough to cover the minarets from being visible from outside.

Orders to demolish minarets and niche of still another Ahmadiyya mosque

Distt. Muzaffar Garh; December 2017: The police came to the local Ahmadiyya mosque in 34R Chak and told Ahmadis to demolish the niche and minarets of the mosque. They were told that this mosque was built in 1960 before the promulgation of the anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinance XX in 1984. The SHO also came at the site, and the same stance was conveyed to him. He went away satisfied.

Mullas however persisted and put pressure on the DPO to demolish the minarets of the Ahmadiyya mosque. The DPO called the SHO and told him sternly to solve the issue. The

SHO came again to the mosque, this time in an angry mood and told Ahmadis to demolish the minarets or face registration of a police case. Ahmadis told him that they would not demolish the minarets in any case. Later he told Ahmadis to meet the DPO. An Ahmadiyya delegation met the DPO and explained their stance. The DPO obtained a copy of the Ordinance XX, read it and told Ahmadis that they could not build minarets and niche. Ahmadis told him that they were forbidden to call their places of worship a 'Masjid', but the Ordinance did not forbid Ahmadis to build minarets or niche. Moreover minarets are built not only in mosques but also in other buildings. They are merely a design. Ahmadis conveyed him firmly that if the administration wanted to demolish the minarets, the police would have to do so in uniform otherwise Ahmadis would not allow any other person to demolish them. The DPO understood and told Ahmadis to remain calm until the issue was settled.

Harassment of Ahmadis

Lahore, December, 2017: Following three incidents were reported from Baghbanpura area.

1. Mr. Nisar Ahmad accompanied by his daughter was on his way to the local bazaar, when a non-Ahmadi friend met him and informed him that some mullas had gathered at some distance ahead; they talked of a house of a *Mirzai* (Ahmadi) here and expressed hostile intentions. Mr. Nisar returned to his house for security concern and postponed his shopping.
Earlier he ran a shop in this bazaar. Opponents frequently raised anti-Ahmadiyya slogans near his shop. As a result, he had to give up that shop.
2. Mr. Fahim Ahmad owns a 'Nisar Studio' in Shalamar Chowk. One day he went to his shop and saw approximately a hundred men gathered there. They carried Khatme Nabuwat posters, and raised anti-Ahmadiyya slogans.
3. Mr. Mubashar Ahmad Tanvir is a resident of Sahwarri. One evening, while sitting with his family in the lawn, he heard gun-fire. They hurried inside. After some time he went to the roof where he saw a number of empty bullet shells.
It seems that this prank was done by his neighbour's spoilt son who had fired these bullets. For what reason, we are not sure.

Anti-Ahmadiyya sentiments in the young generation

Mehmooda, Rawalpindi; October, 2017: A mulla Dawood Ahmad of village Raika Meera (3 km from Mehmooda) made an anti-Ahmadiyya speech some days ago; it disturbed the peace of the village.

Mr. Zafar Ahmad, an Ahmadi has a stationary shop in village Chak Baili Khan near Mehmooda. A boy gave him a book-binding order. The boy then came to know that Mr. Ahmad is an Ahmadi, so he asked from the village mulla that *Qadianis* (Ahmadis) are *Wajib-ul-qatl* (deserving death), and having got the book-binding done by him should he tear it to pieces. The mulla replied that there was no need to do that; he also sent a message 'Be careful' to Mr. Ahmad.

Two days before this incident, a person came to Mr. Ahmad's shop and told him that he was a *Mirzai* (Ahmadi) and believed *Mirza Sahib* (Fonder of Ahmadiyya Jamaat) to be the

last prophet. Ahmad told him that Ahmadis believed Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) to be the last prophet.

It is learnt that, activists of *KN* (End of Prophethood) are planning to hold a *KN* rally in the village.

Persecution through allegation of being an Ahmadi

There have been numerous cases in the past when mullas and malefactors falsely accused their fellow-Muslims of belonging to Ahmadi denomination, to do them some harm – often grievous. One such case was reported in the daily *Dawn* on November 28, this year. It is reproduced below:

“Teacher allegedly terminated for being Ahmadi approaches high court

The Lahore High Court issued on Monday a notice to the Punjab secretary of the school education department on a petition by a teacher allegedly terminated for being an Ahmadi.

Shaukat Rauf contented that he had been terminated without being given an opportunity of defense merely on a complaint lodged by a fellow teacher. The petitioner said he was a true Muslim having firm belief in finality of prophethood of Muhammad (PBUH) and had PhD degree in Islamiat.

He pleaded that his point of view was not heard by the authorities in a departmental inquiry, which was in sheer violation of fundamental right of fair trial.

He said the court had directed the respondent secretary to decide his departmental appeal against the termination but the order had not been compiled.

The petitioner said the secretary committed contempt of court by not implementing the order and was liable to be punished under the relevant law.”

(Originally published in the *Dawn*, November 28, 2017)

Follow-up of the End of Prophethood (KN) sit-in in December 2017

December 2017: Although the Islamabad sit-in (*Dharna*) ended on November 27, this was not the end of the agitation that was undertaken in the name of Khatme Nabuwat (*KN*).

There was a split in the TLY leadership and ranks, and a group led by mulla Ashraf Jalali assembled a *Dharna* in Lahore where the protestors occupied a central spot on the Mall Road and seriously disturbed the traffic for a few days. The traffic jam in that part was reported as very bad. On December 2, an agreement was reached between the Punjab government and the *Dharna* leadership.

It was agreed, *inter alia*, that Muttahida Ulama Board will review the school syllabus in the Punjab with special reference to religious topics (*Deeni sha'air*). Ashraf Jalali claimed that the government had agreed to appoint Mufti Abid Jalali on the Ulama Board, and that a committee would be formed regarding resignation of Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah.

A shorter sit-in was undertaken in Faisalabad. It specifically targeted Rana Sanaullah. He stated thereafter that the protesters indulged in pitiless violence and torture, showed no regard for the elderly, robbed people of their mobile phones and wireless sets and carried fire arms and staffs with nails.

TLY claimed that the Rana was required to appear before Pir Sialvi (a Brelvi Sheikh), recite the Islamic creed *Kalima*, call Ahmadis *Kafir* unequivocally, and rejoin Islam; thereafter the Pir would decide his fate. They threatened that 12 MNA/MPA of PML-N had

deposited their resignations with the Pir who, if not satisfied with the compliance of PML-N, will forward them to the Speaker, and these members will quit the PML-N. Khawaja Taunswi, another Pir threatened, “If KN criminal is not brought forth, we’ll bring the country to a halt.”

Rana Sanaullah declared his faith in Islam and its various important items of belief, including the Khatme Nabuwwat, but asserted that he needed no certificate from anyone about his Muslim identity. He declined to present himself to the Pir. The Pir was very annoyed over this, and declared that he had quit the PML-N and forwarded resignations of the five assembly members. Thereafter the Pir embarked upon a Khatme Nabuwwat (read anti PML-N) movement in his area.

During these days, a number of senior politicians of PML-N issued public statements about their faith in Islam, KN, etc.

As for the *Dharna* in the name of KN, some people came forth with the truth. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal stated that the sit-in leaders were not interested in the end of prophethood but end of the government. Maulvi Fazl ur Rehman (JUI-F) observed, “The real issue was Nawaz Sharif, but the End of Prophethood was exploited.” Islamabad High Court Judge, Shaukat Siddiqui admonished the authorities over surrender to the protesters! Ms Gul Bokhari wrote an op-ed in the daily *The Nation*, stating openly that the sit-in was against the new Act that removed the obstacles in the way of Ahmadis to exercise their voting right. She was perhaps the only one who said so unambiguously, while everyone else took cover behind terms like ‘7B and 7C’ and ‘solemnly swear/solemnly declare’.

Commandeering the End of Prophethood for political profit gained currency and everyone went for it. Maulvi Tahir Ashrafi of Pakistan Ulama Council advised people to vote for the KN in next elections. Azad Kashmir Assembly passed a resolution that Protection of KN and Rejection of Qadianiyat will be added to the AJK Interim Constitution Act, 1974. The Federal Ministry of Religious Affairs announced that year 2018 will be celebrated as one for Awareness of End of Prophethood. Everyone is taking his pound of flesh.

Ahmadis are worried. They think that while the contending parties could well renege on various clauses of their ‘agreements’, both will happily comply with those that will further curb the human rights and freedom of religion of Ahmadis. According to a press report, the federal government undertook preparing a special data-base of its officials who are Ahmadis. In official circles, reportedly there is a consensus that all Grade 22 officers would be required to sign an End of Prophethood form. But an Urdu op-ed writer demanded, “Why not Grade 1 to Grade 21 employees as well?”

Ahmadiyya centre has received information from various locations that the successful *Dharna* and the consequential social environment has worsened communal situation for Ahmadis. Hate and social boycott have picked up in society. This encouraged a right-wing daily *Islam* to print an article, titled: Will the ‘drama’ be played again? It referred to the blood-soaked anti-Ahmadiyya riots in 1953 in the Punjab.

While commenting on the effect and consequences of *Dharna*, the well-known intellectual Aisha Siddiqi wrote: “Now, it does not matter anymore if Sharia is formally applied or not. Between Khadim Rizvi (of TLY) and Orya Maqbul Jan (an ultra-right intellectual) the state is theirs to claim.”

Looking simultaneously across the border at the hype in cow-devotion, a JUI-F senator remarked: “World War III be fought in the Sub-continent.” (*The News, December 6, 2017*). God forbid!

An improved National Narrative under consideration

Islamabad; December 18, 2017: The daily DUNYA of Faisalabad reported at some length the news of a fresh ‘National Narrative’ under consideration of the government of Pakistan, the Interior Ministry. The daily claimed that it has obtained a document, drafted by MACNA that is tasked to fight terrorism, now attached to the Ministry of Interior. This narrative is expected to be implemented after approval by the prime minister.

The draft of National Narrative includes the following provisions, *inter alia*:

- Only the state has the authority to declare Jihad or war.
- No person or group is allowed to declare Pakistan ‘*Darul Harb*’ (Abode of war) or an unislamic state and declare the armed forces, security organizations or the people as *Kafir* (unbelievers) or *Murtad* (apostate).
- Private militias and armed groups are not allowed in the country.
- Protection of minorities is state responsibility.
- Official documents like passport, identity cards etc will not carry a mention of religion, in order to promote national cohesion.
- Fundamentalism is not restricted to only armed and extremist groups, it is widespread.
- No parallel institutions, in fighting nor in education, shall be permitted.
- Respect for others’ views should be promoted and hate speech shall be stopped.
- Muslims are expected to be moderate and not extremist in mutual dealings and in dealing with others.
- Violence in the name of religion should be strongly condemned.
- Pakistan shall be made a modern, progressive and peaceful state, a model for the Ummah, where there shall be no room for violence on the basis of belief, sect, caste, colour or ethnicity.
- Some extremists misquote the Quran to declare other Muslims as *Kafir* and *Wajib ul Qatl*...; this shall not be allowed.
- Only a special committee will approve registration of blasphemy cases by the police; the committee shall comprise representatives of LEAs, MNAs, MPAs, reputed clerics, and minority representatives if the accused is a member of a minority group.
- None will be allowed to take law in his hand and those preaching violence and indulging in false accusation will be severely dealt with and fined.
- Madrassas promoting violence and hate will be shut down and the proprietors held accountable without discrimination.
- No madrassah shall be allowed to avail foreign funds, without permission, etc, etc.

We have two comments on the above Draft Narrative:

1. It is apparent that the authorities are now well aware of the nature and causes of terrorism and extremism. They know the remedial steps as well. But is there enough

will and strength in the various institutions of the state to undertake all that is required, in a selfless and committed manner?

2. Our past experience is not encouraging in this field.
 - a. A Supreme Court bench, headed by Chief Justice Jilani came up with a similar conclusion and judgment on June 19, 2014 that was called landmark, game changer, historical, etc. It dealt extensively with the issue of minorities. Their lordships provided even a set of directives to implement their verdict. Almost nothing was undertaken thereafter.
 - b. Six months later, extremists attacked Army Public School in Peshawar and killed 134 school children. This outrage gave birth to National Action Plan (NAP that was produced by consensus of all the major state stake-holders). The 20 points of the plan were not honoured by most of the authorities. (On the other hand, the Govt of Punjab banned the entire written works of the founder of the Ahmadiyyat, and raided the only book shop in Rabwah.) Six months after the announcement of the NAP, a Supreme Court judge observed in court, “There is hardly any progress in implementation of the NAP.”

So, any forecast for the effectiveness of the National Narrative is a hazardous undertaking.

Update on major atrocities of 2016

1. **CTD raid on Ahmadiyya offices on December 5, 2016.** The fake police case registered after the raid was not withdrawn; instead the authorities took it to an Anti-terrorism court. Mr. Sabah ul Zafar and Mr. Idrees Ahmad were denied release on bail. The ATC judge announced three years’ imprisonment for each of them. They are in prison. An appeal against the verdict lies with Lahore High Court.
2. **Mob attack on Ahmadiyya mosque in District Chakwal.** The mosque remains locked by the authorities. Ahmadis have no place for worship for almost a year. On demand of the riot leadership, a separate police case was also registered against the defending Ahmadis, on orders of a court. One Ahmadi is still in prison. Sixty rioters out of the 67 detained have been released on bail by courts. Plea for bail of Mr. Muhammad Ansar, Ahmadi awaits hearing at the Supreme Court.
3. **Ban on Ahmadiyya publications and periodicals.** The Punjab government issued numerous such notifications early last year. It did that on illegitimate recommendations of the Muttahidah Ulama Board that were in stark violation of the Constitutional guarantees and the international instruments signed by Pakistan. None of these notifications has been yet withdrawn.

Ahmadis behind bars

1. A contrived case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad and Mubashir Ahmad of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura under PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 on May 13, 2014 in Police Station Sharaqpur. Mr. Khalil Ahmad was then murdered by a madrassah student, while in police custody, on May

16, 2014. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. A year later the deadly clause PPC 295-C was added to their charge-sheet. A sessions judge sentenced them to death on October 11, 2017. Appeal against this decision has been made to the High Court.

2. Officials of Punjab's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) accompanied by a contingent of the Elite Force raided Shakoor Bhai's book shop, arrested him and Mr. Mazhar Abbas the shop assistant, a Shia, on December 2, 2015. A speedy trial in an Anti-terrorism Court dispensed 5 years' imprisonment to each of the two accused, while octogenarian Mr. Shakoor was sentenced in addition to three years' imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadiyya law. He appealed against the verdict and has sought release on bail from the Lahore High Court which has not spared time for almost a year to hear his plea.
3. An armed police contingent of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) carried out a raid on Ahmadiyya central offices and Zia-ul-Islam Press on December 5, 2016 and arrested four Ahmadi officials: Mr. Amir Faheem, Mr. Sabah ul Zafar, Mr. Zahid Majeed Mahmud and Mr. Idrees Ahmad. Mr. Sabah ul Zafar and Mr. Idrees Ahmad remained behind bars as bail was not granted to them. The judge announced three years' imprisonment to both of them. An appeal against the judgment awaits hearing in the Lahore High Court.
4. A violent mob deviated from the authorized route, to attack an Ahmadiyya mosque in Dulmial on December 12, 2016. Forewarned Ahmadis assembled inside their mosque to defend it. In the ensuing riot two persons, an Ahmadi and a non-Ahmadi, died. The police made arrests from both sides, attackers as also defenders. Among the latter, they arrested 4 Ahmadis namely Malik Riaz Ahmad, Mr. Muhammad Ansar, Malik Khurram Abrar and Mr. Naveed Ahmad. The FIR applies numerous clauses of PPC including 302 (for murder) and 7-ATA of the Anti-terrorism Act. A separate case has also been registered against Ahmadis, on orders of a judge. Sixty rioters out of the 67 detained have been released on bail by courts. Mr. Khurram Abrar, Malik Riaz and Mr. Naveed Ahmad were released on bail on September 12, 2017 while the other Ahmadi, Mr. Muhammad Ansar is still behind bars. His bail application is awaiting a hearing in the Supreme Court.
5. Two Ahmadis, Mr. Amjad Iqbal Salooni and Mr. Ikram Ilahi were charged under PPC 295-A and the anti-Ahmadiyya 298-C. They were accused of preaching their faith. They were arrested on March 15, 2017. A judge added terrorism clauses to the case and sent it to an Anti-terrorism Court. Their pleas for bail were rejected. Now these await hearing in a higher court. The ATA judge observed that terrorism clauses were not applicable in this case. Their plea for bail now lies in Lahore High Court. They remain behind bars awaiting trial.

From the media

(Police) case against six Ahmadis

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 16, 2017

Year 2018 will be celebrated as one for ‘Awareness of End of Prophethood’: Federal Ministry of Religious Affairs

The daily Ummat; Karachi, December 5, 2017

It is extremely crucial to crush the Qadiani mischief: Maulana Ghulam Mustafa

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, December 9, 2017

Qadianis are enemies of Islam and Pakistan. One who considers them Muslims is himself a traitor to Islam and the Constitution.

The daily Din; Lahore, December 18, 2017

Students’ database should be obtained from the Qadianis’ educational institutions in Chenab Nagar: (Mulla) Shabbir Usmani (of IKNM)

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, December 29, 2017

11 died in attack on Peshawar Agri University, 38 injured

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 3, 2017

9 dead, over 50 injured in attack on Quetta church

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 18, 2017

Six die in roadside blast in Mirali (South Waziristan)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 6, 2017

If KN criminal is not brought forth, we’ll bring the country to a halt. 65 ready to resign (their Assembly seats): Khawja A Taunswi

The daily 92 News; Lahore, December 5, 2017

Disclosure of torture cells by Faizabad sit-in participants

Pitiless violence imposed; no regard even for grey beards

Robbed of wireless sets, mobile phones

Participants well-trained; carried modern weapons and staffs with nails

The daily Insaaf; Lahore, December 4, 2017

Two Shia Hazaras killed in Quetta gun attack

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 23, 2017

Three FC soldiers martyred in border attack

The daily Nation; Lahore, December 23, 2017

IHC stops Aamir Liaquat from appearing on TV

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 14, 2017

PU teachers’ body demands action against IJT

The Punjab University Academic Staff Association (ASA) on Wednesday passed a resolution demanding action against the Islami Jamiat Talaba (IJT) for allegedly torturing and misbehaving with teachers. ...

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 14, 2017

Very bad traffic jam on Mall Road TLY sit-in

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, December 1, 2017

Sit-in ends after Punjab govt clinches deal with Tehreek-i-Labbaik faction

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 3, 2017

Palestine recalls envoy for sharing stage with Hafiz Saeed

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 31, 2017

Man absolved of blasphemy charges after nine years in prison

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 30, 2017

Protection of End of Prophethood and Rejection of Qadianiyat will be added to the AJK Interim Constitution Act 1974

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, December 14, 2017

Sit-in leader was not interested in End of Prophethood but end of government: Ahsan Iqbal

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, December 10, 2017

Govt told to implement anti-blasphemy measures online

IHC judge (Mr. Siddiqui) gives federal govt one week to furnish compliance report in line with his directions

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 16, 2017

Pir of Sial will decide Rana Sana's (provincial law minister) fate

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 3, 2017

PML-Q warns against any changes to blasphemy laws

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, December 13, 2017

World War III to be fought in sub-continent: JUI-F Senator

The daily The News; Lahore, December 6, 2017

Nuclear war is a 'tantrum away', warn Nobel Peace Prize winners

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 11, 2017

Saudi Arabia lifts decades-long ban on cinemas

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 12, 2017

Canadian judge suspends Quebec niqab ban

The daily The News; Lahore, December 3, 2017

Bad News: Putin is preparing for World War III

The weekly Newsworld (P); December 16, 2017

US: 15 years imprisonment to one who threw Haram meat in (Florida) mosque

The daily 92 News; Lahore, December 14, 2017

China warns (its) nationals of terror attacks in Pakistan

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 9, 2017

Pope says he 'wept' while meeting Rohingya refugees

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 4, 2017

Outrage after US accepts Jerusalem as Israel's capital

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 7, 2017

The (real) issue was concerning Nawaz Sharif; instead the KN affidavit was agitated in the Assembly: Fazl ur Rehman

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 11, 2017

People should vote for Khatme Nabuwat loyalists in forthcoming elections: Tahir Mahmud Ashrafi

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 13, 2017

Five religious parties join forces to revive MMA

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 16, 2017

MNA Sh M Akram had claimed that 14 federal and provincial lawmakers of the ruling PML-N had submitted their resignations to Pir Sialvi (a Brelvi Sheikh)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 3, 2017

New challenge for PML-N as five legislators quit

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 11, 2017

Samiul Haq's revolt against MMA. Declares alliance with Imran.

The daily Insaaf; Lahore, December 7, 2017

APC demands Shahbaz, Sana resign by Jan 7

The daily The News; Lahore, December 31, 2017

Damning Najafi report puts Punjab govt in a tight spot

- **Tribunal sees cover up after Model Town 'massacre'**
- **Says police did what they had been sent to do**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 6, 2017

Sami (of JUI-S) says alliance with PTI will block victory of 'secular forces'

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 7, 2017

Repentance and prostration only to Allah: Rana Sanaullah

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 3, 2017

Apex court rules against reviving Hudaibya case

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 16, 2017

Hasan and Hussain Nawaz declared 'proclaimed offenders' by the Accountability Court

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 5, 2017

Violent revolution, if people not given their rights: Shahbaz Sharif

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 26, 2017

Rogue military elements may be behind Benazir's murder, says Musharraf

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 28, 2017

Threats to internet landscape on the rise in Pakistan: report (Internet Landscape of Pakistan 2017)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 23, 2017

Dharna (Islamabad sit-in) leadership committed plain blasphemy. ... Dharna Agreement has no legal base; it should be brought up in the parliament: Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 5, 2017

(Maulvi) Dr Raghbir Naeemi, General Manager of (madrassah) Jamia Naeemia arrived back the other day from Tablighi and tourist visit of the US, Germany and Norway.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 18, 2017

22 die in boat capsizing in Thatha waters

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 9, 2017

Op-ed: Will the 'drama' be played again

...These days it is being demanded all over that every grade 22 officer be told to sign the Khatme Nabuwat affidavit. (But) why should the public servants of Grade 1-21 be exempted? On what basis? ...

The Khatme Nabuwat affidavit should not be mandatory for only Grade 22 officials but it should be so from Grade 1 onward. It is violation of not only the Constitution of Pakistan but also of Sharia to exempt grade 1 to 21 officials from signing the Khatme Nabuwat affidavit.

SM Ali in the daily Islam of December 17, 2017

Op-ed: A complicit state

A historical overview of the country where religious groups of one hue or the other have played their role in collusion with the state to turn it into the hybrid-theocracy of today.

The recent agreement enforced upon the political government is nothing but a small reminder that Pakistan has turned into a hybrid-theocracy where sharia law is gradually being applied indirectly. What, perhaps, stands between this situation and a complete morphing into a sharia-governed state is the difference of opinion between the right wing leadership from varied sects. Despite being aligned with permanent institutions of the state, the Ahl-Hadith, Deobandi and now Barelvi leadership have competing perception of sharia and its implementation. Thus, no matter how much the liberal voices may echo the plight of Ahmadis or even Shias in the country, the conditions for these groups are not about to change. ...

Now, it does not matter anymore if sharia is formally applied or not. Between Khadim Rizvi and Orya Maqbul Jan, the state is theirs to claim.

Ayesha Siddiqi in <http://tns.thenews.com.pk/complicit-state/#.WiNs6tKWbct>

Editorial: PML-N under fire

...Under the current political narrative, any statement that does not conform to the extreme right's position on the persecuted community comes with dangerous repercussions. Meanwhile, it is also ironic that Sanaullah has been thrown in hot water for stating things as they are, but action has never been taken against him for his known connections to criminal gangs and sectarian terrorist outfits.

The utilization of anti-Ahmadi sentiment for political assassination does not bode well for Pakistan's minorities – not only religious and ethnic but also those who count as political dissidents. This indicates a clear radicalization of Pakistan's political narrative.

Though the brunt is being faced by the PML-N for now, other mainstream political parties will also suffer in days to come if this trend is not checked. Moderate and progressive elements in all mainstream parties need to come together to put an end to this harmful trajectory.

Published in Daily Times, December 13th 2017 <https://dailytimes.com.pk/158270/pml-n-fire>

Op-ed: Dangerous games, dangerous implications

The Deobandi/Salafi/Wahabi /Ahle Hadith militants have been attacking shrines and terming Sufis/Barelvis as poly-theists. On the other hand, the Barelvis and caretakers of shrines, who – as opposed to the early Sufis – do not believe in the 'unity of existence between the creator and the created', consider Deobandis and Salafis as blasphemers who do not consider the primacy of the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) in reaching out to Allah. Both sides apostatize one another. A single spark or clash or attack can ignite a prairie fire of sectarian warfare among the two larger strands within the Sunnis.

The current political crisis in Pakistan has the potential to degenerate into anarchy and an internecine sectarian conflict. The communalization of politics will devastate non-religious mainstream political parties and leave little space for democratic discourse and

constitutional polity. The state and its institutions as well as mainstream non-religious political parties must consider this communal scenario before they move ahead with the next phase of their petty power games. It's time to call the bluff of communalists before it all gets out of control of everybody. Let the mainstream parties agree on not in any way flirting with sectarian outfits and let the government and the state end its patronage of religious extremism.

Imtiaz Alam in thenews.com.pk/print/255727-dangerous-games-dangerous-implications

Op-ed:

The meaning of Allama Khadim Rizvi

Did Jinnah ever say that Pakistan would be a laboratory of Islam? If he did not, why is it one of his most quoted quotes and why has it found its way into our textbooks? Is it because our rulers have spent a good part of their energies turning Pakistan in to a Frankenstein's workshop, and wanted on their achievements the seal of approval of the founder of the nation posthumously? ...

Zaigham Khan in The News International, December 4, 2017