Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan
News Report May 2014

U.S. Ahmadi doctor on mercy mission in Pakistan murdered in Rabwah, Punjab

Rabwah (Chenab Nagar); May 26, 2014: Ahmadiyya community central office in Pakistan issued the following press release today (Translation):

Pakistan born American doctor Mehdi Ali Qamar murdered in Rabwah. He had come here to serve people of country of his origin.

The incident is outcome of religious hatred and part of the ongoing anti-Ahmadiyya target-killing campaign: Spokesman Jamaat Ahmadiyya

Chenab Nagar (Rabwah): (PR) Ahmadi cardiac surgeon Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar was shot dead this morning on May 26 in foreground of a Rabwah graveyard.

As per details, Pakistan-born U.S. doctor Mehdi Ali Qamar was out with his family walking to the graveyard for prayers when two unidentified men riding a motorcycle fired gunshots killing him on the spot. Eleven empties were recovered from the site. Dr. Qamar had come only two days before for temporary service at the famous Tahir Heart Institute, Rabwah. He was 50. Dr. Qamar was a charitable gentleman who had no vendetta with anyone. He left behind a wife and three sons.

The Ahmadiyya spokesman of the Pakistan Jamaat, Mr. Saleemuddin strongly condemned the murder. “Brutal murder of this doctor who served fellow human beings without discrimination is most painful,” he said. Murder of a doctor who had recently come to serve his compatriots is a crime against humanity. This hurtful incident is part of the on-going anti-Ahmadi killing campaign. “Anti-Ahmadi activists openly publish hate material that calls for murder of Ahmadis,” he said. In the past hateful leaflets declared that treatment in Tahir Heart Institute was haram (forbidden in Shariah). “In order to put a stop to murders in the name of faith it is essential to put a ban on hate-promoting literature, and those who issue fatwas legitimizing murder of innocent people should be brought to justice,” he said. The spokesman demanded that authorities trace the killers of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar and punish them as per law. END

The attitude of the police was not commendable. Rather than pursuing and apprehending the criminals involved in immediate aftermath of the incident they preferred to look for some easy answer. The Asian Human Right Commission made it part of the title of their Case Report:

Pakistan: An Ahmadi humanitarian activist is shot dead - the police show no sign in investigating the case. M AHRC-UAC-079-2014

Earlier, a Khatme Nabuwwat group in nearby Sargodha had issued the following hateful leaflet (shown here partly) against the Tahir Heart Institute Rabwah where Dr Qamar had come to work:
Translation:

Fatwa: All schools of Muslim Ulama (sic) have given the edict that Mirzais (Ahmadis) are Kafirs (infidels) and Zindique (apostates) for their beliefs and worship. All relationships with them, social, business, familial and friendships are haram (forbidden in Sharia). Any Muslim who maintains any relationship with these people is a transgressor, sinner and hell-bound. One who considers them to be Muslim, is himself a Kafir (infidel).

Note: In Chenab Nagar, Qadianis have a famous hospital, (Tahir Heart Centre); visiting this hospital for medical advice or treatment is Haram (forbidden) and a gunahe kabeerah (great sin).

Shubban Khatme Nabuwwat, Sargodha Pakistan 0300-9606593; 0321-6024664; 0300-8651074; 0301-6729986

It is relevant to mention that the administration and the police took no notice of this vile hateful propaganda.

This murder received attention of major media houses all over the world. More than 30 news sources reported the incident. A few headlines are placed below:

U.S. Doctor is killed by Gunman in Pakistan. New York Times on May 26 2014 on nytms/1mtGZAO

Ahmadi cardiologist shot dead in Rabwah. Dr Mehdi arrived Pakistan a few days ago on mission to serve humanity. BBC May 26, 2014 at 12:19 GM

US doctor killed in Pakistan sectarian attack. Volunteer cardiologist Mehdi Ali Qamar becomes victim of latest attack on country’s Ahmadiyya minority community.

Al Jazeera

Pakistan: An Ahmadi humanitarian activist is shot dead

The police show no interest in investing the case

Asian Human Rights Commission urgent Appeal Case: AHRC-UAC-079-2014

Pakistan: depuis quand Rabwah est une ville sure pour les Ahmadis?

Le Huffington Post. Posted as Pakistan 26.5.2014 14:29

American doctor shot dead in Pakistan in suspected sectarian attack.

The guardian com. UK edition 26 May 2014

Ahmadi doctor shot at Rabwah

Newsweek. Posted May 26, 2014

Pickerington Cardiologist Murdered in Pakistan

nbc4.com by Associated Press Posted on May 26, 2014
Cold blooded murder of Dr Mehdi Ali: World charities condemnation

Terrorism is attack on a poor society: Dr Asif Rehman  The daily Mashriq; 28.5.2014

The New York Times in nytimes.Com added the following comment in ‘Asia Pacific’ section on 14/05/27:

“It was the second year that Dr Qamar had volunteered at the Tahir Heart Institute, a hospital specializing in cardiac treatment that is run by the Ahmadi community and treats patients of all faiths. In recent months, religious extremists distributed pamphlets in the area warning Muslims against using the hospital.

“Visiting a doctor or receiving treatment in that hospital is forbidden in Islam and an unforgivable sin,” said one such pamphlet. Mr. Din said the police and other law enforcement agencies had failed to act against those orchestrating the campaign.”

Qasim Nauman of Dow Jones Company. Inc. wrote an article on the incident and mentioned the following on http://online.wg.com/article/BTCO-20140526-703394.html:

“Zohra Yusuf, chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, an independent campaigning group, said that every religious minority in Pakistan is persecuted, but the Ahmadiyya community faces the worst treatment. Several local-language newspapers publish anti-Ahmadi material but there is no action against them, she said.

“Shantanu Sinha, a cardiologist in Lancaster who worked with Dr Qamar for the past 10 years, described him as a religious person who gave generously to his local community in Ohio. Dr Qamar worked at a vein care center called Vanishing Veins Ohio and at a cardiology office known as Cardio Vascular Specialists near the local hospital.

“He was one of the most honest, ethical and not-a-bad-bone-in-his-body kind of person,” said Dr. Sinha, adding that Dr. Qamar returned to Pakistan to provide free cardiac care. “He was very giving.

“An Ahmadiyya community’s spokesman, Saleem ud din said: Dr Qamar had arrived in Pakistan on Saturday for a week of volunteer work at the Tahir Heart Institute, a hospital run by the sect.

“Dr. Qamar regularly visited Pakistan, bringing with him medical equipment and supplies he collected in charity drives in the U.S, said his childhood friend Sultan Mubashir. Dr. Qamar wrote poetry in his spare time, and was planning to publish a collection of his poems, Mr. Mubashir said.

“I was friends with him for 44 years and I can’t remember us having an argument, let alone a fight, Mr. Mubashir said. How can anyone want to kill him? Ninety percent of our patients at the hospital aren’t Ahmadis. He didn’t care about your faith, he just wanted to help.”

Dr Ali was more than a cardiologist. He was a philanthropist, a social worker, a poet and a calligraphist. He won many professional awards; he was rated one of the outstanding and eminent cardiologists and physicians in the US. It seems that in him, one of Pakistan’s finest sons opted to take up US nationality and serve Pakistanis after acquiring excellent education and expertise in the West, only to be shot dead by religious bigots in the land of his origin.

The prestigious Daily Times, Lahore posted an op-ed on dailytimes.com.pak/editorial/27-May-2014- and gave it the title: We have let down the Ahmadi community. The full text of this op-ed is reproduced at the Annex to this report.

Ahmadi murdered while in police custody
Sharaqpur, District Sheikhupura; May 16, 2014:  Mr. Khalil Ahmad had been detained by the police on a fake blasphemy charge and was in police lock-up. A youth entered the police station and shot him dead. The following Press Release from the Ahmadiyya central office provides essential detail.
Press Release
Ahmadi arrested under baseless allegation of blasphemy gunned down in police custody
Ahmadis who believe in all the Prophets could never think of blasphemy: Spokesman Jamaat Ahmadiyya

Chenab Nagar: (PR) Mr. Khalil Ahmad, an Ahmadi who was arrested on baseless allegation of blasphemy has been killed in police custody in police station Sharaqpur, District Sheikhupura. We strongly condemn this barbarous act. This murder in police custody raises questions. The perpetrators should be brought to justice after a sound inquiry. As per details, a few days ago, over a trivial conflict the miscreants incited the village folk on loudspeakers. Thereafter the police registered a case under PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 against four Ahmadis, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad, Mubashir Ahmad and Mr. Khalil Ahmad. They arrested Mr. Khalil Ahmad.

A court accepted plea for bail of the three accused while Mr. Khalil Ahmad remained in the custody of the police in Police Station Sharaqpur. On Friday, one Saleem Ahmad entered the police station and shot dead Mr. Khalil Ahmad who was under detention. The police arrested the killer. Mr. Khalil Ahmad was 65 years old. He left behind a widow, two sons and two daughters.

Mr. Saleemuddin the spokesman of Jamaat Ahmadiyya expressed great grief over the incident and condemned it squarely. Blasphemy laws have become a tool with religious extremists who use them extensively to settle personal scores, he said. Had an impartial inquiry been held prior to registration of the case, it would have become clear that people were being agitated over a baseless petty squabble. Subsequent to the detention of the accused, it was the responsibility of the police to protect him; they were careless, and a precious life was lost, Mr. Saleemuddin said.

The Jamaat Ahmadiyya spokesman demanded an impartial inquiry in this incident of murder in police custody. The killer and the planners of this incident should be punished severely in accordance with law, he said. END

The killer entered the police station after permission, went to the cell of his target and fired a pistol shot at him from close quarters. The bullet hit Ahmad in the neck and went out from the other side. He died on the spot.

Sharaqpur is only 35 miles north-west of the Punjab capital.

The Punjab Police has a reputation of finding a culprit if they apply themselves to it. The killer youth came from a madrassah run by a banned outfit. It should not be difficult to find out his sponsors and motivators. They are the ones who hold the key to murders such as this one and assassinations of people like Governor Taseer, Minister Bhatti and Advocate Rashid Rehman.

The authorities should not miss this opportunity to bring such criminals to justice, as therein lies the peace of the society and the stability of the state.

Follow up: Two days later the sponsors of the murder sent approximately 20 youth to the residence of the deceased where a number of Ahmadis had gathered for offering condolences to the bereaved family. These urchins were riding two trucks, motor cycles and rickshaws. They had come as show of force and defiance. Ahmadis dispersed to avoid a confrontation. However, the police arrived, rounded up the miscreants and took some action.

Four Ahmadis charged with Blasphemy
Bhoiwal, Sharaqpur; May 12, 2014: Four Ahmadis were charged here under a blasphemy law PPC 295-A. According to the details, the four allegedly protested against an
objectionable poster and then tore it down from the wall of a local shopkeeper in their village, approximately 70 kilometers from Lahore.

A village Panchait intervened and the issue was settled. Later on, some mullas organized a demonstration and blocked the Lahore-Sharaqpur road for several hours to agitate and reignite the issue. They demanded exemplary punishment for the Ahmadis. They dispersed after senior police officials assured them of action against the accused.

The Ahmadis of the village felt very vulnerable after the incident and most of the families left their homes for fear of attack by the extremists. Meanwhile, the police registered a case against four Ahmadis, Mr. Mubashir Ahmad, Mr. Ghulam Ahmad, Mr. Khalil Ahmad and Mr. Ihsan Ahmad under clauses PPCs 295-A, 337-C and 427. The police launched raids and detained some other Ahmadis as well.

**Ahmadis lose their jobs for their faith**

*Mirpur Khas, Sindh; May 2014:* Anti-Ahmadiyya activities and propaganda are rife in this district too. Three Ahmadi youth who worked in the Bhitai Centre, were targeted by religious bigots who campaigned for their removal. Eventually the administration expelled them from their jobs.

**Anti-Ahmadiyya activities in Lahore**

*Samanabad; April 26, 2014:* Mr. Khushnood Ahmad had a close brush with severe religion-based persecution when he was whisked blind-folded to a police station on a baseless charge. Mr. Ahmad has a courier business of cargo. According to the details he received a phone call from someone who pretended to be a customer. The caller arranged a rendezvous with Mr. Ahmad but later changed it and asked him to come to the Red Chilli restaurant. This was a gang of mullas who played a trick to implicate Mr. Ahmad in a police case. Accordingly, a man came and handed over a bag to him in which there was a copy of the Holy Quran. Mr. Ahmad sensed danger. He tried to quit the place leaving the bag at the counter but mullas who had gathered there as planned, intercepted him and called the police. A police van arrived in no time, hand cuffed and blind-folded him and took him away. One of the mullas remarked, “I have been chasing you for the last one and half month.” The police shifted him first to an unknown place, then took him to Gulshane Ravi police station and then to Samanabad police station.

A delegation of the Ahmadiyya community reached the police station and convinced the higher officials that the entire event was a malicious plan of mullas and of Hasan Muawiya (a.k.a. Tooti), as he is always among the first to know of such cases and make a ‘complaint’. The superintendent of police understood the evil conspiracy and let Mr. Ahmad go.

*Rachna Town; April 24, 2014:* Mr. Bakhtiar Ahmad Butt is facing uncommon and unpleasant religion-based interest from his neighbors. There is a non-Ahmadiyya mosque in front of his house. Despite knowing that Mr. Butt is an Ahmadi, his neighbors frequently urged him to offer his prayers in their mosque.

Mr. Butt was returning home on April 24, 2014 when some of his neighbors stopped him in front of the mosque and forced him into the mosque. They harassed him there. They asked him whether he was a Muslim and to recite the Kalima. When he recited the Kalima, one of them shouted, “Congratulations, Mr. Butt has embraced Islam.” Mr. Butt was then released.

Mr. Butt reported the incident to his community elders. He was advised to exercise caution.

*Mughalpura; May 3, 2014:* An anti-Ahmadiyya conference “Mehfil Zikr Khutamun Nabiyyeen” was held here with the support of anti-Ahmadiyya mulla, Hasan Muawiya. Last year also they held a conference at the same site. In the light of that experience an
Ahmadiyya delegation met the local DSP/SHO and expressed their strong apprehensions regarding the scheduled conference. The SHO called the opponent party and made them sign an undertaking of good conduct. The mullas were not allowed to use sound-amplifiers, however unabashedly they used abusive language against the Ahmadiyya community and its elders as usual.

**An Ahmadi family made to flee for their faith**

*Chak no. 7, Seenibar, District Nankana Sahib; May 2014:* Agitation against the Ahmadiyya community is entering the red zone in the area. Local Ahmadis are harassed severely by Khatme Nabuwwat mullas. They hold demonstrations and agitate village folk to implement a complete boycott against all Ahmadis. Threats of murder and kidnapping have also been conveyed to Ahmadis. Mr. Ijaz Ahmad a school teacher recently became the focus of their hostility.

The mullas called Mr. Ahmad to a place for a ‘reconciliation meeting’ on behalf of one of his non-Ahmadi relatives. Mr. Ahmad arrived there and found the situation very hostile. After a talk of a few minutes, they started abusing and threatening him. They forced him to sign a paper that declared an end to his links with the Ahmadiyya community.

Mr. Ahmad then felt very sorry and under great stress shifted his wife and children elsewhere. He is considering resigning his job and relocating himself somewhere where he will have some peace and freedom of faith.

A complete boycott against Ahmadis is now in place in the area. Ahmadis are at great risk there.

**No room in military service for volunteer Ahmadis**

*Lahore; April 1, 2014:* An Ahmadi youth who qualified for recruitment in the Pak Army was rejected for his faith. Mr. Azhar Asghar, a resident of Rabwah cleared all tests in Lahore on October 09, 2013 for joining the army. He was told to report again to the Recruiting Office on April 1, 2014 for his posting to a training unit.

On reporting, he was given a form to fill. The form contained a ‘religion’ column. Azhar entered therein that he was an Ahmadi. At this he was singled out while others were told to proceed for training. He was told that his arm needed further medical assessment.

The doctor in the military hospital cleared him again, and he reported the fact to the recruiting office on April 9. He was told to come the next day for posting to Karachi for training.

The next day he presented himself at the office at 8 a.m. He was told to report again at 3 p.m. On arrival, a clerk told him to re-write his denomination as Muslim Sunni for acceptance, otherwise he was not acceptable. Azhar told the clerk that he will not misquote his belief. The clerk returned his documents to him, and Azhar went back home rejected.

**Attackers belonging to banned organizations arrested**

*Sarai Alamgir; May 8, 2014:* We reported in June 2013 that a group of unidentified criminals attacked and inflicted serious wounds on Mr. Farid Ahmad at his business location near Jhelum. The Gujrat Police have now announced that some members of this gang have been arrested. They were linked to banned organizations. According to the police this group was involved in various other attacks and crimes in addition to the ‘attack on Qadianis’. They killed the driver of a colonel, a police constable, and 7 innocent persons in a massacre in Jassoki village. They were involved in the crime of kidnapping for ransom too.

These religious thugs remind one of Bokoharam.
Training course for extremists

Lahore: The daily Islam, Lahore, a far-right Jihadist paper, published the following ad in its issue of May 21, 2014 (translation, extracts):

10 day Khatme Nabuwwat Tarbiyati (Training) Course
at Jamia Abdullah Bin Umar, Gujjar Matta near Kahna Nau, Lahore
Commencing 31 may, Saturday at 0800
Bring your seasonal bedding along
Contact: 0321-8823953

While there is nothing wrong with doing a course on a religious theme, the devil lies in detail. Do they teach bloodshed to ‘protect’ end of prophethood? Do they indulge in intense hateful, bigoted, sectarian propaganda? Do they recruit the students as hit-men, after the course? Who are the instructors? What is their past like? Who provides them funds? Answers to these questions are important, as these will enable the authorities to parry future sectarian assaults and strikes.

Sectarian strife in Pakistan and the government

Islamabad; May 18, 2014: The daily Dawn reported the following as lead story, (excerpts):

“Steps listed to fight sectarian strife
According to the interior ministry, 950 lives were lost in three years.
“ISLAMABAD: Over 950 people have been killed in sectarian attacks over the past three years, according to a report compiled by the interior ministry. What is more alarming, however, is that the trend is on the rise and the government seems to have failed to control it.

“According to the report, 197 people were killed because of sectarian strife in 2011, a number which witnessed a sharp spike to 370 in 2012. And the next year brought no relief as the violence claimed 387 lives....

“Promises & promises: The ministry has listed five steps that the government is implementing to curb sectarian violence. Ironically, none of them appears to be going to stop mindless persecution of people in the name of religion. Most of the suggested measures have already been used as a policy. But to little avail.

“...”

“Fourth, the government says it will ban sectarian organizations that preach hate. Since the present government came into being, not a single organization has been banned, although many banned groups have appeared with new names.

“Critics argue the banning an organization serves little purpose if they are not monitored and the ban is not effectively imposed. The incessant sectarian killings by proscribed organizations could be cited to substantiate the argument.
The last action suggested by the interior ministry, headed by Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, is to take action against publication and distribution of hate literature.

“This too is nothing new. For decades, experts have been suggesting that such writings need to be controlled, Whether the present government will be able to succeed where all others have failed is any body’s guess.
“But it is unclear when the government will awaken from slumber and make progress on these promises. This week, the National Assembly passed a resolution to condemn the increasing number of incidents of desecration of minorities’ places of worship across the country.”

Civil society mourns the loss of Advocate Rashid Rehman

_Multan; May 8, 2014:_ Advocate Rashid Rehman a committed rights activist was gunned here. These days he was defending an under trial blasphemy accused.

Mr. Rehman was not an Ahmadi, however his murder has a direct impact on the persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan. Hence his mention in this report. Also, we would like to mention this courageous good man in our archives to honor his memory and services to the down trodden.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) mentioned in their press release: “It must be recalled that on 10 April, through a statement, the Commission had brought it to the attention of the authorities that Rashid was being openly threatened by prosecution lawyers in the Multan District Prison where he was representing a blasphemy accused. Three persons had addressed defense lawyer Rashid Rehman in the judge’s presence and said: ‘You will not come to court next time because you will not exist anymore.’” It is regrettable that no attention was paid to HRCP’s or Rashid’s concerns and nothing was done to apprehend three persons who had threatened Rashid. In its earlier statement, HRCP had demanded that the three persons who had threatened defense lawyer Rashid Rehman in the case be ‘proceeded against under the law without delay and effective measures are taken to ensure the defense lawyers security.”

Ms Iram Abbasi posted her comments on BBC Urdu.com the same day under headline: _When religion becomes a business, only the beasts reign._ Excerpts: “Rashid Rehman was a bold man. He refused to bend before extremism despite difficulties...”

“When I asked him whether he feared his unguarded office and court appearances, he pointed toward Junaid, the accused and said, “I am his last hope. Lawyers are afraid to defend him; but no one can deter me from my work.”

“With every passing day, men like Rashid Rehman and those who care for them, are diminishing in numbers, and the self-seekers who impose their bigotry on people through the muzzle of the gun are winning the battle....”

According to a press report no lawyer out of the thousands in Multan is prepared to take up the case of the murder of his workmate Rashid Rehman.

A few days later, an Ahmadi, falsely accused of blasphemy was gunned down in a police lock-up in the same province Punjab. To date approximately 300 Ahmadis had to face blasphemy allegations under PPC 295-C - all entirely false; no exaggeration.

On May 26 a renowned American Ahmadi doctor who had come to Pakistan on a charity mission was shot dead in Rabwah, Punjab.

9 countries where genocide is most likely to happen

_Globalpost:_ This news site claims to focus on original reporting from journalists stationed around the world…. And offers fresh perspective on global developments.

On Monday, May 12, 2014 it posted a report under the above title written by Sarah Wafle, as this year marks the 20th anniversary to the genocide in Rwanda. It named 9 countries; Pakistan is one of them.
**Ahmadis behind bars**

1. Mr. Tahir Ahmad Khalid, an Ahmadiyya missionary was charged under PPC 295-B on March 31, 2014 in Tando Allah Yar, Sindh. Sessions court has rejected his plea for bail. He remains behind bars, pending a plea before the High Court.

2. Mr. Muhammad Yar was charged under anti-Ahmadi clause PPC 298-C on March 14, 2014 in Nama Jandekia, District Okara. He remains behind bars. A sessions judge rejected his plea for bail.

**From the media**

**Chiniot: US Pakistan-born (Ahmadi) doctor shot dead by unidentified men**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 27, 2014*

**Blasphemy accused (Ahmadi) murdered in police custody**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, May 17, 2014*

**Blasphemy case against (six) Ahmadis**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 15, 2014*

**Year 2013: 273 Ahmadi murdered for faith, 27 places of worship demolished (since 1984); human rights not restored.**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 22, 2014*

**Ahmadi minority is facing South African apartheid-like situation: Experts**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 2, 2014*

`‘Violence against Ahmadis is at its peak today.’`

*The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, May 22, 2014*

**Those who demand religious freedom for Qadianis are (our) enemy: Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat**

*The daily Insaf; Lahore, May 10, 2014*

**Qadianis are busy creating clash among army, judiciary and democratic institutions: Ulama Al-Sharaq**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 19, 2014*

**Qadianis are the greatest enemy of Islam: (Mulla) Zahid Habib**

*The daily Khabrain; Lahore, May 1, 2014*

**Qadiani (subject) director in the Punjab University unacceptable: Alami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat**

*Al Sharq; Lahore, May 29, 2014*

**Eight troops among 18 killed in blasts, clashes (in FATA)**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 25, 2014*

**Bomb explosion in Miranshah; 9 troops killed, many injured**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 9, 2014*

**Mohmand Agency: 5 bullet-ridden bodies found**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 27, 2014*

**Five killed in Peshawar stadium suicide blast**

*The daily News; Lahore, May 12, 2014*

**Activist (Rashid Rehman, Advocate) in blasphemy case is shot dead in Pakistan (Multan)**

*The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, May 10, 2014*

**Two school girls shot dead in Hangu**

*The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, May 19, 2014*

**‘Sectarian attacks’ in Karachi leave three more dead**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 21, 2014*

**Terrorists killed 1,500 last year (in Pakistan), says US report**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 1, 2014*
School blown up in Bajaur

The daily Nation; Lahore, May 10, 2014

Blast injures four security officials (in Swat)

The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, May 3, 2014

Imambargah trustee among four killed in ‘sectarian attacks’

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 20, 2014

Ineligibility case: Last chance to Ilyas Chinioti to appear before High court…. Maulana is accused on many counts including hiding of assets.

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, May 29, 2014

(Supreme) Court says desecration of a place of worship of any faith is an act of blasphemy.

The court (headed by the Chief Justice) observed that desecration of worship of any faith attracted blasphemy laws under section 295 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC)…

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 14, 2014

Deviation from Sharia should be declared a criminal offence. Chairman CII

The daily Islam, Lahore, May 16, 2014

Sunnī Ittehad Council issues fatwa against Geo

The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, May 16, 2014

We shall rid the country of cancer of power shortage and extremism: Shahbaz Sharif

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 4, 2014

Nigerian extremists threaten to sell kidnapped (200) girls. Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau says the students ‘will remain slaves with us’.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 6, 2014

Islamists abduct eight more Nigerian girls

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 7, 2014

UK lawmakers want aid linked to extremism

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 1, 2014

India deploys army in Assam after 31 Muslims killed

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 4, 2014

Saudi school introduces sports for girls

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 19, 2014

Sudan judge sentences Christian woman to death for apostasy

The daily Nation; Lahore, May 16, 2014

2700 feared dead in Afghanistan landslide

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 4, 2014

8 Levies men killed in attack on check post (in Baluchistan)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 26, 2014

The tribals are guarding the country without pay: Sirajul Haq (of JI)

The daily Jinnah; Lahore, May 2, 2014

FAFEN alleges over 71,000 irregularities in 2013 polls

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 11, 2014

$200 bn of Pakistan in Swiss banks: Dar (the Finance Minister)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 11, 2014

Over 200 Sikhs were booked for attacking, assaulting and rioting at the Parliament House, police said on Saturday… (they protested over desecration of Garanth Sahib)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 25, 2014

Shopkeeper jailed for life in blasphemy case

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 9, 2014

WHO puts shackles on Pakistan over polio

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 6, 2014
Op-ed **A new order?**

…Death brings no respite to Ahmadis either. In 2012, the tombstones of more than 100 graves were razed by 12 to 15 armed men. The graveyard belonged to the Ahmadi community and the verdict given by the terrorists was that the use of verses of the Quran on tombstones by Ahmadis, who are considered heretics and even entitled to be murdered by extremist groups in the country, is forbidden. Thus, Pakistan is a country where being part of the Ahmadi community means you are not allowed to rest in peace even after you are dead. It is not just extremists but also a large majority of Muslims in the country that believes in a similar ideology. The only difference is that extremists actually kill and persecute members of the Ahmadi community, and the rest of the people make sure that members of this community are socially excluded in every possible manner.

*Gulmina Bilal Ahmad in Daily Times; Lahore, May 02, 2014*

Op-ed: **Towards insanity**

Tahir Ahmad (Ahmadi) has been arrested on an FIR registered by Qari Ayub on the charge that the former desecrated the Quran held by Qari Ayub’s son Salman. This simple statement was enough to put Tahir behind bars, see his house ransacked, label him a blasphemer and get an FIR registered against him. No evidence was sought to prove the truth or otherwise of Salman’s accusation. Joseph colony’s ashes are being reigned by the injustice that could not verify the conversation between Sawan Masih and his Muslim friends in which the former is alleged to have disrespected Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). While Sawan has been sentenced to death (against which he has now appealed to the Lahore High Court), no one so far has been punished for burning down the temples, forcing the Hindus to leave their abodes in Sindh.

This is a malady that requires the government to wake up and listen to the ominous call of the religious disorder that could turn the country into an insane asylum.

*From the Daily Times of April 3, 2014*

Op-ed: **The Islamic Republic of Saudistan?**

The personal agents of Pakistan’s ruling elite, past and present, have led to the creeping, culturally alien Saudisation of Pakistan.

*Newsline April 2014*

Op-ed **Interview: The country is on a suicide mission**

````Watch the circus going on nowadays… A country that cannot fight polio and deal with a law that is so obviously being misused to settle scores can only be pitied.````

````When Pakistan’s history will be objectively written it will be the most documented case of a country where treachery ruled and won. It’s no longer a few misled individuals, but the country itself that is on a suicide mission. Only God can save us from ourselves.````

Stated by Ms. Asma Jahangir, former president of Supreme Court Bar Association, in the daily Dawn; Lahore, May 18, 2014; p.7 of Images.

Annex: “We have let down the Ahmedi community” an op-ed from the Daily Times, Lahore
We have let down the Ahmedi community

Pakistan is being torn apart by one of the greatest evils known to man: a slow genocide instigated by hate and warped religious ideology. Ratcheting up our attacks against the typically docile Ahmedi community, the latest fatality comes from Chenab Nagar, Punjab, where a renowned heart surgeon, the 50-year-old Dr Mehdi Ali, was gunned down by ‘unknown’ assailants while visiting the cemetery containing graves of his family members.

What was his crime? Being a visible part of the Ahmedi community. Dr Mehdi Ali was settled in the US and was on a volunteer visit to Chenab Nagar — also known as Rabwah, the traditional hometown of the Ahmedi community — to help heart patients at a local state-of-the-art hospital he had helped build. He leaves behind his wife and children, forever scarred by the truth: Pakistan is no place for good men.

We are now entering a very dark and fearful point in our history where man is murdered for his beliefs and blasphemy charges abound for every slight. Religious and sectarian rifts have become so deep that right and wrong, and the actual teachings of our peaceful religion have become blurred and meaningless. The hospital in Chenab Nagar, built by the Ahmedi community, is known to be well-equipped and leagues ahead of the government (and many private) hospitals across Pakistan. So much so that reports have indicated that some members of the clergy in the area, usually so hateful of the Ahmedi community, have sought treatment there for themselves and their families while pleading with the hospital’s doctors not to reveal their ‘sin’. Hypocrisy knows no bounds here it seems. This daylight murder of the good doctor comes only days after another Ahmedi was shot dead in a police station, again in Punjab. These attacks are becoming all too frequent and much more sinister. Where deviants would be satiated with death threats and having Ahmedis jailed for the gall to call their houses of worship mosques or greet each other with the typical Islamic greeting, they are now moving on to murder in almost every scenario.

There has to come a time when the government stops dragging its heels on this issue and starts taking affirmative action against this ‘religious’ cleansing. The Ahmedis, despite being declared by the state as non-Muslims, deserve the protection of the state and to have their rights as citizens fully protected. The culprits must be found and punished, not allowed to get away scot-free as they usually do. The blasphemy law, which is often used against the Ahmedi community in false cases, must be amended in the very least to offer safeguards against those who are falsely accused. We cannot just sit back while innocent people die because of a sick ideological mindset. The Ahmedis are hard working, peace-loving citizens; they deserve much better than this. *