

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

News Report July 2017

Exertion and sweat required to build an Ahmadiyya community center in Pakistan - unbelievable

Gorgajj, District Larkana; May - July 2017: There is a sizeable Ahmadiyya community in the village Gorgajj located in District Larkana, the home town of the well-known Bhutto family. Ahmadis there decided to build a small complex comprising a school, a mosque and a residence for the religious teacher. For this they had a plot of land. The mullas however had their eyes on that plot and they intended to occupy it. The construction had already started, but the mullas from the nearby town of Wara became active to stop it. They reported to the police, as a first step.

The police visited the site and talked to the local population. Having heard the general opinion, the police permitted Ahmadis to resume construction of the boundary wall, but not build any madrassa etc. At this occasion the visiting police inspector and the local chief (a non-Ahmadi) reproved the mullas for attempt to deny the Ahmadis their right to practice their faith.

A few days later, urged by the mullas, the building contractor stopped the work on the boundary wall. When approached by Ahmadis, he regretted his action and resumed the work.

Thereafter, a delegation of mullas from Wara called on the village chief of Gorgajj who put them to shame for their unworthy campaign. The mullas noted the chief's annoyance, went back and declared that Ahmadis in Gorgajj were not their concern.

A week later the mullas changed their mind and decided to become aggressive. They declared that they would hire a crane to demolish the boundary wall. On hearing this, the village chief sent them a message that the crane would be destroyed on trespassing.

On July 5, the mullas arrived in numbers. The situation became tense. The police were informed by the Ahmadis. They came, dispersed the crowd and arrested one of the miscreants. Later, the mullas got him released.

The next day, the mullas took out a procession in Wara and indulged in bad-mouthing the Ahmadis. They accused the village chief of conversion. They decided to proceed to Gorgajj and destroy the built-up portion of the complex. The police as well as the district ISI official were informed. The police arrived, so did a group of miscreants all set to undertake the demolition. The police threatened to open fire. The miscreants had to beat the retreat.

The mullas thereafter took a few days to approach the district leadership of JUI who expressed sympathy with their cause. At this the village chief invited the senior mulla at Wara to come personally to solve the issue; the chief did not invite people from Larkana to meddle with the local affairs.

Eventually, it was decided by mutual agreement that one Mr. Tharo Khan, chief of the Chandio tribe would decide the issue. However, on July 16 the mullas formally applied to the police to register a blasphemy case against 8 named Ahmadis for allegedly defiling the

Quran. The police took down the names of these Ahmadis but withheld further action for the time being.

On July 18, Mr. Tharo Khan gave the following verdict:

- The boundary wall already built (8 feet high) will be dismantled to the height of 5 feet.
- A large entrance gate may be installed.
- No further construction is permitted. No school or mosque shall be built.

The police hurried to have the verdict signed by the Ahmadis.

True: Believe it or not!

Construction of Ahmadiyya centre not cleared

Dhor, District Nawab Shah: Last month we reported the following on this subject:

“Ahmadis decided to build a community centre on a plot registered in the name of Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya. They got the construction plan approved by the Sindh House Building Control Authority, and approached the DC to get NOC for the construction. When an official came to inspect the place, a local shop-keeper named Ghaffar came to know of the plan for building the Ahmadiyya centre. He agitated the issue. He led a rally against Ahmadis on June 9 and got all the shops closed in protest against the construction of the proposed centre. Ahmadis contacted the authorities who intervened and decided to let the situation calm down before further action”.

Thereafter, on a Friday, the mullas held a *Dharna* (sit-in) of approximately 50 protesters at this site. Ahmadis reported this to the police. The police assured Ahmadis of support and security.

It is now learnt that the police sent a report to the DC on the issue with their observation that construction there could be a threat to the general peace and create a law and order situation.

Well, that puts a stop to Ahmadis’ plan of having a community centre. The administration provides them tea and sympathy, but does the mulla’s bidding. The rights of the marginalized communities are readily sacrificed at the altar of ‘law and order’. Is the police not required to maintain law and order when miscreants threaten the constitutional rights of others?

Also, can the authorities point to one occasion when they authorized Ahmadis to build for themselves a place for worship, in the last thirty years? Whither freedom of religion or belief for Ahmadis?

Lahore persists in keeping Ahmadis in pressure-cooker

Lahore, July 2017: For years now, Lahore is a centre of anti-Ahmadi activities. Religious bigots enjoy direct or indirect support from the administration to keep the pot boiling. Lahore is the city where in year 2010 terrorists shouting *Khatme Nabuwwat - Zindah Baad*. (Long live - End of Prophethood) killed 86 Ahmadi worshippers at Friday prayers, and the chief minister Shahbaz Sharif decided to not make a condolence or sympathy call on the afflicted community. In fact, the mullas of the official Muttahidah Ulama Board have subsequently tightened the noose further on Ahmadis in the Punjab, with the active endorsement of the provincial home department by banning all the written works of the founder of the

community. Anyway, the anti-Ahmadi hate campaign goes on at the street level, the administration looking the other way. For example - this month:

- Tehrik Ya Rasul Ullah and Tehrik Sirat Mustaqeem Pakistan organizations held a 40-day course of Recitation and Khatme Nabuwat at Hanifa and Siddiqua Mosques. Maulvi Khadim Hussain used foul language in the class, against the Ahmadiyya Jamaat.
- A lecture (*dars*) was organized in the Ahle Hadith mosque in Daroghawala, Mughalpura. Qari Yunus Azad, the local *Khatib* (prayer-leader) indulged in diatribe against Ahmadis.
- The participants of conference on Seerat un Nabi in Al-Saud Hall, Fateh Garh were harangued on the Ahmadiyya issue. This event was also organized by Tehrik Labbaik Ya Rasul Ullah.
- Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat (AMTKN) held a mass meeting on July 13. Mullas Aziz ur Rahman Sani, Qari Aleemuddin, Abdul Shakoor Haqqani, Qari Abdul Aziz and Saeed Waqar were main speakers.

Abdul Shakoor Haqqani said that opposition to the Blasphemy laws is a Jewish and Qadiani agenda. If the authorities make any move in that direction, the AMTKN will defend the Blasphemy laws at all levels. Qari Aleemuddin asserted that they will not allow any conspiracy to succeed that aims at repealing the Blasphemy law. This meeting passed a resolution that the government should effectively stop Qadianis' relief operations as these promote their deception (*dajl o fraib*).

In addition to the above, AMTKN Gulshan Ravi sector held a meeting on July 16, 2017. Maulvi Mashhud Ahmad presided. The participants were told that the great edifice of worldwide Islam rested on the pillars of End of Prophethood. This dogma is the soul (*Rooh*) of the Islamic principle. Qadianiat is nothing but Zindiqiat (worse than apostasy). We'll continue their accountability at all levels. We will tolerate no plot against the Blasphemy law.

Below is a report that highlights the plight of an Ahmadi at his work-place in Lahore.

Problems at work

Lahore; 2017: Mr. Abrar Ahmad, Ahmadi, is facing difficulties and loss of well-deserved benefits at his work place, only for his faith. He is employed as a manager in Saira Memorial Hospital, Model Town, Lahore.

Recently Dr Aasim, a senior member of the hospital's Board of Trustees took him and presented him to the CEO. There he told the CEO, "This chap is a Mirzai, a *kafir*; why have we employed him?" When Mr. Abrar attempted a response, the doctor pulled him by the arm and said, "You know that you have given in writing that you are an Ahmadi!" "Yes, I am an Ahmadi; and that is what I would declare. Why should I tell a lie for holding on to a job?" replied Mr. Abrar. Dr Aasim did not like the honest reply and blurted, "If I had the powers, I would fire you." Then he indulged in bad-mouthing the Ahmadiyya community.

Mr. Abrar has not been granted medical benefits and some other service privileges for the last four years. Every time he is told, “Dr Aasim does not agree.”

Hostility in the bazaar

Mittha Tawana, District Khushab; June/July 2017: Mr. Inamullah Khan Ahmadi is a representative of the MOBILINK in Qaidabad, District Khushab. He is active in the community life and is district president of the Ahmadi youth. For quite some time he has been targeted by the Khatme Nabuwwat organization who campaign against him and his business activities, among the population, especially traders.

In the past, Mr. Inamullah’s opponents were active in Qaidabad and Chak 2 TDA; now they have extended their hateful campaign to the town of Mittha Tawana.

On June 20, they posted anti-Ahmadi posters in the town. Traders were urged to boycott all dealings with Inamullah. Some members of the MOBILINK joined the AMTKN in this drive and shared anti-Ahmadiyya messages with the company’s WhatsApp group.

As a result of the above, a number of traders boycotted MOBILINK. This made the company send their official to Mittha Tawana to make an inquiry. During the inquiry when the official and Mr. Inaamullah visited a shop, the shop-keeper objected to Mr. Inaamullah’s visit and told him to get out as he was a *kafir* and kafirs were not allowed to enter his shop. Subsequently the bigot told the company official that the boycott would be lifted only when the Qadiani was fired.

The official went back to report his findings to his superiors.

A well-considered discrimination!

July 9, 2017: The Government of Sindh got published a half-page ad, in colour in various newspapers including the daily Jang, Lahore of July 9, 2017, paid from public funds; it carried a message of felicitations to the Aga Khan IV, under the following headline:

A deeply felt hearty message of felicitations at the Diamond Jubilee of the Imamate of the 49th hereditary and familial Imam Prince Shah Karim ul Hussaini Agha Khan of the Shia Imamia Ismaili Muslims.

A colour picture of the Aga Khan adores a quarter of the page of the newspaper. Three pictures, although smaller in size, of Messers Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto and Murad Ali Shah are pasted in line above the headline.

A statement of gratefulness for the Aga Khan’s tireless services to the country is made in the text of the ad.

Ahmadis appreciate the Government of Sindh’s public support to the Ismaili community in the face of mullah’s insistence that Ismailis are non-Muslims, perhaps more so than the ‘Qadianis’.

Ahmadis, however, also wish that the government’s courageous treatment of minority communities were more even-handed. Many Ahmadis have been murdered for their faith in Karachi, and the mullas of Khatme Nabuwwat are free to declare them *Wajibul Qatl* (must be killed) in the open. Also, the authorities may like to look up their records and see if they have permitted even one house of worship for Ahmadis in Sindh province in the last three decades.

Chairman Mark of USCIRF advocates release of Mr Abdul Shakoor, Ahmadi prisoner of conscience

Twitter and USCIRF website, July 2017: Chairman Daniel Mark is advocating on behalf of Mr. Abdul Shakoor, Ahmadi book store-keeper of Rabwah and his Shia shop assistant, both suffering long imprisonment under Anti-terrorism clauses etc. He has done that as part of USCIRF's Religious Prisoners of Conscience Project which highlights individuals imprisoned for exercising their freedom of religion or belief, as well as the dedicated advocacy of USCIRF Commissioners working for their release. Chairman Mark adopted Mr. Abdul Shakoor as his Prisoner of Conscience. We reproduce below, his tweet and statement on USCIRF website:

Tweet

USCIRF @USCIRF · Jul 14
Abdul Shakoor is an 80 year old #Ahmadi and store manager sentenced to prison in #Pakistan on #blasphemy charges. #FreeReligiousPrisoners

“ I call on the Pakistani government to immediately release Abdul Shakoor...and to respect and protect all members of Pakistan's Ahmadiyya community. ”

Daniel Mark
USCIRF CHAIRMAN

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom #FreeReligiousPrisoners

<https://twitter.com/USCIRF/status/885977403637600256>

Statement available on video

My name is Daniel Mark and I am the Chairman of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. I am speaking out today in support of Abdul Shakoor, a Pakistani optician and bookstore owner who is in his 80's. The Pakistani government unjustly has imprisoned him for propagating the Ahmadiyya faith. The Pakistani government should not only drop all charges and set Abdul Shakoor free but also respect and protect the basic rights of all members of Pakistan's Ahmadiyya community. On December 2, 2015, Punjab state counter-terrorism department raided Mr. Shakoor's bookstore and arrested him after he was accused of selling an Ahmadiyya commentary on the Quran among other publications.

He was charged with propagating the Ahmadiyya faith, a crime under the Pakistani penal code and storing up religious hatred and sectarianism, crimes under the 1997 Anti-terrorism Act. After a speedy trial in an anti-terrorism court he was sentenced on Jan 2, 2016 to five years' imprisonment under the penal code for blasphemy and three years under the Anti-terrorism Act (sic). His shop assistant Mazhar Abbas a Shia Muslim who is detained with him was sentenced to five years under the Anti-terrorism Act. The Pakistani government should immediately set him free too. Let's be clear Abdul Shakoor is not a terrorist. He was arrested, charged and imprisoned because he is an Ahmadi. His arrest, sentencing and detention are outrageous enough but so too are Pakistan's' constitutional and penal code provisions that prevent Ahmadis from exercising their faith.

Equally egregious is the Pakistani government use of anti-terrorism laws as a pretext to deny Ahmadis their fundamental right to religious freedom. Pakistan's constitution declares Ahmadis to be non-Muslims and the penal code makes it criminal for Ahmadis to refer to themselves as Muslims, to preach, propagate or disseminate materials on their faith or to refer to their houses of worship as mosques. Moreover, in order to apply for a passport or national I.D. card or even vote, all Pakistani Muslims are required to sign in oath that the founder of the Ahmadiyya faith is an imposter prophet and that all Ahmadis are non-Muslims. In short, Ahmadis are required to denounce their faith in order to avail themselves of important several rights in Pakistan. Ahmadis also continue to be murdered in religiously-motivated attacks that take place with impunity. I call on the Pakistani government to immediately release Abdul Shakoor and ensure his safety, to release all other religious prisoners of conscience and to respect and to respect and protect all members of Pakistan's Ahmadiyya community.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=ZhSv_WtH7ps

Note: The USCIRF has posted on its website a statement on Mr Abdul Shakoor's case. Its transcript is reproduced as Annex to this report. <http://www.uscifr.gov/abdul-shakoor>

A brief report on Annual Convention of the Ahmadiyya ... community in the UK

July 31, 2017: Ahmadiyya Jamaat has been holding its annual conventions, at its centre Qadian, India (with rare exception, due force majeure) till 1946, thereafter in Rabwah, Pakistan. This went on till 1983, when in 1984 the Khalifa tul Masih, the Supreme Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Community had to leave Pakistan, in consequence of the anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinance XX of 1984. Since then authorities have never permitted holding of this convention in Pakistan, although requests were repeatedly made. Now they do not bother even to send a reply.

The UK Ahmadi community, however continues to hold its annual convention, and as the Khalifa tul Masih resides in London and participates in it, it has a special status for the worldwide Jamaat. The 51st convention in the UK was held recently on 28 - 30 July 2017 in Hampshire county, south of London. Some interesting statistics and information from this convention are produced below:

- The participants numbered over 37,000.
- There were delegates from 114 countries at this occasion.
- Non-Ahmadi and non-Muslim VIPs and groups from a number of European, African and Asian countries also attended. Some of them addressed the convention.

- The progress report read out on the second day mentioned that over 609,000 new members had been initiated in the community worldwide during the past one year.
- Ahmadiyya community is now found in 210 countries of the world. Honduras was added to this list last year.
- Ahmadiyya community runs 714 schools and 37 hospitals, mostly in the developing world, regardless of beneficiaries' creed, colour, ethnicity, etc.
- Humanity First, an NGO is active in 49 countries in service to mankind.

It was announced in the convention that Dr Lenid Roshal of Moscow was nominated for The Ahmadiyya Muslim Prize for the Advancement of Peace, for his professional services to the World Health Organization and his noble work as chairman of International Charity Fund to Help Children in Disasters and Wars.

VIPs addressed the convention, while some who could not be personally present, sent audio and video messages. Ms. Theresa May, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom sent the following video message:

(Sic) The Ahmadiyya Muslim community is noted throughout the world for its commitment to serving humanity. Many members work hard to alleviate poverty, provide education to children in the developing world and to help areas recover from mutual disasters through the charity Humanity First. It has been my pleasure to meet many members of the British Ahmadiyya community and to see firsthand the work you do to build bridges between people of different backgrounds. I was also pleased to be able to welcome some members of the community to the recent reception I hosted at 10 Downing Street to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr. And I am proud of the great contribution you make in so many areas, from government, by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon (who) serves as Minister of State, to business and professional life and in charitable giving.

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. 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 months. On demand of the riot leadership, a separate police case has been registered against Ahmadis, on orders of a court. Four Ahmadis remain in prison. Sixty rioters out of the 67 detained have been released on bail by courts. A plea for bail of Ahmadis awaits hearing at the Lahore High 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. They are in prison. They were refused bail by the Supreme Court.
2. Mr. Qamar Ahmad was charged under PPC 295-B for alleged desecration of the Holy Quran in Jhelum, and was arrested on November 20, 2015. Religious bigots attacked the Ahmadi-owned factory and Ahmadis' houses after his arrest and set them on fire after looting the valuables. Those who attacked the Ahmadiyya mosque the next day have been granted bail, but not Mr. Ahmad. Mr. Ahmad has been sentenced to imprisonment for life.
3. 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.
4. 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 Ahmadiyya 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 at the Lahore High Court.
5. 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 from 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. None of the four Ahmadis accused has been granted bail.
6. 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.

From the media

Ulama condemn appointment of a Qadiani as vice principal

The daily Islam; Lahore, July 18, 2017

All Pakistan End of Prophethood Conference scheduled on 19-20 October in Chenab Nagar

The daily Islam; Lahore, July 20, 2017

Qadianis are busy conspiring against Islam and Pakistan, under Indian patronage: speakers (in IKNM rally in Sargodha)

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, July 20, 2017

The dogma of End of Prophethood is the most important (aham) and fundamental (bunyadi) of our faith (iman): Pir Saifullah Khalid

The daily Jang; Lahore, July 21, 2017

Chenab Nagar (Rabwah) is a center of apostasy: Maulana Ilyas Chinioti MPA PML (N)

The daily Islam; Lahore, July 19, 2017

Lahore plunges into mourning. Nine cops among 26 killed in suicide blast. TTP claims responsibility

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 25, 2017

Mastong (Baluchistan): 4 Hazaras dead, one injured in firing by unknown persons

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, July 20, 2017

DPO among three killed in Chaman suicide blast

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 11, 2017

Three FC soldiers killed in Kurram blasts

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 11, 2017

Three policemen, boy killed in Karachi attack

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 22, 2017

Army major martyred in Peshawar suicide attack; 10 injured

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 18, 2017

Militants 'virtually' running Karachi central Prison, says CTD inquiry report

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 11, 2017

Army launches operation in Khyber valley

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 17, 2017

Peshawar clerics call Ruet penal unconstitutional

The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, July 6, 2017

The sectarian cobra was deliberately nourished: Milli Yakjehti Council

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, July 16, 2017

Intolerance in society result of Zia's rule, says Senate chief (Raza Rabbani)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 6, 2017

'NA body on human rights should focus on rights violations'. Members say standing committee should concentrate on human rights violations instead of criticizing NCHR.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 26, 2017

Nawaz Sharif's decline started after the hanging of Mumtaz Qadri (Governor's murderer): Siraj ul Haq (Amir JI)

The daily Jang; Lahore, July 23, 2017

(Javed Hashmi) says sadiq and amin clauses were introduced in Constitution by Zia to target opponents

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 13, 2017

Acid attacks have become a brutal new trend in the UK

The weekly Time; July 21, 2017

Top Europe court upholds full-face veil ban in Belgium

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 12, 2017

Saudi funding extremism in UK, says report

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 6, 2017

India's SC suspends ban on trade in cattle for slaughter

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 12, 2017

US imposes fresh sanctions on Iran

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 19, 2017

30,000 prisoners were killed without trial on Imam Khomeini's orders: Disclosure in Iran by ex-intelligence official

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, July 20, 2017

Four soldiers martyred as Indian shells hit jeep (in AJK)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 17, 2017

North Korean leader says 'all US' within range after missile test

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 30, 2017

Of the 577 new law makers (in France) 223 are female

The weekly Time; July 3, 2017

Military court upholds Israeli soldier's manslaughter conviction

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 31, 2017

JIT is controversial, so would be its report: Fazl ur Rehman (JUI)

The daily Jang; Lahore, July 9, 2017

Maryam (PM's daughter) accused of submitting false documents

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 11, 2017

Final (JIT) report says PM family assets beyond their known means

The daily The Nation; Lahore, July 11, 2017

Only a miracle can save you, Nisar tells PM

The daily The News; Lahore, July 16, 2017

PM flatly rejects call for resignation

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 14, 2017

(Imran Khan disqualification case) Contradiction - What was the source of payment for London apartment? Provide evidence: Supreme Court

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, July 14, 2017

Prime Minister Azad Kashmir (is) Ghatia (shallow), Zalil (base) without shame (for his vile remarks in support of NS): Imran Khan

The daily Jang; Lahore, July 31, 2017

SP, three guards martyred in Quetta

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 14, 2017

Governor refuses to sign Sindh's anti-NAB bill

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 15, 2017

90% of MPs corrupt, alleges Dasti (himself an MP)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 21, 2017

MPA's daughter accused of beating teenage servant to death (in Lahore)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 12, 2017

Supreme Court wants independent medical board to examine Dr Asim. Notes 10 boards have mentioned different diseases afflicting PPP leader (Note: Dr Asim faces number of corruption references)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 15, 2017

Yet another prime minister (Nawaz Sharif) comes to grief

- **In a stunning verdict, SC disqualifies PM for not declaring income from UAE-based capital FZE to ECP**
- **NAB given six weeks to file references against PM's children, Dar and Capt. Safdar**
- **Probe ordered into 16 Sharif family companies**
- **Nawaz out, Shahbaz in**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 29, 2017

The court (SC) did not give us *Insaf* (justice); it gave us *Tehrik Insaf* (PTI): Maulana Fazl ur Rahman

The daily Jang; Lahore, July 30, 2017

All PML-N MPAs back Hamza (Sharif) for CM slot

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 31, 2017

Precedence set; now it is Imran Khan and Jahangir Tareen's turn: Anusha Rehman (TV commentator)

The daily Jang; Lahore, July 30, 2017

Hudaibya case to be resurrected, NAB assures apex court.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 22, 2017

(Zafar Hijazi) SECP chief's pre-arrest bail plea dismissed - (arrested)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 22, 2017

4 fake Pirs, who practiced washing childless women naked, arrested in Sahiwal

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, July 26, 2017

20 Panchayet members arrested for ordering rape

The daily The News; Lahore, July 27, 2017

13-year RI in cybercrime case

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 14, 2017

Five drown as chairlift plunges into river

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 16, 2017

Op-ed International Law in Pakistan

Pakistan became a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 2010, a move that many hoped would herald greater human rights protection in the country. The government, however, never fully acknowledged the obligations it undertook under the ICCPR and the treaty was rarely used to guide the country's laws and policies. On the contrary, senior government officials often publicly disavowed international human rights law as a 'Western' concept 'alien' to Pakistan's value....

To be fair, the Ummah has not mattered for a long time to the governments or peoples of Muslims lands. State to state relations among Muslim countries have been astonishingly independent of religious identity. They have depended instead upon perceived self-interest, domestic politics and the whims of rulers. Just look at the evidence....

There is a way for Muslim states and people to move forward. This will require creating strong democratic institutions based on equal rights for all citizens, encouraging the participation of women in public life, and respecting equally all Muslim sects as well as other religions, providing space and freedom to individuals and education for all based on science and reason.

Pervez Hoodbhoy in the daily Dawn of July 22, 2017

Op-ed The legacy of Lal Masjid

It was perhaps not easy for the security establishment to cull its own creation. The Lal Masjid phenomenon did not emerge overnight. It was the product of a decades-long policy of patronizing extremist clerics and using militancy as a tool to the country's foreign policy. The Lal Masjid had long served that purpose. The argument that the rise of violent extremism and terrorism was the direct consequence of the military action certainly does not hold ground.

...

Return to status quo?

Ironically, a decade after the bloody siege, Lal Masjid (is) a symbol of radical Islam. Abdul Aziz who incited armed rebellion against the state and sought to establish his own version of retrogressive Islamic order is now re-installed at the pulpit defending militant actions. Most of the cases against the cleric have either been quashed by the courts or dropped by the government. Clearly, the long arm of the law does not reach a proclaimed offender even if he defies the country's Constitution and openly defends militant violence.

An intelligence report last year warned that the Lal Masjid's links with militia groups involved in terrorist activities presented a grave security threat. The report also cited a video message recorded by students of Jamia Hafsa pledging allegiance to the militant group, Islamic State.

The mosque's link with outlawed militant and sectarian groups is an open secret. But the allegiance of the Maulana's disciples to the IS is much more serious. Unsurprisingly, the intelligence warning and the open support for the global militant group by the women and girls in Jamia Hafsa are ignored by the administration.

The revival of the Lal Masjid as the citadel of extremism exposes the lack of will to effectively deal with the menace of militancy. The impunity enjoyed by Abdul Aziz and other radical clerics raises fears of the capital returning to a 2007-like situation. The threat is much more serious with the mushroom growth of madrassah populations in the city. It seems that the state has not learnt any lesson from the events that led to the bloody siege that shook the country.

Published in the Dawn, EOS, July 9th, 2017

Annex: USCIRF advocacy for Mr. Abdul Shakoor, Prisoner of Conscience