Persecution of Ahmadiyyas in Pakistan
News Report May 2015

Ahmadi sentenced to one year's imprisonment and fine
Mankeerah, District Bhakkar; May 20, 2015: Mr. Mansur Ahmad was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and Rs. 20,000/- fine by Mr. Afzal Majoka, Magistrate in Mankeerah, under the anti-Ahmadiyya law PPC 298-C. Mr. Ahmad was thereafter detained by the police and sent to prison.

Approximately two years ago, two individuals had an argument with Mr. Ahmad at the local Milk Collection Centre. They reported the incident to a mulla who approached the police, threatened them with disturbances and got an FIR registered against the elderly Mansur.

Subsequently at the trial stage the two individuals, the primary witnesses as well as the milk-dealer who had been allegedly proselytized decided not to show up. The complainant mulla was not an eye-witness to the incident. This was brought to the notice of the judge who by queer reasoning decided that the absence of the primary witnesses was not essential, and he used his discretion to accept that the prosecution had been able to prove its case against the accused.

Thus the verdict.

The Government of Punjab's latest act of outrageous persecution against the beleaguered Ahmadiyya community
All the 23 published volumes of the community's founder proscribed
The community’s daily newspaper and monthlies Khalid, Ansarullah and Tehrik Jadid also placed on banned list, on recommendation of Mutahiddah Ulama Board Punjab
May 11, 2015: As per an ad of the Home Department of the Government of Punjab in the daily Dunya of May 8, 2015, published from Faisalabad, 150 books/CDs/periodicals etc. stand proscribed. These include 11 from Ahmadi sources, including all the 23 volumes of Roohani Khazain (Spiritual Treasures) written by the holy founder of the Ahmadiyya community, as well as Tazkarah, a compendium of his dreams, visions and revelations.

The ad, titled WARNING, mentions in its opening sentence that this action has been taken on the basis of recommendations made by the Mutahiddah (Joint) Ulama Board.

The advertised Warning forbids production, publication, display and sale of the listed items and orders their proscription. The violators would be booked under CrPC 99-A and Anti-terrorism Act 8 and 11-A. It prescribes imprisonment up to five years and fine for any violation. DCOs and DPOs have been directed to ensure implementation.

This exposes tens of thousands of Ahmadi families in the country, in fact all of them, to the risk of police searches, registration of religion-based criminal cases, arrests, court trials and severe penalties. Their women and children could be similarly treated.

This measure will deprive Ahmadis of their religious teachings and understanding of their basic scriptures, the Quran and Hadith, and thus act as a very big blow to their freedom of religion and its practice.

Ahmadiyya periodicals, the daily Alfazl, the monthlies Khalid, Ansarullah and Tehrik Jadid have been included in the list, although these are published under official authorizations granted earlier after due process. The entire list does not include any other daily or monthly edited by a ‘Muslim’. Jihadi press like the daily Islam are not on the list. This is blatant discrimination.
The order has proscribed Ahmadiyya periodicals, so it would be fair to ask the Home Department to point out a single extract from these, over the last whole year or two years – even five years, that favours, promotes or even remotely encourages terrorism. The Notification gives no reference whatsoever of the text considered objectionable by the mullas or the authorities.

Showing Roohani Khazain as one item (out of 150) the authorities have banned, in one sweep, approximately 85 books and booklets authored by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Founder of Ahmadiyya Community. No other author in the list has been treated this way, showing deliberate discrimination. Also, counting thus all books separately, 64% of the banned list comprises Ahmadiyya books while the remaining 36% are distributed among all the other faiths and the 72 sects of Islam. The bias and bigotry is glaring.

As mentioned above, Tazkara is a compendium of the founder’s dreams, visions and revelations, compiled in one volume long after his death. It is an esoteric publication that least deserves a notice under terror concerns. This compilation however is of great importance to Ahmadis who hold it in great esteem.

The official Notification mentions that the Government of the Punjab is satisfied that the Tazkara “contains material which is treasonable and seditious in nature.” It is comical to charge a compendium of dreams and visions seen in the nineteenth century or the turn of that century to be treasonable and seditious against a state that came into existence half a century afterwards. It is safe to suggest that the Section Officer who signed the Notification has to-date not seen a copy of this rare publication, leave alone read it. The ban is gross violation of Ahmadis’ freedom of religion. Copy of the Notification is placed at Annex I to this report.

These 85 books include the one titled: The British Government and Jihad. In this the holy founder wrote down his famous edict on Jihad and terrorism. On the issue of Jihad he wrote:

“I have come to you with an order: jihad with the sword has ended from this time forward, but the jihad of purifying your souls must continue. I do not say this of my own accord. This is indeed the will of God. Recall the hadith from Sahih al-Bukhari which honours the Promised Messiah by saying yada-ul-harb. That is to say, when the Messiah comes he will put an end to religious wars.” p. 17

On the issue of terrorism he was equally explicit:

“Muslims are not being killed today by anyone because of their faith. What authority do they have to justify the killing of innocents, I wonder?” p. 15

It is noteworthy that the Home Department decides to ban such historical edicts as above, and allows dissemination of edicts like the one by Maulvi Yusuf Ludhianvi (given hereafter). No wonder General Sharif recently, after 181st Corps Commanders’ meeting emphasized on “re-energizing the National Action Plan in true letter and spirit and achieving discernable results.”

The Home Department which decided to ban Tazkara decided not to ban a book ‘Tohfa Qadianiat’ authored by ‘Maulana’ Muhammad Yusuf Ludhianvi and published and advertised by Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat, Multan which carries on its pages 680/681 this text, (Translation):

“My and your duty”

... What does the sense of honour and shame (ghairat) demand from Muslims? In fact, it demands that not a single Qadiani should be left alive on earth. Seize each one of these malignant individuals and kill them. I am not being emotional when I say this. This is the verity; this is the edict of Islam. This is the law of Islam concerning Murtads (apostates) and Zindiques (heretics)....”

Also relevant to the above is an announcement by the same Mutahiddah Ulama Board, Punjab in the monthly Laulak, of April 2015, self-declared mouth piece of the Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat, in the following words, (Translation):
Action by the Mutahiddah Ulama Board, established by the Punjab Government

There is no restriction whatsoever on literature over the dogma of End of Prophethood.
Proceedings of the Joint Session of the Sub Committee Nr 1, 2 of the Mutahiddah Ulama Board Punjab, held on January 22, 2015

... The End of Prophethood literature relevant to their (Ahmadis') unbelief (Takfir), rebuttal and refutation is in no way (in the category of) hate-material. As such the Home Department, the Police Department in general and the Government of Punjab in particular are not to take any action whatsoever on the production, publication, printing, distribution and sale of the End of Prophethood literature. It was unanimously recommended that the Home Department Punjab should issue a formal notification in this regard…" Sahibzadah Maulana Fazl ur Rahim Ashrafi, Chairman Mutahiddah Ulama Board, Punjab

As expected, the bigoted brigade was overjoyed by the WARNING and orders issued by the government. The Majlis Ahrar Islam of 1953 notoriety issued a special bulletin repeating the WARNING but listed only the Ahmadiyya publications out of the 150 on the list. The Shubbane Khatme Nabuwwat of the same ilk hung banners in bazaars with statements that openly and unambiguously promoted ‘feelings of enmity or hatred between classes of the citizens of Pakistan’: ‘We pay compliments to the Government of the Punjab for sealing the Qadiani Press in Rabwah that prints blasphemous literature.’ This is criminal lie and slander.

By accepting the recommendations of the Ulama Board, arguably without any resistance, the provincial Home Department has unwittingly assumed the role of clerics’ puppet. Does this not betray misplaced political policy and guidance?

Since the time of dictator Zia ul Haq, this perhaps is the most painful hurt inflicted upon Ahmadis through government regulation. It has been undertaken in the Punjab. The fact that earlier in 2010 the Taliban chose Lahore, the capital of this province, as the site to massacre 86 Ahmadi worshippers in their mosques, is very significant.

A fair question in the light of the above: Has the Government of the Punjab correctly understood the intent and purpose of the National Action Plan? If they have, how come their implementation is so lop-sided? They embrace religious extremists and hit hard their victims!
Authorities demolish parts of Ahmadiyya mosque

Pachnand, District Chakwal; May 4, 2015:
The bailiff of the district court razed the minarets and the arch (mehrab) of the local Ahmadiyya mosque. Four police vans arrived and blocked the streets leading to the mosque before the policemen and members of the Elite Force set off a one-and-a-half hour raid to demolish and defile the structures.

Policemen forced Ahmadis to vacate the worship place before razing the structures and told them to stay well clear when the grievous desecration was underway.

A court order had granted Ahmadis 10 days’ period for legal remedy prior to action by a bailiff. There were seven days still available to Ahmadis, but the bailiff was sent along with police to raze the minarets. The razing order was issued on May 3, a Sunday. This is indicative of the nature of state tyranny against this small marginalized segment of the society.

The mosque was constructed by Ahmadis on Ahmadis’ owned land in 1962, twenty-two years before the infamous anti-Ahmadi Ordinance XX was promulgated by dictator Zia-ul-Haq. It is relevant to mention that this ordinance nor any other law prohibits Ahmadis to have minarets on their places of worship.

While involved in this unholy operation, the police personnel roughed up copies of the Holy Quran and other religious texts present there, dropped them on floor and left them defiled on departure. The state operation violated Pakistan Penal Code 295 and 295-A in addition to Article 20 of the Constitution.

The SHO told the daily The Express Tribune that it was imperative to make Ahmadis vacate the spot to prevent any untoward incident. The procedure however requires that the complainant and the affected party should be present at the occasion.

The fact that the judge told the police on Sunday to undertake the gross demolition the very next day was proof that they were in cahoots with the complainant mulla in this abominable act.

The daily The Express Tribune reported the story on May 8 under the headline: Beleaguered denomination: Structure at worship place ‘looking like a mosque’ razed. Two photos of the damage and desecration are reproduced below:

Pachnand, District Chakwal is located in the province of the Punjab where Mian Shahbaz Sharif is the chief minister.

To date, since the promulgation of anti-Ahmadi laws in Pakistan, 27 Ahmadiyya mosques have been demolished, 31 sealed by authorities, 19 set on fire or damaged, 16 forcibly occupied and construction of 52 barred by authorities. This perhaps could find a place in Guinness World Records.

A good news from Rabwah and its shoddy reporting by vernacular press

Rabwah; May 21, 2015: Rabwah recently had a rare happy occasion to report in the field of education. According to media reports, Miss Sitara Burooj Akbar, a 15-
year old girl from here had the honour of being the youngest female student in the world to receive nine ‘bands’ out of nine in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam. Earlier she had won distinction of clearing ‘O’ level in Chemistry at the age of nine. When 11, she set world record of being youngest girl to complete O level. She set another record by achieving A level at the age of 13.

In a statement to the press she said that she was happy to bring this honour to Pakistan and she hoped that her achievement will prompt Pakistani girls to excel in education.

Most of the Urdu newspapers decided not to publish the news. The daily Jang, Express and Dunya reported the story but did not have the stomach to report that Miss Akbar was from Rabwah (or Chenab Nagar, as such an Ahmadi); instead she was incorrectly reported to be a resident of Chiniot. The same day, the daily Islam decided to suppress this story; instead it published the statement by Majlis Khatme Nabuwat: Qadianiat in death throes. The next day the daily Jang spared plenty of its space to the memory of mulla Khan Muhammad, the ‘Mujahid Khatme Nabuwat’.

The daily Ausaf, however, distinguished itself by the mention that Miss Akbar was a resident of Chenab Nagar.

P.S. As per press report Mr. Afzaal (Ahmad Zeeshan), another youth from Rabwah was awarded Computer Programming Award as he stood first in 2014 ranking for computer programming as Most Valuable Professional of international website C-Sharp Corner. The daily Ausaf; May 19, 2015

**Fired from job on religious grounds**

*Daska, District Sialkot; April 30, 2015:* Mr. Abdul Hafeez Saqib, an Ahmadi was working in the franchise of a telecom company as sales officer for five years. Mullas of the Khatme Nabuwat faction started a campaign against Mr. Saqib and other Ahmadi businessmen of the area. They displayed banners, with the name of Ahmadis printed on them, at different places in the city. These banners contain insulting remarks and appeal for boycott of the mentioned Ahmadis. This campaign affected the office of Mr. Saqib where the manager and a staff member turned against him. They incited the owner of the franchise against Mr. Saqib. On April 30, 2015, the owner fired Mr. Saqib from the job. Asadullah, a son of Mr. Saqib is also facing opposition and has received threats from the mullas.

**Mullas hassle the court**

*Kalar Abadi, Gujranwala; May 20, 2015:* On May 27, 2014, Ahmadis celebrated a religious day in their prayer center, and held a seminar. An ill-wisher reported the event to the police and persuaded them to register a criminal case under PPC 298-C, an anti-Ahmadi law. The police raided the center and arrested Mr. Mubashir Ahmad. Thereafter they registered a case on June 02, 2014 and named three Ahmadis, Mr. Mubashir Ahmad, Mr. Khalid Mahmood and Mr. Javed Ahmad in the FIR. They remained in prison for more than 4 months. Their case is however still active. On a hearing on May 20, 2015, the plaintiff brought approximately 25 mullas with him in the court. During the statements, when the mullas felt that the statements were going against them, they created much uproar. Meanwhile their lawyer told the mullas, “Catch them and kill them.” Many lawyers gathered there and they also supported the mullas. However the witnesses were whisked away discreetly. The judge was a woman; she took no action against the rowdies and remained uncaring. She gave May 27, 2015 as the next date of hearing.

**A hate-filled leaflet**

*Mianwali Sandhuwan, District Sialkot; May, 2015:* Opponents of the Ahmadiyya community distributed anti-Ahmadiyya pamphlets to all homes in this village.
The title of the pamphlet is: “Unanimous edict of all Ulama of the Ummah”. The pamphlet states, “Mirzais are Kafir due to their apostatized beliefs. It is forbidden by Sharia to sell, buy, use their products and to interact with them. O Muslims! Don’t contribute funds against the Prophet (pbuh) by buying Mirzais’ products.” The pamphlet also bears the names of Ahmadi owned businesses and clinics, with an appeal to boycott them.

Ms. Zeeba T Hashmi, a freelance columnist wrote an article last month in the Daily Times, titled: Breeding hate against the Ahmadies. It is reproduced as Annex II to this report.

Plight of Ahmadies in Kasur
Qutba Jora, District Kasur; April 03, 2015: Mallas of Khatme Nabuwwat faction are very active here. In Qutba Jora they held conferences and courses in the last three months consecutively. Their activities are increasing with time. Marriage ceremony of a daughter of Mr. Muhammad Saleem Shahid, an Ahmadi, was held on April 3, 2015. On the day of the ceremony the opponents put up anti-Ahmadiyya banners in the street; these were removed with the co-operation of non-Ahmadi residents. Then they piled garbage in the street which was removed by Mr. Shahid himself. After this a local mulla tried to block the drainage so that sewage water would overflow into the street making it difficult for the guests to pass. At this the local people admonished the mulla that whatever he was doing was not permissible in Islam. Some non-Ahmadi residents of the area also joined in the Nikah ceremony; they were subsequently criticized by the opponents. “You people have eaten meal from the house of a Kafir (infidel)!” they said.

Reports from Lahore, the capital of the Punjab
Johar Town; May 18, 2015: Three Ahmadies, Mr. Iqbal, Mr. Aslam and Mr. Aamir Shehzad own a furniture factory in Thokar Niaz Beg. Mr. Iqbal left the country a year-and-half ago as he found the general hostility here unbearable. Mr. Aamir Shehzad, his nephew, now acts as the manager of the factory. On May 18 when he came out of the building to receive a container, he requested the nearby shopkeepers, most of them members of Jamaat-ud-Dawa, to reposition their vehicles to facilitate parking of the container. They did not oblige. Instead, one of them asked him in where a number of mallas were present. Not knowing his family relationship with the senior proprietor, they asked him as to why he was working for a Qadiani. Aamir attempted to avoid the interview. They however were bent upon conveying their message. “If we could, we would kill these Qadianis today. They are Wajib-ul-Qatl (must be killed),” one of them insisted. At this, Aamir came out, although they called him to come back in.

Their message was a cause of great concern to Aamir and Aslam. Rehmanpura: A non-Ahmadi friend of Mr. Arif Chughtai, an Ahmadi, told him that eight Ahle Hadith maulvis had visited Usmania High School (a state school in Samanabad) and asked the children to give them phone numbers of their Ahmadi acquaintances. “We intend to kill them, as directed by the chief minister,” they explained. Ahmadies in Samanabad have up-graded their security measures.

Iqbal Town; May 19, 2015: Six persons accompanied by a police constable attempted entry in the rented house of Ms. Mehmuda Basharat, the local president of Ahmadi women. These men wanted to look around the apartment.

Ms. Basharat contacted the owner and told him of the unwelcome visitors and requested him to stop them. The owner spoke with them on phone. “We have been sent by Mr. Nasir to visit the apartment,” they said. The owner told them that he did not know Mr. Nasir and had not invited anyone to visit the place. He told them to leave.

A little later, the owner sent a few men to the apartment, however by then the intruders had gone.
The incident was disturbing to Ms. Basharat who is not sure of the real intentions of the unknown visitors.

**Dehli Gate, Lahore; May 2015:** Dr Fazl ur Rahman, an Ahmadi, is a medical practitioner in Tariq Hospital, Lahore for 17 years. A few days ago, approximately 15 mullas came to the hospital and told Dr Tariq, owner of the hospital, that Dr Rahman had proselytized and distributed pamphlets. “You must expel him from the hospital,” they demanded. Dr Tariq replied that he would personally look into the matter. Later, Dr Tariq said to Dr Rahman, “I know that you would not make such a mistake, but you know that mullas are dangerous and it is not a big deal for them to gather a crowd; and if mullas did that, the hospital will get a bad name. Tell me what should be done?” Dr Rahman replied that it was up to him to decide.

Dr Rahman is still working in the same hospital; however, he has been advised to exercise caution.

**An Ahmadi businessman harassed**

**Qayampur Virkan, District Gujranwala; May 16, 2015:** Ahmadiyya community here is facing a tense situation for one year. Miscreants harass Ahmadis in many ways. A daughter of Mr. Zahid Ahmad, an Ahmadi died in March 2015. Her burial in the common graveyard was obstructed by opponents. After this the hostility was turned into a campaign. Anti-Ahmadiyya elements held many gatherings, invited mullas who exhorted the participants to boycott Ahmadis.

Muhammad Waqas, a landlord of the same village, is the leader of this campaign. He illegally occupied two acres of the Ahmadiyya mosque’s land. Mr. Zahid runs a business of selling chicken in Qayampur Virkan. On May 16, 2015 Waqas asked Mr. Zahid to shut down his business. “As you are not a Muslim and the chickens slaughtered by you are not Halal, so you are feeding Haram meat (forbidden by Sharia) to the people. If you will not shut down this business, I’ll take you to court,” he warned. Mr. Zahid was not cowed down.

After this incident, a local delegation met with Waqas’s father, told him of his son’s active hostility against Ahmadis, and requested his indulgence. He reportedly, counseled his son who promised to refrain from any such activity. However Ahmadis have decided to exercise caution.

**Attack on Ismaili community in Pakistan – condemnation**

**London:** Forty-five men and women of the Ismaili community were gunned down in Karachi when they were commuting in a bus. All the attackers managed to flee after the attack. The Worldwide Ahmadiyya Jamaat released the following statement through its Press and Media Office:

“**Attack on Ismaili Community in Pakistan – condemnation**

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community unequivocally condemns the recent attacks on a bus in Karachi, Pakistan, where it is reported that over forty innocent people from the Ismaili community have been killed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this heinous crime. We offer our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to all those who have been affected and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community stands ready to help those in need.”

**A belated fatwa (religious edict)**

**Lahore; May 17, 2015:** The daily Mashriq of May 18, 2015 reported the following *fatwa*, as the lead headline on page 1, issued by “200 Sheikh-ul-Hadith Wal Quran, renowned Muftis and sterling Ulama” who participated in the Sheikhul Hadith Conference organized by Tanzeem Ittehad Ummat, in Lahore:

“**SUICIDE BOMBERS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS ARE HELL-BOUND**"
JIHADIST PHILOSOPHY OF TALIBAN, AL QAEDA, BOKO HARAM, AL SHABAB AND SUCH OTHER GROUPS IS MISLEADING, UN-ISLAMIC AND IGNORANCE
IT IS NOT RIGHT TO TAKE UP ARMED STRUGGLE TO IMPOSE SHARIA
THOSE INVOLVED IN SECTARIAN VIOLENCE ARE GUILTY OF FASAD FIL ARD (BARBARITY ON EARTH)
AN ISLAMI GOVERNMENT MUST CRUSH REBELS AND TRAITORS
PAKISTANI TALIBAN AND ISIS ARE MODERN-DAY KHARJIS WHO ARE REBELS AGAINST ISLAM
ATTACK ON NON-MUSLIM MINORITIES’ PLACES OF WORSHIP IS A GREAT SIN AND CRIMINAL ACT: Fatwa of (200) Ulama and Mashaikh in Sheikhuul Hadith Conference at Lahore.”

It is relevant to point out that a somewhat similar position in principle was taken and recommended by the founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement at the turn of 19th/20th century. Since then the ulama have accused the Jamaat Ahmadiyya of holding un-Islamic position on Jihad etc. It is now after more than a century that these ulama have realized that their previous position was in error. It is good that they have decided to go public in hope to cut their losses.

Ahmadis behind bars

1. The police registered a fabricated case under Anti-terrorism clause ATA 8/11 and PPC 295-A a blasphemy clause, against Mr. Aqib Saleem with FIR no. 553/14 in Police Station Peoples Colony, Gujranwala on July 28, 2014. Bail denied, he is still in prison.
2. A baseless case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ilhsan Ahmad, Mubashir Ahmad of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhupura under PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 on May 13, 2014 in police station Sharaqpur. Mr. Khalil Ahmad was murdered by a madrasa student while in police custody, on May 16, 2014. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. They are in prison. Their bail were cancelled.
3. A fabricated case was registered against Mr. Tahir Mehdi Intiaz, printer of the Ahmadiyya monthly Ansarullah, in Millat Town police station Lahore on April 16, 2014. He was arrested by the police on March 30, 2015 under the blasphemy clause PPC 295-A and anti-Ahmadiyya law 298-C. His bail was denied; he is in prison.
4. An unwarranted case was registered against six Ahmadis, Mr. Rafiq Kahlon, Mr. Abdul Rauf, Mr. Bilal Ahmad, Mr. Luqman Ajmal, Mr. Masood Ahmad and Mr. Ikram under CrPC 148, 149, 324/337-H, 7-ATA, 16-MPO in Sadar Police Station, Jaranwala on April 20, 2015 for repairing boundary wall of their mosque. They were arrested and are in prison.
5. Mr. Mansur Ahmad was awarded on May 20, 2015 one year imprisonment and Rs. 20,000 fine under anti-Ahmedi law PPC 298-C in Mankeerah, District Bhakkar. The case was initiated some two years ago by local mullas.

From the media
Beleaguered denomination (Ahmadiyya): Structures at worship place ‘looking like mosque’ razed (in Chakwal, Punjab)
The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, May 8, 2015
Ban on blasphemous Qadiani literature welcomed. Official action is praise worthy: Tehrik Khatme Nabuwwat Joint Liaison Committee
The daily Jinnah; Lahore, May 13, 2015
US report assails Pakistan over state of ‘religious freedom’
The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 2, 2015
Sitara Bruj Akbar of Chiniot (in fact, Rabwah) establishes world record in IELTS (exam)
The daily Jang; Lahore, May 21, 2015
Qadianiat in death throes: Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat
The daily Islam; Lahore, May 21, 2015

Qadianis have a hand in publication of blasphemous cartoons
Instability in the Middle East and resistance against IS is American-Zionist agenda: Ataul Muhaiman (Amir Majlis Ahrar, Pakistan)
The daily Nawa-i-Waqat; Lahore, May 3, 2015

Qadianis passed nuclear secrets to US, Israel and India: (Mulla) Mumtaz Awan
The daily Al-Shraq; Lahore, May 29, 2015

Sealing Qadiani press is historic action: (Mulla) Aamar Siddiqui
The daily Khabrain; Lahore, May 14, 2015

More than 72 banned organizations are functioning by (mere) change of name
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 2, 2015

Karachi carnage traumatizes nation
At least 43 (Ismaili) men and women gunned down
The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 14, 2015

‘Minister’s defamers’ escape after assaulting police party (in Islamabad)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 17, 2015

Two Hazara men killed in Quetta
The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 28, 2015

Attack failed on Kurram football match; four killed
The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 7, 2015

North Waziristan: Ongoing armed clash over property claims 37 more lives (total now 45)
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 10, 2015

Clerics threaten Taseer-like fate to info minister
The daily The Nation; Lahore, May 22, 2015

Ulama’s stand against Pervez Rashid (Federal Info Minister) is correct: International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement
The daily Aman; Faisalabad, May 22, 2015

Prayer leader blows himself up in mosque (in Charsadah)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 23, 2015

Christian neighborhood attacked after blasphemy allegation (in Lahore)
The Friday Times; Lahore, May 29, 2015

Anti-terrorism court confirms bail of (mulla) Abdul Latif Cheema
The daily Islam; Lahore, May 22, 2015

Rebuttal of Qadianiat Course (in Chiniot)
The daily Islam; Lahore, May 23, 2015

Progress on NAP found far from satisfactory: (in the highest civil-military meeting in the capital)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 28, 2015

Sectarianism is a curse, says SC judge (Qazi Faez Isa)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 21, 2015

Suicide bombers and their employers are hell-bound
Jihadist philosophy of Taliban, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, Al Shabab and such other groups is misleading, un-Islamic and ignorance
It is not right to take up armed struggle to impose Sharia
Those involved in sectarian violence are guilty of Fasad fil Ard (Barbarity on earth)
An Islamic government must crush rebels and traitors
Pakistan Taliban and ISIS are modern-day Kharjis who are rebels against Islam
Attack on non-Muslim minorities’ places of worship is a great sin and criminal act: Fatwa of (200) Ulama and Mashaikh in Shyukhul Hadith Conference at Lahore
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 18, 2015
Chenab Nagar youth awarded Computer Programming Award. Afzaal stood first in 2014 ranking for computer programming as Most Valuable Professional of international website C-Sharp Corner

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, May 19, 2015

These (madrassahs) are universities of ignorance (Jahalat): Pervez Rashid, Fed Minister of Information

Quoted by Mufti Munib-ur-Rahman in op-ed in the daily Dunya; May 15, 2015

Hate material in (text) books has impacted entire generations

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 20, 2015

We shall spare no sacrifice for Saudi security: Fazl ur Rahman (JUI)

The daily Express; Faisalabad, May 2, 2015

“Wealth’s repressive blasphemy laws and anti-Ahmadi laws continue to violate religious freedoms and foster a climate of impunity,” the annual report (USCIRF) report added

The daily The Nation; Lahore, May 3, 2015

Pakistan cannot exist without sectarian harmony, warn experts (in Washington D.C.)

Mr. Rubin argued that militants based in Punjab also had a say in the affairs of the state. “Pakistan will have to address this, as the existence of one group of militants encourages others,” he said.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 19, 2015

Bomber kills 21 at Saudi mosque. Self-styled Islamic State claims responsibility for the attack

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 19, 2015

4200 migrants rescued in Mediterranean; 17 dead

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 31, 2015

Dutch cabinet backs partial Islamic burqa ban

The daily The News; Lahore, May 23, 2015

Islamic State executes 400 in Syria’s Palmyra

The daily The Nation; Lahore, May 24, 2015

Face-off outside Arizona mosque ends peacefully

The daily The Nation; Lahore, May 24, 2015

Ireland votes in favor of gay marriage

The daily The Nation; Lahore, May 24, 2015

Third secular blogger hacked to death in Bangladesh

The daily The Nation; Lahore, May 24, 2015

France, Muslim girl rusticated from school for wearing long skirt

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 2, 2015

11 Pakistanis including 5 women win UK elections

The daily Express; Faisalabad, May 9, 2015

20 victims buried, two remain unidentified (passengers killed in Mastung)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 31, 2015

JI fighting against US agents: Siraj

The daily The News; Lahore, May 11, 2015

SHO guns down 2 lawyers in Daska

The daily The News; Lahore, May 26, 2015

Outlaws kidnap 7 policemen

The daily The News; Lahore, May 4, 2015

- 47% of all Pakistani children were out of school (in 2014) second highest in the world.
- 11 political activists went missing in Sindh in 2014.
Pakistan was termed the most dangerous country in the world for media, with 14 journalists and media workers killed in 2014 alone.
134 political activists were killed in Karachi, the capital of Sindh.
The year saw the space for marginalized groups in politics shrink even further.
Pakistan ranked sixth in Global Slavery Index 2014 where child labor was most prevalent.
Pakistan and Sindh governments raised the minimum wages for unskilled workers.... However, most of the workers did not benefit.
Pakistan stood out as the worst polio-affected country.
There were around 1.5 million registered refugees from Afghan and a roughly similar number of unregistered.... At least 2.56 million people were displaced from Khyber and North Waziristan regions in FATA amid security forces' operations.
A total of 11 Ahmadis lost their lives in targeted attacks.

Shoaib Sheikh detained. Thousands of fake degrees recovered from Axact office: Shahid Hayat (Director FIA)

1520 Kg meat of dead animals seized (in Lahore)

We (Pakistanis) rank 105th in terms of Gross National Income; we are placed fourth in the world for the amount we give to charity as a percentage of our per capita income.

Op-ed: Exodus

The number of asylum applications has reached an estimated 866,000 in 2014, up by 45 percent from a year earlier, what is the cause for such a sudden increase? What can be done to stem this exodus?

The majority of the refugees (in Pakistan) belong to the minority sects of Islam, such as Ismaili, Shia and Ahmadi, and religious minorities, Hindus, Christians and Sikhs. Repeated aggression against the groups, which goes unpunished by the state, has forced them to seek their fortunes elsewhere; taking with them their rich cultural, their expertise and their financial investment. This exodus lies at the door of the government, which has failed to stem aggression against minorities, failed to prosecute the perpetrators, and has failed to make minorities feel protected as Pakistani citizens. Unless this tide is stemmed, Pakistani society is destined to become monotone and threadbare.

Op-ed: Return of the ‘foreign hand’

It (secularism) merely asserts that religion is a personal matter that has nothing to do with sate. So long as children and impressionable youth are not isolated from extremist ideas, colleges and universities will continue to produce terrorists who will be used by organizations like RAW for their own purposes. Madrassahs have produced leaders as well as foot soldiers for terrorist networks. As such it is important to implement all the measures included in the National Action Plan concerning madrassahs. Political considerations have restricted Muslim League (N)’s ability to implement the NAP. The party leadership is scared of religious parties and is not willing to take any action that could annoy these parties. The government’s inability to help its own Minister of Information shows its subservience to the religious lobby.
Many had thought that the military and civil leadership, are of the same opinion that religions and sectarian terrorists are national enemies and that this operation will go on till militancy is uprooted entirely from rural as well as urban areas. However the enthusiasm shown at the time of preparing the NAP fizzled out within a month.

...The greatest danger to Pakistan is from the terrorist organizations known to everyone, who have killed thousands of Pakistanis in suicide attacks, bomb blasts and target killings. Accordingly it is important not to deviate from the decision made last year on December 25, in the form of NAP.

Aziz ud din Ahmad in the daily Mashriq of May 26, 2015

Editorial:  
Age of unreason

...The realization is dawning slowly and inexorably. The horror that was December 16, 2014 was not turning point. The curtain has not been brought down on extremist elements; not only do they remain free to propagate hatred and intolerance, those in their crosshairs still have no recourse but to fend for themselves.....

Instead of protecting those that are Pakistan’s best hope of claiming back the space ceded to right-wing forces, the state remains shamelessly in retreat.

Editorial in the daily Dawn; May 13, 2015

Press Report: ‘Post-haste’ against ‘hate’

...There is a Muttahida Ulema Board (in the Punjab) which has the authority to declare any written or spoken word as hate material. Reconstituted by the Auqaf Department on April 14, 2014 it brings together religious scholars of the four main sects in the country to deal with controversial matters like laws, traditions and hate material....

There are no guidelines in black and white for action. Depending upon how severe the scholars think an offence is, the board bans the material found objectionable or it can ask the publisher and the author to remove or amend the objectionable portions. Failure to remove marked passages justifies a ban.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 23, 2015

Editorial: Faith-based violence

...The major problem, as the report points out, is that hardly any of the perpetrators who commit acts of violence on religious grounds, as well as the individuals who incite and support them, have been brought to justice. In fact, over the last few weeks we have seen groups with overtly sectarian, violent agendas march in cities across Pakistan. With such groups still on the prowl, the argument that the establishment is taking action against religiously motivated murderers is seriously dented. The state must realize that unless it acts against religious zealots who practice and preach violence, not only will Pakistan continue to get a bad press internationally, but such violence will have a detrimental effect on communal and sectarian relations within the country. To show the world as well as its own citizens that it will not tolerate religious violence, the Pakistani state must permanently put jihadi and sectarian groups out of business.

Editorial in the daily Dawn; May 4, 2015

Op-ed: The extremism within

...Surely, the answers to the extremism problem cannot be the same as the strategy to fight militancy. The first approach is essentially preventive in nature; the latter, curative. Prevention is more difficult – the extremism-fueling narrative and infrastructure are far more diffuse than militant groups.
And it requires greater will – a willingness to reach into the heart of society and re-engineer it. If it is not fought, however, the country may find itself winning the battle, but losing the war.

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 15, 2015*

**Editorial: Lal Masjid Revelations**

…It is quite upsetting that the killers of Sabeen Mahmud are being accused of having relations with a religious political party, which has a history of directly, or indirectly being in league with these hardened terrorists. The silence and inaction of the political government in this regard is quite concerning. It is a fact that the PMLs of all hues have always had a rightist bent but the situation has now gotten to such an extent that those in power will have to significantly transform the narrative regarding the creation and running of the Pakistani state. A lot will now depend on the intellectual capacity of those occupying the corridors of power as well as how the military continues to handle the situation.

*Editorial in the daily The Nation of May 23, 2015*

**Op-ed: Pakistan of Ismailis**

…Violent extremism is only a fruit of the tree the state itself had planted. Perhaps the biggest challenge of our times is to de-sectarianise the Pakistani state and return it to the joint ownership of all Muslims denominations and followers of other faiths. The way Ismailis have maintained stoic silence over the brutality wreaked on the community says a lot about the environment of fear that surrounds them.

Once upon a time His Highness Aga Khan and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah gave voice to the aspirations of all Muslims of South Asia. It is now our turn to speak on behalf of our Ismaili brothers and sisters.

*Zaigham Khan in the daily The News of May 22, 2015*

**Annexes:**

I. Government letter that banned ‘Tazkarah’
II. An op-ed in the Daily Times ‘Breeding hate against the Ahmedis’
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
HOME DEPARTMENT

Dated the 25th June, 2014

NOTIFICATION

No. SO (IS-III)6-15/2010 WHEREAS, the Government of the Punjab is satisfied that following book contain material which is treasonable and seditious in nature, it intends to outrage the religious feelings of any class by insulting the religion and it promotes feeling of enmity or hatred between different classes of the citizens of Pakistan which is prejudicial to national integration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Printing Press</th>
</tr>
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2. Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 99-A Cr. PC 1898, the Government of the Punjab is pleased to ban and declare every copy of said book(s) to be forfeited, wherever found.

SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB,
HOME DEPARTMENT

NO. & DATE EVEN

A copy is forwarded to:-

1. The PPO/GP, Punjab, Lahore, with the request to take penal action against author(s), publisher(s) and owner(s)/manager(s) of Printing Press in accordance with the relevant provision of Pakistan Penal Code or any other law relating to Press and Publication for the time being in force under intimation to this department.
2. All the DCOs in Punjab.
3. All the DPOs in Punjab.

C.C.:-

› The Secretary to Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, Islamabad.
› The Secretary to Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Islamabad.
› The Director General, ISJ, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad.
› The Director General, National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Government of Pakistan, Islamabad.
› The DIG (Criminal), Punjab, Lahore.
› The Principal Secretary to Governor, Punjab.
› The Secretary to Chief Minister, Punjab.
› The Secretary, Govt. of the Punjab, Auqaf & Religious Affairs Department, Punjab.
› The Secretary, Govt. of the Punjab, Prosecution Department.
› The Secretaries to the Government of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, Balochistan, Home Department, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta.
› The Director General, Public Relations, Punjab (Book Section) 21- Mehmoon Ghaznavi Road, Lahore.
› Key point Section, Security Wing, Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad.
› The Superintendent Printing Press, Punjab, Lahore for publication in the next Government Extra Ordinary Gazette and for supplying 10 copies thereof to the undersigned.
› The Press Law Branch, Punjab, Lahore.
› PS to Home Secretary, Punjab.
Persecution in Pakistan is the culmination of stewing hate speech that has been growing unchecked in our society. Religious minorities here are the worst ones anywhere in the world to suffer the brunt of hate crimes. But what makes the persecution of Ahmedi unique is that they consider themselves Muslim but are made to sign a statement that they are non-Muslims before taking up their citizenship. This was defined in the Constitution when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in 1974, declared Ahmedi to be non-Muslims, a move demanded and hailed by the orthodox clergy. This was further strengthened and enacted into an Ordinance later by General Ziaul Haq, which criminalised Ahmedi for practicing normal rituals that ordinary Muslims would do like greeting each other with the term “Asaalamualaikum”. Ridiculous laws set precedents for general intolerance and hate crimes. Politically, Ahmedi are unrepresented and denounced in public. The chairman of the PTI, Imran Khan, during his election campaign in 2013, alienated himself from the Ahmedi, who had initially been supporting him for change. The ‘honourable’ Khan had to make a special television appearance to clarify his stance on the issue on how the laws that are discriminatory to this particular segment of the population are synchronised with his beliefs.

In 2014, 11 members belonging to the Ahmedi sect were killed for their faith. The increase in crimes against Ahmedi is becoming a reason behind why many of them are opting to leave Pakistan for the sake of living dignified lives in countries that ensure religious freedom and security. There are about three million Ahmedi residing in Pakistan at present and most of them are resiliently living here despite the fact that the authorities deliberately ignore the many dangers and threats they face here. Many perpetrators are set free whereas the Ahmedi, by the discretion of the law, are taken in and persecuted at the smallest instance of practising their beliefs in public. This not only gives a negative image of Pakistan to the world, it is shameful on every level of humanism of how the state has given in to the whims of the extremist mullahs here.

There is a plethora of hate speech against the Ahmedi that often incites violence against them. There are no background checks or investigative and forensic measures taken against the publication of such pamphlets that call for vicious action against our religious minorities. There have often been reports of the circulation of pamphlets considering it a religious responsibility to kill Ahmedi, whom they consider to be murtids (apostates). There is a 720-page book titled Tohfa Qadianiat, written by Muhammad Yousaf Ludhianvi of Khatam-e-Nabuwat, which openly calls for the murder of Ahmedi. This book is making the rounds in the residential areas of Lahore without any government intervention to stop it or to prosecute its author for inciting murder. A well-known television celebrity, Amir Liaqat Hussain, has twice named Ahmedi as wajib ul qatal (justifiably to be murdered) on television, which has been followed by the murders of Ahmedi and not once has he been indicted for inciting violence against them. He unabashedly keeps running his show on television, which is viewed by millions across Pakistan.

A local Urdu newspaper in Lahore has been printing an advertisement for the Khatam-e-Nabuwat Conference that was to be held on March 22. The sponsors of the advertisement and the organisers of the event are all revealed in it yet no one from the authorities is willing to take note of the conference. In the months of February and March 2015, there have been six such conferences that took place under the nose of the government. These conferences were held by the Khatam-e-Nabuwat, Majlis Ahrar Islam, Tahafuze Namoose Risalat Committee and other elements that preach the killing of Ahmedi, limiting their movements, restricting them and obscuring their rights to assess education, health and other services. It is also important to note that a meeting organised by the Tahafuze Namoose Risalat Committee was presided over by Liaqat Baloch of the Jamaat-e-Islami (J) and it was attended by the federal minister for railways, Khawaja Saad Rafique of the PML-N and Mehmood ur Rasheed of the PTI. In February this year, a similar conference was held at the Aiwan-e-Iqbal, a government cultural facility in Lahore. Such conferences insist their communities excommunicate the Ahmedi. This is ironic as freedom of speech for alternate voices is quashed while abettors to murder are given open and free spaces to actually propagate their mission to persecute religious minorities. Moreover, this is a contradictory resolve of the state to end religious extremism in the country. However, actions like these are not even discouraged, let alone eradicated from the roots. The police are also notorious for picking up Ahmedi in fabricated crimes and physically torturing them at the behest of the mullahs.

Why is it that the state is helpless in safeguarding the Ahmedi from mullah persecution? Last year, an Ahmedi woman and her two minor granddaughters were attacked and killed by an angry mob over an allegedly blasphemous post on Facebook made by another Ahmedi. The killers of the woman and two minors are still roaming free. Is it because of fear of the mobs that the state feels absolutely unable to take up responsibility for the protection of a persecuted community? There are reports that the extremist mindset has also seeped into the state machinery (many were seen attending the Khatam-e-Nabuwat conferences) making it impossible to secure Ahmedi their rights on an equal footing with other citizens. It is a tragedy for Pakistan that, despite knowing the grudge and religious hatred for people choosing and practicing their faith, the government has failed to protect and safeguard its citizens. (emphasis added)