

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan News Report October 2015

Three Ahmadis of a family targeted

Gulshan Iqbal, Karachi; October 11, 2015:

Three members of a family were shot at brutally when they returned home at night. As a result two of them got seriously injured.

Mr. Saleem Razaqat along with his two nephews, Mr. Moaaz Ahmad and Mr. Shamir Ahmad aged 20 and 17 years returned home after offering evening prayers. When they reached in front of their house, two unidentified men opened fire at them. They were immediately shifted to a hospital. One bullet was found stuck in Mr. Razaqat's neck touching the back bone, which disturbed the movement of his feet. The other bullet fractured the bone of his arm and damaged his hand. Another bullet grazed past the head of Moaaz. He was discharged from the hospital after first aid.

Shamir Ahmad was critically injured. A bullet pierced through his abdomen from right to left, which damaged his vital organs. His stomach and liver were badly damaged. He remained on ventilator and got stable only after several operations.

BBC Urdu reported the incident on October 12, 2015. It reported that the police declared it an incident of robbery but the spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya community refuted this suggestion. Another Ahmadi, Mr. Noman Najam was target-killed earlier in Karachi on March 21 for his faith. In 2012, 50 percent of all Ahmadis killed for their faith in Pakistan were from Karachi.

An Islamist organization claimed credit for this attack. The claim was widely circulated in the social media. Its original is reproduced here along with its translation:

Lion-hearted Mujahideen of the Islamic Kingdom of Khurasan targeted three Qadianis (apostates) even in the tough conditions of Karachi, thanks to God.

Operations by intelligence agencies are on the increase in Karachi. Mujahideen are being arrested daily. Despite that, praise be to God, they targeted Qadianis and Rawafiz (Shia) who are the biggest supporters of Kafirs. Mujahideen have presented a sample to the Qadianis through this successful action. We warn them to

stop their proselytization and close down their worship places. Otherwise, we will keep on killing the blasphemers, by the will of God.

دولتِ اسلامیہ خراسان کے شیر دل مجاہدین نے کراچی کے سخت حالات
کے باوجود 3 قادیانیوں (زندقہ) کو ٹارگٹ کیا الحمد للہ

کراچی شہر میں ایجنسیز، خفیہ اداروں کی کاروائیاں بڑھ رہی ہیں اور مجاہدین
کو آئے روز گرفتار کیا جا رہا ہے اس سب کے باوجود قادیانی اور روافض کو
ٹارگٹ کرنا جو اس وقت کفر کے صلبِ اول کے اتحادی بنے ہوئے ہیں ہم
اللہ کی حمد بیان کرتے ہیں۔ الحمد للہ اللہ کی توفیق سے دولتِ اسلامیہ کے
مجاہدین نے کامیاب کاروائی کرتے ہوئے قادیانیوں کو ایک نمونہ دکھایا ہے،
اور ہم ان کو دھمکی دیتے ہیں کہ اپنے دین کی تبلیغ اور اپنے عبادت خانے بند
کر دیں، مزید یہ کہ انشاء اللہ ہم گستاخِ رسول ﷺ کو قتل کرتے رہیں گے



Spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya community stated that anti-Ahmadiyya hate literature is published and distributed frequently. It is a threat to the lives of Ahmadis. It was clearly mentioned in National Action Plan that action will be taken against such literature and speeches, but no action is taken against promoters of hate against the Ahmadiyya community. Terrorists take great advantage of this propaganda and attack Ahmadis. He demanded that authorities arrest the attackers and bring them to justice.

Council of Islamic Ideology chief spawns a ‘disturbances’

Islamabad: The daily Dawn reported the following in its issue of October 21, 2015:

CII chief wants to tackle ‘incendiary issues’

ISLAMABAD: Maulana Mohammad Khan Sherani, chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), said that he intended to take up three “most controversial religious issues”, but lacked the necessary support from council members.

“We have had these items on our agenda for a long time now, but they will only be taken up if my colleagues are ready to cooperate,” Maulana Sherani, who is also a JUI-F MNA, told reporters at the end of the two-day council meeting.

The first of these issues is the question of whether Ahmadis are to be classified as non-Muslims or murtads (those who renounce Islam). It is a widely held belief that the punishment for renouncing Islam should be death.

The second issue, he said, was the imposition of religious tax – or jizya – on Pakistani non-Muslims. The third issue, he said, was a determination of which sects fell under the ambit of Islam and which ones should be considered to be outside the ambit of Islamic ideology.

“It is up to the members to come up and discuss these important matters and resolve them,” he said, expressing the confidence that the CII would take up these topics in its next meeting.

While these matters have been on the CII’s agenda for some time, some of the more vocal members have been reluctant to take them up for discussion as they may hurt the social fabric.

“We do not want to see riots in the country as we see in India over non-issues like the ban on beef. It is the responsibility of the religious and political leadership to set directions for society and to not be pressured into going with the flow,” said a CII member, on condition of anonymity.

The cleric was reluctant to speak on the record, because “the other problem we are combating is extremism. If I give a statement to the media, I can be accused of being somebody’s agent.”

However, analysts feel that by taking up such non-issues, the CII is stooping beneath its stature.

“They have already displayed such irrationality that nobody takes them seriously anymore,” senior journalist Zahid Hussain told Dawn.

He cited the examples of several other rulings by the council, which included the contention that the marriage age for girls could be as low as 13, as well as the pronouncement that DNA evidence was not admissible as evidence in rape cases. “Besides, their rulings are not legally binding,” he added.

But even Mr. Hussain acknowledged that by virtue of their stature, senior clerics on the CII did hold sway among the masses and could easily “spark a disturbance by speaking unnecessarily on such issues”. ...

In contrast, this month Head of the Ahmadiyya... Community spoke at the convocation ceremony of the Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany and told the graduating students: “Today, many people seek to associate Islam with extremism due to the acts of certain Muslim groups and so it is your duty to inform the world of the peaceful teachings of Islam. You must refute the hateful ideology and conduct of extremists by shining a light upon the true teachings of the Holy Quran. You must present before the world Islam’s teachings of love, compassion and kindness.”
<http://www.pressahmadiyya.com/2015/10/first-ever-convocation-ceremony-of.html>

Ahmadiyya mosque sealed in Khushab

Chak 2/TDA, District Khushab; October 28, 2015: On the orders of the District Coordination Officer, an Ahmadiyya mosque was sealed in this village of District Khushab.

On November 10, 2000 a violent mob led by mullah Athar Hussain Shah murdered five Ahmadi and destroyed the Ahmadiyya mosque in Takht Hazara, District Sargodha. Instead of convicting Athar Shah, the riot leader, the judge sentenced four Ahmadi to five year imprisonment. Later this mulla settled in Qaidabad, District Khushab. He continues to foment anti-Ahmadi agitation in his parish.

In October 2010 Shah got a petition registered in the sessions court Khushab that the Ahmadi mosque in Chak 2/TDA, District Khushab is a property of ‘Muslims’. It should be confiscated and handed over to Muslims. On November 29, 2012 the judge dismissed the petition and held that complainant was not a local citizen, so his demand was baseless. He also accepted the Ahmadiyya claim to the mosque.

Shah challenged this decision in Lahore High Court. He said that a masjid could belong only to Muslims. As a matter of fact, Ahmadi had got the title changed from Masjid to Bait uz Zikr in revenue records. Despite recognizing the fact that the mosque was built in 1955 by Ahmadi and was in their possession since then, the court overruled the decision of the sessions court and decided in favour of the mulla. The High Court observed that a Masjid is of Muslims, and ordered the DCO to hear both the parties and give a decision.

The DCO Khushab, Zia-ur-Rehman is a brother of Maulvi Fazal-ur-Rehman of Jamiat Ulama Islam (F). He is biased against Ahmadi. He ordered a Tehsildar on September 23, 2015 to investigate and report.

The Tehsildar did not call any Ahmadi to hear the Ahmadiyya plea. He heard only the mulla’s party and compiled his report in favour of the ‘Muslims’. The DCO thereafter issued orders that the mosque and the living quarters of the Imam should be gotten vacated from the Ahmadi and the complex be handed over to Muslims.

Ahmadi hurriedly filed an appeal in the court of Additional Commissioner Revenue Sargodha against the DCO’s orders. The Commissioner issued a stay order on the matter and asked both parties to appear in his court on November 21, 2015.

On October 28, 2015 an Assistant Commissioner accompanied with policemen came to the village. He said that he had orders from the DCO to seal the mosque. Stay order was shown to him at which he consulted the DCO. The DCO asked him to seal the mosque anyway. The AC complied and sealed the Ahmadiyya mosque despite the stay order.

Now Ahmadi of the village have no place of worship.

Ahmadi kidnapped

Hazara, KPK; October 5, 2015: Mr. Abdul Aziz Bashir was kidnapped on October 5, 2015 from the front of his house. He is head of the local Ahmadi youth organization and is

in the final year of a medical college. There were six kidnappers; four of them were apparently Afghans, while two spoke the local language. They blindfolded Bashir, tied his hands and took him to an isolated place. There they beat him up with belts, sticks and iron punches. They called him a Qadiani and an infidel. Mr. Bashir recited them the *Kalima* but they did not accept that. He recited them the *Namaz* (ritual prayer). They were not receptive.

Mr. Bashir got a chance to flee when they were waiting for another party to hand him over to them. He fled from there and jumped down from a height. He made hue and cry; this attracted attention of a few people working there in the field. Seeing this, the kidnappers fled. Bashir contacted his brother on phone, who arrived in company and rescued him.

Mr. Bashir reported the incident to the police.

Beleaguered Community: Jamaat-i-Ahmadiyya to stay away from forthcoming polls

Lahore; October 31, 2015: The Ahmadiyya Community decided not to partake in the LG polls held on October 31 in the Punjab and Sindh. A news report in the daily *The Express Tribune* on October 28 summed the reasons and the implications well. It carried the above headline, and its text is reproduced below:

LAHORE: The Jamaat-i-Ahmadiyya (JA) will not partake in the forthcoming local government polls to register its protest against what it calls the step-motherly conduct of the state towards it.

These elections have separate elections only for Ahmadis, says a letter written to the Election Commission of Pakistan, a copy of which is available with *The Express Tribune*. It is strange that Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Christians are included in one electoral roll and only Ahmadis are registered in a separate list. This not only makes them vulnerable to the target killing but is also a burden on their conscience to vote on condition of denying to be the followers of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the statement says.

Chenabnagar (*Rabwah*), the Pakistan headquarters of the JA, the largest conglomeration of Ahmadis in the nation, has the status of a municipal committee composed of a dozen wards in the forthcoming elections. Not a sole Ahmadi is contesting the elections. A candidate would need less than 200 votes to emerge victorious in Chenab Nagar due to this.

Sibtain Shah, an independent candidate aspiring to become the Ward- 11 general councillor, told *The Express Tribune* that he had been the area's Nazim once and a councillor twice. He said the number of registered voters in the ward stood at 1,350. He said only around 300 people in the ward would cast their votes as Ahmadis would abstain from participating in the exercise. Shah said most politicians would have begged the community for votes had it not stayed away from the process. He said this did not bode well for politicians as striving to secure the community's support would alienate other voters. Shah said this made it convenient for politicians to ensure that the community remained disenfranchised.

JA Spokesperson Saleemuddin told *The Express Tribune* that the community had made the chief election commissioner cognisant of its reservations. "Separate voters' lists are formulated for Ahmadis whose votes are only registered if they disassociate from Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This is something that no Ahmadi will accept," he said. Saleemuddin said the JA had informed the commissioner that Ahmadis would abstain from casting their votes if the community's request regarding the restoration of joint electorates in the forthcoming polls. (*sic*)

Chiniot DRO's Spokesperson Chaudhry Abdul Hameed told *The Express Tribune* that voters' lists for Ahmadis were separate as they had been declared non-Muslim through the Second Amendment to the

Constitution. He said formulating voters' lists was a prerogative of the chief election commissioner. Hameed said Ahmadis traditionally tended to boycott polls.

Never-ending prosecution of Ahmadis

Prosecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan often lingers on for years. This spoils precious years of their lives. Of numerous such cases, two recent ones are given below.

Mangat Uncha, District Hafizabad; October 2015: Three Ahmadis, Ch. Shahadat Ali, Mr. Hafeezur Rahman and Mr. Mansoor Ahmad were wrongfully charged under the blasphemy law PPC 295-B on December 18, 2004.

- On December 12, 2005 a sessions court announced life sentence for Mr. Mansoor Ahmad, and acquitted the other two.
- On appeal, Lahore High Court released Mansoor Ahmad on bail on May 30, 2007.
- The opponents appealed against this decision in the high court, so fresh hearings of the case started in May 2015 – after 8 years.
- On October 21, 2015 the high court rejected his bail and ordered re-arrest of Mr. Mansoor Ahmad.

The prosecution of this Ahmadi is in its 11th year.

Haveli Majoka, District Sargodha; October 2015: Three Ahmadis Mr. Muhammad Qasim Majoka, Mr. Mazahir Ahmad and Mr. Ahmad Yar were wrongfully implicated in a police case under PPC 295-C and 298-C on October 8, 2010.

- The police struck off the PPC 295-C after initial investigation, and sent the case to the court. On October 14, 2010 the sessions court rejected the plea for bail of the first two Ahmadis and sent them to jail. The third Ahmadi, Mr. Ahmad Yar was acquitted.
- On November 24, 2010 the two Ahmadis, Mr. Muhammad Qasim Majoka and Mr. Mazahir Ahmad were released on bail while the prosecution continued.
- On February 10, 2014 the court sentenced Mr. Muhammad Qasim Majoka to two years' imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadi law and fined him thirty thousand rupees. He was arrested from the court room. Later he was released on bail on February 15, 2014.
- On October 22, 2015 a higher court heard the case. The opponent asked for reinstatement of the blasphemy clause PPC 295-C, while Ahmadis appealed against the awarded sentence. The court rejected the appeals of both the parties and upheld the sentence of Mr. Majoka. The police arrested him and sent him to jail.
- Mr. Majoka will decide on the next course of action on receipt of the written judgment.

Mr. Majoka has entered sixth year of prosecution in this fabricated case.

A big anti-Ahmadiyya rally in Rabwah

Rabwah (Chenab Nagar); October 29-30, 2015: A two-day Khatme Nabuwat conference was allowed by the authorities to be held in the Ahmadiyya headquarters town despite a request by Ahmadis to the administration to disallow this provocative conference in their town where 95% of the residents are Ahmadis and they are not allowed to hold their conferences there. The event was attended predominantly by men from outside Rabwah, and the crowd was a potential threat to the law and order of this town. Civic life was seriously disturbed. Shops remained closed and students could not go to their schools. Ahmadi women were advised to stay at home. Unwelcome guests roamed around the town, visited Ahmadiyya graveyards and posed a threat to the locals.

The conference was publicized in the vernacular press. Press releases on its proceedings were published in detail in Urdu newspapers. The following report is based on

the organizers' press releases published in the dailies Ausaf and Pakistan of October 30 and the daily Khabrain of 31 October 2015.

Reportedly over 200 policemen were deployed at the occasion. Security agents in plain clothes were in addition. Security was further tightened by the organizers through 'entrenched volunteers' who were supervised by Abdul Rauf of Mansehra and Ghulam Fareed of Faisalabad. Violence-provoking books like *Tohfa-Qadianiat* and hateful anti-Ahmadiyya pamphlets were openly displayed and sold. Mujahedeen of Khatme Nabuwwat organizations from Chiniot, Sargodha, Jhang and Faisalabad came in bands and motorcycle groups. A big delegation of the Khatme Nabuwwat Course organized in Islamabad also participated. Participants entered the venue raising slogans of Khatme Nabuwwat in full throat.

Speakers spoke rabidly against the Ahmadiyya community and its elders. Some prominent speakers were Maulvi Fazlur Rahman (JUI-F), Qari Muhammad Hanif Jallandhari, Abdul Rauf Farooqi, Azizur Rahman Jallandhari, Allah Wasaya and Qazi Ihsan Ahmad of Karachi. Maulvi Fazlur Rahman (JUI-F) said, "*The country is hostage in the hands of Qadiani minority, and they consider the prospect of Greater India a part of their faith.*"

Other speakers said, "*Qadianiat is the dagger which was struck in the back of Muslim Ummah by the English. Mirza Qadiani, according to his writings, cannot be considered even a respectable individual. Qadianis receive dollars and pounds from all over the world to badmouth Pakistan. Qadianis are exploiting the so-called human rights organizations to repeal the constitutional amendment of 1974 and the Ordinance of 1984. All blasphemers in prison should be hanged, while the lover of the Prophet (PBUH) Mumtaz Qadri should be set free. Qadianis have made the blasphemy law so ineffective that not a single blasphemer in prison could be hanged until now.*"

The speakers at the conference said the following as well:

- *It is a cause of concern and a point for consideration that under the cover of 'Zarb Azb' religious teachings, Islamic values and the Ulama Karam are being pushed to the wall.*
- *Today the entire Muslim Ummah is being given a hard time in that, on behest of the US and Europe, people related to Madrassahs, Ulama Karam, mosques and Khanqahs (tombs of saints) are being punished for their commitment to Islam.*
- *We shall have to produce unity and discipline in our ranks to fight back the imperialist powers.*
- *The government should task its diplomats abroad to take firm action in support of the Khatme Nabuwwat doctrine and to neutralize the negative propaganda of the Qadiani mischief.*
- *Jihad is a motto of our army; as such Qadianis should be dismissed from all ranks in the armed forces, because they do not believe in Jihad.*
- *Qadiani bureaucrats are disclosing our nuclear secrets as was done earlier by Dr Abdus Salaam who stole Pakistani atomic secrets and passed these on to his western masters.*
- *Admission forms of schools and colleges should include affidavits concerning the end of prophethood, and Khatme Nabuwwat should form part of the syllabus.*
- *Had Governor Taseer been booked under the blasphemy law, Mumtaz Qadri, the Lover of the Prophet, would not have been provoked. We shall never permit the country turn into a secular state.*
- *Qadianis are traitors to the nation and the country; they are brokers of Zionists and imperialist powers and agents of Israel. Qadiani bureaucrats are busy in their scheme of putting an end to the Islamic and ideological nature of the Pakistani state to convert it into a secular state.*

- *Qadiani periodicals use Islamic terms and thereby hurt the sentiments of Muslims. These should be banned. As important as the Khatme Nabuwat is the belief that Prophet Isa is still alive and will descend (from the sky, in latter days).*
- *Allama Iqbal was the first one to demand that Qadianis be declared non-Muslim minority. He was of the opinion that Qadianis were traitors to the country and the Millat and the fake prophethood of Mirza Qadiani was a barge hashish 'drug leaf'.*

This conference demanded that the administration ban auxiliary organizations of Ahmadi children, ladies, youth and elders. Following demands and resolutions were also made, *inter alia*:

- *The sharia punishment of apostasy (death) should be implemented according to the recommendations of the Council of Islamic Ideology.*
- *Start the third phase of military operation Zarb e Azb from the prayer-centers of Qadianis.*
- *Qadiani 'terrorist organization' Khuddamul Ahmadiyya (Ahmadi youth) should be banned.*
- *Gohar Shahi was a blasphemer and he was punished (killed); his followers should be stopped from propagating his ideas and be banned.*
- *Qadianis should remain on watch-list; dual-nationality holder Qadianis should be monitored and actively tracked all the time.*
- *Column of religion should also be added to the computerized national identity card, so that everyone could differentiate between Muslims and non-Muslims.*
 - *Many speakers indulged in political issues facing the country.*
 - *Speakers paid tributes to Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto for his anti-Ahmadi constitutional amendment, and to Zia ul Haq 'Marhoom' for Ordinance XX.*
 - *Mumtaz Qadri was declared an Aashiq e Rasul (Lover of the Prophet), and it was resolved to frustrate all conspiracies to repeal PPC 295-C (the blasphemy law).*

It is worth repeating that the above report is from the press-releases of the organizing mullas. What all was said in addition in the rally was in fact much more scandalous, provocative and objectionable.

The media has most recently reported of fresh official resolve, under the lead of the Prime Minister, to implement the National Action Plan more vigorously. In that case the authorities would do well to refer to this report, the press releases of the mullas and the reports of official agencies who covered this conference. It is about time that the government took some action about these nurseries of extremism and terrorism operating under the cover of End of Prophethood and Honour of the Prophet.

A PML-N leader acts in league with extremist and sectarian mullas

Sargodha: Mr. Aslam Kachela, a former MNA and Deputy President of the ruling PML-N, District Sargodha has recently written a letter to his Chief Minister, Mian Shahbaz Sharif. We translate below some of its contents and add brief comment:

- *Qadianis can be imprisoned for 3 years and fined Rs. 50,000 under laws PPC 298-B and 298-C promulgated by General Zia ul Haq.*
- *Qadianis, by writing the Kalima (Islamic creed) in their mosque and 80,000 graves are tearing the law to pieces and are indulging in a profane effort to malign Pakistan through blaspheming the sacred name of the Holy Prophet thereby hurting the sentiments of millions (Karoron) of Muslims.*

One is reminded of recent murders of guiltless Muslims and Dalits by extremist Hindus in India.

- *The DCO and DPO Chiniot were contacted on this issue, and Rana Sanaullah, the law minister of the Punjab was informed of the above. They promised action and a report to Maulana Muhammad Akram and Ilyas Chinioti (MPA) within a week. No action has been taken for the past one year.*

In our opinion the above is noteworthy in that these sectarian bigots are received by officials and the higher N-League command. Muhammad Akram is a mulla known for his mischief; currently he is banned entry in various districts of the Punjab for the duration of Muharram, while Ilyas Chinioti is another mulla who is anti-Ahmadi activist and is an MPA from the ruling PML-N.

- *A Khatme Nabuwat Conference is being held in Chenab Nagar on October 31, 2015 in which hundreds of thousands of Muslims will participate. We do not want any breakdown of law and order; thus Qadianis should be ordered to obey the law to avoid any riots.*

Mr. Kachela thereby has conveyed a threat of riots and violence to the authorities and to Ahmadi through the bogey of hundreds of thousands of Muslims. In fact, rarely more than ten thousand have ever participated in this annual conference. However there are enough participants to pose a threat to the peace and law and order in Rabwah. As such, this conference should be banned. Even otherwise, outsiders have no justification to come to Rabwah with aggressive designs and become a potential threat to the residents and violate various provisions of the National Action Plan aimed at preventing such hateful religious activities.

The letter to the Chief Minister on Mr. Kachela's letter-head pad indicates that:

- He calls himself *Aseer* Khatme Nabuwat (Prisoner of End of Prophethood).
- He is Deputy President PML-N Sargodha.
- He is member of Aman (Peace) Committee, District Sargodha.

It is clear from the above that Aslam Kachela has been behind bars for his criminal role in some agitation linked to some organization whose front is End of Prophethood. Such a bigot should not be a leader of Pakistan Muslim League that takes its name and claims to be heir of the party of the great Quaid-i-Azam who abhorred religious bigotry and sectarian strife. Also, Kachela by such activism is not fit to be member of any Peace Committee. In fact, all such committees should beware of him.

Uprooted after a threat in Lahore

Model Colony, Walton Road; September 28, 2015: The family of deceased Mr. Zahid Mahmood Qureshi has lived here since long. He died two years ago leaving behind his wife, three daughters and a son named Tahir Mahmood aged 20. Someone dropped a letter in their house, conveying: "We belong to a Jamaat and are on a mission to eliminate Qadianis. We are aware of all members of your family. If you want your son to live then arrange a sum of one million rupees. We will let you know the mode of delivery and the place."

Mr. Mahmood went to the police station to lodge an FIR. They did not register an FIR but wrote down an initial report in the daily ledger, and promised cooperation. Later someone called Mr. Mahmood again on October 1, 2015 and asked if the money had been arranged. Mr. Mahmood replied in the negative.

For fear of attack Mr. Mahmood and his family had to flee from their house and took refuge at a far-off location.

Difficulties in worship

Tatle Aali, District Gujranwala; October 2015: Opponents of the Ahmadiyya community lodged an application with the police against the local Ahmadi and named three Ahmadi

specifically, Mr. Yaqoob Ahmad, Mr. Sabir Ahmad, and Mr. Awais Ahmad. They accused Ahmadis of using a house as worship centre. “According to the law they are non-Muslims, so they cannot follow rituals and practices of Islam,” they wrote. According to the complainant there was a risk that a Muslim would thereby get deceived and become a Qadiani. “Ahmadis should be stopped from activities which are against law and anti-Islam,” they demanded.

In fact, Ahmadis started building their mosque in 2004 which was blocked by the opponents and the authorities. To avoid its sealing Ahmadis converted it to a house for the local missionary and gave an undertaking that they would not use this house as a worship-place.

An Ahmadiyya delegation met the police authorities and informed them that they were abiding by their undertaking and did not use the house as place for worship.

Minorities’ rights: HRCP meeting on Ahmadis

Karachi: The Express Tribune published the following story under the above heading on October 5, 2015:

KARACHI: The state is not a silent spectator, but an active participant in the persecution of Ahmadis, accused members of the Ahmadi community at a meeting organised by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP). The meeting was titled, ‘Ahmadi Citizens: dealing with discrimination, exclusion’ and was held at the Regent Plaza on Sunday.

“The persecution, these days, has taken a new trend as door-to-door conversions of people belonging to the faith are taking place where a cleric accompanies the area’s representatives and threats are meted out to people who refuse to give in to their demands,” claimed one participant.

There has been a change of attitude – what is seen as a change in the strategy of religious parties. “Previously, there used to be an abundance of court notices against us,” said Mujeeb Rehman, a member of the community and a lawyer by profession. “Now, these people pressurise the administration, whereupon the police do not protect us but are themselves in denial,” he claimed. “Even in court cases, bails are not granted as previously the clerics made a hue and cry after a decision of the high court and the order was reversed.” The worst that can happen to any community is when the doors of justice are closed to them, he said.

“The tolerance level among madrassah teachers is four per cent, as compared to the students which is 13 per cent. In Urdu medium schools, the tolerance among teachers is 17 per cent while among students, it is 47 per cent,” he said, referring to a book, titled ‘Study of Education, Inequality and Polarisation in Pakistan.’ According to Rehman, the discrepancy in these statistics lies because of the legal sanctions in place against Ahmadis. “It also shows that madrassa students are greatly affected. Work needs to be done on madrassa curriculum,” he said.

“The condition is not as grave in Sindh as we see in Punjab,” said another member of the community. Shahid Atallah, another representative and an engineer by profession, remarked that this is also true because Punjab has a larger population of Ahmadis as compared to the rest of the country, but the state is indeed under pressure from clerics. “The general public is made to believe that we are traitors and are not reliable,” said Atallah. “This paves the way to greater problems, which are escalating through individuals in the form of blasphemy charges,” said Atallah.

Members of the community also narrated how three-day Qadyani courses were introduced that issued directives of killing them. Cursing Ahmadis within the premises of a mosque, as it doesn’t violate the sanctity of the mosque, is also part of these courses, said a member. Other than this,

passport and CNIC issuance is yet another serious problem as the very mention of the word, Ahmadi, damages their case.

With regards to problems in the educational fraternity, Rehman said that Ahmadi children are discriminated against, despite scoring high in examinations, as faith has to be declared in admission forms. "We had to withdraw from the matric board and get affiliated with the Aga Khan Board. But children who are not part of the Rabwah [the official community group] continue to face problems," he said. Ataullah pointed out how online applications for colleges only provide the option of Muslim and Non-Muslim. "An affidavit is then required to be produced in hard copy to prove your faith. This causes psychological problems among our kids," he said.

The community is also of the belief that the removal of objectives resolution and discriminatory clauses from the Constitution are key measures that can end the marginalisation of the Ahmadi community.

15 months on, Ahmadi families await return

Lahore: The daily The Express Tribune published the following story on October 9, 2015.

Three of the six Ahmadi families displaced in Gujranwala after an infuriated mob torched their houses in Arafat Colony have not been able to return home despite the passage of over 15 months.

The mob had attacked houses belonging to members of Jamaat-i-Ahmadiyya in the colony on July 28, 2014 after asserting that 20-year-old Aqib Saleem, an Ahmadi, had shared a blasphemous post on Facebook. A case was registered against Saleem and police had nabbed the blasphemy suspect. His case was later heard at an anti-terrorism court. Five-year-old Hira Tabassum, three-year-old Kainat Tabassum (sic) and their grandmother Bushra Begum were burnt alive in the incident. The mob had torched another five houses in the locality. The residences were pillaged before being set ablaze.

Saddam Hussain, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khurram, Asif Butt, Asif Dhobi, Tariq Sindhu, Maulvi Hakim Khan and Muhammad Noor had been nominated in an FIR of the incident filed on the complaint of Muhammad Boota, the father of the deceased girls. Police had declared Khan, Hussain and Butt innocent. Khan had been accused of inciting the mobsters by making provocative announcements at a local mosque in the FIR. The other suspects have been imprisoned.

Lahore High Court had dismissed Sindhu's bail application last week. The Supreme Court had turned down bail applications of Noor and Khurram on September 2, 2009.



On the other hand, the court trying Saleem had acquitted him on August 15, 2015. The counsel for the petitioner had informed the court that his client had been accused of sharing the post in question

on July 27, 2014. He said a probe had established that his Facebook account had not been used from July 20 to 28.

Local Ahmadi leader Iqrar Ahmed told The Express Tribune that three of the affected families had returned to the locality. He said locals had not allowed the remaining families to return. Ahmed said Boota, Fazal and Saleem's families had not been allowed to return. He said they had returned to the locality but had vacated their residences once again after being threatened. Ahmed said the families in question were directly involved in the attack.

He said Boota's mother had been killed by the mob and Saleem was accused of blasphemy. The community leader said families that had returned were not related to them. Ahmed said police had been patronising the suspects instead of nabbing them earlier. He said they were arrested following the introduction of the National Action Plan against terrorism. Ahmed said police had informed the community that the department would ensure the safe return of the remaining families when the time was right.

Note: It is now learnt that the police eventually arrested last month one Qari Zahid who was a riot leader in that he incited the rioters on a megaphone; a court has released him on bail.

Effacing *Kalima* from Ahmadi's shop

Chowk Data Zaidka, District Sialkot; October 2015: Kalima was written on the shutter of Mr. Tahir Ahmad Malhi's shop. An opponent of the Ahmadiyya community put up an application to the police to erase the Kalima from there and to register a criminal case against Malhi. A delegation of Ahmadiyya community met the elders of the area and persuaded them to dissuade the complainant from such activities that would disturb the peace of the locality.

The police asked Mr. Malhi to remove the Kalima. He refused to do that and said that if the police in uniform erased it, he would not resist.

Someone during the dark hours erased the Kalima. When Ahmadis complained to the police, they expressed satisfaction over the defiling act.

Anti-Ahmadiyya conference in Jaranwala

Chak 646 GB, Lundian Wala, District Faisalabad; October 11, 2015: A Khatme Nabuwwat conference was held in the madrassah of Syed Amjad Ali Shah S/O Soney Shah. Pir Amjad Ali Shah, Maulvi Mazhar Abbasi (JI), Hassan Raza (Ahle Sunnat wal Jamaat) and Pir Mehr Ali Shah addressed the crowd of 250. Maulvi Hassan Raza spoke venomously against the holy founder of the Ahmadiyya community and incited the audience against Ahmadis.

The security of minorities is necessary, but ... (not of Ahmadis)

The following is translation of an extract from the daily Islam's editorial of October 17, 2015. ... In reality, recent American step is a well-planned conspiracy to amend or abrogate the Tahaffuz-e-Namus-e-Risalat Act in the beloved country and to reinstate the followers of the Qadiani religion in the Muslim brotherhood, whom the constitution of Pakistan has unanimously declared to be a non-Muslim minority. There is no doubt that Qadianiat was planted by the English colonizers. It has nothing to do with Islam and Muslims. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani played a very despicable role in promoting obedience, loyalty and support among Muslims for the imperial British Raj in the subcontinent. After the independence till today his disciples have proved their enmity to Pakistan, at every occasion. It is true that despite their status as non-Muslims, there is a guarantee of protection of their minority rights in the state's constitution. However, Qadianis spared no effort to deceive the less educated Muslims by using

Islamic credos and signs to preach and propagate their false religion; this led to the promulgation of Anti-Qadianiat Ordinance in 1984. Since then Qadiani lobby is crying falsely to the world of its victimization and persecution in Pakistan. Satanic forces should never forget that the dominant majority of Pakistanis believe in the dogma of End of Prophethood and will sacrifice everything for its protection. Every Ideological and Islamic aspect of our God-given country rankles in the heart of the world powers, for this reason all kinds of conspiracies are being hatched to declare Pakistan a secular state. This sensitive situation demands a deep consideration by the mindful and informed section of the society.

Commendable state actions give rise to some questions

Lahore: The Interior Department of the government of the Punjab paid for a large size advertisement in the daily Nawa-i-Waqt of October 16, 2015 and set forth the following:

In order to ensure the sanctity of and religious tolerance during Muharram, The management/owners of any place of worship will suffer registration of an FIR in case of any hateful speech or threat to peace.

Under the National Action Plan, following has been implemented to put an end to religious intolerance and sectarianism:

- 1063 persons have been punished for making religious hate speeches on loud speakers.
- 282 persons have been punished for propagating violence through wall-chalking.
- 437 have been punished for threatening peace through display of fire-arms.

Hateful speeches, publishing and distribution of provocative material and display of fire-arms will not be tolerated at all.

In case of any unpleasant occurrence or its likelihood, contact 15 immediately.

Control room, Interior Department:

#042-99210301

#042-99210302

Respect for Muharram is incumbent on all of us.

Interior Department, Government of the Punjab

The question arises as to why the authorities are not equally sensitive to situations or possibilities of threat to peace to other sects and denominations? Why the same clerics who are banned entry in various districts or are gagged during Muharram are given license to come to Rabwah to indulge openly in hateful propaganda and incitement to violence on loudspeakers? The law should be equally applicable to all, in all circumstances, regardless of who the victims are. A permissive attitude to clerics in anti-Ahmadi situations encourages them to demand the same treatment and facility against other denominations. That is how the society is eventually made to suffer attacks like those in Peshawar, Gojra, Lahore etc, and pay a price of tens of thousands of deaths in religion-based violence.

A Vulnerable minority

Karachi: The daily Dawn the leading English language daily in Pakistan made the following editorial comment in its issue of October 7, 2015 on Ahmadis' situation in Pakistan:

PERSECUTION can be overt at times, subtle and insidious at others; and most people would likely agree that it is an ugly, despicable thing. However, there is one minority community in Pakistan — the Ahmadis — against whom persecution of both kinds not only exists but is celebrated as a virtue by sections of the majority.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan held a consultative meeting with members of the community on Sunday to explore the issue and perhaps, in the process, attempt to hold up a mirror to society's unconscionable collusion in discrimination against them.

On the occasion, examples were cited from various aspects of life, including educational institutions and the workplace, where they are subjected to humiliation and harassment, as well as in the media — where hate speech against them may have even incited the murder of some members of the community.

The HRCP panelists recounted Pakistan's legislative history whereby adherents of the minority faith were declared non-Muslim through a constitutional amendment in 1974; that was later followed by Gen Ziaul Haq making it a punishable offence for Ahmadis to call themselves Muslim, to refer to their call to prayer as 'azan' or their places of worship as 'masjid'.

The HRCP deserves to be commended for highlighting an issue that the conscience of society has long buried. Years of institutionalised discrimination against the Ahmadi community and its persistent vilification have led to a situation where even the mass murder of its members in Lahore on May 28, 2010 failed to elicit the kind of public outrage that such carnage should have merited — and has done so in the case of similar attacks on adherents of other minority faiths.

But then, why should one be surprised at such callous indifference when the state, duty-bound to protect the fundamental rights of all its citizens, has left the community's right to religious freedom entirely at the mercy of what the majority considers acceptable?

This carte blanche is best reflected in Section 298-C of the Pakistan Penal Code, which stipulates that an Ahmadi is liable to sanctions if he "in any manner whatsoever outrages the religious feelings of Muslims": such an open-ended law cannot promote the cause of justice.

Now that there is a realisation that religious intolerance has spawned many of the problems that Pakistan is grappling with today, there must be a resolve to eliminate it in all its forms — without exception.

USCIRF annual report on Ahmadis' situation in Pakistan

Washington: The USCIRF issued its Annual Report 2015 this month. It has a chapter on Pakistan.

In its Key Findings section the report mentions: "... However, despite these efforts, Pakistan continued to experience chronic sectarian violence targeting Shi'a Muslims, Christians, Ahmadi Muslims, and Hindus. Despite positive rulings by the Supreme Court, the government failed to provide adequate protection to targeted groups or to prosecute perpetrators and those calling for violence. Pakistan's repressive blasphemy laws and anti-Ahmadi laws continue to violate religious freedoms and foster a climate of impunity."

In sub-section titled Targeted Sectarian Violence the report mentions:

The Pakistani government failure to effectively intervene against violence targeting the Shia minority community, as well as against Christians, Hindus and Ahmadis, continued during the reporting period.

Its sub-section titled Ahmadis contains the following:

During 2014, individual Ahmadis continued to be murdered in religiously motivated attacks. In May 2014, a Canadian American Ahmadi doctor visiting Pakistan to do relief work was murdered in front of his family. In July, three Ahmadis – a grandmother and her two grandchildren – were killed in an arson attack by a mob. In December, a major Pakistani television station aired an interview with religious

scholars who referred to Ahmadis as 'enemies'. Days later, an Ahmadi was murdered; the community suspects motivation from the television broadcast. (See more about the unique legal repression of Ahmadis below). In addition, local police repeatedly forced Ahmadis to remove Qur'anic scripture from mosques and minarets.

And another sub-section:

Legal Restrictions on Ahmadis

Ahmadis are subject to severe legal restrictions, both in the constitution and criminal code, and suffer from officially sanctioned discrimination. 2014 was the 40th anniversary of Pakistan's second amendment, which amended the constitution to declare Ahmadis to be "non-Muslim". Other discriminatory penal code provisions make basic acts of Ahmadi worship and interaction criminal offenses. They also are prevented from voting.

The last section is Recommendations. It makes numerous recommendations to the US Government; two of these mention Ahmadis specifically:

- Urge the Pakistani government and provincial governments to review all cases of individuals charged with blasphemy in order to release those subjected to abusive charges, as is underway in Punjab, while still also calling for the unconditional release and pardoning of all individuals sentenced to prison for blasphemy or for violating anti-Ahmadi law.
- Call for the repeal of the blasphemy law and the rescinding of anti-Ahmadi provisions of law; until those steps can be accomplished, urge the Pakistani government to reform the blasphemy law by making blasphemy a bailable offense and/or by adding penalties for false accusations or enforcing such penalties found elsewhere in the penal code.

Ahmadis behind bars

1. A baseless 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. Their bails were cancelled.
2. A fabricated case was registered against Mr. Tahir Mahdi Imtiaz, 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 PPC 298-C. A high court judge announced his bail but refused to sign the decision later. Thereafter a 2-member bench of LHC refused him bail. He remains in prison.
3. Mr. Qasim Majoka was wrongfully implicated in a religion-based police case under PPC 295-C and 298-C along with other two more Ahmadis. The police removed the deadly PPC 295-C in initial investigation and sent the case to the court. On February 10, 2014 the court sentenced Mr. Muhammad Qasim Majoka to two years' imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadi law and fined him thirty thousand rupees. He was arrested from the court room. Later he was released on bail on February 15, 2014. On October 22, 2015 a higher court heard the case and upheld the sentence of Mr. Majoka. The police arrested him and sent him to jail.

From the media

Three Ahmadis survive gun attack (in Karachi)

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, October 13, 2015

CII Chief wants to tackle 'incendiary issue' (including one of the Apostasy of Ahmadis)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 21, 2015

Beleaguered Community: Jamaat Ahmadiyya to stay away from polls

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, October 28, 2015

Khushab: Verdict in favour of Muslims over mosque under Qadiani control

The district admin should arrange the hand over to Muslims: LHC orders

The daily Islam; Lahore, October 9, 2015

15 months on Ahmadi families await return

Three of the six Ahmadi families displaced in Gujranwala after an infuriated mob torched their houses in Arafat Colony have not been able to return home despite the passage of over 15 months.

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, October 9, 2015

Qadiani couple accepts Islam (in Shorkot)

The daily Jang; Lahore, October 9, 2015

Ilyas Chinioti (MPA PML-N) meets RPO. Informs him of Qadianis' activities.

If no action is taken against anti-Islam elements, there shall be protest from the platform of Khatme Nabuwwat Movement.

The daily Express; Faisalabad, October 15, 2015

Khatme Nabuwwat Conference scheduled in Chenab Nagar shall be historical and a model: Preachers

The daily Islam; Lahore, October 10, 2015

Chenab Nagar: Thieves and robbers roam free in town. Residents feel threatened.

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, October 18, 2015

All Qadianis are product of Zionism: Qari Shabbir Usmani

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, October 20, 2015

The third phase of Operation Zarb-e-Azb should start from Qadiani places of worship: Khatme Nabuwwat Conference

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, October 31, 2015

All detained blasphemers should be hanged all over the country: Aalami Majlis Khatme Nabuwwat

The daily Jinnah; Lahore, October 30, 2015

Qadiani are involved in destroying national peace: Ilyas Chinioti (MPA PML-N)

The daily Express; Faisalabad, October 18, 2015

Jewish lobby is using Qadianis: (Mulla) Shabbir Ahmad Usmani

The daily Islam; Lahore, October 3, 2015

Madrassahs are citadels of Islam: Maulana Shabbir Usmani

We will have to jointly confront the Kuffar (infidels)

The daily Jang; Lahore, October 1, 2015

Suicide attack on Muharram procession claims 22 lives

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 21, 2015

Suicide attack on Imambargah claims 11 lives

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 28, 2015

Jacobabad: Suicide attack on mourning procession 16 killed including 5 children; 40 injured

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 24, 2015

SC upholds Taseer killer's death penalty

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 8, 2015

Protest against SC judgment in Taseer case (convicting Qadri, the self-confessed killer, and indicting him of terror)

JI support for Mumtaz Qadri

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 10, 2015

Pro-Govt tribal leader killed in bomb blast
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 5, 2015

ASWJ Pindi Chief (Mufti TA Farooqui) gets six month jail
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 6, 2015

40 ulema detained in Punjab to ensure peace during Ashura
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 21, 2015

Sajid Mir demands removal of Maulana Sheerani forthwith. His views cannot be assumed to represent CII.
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 22, 2015

22 clerics banned, 15 gagged for Muharram (in Sheikhpura)
The daily The Nation; Lahore, October 5, 2015

We shall ensure security of citizens: Shahbaz Sharif
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 2, 2015

Daish (ISIS) will not be tolerated, says Gen Raheel
The daily The News; Lahore, October 5, 2015

Mob Hindus (in UP, India) stone to death a Muslim over suspicion to have eaten beef
The daily Express; Faisalabad, October 1, 2015

Mob kills man for ‘smuggling’ cows to be slaughtered (in northern India)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 17, 2015

If Muslims want to live in India, they should stop eating beef: M.L. Khatar, CM Hiriyana
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 17, 2015

Vedas sanction death for cow-killers: Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 19, 2015

Hindu extremists torch 4 to death, including 2 children of a Dalit family
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 21, 2015

Shiv Sena assaults Kasuri’s host in Mumbai
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 13, 2015

Mosque blasts claim 35 lives in Nigeria
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 20, 2015

Suicide attack rocks Nigeria; at least 34 killed
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 17, 2015

ISIS pays up to \$10,000 per person for recruitment
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 18, 2015

Muslim teen falsely accused of making bomb visits White House
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 21, 2015

As president I shall order shut down of mosques in the U.S.: Donald Trump’s nonsense
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 24, 2015

86 killed, 186 injured in Turkey’s twin blasts
The daily The Nation; Lahore, October 11, 2015

89 Pakistanis martyred (in Mina stampede, Saudi Arabia), 43 still missing: minister
The daily The Nation; Lahore, October 9, 2015

Inviting Arabs to hunt is pillar of foreign policy: govt

Supreme Court asked to lift ban on hunting of houbara bustard
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 18, 2015

PTI may knock on EU, UN doors for ‘justice’
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 19, 2015

Police ‘rape victim’ commits suicide (in Muzaffar Garh)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 14, 2015

Two lakh (200,000) Tazias taken out every year; expenses approximately 100 billion.
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 24, 2015

‘Dead’ man wakes up minutes before post-mortem in India

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 14, 2015

Wukala Gardi (Mafia of advocates) in Lahore; Civil Judge locked inside the court room for giving unfavourable verdict.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 10, 2015

Op-eds: Where are the Zia Days?

...

The modern day liberal, or even Islamist, does not want to break the country but wants to dominate its discourse. As compared to a few decades ago, Pakistan is stronger in terms of its acceptance as an idea. It is indeed a reality. However, the contestation remains as to what kind of state it was meant to be and how it should grow. Broadly speaking, the issue with the liberals is not the use of religion but that the state must not use it politically to then excommunicate some citizens. The emphasis is on pluralism so that people can talk to each other. The political use of Islam since the 1970s created conditions in which today even the Muslims find it hard to talk to each other.

Intriguingly, it took the death of over 140 innocent children in Peshawar for the deep state and the larger society to realize that it must abandon the bulk of violent extremists. While everyone including the religious and political right must have the right to express itself, it is worthwhile understanding that such a continued attack on liberalism is equally dangerous for the nation’s integrity and coherence. This is not about western or foreign values, but protecting one’s own values, culture and history through dialogue and debate. If then, asking for political, social and cultural pluralism is anti-nationalist then let’s all become that.

Ayesha Siddiqua <http://www.thefridaytimes.com/tft/where-are-the-zia-days/>

Op-ed: Hanging Mumtaz Qadri

Mumtaz Qadri shot dead Governor Salman Taseer whom he was assigned to protect, on plea of the governor having committed blasphemy in his opinion. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) declared in its judgment that Qadri was guilty of homicide but he did not violate anti-terrorism law.

While Section 295, from the Original Indian Penal code of 1860, and 295-A, added in 1927 after the Ilam Din fiasco, are secular in nature – apply to all religions identically – 295-B and 295-C added by the Zia regime in 1986, make Islamic scriptures and religious figures worthier of esteem. This naturally aggravates Muslim supremacism, leaving moderate Muslims – like Salmaan Taseer – and non-Muslims – like Asia Bibi – at the mercy of Islamic fanaticism. It is no coincidence that there were only 14 cases filed for blasphemy between 1947 and 1986, which have increased nearly a 100 times over the past 29 years.

Not only did the absolution of terrorism charge create a window for Qadri’s counsel to settle the case through blood money – which isn’t possible for convicted terrorists – in the bigger scheme of things, the IHC’s verdict would’ve meant that attacks designed to target Shia, Ahmadis and non-Muslim minorities would’ve been peddled by the zealous supporters as not being acts of terrorism. That would’ve been as close as it is judicially possible to legalize terrorism.

And so, while the potential hanging of Mumtaz Qadri – which still is far from being a shoo-in – could signal the end of a gruesome chapter, more critically it would be the start of a new one. More essential than executing Qadri the man, is the elimination of Qadri the cult. This

isn't possible without proverbially hanging the cult of Ilam Din and revisiting the status of Muslim marauders like Mohammad bin Qasim and Mahmood Ghaznavi, and 7th century Arab warriors, as "our" heroes. Even more significant is the need to reconsider our blind adherence to the narrow, antediluvian and imperialist ideologically that is monolithically, and ubiquitously, sold as Islam.

There is more to a Muslim's identity than theological adherence and it's adopting Muslim pluralism that will breed religious coexistence in Pakistan. This would in turn create a society that is democratic, humanistic and tolerant enough to abolish the capital punishment. And that is when Mumtaz Qadri will truly be eliminated.

Kunwar Khuldune Shahid in The Nation of October 8, 2015

Op-ed: Lynch mobs in India: lessons for Pakistan

...

India is a mess, but luckily, we left that mess behind when Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah gifted us a free Pakistan in 1947. The mess that should be our primary preoccupation is the one we have created here in the Islamic Republic since then.

...

Among the many reasons why this is unsustainable and must be resisted, none should be more compelling than the brazen immorality of people fearing for their lives based on what they believe. No society or state should tolerate such immorality – ever. But for Pakistan, whose very existence is rooted in the safety and protection of minorities, such immorality is a malignant tumour that must be resisted and removed at all costs.

...

Are Shias still mainstream? Or are Shias part of a minority? What kind of Shia? Oops. There are just so many. Zafarullah Khan. Sir Aga Khan. Quaid-e-Azam. Minorities in Pakistan? Sometimes, the head spins from the complexity of our identities' identities.

...

If we can use the Dadri lynching in India to improve ourselves, as a society and a state, we would have done our Quaid and his legacy proud. Otherwise, we risk being no different from the callous society being built by Hindutvadi fervour across the border.

Mosharraf Zaidi in The News of October 6, 2015

Op-ed: Pakistan: Supreme Court makes landmark judgment

In a landmark judgment on 7 October the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) upheld the death sentence of Malik Mumtaz Qadri, 30, who murdered the former Governor of Punjab, Salman Taseer, a liberal Muslim on 4 January 2011.

In its judgment on Qadri's appeal against the decision of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) the apex court also allowed the Federation's appeal seeking the restoration of terrorism charges against the accused.

Although the court judgment is a welcome step, now it is the responsibility of the government to take strict actions against that who falsely accuse others under blasphemy laws. It seems unlikely that the present government of Mian Nawaz Sharif will take measures in this direction, as his party shares the same ideology as religious groups.

...

Generally, the courts' credibility is not very high when it comes to sensitive cases related to religion. For that reason, the SC's judgment should be seen as an important step in an Islamic country where liberal Pakistanis are marginalized.

...

The court reinstated Qadri's conviction under anti-terrorism laws that the Islamabad High Court had wrongly set aside. As a result, Qadri cannot now pay blood money to the victim's family under another Islamic law, the Qisas and Diyat Ordinance, for his release, though his supporters are still publicly offering blood money to Taseer's family.

Aftab Alexender Mughal in Asian Human Rights Commission doc: AHRC-FAT-037-2015

Op-ed: Pseudo-supremacy is the primary cause behind mob violence in Pakistan

...

There are a number of such incidents which highlight atrocities against the minority communities and faith based groups by members of the general public. More importantly the culprits are never adjudged criminals and almost always succeed in leading a free life. If we analyze each of these incidents, we reach a very obvious, as well as scary, conclusion. The mindset of the attackers belonging to the general public is filled with pseudo superiority. The vast majority of Pakistanis deem themselves to be the divine custodians of the holy truth. We feel that our sheer belief gives us the right to harass and demonize others who may have a different outlook on faith. We let our inner demons come out and rule us at the mere suspicion of any insult carried out to our belief, yet we do not think twice before ransacking the places of worship of other faiths and burning their holy books. The double whammy is: this mindset is provided exceptional support by a crumbling, biased law and order system which is notorious for letting the culprits walk and instead victimizes the victims. The law enforcement agencies, and more than them the masses, are in great need of some honest soul searching.

Yogeena Veena in The Nation, October 16, 2015