An Ahmadi shot dead after a hostile and malicious programme on GEO TV and a sectarian rally

**Rabwah; December 27, 2014:** Ahmadiyya central office issued the following press release on the event.

**Press Release**

Ahmadis in Gujranwala once again target of hate mongers. Ahmadi youth becomes latest victim.

A conference held a few days ago instigated participants to take actions against Ahmadis.

On 22 December 2014 participants in Geo TV's morning show instigated hatred against Ahmadis, which should not be ignored.

**Hate speech and instigation to violence is taking lives of Ahmadis in Pakistan: Spokesman Jamaat Ahmadiyya**

Chenab Nagar (PR): Today early in the morning right after Fajar prayers an Ahmadi Luqman Ahad was murdered while he was on his way from home to his farm.

This is the latest incident of violence in Gujranwala where a few days ago a conference was organised, and the speakers as usual used bad language against Ahmadis and instigated participants to take strong actions against them.

The spokesperson of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Pakistan Saleemuddin said, “instigation to hatred and violence against Ahmadis is normal and acceptable in Pakistan where pamphlets, brochures, street banners openly instigate hatred and violence against Ahmadis.”

Saleemuddin further added that “A national TV channel Geo on 22 December had participants calling Ahmadis enemies of Pakistan who should be taken to task, without any fear of its consequences on the lives of innocent Ahmadis. Last time in 2008 the same channel with the same host aired a programme that called for death to Ahmadis, and two prominent Ahmadis were shot dead in next two days of the programme.”

Saleemuddin asked if there was no law in this country, that keeps a check on these hate mongers and anchors who spew hatred or give space to hate mongers openly.

It is high time that Pakistani government and law enforcement institutions take notice of this open hatred and instigation to violence and bring the culprits to book. Nobody should be allowed to spew venom against anyone on the basis of religion; only this way we can bring this menace of terrorism to end, he said.###

Asian Human Rights Commission rightly took note of a sectarian rally that had taken place in the locality a few days earlier. In its statement AHRC-215-2014 issued on December 29, 2014 it said, “The murder in cold blood was the result of an anti-Ahmadiyya Conference that was held in Gujranwala where instigation and incitement to kill Ahmadis was the prime message of the mullas. The hate mongers were allowed to organize the conference by the government, given the current law and order situation, speaks volumes about the state’s resolve to bring stability to Pakistan.”

The daily The Nation wrote a readable editorial on December 29, on this murder; it is produced as Annex I to this report.
**Booked for ensuring security**

*Rabwah; December 16, 2014:* Two Ahmadis, Mr Khurshid Ahmad and Mr Bilawal Ahmad, security guards were booked here by police with FIR No. 393/2014 on December 16, 2014 under PPC 341/342, 506/148 and 149.

Police have repeatedly informed Ahmadiyya community in Rabwah that this town is on the target list of terrorists and the residents should take steps to ensure security. In this the police and the residents have co-operated in various ways, including patrolling by mobile citizen guards.

The two guards were booked by the police on the complaint of a resident mulla Ghulam Mustafa of an End of Prophethood organisation. According to the FIR, the two accused stopped two mullas and interrogated them, indulging in ‘wrongful confinement’ and ‘criminal intimidation’.

For Ahmadis of Rabwah (A place for martyrs?) it is a dilemma. If they do not take security measures, they violate official warnings and instructions; if they take steps to ensure security, they are booked on fabricated accusations.

If declared guilty, the two accused could be imprisoned for two years – for doing their duty!

**A kidnapping traced – 5 years later**

*Toba Tek Singh (Punjab):* Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Bajwa was kidnapped from his farm on October 26, 2009. There was no news of the victim for the next 5 years. Now it is disclosed by terrorists recently arrested in District Gujrat that Mr. Bajwa was slaughtered and buried in Bhimbar nullah for being a ‘Qadiani blasphemer’. Essential details of this discovery are given below.

Mr. Mubarak Bajwa of Chak 312 JB, Kithowali, District T. T. Singh, aged 55 was kidnapped along with a 14 years old servant, from his farm. A few days later the kidnappers released the boy and provided him a mobile phone for keeping contact. They demanded a ransom of Rs 20 million for Mr. Bajwa; eventually they came down to one million and demanded that the money be delivered in Kohat or Para Chinar (FATA).

Thereafter the telephonic contact was lost, and the police also gave up the search.

Recently the police told Mr. Bajwa’s brother that the Gujrat Police had some information about his missing brother. So he went to Gujrat and met the DPO. The DPO told him that a few terrorists belonging to Tehrik Taliban (TTP) of Afzal Fauji group had been arrested and they disclosed that one of them named Wajid had slaughtered Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Bajwa with a long knife (*chhuri*), accompanied by Ahmad (former Tara Masih) who had converted to Islam and had joined TTP.

Wajid told the police that the kidnapped individuals were detained in the basement of a mosque in Kotli village. They were kept in chains and their lips were sealed with tape. After the night prayers (*Isha*) three of the kidnappers took Mr. Bajwa to the sandy course of Bhimbar nullah and cut off his neck. Wajid stated that the dead body was buried after being chopped to pieces.

The police asked the killer his motivation for this act. He replied that his commander Asmatullah Muawiya of TTP had given standing orders that Ahmadis are ‘blasphemers’ hence they must be killed. “We obeyed him. Our commander has told us to target Ahmadis and Shias. Kidnap them, receive the ransom and thereafter kill them, he says.”

The police is looking for the dead body.

Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Bajwa was a good man. He was kind, gentle and friendly. His family is active in community service. He has left behind a widow and four sons. The daily Abtak of December 20 carried the news that a terrorist involved in the murder of a Qadiani was killed in an ‘encounter’ with Gujrat Police.
Taliban massacre 132 school children
Teacher burnt alive; she was among 145 dead
Source of the malady – Report and analysis
Peshawar; December 16, 2014: Suicide bombers attacked Army Public School here and killed children en-masse. They also killed the teachers and staff who came their way. Tehrik Taliban Pakistan claimed the responsibility and stated their resolve to continue with more of such attacks.

The media reported that during the carnage, the attackers shouted slogans of *Allah-o-Akbar* (God is greatest) and told the students to recite the *Kalima* (Islamic credo).

This massacre shocked and stunned the entire nation. It was followed by a volcanic eruption of anger, emotion and demand for action against terrorists and religious thugs.

The Prime Minister hurriedly called an all-parties-conference. Imran Khan called off his sit-in and joined the chorus of condemnation of this barbaric attack. It was decided to lift the moratorium on implementation of death penalty. In addition to the usual gestures on such occasions, the media and the civil society opened a barrage of broadside fire against those who are soft on terrorism.

Some are of the opinion that the incident could prove 9/11 of Pakistan. Others are not so sure; they doubt the capacity of Pakistani leadership to radically alter its course, catch the bull by the horn and slaughter it. Forces of bigotry, obscurantism and immoderation are well dug-in, they reason.

Few, however, deny that the slaughter in Peshawar could be a water-shed event and a game changer. If that be so, it would be helpful to dig up the recent past and pinpoint the factors that jointly contributed to the dreadful happening in Peshawar. This exercise in ‘clinical tests’ will help in diagnosis and the treatment of the national malady.

Massacres of somewhat similar type have happened in the past: Meena Bazar in Peshawar and the other such carnages in 2009, slaughter in two Ahmadiyya mosques in Lahore in 2010, attack in Hazara Town in 2013, explosions in All Saints Church last year, butchery at Wagah border in November 2014, etc. Although an in-depth enquiry in all these incidents will provide useful information on the nature and substance of terrorism in Pakistan, we are competent only to present authentic facts and figures about the slaughter in
Ahmadiyya mosques in Lahore. That should be adequate to provide the required info for the proposed study.

**Slaughter in two Ahmadiyya mosques in Lahore on May 28, 2010.** Following essential information in brief is taken from the archives:

- Eighty-six Ahmadis were slain, 124 injured, at the two sites. One Christian who worked in the Garhi Shahu complex also died in the attack.
- The attacks were undertaken by the Taliban, TTP.
- During the attack they shouted *Khatme Nabuwwat Zinda Baad* (Long live End of Prophethood).
- The police delayed intervention and moved in at leisure, only after the attackers had expended their ammunition and it was safe to move in.
- As a result, little timely rescue and evacuation efforts were made, which resulted in the death of many injured, due to excessive loss of blood.
- For the first time in Pakistan, two of the suicide bombers were captured by their victims. They were handed over to the police. They were treated with care and consideration by the authorities. They live in style in jail, and are sure to escape justice.
- The TTP issued a statement two days after the attack: “On the whole, we do like to encourage the nation for increasing such activities, like targeted killings of Qadianis, Shias, the political parties that support them, as well as law-enforcing agencies, the Pakistan Army and other racist parties.”
- The BBC quoted Rana Sanaullah, a provincial minister that the terrorists had stayed in Raiwind (a location from where Deobandi groups make sorties for Tabligh i.e. preaching).
- A few days later, the National Assembly, urged by its women members condemned the killing of Ahmadis; the Senate however could not muster enough courage to do even that.
- Neither the President, the Prime Minister, nor the Sharif brothers (Mr. Shahbaz Sharif was the chief minister in Lahore) considered it necessary to visit the Ahmadiyya centre in Lahore, the targeted places of worship or the injured in the hospital.
- The electronic media behaved badly. Almost all reporters at the scene of attack took care not to refer to the Ahmadis’ congregation as Friday prayers, although the law does not prohibit them doing so. A mulla Ibtisam Ilahi Zaheer had the audacity to call Ahmadis *Wajib-ul-Qatl* (must be killed) on a TV show those days. The press conference of an Ahmadi leader, at the occasion, was attended by reporters from a number of TV channels but none of them exercised their freedom of media to air the program. It is also comical that a TV reporter referred to the Ahmadi martyrs as *halak* (perished) but for the dead terrorist, he used respectful term *Jan Bahaq* (one who delivers his soul to God).
- Some people distributed sweets on receiving the news of the massacre. There were reports of a few celebratory processions.
- The Amir Jamaat Islami, Munawwar Hasan warned that another major Khatme Nabuwwat movement could be launched on the same lines as in 1953 (that led to widespread anti-Ahmadi riots in the Punjab, resulting in first martial law in the country).
- The Federal Interior Minister disclosed that the province had been informed beforehand of terrorist threat to the Ahmadiyya community.
- Dr Hasan Askari Rizvi wrote in *The Friday Times of June, 2010*: “What helps sustain terrorist groups is the political profile of Punjab that is marked by religious
conservatism and a strong right-wing orientation. The PML-N that rules the Punjab avoids a categorical criticism of militancy, hoping to protect its right-wing/Islamist electoral support.” Yasser Latif Hamdani, another intellectual, wrote in the Daily Times of May 31, 2010: “The Second Amendment (Ahmadi-specific) laid the foundation of intolerance and religious tyranny in Pakistan, which has manifested itself in many ways. Since then our state has been in a downward spiral.”

- The Punjab Government formed a high-level Inquiry Committee to look into the tragic incident. However, the Committee soon stopped inquiring, did not ask the Ahmadiyya community to present its views; in fact produced no report – as effectively hinted by the high political leadership.

- Last, but not least, the truth came out in another major inquiry – Commission report on the Osama Bin Laden episode, published by ALJAZEERA in 2013. Lt General Pasha, the then Director General ISI appeared before the Commission and testified (extract): “In Lahore the police protected those who attacked the Qadianis last year (in 2010) and even directed them to the hospital where the wounded were being treated. The provincial government had been informed of the situation but it took no heed of the advice and information provided by the ISI. No guards were assigned to the hospital as venal political influence intervened everywhere.”

Above-mentioned facts disclose a lot about the state of the State and the society in which Peshawar massacre happened, as little was undertaken by the leaders and the authorities to deter terrorism in the next four years. Chicken have come home to roost.

A brief description of the pre-Peshawar environment, however, will be useful to understand the situation on the ground in Pakistan of 2014.

Most of what follows is from the media – on record.

By early 2014, according to the Federal Minister of Interior, Islamabad was in the cross hairs of Al-Qaida, Lashkar Jhangvi and TTP. Taliban issued a video of playing football with the chopped heads of Pak security personnel. Massacre at the All Saints Church had happened. Reportedly, the military insisted on effective response. In response, the Prime Minister called an All Parties Conference in which all the politicians decided to hold talks with Taliban, as according to quite a few, Taliban were “Our brothers in ideology (Nazriati bhai) and strategic assets”.

For talks with Pakistan, TTP named Imran Khan and Maulana Aziz of the Lal Masjid, Islamabad as members of their 5-man team. Imran Khan refused the offer. Aziz told the media that Taliban had 500 women suicide bombers.

Initially a cease-fire was announced for a month to facilitate talks. In those days mulla Qari of Sunni Tehrik stated that JI and JUI were auxiliaries of TTP. TTP made a set of 15 demands. The Jamaat Islami Chief recommended that Taliban demands should be accepted. Siraj-ul-Haq, the new Jamaat Amir declared on April 17, 2014 that there was no change in JI policies on vital issues. The ANP issued a statement that JI and Maulana Sami-ul-Haq were political wings of the Taliban. In early April, 16 Taliban were released from captivity. The JI Chief stated on May 2, 2014 that the tribals were guarding the country without pay.

As nothing was coming out of the talks, the military launched all-out operation in North Waziristan on June 15, 2014; most political parties announced support while JI and PTI, who rule in coalition in KPK, were sceptical.

Imran Khan of PTI had his own priorities. He launched his marathon sit-ins in Islamabad and demanded that Nawaz Sharif resign as prime minister. The PTI chief would address a crowd almost daily thereafter. He raised all the issues that the nation faced. However, an ANP leader pointed out after the Peshawar tragedy that Imran Khan never once raised the issue of terrorism, as if this was of no concern to him or the Pakistani people.
It is interesting to note that the former Chief Justice of Supreme Court played an active role in those days to rehabilitate mulla Aziz in the Lal Masjid of Islamabad and issued orders for re-opening of madrassas that were involved in the uprising in Musharraf era.

Then arrived December 16, 2014 about which a poet wrote his wish that the sun had not risen on that day or the calendars had not carried that date.

It should be mentioned that after the massacre in Peshawar when almost all the anchors and participants in TV talk-shows strongly condemned this atrocity and referred to the past of the Taliban, one found no mention of massacres in the All Saints Church in Peshawar and the two Ahmadiyya mosques of Lahore. Every one condemned the politicians, but there was hardly a whisper about the mullas, the judiciary, and the military. The military perhaps should be forgiven, after its sacrifices in Swat, South Waziristan and North Waziristan. Muhammad Hanif however was not sure when he wrote for the BBC (extract):

“The political and military leadership of Pakistan is requested not to worry about the Afterlife of the (slain) children; when they raise their hands tomorrow, they should pray for their own salvation, also they should look carefully at their own hands to see if they are blood-stained.”

Ahmadi Muslims joined their countrymen in this hour of national mourning and grief. Mr. Saleemuddin the Ahmadi spokesperson in Pakistan called the event as one of the greatest tragedies in Pakistan that requires action from the rulers rather than mere statements of condemnation. “Radical elements who use religion to perpetrate acts of blood and horror are the real enemies of Pakistan. Greater criminals are those who are their patrons and so-called guides who justify such barbaric acts,” he said. Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the World Head of the Ahmadiyya… Community called this massacre ‘a tragedy and injustice of the heaviest proportion… conducted in the name of that God whose compassion is unparalleled. It is being done in the name of that Prophet (peace be on him) who has been declared by God Almighty as the ‘Mercy for all mankind’. And it is being falsely justified in the name of that Sharia which advocates peace and justice for all’. He further said, “We Ahmadi Muslims sympathise and love humanity and so whenever mankind suffers in any way it leaves us grieved and pained. In this instance those killed were our fellow Muslim brothers and our countrymen, so our grief is even more. Our hearts are filled with love and compassion for them.” (The Friday sermon on December 19, 2014)

The incorrigible mulla, however persists in his ways. On the day of the Peshawar tragedy, mullah Abdul Latif Cheema, the secretary general of Majlis Ahrar Islam stated: “Qadianis are the agents of the US, Israel and India.” The daily Din; Lahore of December 17, 2014. He raised the issue of Ahmadis using Islamic signs and terms in Rabwah. His colleagues in Sargodha issued a pamphlet urging fellow Muslims to march on to Chenab Nagar (Rabwah) to coerce Ahmadis there from showing any link with Islam. The pamphlet exhorted its readers: “O devotees of Muhammad, the Arab (peace be on him), O guardians of End of Prophethood, O lovers, ever ready to sacrifice your lives over the honour of the Prophet – Rise, and join this protest for the protection of Islamic signs (Shaair)…. Be a sword of Syedna Khalid, in step with your elders, to establish on December 26, 2014 that unlawful and villainous conduct of Qadianis in Chenab Nagar will not be tolerated.”

Jamaat Islami, the co-rulers in KPK participated in the APC called by the prime minister after the Peshawar incident. True to its colours the JI proposed in the meeting that, inter alia, year 2015 should be accepted as the Year of Peace. The JI Amir did not elaborate, how would that be achieved or what exactly he meant by it. Everyone else OKed the proposal.

Mulla Abdul Aziz of Lal Masjid, Islamabad refused to condemn the Taliban for their massacre of children in Peshawar. It is relevant to mention that his father who was among the
first mulls to settle in Islamabad belonged to the Khatme Nabuwwat organisation. The civil society took out procession against Aziz to protest his support for the Taliban. The authorities had to book him in a police case. Aziz went into hiding hoping that his powerful friends will rescue him, as always.

The international community noted with great concern that even after what the terrorists did in Peshawar, a judge accepted bail application of the mulla who is accused of providing supervision and guidance to terrorists who attacked Bombay a few years ago. The authorities however moved fast to detain him under another accusation and law. IHC later gave orders for his release on bail.

A word about Deobandis. The founders of Deoband were great scholars, committed to reform. With passage of time, corruption and deviation set in the madrassa. Now, Indian Deobandi leadership condemns terrorism in public, while Pakistani Deobandis are committed to extremism and violence – some to terrorism.

Taliban, almost entirely are Deobandis of the latter variety, in the sectarian divide. Latter-day Deobandi deviation formalized by clerics like Maudoodi and Syed Qutb (Egyptian) guides their militancy. Recently, in the face of growing criticism and condemnation, various Deobandi clerics decided to form a united front. Their organisational structure that has finally emerged in the form of Majlis Ulama Islam, Pakistan is primarily in the hands of the notorious Ahrar and the anti-Ahmadi Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat. For that reason their Central Amir of the Supreme Council shall be mulla Abdul Razaq Sikandar while mulla Ata ul Momin Shah Bokhari will be the chair of the 11-member Liaison Committee and mulla Zahid-ur-Rashidi will be the Secretary. Rashidi is known to crave for petro-dollars and is ever ready to deliver sectarian violence in return. God save Pakistan.

Pakistani think tanks who go deep into issues and are not motivated by self-interest are of the opinion that the war on terrorism will not be won unless 1) Terrorists, leaders as well as sympathizers are brought under yoke and held accountable for their support to criminal ideology and conduct, 2) Terrorists of all types are eliminated, not only those who have risen in revolt in FATA and 3) Pakistan and its people should revert to Jinnah’s guidelines in this country. It has to be a holistic approach; merely military approach will not deliver. Recently, a democratic government in Bangladesh has succeeded in winning public support to punish mullas for their war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Wusatullah Khan, an op-ed writer for the daily Mashriq collected a set of verses for his column on Peshawar on December 19, 2014 in the daily Mashriq. We chose this analysis with translation of a few of those verses, wondering if the translation would do justice to the thought of the composers:

Mother, I won’t be coming home

...They told us to recite the Kalima;  
Did they want to make sure only Muslims were slain!  
...Beware, don’t mention flowers at my mourning;  
Mourn your own honour, your feelings, your faith and your freedom.  
If you are in search of the killer, let us both look in the mirror, you and I;  
Would you still not let me kill myself?  
...They say, we’ll make life difficult for them,  
We’ll crush their terror;  
These are but vain words.  
When today turn into tomorrow,  
And the blood of the dead seeps underground  
And tomorrow shows its teeth,  
They too will stand alongside the terrorists.
…They stand behind death,
Put forth their muzzle and say,
We mourn those who died.
…Is there none who will take microphone from hands of the journalists and shove it down their throat as they stand at the gate and ask mothers how they feel?
Is there another word, pettier, more deficient, more rotten than grief?
…Mother, hurry the breakfast, I have to reach the school for my martyrdom.
The earth has calmly taken back in its belly so many of its kids….
The most gullible in the world is the snake-charmer who believes that the snake will never bite the hand that gives him milk to drink.
…Is there now someone who bans forever the statements of condemnation that come forth from photocopying machine?
Everyone is chattering, no one is listening – none.
Snatch security from the elite to provide protection to the people - it is very simple, Nuclear state and unclear state.

Another outrage by TV channel GEO and its anchor Aamir Liaquat Hussain
Slander and spiteful disinformation on a most sensitive occasion
December 22, 2014: TV channel GEO in its morning show ‘Subah Pakistan’ led by ‘Dr’ Aamir Liaquat Husain, telecast a deliberate slander and spiteful and misleading disinformation uttered by a mulla, after the most barbaric massacre of school children in Peshawar, accusing the Ahmadiyya community of promoting terrorism in Pakistan and to be the mover behind the heinous attack on school.

It would be recalled that the GEO and Aamir Liaquat aired a similar outrage in September 2008 insinuating that Ahmadis were Wajib-ul-Qatl (must be killed), and in the next following days president of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Mirpur Khas Dr Abdul Mannan Siddiqui and the president of Nawabshah Mr. Mohammad Yousaf were shot dead.

During the discussion in the program at a certain point, Muhammad Arif Owaisi and Hamza Ali Qadri used slander against the Jamaat Ahmadiyya. The transcription of relevant part of the program is presented herewith for review:

Arif Owaisi: The fact is that this program of yours has done a great intellectual correction. Alhamdulillah, Our entire nation was in a sheer mental peril, and as you said in Raymond Davis case that ‘speak with courage’, I also want to say something with courage and say it openly. And that is that amongst us, till date, you had asked who is behind it, I am telling this with divine knowledge that in our country there is only one enemy of all Muslims belonging to various schools of thought and we should recognise this enemy and I want to openly give out the indication of that enemy which is enemy of all of us. It is correct that sectarian differences between us are continuing for years, but this enemy is our joint enemy and it is the enemy of entire Pakistan. And the name of this enemy is ‘Fitna e Qadianiyat’ (The evil of Ahmadiyyat).

Aamir Liaquat (in affirmative): “Hhhmnnmm” (“See?????)

Arif Owaisi: Of Khatme Nabuwat, they are actually against the capital punishment in Pakistan. They are against punishments, since they are promoters of blasphemy, Qadiani, Mirzai. So we all Muslims should recognise this enemy, not that we should instead be fighting with one another.

Aamir Liaquat: (leads all in clapping)
Arif Owaisi: Recognise them amongst your own files, and it is all the result for their conspiracy, and I would also say here that, Allama sb said a thing during the break while sipping tea, that they were raising a slogan, those who carried out attacks in Peshawar, they were raising slogans ‘Allah o Akbar’ (God is great). We want to tell this to the entire world’s media that if a terrorist is reciting the Kalima during terrorist attack, raising Allah o Akbar slogan while murdering innocents or doing something against Islam, he has nothing to do with Islam, and this terrorist be not related to Islam; he is an enemy of Islam in Islam’s disguise.

Hamza Ali Qadri: During my city life, I used to sit in a cafeteria. I don’t want to name it. The day these Qadianis were declared non-Muslims, a Qadiani who was there said to me “Mr. Hamza, now you will see, how much blood will be spilt. You have declared us ‘Kafir’ (infidels), but you will see how much blood is spilt,” so Shah sb, you are absolutely correct. This is international conspiracy.

Arif Owaisi: Judaism is active behind this. This is truth, why should we be afraid of naming America. We are being subjected to cruelty, our children are being beheaded, and this cruelty that fell upon these children, I ask whether they were children of the Shiites? Whether they were children of Ahl e Hadith? Whether they were children of Barelvis? They were all Muslims’ children.

Amir Liaquat: True, very nicely put.

In the aftermath of militants’ attack on Army Public School in Peshawar the whole country was in mourning and various media channels broadcast programs in this regard. Aamir Liaquat Hussain had the following mullas in his show that day:

Syed Hamza Ali Qadri, Vice President, Jamaat Ahl e Sunnat, Sindh; Professor Muhammad Younas Siddiqui, Incharge Tehrik Ahl e Hadees Pakistan; Mufti Syed Muhammad Arif Shah Owaisi, founder of Madressa Auliya Quran; Mufti Imran ul Haq, Assistant Professor Jamia Karachi; Allama Shabbir Hasan, leader of Shia Ulama Council; Qari Muhammad Usman, Jamiat Ulama e Islam (Fazal ur Rahman Group)

While this grave instigation against the peaceful Ahmadiyya community is most condemnable, the attempt made by these mullas and the infamous Aamer Liaquat Husain to misguide and de-track one and all in the pursuit of the real culprits is a criminal act in support of terrorists. The GEO management, who had to almost apologise for the conduct of this felon in 2008, cannot be absolved of its responsibility of what is said, by whom, in whose programme.

This time again Geo TV apologized, according to the daily Dawn of December 30. However, Aamer Liaquat had no sense of shame and upheld his stand of ‘Not Guilty’. In a subsequent program on Geo he said,“ … There can be no conciliation between me and the group that is leading this campaign; I can forego everything but not my faith in the end of Prophethood; that belief will be with me in my grave as my coffin. … Nothing in my program of 22 Dec was aimed at promoting hatred against any group or people”.

Mr. Irfan Hussain, a well-known op-ed writer commented on this incident and concluded: “I hate to repeat myself, but as I wrote recently, a military campaign against terrorists is not enough by itself to combat the jihadi threat. The intolerance that is being taught in our classrooms and broadcast by our TV channels is what is fuelling the terror campaign that has brought Pakistan to its knees.”

Only five days after this GEO programme, an Ahmadi was target-killed for his faith in District Gujranwala.

The News International published a very insightful op-ed, “The terrorist tree” on this aspect of terrorism, in its issue of December 28, 2014; it is available at Annex II.
**Dacoit's threat**

*Jhangar Hakim Wala, District Nankana; November 25, 2014:* Ahmadis here are facing severe opposition from opponents of the community. Anti-Ahmadiyya literature is distributed in the village. Mr. Muhammad Afzal S/O Rai Mansab Ali was deported back with family from Sri Lanka, a few months ago. Five unknown dacoits broke into the house of Mr. Afzal on November 25, 2014 at 1:30 a.m. and threatened to kill him. The intruders knew that Mr. Afzal is the finance secretary of the local Jamaat and demanded the community funds. They threatened to kill his child and take his wife as a hostage on refusal. They fled after taking one hundred thousand rupees of the community fund. During the dacoity, Mr. Afzal pleaded them over the Holy Quran to not rob him of the charity money, to which they replied, “You are a Mirzai; you have no link with the Quran. Leave the community; it will be better for you.”

**Religion conscripted to serve personal vendetta**

*Jhangar Hakim Wala, District Nankana; December 5, 2014:* Mr. Zaheer Abbasi, president of the local Ahmadiyya Jamaat, has a land dispute with someone who is a bitter enemy of the Ahmadis. The case was to be heard on 5 December 2014. Mr. Abbasi asked the administration to record the parties’ statements separately. When the statement of Mr. Abbasi was being recorded the opponents brought along the president of Khatme Nabuwat District Nankana, Abdul Majeed with his fellows. They threatened the witnesses of Mr. Abbasi and bad-mouthed the Ahmadiyya community and hurled abuses. They also threatened to kill their contestants, at which Mr. Abbasi returned home. The case is still open.

**Harassment of an Ahmadi state functionary through sectarian propaganda**

*Chowk Azam, District Layyah; November 2014:* Rana Aziz Ahmad, an Ahmadi, a resident of Chowbara, District Layyah joined the police in 1986. He is in service since then and has faced religious prejudice at different places. Recently, he was appointed Additional SHO and Incharge Investigation in Chowk Azam, District Layyah. He was investigating two murders and a kidnapping for ransom case. A press reporter asked Mr. Ahmad to exclude Azam Bajwa, leader of the kidnappers, from this case and not raid his house. Mr. Ahmad, however, raided Azam Bajwa’s house but could not arrest him. The press reporter was angry and he threatened Mr. Ahmad, “You have not done a good by raiding Bajwa’s house, and now you will have to face the consequences.”

A few days later a Khatme Nabuwat conference was held in Chowk Azam in which the press reporter prepared a speech for the mullas to be delivered against Mr. Ahmad. Ten mullas spoke at the conference and all of them spoke against Mr. Ahmad. Mullas demanded the transfer of Rana Aziz Ahmad and openly warned that in case of refusal he will be murdered. They also took a vow from the audience, “Who will murder Aziz Qadiani, like Salman Taseer (the assassinated Governor of Punjab), if he is not transferred?”

The authorities urgently transferred Mr. Ahmad from District Layyah to District Muzaffargarh.

**A Khatme Nabuwat conference in Jaranwala**

*Jaranwala, District Faisalabad; December 13, 2014:* The Bar Council of Jaranwala held a Khatme Nabuwat conference at Tehsil Courts here on 13 December 2014. A retired Judge of Lahore High Court, Nazir Akhtar also participated in it. This is the individual who is notorious for his public statement: “There is no need of any law to punish a man who is guilty of defiling the name of the Holy Prophet, and anyone who commits
blasphemy against the Prophet can be dispatched to hell.” *(The daily Jang; Lahore, September 5, 1999)* Approximately 70 people attended the conference which lasted for two hours. Speakers used abusive and derogatory language against the founder of the Ahmadiyya community in their speeches. They quoted out of context references from the writings of the Promised Messiah and shouted anti-Ahmadiyya slogans. An announcement was made by the Bar Council at the end of the conference: “If Advocate Shafique Ahmad, the Qadiani renounces Qadianiat and accepts Islam, we will give him our seat.” Apart from some religious bigots, hardly anyone took the conference seriously.

**Hate speech against Ahmadis**

*Faisal Town, Lahore; November 29, 2014:* The Khatme Nabuwwat organisation held a conference here on 29 November 2014. It started at 5:30 p.m. Approximately 20 persons were present. A mulla, Irfan Mahmood Barq addressed and incited them against Ahmadis. He spoke foul language against the founder of the Ahmadiyya community and said that every Qadiani should be killed with canon fire. “Qadianis are hell-bound and cursed. They do not believe in the Holy Prophet, and their maulvis misguide others every week and induce them to join their community,” he added.

**Anti-Ahmadiyya conference in Hafizabad**

*Kot Shah Alam, District Hafizabad; December 9, 2014:* Opponents of the Ahmadiyya community held a Khatme Nabuwwat conference here. A local mulla, Saleem Ahmad Sialvi was in the forefront. Publicity leaflets were distributed in all nearby villages urging people to attend. Quite a number of people showed up at the conference. All the speakers used insulting language against the Ahmadiyya community and its holy founder, and incited the participants against Ahmadis. The police and the administration had been informed in advance, and policemen were present to prevent a riot.

**A threatening letter**

*Shalamar Town, Lahore; December 8, 2014:* A threat letter was thrown at the house of Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad, the local secretary of general affairs. It carried the following message: “God is great. Listen Mirzais, we give you a deadline of one month to leave this house otherwise we will bomb you and your family. If you do not comply you will soon see the dead bodies of your mother, sister. Get lost from here within a month. We shall also attack your place of worship.”

An incident report was filed with police station Baghbanpura. They are investigating.

**Notable news**

*Lahore; December 2, 2014:* The ultra-right-wing jihadist daily Islam reported the following in its issue of December 2, 2014.

I.

300 attend Khatme Nabuwwat Course in Idaratul Quran, Lahore. A three-day course was held under the auspices of Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat at Idaratul Furqan (sic) Shadi Pura, Band Road, Lahore…. 300 attended the course. The participants were awarded certificates and prizes in the closing ceremony. Addressing the ceremony, the ulama karam said that Muslim Ummah has offered maximum sacrifices for the dogma of End of Prophethood and the Honour of the Prophet *(Namus Risalat)*…. Thousands of Qadianis have reverted to Islam at the platform of the Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat….
II.
Khatme Nabuwwat (TV) channel will soon be ‘on air’: Dr Ahmad Ali Siraj (Kuwaiti)

There is wisdom (Hikmat amali) behind working with two different names: International Khatme Nabuwwat (Movement) and Aalami Majlis Khatme Nabuwwat

Mirzai are spreading their bad belief in the name of Islam: Tahir Abdur Razzaq’s address in Qabul Islam Conference in Kasur

Kasur (special correspondent): The Central Secretary General of the International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement, Maulana Dr Ahmad Ali Siraj said that soon a Khatme Nabuwwat (TV) channel will be on air to oppose Qadianiyyat and Kufr (Non-Islam). Paper work is ready. There is some wisdom in operating under two different names: International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement and Alami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat. The rank and file should not think that there is a dispute involved. (No,) This is the decision of our senior ulama. He stated this the other day at the end of three-day Khatme Nabuwwat course in the Qabul Islam Conference held under the arrangements of Shubban Khatme Nabuwwat. Prior to this, Tahir Abdur Razzaq, the Mujahid Khatme Nabuwwat said that Mirzais are spreading their bad belief (Bad aqidah) in the name of Islam. In their plan of Greater Israel, Medina Munawwarah is mentioned therein; this ought to be a cause of concern for Muslims. He also said that if the Blasphemy Law is interfered with, every Muslim will turn into a Ghazi Ilm Din (who murdered a Hindu during the Raj, for committing blasphemy)....

JI clerics harass an Ahmadi

Bacheki, District Nankana; November/December 2014: Ahmad Ali joined the Ahmadi community sometimes back, when he was in Lahore. He apparently did not realise the implications of the switch-over, and was still raw to stick to his new belief in the face of severe opposition.

More recently when he returned to Bacheki, his change of denomination got disclosed to the local Jamaat Islami clerics. They took it as a challenge and put great pressure on him to revert to the main stream. He did that. The mullas made him recite the Kalima (his Kalima as an Ahmadi was no different) and re-solemnized his Nikah with his wife. They distributed sweets to celebrate the occasion.

Ahmad Ali was now fully in JI’s lap. The mullas made him report against Mr. Bashir Nisar, a local Ahmadi teacher, to the authorities. Ali accused Nisar of preaching him Ahmadiyyat, providing him literature and taking him to Lahore, and a number of other fabrications. An FIR with police against Mr. Nisar is also on the cards. Nisar has received chilling threats from the sectarian extremists.

Great mischief afoot

Rabwah; December 28, 2014: According to a press report in the daily Jang, Lahore, Majlis Ahhrar Islam and Tehrik Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat intend holding a conference in a mosque in Rabwah on 12 Rabiul Awwal (Birthday of the Holy Prophet). According to this report the organizers expect a large number of bands (Qafiley) from all the four provinces and Azad Kashmir to attend this conference. Syed Ata-ul-Mohaiman Bokhari, based in Multan, will preside over the rally.

Following is noteworthy in this context:

- Ahrar are the infamous party who precipitated severe anti-Ahmadi riots in the Punjab in 1953. The worthy judges of Lahore High Court who held inquiry in those riots placed the following on record in their historical report:

  “The conduct of the Ahrar calls for the strongest comment and is especially reprehensible. We can use no milder word for the reason that they debased a religious issue by pressing it into service for a temporal
purpose and exploited religious susceptibilities and sentiments of the people for their personal ends.” p. 259

- Ahrar suffered great disgrace then, but have resurfaced in recent years. As before they use their age-old tactics under the guise of ‘Khatme Nabuwwat’ to re-establish themselves.
- After the recent Peshawar tragedy, the civil society and apparently the state too intend to suppress the evil of sectarian violence. Mullahs aim to blunt this measure, through the loopholes of Holy Prophet’s birthday, Honour of the Prophet, End of Prophethood etc.
- The question is why a Multan-based organization be allowed to assemble in a town so far as Rabwah, District Chiniot to celebrate a religious occasion?
- Also why should non-Ahmadi bands and groups from all over Pakistan assemble in Rabwah where 95% population is Ahmadi?
- They have declared in press (the daily Al-Sharaq; December 28, 2014) that they “will take out a huge procession unlike any previously (faqid-ul-misal); it will sortie from Masjid Ahrar, and the Ahrar and Khatme Nabuwwat leaders will address the Qadianis at Aqsa Chowk and Evan Mahmud and extend them the usual offer to join Islam.”

Ahmadiyya central office in Rabwah has sent a letter to all relevant authorities urging them to take preventive action, especially these days when national, political and religious environment is heavily polluted and greatly sensitive.

Obviously these clerics have malafide intentions and plan to foil state and society’s restrictions on sectarian mischief. It is thus a test case for the authorities to show that their thunders are not for media consumption only; they mean business.

**Overview of National Action Plan – for record**

*Islamabad; December 24, 2014:* Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif convened a meeting after the Peshawar attack on school to devise a National Action Plan to counter terrorism and extremism. The APC agreed on a common policy and Mr. Sharif announced the plan in a televised address. Some of its points are mentioned below:

- Countering hate speech and extremist material
- Choking financing for terrorists and terrorist organisations
- Ensuring against re-emergence of proscribed organisations
- Taking effective steps against religious persecution
- Registration and regulation of madrassas
  - Zero tolerance for militancy in Punjab
- Dealing firmly with sectarian terrorists

*The daily The Express Tribune; December 25, 2014*

It may be too late but there is surely great need to implement these measures. Only time will prove if the government, the politicians and the society are prepared to actually do what they say.

**Bitter fruit of bitter seed – a madrassa named Abdullah Bin Ghazi**

*Rojhan, District Rajanpur; December 24, 2014:* The daily Express, Faisalabad published a report by its correspondent. It merits a place in archives; its translation is produced below:

Rojhan: Raid on Maulana Abdul Aziz’s ancestral madrassa; vicious literature retrieved.
*One accused Hafiz Abdullah arrested; Maulvi Hayat absconded.*
Case registered under Anti-Terrorism Act
Police raided the madrassa established here with the name Abdullah Bin Ghazi father of the Lal Masjid cleric Maulana Abdul Aziz, and recovered provocative literature. An accused was arrested and a case under Anti-Terrorism Act was registered. The madrassa cleric absconded. It is learnt that Rojhan police were informed that provocative literature was stocked in the madrassa located in ancestral home of Maulana Abdul Aziz in village Shahwali Gadha Nar, and some sort of planning was under way. When the police raided, Hayat Muhammad, the madrassa maulvi escaped. The police however carried out a search of the madrassa and discovered massive amount of provocative (Shar angaiz) pamphlets and other material. A man present at the site, Hafiz Abdullah was arrested. Police is looking for Maulvi Hayat and his colleagues.

As per sources, the FIR has been sealed, whereas four persons have been named in it.

More than mulla Abdul Aziz, his father Abdullah Bin Ghazi deserves a mention here. Abdullah who had significant following was among the first few clerics who converged on Islamabad and secured for themselves a niche with the federal authorities. He claimed to be an activist of the End of Prophethood movement and attained plenty of clout and dow in the capital. The eventual role of the Lal Masjid can be arguably attributed to this cleric. It is no surprise that the madrassa in his village was discovered to be a hornets’ nest.

Noteworthy is the report that the raid yielded only one arrest of a non-entity, and that the FIR has been sealed. Abdullah Bin Ghazi yields influence well after his death – even in the face of the massacre in Peshawar.

**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, Ihsan 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 madrassa 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.

**From the media**

**A youth (Ahmadi) target-killed, in religious prejudice**

A few days earlier, extremist elements had proposed severe action against Ahmadis, in a Jalsa.

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 29, 2014*

**Country-wide movement to make Qadianis submit to the constitution**

*After non-acceptance of demands, Friday assembly will be held at Chenab Nagar bridge on December 26: All religious parties decide (in Chiniot)*

*The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 17, 2014*

**300 attend Khatme Nabuwwat course in Lahore, under Idara tul Quran**

*The daily Islam; Lahore, December 2, 2014*

**Qadianis will surely be made to submit to the constitution and law: DCO Chiniot**

*Delegation led by Maulana Ilyas Chinioti met Dr Irshad and DPO, who assured them compliance with their demands.*

*The daily Express; Faisalabad, December 23, 2014*

**Chiniot (Rabwah): Annual Ahrar Khatme Nabuwwat Conference on January 4 (12 Rabiul Awwal). Qadianis will be invited to Islam, as usual: Mian Awais**

*The daily Al-Sharaq; December 28, 2014*
**Beleaguered denomination (Ahmadiyya)**
**Protest in Rabwah postponed by 15 days**
District authorities have promised (the mullas) to redress activists grievances.

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, December 27, 2014

Qadianis are involved in murder of Ulama Karam: Qari Mushtaq
The assassins of Dr Khalid Soomro should be arrested and punished immediately.

The daily Al-Sharaq; Lahore, December 4, 2014

All schools of thought should make united efforts to break the skull of the Qadiani Mischief: Khatme Nabuwwat Movement

The daily Jinnah; Lahore, December 9, 2014

Qadianis have made life difficult for Muslims in Chenab Nagar: speakers
They violate anti-Qadiani Ordinance by using Islamic symbols (shaair): speakers

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, December 16, 2014

**Taliban massacre 131 school children**
Principal among 141 dead in attack on Army Public School, Peshawar

The daily The News; Lahore, December 15, 2014

Barbarity was taken to extreme by burning alive Ms. Tahira Qazi the principal (in Peshawar)....
School’s Lab Assistant led the terrorists to the auditorium.... Terrorists told the students that they will soon be entering paradise. They spoke in Arabic and Urdu.

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, December 19, 2014

**Lal Masjid cleric comes out to support Islamic State**

Suicide attack threats again ring out of Lal Masjid

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 17, 2014

Approximately 61 banned organizations remain active in the country. Some banned even after renaming.

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, December 28, 2014

Two policemen on polio duty shot dead

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 9, 2014

**Capital’s Jamia Hafsa declares support for Islamic State**

The daily The News; Lahore, December 9, 2014

Polio worker shot dead in Faisalabad

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 10, 2014

(Chiniot) Another MQM leader shot dead

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 18, 2014

IHC (Islamabad High Court) orders release of Lakhvi (alleged mastermind of Bombay attacks)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 30, 2014

**US offers $10 million reward as head money for Hafiz Saeed**

The daily Aman; Faisalabad, December 29, 2014

We shall uproot the curses of terrorism and extremism from the country: Army Chief

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 26, 2014

It is outright contrary to Islamic teachings to declare Muslims Kafirs and thereafter call them to be Wajib-ul-Qatl (must be killed): Ulama Karam (Jamaat ud Dawa)

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 6, 2014

Action should be taken against provocative literature without exception: Shahbaz Sharif

The daily Jang; Lahore, December 28, 2014
Pakistan is hostage in the hands of terrorists and their patrons
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 25, 2014

How will the government that feels helpless to handle Maulana Abdul Aziz confront the terrorists? Aitzaz Ahsan
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 24, 2014

(After the Peshawar massacre) Siraj-ul-Haq’s (JI) proposal to designate 2015 as Peace Year is approved
The daily Jang; Lahore, December 18, 2014

Those who talk of Qital (fighting – Former Amir of JI) are responsible for the massacre of children (in Peshawar): Anjuman Talaba Islam
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 20, 2014

(Referring to Peshawar massacre) Taliban are fighting a Sharia war. I belong to Deobandi faction, and no Deobandi Mufti has issued a fatwa against the Taliban: Maulana Abdul Aziz
The daily Nawa-e-Waqt; Lahore, December 18, 2014

Madrassas are Pakistan’s ideological cantonments; these should not be considered adversary without reason: Ulama Deoband
The daily Din; Lahore, December 26, 2014

No seminary involved in terrorism training: Shujaat (Q League)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 28, 2014

Military operation violates Sharia; Taliban attacks only in reaction: Maulana Abdul Aziz (of Lal Masjid)
The daily Aman; Faisalabad, December 20, 2014

Burn down or demolish Lal Masjid: Altaf Hussain
The daily Jang; Lahore, December 20, 2014

Jewish, Christian and Qadiani lobbies are active against national security: Ilyas Chinioti (PML-N)
The daily Ausaf; Lahore, December 20, 2014

I see myself the prime minister in 20 years: Malala
The daily Express; Faisalabad, December 12, 2014

SC orders arrest of cops in Kot Radha Kishan case
Wants criminal, departmental proceedings against policemen, action against Maulvi Noor, Arshad for provoking people
The daily The News; Lahore, December 17, 2014

Another JI leader sentenced to death in Bangladesh
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 31, 2014

Agitation in Indian parliament over forced conversions (to Hinduism)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 23, 2014

India: Modi government has put national security to risk by extending visas to six thousand Pakistan-exposed Qadianis: Maulana Habibur Rahman II (of Ahrar)
The daily Islam; Lahore, December 29, 2014

Saudi woman held for defying ban on driving
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 2, 2014

Sex with enslaved women declared licit by IS
Sexual intercourse may be undertaken immediately with unmarried captured women; those who are not maiden should first be cleansed.
Quoted from weekly Newsweek by the daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 15, 2014

Nigeria: 54 troops sentenced to death for refusing to fight the Boko Haram
The daily Dunya; Lahore, December 19, 2014
Members of the civil society stage a protest near Lal Masjid on the second consecutive day

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 20, 2014

Eight bodies found in Balochistan (15 in three days)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 22, 2014

Deobandis form unity in Majlis Ulama Islam, Pakistan

The daily Din; Lahore, December 11, 2014

Pakistani police among the ten most corrupt, worldwide: Survey

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 31, 2014

ATCs too busy trying ‘terrorists’ like Imran Khan, Tahir-ul-Qadri
Only 15 pc of all cases pending before ATCs deal with incidents of terrorism
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 28, 2014

37 pc of 5-16 age group out of school in (Lahore) city

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 3, 2014

68 persons indicted in burning alive of Christian couple case

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 25, 2014

Op-ed: Path to course correction
For example, on December 26, 2014, which is a few days away, the Aalmi Khatme-Nabuwwat Sargodha, backed by Anjuman-e-Tajaran Sargodha (Sargodha Traders Association), plans on attacking the Ahmadi in Rabwah. According to the poster circulated by the said organisation, they intend to decisively put an end to what they view as the “cruel un-Islamic activities” of Ahmadi. Presumably, these cruel un-Islamic activities are that they ‘pose’ as Muslims by praying five times a day. Is the chief minister of Punjab listening? Is the government going to do anything to avert another human tragedy?


Op-ed: The Dismal state of human rights in Pakistan
Our record regarding the treatment of religious minorities is disgraceful. They are discriminated in public and economic life. The roots of faith-based discrimination, hatred and intolerance lie in the very nature of the Pakistani state. Certain laws in the constitution discriminate against non-Muslims. There seems to be a correlation between growing militancy and the increasing incidents of discrimination and violence against non-Muslim Pakistanis. Mob violence against the Christian community; kidnapping and abduction of Hindu women and forcefully converting them to Islam by marrying them to Muslim men; Sikhs from Fata being asked to pay jaziyaa; distribution of hate material targeting Ahmadi and attacking their places of worship happens with complete impunity. The ramification of the state’s policy of supporting and promoting a certain interpretation of faith can be seen in the sectarian violence that is rampant in the country.

Dr Farzana Bari in The Express Tribune; December 13, 2014

Press Report: Security of Mr. Nasir (Civil society protest leader against Lal Masjid cleric)
…There is fear among certain circles that accusations against Mr. Nasir could be life threatening, as saying that someone is an Ahmadi in Pakistan is tantamount to inciting violence against that person. The recent killing of Luqman Ahmad Shehzad, an Ahmadi man who was shot in the head near the Bhiri Shah Rehman village in Gujranwala, has also heightened concern for Mr. Nasir’s safety.
“We are considering holding a press conference to clarify that he (Mr. Nasir) is not Ahmadi because in the prevailing situation calling someone Ahmadi can instigate murder,” he (Civil society activist Sham Tasir) said.”

The daily Dawn; December 29, 2014

Op-ed  It wasn’t the final atrocity

…Third, if Pakistan is to be at peace with itself it must seek peace with its neighbours and begin disassembling the apparatus of Jihad. The bitter truth is that you reap what you sow. Today, massive militant establishments hold the Pakistani state hostage. They run their own training centres, hospitals, and disaster relief programs. When Sartaj Aziz, advisor to the prime minister on foreign affairs, said that Pakistan was not going to target militant groups which ‘did not pose a threat to the state’, he accidentally spilled the beans, in fact he was merely restating Pakistan’s well-known zero-sum paradigm – we live to hurt others, not to better ourselves.


Op-ed:  We seem to enjoy our old ways and rows

… (Translation) You insist on a counter narrative, but first, are you prepared to make your school syllabus less extreme? And also, after all, what do you intend to build? Mohammad Ali Jinnah’s Pakistan as envisaged on August 11, 1947 or the post-Jinnah Pakistan of Objectives Resolution? Choose this or that; then if you tailor all your educational, ideological and action policies accordingly, you’ll perhaps get cured. Today’s Pakistan, that is weak, confused, frightened, is baby of the enforced marriage between the statement of 11th August and the Objectives Resolution. If this marriage lingers on, the blighted baby will perish. So, either give the child entirely in the custody of the speech of August 11, or put it in the lap of Objectives Resolution. Otherwise you’ll remain off track and misguide others too. All told, we know for sure, that powers above never gave a people fourth opportunity to recover, not even to its favourite nation – Bani Israel.

Wusatullah Khan in the Mashriq of December 27, 2014

Op-ed:  Our Islamists and their lies

…It was a JI-inspired doctor, Ali Abdullah of Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba, who led the militant attack on the Ahmadis wounded at Lahore’s Jinnah Hospital in 2010 (after the twin attack on mosques). The JI (Jamaat Islami) stands for a takeover of the state by hook or by crook and there is no place for non-Muslims or even Muslims who disagree with its ideology.


Book Review:  The Jihadis Return

“A striking development in Islamic world in recent decades is the way in which Wahabism is taking over mainstream Sunni Islam. In one country after another Saudi Arabia is putting up the money for the training of preachers and the building of mosques. A result of this is the spread of sectarian strife between Sunni and Shia.

… The resurgence of Al Qaeda-type groups is not a threat confined to Syria, Iraq, and their near neighbours. What is happening in these countries, combined with the increasing dominance of intolerant and exclusive Wahabite beliefs within the worldwide Sunni community, means that all 1.6 billion Muslims, almost a quarter of the world’s people, will be increasingly affected. Furthermore, it seems unlikely that non-Muslim populations, including many in the West, will be untouched by the conflict.”

Editorial: Reform the Madrassa

...While the military and the government go around heralding a new dawn, where terrorists will be uprooted from all corners of the nation, the existence of a bastion of extremism in the heart of the capital, make those proud claims ring hollow. Maulana Abdul Aziz’s time has come; the pressure on the government is mounting, spearheaded by fearless civilians and given steam by the seminary’s own twisted pronouncements. The government is showing signs of being cajoled into action, and rightly so; no longer must such poison be allowed to contaminate the nation.

Yet Lal Masjid or Jamia Hafsa aren’t unique in what they preach, they are the only ones who gained prominence due to their ‘vigilantism’ in the capital, and the subsequent military operation. The truth is that there are thousands of other mosques and madrassas that are much worse – they are linked with banned outfits, actively participate in training militants, spew extremism and brainwash their subjects...

Editorial in the daily The Nation; Lahore, December 26, 2014

Op-ed: Let us count no more

...The scourge of extremism and terrorism cannot be defeated if Pakistan’s military establishment pursues policies of duplicity; with a selective fight instead of an all-out war against all terrorists without distinction and second thought, since the alternative is clearly at the expense of Pakistan’s peace, stability and future. As vital it is to battle the Taliban physically, it is even more crucial to battle them ideologically, culturally and socially...

Hafsa Khawaja in The daily The Nation; Lahore, December 29, 2014

Annexes

I. Year-end Tragedy: Editorial in The Nation; December 29, 2014
II. The terrorist tree: Op-ed by Dr. F. Saleem in The News; December 28, 2014
After the massacre in Peshawar on Dec. 16th, which left over a hundred schoolchildren dead, the country’s foremost analysts have painstakingly tried to pinpoint both historical and recent reasons that led to the carnage. It is a complicated, rather convoluted exercise with a great web of interconnected triggers. And though there is rarely a single reason for such tragedies, there are some that can be narrowed down. The fatal shooting of a young Ahmadi man Luqman Ahad Shehzad is one such incident.

In 1974, the Constitution was amended to declare Ahmadis as non-Muslim. Going a step further, it became a crime for Ahmadis to pose as Muslim or “offend” a Muslim’s feelings. Since then, there have been scores of incidents of violence against Ahmadis, with attacks in Ahmadi mosques in May 2010 alone leading to 86 deaths. This year, 11 Ahmadis have been brutally killed for the crime of being Ahmadi alone, notably in July, by a mob that took the lives of two children and a woman.

Perhaps what is even worse than the amendment to the ’74 Constitution are platforms that allow for its constant publicity. As though it wasn’t bad enough that countless Muslim clerics across the breadth of the country get to scream their violent opinions from their pulpits, now they get prime-time slots on popular television shows hosted by a particular brand of extremist showman.

In 2008, a show hosted by Aamir Liaqat featured Muslim scholars who declared Ahmadis to be Wajib-ul-Qatl, or deserving of murder. Within a day of the show being aired, two Ahmadis were murdered; one of them a physician and the other a community leader. Aamir Liaqat took no responsibility for the attack, and as the public is wont to do, the incident was soon forgotten; buried beneath a tirade of other controversies and a ridiculous brand of entertainment almost exclusive to Pakistan. Last Monday, this same man hosted a show featuring a notable Muslim cleric Syed Arif Shah Owaisi who strongly denounced Ahmadis and accused the Ahmadi community of blaspheming against the Prophet (pbuh) of Islam. Five days later, Luqman Shehzad, a leader of the Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya (JA) was shot in the back of the head. It is impossible not to draw a correlation for the second time.

Why are these violence preaching clerics allowed on television at all? Why are show-hosts who stand so exposed one controversy after another, not held accountable for the tragedies that unfold in the name of their entertaining? Why are they granted dignity and treated with respect and position? Who edits these shows, and why has there been no apology for this editorial disaster? The year ends with yet another tragedy, because as we fight a war against terrorism on all physical fronts, we cannot recognise the place where it truly roosts.
The terrorist tree

Dr Farrukh Saleem

Capital suggestion

Leaves: A leaf is a ‘blade-like flattened structure attached to a stem’. Leaves are typically above the ground and can be seen. Over the past 13 years, Pakistan has seen terrorist leaves detonating 5,095 bomb blasts between Karachi and Peshawar. Over the past 13 years, Pakistan has seen terrorist leaves in 410 suicide attacks. Over the past 13 years, Pakistan has seen terrorist leaves killing 55,878 Pakistanis.

Stem: A stem is the ‘body or stalk of a tree that typically rises above ground’. The terrorist stem is about five safe-havens: a physical safe-haven, an ideological safe-haven, a financial safe-haven, a political safe-haven and a manpower safe-haven.

Physical safe-haven: In 2004, Pakistan ceded territory under the Shakai agreement. In 2005, Pakistan ceded territory under the Sararogha peace deal. In 2006, Pakistan ceded territory under the Miranshah peace accord. In 2008, Pakistan ceded territory under the Khyber Agency pact. As things stand, Pakistan has ceded some 20,000 square kilometres of its 796,095 square kilometres to various terrorist-insurgent conglomerates.

Ideological safe-haven: Since 1979, state and society have been providing ideological space for extremists to operate. The culprits here include the mosque-madressah twins, the media and the primary school curriculum.

Financial safe-haven: Money being raised locally finds its way into the terrorist infrastructure plus money coming in from Saudi Arabia, other Arab countries, India and Iran.

Political safe-haven: Since 1979, some mainstream political parties have been co-opting parties with extremist ideologies. This in effect has been providing political safe-havens to terrorist-insurgent conglomerates.

Manpower safe-haven: In 1947, there were 189 madressahs in Pakistan. The number now stands at 28,982 with more than two million students. Not all madressahs but a minority acts as the provider and protector of terrorist manpower. And then there are some 20,000 ‘foreign fighters’ residents of territories ceded; 5,000 Saudis, 4,000 Uzbeks and Chechen, 3,000 Yemenis, 2,000 Egyptian, 2,800 Algerians, 400 Tunisians, 300 Iraqis, 200 Libyans and 200 Jordanians.

Roots: This is the part of the tree which ‘attaches it to the ground and is typically underground...conveying water and nourishment to the rest of the plant via numerous branches and fibres’. Religious extremism is the root cause of terrorism. The state has long been using religious extremism as an instrument of Pakistan’s foreign policy (providing incentives and protection to the mosque-madressah infrastructure) and then society has long supported and tolerated the unregulated mosque-madressah infrastructure.

On top of that, Pakistan’s 260,903 educational institutions with 41 million students have long been ‘preaching’ instead of ‘teaching’ whereby at the primary school level we have ‘curricula of hate’, not much different from what is being taught at the madressahs.

What we recently saw at the Army Public School were the leaves. What we see in terms of bomb blasts and suicide attacks are also leaves. Operations Rah-e-Haq, Zalzala, Sherdil, Black Thunderstorm, Rah-e-Nijat, Rah-e-Shahadat and Zarb-e-Azb are doing two things: cutting down the leaves and trying to bring an end to physical safe-havens.

To be certain, merely cutting down the leaves will not get us very far – the stem and the roots would have to be taken care of as well. General Sharif is bent upon burning down the leaves. PM Sharif’s plans also revolve around the leaves. Military courts are all about the leaves. Who will then take care of the roots?

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