Persecution of Ahmadian in Pakistan
News Report July 2014

Three Ahmadi females, including 7 month old infant are killed in arson attack in Gujranwala

Eight homes and four shops looted and gutted by mob in police presence

Gujranwala (Punjab); July 27, 2014: Ms. Bushra Bibi and her two granddaughters aged 8 years and 7 months died when extremists set fire to Ahmadi homes in Gujranwala whilst local police stood by and watched.

Further, Ms. Mubashara, who was 7 month pregnant, suffered a miscarriage on account of exposure to heat, suffocation and shock of the violence.

Eight others, mostly women and children, are being treated for burns, asphyxiation, etc; a few were injured severely.

Anti-Ahmadi extremists led by mullas attacked Ahmadi homes on the false pretext that an Ahmadi youth had defaced a picture of the Sacred Mosque in Makkah on the Face Book. The clerics made announcements on sound amplifiers in mosques to gather hundreds of goons against the peace-loving innocent Ahmadians.

The violent mob attacked Ahmadi homes and shops, ransacked and looted them, and set them on fire after spraying them with petrol. Nearly half of the homes in this neighborhood were gutted. The perpetrators of these crimes were seen dancing (Bhangra) on TV screen on this occasion. They also started a fire in the Ahmadiyya prayer-centre in this neighborhood.

In one home, Ahmadis, unable to flee, took refuge on the first floor. The religious thugs entered the house, went up, locked the family from outside and lit fire from outside the room. This resulted in death of three persons and serious injuries to many others trapped inside.

Initially anti-Ahmadi elements accused the Ahmadi youth of blasphemy; it was rebutted. This resulted in an argument and a petty quarrel. However, soon thereafter, mullas took the lead, assembled an agitated crowd and the attack started at about 8:30 p.m. The lynch mob that numbered in hundreds dispersed well after midnight. The police were present at the site but took no effective action to block or stop the riot.

Two scenes of the riot. In both pictures police officials are seen at peace and harmony with the mob watching the blaze.

It is said that the chief minister subsequently told the administration to take notice of the situation. However, the administration at that time was present at the site, and the police had granted laissez faire to the mob. The policemen could be seen in perfect harmony and peace among the rabble. It was the same chief minister in 2010 who had not the courtesy to offer condolences and sympathy to Ahmadis over the death of 86 worshippers who were killed in a simultaneous attack in two Ahmadi mosques in his provincial capital.
Fire brigade and ambulances arrived but were not allowed to perform by the mob. The police did not help them either, as also they did not stop the looters from indulging in plunder and arson.

All this happened in the holy month of Ramadan in which Muslims are expected to be helpful, kind and tolerant. Also, it was only one day before the festival of Eid, and death and destruction was the ‘gift’ offered to Ahmadis by the mullahs and the administration. There is good reason to believe that the shocking riot was pre-planned. Gujranwala based Deobandi mulla Zahid-ur-Rashidi is one of the top cleric in the policy and planning team of the rabidly anti-Ahmadiyya Khatme Nabuwwat organization. He runs a madrassah in Gujranwala, and on July 31, 2014 he openly chaired a meeting of approximately 200 mullas (including some Shia ulama) over this issue, where a set of demands was agreed upon for presentation to the police.

The police registered a case under Anti-terrorism clause ATA 8/11 and PPC 295-A, a blasphemy clause, against Mr. Aqib, the accused Ahmadi youth, in FIR 553/14 in Police Station Peoples Colony, Gujranwala on July 28, 2014. If declared guilty, he could be imprisoned for 10 years.

This neighborhood has a sizeable presence of the Shia community; they extended little help to Ahmadis in their plight, in fact they supported the gang leaders and the mob action.

Encouraged by the inaction of authorities, a mulla of a local mosque later took pledge on loudspeakers from his flock during the Eid congregation that they would deliver even worse to other Ahmadis (elsewhere).

As for the accusation, the Supreme Head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya community said, “It has been falsely claimed that this attack was provoked by a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. This allegation is completely untrue and without any foundation whatsoever. If those who perpetrated this attack truly felt that one person had provoked them then they should have sought his arrest, but instead they chose to burn alive an elderly lady and her two granddaughters. In truth this was an entirely unprovoked assault on all forms of human decency….”

The role of the media on this occasion deserves a mention. The TV channels that are very prompt in ‘Breaking News’ of even non-events were shy of reporting this event that was reported by foreign media too. Some local channels initially reported it as a clash between two groups. Some insinuated that the mob reacted in response to firing from the other party. This also was a false input. Hardly anyone mentioned that Ahmadis were the targets of this shocking and devastating attack. The Urdu press conserved its space in reporting this outrage against Ahmadis. The English press, however, took due notice and the dailies Dawn, Daily Times, The Express Tribune, Pakistan Today and The News reported the story adequately and commented fairly.

Political leaders took notice of the barbarity of the attack and expressed condemnation, but only in the social media; the politically bold MQM issued a statement conveying sympathy for the victims; it was run on TV tape. The ruling PML-N however decided to be careful in due condemnation of the extremist and sectarian bigots. To what extent the ruling party thus maintained its grip on power is difficult to assess at this stage.

Some twitter messages in the social media were hateful. “Ahmadis deserved what they got”, someone tweeted. Others insisted that they deserve death (Wajib ul Qatl). There were, of course, many comments in support of the victims.

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan slammed Ahmadis’ killings in Gujranwala and expressed ‘shock’ and ‘disgust’ over the violence that ‘represents brutalization and barbarism stooping to new lows.” Its Press Release is reproduced at Annex.
The Ahmadi population of the affected neighborhood, scores of them, had to flee from their homes and take refuge in towns where they could find some security. Their livelihood and daily lives have been very badly affected. Their dead could not be buried in Gujranwala; their coffins had to be transported to Rabwah for interment.

Gujranwala is the city where more Ahmadis than the total of all in other cities in Pakistan were killed in anti-Ahmadi riots in 1974. The present attack was styled somewhat on Gojra lines where 7 Christians were burnt alive by a vicious mob sometimes ago. Gojra is also located in the Punjab province.

Mr. Saleemuddin, the Ahmadiyya spokesperson, demanded an immediate, impartial and transparent inquiry and due punishment to the involved culprits.

Another Ahmadi murdered for his faith – again in Nawabshah, Sindh

Rabwah: The Ahmadiyya central office issued the following press release on July 17, 2014:

A young Ahmadi Imtiaz Ahmad killed because of religious hatred in Benzairabad (Nawabshah)

His uncle Seth Mohammad Yousaf sahib was also shot dead in 2008 just because of his faith: Spokesman Jama’at Ahmadiyya

Chenab Nagar: (PR) A young Ahmadi Imtiaz Ahmad was killed because of religious hatred in Benzairabad (Nawabshah) on 13 July 2014 at around 4.30 p.m. in busy Trunk Bazaar. Imtiaz Ahmad owned a furniture shop and was standing in front of it when unknown assailants opened fire at him and the bullets pierced through his head and exited through the other side. His uncle Seth Mohammad Yousaf Sahib was also shot dead in 2008 after a TV program aired by Geo News anchor Aamir Liaqat Hussain, that instigated hatred. Seth Mohammad Yousaf was district Amir of Nawabshah at the time of his death. After the attack on Seth Mohammad Yousaf Sahib attacks on Ahmadis in the area increased manifolds.

Imtiaz Ahmad Sahib left behind ailing parents, wife and three sons. His dead body will be brought to Rabwah for burial.

The spokesman of Jama’at Ahmadiyya in Pakistan Saleemuddin expressed his condolence on the sad incident and pointed out that the hatred and persecution of Ahmadis is increasing day by day and so far during just past year 7 Ahmadis have been killed because of their faith in Pakistan. Out of these 7, six Ahmadis were killed in Sindh. Saleemuddin said that during last few years five Ahmadis have been killed only in Nawabshah, Sindh. After the controversial and discriminative laws promulgated in 1984, 9 Ahmadis have been killed and not a single culprit has been brought to justice ever. This clearly shows how much the government and authorities are concerned about the safety and security of Ahmadis. The hate filled material is openly published and distributed, wall chalking is openly visible and picture of it could easily be tracked down on social media.

Saleemuddin urged the authorities to clamp down on hate material and show some seriousness in tackling this issue and ensure security and safety of Ahmadis in Pakistan.

No place to worship

Masroor Abad, District DG Khan; June 2014: In Pakistan, permission was never required in the past to build a place of worship in rural areas. Tens of thousands of mosques have been built all over the country without any permission whatsoever.

Since the promulgation of the anti-Ahmadi Ordinance in 1984, a campaign has been going on by the state and the society against Ahmadiyya mosques. It is note-worthy that no
permission has been granted to Ahmadis to build a place of worship in any city or town where the rules require an administrative permission.

Masroor Abad is located approximately 40 kilometers away from DG Khan. It is a village by the river side. Ahmadis decided to build there a place of worship. They had raised the walls and were going to put up a roof when the mullas took notice and decided to agitate against this exercise of freedom of worship.

The mullas decided to demolish the half-built structure. They arrived at about 9 p.m. along with approximately 200 men. The police DSP, SHO and some constables accompanied them.

The officials sent for Ahmadi elders, who came and explained their position to the police and assured them co-operation in their efforts to maintain peace.

The police permitted Ahmadis to complete the building for ‘residential purposes’ only. To achieve this they told Ahmadis to put up a wall in the middle of the hall. Ahmadis agreed to do that.

The above met the approval of the clerics who made Ahmadis sign a document. This was done and the roof was installed. The police were informed. A police ASI and 5 mullas inspected the building on June 22, 2014.

Thereafter, a mulla who is a prayer-leader in a mosque in far off Lahore arrived, and in league with the local mulla held an open air conference and made hate speeches against Ahmadis. The mulla from Lahore urged the locals to drive Ahmadis out of the village. “Otherwise I shall return after Ramadan 20 in company of a score of young men and we shall jointly dump the Qadianis in the river,” he said. The police were there and are a witness to this threatening speech.

Later, two mullas arrived at the new building in company of the SHO and demanded a visit to the interior. Inside, they noticed two steel almirahs. “These almirahs are normally used for storing the Quran and religious publications; these should be removed forthwith,” they demanded. The SHO agreed, and the Ahmadis had to remove the almirahs.

The police posted a watch outside the new house. What happens next – is an open question.

**Persecution of the persecuted in Sri Lanka**

The Secretary International Human Rights Community (IHRC) issued the following statement (Text) in mid-July on the situation of Pakistani Ahmadis in Sri Lanka who had gone there to seek asylum through UNHCR, but were arrested by the Sri Lankan authorities:

**Text:** The world community is well aware of the horrifying atrocities afflicted upon Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan by militant Islamic extremists and fundamentalists, sanctioned and supported by the state laws in Pakistan. Over the past 40 years thousands of Ahmadi Muslims have been prosecuted for proclaiming their faith and practicing the teaching of their religion Islam. Over 4000 Ahmadis have been out in prison and hundreds have been murdered, and these brutish acts of aggression continue in Pakistan to this day. Over the past couple of years the situation has become unbearable, and those who can try to flee this horrendous situation and seek peace and safety elsewhere in the world. A number of them moved to Sri Lanka to seek asylum through UNHCR so that they could eventually be resettled somewhere in the world where they could lead a normal life. The Ahmadis have a worldwide reputation to be peaceful and never engage in any peace disturbing or opponent action against the country or nation of their abode. They are strictly disciplined to be faithful and loyal to the government of the day. While their papers are being processed by UNHCR they are provided a covering letter by the UNHCR to enable them to stay in the country until their cases are determined.

It is extremely disturbing that the government of Sri Lanka has decided not to honour the covering letter for extended stay issued by the UNHCR, and last month they started raiding the
houses of Ahmadi Muslims from Pakistan and arrested over 120 Ahmadi men leaving behind their wives and children in a despicable state without anyone to care or, look after them. These Ahmadis are now in a detention camp where the living conditions are horrible and especially during this holy month when Muslims are obliged to fast and observe their worship obligations, these Ahmadi Muslims have hardly any facility to fulfill their religious obligations.

The food provided to them is not of their taste and is meager in quantity. A number of them have been sick and some fainted because of heat and living conditions in the camp. It is reported that some of them were taken to hospital in chains and brought back in chains and continue to suffer inhumanly.

We once again earnestly plead to the world community to press upon the government of Sri Lanka to honour their obligations towards those who are under international protection and not persecute those who have already suffered painfully the persecution in Pakistan.

One sample case should suffice here. Mr. Awais Ahmad and his wife Muzaffarah moved to Sri Lanka in search of asylum a while ago, to escape severe persecution in Pakistan. Mr. Ahmad was arrested in the recent sweep by the Sri Lankan authorities. The couple is at risk of deportation back to Pakistan. In the recent anti-Ahmadi riots in Gujranwala, on July 27, 2014 the mother of Ms. Muzaffarah, Ms. Bushra, and her two minor nieces were locked inside a room in their home by a violent crowd and an intensive fire was lit to kill the trapped victims. The three innocent detainees died on account of asphyxiation, heat and shock. The other inmates were seriously injured. The entire Ahmadi population of this neighborhood had to flee for safety. Half of the Ahmadi homes and four of their businesses were gutted.

And the Sri Lankan authorities insist on sending the Ahmad family back to Pakistan on some excuse which is best not mentioned! The deportation of Ahmadis from there to Pakistan is under way already despite the advice of the UNHCR and some renowned human rights organisations to the contrary.

Severe maltreatment of an Ahmadi teacher

*Chak Chattha, District Hafizabad, May/June 2014:* Mr. Habib Ahmad is a school teacher in the local school. He has been facing severe opposition from a Qari (reciter of the Quran), another teacher in the school. On May 13, 2014 students of class V beat up their class mate Sabih Ahmad, a nephew of Mr. Habib Ahmad.

On inquiry, the students stated that they had been urged by the Qari to beat up Sabih, as beating up Qadianis was an act of divine merit. “If teacher Habib holds you accountable, I’ll take care of that,” Qari had told the students.

The next day the issue was taken up with the Head Teacher. He sent for students’ parents, but only a few turned up.

The Head Teacher then talked with the Qari who told him to stay clear of the incident “in his own interest.” “We set fire to the Police Station Kassoki and killed two policemen for
their support to Qadianis (sic, but false); so keep out of this,” the Qari told the Head Teacher. The Qadiani shall not be allowed to stay on in this school, the Qari said firmly.

From then on the Qari has agitated the public and other school staff against Mr. Habib Ahmad, who has been advised by his community to keep a low profile and get himself transferred elsewhere.

Three cheers for the Sindh judiciary!

It was reported in the lead story of our March 2014 report that miscreants arranged stoning at Ahmadiyya missionary’s residence in Tando Allah Yar (Sindh) on March 31, 2014 by madrassah boys. A follow-up was provided in April 2014 report that this attack escalated into anti-Ahmadi riots in the town, leveling of false blasphemy charges against the missionary and his arrest and a pressure on the local Ahmadis to shift their homes and heaths. The missionary was arrested wrongfully.

The missionary Mr. Tahir Ahmad Khalid’s plea for bail was rejected even by the Sessions Judge to placate the mullas. Mr. Khalid had to apply to the High Court for relief against the fabricated charge.

Last month, on June 2, the advocate for the prosecution told the court that he was new to the case, and needed time to prepare his case. The court postponed the hearing till June 9.

On June 9, the prosecution team, indulging in delaying tactics failed to turn up. The judge scheduled the next hearing for June 16.

On June 16, the court could not take up this case for lack of time, and gave June 30 as the next date of hearing.

On July 1, the Ahmadi remained incarcerated; July 14 was given as the next date of hearing.

On July 14, the presiding judge was in courts’ premises the whole day. In the afternoon His Honour dismissed the court proceedings and left without hearing the Ahmadi’s petition or giving the next date of intended hearing.

Thereafter, the case was to be heard on July 25. On that day again the judge left without hearing the case. The defense attorney told the court that this was his 14th travel from Karachi to interior Sindh. He was told to come again on August 11, 2014.

The accused who is innocent remains behind bars in the 10th week of his incarceration. Whither the speech of 11th August 1947 of the founding father of this Republic!

Justice is blind - yes, in one way in Sindh.

An anti-Ahmadi training course

The daily Al-Sharaq International of June 20, 2014 reported that the annual Tahaffuz Khatme Nabwut Course would commence on June 23. The daily’s District Reporter reported from Chiniot that this course would be held in Muslim Colony of Chenab Nagar (Rabwah).

Maulana Ghulam Mustafa, the central cleric stated that the participants have to be high school graduates, and they would be provided papers, pen, boarding and lodging, cash stipend and a set of selected books. Those who pass the exam at the end would be awarded certificates, while the position-takers would get additional books and cash awards according to the daily Al-Sharaq.

Some times back there were confirmed intelligence reports that at the end of such a course, volunteers from among the participants were recruited for terrorist attacks on Ahmadi persons and properties.
The daily Islam published on June 29, 2014 a report on the Prize Distribution ceremony held at the end of this course. According to this report approximately 275 participants undertook this course.

In that ceremony the chief guest, Maulana Abdul Majeed Ludhianwi advised the students, the faculty and the guest ulama, “If clerics wish to rule (the country), their spoken words and actions should not be contradictory.” A mountainous requirement!

**A spurious case – even bail denied to Ahmadi**

**Gujranwala:** It was reported last month that Ahmadis in Kallar Abadi had celebrated a religious day in their prayer centre and held a seminar. A member of a Butt family, who had a property dispute with the owner of the prayer centre, became ‘complainant’ and had a criminal case registered against three Ahmadis under anti-Ahmadi clause PPC 298-C.

Initially Mr. Mubashir Ahmad, the caretaker of the prayer centre was arrested. The other two, Mr. Khalid Mahmud and Javed Ahmad were arrested when they approached a court for bail before arrest. The post-arrest bail of Mubashir Ahmad was also denied.

A bail petition was then moved by the latter two detainees before Mr. Zamir Hussain Shah, Judicial Magistrate. He dismissed the petition under the ‘rule of consistency’ that the case of these two was no different than the first one. In fact he should have examined the case of the first one also and released all the three on bail.

Thereafter a plea for bail was made before the Sessions Court. It was heard on July 9. The prosecuting attorney took the line that the three accused had committed ‘blasphemy’ hence their plea should be rejected. This was absurd as the accused had not even been charged under a blasphemy clause but an anti-Ahmadi clause.

The sessions judge found it convenient to reject their plea. The accused will have to approach the High Court to obtain bail in a case which hopefully will not be established in a fair court of law.

The three remain in prison.

**Fabrication and falsehood a l’extreme**

**Lahore; June 24, 2014:** The daily Islam, in its issue of June 24, 2014 published an op-ed written by one Mufti Muhammad Muawiya Ismail of Mankot. This op-ed essentially comprises a story with little merit, except that it deserves a place in archives as a sample of mendacity and cock-and-bull story-telling undertaken by some mullas in the second decade of 21st century in a newspaper in the Islamic Republic, that has named itself ‘Islam’ and places its space at the disposal of such liars.

The op-ed makes the following opening statement:

“Suddenly there was a loud sound of sobbing in the class, it made the lecturer Sir Shafiq and all the boys look in that direction, in surprise. Sir Shafiq who was giving the lecture, went silent.”

The story then mentions that this event happened in a ‘most prestigious college’ of some city. Sir Shafiq was a ‘very pious lecturer’. As usual ‘he was explaining a verse of the Holy Quran when’:

“The lecture turned to the issue of Khatme Nabuwwat (End of Prophethood) and Sir Shafiq explained it in great length and informed the students in detail of the bogus arguments given by the Pakistani Musailma Kazzab (Musailma the liar). Some students appeared to have heard of these detail for the first time (in life). Sir Shafiq mentioned in detail all the Qadiani products and said that Muslims’ sense of honour (Ghairat) demanded that they should never use these products.”
The lecture content in classes held in this ‘most prestigious science college’ is noteworthy.

The story goes on to tell that at that stage the sobbing was heard from a corner in the class. This sobbing then turned into loud wailing (Talibilm ba awaz bland roney laga). “At this Sir Shafiq also shed tears and he used a handkerchief to wipe his eyes.” When all eyes were at him the sobbing boy (Muhammad Zain) stood up and started telling his story.

Briefly, Zain told the class that he hailed from a Qadiani family. His father and uncle were both missionaries. As a child he experienced hate and discrimination from other (non-Ahmadi) boys in the street. That made him take interest in the two different belief systems of the local communities.

According to Zain (or the mental fabrication of Mufti Muawiya): “A few months ago my father and uncle went out on a proselytizing tour. On the way they had a terrible accident. My uncle did not survive the injury while my father barely escaped death with a chopped hand. There was great loud lamentation in our house. My uncle’s dead body was brought home. Everyone was sad. I was there, and sitting there I noticed that there was some movement under the shroud of the deceased. First I took it as just my imagination, but then when I moved the sheet off my uncle’s face, I nearly fainted. All those present there got scared and moved back as we saw that my uncle’s face was undergoing a transformation. His face was turning into that of a swine. A little later it became exactly that of a swine (thori der kay baad un ki shakal bikul khinzir ki tareh ho gai.) Now no one was prepared to go near him. At last we sought help from outsiders who dumped my uncle’s dead body in a pit, without the ritual bath and coffin (bagair ghusal o koffin).

“The next day huge worms appeared and fell out of my father’s wound, as if they were emerging from their holes.... I then told my papa, ‘Believe it or not; we are in the wrong, I am not going to remain a member of our false religion. I am going to convert into a Muslim.... Eventually all members of my family became Muslims. At this I raised the slogan: Khatme Nabuwwat, and everyone shouted Zindah Baad (long live).”

To avoid any inquiry and research in this fabricated story, the Mufti has made sure that:

- The name of the city where this ‘most prestigious college’ is located is not mentioned.
- The names of the father and the uncle who met the divine wrath are not mentioned.
- The name of the college where the story was told by Zain is not revealed.
- The hometown of Zain where the entire family got converted to ‘Islam’ is not given.
- The month, not even the year of this yarn is mentioned.

It should be mentioned that the Ahmadiyya community is not aware of any accident involving two missionaries, where one died and the other lost his hand. It is now for the liar ‘Mufti’ to produce the father of the mythical Zain, who survived minus one hand.

**False accusation**

**Badomalhi, District Narowal; June 2014:** A group that calls itself Sherane Islam Narowal (Lions of Islam, Narowal) decided to hold an End of Prophethood conference in Badomalhi on June 21, 2014. They pasted publicity posters all over the town for that purpose.

Some unidentified person tore away one of these posters, ostensibly to generate mischief. The organizers accused an Ahmadi, Mr. Abdul Shakoor to have done that. He is employed as a watchman in the bazaar. Mr. Shakoor stated that he had neither torn the poster nor seen anyone doing that.

The anti-Ahmadi lobby did not accept Mr. Shakoor’s plea and held a meeting on 27 June 2014 at 3 p.m. at the work-place of Haji Zafar, a member of Ahle Sunnat party.
Ahmadis also attended the meeting. Without having established the culpability of Mr. Shakoor, the opponents demanded that Mr. Shakoor should be punished and beaten up with a shoe (an insult). Ahmadis, of course, did not agree nor allowed implementation of the penalty on the poor fellow who was prepared to swear on oath his innocence.

Eventually, the opponents took the position that they will not let Mr. Shakoor swear on the Holy Quran, nor should he recite the Kalima in their presence, however if he held the photo of Mirza Sahib (the founder of the Ahmadi community) in one hand and made the statement, that would be considered by them.

Ahmadis normally do not undertake a procedure like the one proposed, however in the interest of communal peace, Mr. Shakoor did as demanded and stated that he did not tear down the poster.

The mischief thus subsided – at least for the time being.

Hate mail through SMS
An Ahmadi community official received a series of hateful SMS messages on his cell-phone, from an unknown caller using phone #0334 6383468. Some of these messages are mentioned below as sample (translated from Urdu):

- If you see a snake leave it alone, but if you see a Qadiani anywhere, crush his head.
- Pakistan government should exterminate Qadianis from the beloved homeland.
- Kick the Qadianis out of the country; they are terrorists.
- Qadianis are a part of Al-Qaeda; they are involved in terrorism in the country, in league with Al-Qaeda.
- Qadian dog- Qadiani dog; Deceiver
- My friend, you worship a fake Imam Mahdi. The true Mahdi is still to appear. You people are committing Kufr; your are Kafirs (infidels)
- All Qadianis are liars; they worship a false Mahdi. Qadianis, fear God and convert to Islam.
- Qadianis are in league with Al-Qaeda, and are damaging the country like white-ants.

No let up in any sector

Lahore; June 21, 2014: Ahmadi-bashers have adopted the policy of not allowing any ‘let up’ to Ahmadis in any sphere of national community or personal lives.

The following 3-column headlines in the daily Ausaf, Lahore on June 21, reported by its correspondent in Chenab Nagar (Rabwah) are self-explanatory:

The district will face chaos if a Qadiani press club is registered in Chenab Nagar. Abdul Rehman Kalyar (of Press Club, Chiniot)
Qadiani print and electronic media will try to prove the veracity of their belief system; this will hurt the feelings of Islam-lovers.
A group of journalists in Chiniot is ever ready to obstruct registration of a press club of Qadianis: talk to the media

How unabashed a commitment to bigotry and denial of rights to others!

Even (some) ulama agree

Lahore: Terrorism, Talibanisation, religious extremism etc are interrelated, and the Ahmadiyya community has since long pointed out their inter-relationship and proposed measures to undo them. Now that the situation is nearly out of control and the society is gravely threatened, even ulama of the Sunni Ittehad Council have understood the toxic relationship and presented a formula to fight the scourge. The daily Ausaf reported the news on June 11, 2014 under the following headline:
Sunni Ittehad Council present 18-point formula to put an end to terrorism and to counter Talibanisation.

Of the eighteen points agenda following deserve a mention here:

- The Prime Minister should declare a national Jihad against the terrorists who have declared war on the Islamic Republic.
- Support to the anti-Pakistan Taliban should be declared a major crime and the supporters, patrons and sympathizers should be held formally accountable.
- Senior most Ulema of all denominations should be formed as a Board to contest the misleading understanding of Sharia and Jihad.
- Extremist literature should be confiscated and destroyed. Deterrent and effective laws should be enforced to bar publication of hateful and provocative literature. etc.

Ahmadis behind bars

1. Mr. Tahir Ahmad Khalid, an Ahmadiyya missionary was charged under PPC 295-B on March 31, 2014 in Tando Allah Yar, Sindh. Sessions court has rejected his plea for bail. He remains behind bars, pending a plea before the High Court where his case could not be heard on numerous given dates.

2. Mr. Mubashir Ahmad, Mr. Khalid Mehmud and Mr. Javed Ahmad were booked on June 2, 2014 under anti-Ahmadiyya law in a case where the complainant had a property dispute with an Ahmadi who owns a local prayer centre in Gujranwala. A judge refused the Ahmadis’ plea for bail.

From the media

Ahmadi woman and children killed after Pakistani mob torches homes

The guardian.com; July 28, 2014

Gujranwala: Agitated mob sets fire to 5 homes. Woman and 2 girls dead; 10 seriously injured in clash. Tension in area till late nightfall.

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, July 28, 2014

Slain Ahmadi businessman laid to rest

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 17, 2014

HRW urges Lanka not to deport Pakistani asylum seekers (Ahmadis)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 4, 2014

SHO asked (by a judge) not to harass Ahmadis

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, July 10, 2014

CHINIOT: Magistrate’s court case against 2 for preaching Qadianiyat in the open

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, July 12, 2014

Four Ahmadis booked for preaching

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 26, 2014

(CLASS) Report shows increase in attacks on minorities

The daily The News; Lahore, July 11, 2014

Chenab Nagar: Citizens deprived of drinking water due lack of interest of the town council

The daily Al-Sharaq; Lahore, July 15, 2014

Chenab Nagar: This town is known for its piles of filth and gushing gutters. Sweepers work for private payment; no one holds them accountable.

The daily Jinnah; Lahore, July 10, 2014

Chenab Nagar: Streetlights gone dark since long. Citizens in difficulty.

The daily Jang; Lahore, July 19, 2014
Agreement over surveillance of Qadianis’ activities: Majlis Khatme Nabuwwat Ahrar Islam

Qadiani network active in many Punjab cities during Ramadan (six columns headline)

Muslims’ org OIC is an accomplice of Jews: Sirajul Haq (JI)

Lahore High Court sentences blasphemy convict to death

Jews are chopping Muslims as carrots (Gajar muli): (mulla) Abdul Ghafur Rehman

12 security men killed in Khyber, Peshawar

1000 Muslims killed worldwide daily; 90% of the killers are Muslim: Turkish Media

Man sentenced to death in blasphemy case

Convict scrawled insulting remarks on the walls of Islampura

ISIS announces ‘Khilafat’ in held area

Bokoharam announce support to ISIS Khalifa Al-Baghdadi

ISIS leader Al Baghdadi is an agent of the US, UK and Israel: Snowden

Nigeria: Bokoharam set fire to town; more than 100 dead

Gaza toll tops 1,500

Sri Lanka begins repatriation of Afghans (asylum seekers)

UN condemns persecution of minorities by Islamists (IS in Iraq/Syria)

60 Syrian soldiers killed in battle with jihadists

Nigeria: Militant Boko Haram kill 176 teachers

Europe’s rights court upholds France’s ban on veil

Pope seeks forgiveness over sexual abuse

89 killed in Afghan car bomb attack

Drone kills 15 Punjabi Taliban, Uzbeks

20 bn Rupees notice – Imran Khan to apologize for baseless allegations: Chief Justice Chaudhary

Army assigned Islamabad’s security for 3 month w.e.f. August 1
Islamabad’s only cinema sealed for screening movies at ‘Iftar time’
The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 27, 2014

Disclosed: Gujrat police kidnapped two citizens for ransom of Rs. 3 million
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, July 27, 2014

President approves Justice Nasir-ul-Malik as new CJP
The daily The Nation; Lahore, July 1, 2014

Op-ed: Religious Freedom in Peril
A Pew Research center study found Muslims victims of religious repression in about as many countries as Christians. But some of worst abuses actually take place in Muslim dominated countries. In Pakistan, for example, a brutal campaign has been underway against the Shi’ite minority.. Likewise, Iran represses the peaceful Bhai, and similarly Pakistan and other countries brutally mistreat Ahmadis, who see themselves as Muslims but are regarded as apostate. Pakistani Ahmadi can be arrested simply for saying, ‘peace be upon you’.

Nicholas Kristaf in New York Times, of July 9, 2014

Op-ed: The case for a Kemalist intervention
Islamabad Diary
Pakistani democracy has done things to itself which it now finds impossible to get rid of. We can take it as an axiom of ‘modern’ civilisation that the state has no business to legislate about religion. It is not for the state to say who is an infidel, who a pagan or who a righteous Muslim. And please let us not take Saudi Arabia as a model. The Saudi kingdom is unique unto itself. We can take its money and say thanks but it is not a model that any other country, while remaining sane, should care to emulate.

Having fixed this cardinal principle, let us see what has happened here. As if our fixation with religious rhetoric – the lip-service to the faith – was not enough, in 1974 the Islamic Republic took upon itself the task of religious definitionism – who stood within the circle of the faith and who outside the pale of Islam.

It was under no dictator that Pakistan went down this path. This happened under the umbrella of democracy and under the freshly-passed 1973 constitution no less. Thus where Pakistan in a supposedly democratic era should have moved towards greater social freedom, towards a clearer demarcation between the kingdom of the temporal and the realm of the spiritual, it went down the path of reaction – hallooing and cheering that a great blow had been struck for Islam.

And the great leader of the time, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, felt that by so doing he had secured for himself political immortality. Barely three years later, he was overthrown in Pakistan’s most reactionary and backward-looking coup – a watershed event which ultimately flung wide open the doors to bigotry and fanaticism, the hallmarks of today’s Pakistan – and two years after that he was carried on a stretcher to the gallows. So much for immortality.

On the foundations thus dug by Bhutto, his successor, Gen Ziaul Haq, erected a veritable temple of religious particularism (I am being careful with my words), decreeing through an ordinance issued in 1984 that it was a criminal offence for members of the Qadiani community to proclaim themselves Muslims or call their places of worship mosques.

The 1974 constitutional amendment passed under Bhutto, the 1984 ordinance decreed by Zia, allied to changes in the blasphemy law sanctified by the 1985 parliament have together created a peculiar climate of fear for Pakistan’s minorities. The application of the blasphemy law has hit the Christian community the hardest. The application of the three laws together has affected the Qadiani community the most.

Op-ed: Tales of horror, from Gaza to Gujranwala
These scenes of extremism (recent anti-Ahmadi violence in Gujranwala) were no different from the ones in Ayodhya in 1992 when Hindu extremists destroyed the Babri Mosque, or from the recent scenes of wanton destruction of Palestinian homes in Gaza....

The sustained failure of Pakistan’s criminal justice system has strengthened militant groups and mobs, who are encouraged by the knowledge that they will most likely escape justice.

For instance, those behind the murder of 94 Ahmadis (sic) in Lahore in May 2010 have not been brought to justice. Countless other religious fanatics turned mass murderers have won their freedom from the courts. …

If there were law and order in Gujranwala, Hira, Kainat and their grandmother would have been alive today.

Murtaza Haider in Dawn.com/news/1122365/tales-of-horror

Op-ed:
Sir Zafarulla’s speech on Palestine (3 October 1947) resonates as a striking reminder of the injustice inflicted on the people of that region.

The daily The News; Lahore, July 21, 2014

Op-ed: Bloody swath
From Pakistan on the Arabia Sea to landlocked Afghanistan to Iraq at the heart of the Middle East, to Syria and Gaza on the Mediterranean, the Muslim World is ablaze.

de Borchgrave at upi.com/Top-News/Analysis/de-Borchgrave/2014/0703/Bloodyswath

However, where the lack of leadership is most visible is in the Muslim world itself - from politicians, generals, and senior religious leaders in each country. Instead of a vast public movement to condemn ISIS and other such groups, there is silence, helplessness, and hopelessness. Across the region, leaders like Nouri al-Maliki in Iraq, Gulf regimes like Saudi Arabia, and many African governments, are autocratic, corrupt, cowardly and incompetent and nowhere is civil society strong enough to demand greater action against extremism. Rather than present Islam as a tolerant religion capable of building a modern social contract, each state blames outsiders for conspiring against it. The most commonly accused culprits are obviously the Americans, followed closely by Israel, Europe and neighbors.

Since the 1970s the Saudis have used their extraordinary wealth to arm and fund extremist Sunni movements everywhere, of many different stripes and shades. Any group opposed to Shias and purporting a Sunni sectarian view or ideology considered close to the Saudi sect of Wahhabism has been deemed sufficiently sympathetic to receive Saudi funding - whether it was in Pakistan, Afghanistan. Africa or across the Middle East. (While there is not clear evidence of direct Saudi support for ISIS, Saudi funding of Islamic groups fighting in Syria has helped strengthen the jihadist cause.)

Ahmad Rashid on July 2, 2014, 10:15 a.m.

Press release

HRCP slams Ahmadis’ killing in Gujranwala

*Lahore, July 28:* The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan has slammed the mob attack and killing of four members of the Ahmadi community in Gujranwala and burning of five houses as “brutalisation and barbarism stooping to new lows”.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Commission said: “HRCP is shocked and disgusted at the killing of four citizens belonging to the Ahmadi faith in Gujranwala after a blasphemy allegation. Four other Ahmadis were reported to be hospitalised in a critical condition. As things stand in the country now, particularly in Punjab, a blasphemy charge, however unfounded, makes such cold-blooded killings somehow less repulsive. The people who were killed were not even indirectly accused of the blasphemy charge. Their only fault was that they were Ahmadi. Torching women and children in their house simply because of their faith represents brutalisation and barbarism stooping to new lows.

“The community, rights respecting citizens and civil society would and must demand accountability of the mob that cheered as the deceased and injured cried for help. But if prospects for such justice were even remotely realistic, that might have deterred many in the mob from being a part of the heinous enterprise. There are many others who are so blinded by their hate and intolerance that they feel justified in cold-blooded murder, even of children, as was reported from Gujranwala. What agonises HRCP is that nothing concrete is being done to tackle neither of the two tendencies. That the mob was dancing for the TV camera after torching the houses of people who were not even accused of blasphemy proves that the whole episode had nothing to do with blasphemy but was aimed at further victimizing an already persecuted community. It should not be too difficult to imagine the feelings of members of the targeted community in Gujranwala, or anywhere in Pakistan for that matter.

“HRCP calls for a thorough inquiry to find out why police failed to act as the mob went around a number of Ahmadi localities before they eventually chose the one that they decided to target. Members of the mob and the people who instigated them need to be identified and brought to justice. Most importantly, the biases and intolerance that led to the killing must be rooted out through proactive and meaningful steps if we are to survive as a civilised society.”

**Zohra Yusuf**

Chairperson