

# **Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan**

## **News Report    November 2015**

### **Brutally punished for being Ahmadi**

*Mob destroyed Ahmadi-owned factory and occupied Ahmadiyya mosque*

**Loot, arson in police presence, Ahmadis flee from homes and hearths to save lives**

**Jhelum; November 20, 2015 and thereafter:** Ahmadiyya central office in Rabwah issued the following two press releases, on November 21 and 23 respectively.

#### **P.R. on November 21, 2015**

**An attempt in Jhelum to burn innocent Ahmadis alive over vicious allegation of blasphemy of the Holy Quran**

**No Ahmadi can ever contemplate the slightest disrespect to the Holy Quran: Spokesperson Ahmadiyya Community**

Chenab Nagar, Rabwah: Yesterday, under a monstrous plan, an attempt was made to burn Ahmadis alive after accusing them of defiling the Holy Quran. According to details a chip board factory, functioning in Jhelum since long, owned by an Ahmadi, was set on fire. Chip board was being manufactured in the factory when some miscreant reportedly informed the local mullas that copies of Holy Quran had been delivered to the furnace.



Thereafter, without any further enquiry, announcements were made on loudspeakers in mosques that Holy Quran had been desecrated in Ahmadis' chip board factory. A violent mob was formed through these provocative announcements, which surrounded the factory, pelted stones, caused damage and then set the factory on fire by the use of inflammable material. Law enforcement personnel arrived at the scene and rescued the people trapped in the factory. The fire has destroyed 70% of the factory while 8 vehicles parked inside were also severely damaged.

The spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya community expressed great anguish over this incident and said that a deliberate attempt had been made to burn Ahmadis alive by torching the factory under a plan. Someone pushed the vicious allegation of blasphemy for personal vendetta and animosity. Last year on July 27, 2014 during Ramzan in Gujranwala three Ahmadi females were burnt alive by an enraged mob over baseless allegation of blasphemy of the Holy Ka'ba. Subsequent investigations proved the allegation entirely false and a result of personal animosity. He said, "Every Ahmadi is mindful of the Sha'air of Allah more than his life, as they are part of his faith. We have been taught that, 'Those who honour the Quran are honoured in the heavens.'" According to the National Action Plan a ban on hateful speeches is little more than paperwork, as extremist elements are free to implement their hateful anti-Ahmadiyya agenda, he said. He demanded transparent investigation of the incident and swift action to bring the perpetrators to justice.

**P.R. on November 22/23, 2015**

**Ahmadis targeted by miscreants and lawbreakers in the presence of law enforcement personnel  
Ahmadiyya place of worship was attacked and its belongings burnt in Kala Gujran:  
Spokesperson Ahmadiyya Community**

Chenab Nagar, Rabwah (PR):

Miscreants attacked an Ahmadi place of worship in Kala Gujran, Jhelum. They damaged the furnishings, took them out in the street, and set them on fire. Three days ago, on November 20, the opponents of the Ahmadiyya community attacked a chip-board factory and set it ablaze when people were still inside. The perpetrators acted to burn alive those inside the factory. Their lives were



barely saved with the help of law enforcement agencies. Yesterday, on Saturday, November 21, 2015, extremist elements held a rally in Kala Gujran. They encircled the Ahmadiyya Bait-uz-Zikr, took the prayer mats and other movables out and set them on fire in the street. It is relevant to mention that personnel from law enforcement agencies were present on the spot but they did not exert to stop the miscreants from burning the belongings. After this, the bigots washed the mosque, a mulla called the Azaan, and they offered Asar prayer in the mosque. Thereafter, the authorities told them to leave, and locked the mosque.

The spokesperson of Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan, Saleemuddin strongly condemned the violent incidents in Jhelum and said that an Ahmadiyya place of worship was attacked in presence of the law enforcement personnel who, instead of taking action against the lawbreakers, stood there as spectators. He further said that an application for registration of FIR against the participants who damaged the factory and burned the belongings of the worship place has been lodged with the police. He added that the Ahmadis of Jhelum and surrounding areas have been forced to leave their homes, for safety. He demanded from the government that Ahmadis should be provided protection and strict legal action should be taken against the miscreants who threatened human lives.

The above is the gist of what happened, but PRs have to be brief and crisp; they cannot do justice to the reported event. Often the reality and substance can be conveyed only if mentioned in essential detail.



Only two days before this tragedy in Jhelum, Kunwar Khuldune Shahid wrote in an op-ed in the daily The Nation: "We can shout "Islam is the religion of peace" till our lungs burst, but

advocating beliefs and laws that contradict basic human rights let alone supporting Islamist militancy, would constantly be the deal-breaker.... Neither conveniently distancing ourselves from Islamist terrorism would suffice. Muslims need to be at the forefront of the war against jihadism, which has caused more suffering to us than any other community.” This opinion which is now obvious to most intellectuals in Pakistan is apparently still not held by the provincial government who have done little to convert it into an SOP for their law-enforcing agencies. The event, as it unfolded in Jhelum, proved it. The mulla and the mob were allowed the initiative, the security forces responded, only if they could or opted to.

It is relevant to point out that despite the experience of the past 20 years and the great obvious harm done to the Pakistani state and society in recent years, Pakistan government is not on the same page on the evil of religious extremism, even after the APS Peshawar tragedy. Maulana Sheerani, the chairman of the CII at Islamabad declared only a month ago that he would take up the following three long over-due issues in the next council meeting:

- Ahmadis should be classified as mere non-Muslims or *Murtads* (apostates)? (Note: According to the CII the penalty for apostasy is death.)
- Whether *Jizya* (religious tax) should be imposed on non-Muslims in Pakistan?
- To determine which sects fell under the ambit of Islam.

In view of the above unabashed statement in public, what happened in Jhelum is not surprising.

The riot in Jhelum was reported in the press adequately, and the English language press commented profusely on its various aspects. The daily The News mentioned in an op-ed on November 29, “Keep in mind that the mob didn’t just act out of blind rage. It first looted the properties in question: taking away even children clothes from the cupboards. Once the assets of the enemy had been secured, it was time to burn the structures to the ground.” The daily Dawn reported on November 27, “The decades old facility has been turned into a vast heap of ashes and charred structures by an arson attack launched by a crazed mob. The crowd gathered in the wake of announcements made from mosques’ loudspeakers, calling on people to burn the facility down after one of its employees was arrested over allegations of blasphemy. What they didn’t burn down, they looted.”

According to the daily The News: By evening, announcements were made from local mosques that the owner and the workers had burnt the Quran. Soon, outrage spread in the nearby villages. Following this the people not only from the vicinity but nearby villages gathered as a mob and set ablaze the chipboard factory. The houses and the offices of the factory were destroyed, looted and burnt. ...The DPO says announcements were made in the nearby villages urging people to gather outside the factory, and possibility of any mischief cannot be ignored.



A report in the monthly Tanqeed quoted one Imran (name changed for security concern) an Ahmadi eye witness to the attack:

“It was a miracle how (fleeing) families inside the factory compound and those outside managed to gain some distance, as the hunt had started by the mob then.

“The night had grown darker. The mob began to loot, and then, to set the factory on fire.

“When the angry men moved towards our quarters, they were told by some non-Ahmadis to only target the living quarters of Ahmadis, I was told by my contact. They stole from our residences and then set them on fire. They had started running in the direction of Ahmadis who had managed to flee, with batons and torches.

“Ahmadis hid in the fields behind small hills, in deep nullahs (canals), and in thorny shrubs, hungry and scared, for hours. The subsequent rescue operation by the volunteers of the community – without any help from the law enforcement personnel – went on till 6 a.m.”

According to some other account, the police did help in saving some lives.

Even after all that, the authorities failed to grasp the potential threat that still existed. The next day, the bigoted brigade organized an attack on an Ahmadiyya mosque, not far away. The daily Dawn filed the following report on November 27: “A few kilometres east of the torched factory in the congested Kala Gujran area of Jhelum city, dozens of armed soldiers and policemen stand guard in front of an Ahmadi place of worship. But the place has now been inscribed with the title of ‘Masjid Allah Wali’ and displays the slogan ‘Khatme Nabuwat Zindabad’. “These were written by the protestors who briefly took over this place yesterday and offered their prayers here,” says Malik Basharat Jameel a native of the area. They took three motor cycles, two generators, some furniture and files out from this building and set it all on fire.”

But Nasir Butt, a local journalist, believes the police were responsible for the chaos. “The police failed to apply a strategy to counter religious unrest”, he says. Surprisingly the second attack occurred after the RPO himself had arrived here to control the situation. The police simply vanished when the crowd arrived.” *The daily Dawn, November 27, 2015*

According to The News of November 29, 2015: A video available with TNS shows people setting things on fire in the worship place with a policeman standing quietly and watching rather than taking any action. Almost 24 hours after the whole episode, the Punjab Chief Minister ordered to take action against the culprits.

The News reported later: The government managed to block the news on national television channels. The factory is under the control of administration ever since and the media has not been allowed to visit the area, thus blocking any kind of coverage that could expose the horrifying scenes of loot, plunder and burning of the factory. *The News, 29.11.15*

A further press report mentioned: Five days after the torching down of the chipboard factory and looting of workers’ houses and offices, about four kilometres from Jhelum on G.T. Road, by a violent mob, the smoke was still billowing from its ware houses and fire-fighting vehicles were still at work.

The daily The Nation of November 22, 2015 made editorial comment on this Mob Justice: “... With Ahmadis declared non-Muslims by the Pakistani government in 1974, there is no stopping the public in trying to make them feel like they do not belong to this country. Eleven member of the sect were murdered for their faith in 2014 and authorities failed to apprehend any of the killers. ... “Severe action will be taken against the culprits,” Nisar (Interior Minister) added. But these words mean nothing as such attacks against Ahmadis have become a norm. No official account has ever been given about the perpetrators, backers, financiers or masterminds of these heinous crimes.”

Post-riot situ: Rabia Mahmood wrote in the monthly Tanqeed in her article “The mob wanted to lynch them”, quoting Imran, (name changed for security):

“As for Imran, he never thought that the situation in Jehlum (sic) would escalate to the point where Ahmadis would have to flee. While there are no deaths or injuries from the Jehlum incidents so far, the trauma and fear is immense. A few years ago, Imran had witnessed a hate crime against an Ahmadi acquaintance in Punjab and had to take the bleeding man to the hospital after he was shot. That physical violence was nothing compared to the utter fear of Jehlum. There is no comparison.”

Members of the Ahmadiyya Community suspect that the incident was ‘systemically run’ in term of sequence of incidents. Sure enough, five days after the incident, the Dawn reported on November 25: **Investigators smell ‘conspiracy’ behind Jhelum violence** “Gujrat: The violence that erupted in Jhelum, apparently following a ‘desecration’ incident in the factory, might have been planned by perpetrators with ulterior motives. ... The investigators have been looking into the possibility of a sabotage plan behind the incidents in Jhelum that might have been prepared by some local miscreants in connivance with some factory workers.”

Later The Express Tribune partly filled in the blank by a report on December 2: **Inciting violence: Worker behind Jhelum incident wanted raise**, according to the report.

The situation became so tense and fraught with danger that all the Ahmadis from the city of Jhelum and its suburbs had to flee and seek refuge elsewhere wherever they could. When to go back safely, is a moot question.

After the damage had been done, at some stage, the political and administrative authorities realized that the situation needed firm handling to avoid re-ignition. Accordingly some action was taken, but predictably, no senior mulla was detained for questioning. According to press reports a few *moezzans* (callers to prayers, mosques caretakers) were detained. But they are only the foot-soldiers.

The English print media took due notice of the incident and in addition to press reports, published op-eds and wrote editorials. Some of these are listed below:

Type	Title	Reference
Report	Manufacturing Intolerance	Waqar Gillani - The News on Sunday 29.11.15
Oped	Justifying the mob	Hussain H. Zaidi - The News 28.11.15
News	Identity crises for Pakistan’s Ahmadis: Battle with mob and state	The Nation 28.11.15
News	Jhelum Rioters Arrested	Newsweek Pakistan 25.11.15
Story	Fighting for the right to live	Newsweek Pakistan 25.11.15
Op-ed	A surfeit of anger	Chris Cork in The Express Tribune 25.11.15
Story	The mob wanted to lynch them	Rabia Mehmood in <i>tanqeed.org</i> Nov 2015
Press Report	Footprints: Fires of hatred	Dawn 27.11.15
Oped	The pariahs of Pakistan	Farrukh K Pitafi in The Express Tribune 27.11.15
Oped	The unmistakable hypocrisy	Mehr Tarrar – The Express Tribune 26.11.15

Oped	The fire of intolerance	The Friday Times 27.11.15
Oped	End impunity for blasphemy mobs	Gul Bukhari -The Nation 22.11.15
Editorial	Mob Justice	The Nation 22.11.15
News	Mob torches Jhelum factory after blasphemy accusation	The Nation 22.11.15
Press report	Double standard over hangings alleged	Nasir Iqbal in Dawn 24.11.15
Oped	Closing Jihad factories	Marvi Sirmed in The Nation 24.11.15
Oped	Minority matters	Reema Omer in Dawn 24.11.15
News	More than 40 suspects held for Jhelum (hate attacks)	Dawn – 24.11.15
News	Clerics warn against secularization	The News 25.11.15
Editorial	Hate speech	The Nation 25.11.15
Editorial	Toothless recommendations	The Nation 28.11.15
Oped	Punished for being	Imaan Hazir Mazari in The News 27.11.15
Oped	Jhelum – insult to human dignity	Waqqas Mir in The News on Sunday 29.11.15
Editorial	Religious extremism in Jhelum	Dawn 24.11.15
News	After factory, mob torches Ahmadi place of worship in Jhelum over blasphemy allegations	The Express Tribune 21.11.15
News	Blasphemy allegations: Mob torches factory in Jhelum	The Express Tribune 21.11.15
News	Ahmadi place of worship set ablaze in Jhelum, riots erupt after blasphemy allegations	Dawn – 21.11.15

The vernacular press reported the incident; however, as usual, it decided not to comment on it or take a position in favour of the targeted community – except a hint in the daily Express.

TV channels were more forthcoming. There were numerous talk shows in which Jhelum incident was taken up. The participants, even those from religious parties, spoke against the rioters and stated that it was wrong and un-Islamic to accept a report on its face value without due inquiry and indulge in a riot. An op-ed writer, however, criticized this position as it suggests “most repulsively, that a given set of facts could explain or justify attempted murder, arson against residential and industrial premises.”

The Punjab apex committee established by the NAP recommended several changes to the law to better deal with terrorism and extremism – aiming mostly at making punishments more severe. The daily The Nation of November 28, 2015 wrote an editorial titled Toothless Recommendations on these. Extract:

“The recommendations include more stringent laws on loud speaker use, mob violence and hate speech – but the fact is even if these laws had been in place, incidents like Jhelum riots, the Kasur lynching and Joseph Colony fire would still have happened in exactly the same way. Laws become

meaningless when LEAs stand by and let angry mobs do their worst, be it through cowardice or sympathy with the crowd. LEA standard operating procedures dealing with religious mobs need to be updated – they need to be given the authority to use force to deter the crowd.

“If laws are needed then they are needed to prosecute policemen who let mobs torture and destroy in dereliction of their duties.”

Ms. Gul Bokhari hit the nail on the head, in her op-ed published in the daily *The Nation* of October 22, 2015 on the issue of recommendations:

“All political parties in parliament are urged to frame and table laws targeted specifically at the impunity side of the blasphemy killings at least, and to do so on a war footing, given they find it hard to change or repeal the blasphemy laws at this time. A few simple recommendations include: The introduction of capital punishment for anyone, including the mosque clerics like in Jhelum’s case this Friday, who call for punishment/killing of blasphemy accused by people; charging members of the attacking mob with nothing short of murder or attempted murder, as the case may be, reform of procedure before anyone can be booked for blasphemy.”

Mr. Usman Ahmad came up with a refreshing suggestion in the *huffingtonpost.com* in his article ‘**Is it time for Pakistan to Revisit the ‘Ahmadi Question’?**’ His concluding remarks:

“Notwithstanding all this, there was a noticeable difference in the way the mainstream media covered the Jhelum attack compared to previous atrocities. Apart from formal condemnations, genuine and nuanced discourse about the rights of Ahmadis in Pakistan, social attitudes towards them and what it means to be a citizen in Pakistan was brought into open discussion.

“It is exactly this kind of conversation that has to come to the fore because the handling of the Ahmadi question is integral to the future direction of Pakistan through its inextricable link with the darkest recesses of its past. An honest and fair-minded discussion has become a necessity. Not just in newsrooms, but in all public spheres.

“More fundamentally it needs to be conducted in a mature manner, free of polemics, the threat of violence and by taking on board the viewpoints of Ahmadis themselves.

“It is imperative that the Ahmadi question be revisited. Without engaging with one of the principal causes of religious tension in Pakistan no amount of military operations or action plans will be able to prevent further blazes, like the one in Jhelum, from being lit. And fire is something that can only be contained for so long.”

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/usman-ahmad/pakistan-revisit-the-ahmadi-question\\_b\\_8683268.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/usman-ahmad/pakistan-revisit-the-ahmadi-question_b_8683268.html)

### **Lethal attack on an Ahmadi**

*Gulshan Iqbal, Karachi; November 18, 2015:*

Two unknown pillion riders opened fire on Chaudhry Munir Ahmad, an Ahmadi, when he came home in car at about 11 pm. A bullet hit Mr. Ahmad in his right upper arm and got stuck in the shoulder. Other three bullets hit the car. Mr. Ahmad managed to drive his car into his house. He was immediately taken to Liaquat National Hospital by his neighbor where bleeding was stopped through first aid. He was discharged from the hospital a few hours later.

Doctors removed the bullet on November 21, 2015 in a successful operation.

## **A terrorizing pamphlet**

Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat Peshawar has issued a pamphlet in print and on social media. It names Ahmadi doctors of Peshawar and calls their murder 'Jihad'. Extracts from the pamphlet are translated below:

"This infidel cobra of the false prophethood of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani continues to swallow the faith of the new generation. How can a Muslim remain calm by shutting his eyes and sealing his lips from these soul-tormenting heretic creeds and crimes?

"Who will rein in the out-of-control tongue of Qadianiyat?

"O Muslim brethren! Today there are some people in our ranks whose identification is necessary as they are misguiding you. They are trying to destroy your faiths through fake healing. In reality, their punishment is death. It is Jihad to shoot such people in the open.

"They (the listed doctors) and their Qadiani infidel ilk are actively preaching their despicable heretic creeds under the cover of virtuous profession of medical treatment. They are corrupting the faith of our new generation – day and night. O Muslim brethren! Wake up to your obligations.

"Try your level best to come under the savior flag of the Prophet (PBUH) by completely boycotting them and their products."

The pamphlet also states that **"The Qadiani Shezan and the Bazeed Khaily doctor are in the forefront in supporting the Qadiani mischief financially. Every Muslim who drinks, buys or sells Shezan or gets treatment from the Bazeed Khaily doctor is rebelling against Islam and the Prophet (PBUH) of Islam."**

The pamphlet further warns: **"Consider O Muslim! If death came to you while drinking Shezan or availing treatment from the Bazeed Khaily doctor, then what will be the consequences? How will you ask for salvation from Allah's Prophet (PBUH)?"**

The pamphlet provides the addresses of the named Ahmadi doctors and some Ahmadiyya businesses. At the end, the pamphlet gives the following details of the issuing organization:

**Website: [www.khatm-e-nubuwwut.com](http://www.khatm-e-nubuwwut.com)**

**Library Aalami Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat Aasia Gate Peshawar, 0315-59206165**

**News and Publication Department Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat Peshawar**

**0336-5574009/0321-19182719**

**International Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat Masjid Qasim Ali Khan Peshawar, 0333-9347034**

This pamphlet raises the question of the level of commitment of the state to anti-terrorism measures as laid down in the National Action Plan.

The pamphlet was reported to the law enforcement agencies in Peshawar.

## **Is the Council of Islamic Ideology trying to incite genocide of Ahmadis?**

**Islamabad:** Last month we published a story **Council of Islamic Ideology chief spawns a 'disturbance'**. In it we reproduced the editorial of the daily Dawn on the subject.

Maulvi Sheerani, the CII Chief announced to the press that he intended to discuss the following three important issues in the Council meeting:

1. Deciding whether Ahmadis are non-Muslims or *murtads* (apostates)
2. Imposing *Jizya* (Islamic tax) on non-Muslim citizens
3. Determining which sects fall under Islam

The issue was important – very important, so some other shrewd and perceptive individuals and media outlets also took notice. The daily The Nation was one among them. It published on October 31, 2015 an op-ed with the above title, written by Umar Ali. We reproduce below extracts:

...Ahmadis have faced persecution and oppression of the worst magnitude. And with statements like these, what is Maulana trying to imply? Everyone knows the punishment of an apostate is death in Islam. Does he want all Ahmadis hanged? Although the position of Council is just a ceremonial one and has nothing to do with the law, even passing such remarks can provoke the religious zealots to kill people. Is Maulana Sheerani trying to incite genocide of Ahmadis?

Now that the NAP has been implemented to some extent, hate speech by sectarian organizations has stopped. Before the National Action Plan, sectarian organizations would roam around freely-apostatizing and killing the opposite sects and their followers. These organizations, often patronized by state for proxy wars, were given a free hand until now.

Under these circumstances, CII Chairman wants to debate which sects fall under the umbrella of Islam. Any sane person with a bit of concern about the country's prevailing situation would know how vile the statement sounds.

Lastly, he desires to impose *jizya* on non-Muslims. They are already considered third-rate citizens here. With such despicable demands, Maulana Sheerani doesn't help but make things worse for them.

Pakistan is a democratic state and a democratic state treats all its citizens equally, irrespective of their cast, creed, religion or ethnicity. Pakistan has been wrecked by religious intolerance, jihadism and religious terrorism. Instead of finding a way forward, Council of Islamic Ideology wants to impose medieval laws that have nothing to do with modern statecraft.

The recent statements by Chairman CII are deplorable and must be condemned by all. Maulana Sheerani also needs to realize if he wants to stay relevant, he needs to stop passing such controversial remarks on a regular basis.

We would like to add that mulla Sheerani's mischief is far beyond the purport mentioned in the title. He is a Deobandi. By discussing and seeking a verdict on the third item of his agenda, his first targets could be Shia, who form approximately 18 percent of Pakistan's population. If declared 'outside Islam' the next, question of this cleric would be 'Whether Shias are non-Muslims or *murtads*?' Imagine the consequences. Thereafter, he will take up the issue of Barelvis who in the opinion of most Deobandi mullas are *Mushrik*, worse than a common non-Muslim. They form 50% of Pakistan's population, approximately three times the Deobandis. Opening the Pandora's Box about their identity as Muslim would be catastrophic.

Mulla Sheerani is a member and nominee of the JUI (F). One of his party superiors reportedly said some years ago, "We are not guilty of the sin of creating Pakistan." Sheerani, unwittingly or deliberately has played his role in suggesting a method to complete the unfinished agenda of his party.

### **Khatme Nabuwwat organizations, Jihadis and terrorists share the same patrons**

**Washington:** This story is based on a report in a book titled PAKISTAN'S COUNTERTERRORISM CHALLENGE published by the United States Institute of Peace,

Washington DC. The book is edited by Moeed Yusaf and contains high quality research articles contributed by eminent scholars from Pakistan as well as abroad. Maulana Ahmad Sheraj (sic), a Khatme Nabuwwat activist and operative is mentioned therein in Chapter: Choking Financing for Militants in Pakistan. The text deserves attention and comment. The essayist mentions in the sub-section International Sources:

“The Pakistani madrassas and religious parties remain in contact with the scholars, who keep them on the list of the deserving and distribute the *Zakat* money among them. Scholars from these countries either visit these countries such as Pakistan themselves or send their representatives to investigate who is the most deserving of *Zakat*. Maulana Ahmad Sheraj, for example, a Pakistan-born religious scholar settled in Kuwait, visited Pakistan in September 2004. A religious scholar from Peshawar claims that Sheraj had brought with him *Zakat* money for Pakistani madrassas and organizations. Jihadi sources say an administration of leading madrassas, jihadi organizations, and religious parties sought to arrange meetings with Sheraj.

Militant groups and religious seminaries also send their representatives abroad to raise funds, especially in the month of Ramadan. They send their designated members not only to Gulf states but also to Africa and Europe ...” *p.159 of the First South Asia edition, 2014 of Pakistan’s Counterterrorism Challenge*

Mulla Ahmad Ali Siraj of Kuwait, mentioned above is a regular visitor to Pakistan. He operates in Pakistan as the Secretary General of International Khatme Nabuwwat (End of Prophethood) Movement (IKNM) in league with mulla Abdul Hafeez Makki (of Makka, Saudi Arabia) who is its Amir. This organization is a sister organization of the purely Pakistani Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat (AMTKN). It was explained through vernacular press that these two organizations are in fact only named differently for the purpose of administration (*read funding*).

Extremist mullas from other organizations, including the banned one, are routinely invited to speak from the platform of Siraj Kuwaiti’s IKNM. Some of the speakers come from religious organizations that are tolerated, even supported by the government. Other invitees are those who are unabashedly sectarian and entertain foreign loyalties and prejudices. All these get together to promote a common agenda (End of Prophethood dogma is only the façade) and avail funds doled out by Al-Kuwaiti and Makki.

Vernacular press in Pakistan mentions Siraj Kuwaiti’s regular visits to Pakistan. He was in Pakistan in January and February this year (2015) and attended a Khatme Nabuwwat conference, a Khatme Nabuwwat course and a similar Ahrar Conference held in Ahmadiyya town of Rabwah on January 4, 2015. The daily Pakistan of January 16, 2015 mentioned in its report that therein a mulla Syed Kafil Bokhari said: The imperialist America and its allies have crossed the limit of transgression against Muslims; the Qadiani group is part of them attacking the beliefs of Muslims.

Thereafter, on February 26, 2015 a conference was held in Lahore which was presided over by mulla Ilyas Chinioti (MPA of PML-N) who thundered, “They (Ahmadis) must give up their faith and become Muslims or face consequences.” Ameer Hamza, a ferocious mulla said, “One of the reasons why they (Jihadists) wanted to wage Jihad against India was to demolish the graves of Ahmadi leaders in Qadian,” reported The Express Tribune. On that occasion also spoke Justice ® Nazir Akhtar who is the defense counsel of Mumtaz Qadri, in whose defense Akhtar insisted before the Supreme Court that “his client

had no option but to kill Governor Taseer as a right and duty assigned by Sharia.” This conference was organized by Siraj Kuwaiti’s IKNM and was addressed by him and Hafeez Makki. That discloses the prime-movers and financiers of this event which unabashedly promoted hate and violence at a choice location in Lahore, the provincial capital.

A similar Khatme Nabuwwat Conference was also held in Chiniot, next to Rabwah. Last year also, these two foreign-based VIP mullas visited Chiniot and Rabwah and were shown the seminary, the head office, the mosque etc (apparently to show that the petrodollars were being well-spent). At night these guests were feted at a ‘sumptuous dinner’. It was said in Chiniot that “Qadianiyat is a major cancer; the entire ummah will have to make a joint effort to crush this mischief.” *The daily Pakistan 27.2.2014*

Two weeks later Ahmad Ali Siraj attended and addressed a clerics’ conference in Lahore. The daily Jang of March 10, 2014 reported this rally with the following 3-column headline:

**“The US is promoting sectarianism. To crush Qadianiyat is the responsibility of the entire Ummah: Ulama Karam.”** Hafiz Hussain Ahmad said that the U.S. was not spending thousands but millions of dollars to carry out terrorism in Pakistan.

The daily Mashriq, Lahore reported on January 17, 2014. “Maulana Fazlur Rehman’s (JUI-F) meeting with Maulana Abdul Hafeez Makki the Chief Amir of International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement, in Makka”. The question arises: For what?

It is also relevant to mention that Ahmad Siraj was present in a Khatme Nabuwwat conference held in Cape Town, South Africa in December 2013. This event was attended by a contingent of mullas from Pakistan and India, and the three day get-together was organized jointly by the local Muslim Judicial Council and Siraj’s IKNM. Those who attended included mullas like Muhammad Ahmad Ludhianwi (of ASWJ of Pakistan, formerly SSP, banned for terrorism).

### **Special reference to ‘Qadianis’ in an election pamphlet**

*Islamabad; November 29, 2015:*

Zahir ud Din Babur reported on BBC Urdu that Mr Shiraz Farooqi, an LG election candidate had it written in his election manifesto: “Qadianis need not bother to vote for me”.

When questioned, he replied: “When I saw the voters’ list, I lost my bearing; my conscience did not permit me to win with the votes of these people.”

The issue was referred to officials to determine if it was a violation of election rules. One explanation was: “The candidate has not obstructed anyone’s right of vote; he has only excused himself from support, hence no violation has occurred.” However, another official raised the question: “If someone, tomorrow, writes the same sort of remark about Shias or Sunnis – how about that! No discrimination is permissible against any community on the basis of religion or sect.”

Mr Saleemuddin, Ahmadi spokesperson stated that the election rules are discriminatory. Two lists are prepared at the time of elections: one joint list for Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Sikhs etc., and a separate one only for ‘Qadianis’. “Ahmadis, therefore do not participate in the elections. In our centre (town) Rabwah there are 33,000 voters; not a single vote was cast in the LG elections,” he said.

It is a cause for concern that separate voters' list helps extremist element to pinpoint local Ahmadis, according to BBC.

### **Threat posed by the prayer leader of Lal Masjid**

**Islamabad; November 16, 2015:** The prestigious daily Dawn published an editorial, titled: Lal Masjid memories. The editorial takes notice of the latest announcement by Maulvi Abdul Aziz of a campaign for the 'implementation of Sharia' in Pakistan.

The editorial notice by Dawn of this still another grave threat to Pakistan's society is very timely and wise. The mullas' apparently pious campaigns like those in support of the Honour of the Prophet, End of Prophethood, and Implementation of Sharia etc. are in fact aimed at promoting their agenda to gain political power, and these movements eventually morph into violence, terrorism and even insurgency.

It is relevant to mention that the father of Maulvi Abdul Aziz, Maulvi Abdullah who was the first Imam to shift to Islamabad to take charge of the Lal Masjid was an activist of the Khatme Nabuwwat movement. He and his progeny continued to raise the slogan of End of Prophethood as and when required to strengthen their hold in Islamabad. In 2007 eventually, brothers Abdul Aziz and Abdul Rashid managed to challenge the state in a full blown insurgency.

The Daily Mail of London reported on December 4, 2015 that US officials handed information to Pakistani authorities linking Tashfeen Malik, of San Bernardino massacre, to country's 'notorious Red Mosque'.

The editorial for its gravity and priority is reproduced as Annex to the report.

### **A Khatme Nabuwwat org leader's utterances**

**Lahore; November 7, 2015:** The ultra right-wing daily Islam, published an interview with Maulvi Allah Wasaya who is a leader at the central office of the Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat. Questions were put to him by the daily's Hanzala Zamir Abbas.

Wasaya's utterances were discreet, but they do betray some aspects of his organization's policies, priorities and *modus operandi*. Some conclusions can be drawn from these about the cutting edge of its activities and finances etc. Questions are not repeated here nor the whole text of answers; only extracts of salient remarks are produced below:

- (As for the post-APS Peshawar NAP) None of our colleagues is facing any case (disciplinary action).
- (In foreign countries) Our Jamaat and the government have never kept quiet (to any criticism); in fact on all occasions our Jamaat and the government have fully represented the views of Muslims and of Pakistan.
- We have published the entire anti-Ahmadiyya literature of the past 100-150 years, in one compendium of sixty volumes. Similarly three volumes of anti-Ahmadi *fatawa* (edicts) issued by (the Muftis of) all denominations have been published.
- We continue to demand that Qadianis be removed from all key posts. (In fact there is hardly an Ahmadi in any key post in the government. ed.)
- The Islamic Ideology Council has recommended that Qadianis are not allowed to build their place of worship that may resemble a mosque.

- We have up-loaded 1000 books on our website. This is a well-organized activity.
- All praise to Allah, Qadianis have been reduced to a defensive position (abroad, in courts) while we now have the initiative. Allah has granted us success in all cases on all front. ... Anti-Ahmadi laws have been promulgated in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Emirates and in some African countries. They (Ahmadis) are not officially accepted as Muslims.
- In the entire country, our missionaries are posted in all districts; they are performing their duties in a very organized manner.

(Note: The story titled “Khatme Nabuwwat organizations, Jihadis and terrorists share the same patrons” produced elsewhere in this report examines the link between Khatme Nabuwwat organizations and terrorist elements in Pakistan and abroad.)

### **Milli Yakjehti Council (MYC) opposes a liberal Pakistan**

*Islamabad; November 22, 2015:* Mr. Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan said in a conference on November 05, 2015 that the nation’s future lies in a democratic, liberal Pakistan. The clergy took the statement by storm and the political mullas condemned the idea of a liberal Pakistan. In an ‘all parties conference’ organized by Milli Yakjehti Council (National Alliance for Harmony) they demanded that the Prime Minister retreat from his statement of Pakistan being a liberal state. The MYC is an alliance of a few religious political parties with Jamaat Islami in the leadership role.

Extracts of the speeches made in the conference and published in the daily Pakistan of November 22, 2015 are reported below:

**Pakistan is the name of an ideology and creed. Without ‘The honour of the prophethood’ the raison d’etre of this country comes to naught: Siraj ul Haq (JI chief)**

**The verdict of Supreme Court against Mumtaz Qadri is outside-Sharia. The ban on the media coverage of Jamaat ut Dawa should be removed: 11 points statement**

**Qadiani group is internationally active against ‘the honour of the Prophethood law’ in constitution: Siraj ul Haq**

**Ulama-e-Karam are the real heirs of this country: Siraj ul Haq**

Speakers who participated in the conference included Abul Khair Zubair, president of MYC; Mulla Mohammad Amjad, JUI (F); Liaqat Baloch, secretary of MYC; Hafiz Muhammad Saeed; chief of Jamaat-ut-Dawa; Abdul Rasheed Turabi, Ameer JI Azad Jammu and Kashmir; Pir Abdul Shakoor Naqashbandi, JUI (S); Saqib Abbas of Jamiat Ahle Hadith; Mullas Abdul Malik, Ameen Shaheedi, and Abdul Jaleel Naqashbandi.

Zahid Hussain wrote an op-ed in the daily Dawn on November 26, 2015 and aptly commented upon the announcements and motives of the conference.

He questioned, “[T]he claim by Sirajul Haq that the remarks by the prime minister are contrary to the Constitution, the philosophy of Allama Iqbal and the principles laid down by the Quaid-i-Azam. How do concepts of political and civil liberties and religious freedom come into the conflict with Pakistan’s original ideology and the vision of the nation’s founding fathers?

He aptly argued that “In fact, it is an attempt to redefine Pakistan’s ideology that has harmed the country the most by widening the religious divide within its polity. The Islamist groups gathered under the banner of the MYC have been instrumental in fuelling sectarian differences and religious

extremism in the country. One of the participants in the group's recent meeting was Jamaatud Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed whose organisation is on the UN list of terrorist organisations."

He further wrote that "liberal democracy was the core ideology of the foundation of Pakistan, something that was clearly articulated by Mohammad Ali Jinnah in an interview to Reuters in 1946. "The new state," he said, "would be a modern democratic state with sovereignty resting in the people and the members of the new nation having equal rights of citizenship regardless of their religion, caste or creed."

"Pakistan was never supposed to be, in the words of Mr Jinnah, a "theocratic state" that these religious groups strive for. In fact, the country has long deviated from this core principle. Theocracy is anathema to the modern democracy that the Quaid had envisaged.

"The country drifted from its ideals when the state got involved in religious matters, and with deciding who was and wasn't a true Muslim. It went from bad to worse when the religious groups, many of whom are part of the MYC, took it upon themselves to determine the Islamic credentials of different sects. This has also been the major cause for the deaths of thousands of Muslims in sectarian violence in Pakistan."

He concluded, "The country has suffered hugely as a result of religious bigotry and the wrong interpretation of Pakistan's ideology. Pakistan was created to be a modern democratic state with freedom of belief and religion. It was not supposed to be an obscurantist state as the country is now being portrayed by assorted so-called Islamic groups. We must reclaim the original ideology of Pakistan if we really want to move forward and establish a tolerant society. Liberal democracy is the only answer to violent extremism and religious bigotry."

The role of associations like MYC and parties like the JI and JUI deserves special notice and proactive policy initiative by the state in view of the National Action Plan and the war on terror.

### **Clerics warn against secularization**

*Lahore; November 25, 2015:* The daily The News published a story under the above heading. As the clerics had assembled under the state-promoted idea of End of Prophethood, it is worth placing on record, as it lists the mullas and parties who joined hands in this anti secular/liberal campaign. Extract:

#### **Clerics warn against secularization**

HEADS of different religious parties have warned against a move to secularize the country in violation of the Pakistan ideology and imposing restrictions against religious parties' seminaries and social welfare organizations, and threatened that it would evoke serious reaction from the society.

Addressing an All Parties Conference (APC) on Tuesday, held at the Lahore Press Club under the aegis of World Pasban Khatme-Nabuwat (WPKN), they condemned the government for not withdrawing the notification of coverage ban against religious parties.

The APC was chaired by Pir Salman Munir, custodian of Sambrial Sharif shrine while noted speakers included WPKN chief Allama Mumtaz Ahmad Awan, Ahle Hadith leader Allama Zubair Ahmad Zaheer, trader leader Sh. Naeem Badshah, Pir Waliullah Bukhari., JI Punjab naib ameer Javed Kasuri, Allama Shoaibur Rehman, JUP leader Mufti Ashiq Hussain, Majlis Ahrar leader Maulana Yusuf Ahrar, Maulana Rajeeullah Khan, Prof Farooq Saeedi, Tehreek Hurmat Rasool leader Ali Imran Shaheen, JUI-F leader Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, Fiqah Jafaria leader Waqarul Hasnain Naqvi, Jamiat Ahle sunnat leader Qari Hanif Haqqani, Allama Ziaur Rehman Farooqi, Pir SA Jafri and others. They condemned the policy

of secularizing the country and warned that it was an open violation of Pakistan Movement and the vision of Quaid-e-Azam and other founding fathers (sic).

### **Ahmadis behind bars**

1. A baseless case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad and Mubashir Ahmad of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura under PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 on May 13, 2014 in police station Sharaqpur. Mr. Khalil Ahmad was then murdered by a madrassah student, while in police custody on May 16, 2014. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. They are in prison. Their bails were cancelled.
2. A fabricated case was registered against Mr. Tahir Mahdi Imtiaz, printer of the Ahmadiyya monthly Ansarullah, in Millat Town police station Lahore on April 16, 2014. He was arrested by the police on March 30, 2015 under the blasphemy clause PPC 295-A and anti-Ahmadiyya law PPC 298-C. A high court judge announced his bail but refused to sign the decision later. Thereafter a 2-member bench of LHC refused him bail. He remains in prison. His plea now lies with the Supreme Court that did not give a decision in hearing scheduled for November 26.
3. Mr. Qasim Majoka was wrongfully implicated in a religion-based police case under PPC 295-C and 298-C along with other two more Ahmadis. The police removed the deadly PPC 295-C in initial investigation and sent the case to the court. On February 10, 2014 the court sentenced Mr. Muhammad Qasim Majoka to two years' imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadi law and fined him thirty thousand rupees. He was arrested from the court room. Later he was released on bail on February 15, 2014. On October 22, 2015 a higher court heard the case and upheld the sentence of Mr. Majoka. The police arrested him and sent him to jail.
4. Mr. Qamar Ahmad was charged under PPC 295-B for alleged desecration of the Holy Quran in Jhelum, and was arrested on November 20, 2015. Bigots attacked the factory and Ahmadis' houses after his arrest and set them on fire after looting the valuables.

### **From the media**

**(Ahmadi owned) Factory torched in Jhelum over blasphemy**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 22, 2015*

**Investigators smell 'conspiracy' behind Jhelum violence**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 25, 2015*

**Chenab Nagar turns into a problem town. People greatly disturbed.**

*The daily Pakistan; Lahore, November 11, 2015*

**In Chenab Nagar, ignore majority (in LG polls)**

**'Pandering to the Ahmadis would mean alienating others'**

*The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, November 16, 2015*

**Karachi-type operation be undertaken against Qadianis: Mufti Kafayatullah (JUI-F, in TT Singh, Punjab)**

*The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, November 8, 2015*

**Denial of Jihad is central to prophetic claim of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad: (Mulla) Abdul Ghafoor Rehmani (JAH district Chiniot chief)**

*The daily Express; Faisalabad, November 2, 2015*

**8000 civilians died (in terror attacks) including 3157 officials in the last five years: official sources**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 30, 2015*

***(Mulla) Aziz gives govt two weeks to fulfil demands***

*The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, November 21, 2015*

**Two Hazaras shot dead in Quetta**

*The daily The News; Lahore, November 8, 2015*

**Two policemen guarding Ismaili community flats killed**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 5, 2015*

**Three hurt in attack on Imambargah**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 10, 2015*

**Four rangers killed in terrorism outside Karachi mosque**

*The daily Express; Faisalabad, November 21, 2015*

**190 madrassahs in Pakistan are financed by foreign aid: Home Ministry**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 30, 2015*

**Army voices concern over NAP's poor enforcement**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 11, 2015*

**PM vows to protect rights of all religious communities**

**Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that all religious communities living in Pakistan enjoy equal rights and vowed to safeguard them.**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 12, 2015*

**Not democracy, Islamic system will have to be imposed on the country: International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement and Majlis Ahrar Islam**

*The daily Islam; Lahore, November 10, 2015*

**Religious scholars vow to resist 'liberalisation of Pakistan'**

**Milli Yakjehti Council leader criticize Mumtaz Qadri verdict, PM's speech at Diwali event.**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 22, 2015*

**Zardari calls for preventive misuse of 'religion-based' laws**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 30, 2015*

**It is only after the fire reached Saudi Arabia, the Imam Ka'ba realized that ISIS was terror organization: Mufti Munib**

*The daily Khabrain; Lahore, November 9, 2015*

**If Quad-i-Azam and Iqbal were alive today, they would be member of Islami Jamiat Talabah: Sirajul Haq (Amir JI)**

*The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, November 7, 2015*

**Imperial powers ridicule Jihad. Qadianis should be watched minutely: Fazlur Rahman (JUI)**

*The daily Ausaf; Faisalabad, November 1, 2015*

**If PM likes liberalism and secularism, he ought to shift to India: Sirajul Haq (JI)**

*The daily Express; Faisalabad, November 30, 2015*

**Defeat in UN (HRC) body prompts introspection**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 1, 2015*

**Siraj (JI chief) warns against drifting away from Iqbal's philosophy**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 10, 2015*

**(LG polls) A trail of violence and misdemeanor**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 1, 2015*

**Bloodied France vows 'merciless' response to IS 'act of war'**

**At least 129 killed in worst atrocity in Paris since WWII**

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

**With Syria deployment, Obama crosses own red line**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 1, 2015*

***Hindu Taliban rule in India: British daily (The Guardian)***

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 14, 2015*

**27 dead in Mali hostage siege**

*The daily The News; Lahore, November 21, 2015*

***Shiv Sena (in India) declares Dalip Kumar, Amir Khan and Shah Rukh (all Muslims) to be snakes***

*The daily Express; Faisalabad, November 26, 2015*

**Canada: First Muslim woman appointed minister**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 6, 2015*

**JI, PTI announce seat adjustment plan for Karachi LG polls**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 7, 2015*

**15 killed in Khairpur over LG polls**

*The daily Khabrain; Lahore, November 1, 2015*

***(Shia) Man jailed for 13 years over Facebook 'hate speech' (by an ATC in Lahore)***

*The daily the Nation; Lahore, November 24, 2015*

**Op-ed: How Muslims fuel 'Islamophobia'**

...We can shout "Islam is the religion of peace" till our lungs burst out, but advocating beliefs and laws that contradict basic human rights, let alone supporting Islamist militancy, would constantly be the deal-breaker....

...

Neither conveniently distancing ourselves from Islamist terrorism, nor mere condemnations of terrorism, would suffice. Muslims need to be at the forefront of the war against jihadism, which has caused more suffering to us than any other community.

*Kunwar Khuldune Shahid in the daily The Nation of November 19, 2015*

**Op-ed: History and our national imagination**

...Reliance on a religious national narrative grants the religiously affiliated groups disproportionate symbolic power in setting the national agenda.

...

By way of example, I would like to point to a news clip of Imran Khan that I saw during the PTI dharna in Islamabad. In one of his speeches, Khan had suggested that he would bring in Professor Atif Mian (an Ahmadi) as his economic advisor. Of course, the religious TV networks immediately went after him for proposing such a thing, forcing him to go on the defensive.

Now, Imran Khan is a national leader. He has the power to reshape the national narrative. He can even force the march of history towards a more progressive future. So, ideally, his answer should have been simply this, "Dr Atif is a Pakistani! If he is qualified for the job, his religion should not make a difference." To be fair, though, toward the end of this interview, he did say that all Pakistanis should have equal rights under the law. My point here is not to deride Khan, but to point out that the symbolic power of religious narratives is so great that even the leader of the most resurgent and powerful political party has to toe the line.

*Dr Masood Ashraf Raja in the weekly The Friday Times of November 6-12, 2015*

**Op-ed: The unmistakable hypocrisy**

The constitutional and legal separation of Ahmadis from mainstream society is a black stain on the social and moral fibre of our society, a society that is in the process of 'cleansing' itself of those who are not Muslim, or are not the right kind of Muslim. While the hearts of Pakistanis break for the injustices faced by Muslims in Indian-occupied Kashmir,

victims of Israeli terror in Palestine, dead Syrian children, bleeding Iraqis and suffering Libyans, there is a macabre silence over the persecution of their own. While the number of Pakistani Hindus has dwindled steadily over the years, Hazaras have migrated to other countries to save their lives, Christians have become second-rate citizens in their own country, Parsis have assumed invisibility to escape unsavoury attention, and Shias have been victims of terror attacks, Pakistani Muslims unite in their condemnation of atrocities against Muslims globally. The hypocrisy is unmistakable.

The so-called defenders of religion, I ask you. Before throwing the first stone, look within yourself. Who has made you the guardian of faith? Who has authorised you to persecute those who fold their hands to God differently? Who has allowed you to destroy lives, end lives? Who has given you the power to become the vigilante of faith, something deeply personal that is between an individual and the Creator? Who are you?

*Mehr Tarar in the daily The Express Tribune of November 27, 2015*

**Blog: “We will beat them, we will lynch them”, they chanted, before setting fire to the Ahmadi factory**

We decry Islamophobia in the West, but turn a blind eye to the rampant – and far more putrid – anti-Ahmadi bigotry in Pakistan. We cry out when Donald Trump suggests Muslims carry special identification badges, yet overlook the fact that for four decades, our own Ahmadi citizens have been forced to carry such discriminatory IDs – identification that has left them disenfranchised. Not just this, the state also mandates that all Pakistani Muslims abuse the spiritual leader of the Ahmadi community to obtain a ‘Muslim’ passport. What if Trump wanted Christians to testify to the falsehood (God forbid) of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to obtain a ‘Christian’ ID? A few fuses would blow – may be even literally.

We scream out in anguish when Trump suggests some mosques be closed. Yet, we ignore the fact that we are responsible for closing down, sealing, torching, or occupying over a 100 Ahmadi places of worship in the last few decades. What Trump merely suggests for Muslims, we have been successfully implementing against the Ahmadis. Ahmadis are not permitted to say the Kalma, Salam, Azaan, pray in public, read the Quran in public, identify as Muslim or identify their place of worship as a mosque. Each of these carries a three-year sentence under Pakistan’s Ordinance XX.

*Kashif Chaudhry in blogs.tribune.com.pk on November 23, 2015*

**Op-ed: The pariahs of Pakistan**

Recently in a plush conference room in Islamabad, I was attending a workshop on minority rights. During the discussion, it struck me that we were all focusing on difficulties faced by Hindus, Christians, even Zoroastrians, and yet nobody had even spared a thought for Ahmadis. After a stunned silence caused by the sudden rush of self-awareness, all participants agreed with me that the matter was considered such a taboo in our media and society that we had stopped even thinking about it.

I distinctly recall how segregated the children from this community were during our childhood. As soon as it became public knowledge that there was an Ahmadi child in our school or class, we were explicitly forbidden to play or even socialise with him/her. We grew up studying with children from Christian, Hindu and other minority communities. Yet the Ahmadis were the only ones we were forbidden to interact with. I have strong reason to believe that the motives behind it were not religious but social and political as Ziaul Haq’s legacy compelled people to steer clear of such stigmas.

*Farrukh K Pitafi in the daily The Express Tribune of November 27, 2015*

**Cartoon:**



<http://www.thefridaytimes.com/tft/pay-more/>

**Annex:** Lal Masjid memories – editorial of the daily Dawn of November 16, 2015

## **Lal Masjid memories**

IN Pakistan, the feeling of déjà vu is all too familiar. We seem to be constantly moving in vicious circles, failing to learn from our many errors and, therefore, doomed to repeat them.

To most, the words Lal Masjid conjure up images of the 2007 fiasco that can be considered as the starting point of the current wave of terrorism that confronts Pakistan.

In most countries, the elements responsible for orchestrating a rebellion against the state would be behind bars, or worse. Not in Pakistan.

Take a look: Security beefed up as Lal Masjid cleric launches fresh movement in Islamabad

Here, one of the masterminds of the Lal Masjid episode — Maulvi Abdul Aziz — is apparently a free man, free to lead prayers and organise marches in the federal capital.

On Friday, he did just that, leading prayers in the Islamabad mosque and thereafter leading a procession.

The cleric announced he was kicking off a campaign for the “implementation of Sharia” in Pakistan, while he railed against “obscenity” and the “interest-based financial system”, as slogans of “jihad” were raised by his devotees.

This series of events bears an ominous resemblance to what transpired in the run-up to the 2007 confrontation, yet it is unclear why the state allowed the cleric to proceed with his plans.

This is a man whose name is present on the Fourth Schedule; he has openly threatened to unleash suicide bombers across Pakistan should he be arrested; he has spoken with great admiration about the murderous, self-styled Islamic State; he has justified the APS Peshawar atrocity by saying it was a “reaction” to the army’s actions.

All of these developments have occurred after 2007. Do such individuals not pose a direct challenge to the stated goals of the National Action Plan? Are they not the public face of the extreme militant right that seeks to remake Pakistan in its own twisted image through the use of blood and hate?

If so, then why is the state allowing them to carry on with their activities as if it were business as usual?

*Editorial published in the daily Dawn of November 16, 2015*