

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan News Report March 2014

Attack on Ahmadiyya mosque over fabricated accusation of defiling the Holy Quran

Rabwah: The central office of Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan issued the following press release on April 1, 2014 (Translation):

PRESS RELEASE

**Attack on Ahmadiyya place of worship in Tando Allah Yar (Sindh) after fabricated and malicious accusation of defiling the Holy Quran deserves condemnation
No Ahmadi can ever consider defiling the Holy Quran: Spokesman Jamaat Ahmadiyya**

Chenab Nagar (Rabwah): Mr. Saleemuddin, spokesman of the Jamaat Ahmadiyya Pakistan strongly condemned the extremist elements for their entry into and damage to the Ahmadiyya place of worship over false and malicious accusation of defiling the Holy Quran. "It is an extremely vicious and baseless charge; no Ahmadi can ever think of defiling the Holy Quran," he said.

For all Ahmadis, the Holy Quran is the most sacred book that was revealed to our beloved prophet, Muhammad, peace be on him. We have been taught: "Those who honour the Quran will be honoured in the heaven."

He added that some miscreants threw stones at the Ahmadiyya place of worship, and Mr. Tahir Ahmad Khalid rebuked them; as a result they jointly undertook an attack on the Ahmadiyya worship place. They broke open the door and did physical harm to Mr. Khalid. The police arrived and took him in protective custody. At this the mob attacked the police with stones. Thereafter, under pressure of the religious extremists the police registered a false criminal case against Mr. Khalid over baseless complaint of defiling the Quran.

Mr. Saleemuddin, the spokesman of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Pakistan expressed deep grief and sorrow over this incident and called it highly shameful. It shows that extremist elements are tightening their grip, by the day, on Pakistani society, he said. Such incidents are becoming frequent in Pakistan, more so in Sindh, whereby extremist religious elements are targeting places of worship of other faiths and denominations. He also referred to the attack on a Hindu temple in Larkana, and opined that now nobody is safe at the hand of extremists in Pakistan, Muslims as well as non-Muslims. He demanded a fair inquiry and severe punishment for those found responsible for the incident. He also demanded that the baseless charge against Mr. Khalid should be dropped and he should be released.

The police registered Case No. 68/2014 in Police Station Section A Tando Allah Yar against Mr. Tahir Ahmad Khalid under sections PPC 295-B and 337A1-F1 on March 31, 2014.

The mullas agitated the common folk and had the city closed down. Two days later, Qari Muhammad Ayub who volunteered to become 'complainant' in the fabricated police case, organized a rally in Masjid Qaba where he delivered a barrage of abuse against Ahmadis. He announced holding a Khatme Nabuwat rally on April 6. He announced his resolve to clear Tando Allah Yar of all Qadianis and to 'exterminate them altogether.'

Religion used as tool for persecution

Haveli Lakha, District Okara; March 14, 2014: A police case was registered against Mr. Muhammad Yar and his son-in-law Mian Waheedul Hasan on March 14, 2014 under anti-Ahmadi clause PPC 298-C with FIR no. 224 in police station Haveli Lakha. Mr. Muhammad Yar is the president of the local Ahmadiyya community.

Mr. Yar's family, comprising Ahmadis as well as non-Ahmadis, is politically strong in the village. They have links with more influential higher groups; but there are competing groups as well. Political rivalry led to confrontation and the police got involved. The opposing party found it convenient to invoke the anti-Ahmadi clause 298-C of the penal code against the Ahmadis only and other clauses against both non-Ahmadis and Ahmadis.

Mr. Yar was implicated earlier too in a false police case under PPC 298-C in 2006. Later he was acquitted in that case.

The police registered another FIR no. 228 under PPC 7ATA and PPC 324, 148 and 149 against Mr. Anas, Afzal alias Baggi, Ghulam Ali and three unknown persons. Mr. Anas Ahmad is an Ahmadi and a son of Mr. Muhammad Yar.

Charge upgraded unjustly

Lahore; March 14, 2014: In April 2013 the opponents of Ahmadiyyat attacked the Ahmadiyya prayer centre in Gulshane Ravi and got a police case registered against 8 Ahmadis under ATA-11W and PPC 295-B. All of them were released on bail in May 2013 but the trial remained pending. There was silence since then. Now summons have been received from Anti-terrorism Court no. III on March 14, 2014 in which the Blasphemy clause PPC 295-C has also been added which carries the death penalty. All the accused were ordered to appear in the court of Justice Haroon Latif Khan on March 19, 2014.

Police desecrates Ahmadi graves in the Punjab

Chak 96 GB, Faisalabad; March 13, 2014: The Ahmadiyya head office in Pakistan issued the following press release on the above issue:

Press Release

**Police desecrated *Kalima* on gravestones of Ahmadis in Chak 96 GB, Faisalabad
Incident is in violation of human rights and human dignity; we strongly condemn it:
Spokesperson Jamaat Ahmadiyya**

Chenab Nagar (Rabwah): (PR) Mr. Saleemuddin, the spokesperson of the Jamaat Ahmadiyya has strongly condemned the deplorable act of the police of desecrating the *Kalima* written on the gravestones of Ahmadis in Chak No. 96 GB, Tehsil Jaranwala, District Faisalabad. According to the details, an opponent of Ahmadiyyat complained to the police that some writings on the gravestones of Ahmadis in the cemetery hurt his feelings. The local police called the Ahmadis and told them to remove the *Kalima*. The Ahmadis made it clear that they would not even consider erasing the *Kalima* nor would they allow anyone do that. Ahmadis write the *Kalima*, not erase it, in any case. Thereafter, a few policemen came to the cemetery and destroyed the *Kalima* written on tiles of seven gravestones.

The spokesperson of Jamaat Ahmadiyya expressed his intense grief over this traumatic incident, and called it violation of human dignity and human rights. He said, "It is deplorable that the administration, whose duty is to ensure peace in society and treat all equally, acts puppet of opponents of the Ahmadiyya community. This is unlawful and immoral." He referred to the Order of the Supreme Court, of November 4, 1992 that conveys that Ahmadis have legal right to use words like *Bismillah* and such other Islamic terms. "Ahmadis face discrimination in Pakistan, but those who persist in such treatment to the Ahmadi dead should not forget that one day they have to appear in the Divine court," he added.

A few days later, the Ahmadiyya central office in Rabwah wrote a letter to all concerned authorities and officials intimating them the outrage committed, and requested them for appropriate action.

Ahmadi's narrow escape in attempted kidnapping

Karachi; March 7, 2014: Mr. Shafiq Ahmad Khan, an office-bearer of local Ahmadiyya community escaped from an attempt to kidnap him, but got injured badly.

Mr. Khan was going to his office Fauji Fertilizers in Bin Qasim when some unidentified men in a car stopped his car and forced him to get into their car. Mr. Khan's car was then driven by one of the kidnappers. An office colleague of Mr. Khan was driving ahead; he noticed all this and informed the police and the security unit of his office.

The police cordoned off the whole area. Mr. Khan was shifted by the kidnappers to another car and they were driving on Super Highway when the police told them to stop. They didn't; at this the police fired several shots at the car. Two shots hit Mr. Khan, one on his arm and the other on upper part of his waist. He was losing blood, so the kidnappers threw him out on the road and fled away.

Mr. Khan was immediately taken to the hospital where he underwent surgery. He got stable, luckily.

Burial of baby girl obstructed

Qayampur Virkan, District Gujranwala; March 17, 2014: Nine Ahmadi families live in this village. Two-month old daughter of Mr. Zahid Ahmad died on March 17, 2014. There is a common cemetery in the village. The grave was prepared for her.

Jahangir, a miscreant asserted that Ahmadis would not be allowed to bury their dead there. He contacted other mullas and called them over.

Six mullas from nearby towns (Kamoki and Saddoki) arrived there on motorcycles. They started inciting the public against Ahmadis by declaring them apostates and *Wajibul Qatl* (must be killed). The police also came to know and arrived at the site.

Under the circumstances, Ahmadis decided to bury the dead child in the land of an Ahmadi.

The mullas continued their provocations even after the burial upon which some notables of the village reacted and gave them shut up call.

Plight of an Ahmadi teacher

Sargodha; December – February 2014: Mr. Muhammad Arif has been working as SST in Government High School Chak no. 54 South, Sargodha. He has also served this school for over eight years as headmaster. He has faced severe harassment for his faith since December last year.

A conspiracy was hatched against him in December 2013. Some miscreants of the village and four teachers of the school incited the students of 9th and 10th classes against Mr. Arif. They also sought the help of mullas from a Khatme Nabuwat madrassa in Sultan Colony. They formed a procession, gathered in front of the office of DCO and blocked the road. They raised slogans against Ahmadiyya community and Mr. Arif. They tendered an application against Mr. Arif alleging falsely, "Qadiani headmaster preaches Ahmadiyyat, does not allow us to say prayers or recite Darood Sharif and the name of Allah in the assembly and levies extra charges as tuition fee, etc, etc." They demanded that Mr. Arif be fired from his job. The DCO promised them action. He wrote to the District Monitoring Officer and District Education Officer to hold inquiries. The processionists returned hurling abuses against Mr. Arif and threatened him with harm.

The officials of the relevant departments came to the school to inquire into the issue. The students of the school raised slogans in front of them against Mr. Arif. However, majority of the village folk spoke in favour of Mr. Arif, and out of 18, fourteen teachers gave their testimony in support of Mr. Arif. Meanwhile a few mullas from Sargodha also arrived there and made negative inputs based on religious prejudice. Mr. Arif told the inquiry

committee that the events had taken a dangerous turn and his life was in danger there. However, he kept attending to his duties.

Mr. Arif received orders of dislocation on December 13, 2014. He reported to the EDO Office, Sargodha. He had a tough time there too. His opponents used their political influence to further harass him. A brother of one of them owns a madrassa in Sargodha. The EDO has a long beard; he also became hostile to Mr. Arif. They wanted to transfer Mr. Arif to some far off location. At last, Mr. Arif was transferred to Government High School Chak 44 South.

Mr. Arif had faced religion-based hostility in 2001 as well. False allegations were made against him, but he was cleared in all inquiries. The lobby opposed to him persists in their evil intrigues and tactics which are so wasteful and bothersome for Mr. Arif who takes his teaching profession seriously.

An Ahmadi doctor threatened

Okara; March 3, 2014: Dr. Muhammad Imran came to his clinic after the evening prayers. Two youths came to his clinic. They picked up his visiting card and objected to the word ‘Muhammad’ in his name. “What is your relation with this name; you are a Qadiani and *Wajibul Qatl* (must be killed). You are given seven days; leave this area, or you will be yourself responsible for the consequences. We will not spare you,” they threatened.

Disturbing reports from Lahore

Following reports regarding the persecution of Ahmadis have been received from Lahore.

Samanabad; March 16, 2014: Some unidentified men came to the shop of Mr. Qureshi Rafiq Zahur, Ahmadi, damaged his shop and harassed him. Later the SHO of local police station intimated that an application from Majlis Khatme Nabuwwat Muslim Town had been received on which the Deputy Superintendent Police directed him ‘to do the needful.’ A photo-copy of a calendar which was hanging in the shop was also attached to the application. Subsequently the SHO came to his shop and took away a few copies of parts of the Holy Quran (*separas*) from his shop.

Mr. Zahur feels greatly upset and harassed on account of these interventions.

Samanabad; March 16, 2014: There is a restaurant (Hot Chilli Restaurant) in front of the Ahmadiyya mosque in Samanabad. The manager and a waiter of the restaurant came to the Ahmadiyya mosque and handed over a plastic bag to the Ahmadis present there and stated that the bag was found lying on the outer shade of the restaurant, and it contained some religious books.

The CCTV recording was then checked. A mulla was seen in the video, who came to the Ahmadiyya mosque at 2:15 p.m. He looked around the area and went away. Five minutes later two men came on a motorcycle. They were carrying two shopping-bags. One of them put one of those bags on the outer shade of the restaurant and went away.

This was done surely to create some mischief against Ahmadis. The police were informed of the incident and were shown the video of the suspects.

Samanabad; March 28, 2014: An Ahmadi driving his car was stopped by some unidentified persons at the Millat Crossing. They searched his vehicle and objected to the ‘traveler’s prayer’ hanging in his car. “Being a Qadiani you have no right to keep Quranic verses and prayers. This is unlawful for you,” they asserted. The police arrived at the scene and tried to pacify the bigots but did not succeed. So, they took both the parties to the police station where they made the Ahmadi youth and his fellow sign a paper declaring that he did not intentionally hang the prayer in the car. This absurd procedure solved the grave non-issue.

Hate campaign in District Faisalabad

Jaranwala; February 8, 2014: An anti-Ahmadiyya conference was held in Abu-Zar Colony. It started after the evening prayers and continued until 1 a.m. The clerics spoke filth against the Ahmadiyya community and its elders, and issued *fatwas* of their social boycott. One of the mullas stated that they would hold such conferences in Qadian (India) too. They took a pledge of boycott from the audience and told those who were prepared to ‘nip the mischief of Qadianiat in the bud’ to give their names. A list was prepared thereafter.

Ganga Pur; January 22, 2014: Two Ahmadi youths Mohsin Masood and Shuaib Ahmad faced harassment at the hand of three religious bigots, while they were going to their tuition academy. They hurled insults at them and the founder of the Ahmadiyya community. One of them even spat at Mr. Shuaib and said, “You are a Mirzai dog, what should we do if not spit on you?” Similarly, on February 8, 2014 Shuaib went to a shop to buy a few items; the shopkeeper pushed him out of his shop and said, “We do not sell to Qadianis.”

Personal vendetta in Multan

Tata Pur; February 16, 2014: Mr. Nasir Ahmad Jutt S/O Mr. Muhammad Sharif does his business in Tata Pur. He lives with his family on the upper storey of his shop. Owner of the dilapidated store adjacent to his shop sold it to one, Muhammad Rafiq. Rafiq wanted to rebuild the store but Mr. Jutt had some reservations over it, so, he obtained a stay order from a court. Rafiq is influential in the area, as he enjoys the support of the assembly members. With their support and of many in the bazaar he tried to obtain the occupation of the shop in defiance of the court orders. Mr. Jutt opposed him in his attempt. The police came to the site and arrested Mr. Jutt unjustifiably. They detained one from the opposite party as well, to appear even-handed; and booked them under PPC 107/151. The next day they released Mr. Jutt.

Agitation in District Hafizabad

1. An anti-Ahmadiyya conference was organized in Karyala by the opponents of the Ahmadiyya community. The opponents pasted hateful stickers in the town and urged the public on loudspeakers to participate in the conference.
2. An opponent of the Ahmadiyya community came to the pharmacy of Qazi Nazar Muhammad and threatened him with harm. He demanded that Ahmadis who drive motor-rickshaws should have a green flag on their rickshaws so that they could be identified.
3. Jamaatud Dawa (a banned religious outfit) held a *Jihad fi Sabilillah* (Jihad in the way of God) conference in Hafizabad on February 16, 2014. It was greatly advertised in the city. The mullas spoke venomously against the Ahmadiyya community and incited the audience against Ahmadis.

Hostility in Mardan

March 14, 2014: Opponents of the Ahmadiyya community inaugurated a new mosque in Muslim Abad area. They invited mulla Israrul Haq, an office-bearer of Khatme Nabuwwat District Mardan for the inauguration ceremony. This mulla incited the audience against Ahmadis in the name of Jihad and used bad words for the founder of the Ahmadiyya community. He also urged the audience to implement a complete boycott of Ahmadiyya businesses in Mardan and also in the entire country.

Teamwork of the vernacular press and the mullas in Pakistan – a sample

Lahore; March 10, 2014: The daily Jang, Lahore published the following under a 3-column headline in its issue of March 10, 2013:

The US is promoting sectarianism. To crush (*sarkobi*) Qadianiat is the responsibility of the entire Ummah (Islamdom): Ulama-e-Karam

In a lengthy follow-up report, the Jang gave plenty of coverage to a major conference in Lahore and a few others, all organized by sectarian mullas. There is internal evidence that these are funded by petro-dollars. A mulla from Kuwait, Dr Ahmad Ali Siraj is mentioned as a VIP who participated and addressed the audience. The Jang did not restrict its space to print all the garbage they uttered. For example:

- Hafiz Hussain Ahmad said that the US was not spending thousands but millions of dollars to carry out terrorism in Pakistan. Qadianis act as supervisors of terrorist activities. Qadianis are not only traitors to the faith but are also traitors to the country for rejecting constitutional provisions.
 - Maulana Farooqi said that the government should consider no option other than dialogue with Taliban.
 - Qadianis should be forbidden to indulge in Islamic practices, said the Ulama.
 - The memory of 10,000 martyrs of the Khatme Nabuwat movement of 1953 was revived. (In fact, a high judicial enquiry held soon after, counted a total of only 37 dead in the entire country in the riots which were smothered by the law-enforcing authorities - Ed.)
 - The national objective was imposition of Islam (*Nifaze Islam*). The rulers have played a fraud in the past 67 years.
 - Maulana Abdul Karim said, “One hundred verses of the Holy Quran and 200 Ahadith and the consensus of the Ummah declare that the deniers of the dogma of Khatme Nabuwat are outside the pale of Islam.” (In fact there is not even one verse or Hadith that supports the “unconditional” and sweeping interpretation of Pakistani mulla’s statement on End of Prophethood. And of course, there was no consensus ever. – Ed.)
- Etc.

It is a pattern that in all such conferences held in the name of Khatme Nabuwat, the mullas indulge amply in loose and irresponsible talk, lies, slander, sectarian discord and strife, and promote their international and national political agenda and objectives.

Mulla Ilyas Chinioti (MPA) indicts the Chief Minister

Lahore: The daily Insaf, of Lahore published a report as news-item on March 27, 2014, based on an interview with mulla Ilyas Chinioti, a PML-N MPA from Chiniot. The interview was conducted by two journalists, Iqbal Nasir and Zia Sarohi, while Iqbal Shahzad did the photography.

Mulla Chinioti availed the occasion to pay tribute to his own political career and that of his father, mulla Manzoor Chinioti. He eulogized his services to the people and took personal credit for all that the government had undertaken in Chiniot and its adjoining area in recent years.

Chinioti did not fail to hit out at Ahmadis and implicated the provincial chief minister in his malicious sectarian designs. Translated extracts:

- As for Qadianis, we demand that they should be forced to comply with the constitution of Pakistan. They should be registered as Non-Muslims in passports and national identity cards as per the affidavits provided (in the application forms) and the Anti-Qadiani Ordinance of April

26, 1984. Also Qadiani religious assets (*auqaf*) should be taken over by the (official) Non-Muslim Auqaf.

- Mian Shahbaz Sharif, the chief minister of the Punjab has promised to support us on the issue of Qadianis.

We are not in a position to confirm or reject his statement of this alleged promise, as most mullas are known to have allowed themselves the facility of telling lies so long as it is in the interest of their set of briefs.

Mulla Tooti of Lahore on a mischief visit to Rabwah

Rabwah; March 2014: Mulla Hasan Muawiya *aka* Tooti is a full time anti-Ahmadi activist and remains busy in brewing serious mischief against Ahmadis. He is a brother of the notable Maulvi Tahir Ashrafi, Chairman of the Pakistan Ulama Council. Recently, in collusion with authorities, Tooti organized police raids in Lahore on Ahmadiyya centers of worship, printing presses etc and managed to get police cases registered against innocent Ahmadis. As a result some of the victims remained in prison for weeks and months awaiting release on bail. Tooti has apparently widened his sphere of action and visited Rabwah on March 5, 2014 on some malignant mission. In this he is supported by mulla Ilyas Chinioti MPA (PML-N). A brief narrative of his ominous visit is as order.

Tooti, accompanied by a few other mullas, arrived in Rabwah from Lahore in the afternoon of March 5, 2014, and landed in the house of one Ahmad Saifulla. Ahmad Saifulla's father was murdered couple of years ago by some unidentified killer. This family, initially Ahmadi, was estranged from the community, and have been highjacked by anti-Ahmadi clerics for their own ends.

Subsequent to the arrival of these mullas from Lahore, numerous other clerics from Chiniot and suburbs joined them. Ahmadis informed the police of the visitors; they in turn gave the news to security agencies. These officials contacted the visitors to know the purpose of their visit.

The visitors spent the night in the house. They were provided with logistic support from madrassa Jamia Arabia owned by mulla Ilyas Chinioti, MPA (PML-N).

The next day these clerics undertook recce of the neighborhood. They focussed their attention on the nearby Ahmadiyya mosque. They also made enquiries about the Ahmadiyya daily Alfazal. They even went to the daily's office, but were denied entry into the premises.

Later this team shifted to mulla Ilyas Chinioti's madrassa. Two mullas in company of Tooti were identified as Hafiz Allah Bux of Khushab and Umair Khalid of Sialkot.

Tooti has expressed his plans to take 'on rent' the house of Mr. Ahmad Saifulla. A few days later there was a press report (*The daily Insaaf; Lahore, March 18, 2014*) that a madrassa has been established in that house. Obviously, Tooti and his colleagues plan to use this house in Rabwah as a hub of perpetual mischief against the Ahmadi community. Apart from mischief what else these mullas can offer to the society!

Agitation over opening a school by an Ahmadi

Inayatpur Bhatian, District Chiniot; March 2014: The local Ahmadiyya community decided to open a school in this village. Mr. Ghulam Ahmad son of Mr. Muhammad Shafi donated 4 kanals of his land for this purpose.

When the opponents of Ahmadiyyat came to know of the planned school, they decided to oppose it. They have sent a representation to the police that Ahmadis intend to proselytize in their private school. They have taken the plea that as there is a madrassa/mosque viz Arabia Nurulhuda (Deobandi) close by, the police should forbid Ahmadis construction of any school at the proposed site.

Haji Ghulam Mustafa, the resident mulla in the Muslim Colony, Chenab Nagar was invited by the villagers to lead the service on Friday, 21 February 2014. The mulla delivered a very hostile and abusive sermon at the occasion.

A report from Badin (Sindh)

March 2014: Hindu festival 'Holi' was celebrated this month. Someone wrote the name of Allah and Muhammad (PBUH) with the colours of Holi in Goth Pir Sakhi, District Badin. This caused anger among the local Muslims. They took out processions, blocked the roads and shut down the business.

The participants of the procession used foul language against Ahmadis as well. A councilor of Dambalo village invited a Human Rights NGO to visit the site. When they came to him, Mr. Mubarak Ahmad the son of the district president of the Ahmadiyya community was also there. So the mullas accused the Ahmadiyya community of inviting the Human Rights team.

During the night of 30 and 31 March someone again wrote the name of Allah and Muhammad (PBUH) in Holi colours on route from Dambalo to Bashir Abad. This, of course, was a deliberate act of mischief.

Pak mullas visit India and South Africa

Lahore: Maulvi Zahid-ur-Rashidi, a prolific writer wrote a series of 20 articles in the daily Insaaf, Lahore during March 2014, under the title: *Safar Nama Janubi Africa aur Bharat* (Tour of South Africa and India). He undertook these visits in December 2013.

Rashidi initially wrote about his tour to South Africa in the daily Pakistan. We reported essentials of his narrative and made our comment in our monthly report of December 2013. Whatever he wrote is important for its wider implications, so our report is 'recommended reading.' In a nutshell, Rashidi urged all the ulama in the South African conference to turn their main attention to the emerging Sunni-Shia conflict in the Middle East and use all resources (*read* petro-dollars) to confront the Shia aggression (sic).

India, however, is a different country (where Muslims are a religious minority) and the hosts 'Jamiat Ulama e Hind' while claiming seniority over Pakistani Deobandis, have a different view of communal relationships. They had invited Pakistani mullas to the Sheikhl Hind World Peace Conference on the centenary of Maulana Mahmud Hasan (Deobandi of the historic *Reshmi Romal* Movement). The Pakistani delegation comprised approximately 30 mullas under the leadership of Maulana Fazl ur Rahman. They entered India on December 11, 2013 and spent a week there. This report is based on Rashidi's articles; the comments are ours.

In South Africa, the conference, attended mostly by Pakistani, Saudi and South African mullas and a few from India, expressed mainly anti-Ahmadi and anti-West sentiments, for example:

- The honourable government of Saudi Arabia, in order to ensure ban on entry in the Holy Sites to deniers of the End of Prophethood, especially Qadianis, should add affidavits regarding the dogma of the Khatme Nabuwwat in visa application forms for pilgrimage and work. Also, its rigorous implementation should be ensured.
- Sheikh Ehsan, the president of the Muslim Judicial Council stated that it is essential to pay attention to the mischief brought along by modern philosophy in the form of democracy, freedom and (human) rights.

In India, however, the sponsors of the conference talked of peace, harmony, tolerance and social service, and the invitees, including the Pakistani mullas, found it convenient and savvy

to tow the line. Maulvi Rashidi, despite his sectarian profile in Pakistan, has done well to report the unanimous resolutions of the Sheikh-ul-Hind Press Conference, *inter alia*:

- We will co-operate with one another to promote friendly relations and peace and harmony at all levels in order to establish world peace and human well-being.
- We strongly condemn all forms of terrorism and fully support the *fatwa* of Deoband.
- The thought of prosperity and peace is futile without attending to the rights of minorities, poor, marginalized sections of society and women. So we will spare no effort to ensure that they are given their rights and provided social justice.

Excellent words to say and endorse; but alas, hypocrisy of Islamist clerics was only skin deep. Rashidi could not suppress the temptation to report that during the visit “Amir Ahrar Hind Maulana Habib Ludhianvi II presented a sword to Maulana Fazlur Rahman as token of respect.”

Maulvi Rashidi himself is one of the few top policy-makers of the anti-Ahmadi campaign going on in Pakistan for decades. All the edicts of *Wajib ul Qatl* (must be killed) against Ahmadi, assaults, attacks on Ahmadiyya places of worship, deprivations of human rights, social maltreatment are all orchestrated mostly by Deobandi mullas, of the same ilk as those who attended the above mentioned conference in India. They say one thing and do the other. Maulvi Rashid Ahmad Gangohi, one of their leading Deobandi elders, issued the following fatwa for his disciples:

“Lying is permissible to promote faith (*Haq*); however as far as possible avail of ambiguity; but if inescapable tell an absolute lie.” *Fatawa Rashidia Kamil*

Maulvi Rashidi is based in Gujranwala. He is proprietor of the leading madrasa there. Gujranwala is the city where more Ahmadi were killed for their faith in 1974 agitation than the rest of entire Pakistan. This is the city where some years ago, Mr. Farooq Sajjad, a non-Ahmadi *hafiz* (one who had committed the entire Quran to memory) was murdered over a fabricated accusation of blasphemy; the crowd burnt his dead body and then dragged it all over the streets behind a motor cycle.

Maulvi Rashidi should spare the region and this country; if he can only reform his city in the light of what he endorsed in India, it will be a great contribution to Pak society and a model for other clerics.

President Obama speaks at the 2014 National Prayer Breakfast

Washington, D.C.

What President Obama said at this occasion on February 06, 2014 is worth placing on record. Extracts:

...

Yet even as our faith sustains us, it's also clear that around the world freedom of religion is under threat. And that is what I want to reflect on this morning. We see governments engaging in discrimination and violence against the faithful. We sometimes see religion twisted in an attempt to justify hatred and persecution against other people just because of who they are, or how they pray or who they love. Old tensions are stoked, fueling conflicts along religious lines, as we've seen in the Central African Republic recently, even though to harm anyone in the name of faith is to diminish our own relationship with God. Extremists succumb to an ignorant nihilism that shows they don't understand the faiths they claim to profess ... for the killing of the innocent is never fulfilling God's will; in fact, it's the ultimate betrayal of God's will.

Today, we profess the principles we know to be true. We believe that each of us is 'wonderfully made' in the image of God. We, therefore, believe in the inherent dignity of every human being—dignity that no earthly power can take away. And central to that dignity is freedom of religion, the right of every person to practice their faith how they choose, to change their faith if they choose, or to practice no faith at all, and to do this free from persecution and fear.

Our faith teaches us that in the face of suffering, we can't stand idly by and that we must be that Good Samaritan. In Isaiah, we're told "to do right. Seek justice. Defend the oppressed." The Torah commands: "Know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt." The Koran instructs: "Stand out firmly for justice." So history shows that nations that uphold the rights of their people – including the freedom of religion – are ultimately more just and more peaceful and more successful. Nations that do not uphold these rights sow the bitter seeds of instability and violence and extremism. So freedom of religion matters to our national security. (Applause)

As I've said before, there are times when we work with governments that don't always meet our highest standards, but they're working with us on core interests such as the security of the American people. At the same time, we also deeply believe that it's in our interest, even with our partners, sometimes with our friends, to stand up for universal human rights. So promoting religious freedom is a key objective of U.S. foreign policy. And I'm proud that no nation on earth does more to stand up for the freedom of religion around the world than the United States of America. (Applause)

...More broadly, I've made the case that no society can truly succeed unless it guarantees the rights of all its peoples, including religious minorities, whether they are Ahmadiyya Muslims in Pakistan or Bahais in Iran, or Coptic Christians in Egypt. And in Syria it means ensuring a place for all peoples - Alawites and Sunni, Shia and Christian.

In those moments of peace, of grace, those moments when their faith is tested in ways that those of us who are more comfortable never experience; in those far-away cells, I believe their unbroken souls are made stronger. And I hope that somehow they hear our prayers for them, that they know that, along with the spirit of God, they have our spirit with them as well, and that they are not alone.

Today we give humble thanks for the freedoms we cherish in this country. And I join you in seeking God's grace in all of our lives. I pray that His wisdom will give us the capacity to do right and to seek justice, and defend the oppressed wherever they may dwell.

I want to thank all of you for the extraordinary privilege of being here this morning. I want to ask you for your prayers as I continue in this awesome privilege and responsibility as President of the United States. May God bless the United States of America, and God bless all those who seek peace and justice. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Anti-Ahmadiyya conference aborted

Sialkot; March 2, 2014: Mulla Allah Wasaya, a known anti-Ahmadi activist, tried to hold a Khatme Nabuwwat conference in Jamia Masjid Gumbad Wali in Mianwali Sindhwan. It was greatly advertised in the city through posters and wall-chalking. The Ahmadiyya community complained to the authorities about the mulla's conduct in the past and conveyed them their concerns about the holding of the intended rally. The authorities disallowed the conference.

Bangladesh high court shows the way

Calls attack on Hindus terrorism against state

Dhaka: The Dhaka Tribune published the following story on February 10, 2014: (Extracts):

HC says attack on Hindus terrorism against state

The High Court yesterday labeled the recent attack on Hindus in 12 districts after the January 5 election as 'terrorism against the state' and ordered the police to include sedition charge in the first information reports filed against the perpetrators.

When the matter came for hearing, the court asked the state counsel why the allegation of sedition had not been mentioned in the cases. It said the atrocities were ‘terrorism against the state.’

On January 15, the same bench on its own motion said it was quite apparent that the law enforcement agencies had failed to protect the interests of citizens, especially the minority communities and vulnerable groups, which prompted the court to pass the order.

It directed the police chief to submit a report within seven days mentioning the measures taken for protection of these people as well as actions against those directly or indirectly responsible for the atrocities.

According to section 124A of the Penal Code 1860, the highest punishment for sedition is imprisonment for life.

In mid-January, the government took an initiative to establish a special tribunal to deal with the post election violence, especially that against religious minorities.

Compensate Pabna Hindus

The same bench yesterday on its own initiative directed the government to pay TK 43.42 lakh as compensation to the affected Hindu families of Santhia Upazila in Pabna by three weeks for the mayhem of November 2 and arrest the perpetrators immediately.

The bench had ordered the authorities concerned to assess the losses and the damage incurred in the attacks and find out the persons who spread the rumour that a Hindu had insulted prophet Muhammad (SM) on Facebook. It had also ordered to deploy adequate law enforcers in the affected area.

Yesterday, the court ordered for the compensation after a police probe committee submitted a report on the attacks.

Ahmadi professor made to flee

Faisalabad: Dr/Prof Pervez Parvazi is a renowned Urdu scholar and author of numerous books of essays and criticism. He has penned multi-volume series of books on autobiographies/biographies of various Urdu writers. He is an Ahmadi and spent his early years in Rabwah. He was a college lecturer in the Punjab, and then moved on to Japan where he taught for years in University of Osaka.

On return to Pakistan, he reported to his employers, the Education Department that was then run by General Zia’s mandarins.

Dr Parvazi narrated his story in an Urdu book, *Akine* – partly an autobiography. His narrative of personal experience in Zia’s Pakistan, being authentic, deserves a place in English language archives for future scholars. Here is an extract (our translation):

When I arrived back in Pakistan on completing my term in Japan, I found there a different situation. The entire atmosphere was murky. No one cared for either elders or for youngsters. The literate were not safe, nor the illiterate. Terrorist mullas had gained control of educational institutions. Bigots and men with poisoned minds were occupying high posts in bureaucracy. The poison that Zia had added, in the name of religion, to the fresh and clean environment of Pakistan had affected its deepest layers. My identity as an Ahmadi and my tenure abroad became a poison to my well-being. They did not realize that my teaching in a developed country could be an asset for students in Pakistan. Prior to my departure for Japan, I was teaching post-graduate classes. On my return I was posted in higher-secondary schools. Even there I was often not allowed to teach lest I might corrupt the young minds through proselytizing. When the most contemptible dictator of the present times, General Ziaul Haq promulgated the anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinance, leave alone proselytizing, Ahmadis were denied to even live and work honorably. For people like me, both persecution and prosecution became commonplace occurrences.

I was always lucky, by the grace of God, as for my students. Wherever I went, my students always loved me and were respectful. Whether it was a city, a town or a village my students always

liked my teaching style and extended me lots of love. No credit to me; it was their gentle loving hearts that were ever ready to offer their affection.

I was tossed around from town to town for four years and having suffered the whims of junior principals of Inter-colleges, I was finally posted to Government College, Faisalabad. It was a post-graduate institution, so I thought that the teachers there would be broad-minded and liberal, but on arrival I was confronted with a different situation. A few days after my joining in, the attendant in the staff room advised me, "Sir, do not take the trouble of serving yourself with water to drink, always let me serve you." I told him that it was no problem for me at all. At this he said rather frankly, "I have been told by the Staff Secretary to allot you a separate glass and to serve you water only in that glass." That got me wondering: O Allah, what luck that I am treated as a Dalit, for my faith. Thereafter I stopped drinking water in the staff room. It was summer time; I had to travel by bus for approximately 45 kilometers every day; I was suffering from diabetes; all that made it essential that I drink lots of water, but the water from the staff room cooler became a forbidden commodity for me. Well, that does happen in these circumstances.

Had it remained confined to this, I would have coped with it. I taught post-graduate classes for a year. When the bigots noticed that students, male and female, loved my company and paid attention to what I told them, they started demanding that I should be withdrawn from post-graduate classes. When this was implemented, the students protested. These protests continued for months. At this the administration adopted a foul and hostile attitude towards me that threatened even my life - they began to consider implicating me in some blasphemy case (wherein the law prescribes death as penalty). This left me only two options: leave the college or become a martyr. I am rather timid; I opted for leaving the college rather than accepting martyrdom. I left the country and headed for Sweden. What they said over my flight is another sordid story.

Akine by Dr Pervez Parvazi, first edition, 1996; p. 89-91

From the media

Two members of Ahmadi family found murdered in Islamabad

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 30, 2014

Faisalabad: Police destroy (shaheed) Kalima from Ahmadi's tombstones

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 16, 2014

Strong protest in Bhera over giving shape of mosque to Qadiani place of worship

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, March 1, 2014

MJAS (Markazi Jamaat Ahle Sunnat) rallies against Qadianis' school (in Haveli Lakha)

The daily The Nation; Lahore, March 16, 2014

Qadianis can never succeed in their condemnable designs: (Mulla) Abaid ur Rehman

Timely action by the administration crushed Qadianis' attempt to build place of worship (in Haveli Lakha). Ulama Karam and public praised the timely action of (Police) SHO Mehr Ismail.

The daily Insaf; Lahore, March 19, 2014

Chenab Nagar: Madrassa established in the residence of the murdered rebel Qadiani leader

The daily Insaf; Lahore, March 18, 2014

Alarm bells ring. Qadiani press club established. Christians are also members of the said press club. (Authorities) should take notice.

The daily Jinnah; Lahore, March 15, 2014

We'll spare no sacrifice for the dogma of Khatme Nabuwwat: Ilyas Chinioti

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, March 4, 2014

US report is a pack of lies: Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat

American commission's demand to annul (anti) Qadiani laws is unrealistic

The daily Insaf; Lahore, March 16, 2014

Qadianis' condemnable address in the Bishop House. If the government takes no notice, the Muslim Ummah will come out with coffin shrouds on head: Business leaders (Tajar Baradri) in Faisalabad

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, March 24, 2014

We'll not admit Qadiani representation in our events: the Faisalabad Bishop assures (mulla) Zahid Qasimi

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, March 24, 2014

12 policemen escorting polio workers die in blasts

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 2, 2014

Judge, 10 others slain in Islamabad court (terror) attack. Two soldiers killed in Khyber blast.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 4, 2014

Six troops killed, 8 injured in Kurram blast

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 6, 2014

Four dead in rocket attack on vehicle in N. Waziristan

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, March 13, 2014

Two polio cops shot dead (in Peshawar)

The daily The Nation; Lahore, March 12, 2014

Nine killed, 25 hurt in Peshawar

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 15, 2014

10 dead, 35 injured in Quetta

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 15, 2014

Lal Masjid brigade may be linked to F-8 attack

The daily The News; Lahore, March 6, 2014

TTP, Ahrar-ul Hind ate, slept together

The daily The Nation; Lahore, March 6, 2014

11 organizations working for the 'Honour of Propethood' form Majlis Tahaffuz Tajdar Khatme Nabuwwat – Pir Zulfiqar Hashmi appointed Amir

Honourable citizens are ready to put on shrouds (kafan) and take the field to control Qadianis' manipulations – Amir Jamaat

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, March 15, 2014

**Assassin of Justice Arif Iqbal released
He was pardoned by the heirs of the victim**

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, March 22, 2014

Siraj ul Haq elected Amir Jamaat Islami

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 31, 2014

Taliban announce ceasefire for a month

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, March 2, 2014

JI and JUI are auxiliaries of TTP: Qari (Sunni Tehrik)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, March 1, 2014

US legislators form caucus for Ahmadis

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 2, 2014

No religious freedom for minorities in Pakistan. It should be included in the list of countries of serious concern: U.S. Commission

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 15, 2014

The advent of Imam Mehdi is close; let's prepare to welcome him: Ayatulla Khamna-e Irani Supreme leader

The daily Aman; Faisalabad, March 6, 2014

Meerut (India): 67 Kashmiri students charged of rebellion for celebrating Pak victory (in cricket)

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, March 7, 2014

529 Morsi backers given death (sentence)

The daily The Nation; Lahore, March 25, 2014

US interference in (our) religious affairs is intolerable. Government should take serious notice; Fazlur Rehman (JUI)

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, March 17, 2014

Maulana Fazlullah (head TTP) is not among the 95 wanted terrorists listed in the Red Book of the Punjab Government

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, March 25, 2014

At least 14 killed in Lyari bloodshed

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 13, 2014

Joseph Colony (Lahore): Death penalty for (Christian) man accused of blasphemy

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, March 28, 2014

Mob sets fire to Hindu temple over 'blasphemy' (in Larkana)

The daily The Nation; Lahore, March 17, 2014

Hindu temple in Hyderabad broken into, set on fire

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, March 28, 2014

Eidgah yes, but no church on community land

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, March 11, 2014

Thar death toll reaches 219 after another death

The daily The News; Lahore, March 31, 2014

6 more kids dead as MP visits (famine stricken) Thar today

The daily The News; Lahore, March 10, 2014

LHC takes notice of donkey meat for sale

The daily Aman; Faisalabad, March 7, 2014

Dollar falls below Rs. 98

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 13, 2014

Op-ed: Liberal Takfiris

...Then you have the Constitution of what is increasingly becoming the Deobandi Republic of Pakistan; the second amendment which declared Ahmadis to be non-Muslims in 1974. The Ordinance XX a decade later upped the ante on that verdict by debarring Ahmadis from using Islamic titles or pretending to be Muslim.

To sum it up: our terrorists are takfiris; our religious scholars are takfiris; our leaders are takfiris and even our constitution is takfiri.

Kunwar Khuldune Shahid in The Friday Times; Lahore, March 7-13, 2014

Op-ed: Otherwise none will survive

... *Takfiri* lashkars are on the rampage in the country and are committing massacre of their opponents. Mosques are not safe from their transgression, nor the Imam bargahs ... Ahmadis' places of worship and their graveyards are not spared nor the Jamaat khana of Bohras and Ismailies ... Hindus' temples and Christian churches are not secure either... . Places of worship, holy sites, and centers of all faiths and denominations are targeted by these terrorists, while those in power and authority are content with their inaction and silence.

Syed Ali Mumtaz in the daily Mashriq of March 22, 2014

Op-ed: Religious persecution in Pakistan

The intrusion of religion into the public sphere in multi-religious societies is a recipe for unending conflict. Muslims living in Western societies need to be particularly aware of that, and that demanding religious freedom cannot be restricted to just their own selves or faith. Muslims cannot reasonably insist on building the Ground Zero mosque – which would have added yet one more to the thousands of mosques in the US – while not a single church is permitted in Saudi Arabia. Nor can Muslims complain about discrimination in the West without protesting the de-jure and de-facto discriminations practiced against religious minorities in most Muslim countries.

Consider the First Amendment to the US Constitution which reads “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Compare this against the 19th section of the Pakistani Constitution which says that freedom of speech and expression are “subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam”.

It is not logically possible for a state based upon religion to treat all its citizens equally. Of course it may still be able and willing to tolerate and protect them. For now, watered down pluralism is the best that one can hope for.

Pervez Hoodbhoy in <http://viewpointonline.net/2014/03/vp192/religious-persecution-in-pakistan/3690-religious-persecution-in-pakistan>

Op-ed: Stop the practice of dumping rubbish of all wrongs on Pakistan

The US Commission (USCIRF) report has apparently tainted its perspective with prejudice in assessing the blasphemy law in Pakistan. Otherwise the Commission would have noted the fact that everyone in Pakistan, including its religious minorities, have been granted religious freedom. The administration has never interfered in the religious practice of any citizen (sic).

Having been declared a non-Muslim minority, the Qadianis themselves accepted this status and continued to participate in elections for non-Muslim seats. The US Commission, in a conspiracy, has included Shias in non-Muslim minorities which is not acceptable to them and would cause them great hurt and anger. So this Report aims at little else other than causing disunity among Muslims and dividing them in sectarian groups...This treatment of Shias as a non-Muslim minority apparently is the work of Qadiani lobby.

... As such, political and religious leaders have rejected this report and reported that the U.S. has not been able to give due rights to its own people, and is blaming Pakistan by dumping the rubbish over it.

The editorial in Nawa-i-Waqt, Lahore; March 16, 2014

Note: Nawa-i-Waqt is a leading right-wing vernacular daily in Pakistan.

Op-ed: Saudi dollars and US Commission report

... But if a non-Muslim minority (Ahmadis), with Israeli, American and Indian support, starts ridiculing the Muslim majority’s belief system and misuses Islamic creed, prayers, mosques and their sacred epithets, then it is the duty of the government and the administration to take legal action against that minority. Millions of Pakistani Muslim desire from the core of their hearts that the 14 persons found guilty of blasphemy by the courts after due process should be hanged forthwith.

Naveed Masood Hashmi in the daily Ausaf, Lahore; March 17, 2014

Op-ed: Sectarian bloodshed (in Karachi)

... It is fair to assume that deep down inside, the intelligence agencies know where the hubs of sectarian militancy in Karachi are located. Hence what is needed is an intelligence led operation that targets these hubs. ... It must also be noted that it is usually the supporters and sympathizer of banned groups – the small fry – that are rounded up, while the killers and masterminds are rarely caught by the law-enforcers. ... The city has seen enough lives snuffed out simply on the basis of the victims' religious beliefs. It is time the state addressed this major security challenge before the situation implodes.

Editorial, the daily Dawn; March 1, 2014