

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan News Report November 2014

Booked and arrested – for what?

Alam Garh, District Gujrat; November 27, 2014: The locals in this village had been indulging for weeks in anti-Ahmadi activities like distribution of hate literature etc. Ahmadis had kept the police informed. Recently the miscreants put up sectarian banners as well.

The police came to know of this development and proceeded to register a case under mild 16-MPO against three men and detained them.

In reaction, anti-Ahmadi elements took out a procession and proceeded to the police station where they threatened the police of violence. The police got intimidated and booked three Ahmadis in a counter FIR.

This case was registered under the anti-Ahmadi law PPC 298-C on November 27, 2014 in PS Daulat Nagar against Mr. Munir Ahmad, Mr. Faisal Ahmad and Mr. Salim Ahmad, Ahmadis, in FIR 358/14, and the police arrested them. In view of the volatile situation, they were shifted to a jail in Gujrat city. If declared guilty, they could be imprisoned for three years and fined any amount.

A delegation of Ahmadis accompanied by a group of upright local non-Ahmadis met the DPO who assured them fair proceedings.

Two days later the sectarian bigots took out a rally, shouted slogans against Ahmadis and indulged in provocative and hateful rhetoric.

Medical report on Gujranwala tragedy

Rabwah: The Administrator Tahir Heart Institute (THI), one of the top medical facilities in the Punjab related the following in one of his addresses in London:

“...We can all recall the tragic Gujranwala incident in Pakistan. Violent and insane protesters in the name of Islam burnt a number of Ahmadi houses, looted property and martyred innocent women and children. Among them was a pregnant brave lady – Mubashira, who lost her full term baby and herself suffered grievous suffocated lung injury – a condition called Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome. It carries a very high mortality. On ventilatory life-support her life hung in balance. But with Huzoor Aqdas (Khalifa tul Masih V) and Jamaat’s prayers, she got a second lease of life. As she walked out of the portals of THI, she smilingly remarked, “Dr Nuri, *Jazakumalla* (May God reward you). I’ve witnessed the proof of Allah’s existence.”

“Similarly, two poor Ahmadis, both victims of the Gujranwala incident, were ignorant of their heart condition. The mental and physical trauma, thus suffered, triggered heart attack and brought them to THI. One underwent urgent CABG surgery and the other angioplasty with stent deployment. With tears in their eyes they remarked, “We always knew Allah was there, somewhere up in the Heavens, but now we have seen He exists and resides within our hearts.”

Burial agony in District Gujrat

Fatehpur, Gujrat; November 1, 2014: An Ahmadi, Mirza Sadaqat Ahmad, died here on 19 October 2014. He was to be buried the next day at 11 a.m. in a graveyard shared by both Ahmadis and non-Ahmadis. The Numberdar of the village told the relatives of the deceased that some miscreants planned to disallow the burial in the graveyard. A written application was sent to the police inspector who scheduled a meeting on the issue.

Announcements were made from loudspeakers of non-Ahmadi mosques at around 7 a.m. on 20th October 2014 in filthy language against Ahmadiyyat and people were asked to assemble at the graveyard. The police arrived at the house of the village chief at about 9 a.m. Ahmadis told the authorities that being residents of the village, they had a right on the common graveyard. "Either the burial should be allowed or alternate land be allotted for burial; or let the burial take place this time and a separate graveyard be provided for next time," Ahmadis said. The opponents did not agree to any solution. However, the police and *patwari* allotted a piece of land where the burial took place at 4 p.m. The police stayed on for the burial to ensure peace. Despite the separation of graveyards and settlement of the dispute, Basharat Jatt, an opponent of the Jamaat, invited a mulla Saqib Shakeel Jalali and held an event to incite the people against Ahmadis. He pressed for a boycott of Ahmadis and urged action against the Ahmadiyya mosque.

An Ahmadiyya mosque in nearby Mahmoodabad was attacked and damaged on the day of the burial. That mosque had been sealed by the police 8 months ago. This case was taken to the court and a verdict is due this month.

Police desecrates the *Kalima*

Sant Nagar, Lahore; October/November, 2014:

Here the house of Chaudhary Noor Ahmad Nasir is used as prayer center by local Ahmadis. On 26 October five mullas came to the house of Mr. Nasir in the evening and rang the bell. His wife asked, "Who is it?" One of the strangers inquired about Mr. Nasir, to which she replied that he was not at home. The mullas told her that they had come from a nearby mosque to meet her husband. They came the next day at the same time and rang the doorbell. Mr. Nasir thought that Ahmadi worshippers had arrived for the evening prayers and opened the gate. On seeing six bearded strangers Mr. Nasir quickly closed the gate. A mulla asked him, "Are you a Mirzai?" to which he replied, "No, I am an Ahmadi". The mullas said, "You have written the *Kalima* on the front of your house. Don't you know that it's illegal?" Mr. Nasir replied that the *Kalima* was there before he bought that house in 1973. The mulla told him curtly, "You have two days to remove the *Kalima* otherwise a complaint will be lodged against you in the nearby police station."

On November 3, 2014 approximately 100 persons including mullas and policemen surrounded the house of Mr. Nasir. They pasted a white paper on the *Kalima* plate and left. The police arrived the next day and white-washed the *Kalima*. On November 6, 2014 at 6 p.m. policemen came again and knocked at the door. Mr. Nasir's son responded from the roof. The policemen asked for his father and told him that the DSP was waiting to meet him. Ten mullas were seen standing beside them. The youth replied that they could leave as his father would meet the DSP later at his office. Thereafter the police took to destruction of the *Kalima* plate with a hammer. Mrs. Nasir pleaded with the policemen to desist from defiling the *Kalima*, and offered them a piece of cloth for collection of the debris. The policemen refused the plea and took a piece of cloth from a non-Ahmadi's house. They wrapped the broken pieces of the *Kalima* plate in that cloth and took it with them.

An encounter with a suspect mulla

Lahore; November 7, 2014:

A mulla came on a motor-bike to the Ahmadiyya mosque in Model Town on Friday November 7, 2014. He was dressed in black clothes and had his head covered with a piece of cloth for turban. He asked the people on duty whether a congregation was to be held. Then he went to the side gate and insisted to be allowed inside. On refusal, he stood clear and talked to someone on phone. Thereafter he went away. He appeared to have a

jacket around his waist. He was followed by Ahmadi security personnel for his suspicious moves. He rode through various parts of the city and then entered the office of Sunni Tehrik in Paul Nagar.

Christian couple lynched, bodies burnt in Kot Radha Kishan

(An analytical comment on this barbarity's mainspring)

The daily Dawn published the following news on November 6, 2014 (extracts):

50 villagers held over burning of Christian couple to death

KASUR: Police arrested on Wednesday 50 villagers who were part of a mob which reportedly burnt alive a Christian couple in a brick kiln in Kot Radha Kishan for allegedly desecrating pages of the Holy Quran. The woman, mother of three, was pregnant.

Kasur District Police Officer Jawad Qamar confirmed the arrests and said a local religious leader had fanned the issue. But the DPO did not disclose his name.

Police and witnesses told Dawn that announcements had been made from mosques on Tuesday asking villagers to gather at the Yousaf brick kiln where 25 year old Shama and her husband Shahzad Masih worked as bonded labourers.

Over 1,000 charged people from three villages took out the couple from a room (where they had taken shelter) after tearing apart its roof. The mob tortured the couple before putting them into the kiln's furnace.

The mob held hostage five policemen who tried to rescue the couple. The villagers also manhandled some media personnel and snatched their cameras.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif took notice of the incident and the latter constituted a three member committee comprising the secretary of minority affairs, chairman of CM's inspection team and additional IG to investigate the matter.

On instructions of the Chief Minister, Kasur police enhanced security of the Christian community in the village and in Klarkabad, mostly inhabited by Christians about 3km from Chak 59, the place of the incident.

Police registered a case against 660 villagers, including 60 who have been nominated in the FIR. Police also blocked all routes leading to Chak 59 and Klarkabad.

There are about 12 houses of the Christian community in Chak 59 and all the residents had left the village when this correspondent reached there on Wednesday. The local Muslim population also left the villages because police were raiding their houses.

...On Wednesday, police produced 43 of the arrested people before an anti-terrorism court which remanded four of them in police custody and sent 39 others to jail on judicial demand.

The daily The Nation reported the terrible incident and added *inter alia*:

"Malik Abdul Aziz, a cameraman who witnessed the event, said, "... They started beating the couple with sticks and bricks chanting slogans of 'We will lay down our lives for the honour of the prophet' and then tore off their clothes."

"I need justice but I am sure I won't be able to get it, the clerics are too powerful", Shahzad's brother Iqbal said.

"Tahir Ashrafi, a member of the Council of Islamic Ideology, Pakistan's top religious body, held police responsible for failing to act to protect the couple before the mob violence occurred."

This barbaric and cruel incident is not the first of its kind in Punjab or in Pakistan. The attitude of the state and the society to such condemnable incidents in fact encourages them. The state's tolerance towards such persecution is part of a long term pattern of state complicity at all levels - executive, legislative and judicial. Such a riot occurred in Gujranwala against Ahmadis

only three months ago; state's response to that will throw adequate light on the *raison d'être* of this attack on Christians.

Briefly, an equally outrageous mob attack was mounted against Ahmadi residents in Arafat Colony of Gujranwala on July 27, 2014 on the fabricated pretext of blasphemy. It resulted in death of three Ahmadi females including a 7-month old baby through asphyxiation. Many Ahmadiyya homes and businesses were looted and torched in the arson attacks, in police presence. The entire Ahmadi community had to flee from this neighborhood.

It is noteworthy that on that occasion neither the prime minister nor even the chief minister made any statement to condemn the atrocity. No high level committee was formed to investigate the riot. No arrests have been made although some of the mullas who incited the mob are named in the FIR. The police obliged the religious zealots by registration of a counter-FIR against the Ahmadi youth and arrested him; he has not been granted bail 17 weeks after, although the charge of blasphemy has not been upheld by any enquiry. None of the affected has been facilitated to come back and resettle in his/her home.

Immediately after the riot in Gujranwala, mullas representing major politico-religious parties assembled in a meeting and got organized to defend the criminals involved in the riot. A few weeks later, they expressed satisfaction over the official reaction to the incident (as none of the accused was arrested).

The daily The News reported the Prime Minister to have said after the Kot Radha Kishan. *"A responsible state cannot tolerate mob rule and public lynching with impunity"*. However he had said nothing over the Gujranwala riot. In fact, as described above, the state tolerated the mob action and the public killing with impunity. It is arguable that a firm and open administrative response to the Gujranwala incident would have deterred the mob leaders in Kot Radha Kishan.

Mulla Tahir Ashrafi has held the police responsible for failure to act in Kot Radha Kishan. However, he was not forthcoming candidly over the Gujranwala riot. Zahid ur Rashidi, another top cleric, opted to become patron of the Co-ordination Committee to defend the criminals who were responsible for the murder, loot and arson in Gujranwala. There are also press reports that Jamaat Islami leaders made a sympathy visit to Kot Radha Kishan. Three months earlier Mr. Bilal Qudrat Butt of Jamaat Islami volunteered to become a member of the maniacal Coordination Committee. If this is not, what else is hypocrisy? All these mullas are well aware of the Quranic injunction: *"...whosoever killed a person - unless it be for (killing) a person or for creating disorder in the land - it shall be as if he had killed all mankind and whoso saved a life, it shall be as if he had saved all mankind...."* (5: 33/34)

The authorities in District Kasur are known for their permissive and slipshod attitude towards protection of members of vulnerable communities. Early last year, mullas mounted an intensive hate campaign against Ahmadis of Shamsabad. They attacked the president of the local Ahmadi community and injured him grievously. He was rendered unconscious and had to be hospitalized. They beat up members of his family. Consequently, the Ahmadis were virtually under house arrest and the police warned them to vacate their houses. Rana Ishaque of the ruling PML-N and the DPO extended their support to the attackers. The Ahmadi president and his family had to flee for safety. Their plight was reported to the well-known Mr. Najam Sethi, the then chief minister of the Punjab. He did little to rehabilitate the persecuted family. The religious thugs remained free and got the message that they could lynch the so-called minorities without risk. There were other noteworthy incidents in this district, but this one should suffice as a sample.

Last but not least, ‘liberal’ politician Mr. Imran Khan of PTI chose to issue no public statement on the Gujranwala incident. He was discreet enough to release only a sentence on the Twitter. The Kot Radha Kishan incident occurred on November 4; Imran addressed a big crowd in Rahim Yar Khan five days later and he said not a word about the shameful incident of Kot Radha Kishan. It took him another few days to figure out the electoral benefits and harms of a public statement, when he spared a few seconds for the lynched couple in his long speech in Nankana Sahib. And he called all the suppressed classes and minorities to attend his fateful rally in Islamabad on November 30!

The daily The Nation put the issue straight, bluntly and precisely in its editorial on October 29, 2014, divinating the tragedy of Kot Radha Kishan (extract):

Blaspheming Against Humanity

Perhaps the country's courts, police, Parliament and the public at large should take responsibility for crimes committed against individuals in blasphemy cases. Judges who send both sane and mentally challenged individuals to jails despite insufficient evidence, police officials who negotiate with and protect zealots instead of taking them to task, parliamentarians whose lips remain sealed as tragedies unfold and the people who struggle to express outrage over crimes committed in the name of religion - everyone is responsible and no one is willing to acknowledge it. How we deal with such issues as a country is utterly disgraceful. And when someone actually dares to take a stand, like Salman Taseer, Shahbaz Bhatti and Rashid Rehman - we shoot them dead and become heroes, aspiring more evil and carnage. The country's elected Prime Minister will not side with the fallen nor will those who wish to oust him. Changing faces, it would appear, will not change the fate of victims.

<http://nation.com.pk/editorials/29-oct-2014/blaspheming-agaisnt-humanity>

Hate speech – from horse's mouth

Lahore: Last month we reported the proceedings of the Khatme Nabuwwat conference held in Rabwah on October 23 and 24, 2014. We mentioned therein some of the statements made by the speakers in that conference, that were reported in the press or we collected from other sources. A week later the publicity section of the Aalami Majlis Khatme Nabuwwat, through its functionary ‘Maulana Abdul Naeem’, had a big article written for the vernacular press, titled: **Eye-witness account of 33rd Annual Khatme Nabuwwat Conference**. We produce here the translation of statements made by the participant mullas and reproduced by Naeem in his article published in the daily Insaf on November 2, 2014, *inter alia*:

- Qadiani Jamaat and its auxiliaries are the slayers of Muslims and have butchered hundreds of thousands (*lakhon*) Muslims in support of interests of the West.
- There are more than 600 Qadianis in the Israeli army; they defile the Bait ul Muqaddas (the Holy City, Jerusalem) and act as cannibals (*Adam khur*) for innocent Palestinians.
- *Ulama-e-Karam* (mullas) are the major obstacle in the way of imposition of the Western agenda and the spread of Qadianism; it is for this reason that Islamic movements are targeted and censured all over the world.
- Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, the Khatib of the Badshahi Mosque Lahore (a government servant) said, “We’ll have to improve discipline and cohesion in our ranks to confront imperialist powers.”
- Syed Ziaullah Shah Bokhari said, “Muslims are known to be the majority in Pakistan but the country’s entire system (*Nizam*) has become hostage in the hands of the Qadiani minority and a few percentage of other (religious) minorities”.

- Maulana Rashad Madni of Tando Adam said that Qadianis educate their youth in their educational institutions to murder those who are not followers of Mirza Qadiani; they instigate their youth to kill Muslims.
- Sahibzada Mubashir Mahmood Tariq stated that deniers of the end of prophethood and blasphemers against the Prophet (Ahmadis) are a product of night clubs.... He further said “It is a sign of faith (*Iman*) and a call of religious ardour and honour to bear hostility and express hatred against blasphemers of the Prophet.”
- Maulana Noor Muhammad Hazarvi said, “Extremist Qadianis, rather than accepting their minority status under the constitution, are acting like ‘insurgents at war’.”
- Qadianis, through clandestine employment in the nuclear establishment are secretly and quietly busy in dreadful conspiracies against national security.
- The Qadiani chief, Mirza Masroor Ahmad spent nine hundred eighty million rupees from community funds on his visit to Australia.
- The Foreign Ministry should locate, through diplomatic sources, Pakistani Qadianis in various Saudi Arabian cities, who are busy in conspiracies against the sanctity of the two Holy Shrines (*Hermain Sharifain*).
- Maulana Abdul Shakoor Haqqani said, “Die-hard Qadianis occupying key posts, paid from state treasury, are providing shelter to Qadianis. Through unity and solidarity we must nourish the campaign to protect the honour of Prophethood (*Namus Risalat*).”
- Maulana Abdullah of Charsadha said, “The lingo party that believes in killing and violence is promoting Qadiani faith. Qadiani chevaliers (*Surma*), in order to cover up their apostatic theories and heretic beliefs, use this lingo party as tissue paper.” Etc.

If the above is not in violation of country’s law PPC 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups, etc.) what else is? These mullas seem to thump their chest and challenge the authorities to dare take action against them. In fact, they were permitted and facilitated by the authorities to hold this conference, as in previous years. Also noteworthy is the convenience the Khatme Nabuwwat organization enjoys as an umbrella for the national and international agenda of the politically ambitious mullas. It is this *laissez faire* policy that promotes the birth and growth of hordes like Taliban, and IS.

Jamaat Islami shows the way

Chiniot: Jamaat Islami (JI) is one of the leading politico-religious parties in Pakistan. It is canny, indulges in subterfuge, changes its colours as and when required and has a standing among the right-wing academia although faltering. There is however little doubt that Maududi, the founding Amir of this Jamaat, was among the top proponents of the aggressive and violent version of Islam in the past century. His religious vision is the light house for many in Taliban, Al Qaeda, even the IS. Jamaat Islami is a coalition ruling party these days in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

On the Ahmadiyya issue JI plays its card astutely. Its Amirs participate in the Khatme Nabuwwat rallies only rarely, however someone from his top team is often there to show solidarity.

Recently the JI’s District Amir of Chiniot, Muhammad Islam, came out openly on the Ahmadiyya issue to place on record that, despite JI’s role in the governance, they fully endorse the anti-Ahmadi stance of the extreme right and the state. The daily Pakistan published his statement in its issue of October 18, 2014 (translated extract):

“Qadianis, Lahories, Mirzais who also call themselves Ahmadi, are infidels, apostates and outside the pale of Islam.

They continue to rebel against the constitution and the law for the past 40 years.

... The government should ensure its writ over them and take steps to make them submit to the 1973 constitution, otherwise people have a right to undertake a movement against the government.... No chief justice has ever taken a suo moto action against the rulers and held them accountable for taking no action against Qadianis and Lahories not submitting to the constitution. Why are they spared from payment of income-tax (*sic*)? Why their Auqaf (endowments etc.) are not regulated as Non-Muslim Auqaf? Why their illegal allotments have not been cancelled? Why have they not been relieved of key posts? Why have they not been punished for preaching apostasy?”

Quite an outburst – from leader of a party that rules in KPK, and has pretensions to be the sole party to bring peace, prosperity and Islam to Pakistan. And Mr. Imran (PTI) is in coalition with this party!

Subjected to intense hostility

Hajipura, Sialkot; September – November, 2014: Two Ahmadi brothers, Mr. Kashif Majeed and Mr. Azhar Majeed, are facing severe hostility here in this city. Three months ago, a mulla Zubair and his students shouted abuse against them and stoned their house. Kashif Majeed had recently returned from his self-imposed exile in Sri Lanka. Their elderly mother was badly affected by this attack and consequently died on 28 September 2014. Mr. Kashif Majeed had to flee to another location to escape greater harm. The religious zealots continue to threaten Mr. Azhar Majeed on phone that they will not spare them.

Reports from Karachi

- **October 25, 2014:** Some unknown persons threw a letter in the Ahmadiyya mosque in North Karachi. It contained abusive language against Ahmadis and had a bullet affixed on it with a tape. The message was obvious.
- **Sabir Colony, Karachi; November 2014:** Usman Ahmad, son of Mr. Aftab Ahmad, was burning waste paper near his house when his little sister added a religious certificate to the fire. Usman immediately took it out however a little part of it got burnt. Usman was walking back with the damaged certificate when a non-Ahmadi boy snatched the document from him and ran towards the nearby non-Ahmadiyya mosque. When Usman and his mother followed the boy, he shouted, “Look, these Qadianis are burning Arabic.” The people gathered at the tumult and admonished the mother and the son. “Note down their home address and inform the police,” they said. Usman and his mother went home and informed community elders. In view of the likelihood of violence the family vacated the house and shifted elsewhere. When they were shifting, some street boys shouted, “Qadianis burnt the Quran and now they are fleeing from here.” Miscreants later did the wall-chalking on their house: “Go Qadiani Go; *Kafir* (Infidel) Qadiani *Kafir*.”

Expelled from banquet, for faith

Nankana; October 12, 2014: Mr. Nasir Ahmad Mubashir is an Ahmadi school teacher in Nankana. His non-Ahmadi colleague, Mr. Mushtaq Sajid, invited him to the wedding banquet of his two sons. On the evening of October 12, 2014 Mr. Mubashir arrived at the venue. A teacher, Mr. Shaheen, an active member of Majlis Khatme Nabuwwat, was also present there. He became furious on seeing Mr. Mubashir there and raised objection at the invitation to an Ahmadi. He also

incited other guests over the issue. At this the host took Mr. Mubashir aside and asked him bluntly to leave before situation got worse. Mr. Mubashir quit the banquet.

A weird visitor

Karachi; October 25, 2014: A man approached Ahmadiyya mosque in Gulshan Jami, contacted an office-bearer (say, Mr. Malik) there and confided to him that he wanted to join Ahmadiyyat. He told Malik that he was in need of money and he had heard that Ahmadis helped those who join them. He, however, asserted that he was sincere about his conversion.

Mr. Malik told him to come again later, and offered him a lift upto Share Faisal where he was going. On the way they stopped at a restaurant for tea. By this time the stranger had formulated a different plan, and took out two pistols. Mr. Malik remained cool and told the stranger that he himself was a fake convert. The stranger told him that he himself had doubted his credentials (Mr. Malik's) as an Ahmadi.

The man congratulated Mr. Malik for saving himself, as he could have shot him. He confided that he was the Incharge of the Sunni Tehrik, Model Colony Branch and was given a target to meet. In fact he gave Mr. Malik his two contact phone numbers and offered help as and when required.

Ahmadiyya mosques on terrorists' hit-list

Lahore: It is learnt from reliable sources that a number of terror-suspects have been arrested recently in Lahore. They were interrogated at length. They disclosed, *inter alia*, that Qadiani places of worship were on their hit-list and an attack on worshippers there was a part of their plans.

The arrested disclosed that they had resided there for some time, were members of the Taliban group and were supported by individuals belonging to the well-known religious parties like SSP and Jamaat Islami.

Disinterment demanded

Rao Kay, District Narowal; November, 2014: An Ahmadi, Mr. Muhammad Boota died here on 3 November 2014. At the time of burial, a few non-Ahmadis objected to the burial of a 'Qadiani' in that graveyard. As the graveyard was shared by both Ahmadis and non-Ahmadis, the non-Ahmadi village chief decided to let the burial take place this time but required the Ahmadis to arrange a separate burial place for future. The deceased was buried. Ten days later two mullas, Muhammad Yaqoob and Arshad Rabbani, complained to the DPO against this burial and demanded disinterment. They held a protest demo in front of the DPO Office. The DPO visited the village and tried to resolve the issue but non-Ahmadis didn't agree. "Our ulama who objected are not present at the moment, and some leading ulama like Allah Wasaya and others will come here on 16 November; they will decide our position," they said. The issue remains alive.

Threatening letters

Lahore; November 25, 2014: Some Ahmadi individuals/communities in Lahore have received threat letters written on letter-head pad of Jamaat Islami, for example:

- Someone dropped a letter at the prayer center of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Iqbal Town. It carried the message, "Discontinue your worship from this place immediately otherwise it will be attacked, anytime. You have two to three days."

- A threat letter was thrown at the home of Mr. Irfan Masood and Mr. Asim Ahmad in Iqbal Town. It contained the threat: “Both of you brothers and your family are not refraining from your community activities. You are hereby told to leave this place within 24 hours, otherwise you will meet a sorry end.”
- Another letter had the warning: “O Qadianis, your infidel activities are continuing in this prayer center. You are required to close down your worship in this place with immediate effect otherwise you will be attacked anytime.”
- Yet another letter had the threat: “You people (Qadianis) are not refraining from your activities. Therefore, you are expected to quit this place within 24 hours or face dreadful consequences.”

Mr. Masood and Mr. Ahmad had an FIR registered in Moon Market Police Station. In follow-up inquiry, Jamaat Islami did not own up the letters and assured the police that some group fraudulently prepared and passed these threats. “Most likely it is the work of (the) lingo group,” they opined.

A Khatme Nabuwat Conference in Layyah

Chowk Azam, District Layyah: A big rally was held here. It continued from mid-day to late at night. Approximately 5000 participated.

As usual the mullas indulged in hateful and provocative rhetoric.

The participants were urged to boycott Ahmadiyya products. Leaflets, pamphlets and posters were made available to public inciting them on sectarian lines and urging them to implement a total boycott of Ahmadi.

A number of senior clerics and political influentials including Mufti Munib ur Rehman, the Chair of the Moon Sighting Committee addressed the conference. This Mufti is paid his salary from public funds.

Mulla Amir Muhammad spoke rabidly against a police sub-inspector Mr. Aziz Ahmad, presumably an Ahmadi. The mulla exhorted the audience to kill him if he is not suspended from his job and expelled from the district. “Once again the story of Ghazi Ilm Din Shaheed and Mumtaz Qadri will be repeated,” he shouted. (Ilm Din murdered a Hindu during the Raj, while Mumtaz Qadri assassinated the governor of Punjab in the recent past.) Thereafter he told volunteer killers to stand up, and all those present stood up.

Although this mulla Amir Muhammad was guilty of a crime for which the law prescribes long imprisonment, the police recommended charging him under a very mild clause 16–MPO under which he could be detained for a few weeks.

A Khatme Nabuwat conference in Narowal

Saddowala Panuwan, District Narowal; November 1, 2014: Opponents of the Ahmadiyya community held a public meeting here in the name of “End of Prophethood.” Mullas from different cities participated and addressed the meeting. Mulla Tanvir Hasan of Lahore made a novel claim: “Our Ummah is the best of all Ummahs. Former Ummahs committed one, two or three sins and Divine wrath descended upon them. Our sins are plenty more than theirs. However, we remain heaven-bound because we have a strong belief in ‘End of Prophethood’ and whatever we do, nothing will hurt us. We will not tolerate a single word against the honor of the Holy Prophet.” He also badmouthed and slandered the founder of Ahmadiyyat. Shams-ud-din, another mulla, also used derogatory words and raised baseless allegations against Ahmadi

leaders. A local mulla urged the people to boycott the Ahmadis and products produced by Ahmadis.

A visit by police

Lahore; November 13, 2014: Mr. Iqbal Mahmood came for the morning prayer in his car and parked it outside the Ahmadiyya prayer center in Faisal Town. Other Ahmadis also came along. Meanwhile, four policemen, who patrolled the road, arrived and got suspicious on seeing a number of people entering the building. They banged the door and shouted at the guard to open the door. “We would call for re-enforcement,” they threatened. At this the door was opened and policemen entered the premises. They took the guard outside for interrogation. In the meantime, the prayer ended and Mr. Safer Ahmad came out to attend to the visitors. He told them that he himself was a government official in an important position, and told them about the prayer center. The policemen became polite and asked for cooperation. They told the Ahmadis to keep the story of the visit to themselves.

Islamic State’s presence in Pakistan

The daily Dawn reported the following on November 02, 2014:

Islamic State fears grow in Pakistan and Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: The Islamic State organization is starting to attract the attention of radicals in Pakistan and Afghanistan, unnerving authorities who fear a potential violent contagion.



Photo by AFP

Far from the militants' self-proclaimed “caliphate” in Iraq and Syria, the name of IS has cropped up several times in militant circles in recent weeks in Pakistan and Afghanistan, the historic homeland of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda.

Leaflets calling for support for IS were seen in parts of northwest Pakistan, and at least five Pakistani Taliban commanders and three lesser cadres from the Afghan Taliban have pledged their support.

Pro-IS slogans have appeared on walls in several cities in both countries and in Kabul University, where a number of students were arrested.

Militant, security and official sources questioned in recent weeks say these are local, individual initiatives, and at this stage IS has not established a presence in the region.

But the success of IS in the Middle East is unsettling many of those charged with keeping a lid on Afghanistan and Pakistan's myriad extremist groups.

"ISIS is becoming the major inspiration force for both violent and non-violent religious groups in the region," Pakistani security analyst Amir Rana said.

Earlier this month Pakistan's National Counter Terrorism Agency wrote to a dozen government agencies warning them to be on their guard against IS.

"The successes of ISIS play a very dangerous, inspirational role in Pakistan, where more than 200 organizations are operational," the agency said.

The letter came as the Pakistani army fights a major offensive in insurgent bastions of the tribal areas, which appears to be weakening its major enemies, the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and allied Al-Qaeda fighters.

Reuters reported about a group of TTP joining with Islamic State:

Pakistan Taliban splinter group vows allegiance to Islamic State

A splinter group of Pakistan's Taliban has pledged support to Islamic State (IS), a spokesman said on Monday, in another indication of the appeal of the Iraq- and Syria-based jihadist group in a region traditionally dominated by al Qaeda and local insurgencies.

Jundullah announced its backing after meeting a three-man delegation representing IS led by al Zubair al Kuwaiti, the group's spokesman Fahad Marwat told Reuters.

Jundullah is one of several Pakistani groups exploring relations with IS, whose fighters have captured swathes of Iraq and Syria in a drive to set up a self-declared caliphate. They share an aim to kill or drive out religious minorities and establish a hardline Sunni theocracy.

Analysts say that so far IS has mainly attracted sectarian groups rather than anti-state militants like the Taliban. Pakistan has a ready supply of hardened fighters and a population often receptive to sectarian hatred.

Pakistan's Sunni sectarian groups killed a record number of minority Shi'ite Muslims last year. Jundullah carried out a church bombing that killed around 80 Christians.

"They (Islamic State) are our brothers, whatever plan they have we will support them," said Jundullah spokesman Marwat.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/18/us-pakistan-militants-is-idUSKCN0J20YQ20141118>

These activities have been seen in Lahore too where stickers and pamphlets were distributed. A case has been registered against ISIS in a police station in Lahore for spreading religious hatred under article 153-A of constitution.



A poster of Islamic State in Johar Town, Lahore - Photo by The Nation

**Khalifa tul Masih calls for urgent action against extremism
Awards Ahmadiyya ... Prize for the Advancement of Peace**

London: On November 9, 2014 the Ahmadiyya ... Jamaat, International issued the following Press Release in London (extracts):

...

“On 8 November 2014, the World Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalifa, His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad delivered the keynote address at the 11th National Peace Symposium hosted by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK.



Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad says a global strategy required to stop radicalization

The event was held at the Baitul Futuh Mosque in London with an audience of more than 1000 people, including 550 non-Ahmadi guests comprising Governmental Ministers, Ambassadors of state, Members of both Houses of Parliament and various other dignitaries and guests. The theme of this year’s Peace Symposium was “Khilafat, Peace and Justice.”

“During his address, His Holiness categorically condemned the activities of ISIS and other extremist groups as “entirely un-Islamic” and said they were “viciously spreading a network of terror” in the world.

“Quoting extensively from the Holy Quran, His Holiness proved Islam to be a religion of peace that promoted tolerance, mutual respect and understanding at all levels of society. His Holiness also questioned how extremist groups such as ISIS were funded and supported.

“During the event, His Holiness also presented Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Founder and CEO Mary’s Meals UK, with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Prize for the Advancement of Peace in recognition of his outstanding efforts to provide food and education to hundreds of thousands of children in the developing world.

...

“When all of this is considered there is no doubting the horrific threat to the world posed by ISIS and any of the groups that have similar ideologies. The fact that all of this is being done in the name of Islam sincerely grieves and pains all true and peace loving Muslims because such brutal and inhumane ideologies have nothing to do with the religion whatsoever. Rather, in every way, and at every level, Islam’s real teachings are of peace and security for all people.

...

“I would also hereby like to question those people or organizations who claim that Islam is a religion of violence on the basis of the atrocities of the extremist groups. I would ask them to consider how these groups are able to acquire such funds that allow them to continue their extremist activities and warfare for so long? How do they acquire such sophisticated weapons? Do they have arms industries or factories?

“It is quite obvious that they are receiving the help and support of certain powers. This could be direct support from very oil-rich states or it could be other major powers covertly providing assistance.

...

“The funding of these groups is a major problem because it is through these funds that they are able to prey on vulnerable groups or individuals ... Thus something has to be done to stop the funding of these groups urgently. The West has now started to realize and acknowledge that this is a war that is actually directly affecting it as well. However, this too is under-estimation – the truth is that this is a war against the entire world.”

His Holiness concluded by saying:

“Most importantly the world must realize that it has forgotten its Creator and they must come back to Him. Only when this happens can true peace be established and without this there can be no guarantee of peace. I have spoken many times previously about the horrific consequences of another global war and perhaps it will only be after such a war that the world will come to realize the destructive results of the unjust policies that were made only to satisfy personal ambitions and vested interests. I hope and pray that the world comes to its senses before such a disaster comes to pass.”

Siobhain McDonagh, MP and Chair of the ‘All Party Parliamentary Group for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community’ said:

“I congratulate the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community on its 125th anniversary. It is a community that has always promoted peace and harmony in the world.”

Rt Hon Justine Greening, MP, Secretary of State for International Development said:

“Tonight is a simple but powerful event where people are being brought together to discuss and understand each other and to eat together as families do.”

Most Reverend Kevin McDonald, Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark, who also read a special message from the Vatican, said:

“I strongly applaud the huge contribution being made by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in spreading peace in the world.”



Some VIPs who spoke at this occasion

The recipient of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Prize for the Advancement of Peace, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, CEO Mary's Meals UK said:

"I am deeply honoured and moved to receive this award and thank His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad for this honour. The work of Mary's Meals is very simply to feed children so that they are able to go to school."

Press Secretary AMJ International: media@pressahmadiyya.com

Deobandi alliance

Lahore: The right-wing daily Ausaf reported the following on November 12, 2014 (extracts):

...Deoband branch of the important Ahle Sunnat sect has the most influential status in Pakistan. The followers of this sect are considered to be war-mongers (*Jangju*). In recent history they came forth as the most resistant Mujahedeen against Soviet Union in Afghanistan. Later they were known as Mujahedeen Taliban.... A recent successful effort in reuniting them was made in Medina Munawwara (Saudi Arabia) where all the leaders along with Maulana Fazlur Rahman, Maulana Samiul Haq and **Maulana Muhammad Ahmad Ludhianwi** indicated their will to unite. (Emphasis added) The second session was held two days ago at the residence of Maulana Syed Ata ur Rehman Bokhari (*sic*), the Amir of Majlis Ahrar Islam. Maulana Allah Wasaya, Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, Qari Hanif Jallandhri, Maulana Zahid ur Rashidi, Dr Khadim Hussain Dhillon, Maulana Yunus Qasmi, Hafiz Numan Hamid, Maulana Aziz ur Rehman and others participated. It was decided in this most important meeting that a meeting of top leaders of religio-political parties would be held on 18 November in Islamabad in which Maulana Fazlur Rahman, Maulana Samiul Haq, Maulana Muhammad Ahmad Ludhianwi, Qari Hanif Jallandhri, Allama Tahir Ashrafi and others will attend.....

The daily Dawn reported the following on November 19 after the proposed group was formed:

Deobandi parties form united group

ISLAMABAD: The country's politico-religious parties of the Deobandi school of thought, including two factions of Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam led by Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Maulana Samiul Haq, decided on Tuesday to form a united group.

The decision was taken by leaders of the parties at a Deobandi conference convened by the relatively unknown Majlis Ahrar-i-Islam Pakistan group headed by Maulana Hafiz Ataul Momin Shah Bukhari.

The conference decided to form two committees to strengthen unity of different Deobandi groups.

One committee, the supreme council, will formulate policies for a collective struggle. It will be headed by Maulana Dr Abdul Razzaq Iskander, the head of Jamia Uloom-i-Islamia, Binori Town, Karachi.

The second committee will be responsible for implementing policies formulated by the supreme council. It will be headed by Maulana Hafiz Ataul Momin Shah Bukhari, son of renowned Deobandi cleric Ataullah Shah Bukhari.

Published in Dawn, November 19th, 2014

Formation of this group was applauded by the Pakistan-oriented Deobandi organizations in the UK. They called it a Cyrus Wall (*Sadde Sikandari*) against secular forces.

This prospective alliance deserves a comment. Although Deobandis are a minority faction in Pakistan, they gained great influence in the country during the reign of military dictator Zia ul Haq, whose father was a Deobandi mulla. They maintained this supremacy after Zia perished in air crash, but they suffered slow erosion in the wake of Taliban's terrorism (who mostly belong to Deobandi sect) and the activism of Brelvi factions like PAT (Dr Tahir ul Qadri), Sunni Tehrik, JUP etc. The publicity given to the harm done to Pakistan by Zia's islamisation also brought discredit to this school of thought.

The press report mentions Majlis Ahrar ul Islam as the sponsor of the proposed alliance. Ahrar are the group which earned nearly universal disgrace in the Punjab riots of 1953. In the prestigious Punjab Disturbance Inquiry Report (1953/1954) the worthy judges wrote: "The conduct of Ahrar calls for the strongest comment and is especially reprehensible. We can use no milder words for the reason that they debased a religious issue by pressing it (End of Prophethood) into service for a temporal purpose and exploited religious susceptibilities and sentiments of the people for their personal ends."

Mulla Muhammad Ahmad Ludhianwi has faced charges of indulging in terrorism. Some of the other mullas mentioned in the press report are forbidden by District Magistrates to enter their districts during Muharram.

The Ahle Sunnat wal Jamaat who also attended the preliminary meeting is the new name of SSP now banned for its involvement in terrorism.

JUI's sympathies for the extreme right are well-known.

Wafaqul Madaris Al-Arabia is the organization that manages thousands of Deobandis madrassas in Pakistan, nearly 65 percent of the total. These are nurseries of the politically ambitious mullas who consider Jihad (*bi-saif*) as the self-assumed sixth pillar of Islam.

Mulla Zahid-ur-Rashidi of Pakistan Shariat Council is one of the top brains of Deobandis committed to sectarian strife in Pakistan and the region. Recently he became the patron of the All Parties Khatme Nabuwwat Co-ordination Committee that assumed the responsibility of defending the criminals in Gujranwala who were involved in the riot in which three innocent Ahmadi females including a seven-month old baby were killed. Rashidi has been quite successful in his patronship as not even one of the criminals named in the FIR has been arrested by the authorities. One could argue that this mild official reaction to the arson led to the incident in Kot Radha Kishan where a Christian couple was delivered to a furnace.

Jamaat Islami and Tableeghi Jamaat in Pakistan are also Deobandi in belief and teachings.

It would be a fair assessment to make that the proposed alliances, if it materializes, will be a band of Islamo-fascists, perhaps under the umbrella of the Khatme Nabuwwat issue. It was conceived and arguably sponsored in Saudi Arabia.

Ahmadis behind bars

1. The police registered a fabricated case under Anti-terrorism clause ATA 8/11 and PPC 295-A a blasphemy clause, against Mr. Aqib Saleem with FIR no. 553/14 in Police Station Peoples Colony, Gujranwala on July 28, 2014. Bail denied, he is still in prison.
2. A baseless case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad, Mubashir Ahmad of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura under PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 on May 13, 2014 in police station Sharaqpur. Mr. Khalil Ahmad was murdered by a madrassa student while in police custody, on May 16, 2014. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. They are in prison. Their bails were cancelled.
3. Mr. Munir Ahmad, Mr. Faisal Ahmad and Mr. Salim Ahmad were booked under anti-Ahmadiyya law and arrested by the police on November 27, 2014 in District Gujrat.

From the media

Maulana Abdul Hafeez Makki arrives Pakistan on three weeks visit (from Saudi Arabia).

Note: This mulla is head of the so-called International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement (IKNM)

The daily Islam; Lahore, November 15, 2014

All Pakistan Khatme Nabuwwat Rally in Chenab Nagar on 12 Rabiul Awwal: Majlis Ahrar

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, November 23, 2014

Qadianism is the other name of enmity and rebellion against Islam: Maulana Aziz ur Rahman (MTKN)

The daily Nawa-e-Waqt; Lahore, November 23, 2014

The government should add the column of religion in national identity card and passport to highlight the infidel (Kafrana) status of Qadianis, Lahoris, Mirzais who call themselves Ahmadi: Malik Rab Nawaz, President Pakistan Lawyers Khatme Nabuwwat Forum

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, November 7, 2014

Had the Jews and Hindus not supported Qadianis, this evil would have met its logical end since long: (Mulla) Ghulam Mustafa

The daily Nawa-e-Waqt; Lahore, November 3, 2014

Jamaat Ahmadiyya is not a religious but a commercial organization: Haji Abdul Ghafur (of Jamiat Ahle Hadith)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, November 3, 2014

Carnage at Wagah – 60 killed

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 3, 2014

6 troops, 18 militants killed in Orakzai

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 2, 2014

Christian couple lynched, bodies burnt

The daily The Nation; Lahore, November 3, 2014

Three security men protecting polio workers killed in blast

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 12, 2014

Rawalpindi: Terrorists attack Imambargah; two constables on duty killed

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, November 11, 2014

Three MQM legislators among 25 hurt in (grenade) attack

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 22, 2014

Four polio workers shot dead in Quetta

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 27, 2014

JUI-F leader Dr Soomro shot dead in Sukkur

The daily The News; Lahore, November 30, 2014

Detainee killed for alleged blasphemy against companions, in Gujrat. ASI Faraz Naveed axed him to death after squabble during investigation.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 7, 2014

Mumbai attacks: US\$ 688 million demanded from Pakistanis responsible. Compensation demanded from Hafiz Saeed and other Pakistan-based responsible for the terrorist attack.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 12, 2014

Hindu temple torched in Tando Mohammad Khan

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 22, 2014

Lahore: First case registered against IS under PPC 153-A in Lahore

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 12, 2014

Wall-chalking in support of IS in Abdul Hakim

The daily Din; Lahore, November 15, 2014

Tahir Ashrafi should reply without delay accusations of drinking against him: Sunni Ulema Board

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, November 18, 2014

Nationalists say (in WSC) religious extremism biggest threat to Sindh

The daily The News; Lahore, November 8, 2014

Ashrafi opposes repeal of blasphemy law

Note: Ashrafi is chairman of state-supported Pakistan Ulema Council; he expresses liberal views occasionally on some religious issues.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 13, 2014

My ideological role model is Iqbal: Imran Khan

Stated and broadcast on ARY TV channel at 1850 on November 11, 2014

Nisar (Ali Khan, Fed Minister) assails death sentence awarded to BD Jamaat (Islami) chief

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 2, 2014

Terrorist ideology must be defeated: Zardari

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 18, 2014

Muslims have gone sick; no peace despite prosperity: Haji Abdul Wahab (Head of Tablighi Jamaat)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, November 8, 2014

Those responsible for the death of Christian couple will be punished: PM

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 7, 2014

Chief Minister announces Rs. 5 million help for children of Christian couple burnt alive. 10 acres of land also for support of kids.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 7, 2014

When we approached the Supreme Court against election rigging (dhandhli), we found the match fixer (CJ Chaudhary) sitting there: Imran Khan

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 3, 2014

'Allah' in Malaysia is for Muslims only

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, November 4, 2014

Boko Haram says kidnapped school girls married off

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 2, 2014

Suicide bomber kills 48 students in attack on Nigeria school

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 11, 2014

EU urges Pakistan to repeal blasphemy laws

The daily The Nation; Lahore, November 29, 2014

Daish (IS) a creation of the West, says Sami (JUI)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 21, 2014

Saudi women's rights activist in prison

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 2, 2014

BD court sentences another Jamaat leader to death

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 3, 2014

Frankfurt (Germany) – We are determined to eradicate the cancer of terrorism. The Kot Radha Kishan incident is extremely shameful; culprits will be arrested soon and punished: PM Nawaz Sharif in joint press conference

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 12, 2014

(Mr Narendra) Modi is publicly hostile to the notion of secularism

The weekly The Friday Times; Lahore, November 21, 2014

Women barred from library at Aligarh University

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 12, 2014

"The source of all evil and devastation," Sheikh Abdul Aziz al Sheikh, Saudi Arabia's grand mufti, has harsh words about Twitter

The weekly Newsweek Pakistan; October 25, 2014

India: Six out of every 10 husbands beat up their wives

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 12, 2014

Seven Indian soldiers get life term for killing Kashmiri

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 14, 2014

Israel committed war crimes in Gaza: Amnesty

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 6, 2014

Governor Punjab's son appointed minister of state in Britain

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 7, 2014

JI (Pakistan) countrywide protest against sentence to Mutiur Rahman (in Bangladesh)

The daily The Nation; Lahore, November 1, 2014

Munawwar (JI) calls for Jihad, Qital against oppression

The daily The Nation; Lahore, November 28, 2014

Imran accused of collaborating with terrorists: (Information Minister)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 17, 2014

Not us, N-League has links with terrorists: PTI

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 18, 2014

Mr (Munawwar) Hasan (former Jamaat Islami emir) said the JI and the Tableeghi Jamaat had similarities in their beliefs and teachings....

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 23, 2014

Nisar assails death sentence awarded to BD Jamaat (JI) Chief

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 2, 2014

Imran warns of ‘final war’

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 24, 2014

Chief Justice takes suo motu notice of burning alive of the Christian couple

The daily Express; Faisalabad, November 23, 2014

‘Hashwani’s book removed from Karachi outlets’

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 19, 2014

Three special trains to run for the second stage of Raiwind rally

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 7, 2014

30 percent food is wasted very year: UN report

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 2, 2014

UN health committee declares Pakistan to be the sole polio-spreading country

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, November 18, 2014

57 die as bus collides with truck near Khairpur

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 12, 2014

Two arrested for selling 16 donkeys’ meat to restaurants in Lahore

The daily Al-sharaq; Lahore, November 10, 2014

(Lt Gen) Rizwan Akhtar takes over as ISI Chief

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 8, 2014

Op-ed: Save minorities, save Pakistan

The general public in Pakistan may have sympathy for minorities but when it comes to the Ahmadi community, our human sympathy tends to fizzle out. It does not matter what level of education or profession one may belong to, the rights of Ahmadis is an issue that even military dictators and so-called revolutionary leaders who talk about “change” and “insaaf” (justice) fall short of discussing. Recently in parliament the question of Ahmadis popped up in relation to the religion section in the passport. The newer and younger parliamentarians, it is reported, tried to argue on the purpose of this section in the passport but were told by the senior lot to remain silent on the subject because ‘nothing’ could be done.

Delivering on minority rights is not rocket science. What is needed is a strong leader who has clarity on the significance of this issue for the survival of Pakistan. A third world middle-income country that can develop a nuclear bomb, I am certain, has the capacity to protect its own citizens.

Hussain Nadim in daily times.com.pk/21-Nov-2014/

**Report: PM Nawaz Sharif’s successful visit to Germany
(Letter from Germany)**

(In the joint press conference) the Prime Minister termed the incident of burning a Christian family alive in Kot Radha Kishan ‘shameful’. ... The Chief Minister called on the affectees in an effort to console them. (The issue of extremism in Pakistan was top of the agenda in meetings with German Chancellor and the President of German Parliament).

In response to a forthright question the German Chancellor said, “Peace is a pre-requisite for capital investment; we cannot compel the private sector (to invest in Pakistan).”...

The President of German parliament expressed concern over the lynching of the Christian couple and increasing tendency towards extremism in Pakistan.

Irfan Ahmad Khan in his regular column

Op-ed: Slash and burn

Two days after a Christian couple was beaten and burnt to death over accusations of blasphemy, a police officer in Gujrat murdered a detained man with an axe for the same reason.

... For someone who has never experienced discrimination or living in fear it is very difficult to even grasp how damaging this can be. Whatever an ordinary Pakistani's problems may be, those of someone belonging to a minority group are multiplied tenfold.

The calls of condemnation, of investigations and punishment for those responsible have as usual come too late.

... What encourages people to take the law into their own hands is the dehumanising effect that discriminatory and derogatory terms have. Years of desensitisation to the rights of minorities have turned them into aliens in our midst, friendless and defenceless.

The News International, Saturday, November 8, 2014

Op-ed: Christians suffer in Punjab

... The failure of the Punjab government to prosecute any of the 70 accused held responsible for the gory incident had compelled the surviving head of the family to leave Pakistan after the Punjab police failed to arrest the culprits who had been hurling death threats to him for pursuing the murder case of eight family members. Five of those who had been burnt alive by the attackers were women and children who could not run to save their lives when their house was attacked by the SSP men. A total of 72 people were nominated in the Gojra attacks' FIR who were set free one by one because the complainant in the murder case, Almas Hameed Masih, a resident of the Christian Colony decided against pursuing the case and left Pakistan to save his life.

... Ten months after the Gojra tragedy, two fidayeen squads of the Punjabi Taliban targeted two Ahmedi worship places in the Model Town and Garhi Shahu areas of Lahore and killed over 100 people who were offering Friday prayers. Claiming responsibility for the May 28, 2010 twin terrorist attacks, Mansoor Maawia, a spokesperson for the Punjabi Taliban had said, "No Ahmedi would live in peace in Pakistan. Our war against them will continue till their total elimination as they are as worst infidels as Jews are." It later transpired during investigations that the master planner of the twin attacks was in fact a doctor of the Jinnah Hospital, Dr Ali Abdullah who was also the president of Jamaatul Daawa Medical Wing. He told his interrogators that while pursuing his medical degree at Allama Iqbal Medical College, he had received arms training in Azad Kashmir at a Lashkar-e-Tayyaba training camp being run by Hafiz Saeed's Jamaatul Daawa (JuD). His arrest showed for the first time that the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba was a part of the Punjabi Taliban who had let loose a reign of terror across Pakistan, especially targeting the minority communities. However, none of the accused in the twin attacks targeting the Ahmedi worship places has so far been taken to task.

The News International, Sunday, November 9, 2014

Report: Deobandi Coalition in the making

... Deobandism has been tagged with terrorism in Pakistan. All jihadi organizations except Jamaat ud Dawa (Wahabi) have emerged from the Deobandi school of thought in Pakistan. An overwhelming majority of leadership and foot soldiers of Pakistani Taliban including the Punjabi Taliban belong to this school of thought.

By Aoun Sahi in The News, Lahore of November 2014