

# The Media

2019

## **Crackdown on Ahmadiyya TV channels**

*Islamabad; January 17, 2019:* PEMRA has issued instructions to all Regional General Managers of this department to stop transmissions and relaying of a number of STV channels, immediately, including the Ahmadiyya MTA 1&2 telecasted from London.

It is relevant to mention that these two channels are relayed worldwide and there is hardly a country that considers their programs and content objectionable.

Pakistan's Constitution provides in Article 20: "Subject to law, public order and morality (a) every citizen shall have the right to profess, practice and propagate his religion; and (b) every religious denomination and every sect thereof shall have the right to establish, maintain and manage its religious institutions."

In the light of the above, PEMRA circular No.... OPS-D/2018/1399 dated January 17, 2019 is in flagrant violation of the country's constitution.

## **Fake and malicious news on official PTV**

*Rabwah:* Pakistan's state television PTV aired a 6-year old fabricated and malicious anti-Ahmadiyya statement of an Indian leader. This malign, hurtful, and unwarranted act by the national broadcaster was strongly and appropriately rebutted by the central office of the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan. We reproduce below its press release; this explains adequately the issue:

**Press Section, Nazarat Umooor Aama Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan Rabwah**

**09.10.2019**

**Press Release**

**The state broadcaster PTV News aired fake news based on a 6-year old statement to malign a persecuted and peace loving community.**

**How come no one at PTV News did not verify the six year old statement of the Indian Gujrat's Congress leader Shankar Singh Vaghela against Ahmadiyya Community?**

***This action is condemnable and provocative: spokesperson Jamaat Ahmadiyya, Pakistan***

**Chenab Nagar (PR)** The spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan, Saleem ud Din, strongly condemned the state broadcaster PTV News for airing false and baseless accusations made by a Congress leader of Gujrat, Shankar Singh Vaghela. The comments, actually made 6 years ago, were categorically false and baseless but still PTV News decided to air those on 6 October 2019.

Saleem ud Din said that associating the Ahmadiyya Community with the Hindu extremist outfit RSS was contemptible and abhorrent. Over the past 100 years the community has a track record of promoting peace and harmony. It is also a non-violent and not-political community that has endured persecution and terrorism both in India and Pakistan. The motto of the community is Love for All, Hatred for None, and the community stands by it.

Saleem ud Din added that in the age of digital development and modern means of communication, the slightest bit of research, even simple Google search would have shown to anyone willing to seek the truth that the statement in question was made in 2013 and the community asked the politician in question to apologize for what he had said. The statement can be viewed at the following link:

<https://themuslimtimes.info/2013/11/16/ahmadiyya-muslim-community-demands-apology-from-shankar-singh-waghela/>

The spokesperson said that the community has been a constant target of extremism and violence for many years now. Ahmadis believe in peace, justice and equality, and the history of the community is testimony to this. Broadcasting this statement now on PTV and other channels, in the context of the recent unrest between Pakistan and India is reckless and irresponsible. He further said that airing this statement without any background research is a preplanned scheme and then broadcasting it on TV suggested that this was an act of mischief. The spokesperson called on the Ministry of Information to investigate the matter.

End

## **Facebook removes profile frame targeting Ahmadiyya community**

*August 2019: The daily Dawn published the following story on July 31, 2019:*

Facebook removes profile frame targeting Ahmadiyya community

[AFP](#) | [Dawn.com](#)

July 31, 2019

The profile frame withdrawn by Facebook called for the death of the Ahmadis in Urdu and was widely shared in Pakistan. — Pixabay/File

**Facebook said on Wednesday it has removed a profile frame targeting Pakistan's Ahmadiyya community as the media giant continues to grapple with the proliferation of hate speech on the social network.**

Profile frames are filters Facebook users can add to their pictures that often promote a cause, celebrate a holiday, or commemorate an event or tragedy.

The frame withdrawn by Facebook called for the death of the Ahmadis in Urdu and was widely shared in Pakistan.

“We have removed the Profile Frames in question for violating our rules, and have ensured that they're unavailable for future use,” a Facebook spokesperson told *AFP* via email.

**“We do not tolerate any content — including anything shared within Profile Frames — that incites violence, and we remove this content whenever we become aware of it.”**

**The frame was extensively used by Pakistani Facebook users after US President Donald Trump met with several leading members of religious groups in the White House earlier this month, including a representative from Pakistan's Ahmadiyya community.**

Facebook disabled 2.19 billion accounts in the first quarter of this year, nearly double the number of accounts nixed in the prior three-month period.

The social network took down four million posts considered hate speech in the first quarter of this year and continues to invest in technology to better detect such material in various languages and regions.

However Facebook has been battered by criticism that it was more focused on growth than protecting users or thwarting deception, bullying, and harassment.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1497292/facebook-removes-profile-frame-targeting-ahmadiyya-community>

## **Maniacal anti-Ahmadi op-ed in vernacular press**

### **Decency of vernacular press and the government on trial**

*Punjab; Last week of July 2019:* A number of vernacular newspapers in the Punjab published an op-ed by one Umar Khan Jozevi. This writer has used such abusive and vulgar language against not only Ahmadis but also against their holy founder that it is most hurtful and injurious to religious sentiments of this marginalized community. While any individual may feel extremely hateful toward another religious group, it is unexpected of editors of daily press to publish the same in their paper. Such deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of ‘any class’ by insulting its religion or religious beliefs is a crime in Pakistan law PPC 295-A and is punishable with imprisonment for a term upto ten years. It is for the authorities, provincial as well as federal to uphold and apply the law where pertinent. It is now for the reader to decide whether the government has any justification to look the other way in the face of commission of this crime committed in broad daylight in public.

Before we produce the rabid text of Mr. Jozevi, we quote the 1993 Supreme Court’s Muslim judges’ view on what the majority religious community in this country considered as blasphemous:

“When an Ahmadi or Ahmadis display in public on a placard, a badge or a poster or write on walls or ceremonial gates or buntings, the ‘*Kalima*’, or chant other ‘*Shaare Islam*’ it would amount to publicly defiling the name of Holy Prophet (p.b.u.h.) and also other prophets, and exalting the name of Mirza Sahib thus intimating and instigating the Muslims.....” In plain language, this means that if an Ahmadi, by reciting the *Kalima* (Islamic creed) declares that Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) was a true Prophet of Allah, he commits blasphemy, and is liable to be put to death under PPC-295.

However, as for insulting others’ religious beliefs and outraging their religious feelings, Mr. Jozevi got away by writing the following in the daily *Jinnah*, Lahore of July 25, 2019 (*translation—extracts*):

“At a time when Prime Minister Imran Khan, having assumed power, is about to embark on his first tour of the U.S. it is not unusual for the acolytes and lackeys of the cursed and liar Mirza Ghulam Qadiani to raise their head in America to prove themselves persecuted and enslaved. The false outcry of optician Abdul Shakoor of Sargodha, before Donald Trump, the US President, appears to be part of a well-considered conspiracy and some dangerous plan. Abdul Shakoor, who set aside clear proclamations of the Sustainer of Universe, open orders of the Holy Quran and unchangeable rational instructions of Prophet of Latter Days (p.b.u.h.) and accepted a liar, cursed and spurned (*mardud*) and *Kafir* as a prophet (God forbid), complains that he is now rated as the worst of *Kafirs*. What else to call a *Kafir*, other than a *Kafir*? It was not a maulvi who designated Abdul Shakoor the optician and Mirza Ghulam Qadiani and his followers and lackeys *Kafir*, but it was through their evil actions and becoming misguided through obedience to a liar and cursed that they fell into this gutter of disgrace and dishonor. If Shakoor hates the word *Kafir*, why does he not spit out the cursed and liar Mirza....It was on account of hell-bound people like Mirza, that the Holy Prophet had warned his Ummah against the evil of such hell-bound (*Jahannamion*) people....Subsequent to the clear

declaration by Allah and His Prophet, if anyone refuses to acknowledge the Prophethood of the Holy Prophet, be it Mirza Ghulam Qadiani or Yusuf the liar, or their followers and lackeys, they are surely the worst *Kafir*, apostates and out of the pale of Islam—not Muslim. As per the Quran and Hadith the Mirzai gang was already cast outside the pale of Islam, however it was in 1974 that the Constitution and Pakistan law confirmed their *Kufr*, deceit and lie and exposed their black face to the whole world. As per the constitution of Pakistan, Qadiani bunch cannot call itself Muslim. Abdul Shakoor and other followers and lackeys of the Mirza feel hurt simply because they are not allowed to call themselves Muslim. ... (Muslims) can sacrifice their fathers, wives and children but cannot tolerate the slightest attack on the Khatme Nabuwwat and honour of their Prophet Muhammad. Abdul Shakoor, you boo hoo, cry and weep, begging before Donald Trump that you are not allowed to call yourself Muslim, but we, not boo hooing, crying or weeping, but say with the beat of drum that while a single one of us Prophet-lovers is alive in this land, none can call you Muslim. ... You have been declared *Kafir* in every street and every neighborhood for licking the toes of a cursed and liar Mirza. A *Kalima* reciting Muslim who considers it an honour to sacrifice his parents, wife and children for the last Prophet, Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) how can this lover consider a cursed and liar a Prophet by comparison. Every child in this country is ready for years to fight for, be cut down, wiggle and die for the end of prophethood and honour of Muhammad Mustafa. Followers and lackeys of the Mirza have forgotten the legal kicks and fists on their cursed faces; they once again are putting Muslims on trial. For this reason, Abdul Shakoor was hurriedly carried to the US, in the middle of night, so as to be there in advance of the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan.... Qadianis' outcry is not a political issue, it is purely religious and is a question of honour with millions and billions of Muslims..... "No Muslim has ever objected to the rights granted to them in the Constitution, but if they tamper with Constitution or law to obtain a certificate of being Muslim, while being a *Kafir*, they will have to become a spectacle in this country. We said this before, and we say it again that a challenge to the faith of Muslims amounts to playing with fire. Those who earlier played with this fire, turned into ashes forever. Now, he who would choose to play with this fire in the interest of his politics, power and support to Qadianis will turn into ash and dust. Accordingly, do bear in mind your end at the start, before you maliciously reconsider (a change in) the law on Protection of the End of Prophethood."

Mr. Jozevi attributes his diatribes and fulmination to his 'love of the Holy Prophet', but the Holy Prophet (p.b.u.h.) was always respectful to the religious leaders of other communities, and the Holy Quran documented forever the injunction: "And abuse not those whom they call upon besides Allah, lest they out of spite, abuse Allah in their ignorance." (6:109) Jozevi claims to be a Muslim but he has clearly violated the command of Allah and the directions of the Holy Prophet (p.b.u.h.). He has openly promoted 'enmity between religious feelings of Ahmadi through deliberate and malicious act', thus he has violated PPC 153-A and 295-A. Will the government of Pakistan and Punjab hold him accountable as per law? Also will the APNS and CPNE consider advising the vernacular media on minimum professional standards of Code of Ethics in journalism. Mr. Jozevi and the dailies who published his op-ed have indeed risked ample disgrace to Pakistani culture and literati.

### **Uproar in social media over Mr. Abdul Shakoor's call on the US President**

**July 2019:** Mr. Abdul Shakoor, Ahmadi octogenarian former-prisoner, victim of Anti-terrorism department's *faux pas* was among the delegation from the US Ministerial 2019 on Freedom of Religion or Belief, who called on the President of the United State during the event. At that occasion Mr. Shakoor mentioned to the President very briefly his personal experience of suffering and religious persecution. The video of the event was released by the U.S. The anti-Ahmadi elements in Pakistan did not like at all

their mention at the occasion and raised a storm on social media against not only Mr. Shakoor but against the Jamaat Ahmadiyya and its leadership. This was unfair and unwarranted; we mention below briefly our reasons for this assessment:

- Mr. Abdul Shakoor was not the only victim present at the occasion; survivors from among Rohingyas, Newzealand Christchurch attack, Uyghurs etc from 24 countries were also present. The aim of the Ministerial was, *inter alia*: religious freedom and inter-religion harmony.
- Mr. Shakoor is neither an office-holder in the Jamaat, nor did he attend the conference as a representative of the community. He was invited by the conference organizers in his private capacity.
- Mr. Shakoor stated there nothing that was unconstitutional, unlawful or untrue. He mentioned only what happened to his own person. It was all true. He stated his religious status as defined in the Constitution. He sought no help from Mr. Trump. He said that Ahmadis are peace-loving community, and they depend only on Allah. What is wrong with that, one may ask.

Ahmadiyya Director of Public Affairs, Mr. Saleemuddin explained all this in his interview on MTA. He, thereafter, urged the authorities to take steps to put a stop to the on-going provocative and incendiary propaganda on social media wherein Ahmadis were *inter alia* declared *Wajib ul Qatl*. It is strange that Ahmadi-bashers should get agitated over a small exposure by a victim of their enormities while they themselves unabashedly cry incessantly in public telling the government to ‘do more’ in the on-going anti-Ahmadiyya drive. Last year, the vernacular press published more than 2400 anti-Ahmadi news items and 300 op-eds. If religious persecution is incriminating and shameful, why not stop it?

Opponents of the Ahmadiyya community, rather than feeling ashamed of their treatment of the victimized community, decided to add fuel to the fire of hatred, and made this call a great anti-Pakistan and anti-Islam issue.

### **TLP leaders booked under sedition and terrorism charges released on bail**

**Lahore; May 14, 2019:** The Lahore High Court released TLP chief Khadim Rizvi and former TLP patron-in-chief Pir Afzal Qadri on bail. The following piece of news from the daily *Dawn* of May 8 is reproduced here for record:

#### **LHC reserves judgment on bail pleas filed by TLP chief Khadim Rizvi, Pir Afzal Qadri**

[Ddawn.com/news/1481032](https://www.dawn.com/news/1481032)

May 8, 2019

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday reserved its verdict on bail pleas filed by Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan chief Khadim Rizvi and former TLP patron-in-chief Pir Afzal Qadri, and rejected an apology submitted by Qadri over incendiary remarks made by him



during a protest against the Supreme Court's acquittal of Aasia Bibi.

Rizvi and Qadri were taken into "protective custody" by the state during a crackdown in November 2018 after the TLP announced it would observe martyrs' day on Nov 25, 2018. The arrests followed weeks after the TLP led three-day protests across the country against Aasia Bibi's acquittal.

The lawyers from both sides completed their arguments before the two-member bench headed by Justice Qasim Ali Khan today.

### **Court rejects Qadri's apology**

The LHC had, in a May 7 hearing, directed Pir Afzal Qadri to submit a "detailed apology" for his controversial remarks after it found his initial public apology missing some key details.

When asked to define the "harsh words" Qadri had admitted to using in his apology, his lawyer Hafeezur Rehman Chaudhary said that according to the court record, the former TLP leader had said that the three judges [who acquitted Aasia Bibi] were liable to be killed, that Prime Minister Imran Khan is a Zionist agent and that the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Javed Qamar Bajwa's orders were not to be accepted.

Qadri, who had been booked under sedition and terrorism charges, had resigned from the TLP on May 1 citing health issues and, on the court's earlier directions, issued a public apology for his remarks.

"When the verdict of the Aasia Masih case was pronounced, my religious sentiments were hurt and I delivered a speech. I am very sorry for hurting the sentiments of the government, the judiciary and the chief of army staff," he had said.

At the outset, the court directed Qadri's lawyer to provide a straightforward written apology or accept a decision based on merit. Both judges raised questions over various aspects of the apology as it was shared with the court.

Justice Qasim, taking a critical view of the apology, said this way anyone could issue treasonous statements whenever they like, and then try to apologise by claiming that they were not thinking straight at the time.

**"Why are they [such people] nurtured in laps, why are they not sent to psychiatric hospitals?" he asked.**

Justice Asjad Javed Ghural pointed out that the written apology submitted in court used the word *mansoob* for the remarks issued by Qadri.

"Why did the written apology use the word 'attributed'?" he asked the lawyer, noting that it amounted to manipulation of language.

When Qadri's lawyer told the court that the education of many children had been impacted by the proceedings against his client, Justice Qasim wondered "what education must this man provide?"

**"Such *pirs* should be hanged. They are ruining society," Justice Qasim remarked.**

### **Bail petitions**

The state prosecutor and lawyers for Rizvi and Qadri all concluded their arguments regarding the two suspects' bail pleas today.

The state prosecutor opposed granting bail to the TLP chief and former party leader.

"It seems as though this person is beset by frustrations," Justice Qasim stated, without referring to anyone by name. "It is unfortunate that our pulpits have been surrendered to such people."

The judge then asked to be shown a *Hadith* that was written during a speech delivered by Khadim Rizvi.

The TLP chief's lawyer told the court: "It is not being suggested that this statement was issued by Khadim Rizvi."

"If [you think] he didn't say this, we will play the CD for you tomorrow," Justice Qasim retorted.

Prosecutor Ehtesham Qadir told the court not to examine the speeches made by the TLP chief and then TLP patron-in-chief on a case-by-case basis.

He informed the judges that the Punjab Safe City project had provided a video of the speeches, which was then sent for forensic examination, including a voice recording test which revealed that the voice on record was Rizvi's.

As the arguments concluded, the court reserved its judgment in the case until May 13.

On May 14, the LHC granted bail to the two accused. Their story from the press is quoted above in full, as these two mullas have apparently decided to excel all others in anti-Ahmadi hate campaign.