

The Media

2018

Gutless media and politicians

Geo TV; February 6, 2018: Hamid Mir of Geo TV interviewed the foreign minister Khawaja Asif, and the session was broadcast. Kh. Asif, among other things, mentioned the great role a former foreign minister, Sir Zafrullah Khan (an Ahmadi) had played in the UN for the independence of Tunisia. In support, Asif mentioned the admission of the 91-year old Tunisian president who was a witness to the great advocacy by Sir Zafrullah. Asif also referred to the role of Sir Zafrullah in the UN in securing the independence of Algeria. He mentioned Zafrullah's competent championship of Palestinians' rights, and of course, his success in obtaining a UN resolution in support of the right of self-determination for Kashmiris.

Geo announced that the interview would be aired again the next day at 11:30 to 12:00 a.m. It did that, but the part related to Sir Zafrullah had been effaced.

This was most probably done to please the bigot-brigade. The pusillanimity of the powerful media and the ruling elite defies description.

'Dr' Aamir Liaquat, TV anchor, exposed in a court petition filed by a non-Ahmadi

Islamabad: January, February 2018: Dr. Aamir Liaquat has been mentioned in Ahmadiyya dispatches in the past. For example on 7th September 2008, a day prior to the murder of Dr. Siddiqui who was the Amir of the Ahmadiyya Community of District Mirpur Khas in Sindh, GEO TV aired a live discussion on its 'Aalim online' program, commemorating the 34th anniversary of Ahmadis being given 'non-Muslim' status by the government of Pakistan. Two mullas participated in that discussion via a live phone link. It was chaired by Aamir Liaquat, the anchor man. The three participants used highly provocative and slanderous language against the holy founder of Ahmadiyyat and promoted hatred against the Ahmadiyya community. They used the words "**blood, Jihad and Duty to kill (Wajib-ul-Qatl)**" etc. in this context, thereby openly violating the country's law.

Encouraged by the lack of attention paid to his offense on GEO by the authorities, Dr Aamar Liaquat wrote an article, which was published in the daily *Jang* on September 12, 2008. In it Aamir Liaquat not only admitted his sectarian vitriol against Ahmadis, he also wrote that he was proud of it. He based his argument on his 'love for the Holy Prophet (p.b.u.h.)' and insisted that he would persist in his crusade against Ahmadis.

Ardeshir Cowasjee of the daily Dawn wrote a very apt op-ed in the issue of Sept. 28, 2008:

Lastly, friend Irfan Hussain, again writing eminent sense, reminded us of the damage that a free and independent media can do if it is allowed to do so by those who operate channels and by a government that sits idly

by and observes without comment or action. An unstable participant, a doctor of sorts, in one of the endless talk shows incited the public to murder those of the Ahmadi faith, all in the name of the religion which guides this country. And subsequent murders there were. Such is the national mindset.

However the state and the society took no notice of this spoilt child – till this year when a citizen took him to the court for judicial scrutiny.

The daily The Nation published on January 12, 2018 a report on this court case against him. We reproduce extracts from that press report:

IHC upholds ban on TV anchor

The Islamabad High Court Wednesday upheld its verdict to put ban on anchor Dr Aamir Liaquat Hussain by turning down the petitioner's appeal to withdraw his request for ban on him.

The petitioner stated in the petition that Dr Aamir appeared as a television personality in 2006 and over a decade conducted religious shows, one of them was "Aalim Online" and also claimed to be a scholar of Islamic Studies but subsequently it was revealed that he possessed no such certification or degree in Islamic Studies and his claim of being a scholar of Islam was nothing but a hoax in order to further his personal gains in the name of Islam and under the disguise of a religious scholar.

He added that Aamir Liaquat hosted different programs on television such as morning show, game shows, talk show and special transmissions on different media channels wherein, he conducted defamatory media trial of certain individuals in the media industry, politicians and other personalities, mocking, ridiculing and directing severe allegations on them using religion as a weapon to harm them and a shield at the same time to protect himself.

"At many occasions he used Quranic verses against certain individuals that illustrate how a blasphemer may be punished and as we all know as Muslims, the penalty is death in a severe manner. A lot of citizens were extremely disgusted and disturbed due to his misusing religion, most importantly to the extent where he attempted on several occasions to endanger lives of certain individuals using Islam and Quran without any fear of Allah (SWT) using Islam to his own gain and advantages," maintained the petitioner.

He continued that Dr Aamir stooped so low while conducting a show concerning MQM leader, Altaf Hussain and various individuals of the party using unacceptable and highly objectionable language, that he accused party leaders of illicit relationship with party workers, while taking the names of the women who were involved in the so-called alleged acts and apparently one of the lady worker had to get an abortion done in a local hospital in London, United Kingdom.

According to the petitioner, Hussain also referred to the party leader, Altaf Hussain with degrading names and ridiculing him and made several allegations. It is unfortunate that the noble profession of journalism is being destroyed every single day, by his indecent and unacceptable journalism at his hands.

Therefore, he prayed to the court to declare that Dr Aamir has committed gross violation of code of conduct, 2015, and PEMRA Ordinance 2002, and chairman PEMRA has failed to stop and act against his violations.

He requested the court to declare that Aamir is using religion as a sword and shield at the same time to further his own gains at the cost of the safety and well-being of various individuals by conducting repeated hate speech amounting to incitement to violence due to which people have been killed while others receive death threats.

Petitioner also requested the court to declare that Dr Aamir has used electronic media and social media for hate speech, incite, abet, glamorize or justifying violence, commission of crime, terror and leads to serious public disorder and therefore he is liable to be banned lifetime on all medium including print media, electronic media and social media.

He further prayed to the court to direct the chairman PEMRA to take serious action against him and ban him from hosting, appearing in any manner, including but not limited to, as a guest, analyst, reporter, actor, in audio, video, beeper, promo/advertisement in any electronic media.

He prayed to the court to direct the chairman PTA to immediately delete/block all social media accounts of Dr Aamir on internet.

A beefy TV anchor under scrutiny

Lahore; January 28, 2018: Dr. Shahid Masood is a prominent anchor person in the TV world in Pakistan. Through indulgence in popular themes he wields influence among the viewers. During the Islamabad sit-in (*Dharna*) on the issue of End of Prophethood he inappropriately and unjustifiably splashed out anti-Ahmadiyya propaganda.

His recklessness eventually overtook him, and in the Zainab rape and murder case he levelled serious allegations against some people. He claimed that the suspect operated at least 37 bank accounts. He also claimed that an organised gang of child pornography led by some influential people was behind the rape and murder of Zainab and other minors in Kasur. These were very serious allegations that magnified the evil incident manifold. The SC took suo motu notice.

At the hearing, the Additional Advocate General for Punjab informed the court that the State Bank had confirmed that the suspect had no bank account.

Earlier, when questioned, Dr. Masood haughtily observed that his job was to report and not to investigate. The Chief Justice asked the anchor, “We trusted your information and took notice, and now you are supposed to prove your claim.” He reminded Dr. Masood, “You cannot imagine what could be the consequences if you fail to establish your assertions.” The CJP formed a new JIT to probe this case. He asked the anchor to cooperate with JIT and stay in country, otherwise his name could be placed on the Exit Control List. (Court report is based on news published in the daily *Dawn of January 29, 2018.*)