

The Society

2017

Harassment in District Sialkot

Tarsaka Siyan, Distt. Sialkot; May 2017: A man named Fayyaz Ahmad is very active on anti-Ahmadiyya front. In 2009 he opposed and prevented the burial of an Ahmadi woman Hajrah Bibi in the local cemetery.

Now Fayyaz harassed Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad, a local Ahmadi office-bearer. He dropped garbage in front of Mr. Ahmad's house, and called bad names to him. He sent a false application to the DPO that Mr. Ahmad had kidnapped his nephew and tried to convert him. The local SHO called both of them and told them to reconcile. Mr. Ahmad agreed but Mr. Fayyaz refused. At this, the SHO registered a case against both under PPC 107/51 and locked them up. Both got their bails and were released from prison the next day. Now this fabricated case is in the court. Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad is facing prosecution for no valid reason.

Conspiracy to invoke blasphemy law

Dera Gulab Khel, District Khushab; April 2017: Mr. Mohammad Yunus, an Ahmadi owns and manages here a registered private school. A student of class VII, along with his family accused Mr. Yunus of blasphemy. In support they produced an Islamiyat text book on which the statement 'Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the last prophet of Allah' was crossed out in red ink and the words "It's wrong" were written above it. It is noteworthy that a brother of this student is enrolled in the local madrassah.

Considering the gravity of the accusation, Mr. Yunus applied to DPO Khushab to investigate this false allegation. The DPO instructed the SHO to investigate and report. The SHO admonished the false accusers, and suggested that a forensic report be sought. To this Mr. Yunus agreed readily, as such a report would be a help in establishing the truth.

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Problems in construction of an Ahmadiyya centre

Dhor, District Nawabshah; June 2017: Ahmadis decided to build a community centre on a plot registered in the name of Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya. They got the construction plan approved by the Sindh House Building Control Authority, and approached the DC to get NOC for the construction. When an official came to inspect the place, a local shop-keeper named Ghaffar came to know of the plan for building the Ahmadiyya centre. He agitated the issue. He led a rally against Ahmadis on June 9 and got all the shops closed in protest against the construction of the proposed centre. Ahmadis contacted the authorities, who intervened and decided to let the situation calm down before further action.

Thereafter, on a Friday, the mullas held a *Dharna* (sit-in) of approximately 50 protesters at this site. Ahmadis reported this to the police. The police assured Ahmadis of support and security.

Later the police sent a report to the DC on the issue with their observation that construction there could be a threat to the general peace and create a law and order situation.

Well, that put a stop to Ahmadis’ plan of having a community centre. The administration provides them tea and sympathy, but does the mulla’s bidding. The rights of the marginalized communities are readily sacrificed at the altar of ‘law and order’. Are the police not required to maintain law and order when miscreants threaten the constitutional rights of others?

Also, can the authorities point to one occasion when they authorized Ahmadis to build for themselves a place for worship, in the last thirty years? Whither freedom of religion or belief for Ahmadis?

Whither the much trumpeted claims of equal rights for all communities!

Lack of security for Ahmadis and agitation after the riot in Dulmial

I. The daily Dawn published the following story on January 6, 2017, regarding Dulmial:

Ahmadi family’s house burgled

Chakwal: Despite the deployment of over 150 police personnel in the troubled village of Dulmial, burglars broke into the house of an Ahmadi family and took away cash, jewelry and prize bonds.

The house of Khalid Javed, who died of a cardiac arrest during the December 12 attack on the place of worship of the Ahmadi community, was lying vacant as the family had moved to a safer place in the wake of the incident.

“We returned to our house on Tuesday evening and found the main gate locked from inside. I opened it by climbing the wall,” Subhan Ayub, the son of late Khalid Javed told Dawn. He said when the

family members opened the safe; they found Rs. 280,000 in cash, jewelry sets worth Rs 800,000 and prize bonds missing.

II. **Follow up by clerics in Lahore**

A mulla in his Friday sermon on 24 December 2016, in Masjid Hanafia Ashrafia, Shad Bagh Lahore spoke venomously against Ahmadis and termed the Dulmial incident as one contrived by Ahmadis. He urged revenge for a Muslim's death in Dulmial. He told 'Muslims' to revive their sense of shame which he called 'dead'. He announced a rally for the next day, December 25, 2016, on this issue.

The police were informed and they took firm action to restrain the mulla.

III. **Protest rally restricted in Chakwal**

The mullas announced a big rally for the 40th day (*chehlum*) after the death of the riot participant in Dulmial. They asked permission to hold the rally in Chakwal Stadium. This was not granted. So they held it in a small mosque close to the Bus Station.

It seems the authorities advised the mullas to restrain themselves. As a result the leading mullas decided to keep away from the rally. The participants were no more than 300. They were not allowed to use loud-speakers. The public were told to remain peaceful; they complied.

IV. **Situation in the village eight weeks afterwards**

A report in the prestigious daily Dawn of February 9 provides a glimpse of what sort of treatment is being meted by authorities to some of the victims:

Dulmial's Ahmadis reel in aftermath of mob attack

CHAKWAL: Dulmial resident Malik Zahid Hameed was shocked when he received a transfer order stating that he was being transferred to a primary school in Lari Shah Nawaz on Jan 6.

Mr. Hameed, 47, is a primary school teacher who taught at a school in his hometown from 2002 to 2012.

In 2012, he was transferred to a school in the nearby Tatal Kahoon village, where he was recently replaced by "Khodija Siddeqa of Lari Shah Nawaz", according to a transfer order issued by Executive District Officer (EDO) Education Dr Ghulam Anjum.

The order reads: "An application submitted by a resident of village Tatal Kahoon and members of SMC of Government Primary School Tatal Kahoon regarding the activities of Mr. Zahid Hameed PST of the said school who belongs to Ahmadi *firqa*.

"And due to the current incident at village Dulmial the Muslim community of the village demanded to shift the said teacher immediately to other school and no vacant post of PST is available in tehsil Choa Saidan Shah. Therefore Ms. Khodija Siddeqa of Lari Shah Nawaz may be shifted to GPS Tatal Kahoon and Mr. Zahid Hameed is hereby shifted to GPS Lari Shah Nawaz on administrative grounds to resolve the grievances of the community."

Mr. Hameed's new school is around 18 kilometres from Dulmial, and while the order states that he has been transferred to ease the "grievances" of Tatal Kahoon's Muslim community, it does not explain what these grievances are, or what sort of "activities" Mr Hameed has indulged in.

A day after he received the transfer order, Mr Hameed was told by his assistant education officer that he could not teach at the school in Lari Shah Nawaz either, because the area's residents were not willing to accept his transfer.

The Dec 12, 2016 mob attack on an Ahmadi place of worship has disrupted the lives of Ahmadis in Dulmial. Like the Sunni Muslims of Dulmial, Muslims from Tatal Kahoon are also furious with members of the persecuted community because a man from Tatal Kahoon was killed in the attack.

On Jan 25, Mr Hameed submitted an application with the EDO education asked for a posting in Dulmial so he could work easily, action has not yet been taken in this regard. Dr Anjum, meanwhile, told Dawn he was doing his best to find a solution.

The consequences of the Dec 12 attack in a village where Sunni Muslims and Ahmadis have lived for a century are still being revealed, two months after the incident. Up to 100 police officials are still deployed in the village.

Even though a case has been registered against 3,000 people, on charges of terrorism and sections of the PPC, only 61 people have been arrested and deemed guilty by a joint investigation team.

In the meantime, a social boycott has begun against the village's Ahmadi residents. Mr Hameed said they are not able to visit shops, and have to travel to Choa Saidan Shah just to buy daily household items.

"One of my Sunni relatives died a couple of days ago but I could not go for condolence," said Maqsood Begum, 67. "[They] do not even speak to us."

The place of worship that was attacked in December is still sealed, and local police are unwilling to reopen it.

"The Muslims have 10 mosques in the village, while we only have one place of worship and that too is sealed. We have to pray five times a day but we cannot visit our place of worship," said one Ahmadi resident.

The place of worship remains sealed despite an order, available with Dawn, issued on Jan 17 by the National Commission for Human Rights. It stated: "The commission recommends to the police/administration to move into the relevant court for withdrawal of the application filed under section 145 of Criminal Procedure Code.

While local politicians are trying to reconcile the two communities, the village's Muslim community is unwilling to hand the place of worship back to the Ahmadi community before a court decision.

The spokesperson for the Jammat-i-Ahmadiyya Pakistan, Salimuddin, said: "This is not the way to deprive a community of its place of worship. The place of worship should be unsealed and restored to the Dec 11 position. Then let the legal battle begin. We will accept the court's decision."

Religious extremism on the rise

Model Colony; Karachi, November 2017: Malik Waseem Ahmad, Ahmadi is a resident of Shah Faisal Town, Model Colony. He owns a business of currency exchange and a whole-sale dealership of rice. For the last two years mullas have been telling the shop owner to get his shop

vacated. The shop owner didn't oblige them. Then, the mosque committee sent for the owner to come to the mosque. There they told him to get his shop vacated. At this, he gave one month's notice to Malik Ahmad to hand the shop back. Ahmad is now in search of a different location for his business.

2. Tahrik-i-Labbaik Ya Rasool Allah (TLY) inaugurated their office in Model Colony as they started their movement in the Punjab. They often make hateful speeches against Ahmadis. So, Ahmadis reported to the police. The police banned the use of loud speakers to the TLY. Undeterred, the TLY went a step further and undertook anti-Ahmadiyya wall chalking in the area. They did not spare even the wall of Bait-ul-Sana (Ahmadiyya mosque). This has disturbed the social and sectarian peace of the locality.

False complaint

Ahmad Abad Sangra, District Chiniot; April 18, 2017: Some men from village Khizrkay complained to the police that an Ahmadi, Sultan Ahmad and others were distributing Ahmadiyya literature among public and converting them to Qadianism. As a result two officials of the Counter-terrorism Department came to Sangra and met Mr. Sultan Ahmad. They visited the Ahmadiyya mosque, took some photographs, and posed a few questions. It seems that they found nothing objectionable and went back.

It is noteworthy that the anti-Ahmadi lobby requisitions CTD on fake grounds. They seem to have noted the CTD role in the raid at Ahmadiyya central offices last year.

Bigotry and hate-promotion – Pakistan style

A picture of a donkey cart with a lengthy message written on its back-board went viral in Pakistan on social media. The message is in Urdu; it is anti-Ahmadiyya, a pack of lies, highly abusive and provocative. We attempt its translation below:

A Qadiani is a creature more cunning than a fox, more dangerous than a snake, more shameless than a swine, sheds more false tears than a crocodile, more foolish than a donkey, more coward than a jackal, darker than night, more ignorant than Abu Jahl, enemy of humankind, a product of Jews, brother of *Dajjal* (Anti-Christ), and a product of falsehood and deceit.



Police officers should be brave like Mehr Nabi Bux Lak.

The drafter of this statement got so carried away by show of prejudice that he cared little for the fact that one who is more cunning than a fox could not be more foolish than a donkey.

The above notice displays that the donkey owner is admirer of some police officer. This officer apparently is quite happy with the publicity he is getting, to the extent that he has not objected to the fellow violating the National Action Plan, all the time, in city streets.

The city administration and police seem to care little for the NAP.

Severe hostility in Nankana Sahib

Nankana; September 2017: Anti-Ahmadiyya agitation has escalated after the murder here of an Ahmadi, Mr. Saleem Lateef earlier this year.

Mr. Mubashir Ahmad of Shadbagh Colony was repeatedly harassed by a local. On September 22, Mr. Ahmad was outside his child's school to bring him back when an unknown man approached him and told him to stay away or end up dead. At another occasion the same man came to the stationary shop where Mr. Ahmad was buying some stationary items along with his wife for his children. He forbade the shopkeeper to sell them anything as they were Mirzais (Ahmadis), and he threatened again to kill Mr. Ahmad. At another occasion Mrs. Ahmad went to a fruit shop, where the shopkeeper asked her whether she was Ahmadi? She nodded. The shopkeeper took back his fruits, and used foul language.

Mr. Mahmood, another Ahmadi from the same locality is also facing severe hostility. He is suffering a total social boycott in his neighborhood. He had to shift his children to several schools due to faith-based hostility in schools. Once his son Usama Ahmad was returning home after evening prayers when some youths manhandled him, and nobody nearby came to his rescue. Mr. Mahmood's daughter died sometime back, and was buried in the common cemetery. Opponents exhumed her body and the bereaved father had to bury her in his own farm.

Tension in Sanghar (Sindh)

Sanghar; October, 2017: Anti-Ahmadiyya sentiments are promoted actively in Sanghar. Opponents remain busy in spreading hate against Ahmadis. Following incidents illustrate.

An iron grill was ordered for the Ahmadiyya mosque. When an Ahmadi contacted for its installation, the grill-maker refused his services for the Ahmadiyya mosque. Ahmadis had to hire another installer.

An Ahmadi Mr. Mubarak Ahmad opened his new shop 'Mubarak Electronics'. His shop is located near a mosque. Two of his workers are non-Ahmadis, and the mullas prompt them to leave the job but they have resisted this advice. One day Mr. Mubarak Ahmad was intercepted by a mulla who abused him. Mr. Ahmad decided not to respond in kind.

Another Ahmadi, Mr. Maqbool Ahmad hired a new shop near the grain market in Sanghar. Mullas told the shop owner to get his shop vacated. The shop-owner didn't oblige the mullas, so they themselves came over to the shop to dislodge the Ahmadi. Mr. Maqbool contacted the Rangers, on whose intervention the mullas withdrew.

Anti-Ahmadiyya sentiments in society

Nazimabad, Karachi; October 16, 2017: A non-Ahmadi fellow got printed wedding invitation cards, for his son.

At the top of the card, he had a tradition printed which supported his version of the doctrine of End of prophethood.

This is something new in the social and cultural scene.

Livelihood deprived for faith

Rabwah; November 2017: Mr. Muhammad Saeed has been working in a thread mill near Sheikhpura for the last eleven years. He started facing difficulties when his colleagues came to know of his Ahmadiyya identity. They boycotted him socially. When the owner of the mill came to know of it, he called Mr. Saeed and laid him off because of his faith.

Thereafter Mr. Saeed went to another mill for a job. When the mill-owner came to know that he was from Rabwah, he said that he wouldn't provide job to a *Mirzai*.

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Uninterrupted persecution

Chak 2 TDA, District Khushab; September - October, 2017: This village is no longer safe for Ahmadi residents. Khatme Nabuwwat activists are free to continue with their hateful campaign against Ahmadis. They employ fresh means to add fuel to the sectarian fire they have lit.

On September 1, the day before Eid-ul-Azha members of the Khatme Nabuwwat organization called an open meeting in 2 TDA and made hateful speeches against Ahmadiyya community. After this rally a garlanded bull was paraded in front of Ahmadis' houses along with beat of drum thus instigating response that Ahmadis desisted.

In the evening Ahmadis came to know of the opponents' decision to take action against Ahmadis who would undertake sacrificial rites on the day of Eid festival. Khatme Nabuwwat activists distributed hateful leaflets at the occasion.

Therefore Ahmadis took special precautions, shifted their sacrificial cattle from their houses to their farms during dark hours and slaughtered them in tight security.

The opponents, however, slaughtered their cattle in front of the Ahmadiyya mosque, and raised slogans against Ahmadis on the Eid day.

Hateful anti-Ahmadiyya campaign continued in 2 TDA. On October 12, Ahmadis got information that some miscreants intended to harass Ahmadis in the area. They immediately informed the authorities, and met the DPO and told him of the prevailing situation. The DPO instructed the DSP and SHO for appropriate action.

On October 13, opponents gathered almost 150 men from surrounding villages, and invited two clerics as well. One mulla came from Sialkot and the other from Quaidabad. They made hateful speeches against Ahmadis and raised slogans. Ahmadis called the police. SHO himself arrived at the scene with his team and remained there to ensure peace.

Hostility at street level

Farooqabad; October 17, 2017: Mr. Manzoor Ahmad lived in Siddique Abad near a mosque. On October 17 his son Bilal climbed the roof of the mosque to repair an electric connection. To

this some residents of the street objected and took the plea: “Why an infidel (*Kafir*) climbed over the roof of our mosque?” Bilal jumped from the roof to escape from these people.

The locals decided to file a police case against Bilal. Mr. Manzoor is influential in the town, so both the parties made a truce in the police station over this paltry issue.

The incident shows the intolerance spread in the society by the extremist mulla.