

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

Monthly Report August 2016

Anti-Ahmadi law continues to take its toll

Mirpur Khas (Sindh); August 15, 2016: Additional Session Judge upheld 3 years' imprisonment sentence to Mr. Masud Ahmad Chandio, an Ahmadiyya missionary and awarded one-month imprisonment to Mr. Abdur Razzaq, Ahmadi, in a case registered under the anti-Ahmadi law PPC 298-C. Both the accused were arrested and sent to Hyderabad prison.

It was in 2006 when the local Ahmadi community in Mirpur Khas organized a two-day refresher class for a few converts. The mullas came to know of it and had a criminal case registered with the police.

The prosecution went on for four years. On March 30, 2010, the Civil Judge Mirpur Khas awarded harsh imprisonment sentences to three of the accused, namely Mr. Masud Ahmad Chandio, Mr. Abdur Razzaq and Mr. Abdur Ghani. They were to serve 3 years in prison.

A few weeks later, on appeal, a senior court accepted the plea for bail of the accused and they were released from prison on May 11, 2010. The prosecution, however, continued.

Another six years later, a judge has given the verdict mentioned above.

Fair-minded intellectuals continue to criticize the bad laws specific to Ahmadis. However the state and the mulla give no quarters to Ahmadis; these laws are often applied to persecute Ahmadis all over the country.

Condemnable action of Sargodha Police

Sargodha, Punjab; July 28, 2016: The police destroyed the *Kalima* and other sacred writings from the Ahmadiyya mosque in Chak No. 32 South of District Sargodha.

On July 27, the SHO, a sub-inspector and a few constables came to the village and told Ahmadis to remove the writings. Ahmadis refused to comply and told the police that they would not defile the sacred writings, however if the police did it, they are the servants of the rulers.

All the sacred writings in the worship place were inscribed on china plates. The police acquired a ladder and sent a man up to do the destruction. The policemen stated that they had been ordered by the DPO to do that.

Even before this date, the police had visited a number of times with intentions to do the same ignoble task, but the village folk supported the Ahmadis and took the position that they had no objection to the writings. However, it is learnt that this time a delegation of mullas called on the DPO, and the careerist decided to do as demanded of him.

Prevention of Electronic Crime Act is draconian: AHRC

Islamabad; August 2016: Recently Electronic Crime Bill was cleared both by the Senate and the National Assembly. This law, like most other laws, looks apparently neat and justified; it discourages child pornography, terrorism, corrupt behavior or misconduct of the

government or officials etc. - but the devil lies in detail. The law is subject to interpretation and prescribes harsh sentences, long term imprisonments and hefty fines.

This law has been criticized by most of the civil society. According to rights groups, this law has provisions that will blatantly infringe upon fundamental rights that are guaranteed under the Constitution. It criminalizes activities such as sending text messages without the receiver's consent, or criticizing government actions on social media with fines and imprisonment. On-line criticism of religion, the county and its courts are among the subjects that could invoke official intervention under the bill.

Asian Human Rights Commission, in a special Statement commented:

"Not only is the bill arbitrary, it is also severely unjust. The wordings of the law are overly vague; many experts have warned that the law will open a floodgate of frivolous litigation on behalf of the state against dissenters, and atrocities to harass them. The bill is deliberately left ambiguous to provide the government the crutches for censorship and suppression.... Under Section 8 specifically, the law enforcement agencies have been granted arbitrary powers; if they deem any offence to fall under the ambit of cyber terrorism, they may treat the said offence as cognizable and arrest without court permission or warrant. Of course, cyber terrorism is not clearly defined, leaving it susceptible to misuse by law enforcement agencies."

Ahmadis in Pakistan have plenty of experience of misuse of apparently fair laws. The Blasphemy law, vast majority of Ahmadis felt, was of no great concern to Ahmadis because no Ahmadi would ever dream of defiling the name of his own prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his own scripture the Holy Quran. However, one of the devious drafters of this law, (a federal minister) confided to a Christian objector: (Don't worry) **this law was made to target a certain other community (Ahmadis)**. And surely enough, hundreds of Ahmadis have been most wrongfully implicated in the blasphemy laws since their promulgation. In fact, the largest number of accused, in proportion to the size of the community, is Ahmadis. It is no exaggeration to say that each and every one of those police cases was false and fabricated. Sad to say, even Muslims have suffered prosecution under those laws. Non-Muslims have been greatly victimized as well. Recently, 30 years after promulgation of these laws, a judge has, in very discreet words, mustered the courage to meekly recommend revisiting these laws.

Take the case of Anti-terrorism Act – apparently a well-considered and justified law. However, after its promulgation till date, Ahmadis have been crookedly made its targets. Ahmadis are known all over the world for being perhaps the community most committed to peace and tolerance. But in Pakistan, the mulla, the state and the society joined hands to use the anti-terrorism laws to terrorize the Ahmadis. At the turn of the century, it became a practice with mullas and the police to book Ahmadis under religious laws and add PPC 295-A to the charge sheet - simply because under this section the victim could be delivered to an Anti-terrorism court for trial.

Most recently, under the National Action Plan, the authorities became active to energize counter-terrorism department and nab 'terrorists'. Ahmadis were already in the crossfire of the Ulama Board. The CTD personnel accompanied by the Elite Force raided the only Ahmadiyya book shop in Rabwah, owned by Mr. Abdul Shakoor, an 80-year old crumbly. Mr. Shakoor gladly sold them the Ahmadiyya books they wanted, issued them the voucher and stamped it for them. Soon afterwards they arrested them, locked him up and took him to an Anti-terrorism court where, in a speedy trial, he was sentenced to five plus three,

eight years' imprisonment. The gentle patriarch remains in prison; the CTD have won an additional feather in their cap.

The official cyber agencies have already amply shown their attitude towards Ahmadis. Ahmadiyya main website *alislam.org* has been banned periodically in Pakistan. It is not available in the country now for years. Most other websites that have Ahmadiyya origin indicated in their title are banned in the broad sweep. Surely, that directly negates and violates constitutional commitment to free speech and freedom of information. Under the new law this grim situation could become dreadful.

Under this law any Ahmadi, individual or organization, could be prosecuted for:

- Criticizing the government
- Saying anything religious that would or could arguably affect politics
- Posting religious content which any mulla could readily and malafidely term blasphemous, and, by extension, assert that it amounts to terrorism
- Sending unsolicited messages, etc.

There is no shortage of mullas and bigots who are ever ready to get upset on smallest excuse and report against an Ahmadi or an Ahmadiyya organization. Recently a rabid group of antagonists sent a plea to authorities to demolish the minarets and niche of an Ahmadiyya mosque in a Punjabi village on the grounds that the law does not permit such construction - in fact, the law only forbids Ahmadis calling their place of worship a 'Masjid'.

An op-ed writer recently analyzed the situation resulting from the promulgation of this law and concluded for the readers, "Stop using the internet. Period."

A quote from *thefridaytimes.com/tft/be-very-afraid*:

"Many of these (above mentioned) scenarios may seem extreme but given the potential, for abuse and the nature for what appear to be considered 'crimes', anyone with power and agenda can leverage their resources to wreck your life, and do it completely legally. The loosely and vaguely worded bill opens up the potential for abuse not just by officials but also by average people and organizations. For example, all data communicated is being retained and people often pass on sensitive information electronically. Someone listening in could use that information to blackmail. This is not just a theory; it has happened and is now being given legal cover."

One does not need a crystal ball to see how the cybercrime law will be misused, wrote Huma Yusuf in the daily Dawn of August 15, 2016.

One is keeping one's fingers crossed hoping an occasion does not arise in the Ahmadiyya context to exclaim: *I told you so*.

A report from Islamabad – End of Prophethood Conference

Islamabad: The daily Dunya reported in its issue of August 26, 2016 on a Worldwide Khatme Nabuwat (KN) Conference in Golra Sharif, a village on the outskirts of the capital. We reproduce below a few portions from this report.

Those who attended included JUI (F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman, Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal (PML-N), Deputy Chairman Senate Maulana Abdul Ghafur Hydari, Deputy Speaker NA Murtaza Abbasi, Captain ® M Safdar (PML-N), Mufti Hanif Qureshi, Maulana G M Chisiti etc. Pir Syed Ghulam Moeenul Haq Gilani presided.

Maulana Fazlur Rahman (JUI-F) said that the entire Ummah is united to safeguard the faith in End of Prophethood. It is the basis of our belief. Terrorism has nothing to do with Muslims; in fact Muslims are the targets of terrorism at the world level, he said.

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that the faith remains deficient without belief in the end of prophethood.

The Deputy Chairman Senate urged ban on Qadianis' activities. No Muslim will succumb to a compromise on Khatme Nabuwwat. Terrorism should not be linked with Islam and Muslims, he said.

Other speakers stated that it is a matter of bliss to sacrifice their lives for the honour of the Prophet.

Pir Gilani, in the chair, urged the government of Pakistan to include the procedure of declaration of the applicant's faith in the end of prophethood, for passport as done for the National Identity Card (*sic*). Khatme Nabuwwat should be added to the curriculum with the help of literature produced by Hazrat Pir Mehr Ali Shah. No sacrifice shall be spared in defense of the dogma of Khatme Nabuwwat, he said.

The Joint Declaration included: 1. No sacrifice be spared to protect the belief in Khatme Nabuwwat; 2. Qadiani activities should be banned and they should be fired from all key posts; 3. Qadianis are Non-Muslim with whom it is forbidden to enter into spousal relationship; they cannot be permitted to use Islamic epithets and practices; in this regard constitutional provisions should be strictly applied; 4. The dogma of End of Prophethood should be made part of academic syllabi; etc.

- **Whither the official assertion that sectarianism leads to extremism which ends up in terrorism?**
- **Whither the implementation of NAP, if not on the outskirts of the capital?**
- **To what extent political hypocrisy is helpful or harmful to national well-being and progress?**

Reconfirmation of an earlier official divulgence

Karachi; the Dawn report on August 12, 2016: In this report the daily Dawn's Shiza Malik quoted from London that Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali stated that the authorities in Pakistan had allayed his concerns and told him 'the (Blasphemy) law was made to target another community.'

It is on record that Maulvi Abdus Sattar Niazi, a former federal minister told an audience that minorities need not worry over the Blasphemy law as it was promulgated (by the Zia regime) to target another community (Ahmadis).

In a recent report Ms. Shiza Malik in London met Bishop Nazir-Ali "in his office overlooking the famous Wimple Street in Westminster, who in 1994 became the first non-white diocesan bishop at the Church of England and was among the final two candidates to become the Archbishop of Canterbury...."

Among many other comments and remarks, Bishop Nazir-Ali came forth with a comment on Pakistan's blasphemy law. According to the Dawn:

"Asked about the blasphemy laws in Pakistan, Bishop Michael says that the law not only exacerbates the sense of insecurity for many communities, but also contributes to an atmosphere of mistrust and hatred." Initially, when Christians expressed concerns about the blasphemy law, they were told that the law was made to target a certain other community. I warned a presidential advisor that no

matter who the law is intended for, it would affect justice and freedom and no one would be exempt. And this is what happened,” he said.”

General Zia and his coterie knew very well that Ahmadis believed in Muhammad (PBUH) as the Messenger of Allah and held him in the highest esteem, yet he targeted Ahmadis through this law in the highest degree of dishonesty, moral corruption and treachery.

Brazen, hateful and harmful propaganda - despite NAP

Lahore; August 4, 2016: The daily Insaaf published an op-ed by Riaz Chaudhry with the title: *Qadiani Pakistan kay dushman hein* (Qadianis are enemies of Pakistan). Extracts:

“...It is obvious that these people (Qadianis) are blaspheming Kafirs and enemies of Pakistan; they are implementing the plan of Greater India (Akhand Bharat), accordingly their presence is intolerable in Pakistan. They reside in Pakistan, but abroad they are busy undermining the constitution of Pakistan as it has declared them to be Kafir and Non-Muslim. This constitution provides them no place in Pakistan. Every Qadiani, wherever he may be is a Kafir and a traitor; he is an enemy of Pakistan and Islam. He is a blasphemer against the Prophet. Accordingly Qadianis should be fired from all important key posts. They should be closely watched so as to neutralize their conspiracies. If possible, they should be steadily expelled from Pakistan; our faith and Pakistan’s security calls for this. They are the agents of Christians, Hindus and Jews. It is suicidal to nourish and ignore them. The Pakistani state should take immediate action to tighten the noose on them; this is demanded by our faith and national security.

“.....As such, Qadianism is far more dangerous and destructive than other sects. In fact, their greatest leader, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani, let alone being a prophet or a saint, was not equivalent to an ordinary individual as per Sharia; he was extremely corrupt and a great liar (*kazzab*)....”

The above calls for a brief comment. As for the ferocity and savagery of the writer’s style, we need not comment. However, the criminality and the damage intended to the social peace and national harmony is concerned, it should be spotlighted. National leadership, both civil and military, has finally come to the conclusion that extremism and sectarianism lead to terrorism and must be stopped. All citizens have equal rights. Promotion of hate must be condemned, etc. A few sample authoritative statements are produced below from last year’s print media:

Hateful speeches totally unacceptable: Shahbaz Sharif (the Chief Minister of the Punjab)

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, June 30, 2015

We’ll annihilate extremists and make the country a cradle of peace: Shahbaz Sharif

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, August 19, 2015

Action against those who call each other Kafir (infidel)

Action will continue against hate-promoting rhetoric: Federal Interior Minister

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, September 8, 2015

PM vows to protect rights of all religious communities.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that all religious communities living in Pakistan enjoy equal rights and vowed to safeguard them.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 12, 2015

Media shall not call anyone a traitor or enemy of Islam or Pakistan: Revised Code of Ethics for the media

The daily Jang; Lahore, August 23, 2015

Army voices concern over NAP's poor enforcement

The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 11, 2015

The presented facts show that there is contradiction in govt's statements and actions: Chief Justice JS Khwaja

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, August 22, 2015

This article should be assessed with the help of above yardsticks, and effective action should be taken. Looking the other way is no longer an option, according to most well-wishers and the sagacious in Pakistan.

Duplicitous *modus operandi* of the mulla under the cover of the End of Prophethood

August 2016: Since long, mullas of the *Khatme Nabuwwat* (KN), End of Prophethood factions have craftily taken the line with the authorities that they are a group (or groups) who uphold a most noble and important dogma in Islam and have nothing to do with politics, sectarianism, extremism or terrorism. Under this fake presumption they demand and are granted all the space they need to indulge in all sorts of most objectionable activities against Ahmadis (who also believe in the End of Prophethood, with a slightly different explanation).

In the last few years, situation has changed radically in Pakistan, in that some groups are waging 'jihad' against the Pakistani state, in the name of religion. Two years ago, after the APS attack in Peshawar, almost all the political parties, present in the parliament agreed on a National Action Plan to fight and neutralize the extremist elements who indulge in terrorism and violence and those who provide support and facilitate them. As a result, the security establishment initiated Operation Zarb e Azb and other similar actions to effectively, although inconclusively, curb the violence perpetrated by the armed groups, but other pillars of the state remained shy in catching the bull by the horn and refrained from directly confronting and neutralizing religious groups who acted as nurseries of the terrorist jungle. So such, Khatme Nabuwwat organizations have remained free to preach hate, discord, violence - all in clear violation of the anti-sectarian and anti-extremism intent of the NAP. We mention below a few samples of what went on during only this month of August 2016.

Although KN organizations claim to be apolitical, they have deep and strong links with many political parties, and they promote their agenda and politics, both national and international in league with those parties. Most recently, they have joined a new group Ittehad Millat Islamia comprised of 7 parties, in Baluchistan. The group will include JUI (F), JI, JUI (S), JUP, Majlis Wahdat ul Muslimeen, Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith and Tehrik Khatme Nabuwwat (*The daily Insaaf, August 1, 2016*). Obviously the last named is as much of a political party as all its other colleagues. Whither the claim of being apolitical!

The daily Ausaf of August 15, 2016 published a story under the following three-column headline, of proceedings of a rally by Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat (AMTKN):

We shall spare no sacrifice in support of the dogma of End of Prophethood and the dear country: Ulama Karam

The rally was reportedly held in the name of Safeguarding the End of Prophethood, and the Solidarity of Pakistan (*Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat wa Istehkam e Pakistan*). Note the camouflage. All the speeches were rabidly anti-Ahmadiyya.

All the speakers were members of the Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat.

One item quoted in the Ausaf report read: "...Unfortunately Sir Zafrulla Qadiani was appointed as the first Foreign Minister of the country; he refused to join the funeral prayers of the Founder of Pakistan. One who is a traitor to the Founder of Pakistan, how can he be loyal to Pakistan?" The mulla, Qari Shakir, of course did not tell his audience that Sir Zafrulla was duly present at the funeral procession of the Quaid e Azam, and the reason he did not join the prayer part is that it was led and conducted by Mulla Shabbir Usmani according to whom Zafrulla was a Kafir and deserved to be put to death for apostasy.

Right under this report, apparently as a part of it, the daily published a picture of a rally by Jamaat ud Dawa (JD) and its 8 speakers who spoke in Masjid Shuhada, Mall Road, Lahore. Mullas who spoke at the rally were Amir Hamza, Ibtisam Ilahi Zaheer etc. who are regular speakers in End of Prophethood rallies. JD is a well-known extremist organization. Its status as a banned organization is different with the UN, the US and Pakistan.

Maulana Ilyas Chinioti, an MPA from the ruling PML-N and a leader of the International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement made the following remarks in anti-Ahmadiyya rallies and speeches:

Qadianis are a joint enemy of Muslim Ummah; we shall have to be ever vigilant in crushing its head.

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, August 8, 2016

Qadianis' illegal places of worship should be sealed: Ilyas Chinioti.

The daily Express; August 18, 2016

In another Khatme Nabuwwat conference following was stated:

Qadianis are more dangerous than Jews and Hindus: KN conference

The daily Ausaf; August 10, 2016

If the above is not 'hate speech', what else is? These mullas propagate, and the vernacular media like Ausaf publish that Qadiani, Jews and Hindus, all citizens of Pakistan, are dangerous.

According to the daily Ausaf of August 14, 2016, Maulana Qari Shabbir Ahmad Usmani, Central Deputy Amir of the International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement (IKNM) addressed a press conference in Chenab Nagar. The daily reported the event in the following three-column headline:

The Quetta tragedy is condemnable; we'll have to rid of American bondage to save us from terrorism: Qari Shabbir/Qari Suleman

IKNM claims to be apolitical but it obviously uses the KN platform to indulge in national and international politics. It conveys to the Pakistani people that terrorism in Pakistan is as a result of bondage with the US (and not a result of religious extremism and corruption).

Mulla Abdul Hafeez Makki is a Saudi Arabia-based cleric of Pakistani origin and is the Amir of the IKNM. He spends a lot of time in Pakistan and promotes anti-Ahmadiyya

vigilante activities. He carries a heavy purse. Recently he was quoted in the vernacular press, as:

Jihad is fundamental to Islam; if Maulana Sheerani calls it disorder (*fasaad*) that is his personal opinion: Maulana Abdul Hafeez Makki

The daily Albiyan; August 10, 2016

If propagating and recruiting men for violence and bloodshed is now forbidden as a state policy, someone should take note of what this mulla from Makka is saying to the people and the press.

The daily Insaf published an op-ed on August 4, 2016 and titled it: Qadianis are enemies of Pakistan. Its content is highly provocative.

There is a story elsewhere in this report on this op-ed with some comment, so we do not repeat it here, but we do point out: **Under what policy or ethics, a community is subjected to such intense hateful propaganda in the Punjab? Are Ahmadis an exception to the policy stated in NAP?**

The daily Ummat, Karachi of August 10, 2016 published a report of a KN conference under AMTKN in Ravi Road, Lahore, the capital of the Punjab. It was stated here as well, *inter alia*: “Qadianis are more dangerous to Islam, Muslims and Pakistan than even Jews and Hindus”. The speakers included Mufti Naeemuddin, Maulana Zahid-ur-Rashdi, Qari Jamil-ur-Rehman Akhtar, Pir Rizwan Raees, Maulana Aziz ur Rehman Sani etc.

It is ironic and interesting that mulla Zahid-ur-Rashdi who indulges in such sectarian activities and is on record for being involved in promoting inter-religious and sectarian strife was awarded last year the Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Medal of Distinction).

In the light of the above is it not meaningless and dishonest to claim and accept that these activities of KN are not hateful and disruptive. But surprisingly this continues to be suggested and even accepted by the state at institutional level. For example, the following headline:

“The dogma of End of Prophethood and literature in rebuttal of Qadianiat (*Radde Qadianiat*) in no way falls in the category of hateful material: Mutahiddah Ulama Board, Punjab

“The police and law-enforcement authorities are not authorized to take action against the publishers, holders and distributors of such literature: Maulana Hafiz Fazal Rahim” (the President of this Ulama Board)

The daily Ausaf; February 14, 2015

It is relevant to mention that this Ulama Board was established by the Punjab Government and enjoys powers well beyond what is lawful and appropriate.

According to a report in the daily Pakistan of July 18, 2016, mulla Allah Wasaya, Missionary End of Prophethood, recently wrote a book “*Ek hafta, Sheikh ul Hind kay des mein*; (A week in the land of Sheikh of India). The author dedicated the book to the well-known cleric Fazlur Rahman, the head of JUI (F), a religio-political party. According to the reviewer: “Although the book is titled, *A Week in the Land of Sheikh of India*, it is overwhelmingly anti-Qadiani.” The author, somehow or the other, continues to expose these robbers of prophethood. While discussing Qadianism, his pen is like a dagger or a sword (Saif e Chishtiai) - on this issue, no compromise, no relief.” Well, no complaint against Mulla Wasaya, but the fact that he dedicated the book to Fazlur Rahman is interesting and suggestive.

Last but not least, whenever a major rally or conference is held by the End of Prophethood organization, a senior leader of Jamaat Islami is regularly invited and he participates in the proceedings including an address to the crowd. The role of JI and its founder Maududi is on record and is well-known in the context of violence in the name of religion and the concept of importance of use of force to establish a *Hakumat Ilahya* (the Islamic state).

Clerics of the KN have adopted the policy of paying lip service to the role of the army and the implementation of the NAP; however they move fast forward to continue with the extremist theme that is their *raison d'être* and main substance.

The above is not a comprehensive review of the functioning of KN groups. It is limited in time to the most recent ground situation, however even this should leave no doubt with the authorities who are sincere about ridding the country of the evil of terrorism and extremism to hold these groups operating in the name of Khatme Nabuwwat accountable for their harmful pursuits and activities prejudicial to the security and well-being of Pakistani state and society.

Yet again this year - a Khatme Nabuwwat Conference in Rabwah

Rabwah: In the face of renewed calls for vigorous imposition of the National Action Plan, the International Khatme Nabuwwat Conference is scheduled to be held in Rabwah on September 7, 2016.

Holding this sectarian conference in Rabwah is significant. In Rabwah, the non-Ahmadis are hardly 5 percent of the population. The organizers hold the rally here only as a provocation. It was understandable 10 years ago, but now that the evil of terrorism, extremism and sectarianism has become obvious to even the most dull of the administrators, to allow this type of rally anywhere - leave alone Rabwah, despite decades of their experience, makes little sense after what happened in APS Peshawar and the Quetta carnage on August 8.

Ahmadiyya headquarters have written to authorities again this year to disallow this conference. "There is high probability that the rally would affect this town's law and order, especially when the general situation in the country is already not satisfactory," they wrote in addition to a mention of the routine provocative and incendiary nature of this gathering and its proceedings.

NAP implementation needs to be fast-tracked, says (Nawaz) Sharif, reported the daily Dawn on August 25, 2016. Let's see if another Sharif, in the Punjab, agrees and makes the first token move by disallowing this conference that violates unabashedly the philosophy and policy guidelines of the National Action Plan.

Obstruction in maintenance of a place of worship

Ghatialian Kalan, District Sialkot: The Ahmadiyya mosque here needs extensive repairs and since long the work had been stopped in the face of opposition from the main stream clergy.

The wooden planks placed high above to facilitate construction of roofing years ago had nearly crumbled, so a prayer center was constructed in the vicinity. A few weeks ago

earth was being deposited at the location when the police arrived accompanied by the objectors. The police ordered Ahmadis to stop the work and left a message that the president of the local Ahmadi community report to the police station.

It is learnt that a political figure intervened on behalf of the Ahmadis and told the police to calm down - and they did.

Ahmadi shopkeeper targeted

Village Islamabad, District Jhang: Ahmadis' situation in this village is precarious these days. A mulla Umar Shahzad has started an anti-Ahmadi campaign from his mosque, Minhaj ul Quran and is targeting in particular an Ahmadi, Mr. Muhammad Firoz, in his weekly sermons.

This mulla spoke venomously against the Jamaat Ahmadiyya in his sermon on July 29. He mentioned Muhammad Firoz by name and took a pledge from his audience that they would buy nothing from his store. He also demanded that the word Muhammad from his name be effaced from the signboard of his shop. He urged his flock to believe that Ahmadis were Kafir.

Mulla Shehzad is persistent in his campaign of hate and intolerance against Ahmadis, who are exercising great care and self-control to maintain peace. In 1974, a mob had set fire to Mr. Firoz's store.

Tribunal recommends revisiting blasphemy law (including anti-Ahmadi clauses)

Lahore; August 10, 2016: The Express Tribune in its issue of August 10 printed a report on recommendations made by one-man tribunal, comprising a then-judge of the Lahore High Court on Gojra riots Inquiry in which 7 Christians died. Excerpts:

“Pakistan needs to revisit certain provisions in the blasphemy law to bring it in line with Article 25 of the Constitution in addition to ensuring the law is not misused.

“The recommendations...proposed that five provisions of law should be reviewed after achieving consensus of Mujtahideen of all Muslim schools of thought and after due consultation with the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII).

“...It calls for amendments to its provisions of 295-B (defiling of Quran), 295-C (defamatory remarks in respect of Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), 298-A (derogatory remarks against holy personalities of Islam), (Anti-Ahmadiyya) 298-B (misuse of epithets, descriptions and titles reserved for certain personages or places of Muslims), and 298-C (Ahmadi calling himself a Muslim or preaching or propagating his faith).

“The judge also pointed out that the law is often misused for ulterior motives. He referred to the rising number of blasphemy cases registered in the country, though conviction rate remains low and none of the sentences awarded have been fully executed. He suggested that misuse can be easily avoided by introducing another provision in the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) prescribing the same punishment for false complaints. The amendment, however, will have to be approved by parliament.”

A complaint with police

Sargodha; August 11, 2016: Encouraged by police support to opponents of Ahmadis, they filed an application with police in PS Satellite Town against 9 Ahmadi elders of Chak 46 North accusing Ahmadis of having built a niche and minarets in their place of worship.

In fact, the law forbids no such construction. PPC 298-B, as regards Ahmadiyya places of worship, only forbids calling them, a *Masjid*. Thus the plea is legally baseless and is nothing more than harassment of peaceful Ahmadis and an effort to deny them freedom of religion in collusion with authorities.

An Ahmadi delegation went to the police station to explain but the SHO was not available. Efforts are, however, underway to contain the mischief. This month, elsewhere in District Sargodha, the police committed a grave wrong against an Ahmadiyya mosque; this story is mentioned elsewhere in this report.

A bizarre league of 7 religious parties in Baluchistan

Quetta; August 1, 2016: The daily Insaaf Lahore reported the following (extracts):

7 religious parties in Baluchistan from a new league, IMAM

Maulana Muhammad Khan Sheerani will be head of the Ittehad Millat Islamia Mahaz while Maulana M Abu Turab of Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith its general Secretary.

...As per sources, the IMAM shall comprise JUI, JI, Majlis Wahdat ul Muslimeen, JUP, JUI(S), M JAH and Tehrik Khatme Nabuwwat. The decision was taken in a joint session presided by Maulana MK Sheerani, Chairman CII of JUI-F. The general secretary Maulana Ali Muhammad Abu Turab, of Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith was also taken from the CII. The next meeting of the IMAM is scheduled on August 25, when the aims and objects of the IMAM will be discussed.

It is well known that all these parties have no love lost among themselves. Each one has its own political aim that clashes with those of others. Their alliance is often temporary and always a convenience for specific objectives. Sharing of funds becomes easy this way. Ahle Hadith are ideologically close to the Salafi and Wahhabi movement strong in the oil kingdom. The formation of IMAM, under the presidency of official CII will serve the interest of all the seven parties formed by clerics of different sects.

Tehrik Khatme Nabuwwat always claims special privileges for posing as a non-political body, however participation in a group composed of parties fully committed to politics, amply betrays political content of the TKN.

Spreading fear

Bhara Kahu, Islamabad; July 2016: Mr. Arif Ahmad, an Ahmadi young man from Bhara Kahu, a suburban town of Islamabad reported an incident - rather cryptic, even disquieting.

Someone rang his bell at about 9 a.m. He lives on first floor. He came to the terrace and looked in the street. He saw two men there on a motor cycle. One of them asked, "Is your name Arif?" On receiving 'yes', he asked a silly question, "Do you live here?" Thereafter they departed on the motor-cycle whose engine was kept running all along.

Then, the same day, at about 2 p.m. the bell rang again. Arif found again two men, different this time, on a motor cycle with engine running. One of them asked, "Is your name Arif Ahmad?" Then he asked, "Are you a Qadiani?" Having got the answer they left.

Arif came down to make inquiries. Arif is well-known in the neighborhood as an Ahmadi. His neighbors are friendly.

Arif reported the incident to Ahmadi elders and requested for their prayers.

Ahmadis behind bars

1. A contrived case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad and 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 then murdered by a madrassah 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.
2. A fabricated case was registered against Mr. Tahir Mahdi Imtiaz, printer of the Ahmadiyya monthly Ansarullah, in Millat Town Police Station Lahore on April 16, 2014. He was arrested by the police on March 30, 2015 under the blasphemy clause PPC 295-A and anti-Ahmadiyya law PPC 298-C. A high court judge announced acceptance of his bail, but subsequently shirked from signing his decision. Thereafter a 2-member bench of LHC refused the bail, and ordered that clause 8-W ATA be added to his charge sheet and the case be tried in an Anti-terrorism court. He remains in prison. Supreme Court did not grant him the bail either. He is being prosecuted in an Anti-terrorism court whose judge has approved that more serious clauses of the Blasphemy law, PPC 295-C and 295-B be added to his charge sheet. These respectively prescribe penalties of death and imprisonment for life.
3. Mr. Qamar Ahmad was charged under PPC 295-B for alleged desecration of the Holy Quran in Jhelum, and was arrested on November 20, 2015. Religious bigots attacked the Ahmadi-owned factory and Ahmadis' houses after his arrest and set them on fire after looting the valuables. Those who attacked the Ahmadiyya mosque have been granted bail, but not Mr. Ahmad.
4. Officials of Punjab's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) accompanied by a contingent of the Elite Force raided Shakoor Bhai's book shop, arrested him and Mr. Mazhar Abbas the shop assistant, a Shia, on December 2, 2015. A speedy trial in an Anti-terrorism court dispensed 5 years' imprisonment to each of the two accused, while Mr. Shakoor was sentenced in addition to three years' imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadiyya law.
5. Mr. Masud Ahmad Chandio, an Ahmadi religious teacher from Mirpur Khas was booked in 2006 under anti-Ahmadi law for conducting a two-day refresher course for a few converts. In 2010 a Civil Judge sentenced him to maximum 3 years' imprisonment. Mr. Chandio appealed against the unjust punishment, but an ASJ upheld the conviction on August 15, 2016. The police arrested the teacher and took him to prison to serve the sentence.

From the media

Quits Qadianism, recites the *Kalima* [(Note: All Ahmadis recite the *Kalima* (Islamic creed)]

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, August 3, 2016

Sunni Tehrik announces 100 conferences on the issue of safeguarding end of prophethood

The daily Jang; Lahore, August 22, 2016

WSC deeply saddened and condemns the violence, harassment and killing of Sindhi Hindus

Press release from World Sindhi Congress, forward by AHRC

PAKISTAN: Nowshera police order transgenders to vacate the district: Statement by AHRC

AHRC-STM-111-2016

Chiniot: Corruption rampant in Passport Office. Applicants upset. People made to repeat visits many times and then asked heavy bribes.

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, August 1, 2016

Qadianis are more dangerous than Jews and Hindus: KN Conference

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, August 4, 2016

Qadianis are enemies of Pakistan (Title of an op-ed printed in the daily *Insaf*)

The daily Insaf; Lahore, August 3, 2016

Qadianis' illegal places of worship should be sealed: Ilyas Chinioti (PML-N MPA)

The daily Express; Faisalabad, August 18, 2016

Jihad is fundamental to Islam, if Maulana Sheerani calls it disorder (*Fasaad*) that is his personal opinion: Maulana Abdul Hafeez Makki (Amir International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement)

The daily Albiyan; Lahore, August 10, 2016

The authorities should register cases of 'Rebellion' against those who oppose the constitutional amendment that declares Qadianis to be 'Non-Muslim'

The daily Islam; Lahore, August 8, 2016

We shall pursue Qadianis everywhere: (Mulla) Muhammad Hussain Chinioti

The daily Aman; Faisalabad, August 20, 2016

Quetta in a daze after massacre. (At least 70 dead, over 100 injured)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 9, 2016

Hindu doctor shot dead (in Karachi)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 6, 2016

Lahore: Scuffle over call to prayers (Azan); Madrassa students break the legs of class-fellow

The daily Awaz; Lahore, August 17, 2016

Mufti Qawi is central character in murder of Qandeel Baloch: RPO Multan

The daily Express; Faisalabad, August 14, 2016

Verses in jihad added to syllabus at US behest: (Sheerani, Chair CII)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 5, 2016

Minorities face denial of their rights in Pakistan: Asma Jehangir

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, August 6, 2016

Tribunal recommends revisiting blasphemy law

The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, August 10, 2016

In the present system (of governance) constitutional and legal check and balance exists no more; there is no longer even a semblance of justice: Dr Tahir ul Qadri

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, August 21, 2016

Our nation's future lies in a democratic and liberal Pakistan that is rich in creative potential, educated, progressive and futuristic: Nawaz Sharif
The daily Aaj; Peshawar, December 8, 2015

Laxity on NAP affecting Zarb-e-Azb: COAS
The daily News; Lahore, August 13, 2016

NAP a gross failure; Quetta incident is Interior Minister's failure: Khurshid Shah
The daily Khabrain; Lahore, August 12, 2016

Sectarian activities are under full control in the province: IGP Punjab
The daily Express; Faisalabad, August 29, 2016

We will make Pakistan secure for every ethnicity and religion; the country has embarked upon a right track and we will enable every citizen to reap the benefit of a secure, stable and prosperous Pakistan," he (Mr. Nawaz Sharif, PM) vowed, noting that extremist ideology was a global threat.
The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 2, 2016

CII wants jihad verses to be taught in schools
The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, August 3, 2016

Life imprisonment to the killer of Ahmadi shopkeeper in Britain
BBC Urdu. Com/9 August

Rising Muslim hate sparks peace call at Alton (UK-Ahmadiyya) gathering
bbc.com/news/uk-england-hampshire-37059538 on August 12, 2016

Glasgow murder of Asad Shah (Ahmadi) spurred by sectarianism in Pakistan
Theguardian.com/uk the news/aug/09/Glasgow-of-asad-shah

Head of Ahmadiyya...Community launches MTA International Africa TV channel
Press release: Pressahmadiyya.com. on 2 August 2016

Pope (Francis) refuses to equate Islam with terrorism
The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 2, 2016

Birmingham: Deniers of 'end of prophethood' are rebels against Islam and the Prophet of Islam: Ulama Karam
The daily Jang; Lahore, August 16, 2016

Germany expects 300,000 asylum seekers this year (Official)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 29, 2016

Muslim couple offloaded from flight (US Delta Airlines) due to appearance
The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 7, 2016

Muslim woman fired from job for wearing hijab
The daily Express; Faisalabad, August 7, 2016

New York: Imam of mosque and his deputy murdered
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, August 15, 2016

Trump accuses Obama of being 'founder of IS'
... "Crooked Hillary Clinton was actually the group's cofounder."
The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 12, 2016

290,000 killed in Syria war
The daily News; Lahore, August 9, 2016

Asian workers forced to scrounge around for food (in Saudi Arabia)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 8, 2016

Rajnath (Indian Home Minister) leaves SAARC meeting (in Islamabad) abruptly amid bitterness
The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 5, 2016

Pentagon withholds \$ 300 million from CSF (to Pakistan)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 5, 2016

Russia uses Iranian airbase for strikes against militants in Syria
The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 5, 2016

Ataf Hussain (leader of MQM) should be hanged forthwith: Jamaat Islami

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, August 25, 2016

Key MQM leaders rounded up, party offices sealed

The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 26, 2016

Disqualification references: ECP puts Sharif brothers on notice

The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, August 18, 2016

Senate has the honour of resisting dictatorship in the name of ‘Sharia Bill’. A leader desired all the constitutional authority in his person as Khalifa (in 1997): Aitzaz Ahsan

The daily Insaf; Lahore, August 7, 2016

Ahmadiyyat planted in 209 countries, by the grace of God; 721 new branches, 299 mosques, 121 mission houses added; Ahmadiyyat introduced in 964 locations for the first time - this year.

1566 exhibitions and 13,453 book stalls helped in conveying Ahmadiyya message to over 4,019, 000 persons. More than 5,84,000 individuals of 303 national groups from 119 countries joined Ahmadiyya community.

\$2,411,000 saving achieved through volunteer work (Waqar e Amal) in 78 countries.

Khalifatul Masih’s address (Annual Report) on second day of the UK Ahmadiyya Convention, 2016

The daily Alfazl; Rabwah, August 22, 2016

NA passes Prevention of Electronics Crimes Bill

The daily The News; Lahore, August 12, 2016

Abducted children from Pakistan are smuggled to Thailand for sale of their body parts.

Six children including a girl recovered from Lahore

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, August 11, 2016

Op-ed: When did Pakistan change from being a liberal country to a fundamentalist one?

...Promises by Jinnah were jettisoned for the sake of political expediency, and sectarianism became state policy. Dr. Ayesha Jalal has hinted in her book *Struggle for Pakistan* that Saudi Arabia might have been behind the decision (to declare Ahmadis Non-Muslim). They had apparently conditioned their support for Pakistan’s nuclear program on this decision. Whatever the case, Saudi influence began raising its tentacles during Bhutto’s government.

....Yet, as Jinnah used to say, nothing is permanent in life. The people of the Indus valley have a glorious past that goes back 8000 years. Extremism has never lasted in this region in its history. The radicalization that General Zia has brought about will ultimately be a passing phenomenon. I have no doubt that the posterity will undo the harms done to Pakistan in the last 30 years and will hark back to Jinnah’s words on August 11, 1947, as the right and proper vision. Of that there can be no doubt. Future Pakistanis will revisit, revise and re-order their state according to that vision.

Yasser Latif Hamdani in The Express Tribune on August 14, 2016

Op-ed: Death by committee

...As Mr. Janjua will be reporting directly to the prime minister, the interior minister’s role will be much diminished. And about time too. His contribution in the fight against terrorism has been abysmal, as pointed out recently by Zahid Hussain in his column. He has fought tooth and nail against going after the jihadi hideouts in Punjab, and has proved an abject

failure in coordinating intelligence as called for NAP. But his biggest failing has been in the areas concerning the ideological aspects of terrorism. Under NAP, all madrassahs were to be registered and regulated; hate speech was to be halted; a dedicated anti-terror force established, banned organizations were to be prevented from re-emerging under different names, financing for terror networks was to be choked off; administrative reforms in Fata were to be carried out; there was supposed to be zero tolerance for militancy in Punjab; curricula were to be reviewed to remove extremist content; and the criminal justice system was to be revamped and reformed.

Over a year and a half after these ringing declarations were approved by almost all political parties and incorporated into NAP, none have been implemented. Small wonder, then, that Gen Raheel Sharif recently vented his dissatisfaction over the non-implementation of NAP publicly. With hundreds of soldiers dying in the war against a deadly foe, the military is justified in voicing its frustration over politicians dragging their feet.

We all remember his brother Shahbaz Sharif plaintively pleading with the Taliban to leave Punjab alone. And to an extent, this strategy has worked; apart from attacks in the province on Ahmadis, Christians and Shia, the militants have largely targeted KP, Karachi and Quetta.

Irfan Hussain in the daily Dawn of August 20, 2016

AHRC statement: Pakistan: Prevention of Electronic Crime Act is draconian

Notorious for its enactment of arbitrary laws such as the Hudood ordinance, Blasphemy laws and the Protection of Pakistan Act, the Pakistan government has now added the Prevention of Electronic Crime Act 2015 to the increasing list of laws infringing upon citizens' fundamental freedoms. The bill has been approved by both the houses and sent to the President for final approval as law. Though this bill was under discussion for the past two years, in a dramatic move it was quickly passed by the standing committee on Information Technology, headed by a senator from the Awami National Party, which has always remained against such draconian laws. Rights groups believe that the bill was passed due to pressure from the security establishment.

According to rights groups, the Electronic Crime bill has draconian provisions that will blatantly infringe upon fundamental rights that are guaranteed under the Constitution. The proposed bill criminalizes activities such as sending text messages without the receiver's consent, or criticizing government actions on social media with fines and long-term imprisonment. Industry representatives have argued that the bill would harm business as well. Online criticism of religion, the country, its courts, and the armed forces are among the subjects that could invoke official intervention under the bill.

... Not only is the bill arbitrary, it is also severely unjust. The wordings of the law are overly vague; many experts have warned that the law will open floodgate of frivolous litigation on behalf of the state against dissenters, and atrocities to harass them....

It is ironic that Pakistan's electronic media was given more freedom under the dictatorial regime of President Pervaiz Musharraf, rather than the present civilian government bent on robbing citizens of their rights. Strangling free speech on the internet may backfire for a nation already sick of being muzzled and oppressed by the state. No state that denies its

citizens the right to freedom of expression can last long. Such states are doomed to disintegrate and collapse under their own contradictory strangleholds.

AHRC-STM-113-2016 of 2 August 2016

Op-ed: Pakistan: Government must immediately stop communal violence in Sindh

The shooting of the two boys sparked three days of agitation and unrest, engulfing more than half a dozen districts of the province, where all shops, markets and transport are closed. Armed masked men are looting and causing mayhem, while law enforcement officials are acting as mere bystanders. The police have failed to take any effective action, leaving the Hindu community to barricade themselves in their homes or migrate to Karachi or Punjab. The provincial and federal government has also failed to take serious notice of the situation, perhaps the government is avenging the killing of Muslims in Kashmir by allowing the bloodbath of Hindus in Sindh.

Sadly, mob justice in Pakistan is neither a new nor a rare phenomenon; the rising incidents of mob lynching have become a daily affair in a country where rule of law is non-existent. Minority groups are particularly targeted by mobs who vent out their frustration with the system and the state on the slightest pretexts. People are aware that they will not be prosecuted for their actions, encouraging further violence. To date not a single person has been convicted for mob lynching despite CCTV camera footage of those responsible for the lynching being made public.

The state must investigate the case of mob vigilance and prosecute the culprits behind the murder of the two Hindu youth. The state must play its part to protect the Hindu community to ensure an egalitarian society free from violence and religious intolerance.

AHRC-STM-112-2016

Editorial: Modi and India's Dalits (and Muslims)

....On Monday, Mr. Modi's handpicked successor, the Gujarat chief minister, Anandiben Patel, resigned, a sign of the B.J.P's concern that the turmoil in Gujarat will harm the party in state elections next year and national elections in 2019. That could very well happen if Mr. Modi does not break his shameful silence on cow vigilantes, and reset his political compass on a course of economic opportunity, dignity and justice.

The New York Times; August 3, 2016

Op-ed: When shall we produce new history?

... A question is being raised in various European countries including France: Muslims settled in the west are demanding rights and freedoms; have they given these to the non-Muslims in Islamic countries? Those who indulge in sarcasm ask as to why American Muslims are so afraid of Donald Trump? Are they afraid that if he becomes US president, he will treat American Muslims the same way as Non-Muslims are treated in Islamic countries?

...History is tyrannical. Residents of London have written history by electing a Muslim, Sadiq Khan as their mayor. OIC of Islamic countries need as well to write new history. The way Khizar Khan, an American Muslim has conveyed to the whole world that American constitution grants to Muslims the same rights as to non-Muslims, likewise OIC

should tell the world that Islam gives many rights to Non-Muslims and a Non-Muslim's blood is as precious as a Muslim's. OIC will have to chalk out a new policy in consultation with Ulama and scholars of all schools of thought. The world would be told that Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance and in it there is no space to kill an innocent. Muslims may get their rights or not in Non-Muslim societies, OIC will demand all Muslim states to grant all rights to Non-Muslims which are demanded by Muslims residing in Non-Muslim countries.

Hamid Mir in the daily Jang, August 4, 2016

**AHRC Statement: State supported mob violence against Dalits and Muslims
not internal matter**

One doesn't often see a respected international media house asking a democratic republic's prime minister to break his silence in an editorial. Even more rare is it to see this silence tagged with the objective shameful. The New York Times did exactly that today, 3 August 2016. The editorial forewarns Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, of the bleak future awaiting him and his political party if he does not break his shameful silence on cow vigilantes, and reset his political compass on a course of economic opportunity, dignity and justice. Ironically, it would be difficult to fault them for what India has become today. It is an India where the remarks of Bihar MP Rajesh Ranjan, alias Pappo Yadav, were expunged from the records of Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament, for privileging the life of a human over that of a cow, and thus offending susceptibilities of a few fellow parliamentarians.

Yes, you have read right. The Parliament of India favoured the statement privileging life of a human over that of a cow being unparliamentary and expunged it!

AHRC-ART-043-2016 of 8 August, 2016