

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan News Report October 2016

‘End of Prophethood’ in KPK schools syllabi - a regressive and loaded move

Peshawar: The daily Islam published the following story in its issue of October 28, 2016:

KP: Decision taken to include End of Prophethood subject in syllabi

Instructions issued to move on priority basis, in the light of recommendations of the Ulama

“Peshawar: (Special correspondent) A high level meeting was held on Tuesday in the Assembly Secretariat under the chairmanship of Mr. Asad Qaisar, the Speaker of KPK Provincial Assembly to formally include Khatme Nabuwwat (KN) in syllabi. In addition to a delegation of the leading ulama led by Sheikh Anwar ul Haq, Qaisar Alam Additional Secretary, Rafiq Khattak Director Education, officials of the KPK Text Book Board and other officials attended the meeting. The issue of formally adding the subject of KN in syllabi was deliberated upon.

“At this occasion the Ulama Karam elaborately explained the KN dogma in the light of Quran and Hadith, and emphasized the need of educating the school children and the future generations on the importance of End of Prophethood so as to follow the teachings and example of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

“The officials of the Education Department told the participants that the Department was already involved in consultations with the Ulama of all the denominations on this issue. The participants were told that a ‘summary’ was ready to teach the recitation of the Quran to primary classes and its translation to secondary classes. This will soon be sent to the Chief Minister KPK for approval.

“Mr. Asad Qaisar, the Speaker directed the officials of Education Department and the Text Book Board to take actions on priority basis on the recommendations of the Ulama Karam on this issue of including the End of Prophethood in syllabi and submit an early report.

“The Speaker thanked the ulama in providing guidance and making recommendations to the government on this important and essential change to school syllabus.”

End of Prophethood is often mentioned in our reports, particularly with reference to law and order. It would be appropriate to briefly but clearly explain here the tenet of End of Prophet [*Khatme Nabuwwat* (KN)] and the implications of its inclusion in school syllabi.

The non-Ahmadi mulla propagates in general public that the faith in KN requires the belief that Muhammad (PBUH) was the last prophet and there will be no Prophet after him, of any kind, ever, till the end of times.

Ahmadis also believe in Khatme Nabuwwat and Muhammad (PBUH) to be the last Prophet; however, according to them, the Prophethood that ended was that of law-bearing Prophets and of those who would introduce a new religion or a new Law (*Shariah*) or a new Scripture.

In fact, non-Ahmadi clerics’ belief in KN is also conditional, in that they believe that Prophet Isa was lifted physically to the sky before his crucifixion and will descend in latter days as a Muslim prophet and Messiah to reform the Ummah and the mankind. Ahmadis believe the ascent and descent of Isa (Jesus) to be metaphoric.

Accordingly, both the communities, Ahmadis as well as non-Ahmadis, believe in the advent in Islam of at least one Prophet after Muhammad (PBUH); the difference lies, in reality, about the identity of this Promised Messiah. As for the End of Prophethood, there is essentially little difference between Ahmadis and the mainstream Muslims. The founder of Ahmadiyyat placed it on record: “*Masalah Khatme Nabuwwat par asal mein un ki hamari niza ‘lafzi hei*” i.e. on the issue of End of Prophethood the dispute between us and them is, in fact, only in semantics.

Non-Ahmadi mulla finds the KN the most convenient tool to incite the common Muslim against Ahmadiyyat. He succeeded repeatedly in precipitating large scale and small scale anti-Ahmadi riots over this issue in Pakistan, after the Partition. Eventually, based on this issue, he got the Ahmadis declared Non-Muslims in the Parliament in 1974 during the rule of Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Later, under General Zia and subsequent regimes various affidavits were introduced for applicants for passports, national identity cards, voter-lists etc. for all those who claimed to be Muslims, and ‘unconditional faith in the absolute and unqualified faith in the finality of the Prophethood of Muhammad’ was made a requirement, notwithstanding the common Islamic belief in the advent of a Messiah, the Prophet in Islam.

There have been numerous reports from all over Pakistan that here and there ‘pious’ teachers and lecturers, on their own initiative, took up the KN issue in their classes and harangued their students to hate and malign Ahmadis. KN is used as the key to open the anti-Ahmadiyya floodgate of hatred, animosity and social unrest. We are sure that the proposed change in school syllabi in KP will actually not teach KN as a dogma, but will pollute young minds against their fellow Ahmadi students. Soon afterwards, the step forward will be that of rubbishing other religions and beliefs in class rooms, resulting in still more damage to the social fabric. The disease will spread fast to other provinces in Pakistan.

Finally, the political sponsor of this move in KP is Mr. Asad Qaisar, the Speaker; he is a member of Imran Khan’s PTI. This issue was not a part of PTI’s election manifesto either. This proposal also violates the spirit of the National Action Plan that aims at fighting extremism and sectarianism that has harmed the KPK the most in past decades.

The extremists’ comment on the PEMRA decision on the Ahmadiyya complaint

We reported in the lead story of our September 2016 report the issue of Ahmadiyya complaint to PEMRA on two hateful anti-Ahmadi programs on two TV channels. Briefly, it was mentioned that initially the PEMRA authorities issued ‘Notices’ to the two channels and the program producers to explain their position and also told Ahmadis to present themselves to state their complaint before the Council of Complaints. On due date the TV producers turned up with a band of angry mullas, lawyers and vigilantes, and raised hostile slogans etc. at the PEMRA office. The PEMRA had to call the police, and the two departments jointly decided to dismiss the Ahmadiyya complaint (without hearing them) and withdraw the Notices. In our report we referred to Khaled Ahmad’s book: **Sleep walking to Surrender... Dealing with Terrorism in Pakistan.**

The incident was a clear victory for the bigots of the right wing, and a demonstration of ‘wakeful surrender’ of the state authority. The victors celebrated it in op-ed columns of newspapers. We produce below extracts from one such op-ed published in the daily Islam of October 3, 2016. It is titled: **Qadianis’ defeat in PEMRA.**

“...We were informed on the evening of September 28 that there will be a hearing of the Notices at 2 p.m. on September 29, issued by PEMRA to the two TV channels. On Thursday 29 September 2016 at 2 p.m. when Mr. Nazir Ahmad Ghazi (Channel 92) and Mr. Orya Maqbool Jan (New News) turned up at the court (office) of Dr. Mehdi Hasan and other members of PEMRA Lahore Council, (they found that) a large number of leaders and workers of Majlis Ahrar Islam, Aalami Majlis Khatme Nabuwwat, JUP and all other denominations, and lawyers, students and representatives of other groups were present at the location.

“On commencement of the hearing, Mr. Muhammad Matin Khalid, Mr. Nazir Ahmad Ghazi, Mr. Orya Maqbool Jan and Mr. Azhar Siddique advocate high court, drunk with the love of the Prophet (PBUH) defended the programs of the TV channels and explained the Qadianis’ status in constitution and law. Dr Mehdi Hasan and other members of the PEMRA Lahore Council gave their decision in favour of the programs of the TV channels. At this, there were deafening shouts of slogans of Allah o

Akhtar, Taj-o-Takht (crown and throne) Khatme Nabuwwat - Long live. Mr. Orya Maqbool Jan addressed all those assembled there, and thus Qadianis came to disgrace.”

The follow-up was interesting and deserves a place in records. The same evening chairperson of the complaints council Dr. Mehdi Hassan spoke to Voice of America and denied dismissing the complaint and said:

“If something else has been published in the press release then whoever wrote that did it due to the pressure of the 100 or so people who raised slogans.

“I implored the crowd that we have not yet made a decision on whether the complaint of the Ahmadiyya community is maintainable or not and due to the atmosphere that has been created in the conference hall, we cannot objectively make a decision. Yet they continued to raise slogans and alleged that I am not authorized to make the decision on the complaint since they have doubts about my faith.”

Freedom of worship curbed and threats continue in Lahore

Township; October 2016: Ahmadiis are facing a great deal of difficulty in gathering for worship at the local centre here. Some Pathans live nearby. They stop and harass Ahmadiis from worship for the past two months. The worship place had to be closed for more than a month. Ahmadiis resumed their worship there after a month, in small numbers. A few days ago caretaker of the worship place went out where a Pathan neighbour along with two others stopped him and said, “We will not let a church or temple exist here; Mirzais gather here, we will not let them to do so. Your unlawful activities will not be allowed here.” They also used foul language and threatened him. He returned to the worship centre avoiding confrontation.

Ahmadiis have informed the administration of this incident. Action is awaited.

Delhi Gate; October 2016: An Ahmadi youth Adeel Ahmad Goraya s/o Mr. Muhammad Sharif received a threatening SMS from an anti-Ahmadiyya group ‘Al-Haraka’. It conveyed, “This place should be vacated within fifteen days, otherwise a suicide attack will be launched to eradicate the Qadiani religion – *Mujahideen* Islam.”

This incident was reported to the police station Factory Area, Shahdara. Mr. Adeel Ahmad has been advised to be on guard.

Still another anti-Ahmadiyya conference in Rabwah

Rabwah (Chenab Nagar); October 27-28, 2015: A two-day Khatme Nabuwwat conference was allowed and facilitated by the authorities to be held in the Ahmadiyya headquarters town despite a request by Ahmadiis to the administration to disallow this provocative conference in their town where 95% of the residents are Ahmadiis and they are not allowed to hold their own conferences here.

The event was attended predominantly by men from outside Rabwah, and the crowd was a potential threat to the law and order of this town. Civic life was seriously disturbed. Shops remained closed and students could not go to schools. Ahmadi women were advised to stay at home.

The opening session of the conference was held in the Muslim Colony, Rabwah on Thursday, 27 October 2016.

Around 300-350 people attended the first session. The session was chaired by Mulla Aziz Ahmad of Kundian Sharif, Mianwali. As usual, the mullas used foul language against the Ahmadiyya community.

Mulla Shifaullah of Bhakkar said: ‘It is the duty of all Muslims to courageously fight against the enemies of Islam. Our Prophet is the last Prophet. His traitors today are the Qadianis. We will crush the Qadianis all over the world. If someone tries to rob the Holy Prophet (PBUH) of his prophethood, we will make every sacrifice to protect it’.

Mulla Abdus Sattar of Hafiz Abad said: ‘Pakistan parliament declared the Mirza to be a *Kafir* and a deceiver. We are thankful to the government of that time’.

Mulla Abid Haqqani of Peshawar used foul language against the Ahmadiyya community and its Founder, inciting people to violence against it.

Mulla Muhammad Ali of Muzaffarabad said: ‘The Qadianis are a sect who misguides others. They try to convert Muslim youth to Qadianism by offering women, land and immigration abroad. Farther the Muslims are from Qadianis, safer they will be’. He also used extremely foul language against the founder of the Ahmadiyya community and instigated the public against Ahmadis.

Qari Jalil Ahmad also vituperated against the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Community and used foul language against the community. The audience shouted slogans against Ahmadis during the speeches.

The second session began at 1:50 PM. Approximately 7000-7500 people were present. The first speech of the second session was made by mulla Azmatullah of Bannu. He spoke ill of the founder of the Ahmadiyya community and used obnoxious language about him.

Mulla Saifur Rahman Arain of Hyderabad said: ‘We Muslims will strive to eliminate the Qadiani sect from all over the world. We, the ulema, will not rest until the Qadiani mischief is uprooted’.

Mulla Abdul Qayyum Haqqani of Okara severely criticized Ahmadiyyat and demanded that the Ahmadis serving in civil and military institutions should be removed. He incited the public against Ahmadis.

Mulla Muhammad Ashraf of Sialkot said: ‘The Qadiani mischief is spreading fast. Every worker of the Khatm-e-Nubuwwat is obliged to courageously confront this mischief. Qadianis were planted by the British, who created this sect to weaken the Muslims and to that end provided them every help. Qadiani *Dajjals* are Kafirs, apostates and out of the pale of Islam.’

The third session started at 8:20 PM and ended at 3:30 AM. Approximately 9000-9500 people attended this session. The session was chaired by mulla Aziz Ahmad, Deputy Amir International Majlis Tahaffuz Khatam-e-Nabuwwat.

Mulla Azizur Rahman of Hazara said: ‘We all have to protect the prophethood of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). We will launch jihad against every such person who will try to rob the Holy Prophet (PBUH) of his prophethood. Qadianis want disturbance and disorder in the country. They are at the back of all acts of terrorism perpetrated in Pakistan.’

Mulla Amjad Khan of Kohat, addressing General Rahil Sharif, Pakistan’s Chief of Army Staff, said: ‘We are with you. We also will fight against the rebels who have rebelled against the Faith. You may tell the non-Muslims that we have not manufactured the atomic bomb only to showcase it.’

Mulla Noor Muhammad of Sargodha told the audience to boycott products manufactured by Ahmadis.

Liaqat Ali Baloch, General Secretary Jamaat-e-Islami, said: ‘Non-Muslims call Muslims terrorists; that is a lie. The non-Muslims first print blasphemous material that compels us to wage jihad against them. Qadianis are agents of Israel, USA, Germany and India. They are at the back of all the acts of terrorism perpetrated in our country. They can never be loyal to Khatm-e-Nubuwwat and Pakistan.’

Mulla Rizwan Aziz of Sargodha said: ‘The Qadianis were begotten by the Satan. One must not do any business with them. They are false in their claims and are apostates. We ought to boycott the products manufactured by them.’

Syed Sikandar Shah of Karachi said: ‘The Qadiani mischief was planted by the British. The Qadianis consider Qadian to be at par with Makka and Madina. From Qadian, this mischief has now spread to all parts of the world.’

Mufti Muhammad Hussain of Lahore said: ‘Echoing the evil purposes and propaganda of the foreign NGOs, the Qadianis are opposed to the hanging of any blasphemer of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). They are strengthening themselves. It is the duty of all Muslims to chase them all over the world.’

The participants kept shouting anti-Ahmadiyya slogans during the proceedings.

The fourth session began at 10:20 AM and ended at 1:00 PM. It was chaired by Mulla Aziz Ahmad, Deputy Amir International Majlis Tahaffuz Khatm-e-Nubuwwat.

During this session, mulla Mukhtar Ahmad of Tharparkar, Sindh, said: ‘The [Pakistan] Army protects Pakistan’s geographical boundaries, while the madrassas protect its ideological frontiers. The Qadianis are working for the British, who give them pounds to malign Pakistan. It is an historical achievement of the [Pakistan] parliament to declare the Qadianis to be non-Muslims. There is a need to strictly monitor those Qadianis who hold dual nationality.’

Mulla Muhammad Hanif Jalandhari of *Wifaq-ul-Madaris al-Arabia* Multan, said: ‘No power in the world can eliminate our madrassas. The government forbade our madrassas to collect skins [of sacrificial animals]; it should now be careful about its own skin. We reject the laws regarding madrassas, made under the National Action Plan. Whenever Pakistan faced a bad time, it was Maulvis and madrassas who made sacrifices. Otherwise, some people flee to London and others to Jeddah. Even today, Maulvi Fazlur Rahman is engaged in protecting the government. I therefore tell them to have some shame. The mischief of Mirzaiat was also a creation of the West.’

The fifth session began at 2:00 PM and ended at 4:30 PM in the afternoon. This session was attended by 8000-8500 people. It was chaired in turn by Maulvi Nasir-ud-Din Khakwani of Multan and Syed Suleiman Banori of Karachi.

During his speech, Mulla Azizur Rahman Jalandhari of Multan said: ‘God has tasked the ulema to eliminate the Qadiani mischief. The Qadianis have become divided into many groups, and we are witnessing their decline with our own eyes’.

Mulla Mahmood Ahmad Soomro of Larkana said: ‘Qadianism was planted by the British with the aim to spread disunity among the Muslims. Therefore, keep yourselves away from the Qadianis’.

Dr Mahmood-ul- Hasan Arif of Lahore said: ‘Abu Bakr Khuda Baksh who is a DIG Police, inflicted great wrongs upon the Muslims during his tenure as SP Police in Khushab. The present DPO of Khushab is also a Qadiani. He should immediately be transferred from there and all Qadianis working at key posts in the government should also be removed from their jobs.’ (Note: Arif is a liar; he uses Khatme Nabuwwat platform to harass and abuse government officials who do not comply with mullas’ demands.)

Mulla Samiullah of Peshawar said: ‘The deniers of Khatm-e-Nubuwwat are increasing in number. Whenever the deniers [of Khatm-e-Nubuwwat] face a difficult time, apostates from the world over unite to help them.’

A few other highlights of the conference

(The following reports are made from the dailies Jang, Khabrain, Express, and Insaaf of 28 and 29 October 2016.)

- Mulla Muhammad Islam Shujaabadi welcomed the inclusion of Khatam-e-Nabuwwat narrative in the text books, undertaken by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- Speakers demanded that the government should undertake officially the propagation of ‘end of prophethood’ abroad.

- High level security was provided to the conference. The venue was surrounded by security personnel.
- Mulla Amjad Qadri said that (Ahmadi) Dr. Salam had stolen national atomic secrets and passed these on to his western patrons.
- It was claimed that this year too (the criminals of) the Fourth Schedule and the banned organizations and those (mullas) forbidden to enter the district were not present in the conference.
- Qari Hanif Jalandhry said that judged from his writings, Mirza Qadiani was not even a normal and a decent person.
- Liaqat Baloch (of JJ) said that the government decision to hang Mumtaz Qadri was against the sentiments of the Muslim Umma. Also, the rulers are hesitant to hang the 'cursed Aasia', only to please their western masters.
- Mullas Noor Hazarvi suggested that Qadianis, in opposing their constitutional non-Muslim minority status, are guilty of acting like 'rebels at war'.
- Pir Shakoor Naqshbandi stated that the deniers of Khatme Nabuwat and blasphemers are products of night clubs.
- The speakers demanded that the affidavit concerning faith in the End of Prophethood should be made compulsory in all educational institutions all over the country.
- Syed Zia Bokhari said, 'We'll sacrifice our lives in defense of Pakistan and Islam.'
- Mulla Zaheer said that Mr. Bhutto's decision to declare Qadianis non-Muslims is beyond our capacity to praise him.
- Their press release stated that hundreds of thousands of participants who had come from all over the country, shouted various slogans. (*In fact, less than 10,000 attended the rally.*)
- Mulla Haqqani said that just like the faith in End of Prophethood, it is obligatory to believe in the life and descent of Jesus (from the sky).
- Some of the speakers indulged in the ongoing national politics and internal affairs.

Some of the resolutions passed by the conference

- Sharia punishment for apostasy (death!) should be enforced in the country.
- Religion column should be added to the National Identity Card so that it is easy for common man to differentiate between a Muslim and a non-Muslim.
- Speakers demanded that the 'accursed Aasia' (Christian woman accused of blasphemy) should be hanged immediately.
- The affidavit of Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat should be included in the admission forms of educational institutes.

This conference was highly advertised in the vernacular press. Some newspapers even printed special anti-Ahmadiyya editions in this regard e.g. the daily *Insaf*, Lahore; October 28, 2016.

Ulama's influence over the government of Punjab - a glimpse

Lahore; October 2, 2016: The daily *Insaf*, a right wing daily published a three-column report on a meeting between the higher echelon of the Punjab government and the ulama led by Maulvi Tahir Ashrafi. The report is brief and tailored suitably, but it does reveal the nature of the government-mulla interaction.

First we quote extracts from the daily's report:

"Tahir Ashrafi expressed exasperation with the provincial government. The provincial minister looked helpless.

“Qadianis are non-Muslims; no one has banned their periodicals. Provincial law minister’s troubles multiply; leaves the meeting after promises to meet the demands of the respected Ulama.

“According to confirmed reports, the meeting was called at ... on behalf of the Chief Minister.

“...The situation turned dour when Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmud Ashrafi the central Chairman of the Pakistan Ulama Council and president of the Wafaq al Masajid turned to Pir Amin al Hasnat Shah (the Minister of State of Religious Affairs) and the provincial Minister of Auqaf (Mian Ata Maneka) and said, “We have no problem with you, nor do we have anything to do with you; you people are like us. We need to talk to people like the Home Secretary, the IG Police, and Rana Sanaullah Khan, the provincial law minister, who can attend to our problems; they are not here: So what is the point in wasting the time of the respected ulama?”

“...Ashrafi openly and profusely criticized the government policies and said that on many occasions he had offered his services at the request of the government of Punjab for unity among Muslims and inter-religion tolerance, and would do so in future as well, but what did he get in return; his brother was booked in a criminal case... Banned organizations are free to operate, while Qadianis, who are non-Muslims, are free to publish their periodicals and none has been proscribed. Madrassahs are ready to get registered and join the main stream, but obstacles hinder the follow-up.

“...Later Rana Sanaullah joined the meeting; he promised to solve the various problems faced by the Ulama, and then departed.”

It is relevant to mention that this provincial government has instituted an Ulama Board that makes the most vile and unjust recommendations to the Home Department who, without further inquiry, implements them. For example, all the written works of the Founder of the Ahmadiyya community have been banned. Despite such senseless compliance with the most condemnable wishes of the Ulama, Maulvi Tahir Ashrafi demands greater ‘co-operation’.

Also, Ashrafi's complaint about a criminal case against his brother is noteworthy. Hasan Muawiya, his brother, is an energetic anti-Ahmadi activists and many Ahmadi, living a long way from Lahore suffer from his sectarian raids. He is frequently involved in other criminal activities. Now that the authorities have finally taken him to task, Ashrafi is out to rescue him by dint of his influence with authorities. He should better spare some time to discipline and educate this mobster who is a committed public enemy.

Ashrafi’s complaint to ban Ahmadiyya periodicals on the grounds that ‘Ahmadis are non-Muslims’ is strange and moronic. His demand has no legal, logical or social basis. Also, he must have been informed by the provincial authorities that they did ban these periodicals, but the court has given a stay order. His persistence in making this absurd demand is unbecoming to his position as Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council.

Rana Sanaullah, in our opinion, need not make promises to solve problems of the ulama; in fact they themselves are the problem, and most of the problems faced by the country are a product of the activities of the clerics who rather than acting like genuine ulama karam, act like sectarian extremists, religious thugs, mouth-frothing fanatics and members of the bigot-brigade.

*P.S. Subsequent to the above report, we have come across a handout issued anonymously titled: **Thanks to all friends; our enemies should know that we neither get upset nor are afraid.** It is mentioned therein that Hasan Muawiya, the brother of Ashrafi has been set free - thanks to the Chief Minister and the Chief of the Army Staff (sic). “ We remain determined that we shall continue our efforts at all levels in support of Unity of Allah, the Prophethood and End of Prophethood of Prophet Muhammad, the Arab (PBUH), and the honour of his companions, and his Family,” conveyed the pamphlet.*

Pakistan Minority (Ahmadis) Victimized in Name of Fighting Extremism

September 07, 2016: Ayesha Tanzeen of Voice of America (VOA) produced a program on the current state of Ahmadis' situation in Pakistan, and VOA has made it available on its website: Voanews.com/a/Pakistan-religious-minority-suffers-discrimination-for-fighting-extremism/3496946.stml. It is professional, interesting, factual, balanced and updated. It is recommended reading and viewing. Copy of the script is produced as Annex to this report.

Anti-Ahmadiyya conference in Pachnand

Pachnand, District Chakwal; October 2, 2016: Opponents of the Ahmadiyya community held a conference here. They advertised it greatly through banners and posters in the town. Ahmadis told the administration that the situation for Ahmadis was already precarious in the town; this conference would further incite the general public and would disturb law and order. The district administration still permitted the conference but provided security to Ahmadis during the conference.

Opponents held their conference and used foul language against the Ahmadiyya community and incited the public.

Such conferences harm the society greatly as the general public turn hostile to Ahmadis and become a threat to their peace. Although, under the NAP the authorities are expected to discourage sectarian strife, they are reluctant to put the mulla on leash.

Theft to implicate an Ahmadi missionary

Goi; District Kotli, AJK; September 2016: The local missionary cleaned up his house and placed his books and community literature in the fenced veranda. Thereafter he went on vacations. Upon his return he found that approximately 70 books were stolen. This disturbed him greatly and he lodged an info report with the police station.

Some days later news was published in the daily 'Kashmir Link' on September 29, 2016, with headline, "**Distribution of apostatical literature by Qadinais in Goi, Kotli**". Anti-Ahmadiyya statements of mullas were also published.

It is obvious that the theft was undertaken to steal the literature so as to subsequently accuse the missionary of proselytization, and then present the literature as evidence.

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 Ahmadi's 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 octogenarian Mr. Shakoor was sentenced in addition to three years' imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadiyya law.

From the media

Qadianis suffer worst insult in PEMRA

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, October 2, 2016

School teacher sent for by a court for teaching Qadianiat and non-syllabus education

The daily Harif; Lahore, October 4, 2016

Qadiani youth, impressed by the truth of Islam, recites Kalima

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, October 25, 2016

Irshad Ahmad quits Qadianiat and joins Islam in Bado Malhi

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, October 2, 2016

Quetta terrorist attack - RAW and Qadianis involved: Allama Mumtaz Awan of World Pasban Khatme Nabuwwat

The daily Islam; Lahore, October 27, 2016

600 Pakistani Ahmadis including women employed in Israeli Army

300 Qadiani women are included; the same group collected millions (in donations) for the India Army after the Kargil episode: Weekly Corporated (Ambassador)

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, October 4, 2016

India found involved in spread of Qadianiat

Eye-opening findings about the determined Qadiani leadership in Algeria

Op-ed in the daily Ausaf October 7, 2016

300,000 expected to participate in Khatme Nabuwwat Conference in Chenab Nagar:

Report in the daily Islam October 26, 2016

(Note: Less than 10,000 attended.)

The daily Islam; Lahore, October 26, 2016

Qadianis have always done great harm to Islam and Pakistan: Zahaira Shah (JUI district chief)

The daily Aman; Lahore, October 16, 2016

61 martyred in Quetta tragedy; 117 injured; countryside mourning

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, October 26, 2016

Five shot in Karachi 'sectarian attack'

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 30, 2016

Attempts to revise the blasphemy law will amount to playing with fire and blood: Maulana Abdul Hafeez (Makki, of Makka, Saudi Arabia, Amir International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement)

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, October 21, 2016

Four Hazara women killed in Quetta bus attack

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 5, 2016

Delay in implementing the punishment on Aasia the cursed, amounts to provocation: Khatme Nabuwwat conference (in Chenab Nagar). Admission forms to all educational institutions should include an affidavit concerning End of Prophethood.

The daily Din; Lahore, October 29, 2016

Wafaq ul Madaras (JUI-led madrassas), Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat (Anti-Ahmadi AMTKN) and Majlis Ahrar announce wholesome participation in Mufti Mahmood (former JUI chief) conference.

The daily Islam; Lahore, October 9, 2016

BLF claims killing of Zikri spiritual leader

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 8, 2016

100 Ahle Sunnat Ulama and Muftis issue Fatwa of Jihad against India

The daily Express; Faisalabad, October 2, 2016

25,674 policemen to take care of the city (Karachi) security during Muharram

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 3, 2016

The cursed Aasia should be immediately put to death: Ulama Karam (at the End of Prophethood Conference in Chenab Nagar)

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, October 29, 2016

93 madrassas have solid links with terrorist or banned outfits. CM (Sindh) approves targeted operation against such hideouts.

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, October 26, 2016

Lal Masjid to join anti-government move

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 25, 2016

Foreign funds for seminaries root cause of sectarianism

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 24, 2016

We don't like to enter political arena unless Executive fails to protect fundamental rights: CJ of Supreme Court

The daily The Nation; Lahore, October 21, 2016

Aasia Masih's punishment should be implemented: 150 ulama demand

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, October 12, 2016

Corrupt mafia is seated in judiciary, Election Commission, bureaucracy, and NAB; they will never permit accountability. Every corrupt person sides with Nawaz Sharif; Bilawal date of 27 December amounts to a deal; Asif Zardari and Nawaz Sharif are one: Imran Khan

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 18, 2016

CJP says country being run like monarchy.

".....It is for the people who voted the (current) rulers to power to stand up against them...Monocracy and not democracy was being practiced in the country, where bad governance was in vogue in the name of governance."

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 14, 2016

94,000 Kashmiris killed through Indian savagery

More than 100,000 arrested; 22,000 women made widows: International Human Rights Commission

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 18, 2016

Riyadh-led coalition to investigate massacre (more than 140 killed in an air raid on a funeral procession) in Yemen

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 10, 2016

Hindu Taliban are ruling India; 50 million minority persons are facing danger: British daily

The daily Jang; Lahore, October 3, 2016

Khatme Nabuwwat (KN: End of Prophethood) to be part of syllabus in KP

A high level meeting was held in Assembly Secretariat on Tuesday to consider inclusion of 'End of Prophethood' in school syllabus; Speaker KP Assembly Asad Qaisar (from PTI) presided over the meeting.

The daily Islam; Lahore, October 26, 2016

337 law-makers suspended for not submitting assets details

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 16, 2016

There is no room for US and the West in Pakistan: Fazl ur Rahman (JUI)

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 15, 2016

The rulers should release themselves from US clutches: all problems will get resolved including Kashmir: Sirajul Haq (JI)

The daily Jang; Lahore, October 3, 2016

Twin cities become a battle-field; demonstrations' scuffles, hundreds arrested (in PTI move to close down the capital)

The daily Express; Faisalabad, October 29, 2016

Seven killed, 20 injured in twin bomb attack on Jaffer Express

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 8, 2016

Three F.C. soldiers martyred in Quetta. Terrorists will be brought to justice: Interior Minister

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 15, 2016

Zulfikarabad aimed at creating a state, not city: Ayaz Latif Palijo (of QAT)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 3, 2016

Bilawal sees Nawaz in jail post-2018

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, October 6, 2016

SC judge recuses himself from Aasia Bibi's appeal

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 14, 2016

179 madrassas in Islamabad are non-registered: Ministry of Interior

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 2, 2016

Ministry of Religious Affairs spent Rs 16 million on great meals

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, October 11, 2016

Bar asks chief justice to resign

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 16, 2016

Nankana Sahib: Crackdown by Live Stock Department; 20 maunds of dead animals' meat seized.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, October 11, 2016

27 killed in head-on collision between two passenger coaches

The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 18, 2016

Op-ed Controlling the menacing ogres

...Can Pakistan take the risk of countrywide civil war simply because it is passing through difficult and challenging times, and hundreds of thousand religious extremists are spread all over the country? There is no doubt that Islamabad and Rawalpindi will have to travel a long way to come out of (the clutches of) terrorism and religious extremism. National Action Plan is begging for genuine implementation. Civilian and military institutions have failed to defeat terrorism promoted by resistory (internal) forces and external ideas and to imposed (revised) state thinking. (*Translation*)

Imtiaz Gul in the daily Mashriq of October 14, 2016

Editorial Aasia Bibi's case

...It is regrettable that the case of one woman has become so intertwined with political and religious sentiment that judges feel their verdicts will be seen as compromised. The blame for that lies in a society that has accepted the blasphemy laws being manipulated for personal ends and an extremist element that threatens, and in many cases commits, violence against those who merely want the laws to be amended so that false accusations are not so easy to make. It is now past time to develop the will and the courage to set right what is wrong.

The daily, The News International, October 15, 2016

Annex: Pakistani Minority Victimized in Name of Fighting Extremism

Pakistan Minority Victimized in the name of Fighting Extremism

Voanews.com/a/Pakistan-religious-minority-suffers-discrimination-for-fighting-extremism/3496946.shtml.

.....
CHANAB NAGAR, PAKISTAN-

Her hands shook slightly - a sign of age - as she held her thin, long dupatta scarf in front of her face and turned slightly away. Years of covering her face in front of men had made her shy.

In her 53 years of marriage, this was the first time she was alone. Her 80-year-old-spouse Abdul Shakoor had been convicted on charges of selling banned books and is serving a five-year jail term. The books, which Nayeema claims he removed from the shop after a government notice, were comprised of religious literature intended for their own sect.

Nayeema and Abdul Shakoor belong to Pakistan's Ahmadiyya community, one of the most persecuted religious minorities in the country according to human rights activists.

Shakoor's small shop, which sold books and spectacles, was in the main bazaar of Chenab Nagar, a town of 60,000 - 95 percent of them Ahmadiyya. The town, in the heartland of Pakistan's most populous Punjab province, is the de facto headquarters for the million or so Ahmadiyya living across Pakistan.

New actions

Community representatives claim that while they have faced decades of government-sanctioned discrimination, it has recently increased under the country's new National Action Plan (NAP), a comprehensive strategy introduced to counter years of religious terrorism and growing violence in the country.

The plan calls for banning all materials, books, CDs, DVDs, even pamphlets that could be labeled hate speech, or that were deemed to incite violence against any group.

Ahmadiyya complain that the government of Punjab, the country's most populous province, has used this as a pretext to ban most of their religious literature, including all the books written by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, a man they consider their messiah and the founder of their religious sect. The banned material also includes community newspapers and periodicals including those catering to children.

"We wrote to the government and asked the chief minister to at least pin point what part of our literature was hate speech' Why were they banning it all?" said Syed Qamar Suleiman Ahmed, a senior member of the community who heads the press coordination committee. But they did not respond. They usually don't bother responding to us."

Ahmed added that while various official notifications had been issued to ban some of these books before the NAP, no one took action on them until after the plan was introduced in late December 2014.

Starting in 2015, the community claims they noticed a renewed vigor to go after their literature, with reminders and new notices in the newspaper. Shakoor was arrested in December 2015.

As a result of such actions, members of the community can no longer purchase these books from the bookshops and can no longer keep them in their community library. Even websites carrying this literature have been blocked.

"I cannot obtain these books for my children. How am I supposed to teach them about our founder?" asked Amir Mahmood, who is in-charge of the press section for the community.

Muhammad Nasir, the librarian for the main Ahmadiyya library in Chenab Nagar, said he had to get rid of almost 75,000 books out of the 200,000 previously displayed.

Islamic teachings

Unlike the country's other religious minorities, the Ahmadiyya insist they are followers of Islam and its Prophet Muhammad. However, they also consider their founder Mirza Ghulam Ahmad a metaphorical second coming of Jesus as well as Imam Mehdi, a messiah whose advent was foretold by Muhammad. That irks many mainstream Muslims who believe Muhammad was the last prophet and the Ahmadiyya are muddying their religion.

Posters, pamphlets, and booklets by certain far right religious groups openly declare that Ahmadiyya should be killed.

Islamist political movements against the Ahmadiyyas resulted in a change in the country's constitution in 1974 to declare them non-Muslims, followed by a 1984 law that barred them from "posing as a Muslim". They are not allowed to use the Muslim call to prayer "azaan" or call their houses of worship mosques. Such action could result in a jail term of up to three years.

Over the years, various Ahmadiyya places of worship have been torn down, sometimes under court orders, because their structures included domes and minarets, which are associated with mosques.

Critics say the Ahmadiyyas invite the ire of mainstream Muslim clerics because they propagate their beliefs as the true version of Islam.

However, Ahmed said there was no way for people in his community to clarify their position. "Whatever the mulla (Muslim religious cleric) claims we believe is not true. But we're not even allowed to defend ourselves as per law."



FILE-Members of the Ahmadi Muslim community dig graves for victims in Chenab Nagar, located in Punjab's Chiniot District, about 200 km (124 miles) northwest of Lahore. At least 70 people were killed in the attack.

Legal marginalization

The ban on their books, Ahmadiyyas say, is the latest in a long list of government actions designed to ostracize them.

An advertisement for a low-income government housing scheme near Chenab Nagar placed in local newspapers earlier this year by the Punjab government's Housing and Town Planning Agency clearly specified that anyone participating would have to take an oath that he or she was not Ahmadiyya.

Constitutional law expert Salman Akram Raja was surprised to hear about it.

"I've not seen this but I'm shocked and this is completely unconstitutional", he said.

However, Muhammad Khurram Agha, the secretary of Housing, Urban Development & Public Health and Engineering Department of the Punjab government said the ad in the newspaper was placed erroneously and as soon as it appeared, the relevant authorities took immediate action and the auction was called off. (*In fact this discriminatory auction has been repeatedly held in the past years. Ed.*)

"Whenever this auction happens again, it will be open to all. The housing department does not discriminate against anyone," he said.

In other instances, the community complains the local authorities have, over the years, used a perceived danger to law and order as an excuse to stop them from holding open-air rallies, conferences, or even sports events, in a city where 95 percent of the population belongs to their sect. Meanwhile, their critics have been allowed to hold what they said were 'anti-Ahmadiyya' rallies in their city.

They provided VOA with copies of several legal notices as far back as 1994, ordering planned sports events to be cancelled due to what the notices claimed was "a danger to peace".

No comment

Various officials of the Punjab government did not respond to VOA's repeated requests for a comment. Political leaders from the ruling PML-N party, including some who are usually happy to defend their government on other issues, excused themselves once they found out the questions were about the Ahmadiyya community.

Human rights activists contacted for this story were not surprised. Political leaders, they said, either agreed with the discrimination, or feared speaking up.

According to activist Tahira Abdullah, certain Pakistani groups that were closely affiliated with the Saudi-style, ultraconservative version of Islam 'killed without compunction'.

"Thus, most politicians and political parties are too scared and afraid of a violent reaction if they voice any sympathy or solidarity with the plight of the Pakistani Ahmadiyyas, she said, only a few human rights defenders and a handful of journalists are willing to speak on the record now.

Supporting the persecuted community was also perceived to be politically damaging.

Imran Khan, the leader of Pakistan Tehrik Insaf, one of Pakistan's main opposition parties, who had made various statements earlier in his career in favor of Ahmadiyyas and against any laws that discriminate among human beings made a reversal before the parliamentary election in 2013 and declared that he considered Ahmadiyya non-Muslims and that his party would not repeal laws declaring them so.

Members of the community faced a dilemma. On one hand, they wanted to raise awareness about the persecution they faced. On the other hand, they were so fearful of a violent backlash that they wanted to keep a low profile.

Meanwhile, Nayeema was worried about her old husband, incarcerated in a cell in the blistering summer heat. He had lost weight in jail and developed health issues. She has appealed his conviction, with little hope of winning.