

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

Monthly Report January 2017

Harassment of a 'convert'

Okhali Mohla, District Khushab: Mr. Muhammad Zaman of this village joined the Ahmadiyya Jamaat in 2015. He, however, kept the joining confidential. Recently, his father, Abdullah came to suspect that, and he sent for the local mulla.

The mulla talked to Mr. Zaman and slapped him couple of times during the interview. He also carried out a search of Zaman's room; there he found nothing of his interest. The mulla told Zaman to present himself before Maulvi Zafar ul Haq in Bandial the next day for inquiry, or face consequences.

Bandial is a centre of anti-Ahmadi activists who enjoy support of local lords. Zaman informed the president of the Ahmadi community Chak 2 TDA who visited him in Okhali Mohla. Under the circumstances, Zaman decided to flee from his village. This agitated his opponents further and they initiated a search for him.

On advice of mullas, Zaman's father had an ad published in a local newspaper wherein he declared depriving Zaman of all inheritance. He also announced a complete boycott with Zaman on account of his 'apostasy'.

Zaman has apparently decided to stay away from his hostile village.

Obstruction in construction of a community centre

Rabwah: Ahmadis are in need of a place of worship in a local neighborhood called Kahkashan Colony. As the administration tends to withhold permission for such purpose, Ahmadis decided to apply instead for construction of a community centre. Permission was granted.

A mulla Usama Raheem, however, has opened a madrassah in Naseerabad, and is ever busy in making mischief against Ahmadis. He approached a court to issue a stay order against construction of the Ahmadiyya centre. The court issued a 'stay' order.

Ahmadis approached the court, showed the judge the authorization and the approved construction plan; so the court lifted the stay, and the construction continued.

The mulla again approached the DC, who then asked for a report from the SHO.

It is under such circumstances that the Ahmadiyya community has to carry on with its social, religious and community activities and functions. It is indeed a great hardship. The authorities do not tire of proclaiming that minorities enjoy all sorts of privileges and facilities in Pakistan, however the mulla is free to obstruct and deny these constitutional freedoms to the marginalized groups, and in this he is rarely snubbed by powers that be.

Anti-Ahmadi conference in Lahore

Defense, Lahore; January 7, 2017: Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith Lahore Cantt held a Khatme Nabuwat conference in Usama Bin Zaid Mosque in Walton Cantt. It had the support of ASF students federation. Qari Muhammad Afzal presided. One, Nawaz Cheema received repeated thanks from the organizers.

The conference started at 7 p.m. and continued till 3 a.m. Sound amplifiers were used. Approximately 400 attended. The speakers, rather than explaining the 'end of prophethood' kept their guns blazing against Ahmadis. They incited the audience with false and fabricated anti-Ahmadi rhetoric. Hateful slogans were raised. Ahmadis were declared to be *Wajib ul Qatl* (must be killed).

Ahmadi households, who live in this neighborhood, decided to move away for the night for safety.

Lahore is the capital of the Punjab which has been accused often of acting soft towards religious and sectarian extremists. Most Ahle Hadith groups remain committed to Salafi and Wahabi extremist ideology. They allegedly thrive with nourishing doses of petrodollars. Jamaat Dawa also is an Ahle Hadith faction.

Follow-up of the ‘Raid on Rabwah offices’ and the attack on Ahmadiyya mosque in Dulmial

I. The daily Dawn published the following story on January 6, 2017, regarding Dulmial:
Ahmadi family’s house burgled

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

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

“We returned to our house on Tuesday evening and found the main gate locked from inside. I opened it by climbing the wall,” Subhan Ayub, the son of late Khalid Javed told Dawn. He said when the family members opened the safe; they found Rs. 280,000 in cash, jewelry sets worth Rs 800,000 and prize bonds missing.

II. Follow up by clerics in Lahore

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

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

III. Protest rally restricted in Chakwal

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

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

IV. Court verdict on bail for the accused

An A.T. court rejected bail applications of two of the accused, namely 1) Mr. Sabah ul Zafar, 2) Mr. Idrees Ahmad on grounds that they were arrested from the printing press where banned monthly was printed. The fact is that the former was arrested at the main office and not at the press. The police have misquoted the location of his arrest in the fabricated FIR.

The bail applications of other seven accused were granted.

V. The Ahmadiyya mosque in Dulmial has been kept sealed – as demanded by extremist elements.

A liberal intellectual under threat of extremist mullas

Lahore; January 2017: Shan Taseer decided to send a message of sympathy as support on social media to Christian Aasia Bibi, Nabil Masih and others who are targeted under the blasphemy law. This disturbed the mullas greatly and they came out in a big way against this good gesture.

Tehrik Ya Rasool Ullah of Pir Afzal Qadri took the lead in the hostile protest. This is the same party that was in the forefront in the attack on the Ahmadiyya mosque in Dulmial. Qadri gave the fatwa that Taseer was cursed (*Maloon*) and *Wajibul Qatl*. This party took out a hostile rally on this issue on January 1, 2017 in Mugalpura. They demanded that a police case be registered against Taseer.

The participants of the procession abused not only Mr. Taseer, but also the police and the government. They declared: “We’ll sacrifice our lives, but not spare the blasphemer. The government is pro-Qadianis. We’ll kill the blasphemers; they are *Wajibul Qatl*.”

The authorities decided to let the mullas do what they liked, so as to let the event pass.

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 octogenarian Mr. Shakoor was sentenced in addition to three years’ imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadiyya law.
5. An armed police contingent of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) carried out a raid on Ahmadiyya central offices and Zia-ul-Islam Press on December 5, 2016 and arrested four Ahmadiyya officials; Mr. Amir Faheem; Mr. Sabah ul Zafar; Mr. Zahid Majeed Mahmud and Mr. Idrees Ahmad. They are still behind bars awaiting their release on bail.

6. A violent mob deviated from the authorized route, to attack an Ahmadiyya mosque in Dulmial on December 12, 2016. Forewarned Ahmadis assembled inside their mosque to defend it. In the ensuing riot two persons died. The police made arrests from both sides, attackers as also defenders. Among the latter, they arrested 4 Ahmadis namely Malik Riaz Ahmad, Mr. Muhammad Ansar, Malik Khurram Abrar and Mr. Naveed Ahmad. The FIR applies numerous clauses of PPC including 302 (for murder) and 7-ATA from the Anti-terrorism Act.

From the media

Ahmadi family's house burgled- despite the deployment of 150 police personnel in the troubled village of Dulmial

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 6, 2017

Returning Ahmadi villagers face social boycott

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, January 6, 2017

Qadianis are more dangerous than Jews and Hindus: Ulama Karam

The daily Islam; Lahore, January 12, 2017

Carnage at Parachinar market; 25 killed, 87 injured

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 22, 2017

Seven FC injured in Parachinar attack

The daily The Nation; Lahore, January 25, 2017

Police case registered against Shan Taseer son of the slain governor, for defiling religions

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, January 4, 2017

Maulana Abdul Aziz (of Lal Masjid, Islamabad) acquitted even of the last criminal case

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, January 24, 2017

Ministry (Federal, Interior) rejects Sindh's request to proscribe 94 seminaries

The daily The Nation; Lahore, January 13, 2017

On Saturday (Jan: 28), citing lack of evidence, an anti-terrorism court in Lahore acquitted 115 people charged with torching over 100 houses belonging to Christians in the city's Joseph Colony(Lahore)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 1, 2017

IHC ruling: Lal Masjid caretaker's name struck off Fourth Schedule

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, January 17, 2017

(Mulla) Ilyas Chinioti meets Imam Ka'bah Dr Al-Sudais (of S. Arabia)

The daily Jang; Lahore, January 25, 2017

Saeed Ahmad Inayatullah elected Amir of the International Khatme Nabuwat Movement

The daily Express; Faisalabad, January 28, 2017

Bol television defies Pemra ban on Aamir Liaquat's show

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 07, 2017

Apex Committee Punjab decided on crackdown without discrimination on terrorists and their facilitators. NAP guarantee for peace; we'll put an everlasting end to terrorism: Shahbaz Sharif

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, January 6, 2017

(Interior) Minister says sectarian organizations should not be equated with terrorist ones; tells reporters madrassah can't be proscribed.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 11, 2017

You cannot equate banned sectarian organizations with the banned terrorist organizations; Interior Minister Nisar Ali Khan

Pakistan Newsweek; Lahore, January 14, 2017

***Muslim are walking to a suicidal future; self-accountability is the best course of action:
(Allama) Ghamdi***

The daily Jang; Lahore, January 16, 2017

One feels ashamed of calling Pakistan an Islamic republic: Justice Shaukat Siddiqui (of IHC)

The daily Insaf; Lahore, January 17, 2017

Gunman mows down 39 New Year revelers in Istanbul club

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 2, 2017

28 killed in Shabab attack on Mogadishu hotel

The daily Jang; Lahore, January 26, 2017

Six die in Canada mosque gun assault

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 31, 2017

Texas mosque destroyed in fire

The daily The Nation; Lahore, January 30, 2017

Swiss Muslim girls must take swimming classes with boys: Europe court

The daily News; Lahore, January 11, 2017

Morocco is said to ban the sale of burqas (over security concern)

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, January 13, 2017

Trump sworn in as 45th US president

Declares from now on it is only America first; pledges to unite world against radical Islam; protests turn violent in Washington.

The daily The News; Lahore, January 21, 2017

No entry in the US from 7 Muslim countries

The daily Jang; Lahore, January 26, 2017

JuD's Hafiz Saeed placed under house arrest

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 31, 2017

Physics department should be named after Abdul Qadeer Khan (Not Dr Salaam): Hafiz Idrees (of JI)

The daily Jinnah; Lahore, January 22, 2017

Pemra ban on TV host (Amir Liaquat) defied

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 27, 2017

Disappearance of activists echoes in Senate

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 14, 2017

MNAs trade blows as opposition slams PM

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, January 27, 2017

Op-ed: The more things change...

Doesn't Tayyaba (battered face child worker) represent our collective shame, failure; our inability to live by any principles? She is a slap in each of our faces.

Abbas Nasir in the Dawn of January 14, 2017