

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan News Report February 2017

A portentous and telltale 'All Parties' conference

Islamabad; February 1, 2017: The vernacular press reported at great length proceedings of an All Parties Namus Risalat (honour of the prophet) Conference held in Dreamland Hotel of Islamabad. The conference was organized by the anti-Ahmadiyya Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat (KN: Protection of the End of Prophethood). However, the top invitees to the conference were primarily political clerics; a sprinkling from some political parties was also in the recipe.

Those who attended included Fazlur Rahman (JUI), Samiul Haq (JUI-S), Siraj ul Haq (JI), Zafarul Haq (PML-N), Fazlur Rehman Khalil (Ansar ul Ummah), Abul Khair Zubair (JUP), Kafil Bokhari (Ahrar Islam), Tariq Cheema (PML-Q), Ejaz ul Haq (ML-Zia) etc. Only mulla Allah Wasaya, a second line cleric of the KN, was present to represent the sponsors. Apparently the stage was handed over to politico-religious leadership to sell their ware in the name of Honour of the Prophet and the End of Prophethood. The 'church' and the 'state' came out, hand in hand, to exploit each other to the full. The proceedings reported in the press made that very clear.

Maulvi Fazl Ur Rahman of JUI-F was given the lead role and he read out 'the declaration'. In this he started off with telling the authorities not to meddle with the blasphemy law 295-C, but then quickly fired all the broadsides on Ahmadiyya targets. He demanded, *inter alia*:

- Qadiani (TV) channels should be banned for their anti-Islam and anti-Pakistan transmissions.
- The decision to change the name of the QA University's Centre for Physics to Dr Abdul Salam Qadiani should be withdrawn.
- Innocent accused Muslims of Dulmial (riot) should be released and action should be taken against officials who were partial against the wronged (*Mazloom*) Muslims.
- Desist from returning to Qadianis the educational institutions nationalized in the days of Bhutto.

The Conference, having made these demands, conveyed that these were not empty words to be soon forgotten, but will be pursued with further action if they were not implemented within deadline of one month. A 15-member committee was formed to plan and implement future course of action. The committee comprised leaders of the participating parties as members, while Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman would head the committee.

Most of the participating leaders addressed the conference. What they said is noteworthy. Siraj ul Haq of Jamaat Islami stated: "Pakistan is the citadel of Islam. If the honour of the Prophet is not upheld here, we have no right to be alive." He stated that registration of blasphemy cases should be made easier; otherwise people tend take law in their hand. Protection of 'end of prophethood' should be a part of school syllabus. With reference to Hafiz Saeed, he said, "There is no police case against him nor is he under trial in any court. He has been targeted on the call of Modi and Trump. I would like to ask: If tomorrow Modi or Trump press on Pakistan, would the rulers close down Madrassa Akora Khattak, and thereafter shut down Mansura? We'll sacrifice our lives for the defense of Makka and Madina. Trump will have to remain within his limits."

Fazlur Rahman Khalil stated that the National Action Plan (NAP) was a conspiracy against religious parties and madrassahs.

Following opinions were aired in the conference and reported in the press (for instance the dailies Ausaf and Islam of February 2, 2017):

- Trump has come out openly against Muslims. There is need to unite against him.
- The government proceeds to hang Mumtaz Qadri overnight, but fails to implement court's verdict on Aasia Masih.
- Police cases should be registered against bloggers.
- The disbelievers (*Kafir*) have given the name 'terrorism' to Jihad.
- We may have our differences with Hafiz Saeed but the government's treatment of him is not appropriate. We are all one on religious issues.
- Qadianis have dug in abroad against Pakistan. They have never been deprived of basic rights here.
- An APC should be called on Chakwal (Ahmadiyya mosque) issue to raise voice in support of wronged Muslims.
- Foreign powers attempt to change (school) syllabi; we'll have to play our role.
- 'End of Prophethood' day should be celebrated every year officially.
- Religious and political parties should jointly resist international pressure.
- We respect the PM, but any violation of Sharia restrictions is not licit. If the Ulama head for Islamabad, all (past) sit-ins will be blurred.
- Religious parties should launch the Nizam Mustafa campaign.
- All religious parties should stand on one platform to contest the next election.
- Any effort to change the blasphemy law will result in violent chaos (*fasaad*).
- Qadianis are active against the country.
- The rulers avail of our reaction (to suit their interest).

Raja Zafarul Haq (President PML-N) represented his party in this conference of questionable merit. He took the liberty of speaking for the prime minister: "PM Nawaz Sharif is of the same opinion as the religious parties and the people on the issue of Qadianism and Honour of the Prophet. Qadianis were declared non-Muslims in 1974 but further legislation was delayed till 1984. If Qadianis think that I am responsible for that, I don't care. The Ulama no longer talk about Qadianis. The new generation should be informed of our beliefs. Organized efforts are under way against Muslims; these are supported by foreign powers. Regardless of our party, the honour of the Prophet is dearer (to us) than any temporal gain. Foreign powers try to change our school syllabi. We'll have to play our role...."

During the same week, Mr. Latif Cheema, Convener of the Joint KN Committee welcomed the statements of federal ministers Ishaq Dar (Finance) and Muhammad Yusuf (Religious Affairs) wherein they reconfirmed government stand that no change will be made to the blasphemy law.

At about the same time a group of leading mullas wrote a letter to the President on the Ahmadi issue and urged him to ensure 'Islamic identity of the Pakistani state and implementation of Islamic provisions of the Constitution and the law, and also to send them a reply stating his own opinion and the follow-up.' (*The daily Pakistan; February 6, 2017*)

As a follow-up of the February 1 conference, the Milli Yakjehti Council, that claims to be a federation of 25 religious and political parties decided to hold protest rallies on 10 and 17 February. This was to express their displeasure on the detention of Hafiz Saeed, and the protection of Islamic laws. (*The daily Express; February 9, 2017*)

The daily Jinnah reported on February 3, that Sheikh Abdur Rahman, Imam Kaba (Saudi Arabia) received Saeed Inayatullah of End of Prophethood (Pakistan) and gave him good news that Seerat Chairs will be established in Makka and Medina whereby permanent arrangements will be made to arrange lectures on KN. Sheikh Rahman congratulated Saeed

Inayatullah over his elevation to Amir of International Khatme Nabuwat Movement. This teaming up of the Saudi and Pakistani dignitaries, in the name of End of Prophethood, is noteworthy. It facilitates mutual support in many ways.

The All Parties Namus Risalat Conference organized by the Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat (AMTKN) was indeed a big affair with all the rightwing top brass assembled in the Dreamland Hotel in Islamabad. It must have cost a fortune. Where do the finances come from? Are any accounts kept and audited? Could they also end up in wrong hands? Arguably under the fair umbrella of End of Prophethood, Deobandi, Salafi and Wahabi national and international political agenda is being promoted.

Ahmadis' situation in Dulmial village after mob attack on their mosque

Dulmial, District Chakwal, Punjab; February 9, 2017: A stunning event was imposed by extremists on Ahmadis of this village on December 12, 2016. As a result the social peace of this locality got seriously disturbed, perhaps for years. Ahmadis' mosque was sealed by authorities and has not been opened more than three months afterwards. Life has not returned to normal; in fact greater and long lasting difficulties are being perpetrated. A report in the prestigious daily Dawn of December 9 provides a glimpse of what sort of treatment is being meted by authorities to some of the victims:

Dulmial's Ahmadis reel in aftermath of mob attack

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The trend in Pakistan

A selection of press headlines of the past few weeks from various sources, politicians administration, mullas, judiciary, civil society etc is reproduced below without comment for the reader to draw his/her own conclusions about the way things are moving in Pakistan:

- Qadianis are more dangerous than Jews and Hindus: Ulama Karam
The daily Islam, January 12, 2017
- Police case registered against Shan Taseer son of the slain governor, for defiling religion
The daily Ausaf, January 4, 2017
- Maulana Abdul Aziz (of Lal Masjid, Islamabad) acquitted even of the last criminal case
The daily Mashriq, January 24, 2017
- Ministry (Federal, Interior) rejects Saudi's request to proscribe 94 seminaries
The daily The Nation, 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, January 1, 2017
- (Maulvi) Ilyas Chinioti (of KN and PML-N) meets Imam Kabah Dr Al-Sudais (of Saudi Arabia)
The daily Jang, January 25, 2017
- Order to name the Physics Department after Qadiani Dr. should be withdrawn: Farid Piracha (JI), Amjad Khan (JUI-F), Rauf Farooqui (JUI-S), Abdul Malik (Itehad Ulama), Allah Wasaya (AMTKN), Zubair A Zaheer (MJAHA), Raza Naqvi (Millat

Jafaria), Zawwar Bahadur (JUP), Khan Leghari and Azizzur Rehman sign the letter addressed to the President.

The daily Ausaf, January 23, 2017

- We support Saudi actions to protect Holy Sites: Piame Aman Conference
Trump is afraid of Islam's spread
Sardar Yusuf (Federal Minister), Muhammad bin Abdul Karim (Rabita Alam Islami), Senator Sajid Mir, Maulana Abdul Ghafur Haidari (Deputy Chair Senate), Raja Zafar-ul-Haq (PML-N), Abdul Qadir Baloch (Federal Minister), Abdullah Al-Zahrani (Saudi ambassador), Hafiz Abdul Karim (chair Standing Committee NA), Siraj ul Haq (JI), Dr Abu Turab (President Defense of Holy Sites), Maulana Fazl ur Rahman Khalil, Shah Awais Noorani, Hanif Jallandhri etc attended (in Islamabad)

The daily Ausaf, January 23, 2017

- Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat (AMTKN-End of Prophethood) calls for an All Parties Tahaffuz Namus Risalat (safeguarding the honour of the Prophethood) in Islamabad on February 1. Maulana Abdul Razzaq Askandar (AMTKN), Maulana Fazl Ur Rehman (JUIF), Maulana Sami ul Haq (JUI-S) and Qari Hanif Jallandhri are the sponsors.

The daily Insaf, January 31, 2017

- Religious and political parties enter the arena to protest the blasphemy law
- Ban on Qadiani activities and registration of police cases against bloggers demanded in the End of Prophethood conference in Islamabad.
Non-issues are turned into issues to revise national ideology under international pressure: Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F), Sami ul Haq (JUI-S), Zafar ul Haq (PML-N), Siraj ul Haq (JI), Fazlur Rahman Khalil (Ansarul Ummah), Sajid Mir (JAH) etc.

The daily Ausaf, February 2, 2017

- Milli Yakjehti Council (all mullas) will observe Protest Day on 10 and 17 February
- Seerat Chairs established in Holy Kaba and the Prophet's Mosque (S. Arabia) by Imam Kaba to safeguard End of Prophethood
Imam tells this to the new Amir of IKNM (Maulvi Saeed Inayatullah)

The daily Jinnah, February 3, 2017

- Tehrik Khatme Nabuwat writes letter to the President of Pakistan
- Ittehad ul Ulama (United Clerics) take out rally "Long Live Pak Army"

The daily Pakistan, February 6, 2017

- Deadline given to the government by Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat (AMTKN)

The daily Ausaf, February 7, 2017

Anti-Ahmadiyya propaganda in vernacular press

Rabwah; February 2, 2017: In general, vernacular press looks for the slightest excuse to indulge in hostile propaganda against the Ahmadiyya community. Its aim is to act as mouth-piece of religious lobby and to wage nasty and vicious propaganda war against the beleaguered and marginalized community. Here, for instance, we refer to a 3-column news item in the daily Ausaf that accuses Ahmadis of 'spreading fear and chaos in the society and running a state within a state' – a serious charge. We elaborate below.

Rabwah, now renamed Chenab Nagar by official decree against the wishes of its residents, is the national headquarters town of the Ahmadi community in Pakistan. Its population is 95% Ahmadi. As such, it is targeted and remains in the cross-wires of terrorists and religious extremists. The government knows this, and based on its intelligence reports

has taken some measures to apparently improve the security of this town. These steps are inadequate, as successful terrorist attacks have occurred here on individuals and congregations. Anyway the authorities have told Ahmadis to take security precautions, and in this the administration and police have urged and sought compliance from the locals to put obstacles in some important streets and block a few entry points from the main inter-city road.

The daily Ausaf finds these minimal security measures highly objectionable, and by giving self-serving twists to facts and on the ground situation it incites its readers against the Ahmadi residents as well as the authorities. Extracts:

Chenab Nagar: Qadianis permanently close down important highways by use of obstacles and barbed wires.

Fear and harassment is spread by closing down free passage in the name of security; it is unlawful to establish a state within a state.

Leave alone (vehicular) traffic, even pedestrian passage has been denied. Most streets within the town have been blocked by installing barriers.

Chenab Nagar: (Special correspondent) Most of the roads in Chenab Nagar have been closed by Qadianis by installation of concrete barriers and barbed wires. Countless streets have been blocked with barriers in the name of security. It is unlawful to block passages by placing obstacles. Visitors from outskirts and both locals and non-locals, once inside, find it extremely difficult to move out. Barriers are boldly marked 'Chenab Nagar Police'... (on and on).

Note: If the above is a correct report, residents of Rabwah should be the first to complain. Agreed that a little inconvenience is faced by those few who drive cars and heavy vehicles on two or three streets and three or four entry points, the detour involved is nowhere longer than 500 meters. Surely, the authorities have the powers to implement such measures to improve security. If the Ausaf finds these causing inconveniences to malicious and evil terrorists in their missions, the rag has the freedom to incriminate itself.

Fair questions arise

Lahore; February 14, 2017: A terrorist attack in Lahore, capital of the Punjab, on February 13, 2017 was reported by Lahore press in following headlines:

Bomber traumatizes Lahore

The daily Dawn; February 14, 2017

**Lahore: Suicide attack; 13 martyred
A mini doomsday scenario after the explosion
Banned Jamaat Al-Ahrar claims responsibility**

The daily Jang; February 14, 2017

**Lahore blood-soaked once again
National flag will be at half-mast in the country today
13 including 6 officials martyred; DIG Traffic Ahmad Mubeen and SSP Zahid Gondal among them; 87 wounded, 17 gravely injured
Theaters closed; schools will not open today**

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; February 14, 2017

**Lahore tragedy: Sorrow all around, martyrs committed to earth
Mourning Day observed in the entire province**

The daily Dunya; February 15, 2017

**Amin's funeral prayers: burial midst sobs and lamentations
The suicide attack is incompetence of the Punjab government: Aitzaz Ahsan**

The daily Pakistan; February 15, 2017

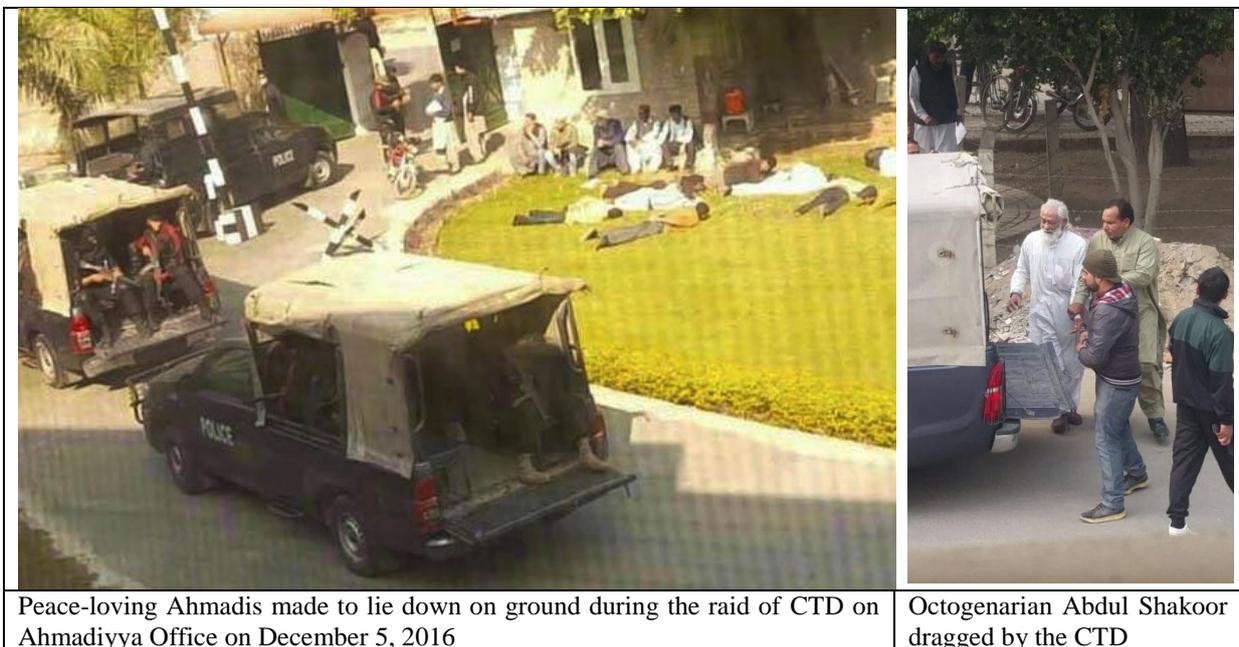
The cancer of terrorism will soon disappear. We'll shed the last drop of blood to put an end to terrorism: Shahbaz Sharif

Those responsible for defeat in battle against terrorism are seated in halls of power: Tahir ul Qadri

The daily Express; February 15, 2017

The massacre was indeed gruesome and tragic. The department charged with fighting terrorism must have had some indications of the threat posed to and the vulnerability of the province. That being so, it is a fair question to ask powers that be: What was the Counter Terrorism force doing in Rabwah only a few weeks earlier on December 5? Their raid on the central offices of the peace-loving Ahmadiyya community was meticulously and diligently planned, executed and followed up. Why did they not spend their time and energy to pursue the real terrorists' hide-outs, supporters and sponsors, so as to avert the tragedy like the one on 13th February in Lahore?

Also, as if with nothing else to do, the previous year the CTD planned and raided the only book shop in Rabwah, and arrested the octogenarian Abdul Shakoor and his Shia shop assistant for selling Ahmadiyya books. Their effective follow-up secured 8 years' imprisonment for the docile book-seller and five years for the innocent assistant. So the question is who has been launching this powerful force on peace-loving anti-terrorists sections of the society, and on whose call? Is the questionable relationship between the authorities and the pulpit legitimate, appropriate and constructive?



Update on Ahmadiyya mosque in Dulmial

The only Ahmadiyya mosque in Dulmial remains sealed for the 12th week. Ahmadis have no place to worship while non-Ahmadis who invaded it have their 10 mosques functional.

Since the promulgation of the anti-Ahmadiyya ordinance, following outrages have been committed against Ahmadiyya places of worship:

- Number of Ahmadiyya mosques demolished 27
- Number of Ahmadiyya mosques sealed by the authorities 33
- Number of Ahmadiyya mosques set on fire or damaged 21
- Number of Ahmadiyya mosques forcibly occupied 17

- Number of Ahmadiyya mosques, construction of which was barred by the authorities

54

Many of the above violations were committed by the state authorities or with their help, assent or indifference.

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. Mr. Sabah ul Zafar and Mr. Idrees Ahmad are still behind bars as bail was not granted to them.
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

Three Qadiani women convert to Islam in Mian Chunnoo

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 9, 2017

Fake Qadianis' graves should be demolished forthwith: Ulama Karam

The daily Express; Faisalabad, February 21, 2017

High ranking Qadianis are involved in incidents of terrorism: APC (in Madrassah Ulum al Sharia)

The daily Islam; Lahore, February 20, 2017

Suicide attack in Lal Shahbaz Qalandar Tomb

60 (+28) visitors martyred, more than 250 injured

Land mine explosion in Awaran (Baluchistan), 3 troops including a captain martyred, 2 injured

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 17, 2017

Bomber traumatizes Lahore; police bear brunt of attack. Blood, bodies and fire at Charing Cross

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 14, 2017

Peshawar: 3 suicidal bomb attacks in Mohmand. 8 martyred.

The daily Jang; Lahore, February 16, 2017

'Uzbek' militants storm court in Charsadda; seven (civilians) killed.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 22, 2017

Four bombers strike in 24 hours. Six dead in Mohmand suicide attacks.

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 16, 2017

Three killed in 'sectarian' attack (in Dera Ismail Khan, KP)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 27, 2017

All Parties Khatme Nabuwwat Conference: Government has given a deadline to act against anti-Blasphemy Law campaign.

The daily Islam; Lahore, February 2, 2017

All departments of the administration have failed to block funding of the banned organization: Justice Dost Mohammad (of SC)

The daily Jang; Lahore, February 16, 2017

The government should cleanse its ranks, cabinets and assemblies of (terror) facilitators, at the earliest: Kaira (of PPP)

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 18, 2017

TTP provides core fighting group for IS: US General

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 13, 2017

Countrywide 'Operation Raddul Fasaad' launched

The daily The News; Lahore, February 23, 2017

Extremists set fire to mosque in Florida (US)

The daily Insaf; Lahore, February 26, 2017

Egyptian court awards 5 years imprisonment to false claimant of being Imam Mahdi

The daily Aman; Lahore, February 28, 2017

Trump sacks top law officer over Muslim ban dispute

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 1, 2017

Irani film 'The Salesman' awarded Oscar for being the best foreign film

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 28, 2017

State must separate itself from religion to end conflict, says Jalal (of Sindh United Party)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 27, 2017

LHC acquits blasphemy accused after five years (detention)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 27, 2017

Syedwala (Punjab): Over 100, including women and children, missing in boat accident

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, February 2, 2017

30 pc people in Sindh don't have CNICs, says Khuhro (PPP)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 14, 2017

Op-ed: The vigilante menace

Many people suspect that the zealots are commanded by someone in authority.

...

Until recently the vigilante groups had concentrated on persecuting the members of the Ahmadi community and the Hazaras of Quetta, Professional Ahmadi-baiters soon entered the field. At one time, a majority of complaints against Ahmadis in Sindh were filed by a single preacher in a town near Hyderabad. The offences varied from writing 'Bismillah' in a private letter to preaching the Ahmadi faith. These complaints ended when the complainant was promoted and posted in a bigger city.

In Punjab too, several professionals won distinction for targeting Ahmadis who were merely delivering their monthly paper, duly registered, to subscribers, or who had made the mistake of buying a goat in the days preceding Eidul Azha. The latter were accused of planning to offer a sacrifice on Eid. In one case, the police not only hauled up an Ahmadi for slaughtering a lamb, but also used the mutton recovered from his house as case property. One of the biggest feats of the anti-Ahmadi vigilante group was frightening the chief election commissioner in 2002 into registering the Ahmadis on a separate list while other voters were being put on a single electoral roll regardless of their belief.

...

The government has traditionally hesitated from proceeding against vigilante groups because they use a religious cover. There is nothing religious about their objectives of their conduct. The whole thing is political. One proof of this is their aversion to any scholarly debate on their heresy and forcing of ulema who disagree with them into exile or retirement at home. What the government must realize is that the visible targets of vigilante action are pawns in a game in which the real target is the state and the system that it swears by. While the vigilante brigade is a threat to individual victims, it is a menace to the state. The harm it could do is incalculable.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 2, 2017

Op-ed: Volcano of extremism

Dissemination of Jihadi culture and brain-washing for many years has made the society a volcano of extremism. The base of jihadi culture is extremism but long before the permeation of jihadi culture in 80s, our institutions had been gradually slipping into orthodoxy. The concept of this orthodoxy is based upon a fascinating explanation of religion in which there is neither any relaxation nor any space for exchange of ideas. Society is left at the mercy of this orthodoxy and extremism, and nobody is allowed to talk against it. For example, an important leader of a popular 'Jihadi Organisation' recently criticized Maulana Ghamdi and Maulana Waheeduddin by calling them Ahmadis and agents of Indian conspiracy. The infiltration of extremism in government institutions is a reality and we know that those responsible for law and order situation are no exception to it.

Ayesha Siddiqi in the daily Mashriq, February 19, 2017