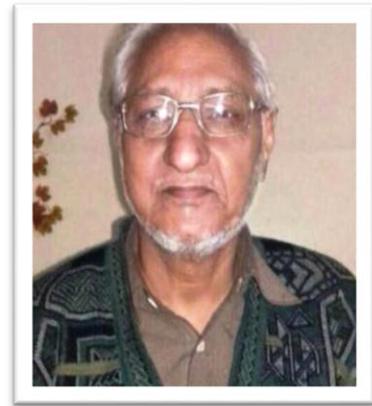


Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

News Report April 2017

Another Ahmadi killed for his faith

Lahore; April 7, 2017: Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad from Sabzazar, Lahore was gunned down near Scheme Mor, Lahore on April 7, 2017. He was going to offer Friday prayers along with his grandson and a friend. He was going by car, and as it slowed down on Scheme Mor, Multan Road, a motorcyclist, wearing a helmet, approached and shot him at his temple from point blank range which killed him on the spot. Other persons in the car remained unharmed. Dr. Ahmad was 68 years old and was an active member of the community. He had a PhD in food and nutrition, and had retired from the University of Veterinary Sciences.



Saleemuddin, the spokesman of the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan condemned the barbaric murder of Dr. Ahmad and stated, “It is the second Ahmadi who has been murdered for his faith within the last 10 days. A few days ago a prominent Ahmadi lawyer in Nankana Sahib was killed and today another renowned Ahmadi has been murdered.” “A well-organized hate campaign is being carried out throughout the country and innocent Ahmadis are falling prey to it. On one side the government is saying that the Operation *Raddul Fasaad* is against all sorts of extremists and nobody is being discriminated on the basis of religion, whereas the reality is that Ahmadis are being targeted in broad daylight. Taking no action against such hate mongers has encouraged such elements and they are attacking Ahmadis. In order to stop the bloodshed of precious human lives, it is crucial to take strict legal actions against the hate campaign and prejudice,” he added.

Murder of an Ahmadi female professor

Lahore; April 18, 2017: Professor Ms. Tahira Perveen Malik of the Punjab University was found murdered in her room on April 18, 2017.

Although according to the police, she was murdered in the course of a theft, in our opinion the on-going anti-Ahmadi propaganda and the relative security enjoyed by those who murder Ahmadis is a reason that criminals feel free to attack Ahmadis.

Ms. Malik was daughter of a well-known Ahmadi. She was an M Phil in Botany and Plant Science from California, USA.

Ahmadi community leader sentenced

Chak 63/DB, Distt. Bahawalpur; February 19, 2018: Mr. Shahbaz Ahmad Bajwa is the president of local Ahmadiyya community. SHO police station Yazman told him to install CCTV cameras on the local worship place of Ahmadis due to security situation. There was some unavoidable delay on account of lack of funds and availability of suitable cameras. The SHO, in unwarranted haste, arrested Mr. Bajwa with FIR no. 31/17 under The Punjab Security Ordinance 2015, on February 19, 2017 for not obeying the orders.

Mr. Bajwa was presented in a court the next day. The judge fined him fifty thousand rupees. The fine was paid to obtain his release.

Azad Kashmir (AJK) Assembly passes an unworthy resolution

Muzaffarabad; April 26, 2017:

AJK Assembly has done it again. First time it was in 1973 that this assembly took the initiative of passing a resolution recommending imposition of non-Muslim status on Ahmadis. This was then taken up by Mr. Z. A. Bhutto in Pakistan in that the grievous Amendment Nr II was made to the Constitution in 1974. This gave birth to anti-Ahmadi laws 10 years later in the form of Ordinance XX of General Zia, initiating a wave of persecution of the Ahmadi community that has brought embarrassment to the country in the comity of nations in addition to numerous other harms to the society and the state. It is now well-known that the above referred 1973/74 initiative had a foreign hand in it.

Forty-four years thereafter, the members of AJK assembly should have been wiser and realized the evil of such an initiative; instead they have proved that they are a legit progeny of their moronic political forefathers, and have come up with a unanimous proposal to outdo their 1973 performance.

On April 26, 2017 a resolution was moved by one Syed Ali Raza Bokhari of the ruling (PML-N) party. In preamble it referred to the Assembly's 1973 resolution on the issue of End of Prophethood and the subsequent follow-up by the Pakistani state. The present resolution is worded in Urdu; it is lengthy and indulges in legal and religious jargon, so we reproduce here only its intent in plain paraphrased English ensuring nothing important is left out:

- Azad Jammu and Kashmir is an Islamic state, so it is duty bound to legislate in accordance with Quran and Sunnah... . All laws and rules on the issue of End of Prophethood are applicable in AJK but their effective implementation requires extremely appropriate steps by this honourable Assembly.
- Ahmadis should be registered as Non-Muslims and their Identity Cards should carry this fact. Those who do not comply should be punished as per law.
- Those Muslims who join Ahmadiyya should be designated apostates (*Murtad*) and be subjected to effective penal action. (*Mullas insist that the Sharia penalty of 'apostasy' is death: Editor*)
- Unislamic activities of Ahmadis should be closely monitored and effectively stopped; the administration should restrict, through police, the movement and activities of their clerics, and Ordinance XX should be vigorously implemented in letter and spirit. Permanent provisions should be made to automatically trigger regulations that impose restrictions on Ahmadis, while no relief will automatically ensue in their favour unless the AJK Assembly endorses it formally.
- This Assembly strongly condemns anti-Islam blasphemous postings on social media and requires that instructions and directions issued in Pakistan would effectively apply in Azad Jammu and Kashmir also.

Notes: 1) One wonders if the activists and protestors, across the border in Indian-administered Kashmir, are demanding the kind of Kashmiri state as resolved above by the AJK Assembly.

2) Mr. Farooq Haider Khan (PML-N) is the prime minister. Ch. Muhammad Yasin (PPP) is the leader of opposition and Mr. Shah Ghulam Qadir (PML-N) is the speaker of the Assembly in AJK. Sardar Masood Khan is the president of Azad Kashmir.

Politics of religion

The role of religion and the Ulama is significant and rife in Pakistan. It has a history that is older than the birth of this Islamic republic. The present condition of the state of Pakistan is the direct result, at least partly, of this role. Its future in the same way is linked to the vision

and actions of the Ulama who are deeply involved in politics. The recently held centenary celebrations in KPK, of JUI (Fazl ur Rahman) on 7-9 April along with the proceedings of the Namus Risalat (honour of the Prophet) conference held on February 1 in Islamabad where Maulana Rahman assumed its leading role provide a clear window of overview of this phenomenon.

JUI is a successor of the Jamiat Ulama Hind (JUH) that came into being in 1919. JUH's members, as also leadership, comprised primarily men of Muslims of Deoband school, originally a reformist group that soon turned to politics. They even issued a *fatwa* that, "It is *Haram* (unlawful as per Sharia) for a Muslim to be a member of the Muslim League." During the Raj, this party reckoned that it was no use rising in armed revolt against the British, so it co-operated with the Congress to attain freedom. By early 1940s, Indian Muslims generally rejected the political leadership of JUH, and supported Muslim League – as a result Pakistan came into being.

In Pakistan, NWFP (now KPK) to be specific, JUI was led by Mufti Mahmud, the father of Maulana Fazl ur Rahman. It wielded political clout in the province and on account of its Deoband appeal, controlled a fair share of mosques and madrassahs in other provinces of Pakistan. With the passage of time, and its emphasis on politics in the society, the JUI's reformist role dwindled, and it represented ultra right-wing Islamist politics in the land. This helped it maintain its political leverage but it played a major role in radicalizing the society. It developed internal feuds, splitting into JUI (F) and JUI (S), the former claiming the lead role. Islamization of the society by General Zia, assisted by Islamist political parties, led to radicalization which in turn ripened into extremism that subsequently bred terrorism. The JUI had to perform a difficult balancing act to synchronize its politics with the rise and subsequent rejection of terrorism by the state and the society. Till recently Maulana Rahman was publicly sympathetic to the cause of the Mujahedeen, then to the Taliban etc on both sides of the Durand Line; however since the attack on APS in Peshawar, terrorism has earned disgrace in society, so the Maulana has artfully changed his rhetoric to suit the times. His actions however betray no change in practice. The two events, the celebrations in April and the 'APC' on February 1 are ample proof of this dichotomy or plain hypocrisy. We elaborate.

The centenary celebrations were designed to show a fair face of the JUI. Even non-Muslim religious leaders were invited to the event. Leaders of PPP and PML-N were asked to address the participants. The Imam Ka'aba and the Saudi minister of religious affairs were invited, as also the Deoband leadership from India. The JUI leadership said the right things to impress all present; for example:

- Muslims, the world over, are wrongly linked to terrorism, violence and intolerance.
- It is a conspiracy to accuse Deoband of militancy and conflict, as this group is committed to democracy, peace and minorities' rights.
- Spiritual progeny of Sheikh ul Hind (Mahmud ul Hasan) follow his philosophy of peace worldwide.
- Local and foreign evil lobbies accuse madrassahs of militancy while these citadels of Islam only protect the Faith.
- Unity and mutual tolerance are a dire need of present times and we must achieve these despite our differences.
- Religion and faith are integral to politics in Pakistan, and liberals and seculars indulge in wishful thinking to break this link.
- All religious political parties should form a joint front. To that end, Siraj-ul-Haq, the JI emir gave a free hand to Maulana Rahman.

Précis from the daily Islam "Aalami Ijtema", April 17, 2017

Whatever the merit or worth of the above proclamations, let's now recollect the statements and actions of the same leading Maulana and his colleagues in the All Parties Namus Risalat Conference held a few weeks earlier on February 1, 2017 in the Dreamland Hotel of Islamabad.

Those who attended this conference included Fazlur Rahman (JUI), Samiul Haq (JUI-S), Siraj ul Haq (JI), Zafarul Haq (PML-N), Fazlur Rehman Khalil (Ansar ul Ummah), Abdul 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 his 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, etc.

The Conference, having made these demands, conveyed that these were not empty words to be soon forgotten, but would 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 Rahman would head the committee.

Following opinions were aired in the conference and reported in the vernacular 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 (*Kafirs*) 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 would be blurred.
- Religious parties should launch the Nizam Mustafa campaign.
- Any effort to change the blasphemy law will result in violent chaos (*fasaad*).
- Qadianis are active against the country.

Comparison of what was said in April with what was undertaken on February 1 is interesting, to say the least. It appears that Maulana Fazl ur Rahman has found it convenient to gloss over the Quranic injunction: “**O ye who believe, why do say what you do not? It is most hateful in the sight of Allah that you say what you do not.**” (61: 2/3-3/4)

Exorbitant rise in municipal taxes proposed for Rabwah

Rabwah (Chenab Nagar); April 29, 2017: It is common knowledge that since long Ahmadis have been denied the right to contest elections and to vote for their representatives in elections including those of the Local Government. As a result, Ahmadis who form overwhelming majority in the municipal limits of Chenab Nagar have no representation in the local council. This shows up in taxation policy which betrays a callous and heartless attitude of the administration towards the residents of this town.

The above has manifested itself recently in the latest proposed municipal Tax Schedule published in the Daily Dunya of April 29, 2017. The rates proposed are a huge jump over the last year, to the extent of being almost unbelievable. An increase of 10 percent, even 15, is understandable and perhaps justifiable, but a one-hundred percent increase shows that the councilors and the chairman of the committee have little concern with the paying capacity of the residents or the rationale of the tax regime. They seem to declare that they do not care, as they do not look forward to re-election on the strength of votes of Ahmadi residents of this town.

We reproduce below the schedule of proposed increase in some taxes from the Public Notice issued in the daily Dunya:

<i>Tax description</i>	<i>Present rate</i>	<i>Proposed rate</i>	<i>Increase percentage (Not published)</i>
Residential water tax	Rs. 150 p.m.	Rs. 300 p.m	100%
Commercial water tax	Rs. 400 p.m.	Rs. 800 p.m.	100%
Connection fee (Res)	Rs. 500	Rs. 1000	100%
Lemon factory	Rs. 2000 p.a.	Rs. 3000 p.a.	50%
Tea stall	Rs. 1000 p.a.	Rs. 1500 p.a.	50%
Pakwan center	Rs. 1500 p.a.	Rs. 3000 p.a.	100%
Sweet point	Rs. 1500 p.a.	Rs. 2500 p.a.	66%
Food point	Rs. 2000 p.a.	Rs. 3000 p.a.	50%
Meat seller	Rs. 1000 p.a.	Rs 1800 p.a.	80%
H.P. or Yunani medical store	Rs. 400 p.a.	Rs. 800 p.a.	100%
Repairs by welding	Rs. 200 p.a.	Rs. 300 p.a.	50%
NOC for petrol pump	Rs. 20,000/-	Rs. 40,000/-	100%
NOC for gas meter	Rs. 300/-	Rs. 500/-	66%

etc; etc.

Confessions of a top militant/Islamist Jihadist

Islamabad; April 27, 2017: Ehsanullah Ehsan, former spokesman of TTP and Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) reportedly surrendered to Pak Army and made recorded video statement that was released by the Army.

As these Jihadist organizations claim to carry out their militant and terrorist attacks under Islamist motivation, it will be appropriate to place on record the reality as stated by one of their top leaders – their former spokesman. The daily Dawn covered the story in its issue of April 27, 2017 and reported the following (extracts):

“Ehsan, who was the main leader of JuA before being captured and serving as TTP spokesman, throughout the clip looked to be distancing himself from the groups with which he remained attached over the past nine years.

“At one point he said he questioned JuA leader Omar Khalid Khorasani for getting support from RAW.

“I told Khalid Khorasani that what we are doing is helping *Kuffaar* by carrying out activities within our country and killing our own people. In a way we are serving them, he said, adding this led him to believe that militant leaders were serving their personal interests and pursuing “some sort of agenda”.

“Ehsan blamed his former colleagues for sending foot soldiers to fight Pakistan Army, while keeping themselves safe in their sanctuaries. He spoke about turf wars within the TTP, and said its leadership was misleading youths in the name of religion and recruiting them for their own designs.

“Islam does not allow this, said Ehsan, who had in the past claimed responsibility for some of the most gruesome attacks. He mocked at TTP chief Mullah Fazlullah’s rise as the group’s leader through a draw and accused him of forcibly marrying his mentor Maulvi Soofi Mohammad’s daughter.

“We fled to Afghanistan after the Army launched operations in North Waziristan. There I saw these people develop contacts with NDS (National Directorate of Security, Afghanistan) and RAW (Research and Analysis Wing, India), which supported and funded them, Ehsan, whose original name is Liqueate Ali, said in a 5-minute-53-second video clip released to media by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

“Ehsan is seen in the video say NDS and RAW gave ‘targets’ to TTP and JuA, who received remuneration for every activity they carried out in Pakistan.”

Note: Many analysts and scholars have consistently maintained all along that these so-called Jihadists have little to do with Islam – it is all about money and self-interest.

Conspiracy to invoke blasphemy law

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

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

A commendable synopsis of Ahmadiyya situation in Pakistan

Online: The Sunday Guardian released an op-ed on 15 April, 2017 titled: **Between dictators and democrats, Pakistan’s Ahmadis continue to suffer.** It encapsulates effectively the Ahmadiyya situation of the past four decades. It refers briefly to the triggering roles of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and General Zia, and moves on to how democrats like Benazir Bhutto and dictators, local and foreign, nurtured the evil plant of anti-Ahmadi bigotry. It spotlights the role of AMTKN (Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat) an End of Prophethood organization, its role in Pakistan and abroad and the Saudi financial support it enjoys. It minces no words in the mention of AMTKN’s links with extremist violence-prone

elements. It arrives at the conclusion: *Ahmadis in Pakistan are in even greater danger now than ever before*. This op-ed is very readable and deserves a place in archives. It is reproduced as annex to this report.

Trouble for Ahmadis in Quetta

Quetta; April 2017: Malik Farhan Ahmad Zafar and his family are facing hostility and problems at the hands of a former neighbour. He has made a fake page on Facebook with the name, "Rameen Malik". He has placed Mr. Zafar and his brothers' photos on the Facebook along with the note, "These people are converting credulous Sunni brothers to Qadianiat deceitfully. Beware of them. They are blasphemers."

Mr. Zafar is living abroad while his two brothers live in Dulmial, District Chakwal, Punjab and two others live in Quetta. They have been advised to exercise caution. A complaint has been lodged with the Cyber Crime Office in Quetta as also with the website on cyber crime.

Ahmadi lady harassed in market

Lahore; April 8, 2017: Mr. Basharat Ahmad and his wife live in Defence area. They went to DHA shopping centre. Due to the rush in the market Mr. Ahmad dropped his wife near a shop, and proceeded to park his car at some distance.

As soon as Mrs. Ahmad disembarked from the car, she was intercepted by a car from the opposite direction in which a bearded man asked her if she was a Mirzai. He showed her a photo of the fourth caliph of the Ahmadiyya community and asked if she knew him. He asked for the caliph's address. She ignored him and started walking towards the shop. He came again after making a U turn and indulged in badmouthing the caliph. Some people gathered at the spot, but nobody came forward to stop him and support her. She hurried into the shop, and the trouble-maker went away. The idiot was ignorant that Khalifa tul Masih IV had died in London 14 years ago.

The lady felt harassed and vulnerable.

Update on Ahmadis charged recently under Ahmadi-specific law

Lahore; April 29, 2017: Two Ahmadis, Mr. Amjad Iqbal Salooni and Mr. Ikram Ilahi were charged under PPC 295-A and anti-Ahmadiyya 298-C. They were accused of preaching their faith. They were arrested on March 15, 2017. Their bails were rejected.

Their plea for bail is now being heard by a sessions court. The police has cleared them of all charges except preaching. The opponent party demanded inclusion of Anti-terrorism clause 7 to the case and its hearing by an Anti-terrorism court.

The next date of hearing the plea for bail is May 2.

False complaint

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

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

Update on major atrocities of 2016

1. **CTD raid on Ahmadiyya offices on December 5, 2016.** This fake police case has not been withdrawn; instead the authorities have taken it to an Anti-terrorism court. Mr. Sabah ul Zafar and Mr. Idrees Ahmad have been denied release on bail.
2. **Mob attack on Ahmadiyya mosque in District Chakwal.** The mosque remains locked by the authorities. Ahmadis have no place for worship for months. On demand of the riot leadership, a separate police case has been registered against Ahmadis, on orders of a court. Four Ahmadis remain in prison.
3. **Ban on Ahmadiyya publications and periodicals.** The Punjab government issued numerous such notifications early last year. It did that on illegitimate recommendations of the Mutahiddah Ulama Board that were in stark violation of the Constitutional guarantees and the international instruments signed by Pakistan. None of these notifications has been yet withdrawn.

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 previous judge 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. The case is near conclusion.
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. He appealed against the verdict and has sought release on bail from the Lahore High Court which has not spared time for almost a year to hear his plea.
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. The case is now before an Anti-terrorism court.

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, an Ahmadi and a non-Ahmadi, 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. A separate case has also been registered against Ahmadis, on orders of a judge. None of the four has been released.
7. Two Ahmadis, Mr. Amjad Iqbal Salooni and Mr. Ikram Ilahi were charged under PPC 295-A and 298-C. They were accused of preaching their faith. They were arrested on March 15, 2017. Their pleas for bail were rejected.

From the media

Ahmadi professor shot dead in Lahore

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 18, 2017

LeJ al-Alami claims responsibility for (Ahmadi) professor's murder

Sabzazar police registered a murder case on the complaint of victim's heirs and did not add terrorism charges in the case.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 9, 2017

Behind bars: Bail pleas of two Ahmadi men refused

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, April 15, 2017

Khatme Nabuwat course to be held in Chenab Nagar 29 April – 20 May

The daily Islam; Lahore, April 27, 2017

Ahmadi professor found murdered

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 19, 2017

Qadiani lobby is involved in loading blasphemy content on social media: (Mulla) Zahid Mahmud

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, April 12, 2017

Qadiani Jamaat should be banned: Maulana Ilyas Chinioti (PML (N) – MPA)

The daily Islam; Lahore, April 20, 2017

Qadianiat is not a religion or belief; it is the name of rancor (Bughz o Anaad) against the Holy Prophet: KN Conference

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, April 3, 2017

Qadianis should announce faith in the End of Prophethood to escape disgrace and shame (Zillat wa Ruswai): Pir Atiq ur Rahman (AJK)

Car bomb kills 24, injures 95 in Parachinar

The daily The News; Lahore, April 1, 2017

4 Rangers troops and 10 terrorists killed in encounter in DG Khan

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, April 15, 2017

Suicide attack on census team: 7 killed including 5 troops; 20 injured (in Lahore)

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, April 6, 2017

Roadside bomb attack on van kills 14 in Kurram

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 26, 2017

451 suicide explosions in 15 years; 6922 martyrs, more than 15,000 injured (Awaz News)

The daily Awaz; Lahore, April 7, 2017

Seven hour gun battle leaves four Jandullah militants dead

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 26, 2017

Misuse of blasphemy law will not be allowed: minister. Lynching of student at university (at Mardan) condemned.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 15, 2017

An eye witness of the incident (of lynching Mashaal of Mardan University) stated that both Mashaal and Abdullah were accused of proselytizing in favour of Ahmadiyya sect on Facebook; however both denied any link with Ahmadiyya sect.

The daily Din; Lahore, April 14, 2017

Three sisters kill man booked for blasphemy

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 28, 2017

Mob attacks deranged man booked for blasphemy

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 22, 2017

We shall not permit the government function for a minute that tinkers with 295-C (blasphemy law): Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat (MTKN)

The daily Insaaf; Lahore, April 22, 2017

Ehsanullah Ehsan says TTP and JuA (Ahrar) received remuneration for every activity they carried out in Pakistan.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 27, 2017

Senators call for amending blasphemy law

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 18, 2017

Govt told to fix punishment for false blasphemy accusers: IHC

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 1, 2017

Siraj (JI) for 'Islamic United Nations'

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 9, 2017

Behind every great fortune there is a crime (Justice Khosa of SC in dissent judgment on Panama Papers case)

Justices Khosa and Gulzar dissent, say PM no longer Sadiq and Ameen.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 21, 2017

Lahore: Punjab government has strongly denied the allegations that it is pursuing a policy of discrimination against Ahmadiyya Community and providing patronage to groups targeting the religious minority.

Nation.com.pak/newspaper.picks/31-Mar-2017/government denies

False blasphemy accusers must be dealt with strictly: Imam e Kaaba

The daily The News; Lahore, April 18, 2017

Imam Kaaba and Saudi minister (of religious affairs) address JUI's centenary celebration

The daily Jang; Lahore, April 8, 2017

Afghan officials say 140 soldiers killed in (terrorist) attack on military base (in Mazar Sharif)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 23, 2017

Blasts at Egypt churches kill 44; emergency declared

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 10, 2017

Xinjiang tougher rules against veils, 'abnormal' beards

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 2, 2017

Key BJP leaders to be tried in Babri (Masjid) case (in India)

India's Supreme Court orders the revival of criminal conspiracy charges....

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 20, 2017

'Mother of all bombs' killed 36 IS men, says Kabul

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 15, 2017

Military tribunal sentences Jadhev (Indian spy) to death

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 11, 2017

PM Azad Kashmir calls on Maulana Pir M Atiq ur Rehman

PM Azad Kashmir M Farooq Haider Khan and Speaker Assembly Shah Ghulam Qadir assured Maulana Pir M Atiq ur Rehman that they will take steps to legislate concerning Qadianis in the next Assembly session.

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, April 27, 2017

Raja Pervaiz (Former PM from PPP) summoned through warrant (by an accountability court)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 2, 2017

Q-League and Jamaat Islami form 5 party syndicate to make Nawaz Sharif resign

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, April 24, 2017

Four soldiers lay down their lives in Mand (Baluchistan)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 24, 2017

‘Faith healer’ slaughters 20 in bid to ‘cleanse them of sins’

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 3, 2017

Malala picked for top UN honour (Messenger of Peace)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 9, 2017

Probe against petroleum ministry officials in Rs 86bn scam

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 10, 2017

Unauthorized duties consume almost half of Lahore police

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 11, 2017

Op-ed: Between dictators and democrats, Pakistan’s Ahmadis continue to suffer

...The sequence of events is quite predictable from now onward. The murderer (of Advocate Lateef, Ahmadi) will gain cult following in Punjab. Judges will hesitate to pass the maximum sentence for his crime. The victim and his community will be slandered and abused in the media to gain the maximum benefit for this criminal and his facilitators, the clerics.

The main outfit behind most anti-Ahmadi violence in Pakistan is the Aalmi Majlis Tahaffuze Khatme Nabuwwat (AMTKN). Various AMTKN publications reveal how much this organization and its various allies are historically involved in the so-called Afghan ‘jihad’. Their current focus, in addition to their bread and butter anti-Ahmadi propaganda, is targeting of the secular thought leaders in Pakistan.

Soon after her first election in 1988, Benazir Bhutto visited the Saudi king, assuring him of her allegiance to the Kingdom. A daughter of a Shia mother from Iran, Benazir had to establish her credibility as a legitimate leader of a majority Sunni state. She continued with the Zia doctrine of pro-jihad policy in exchange for Saudi economic support.

Just like Malik Saleem, Benazir was also assassinated by a religious fanatic. Her political career now defined not only by her appeasement of the clergy, but by also by her unfortunate demise by the very forces she helped nurture during her rule.

It is common knowledge that not all Saudi money was coming through proper channels. A lot of it was donated directly to various religious outfits to train the Mujahideen and promote Wahhabi Puritanism in Pakistan. Along with a host of other anti-Shia organizations, AMTKN has been a beneficiary of this funding. Clerics associated with AMTKN travel all over Pakistan and even overseas to mobilize their followers against the Ahmadis. In dozens of mob attacks in recent years, AMTKN affiliated clerics have taken active criminal activities against the community.

Sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/9080-between

Op-ed: A murder in Nankana

Though that unbearable tragedy had led to the formation of NAP – which included some measures in the direction that Nawaz Sharif has now indicated – the overall situation on the ground in the context of sectarian animosities and extremism has not changed. This is so despite the success achieved in military operations against terrorists.

The contradictions we have to contend with were evident when Nawaz Sharif asked the clerics to provide a counter-narrative to defeat the terrorists. It is reported that during the prime minister’s speech in Jamia Naeemia, slogans were raised in favour of Mumtaz Qadri, the executed murderer of Salmaan Taseer.

The Nankana murder must be seen in the perspective of the persecution of the Ahmadiyya community. It has a long history and its narration would explain some of the salient features of what has gone wrong in our evolution as a nation.

A sad aspect of how our society is wounded by the hatred against communities or individuals in the name of religion is that major political parties and leaders have no time to think about these issues. They remain passionately engrossed in their partisan squabbles.

Ghazi Salahuddin in The News International, April 02, 2017

Op-ed: “Freely”

The problem with Pakistan is that there is a complete lack of justice and fair play on part of our conservatives in judiciary and the media. In the US for example you had erudite conservatives like Justice Scalia or now Justice Gorsuch, highly educated and therefore informed constitutional jurists despite their conservative leanings. In Pakistan sadly we have judges who haven’t bothered to pick up the Constitution they claim to be implementing in their courts. Is it any wonder that some of them have pending references for corruption against them? Can no one call out hypocrisy when a judge gets teary eyed for the sake of the glory of Islam but has corruption allegations against him? Does Islam allow personal enrichment through illegal means? The answer is an overwhelming NO! But I digress. Coming back to the issue of minorities, one needs to echo the But I digress. Coming back to the issue of minorities, one needs to echo the remarkable statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, himself a lawyer by training, that Pakistan belongs to all Pakistanis and that he is not the Prime Minister of just Muslims but all Pakistanis of all religions and creeds. Not since Mr. Jinnah’s 11 August 1947 has a popular Pakistani leader spoken as clearly on equal rights as our current Prime Minister. I hope he follows his words with deeds and orders his law officers to relentlessly pursue the cause of equality and religious freedom through the courts in Pakistan and the right of Pakistan’s oppressed religious minorities to freely propagate, profess and practice their faiths and develop their cultures.

Yasser Latif Hamadani in <http://dailytime.com.pk/opinion/1-Apr-17/freely?>

Op-ed: Blood on our hands

...Before the matter of blasphemous posts was concocted, Mashal was accused of being an Ahmadi which he had denied. Is such an incident unexpected in a land whose laws enshrine exclusion, discrimination and persecution towards the Ahmadi community?

Mashal’s murder, however, must not push us into the utopian expectation and idealistic hope that the Pakistani government and state would step up to reflect on their responsibility, their complicity and decisively act to steer the country away from the destruction it is steeply descending into by each passing day.

Such an expectation and hope cannot be fostered while the state and government pander and patronize for their own agendas and interests the very elements and organizations whose extremism, intolerance and violence are fatally injuring Pakistan. Such a hope cannot

Between dictators and democrats, Pakistan's Ahmadis continue to suffer

^{18G}[sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/9080-between-dictators-and-democrats-pakistan-s-ahmadis-continue-suffer](https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/9080-between-dictators-and-democrats-pakistan-s-ahmadis-continue-suffer)

4/15/2017

1989 was a historic year for many reasons. The cold war culminated with Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan and its disintegration soon afterwards. The Afghan "mujahideen", who were at the vanguard of this war, had now turned their guns at each other. Pakistan, a state that sponsored and mentored them was experiencing its first taste of democracy after 11 years of Zia dictatorship. Benazir Bhutto was the Prime Minister.

Prof Abdus Salam, Pakistan's only Nobel Laureate, travelled to Pakistan to meet her. He hoped to bring cutting edge science to his country, which was denied to him by the previous regime. But she refused to meet him. Salam was an Ahmadi Muslim and Bhutto couldn't afford to invite the ire of the Pakistani clergy by meeting him.

In April 1989, in the small town of Nankana Sahib in Pakistani Punjab, a cousin of Prof Salam, Malik Saleem Lateef lost his home and all his possessions in a mob attack. This was also a historic year for Malik Saleem Lateef and his community. The Ahmadis of Pakistan were celebrating the centenary year of their Islamic reform movement, which began 100 years ago in Qadian, India. The community celebrated in private as any public expression of jubilation would have landed the perpetrator in prison for at least three years. In Zia's Pakistan, being an Ahmadi Muslim was a crime. In Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan, things were not going to change for them either. With this mob attack, Nankana Sahib's Ahmadis were the first Ahmadi community to have suffered persecution at the dawn of their movement's second century.

Bhutto, the first woman Prime Minister of any Muslim nation, had inherited a dilapidated Pakistan from her arch-nemesis and the dictator, General Zia. Zia had utterly mangled the ideology of Pakistan and deformed society beyond recognition. Her father, the charismatic and mercurial Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had done no favours to Pakistan by amending the Constitution to declare Ahmadis as non-Muslims. The Ahmadis, now deprived of their civil liberties, had to live a clandestine religious existence.

Malik Saleem Lateef was the president of the local Ahmadi community. On this fateful day in April 1989, the mob had destroyed and looted many Ahmadi houses, including his. The townspeople of Nankana Sahib were told through the mosque loudspeakers that the Ahmadis had committed blasphemy. The truth was that the clerics were warning the Benazir Bhutto government to forget about any reversal of Zia's Islamisation. Malik Saleem and his community paid the price. He kept his people out of harm's way and as it is the Ahmadi tradition, there was no retaliation or violence in return.

28 years later, Malik Saleem Lateef paid the ultimate price for his faith. On 30 March 2017, this mild-mannered, hospitable and kind-hearted human being was gunned down in broad daylight in what appears to be a vigilante attack. His murderer killed him because he believed the deceased to have committed blasphemy. Just like Mumtaz Qadri, he appears to have done the deed with an aspiration to be hailed a hero. Some people are already calling him a "ghazi", a meritorious warrior in the cause of Islam.

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and his community will be slandered and abused in the media to gain the maximum benefit for this criminal and his facilitators, the clerics.

The main outfit behind most anti-Ahmadi violence in Pakistan is the Aalme Majlise Tahaffuze Khatme Nabuwwat (AMTKN). Various AMTKN publications reveal how much this organisation and its various allies were historically involved in the so-called Afghan "jihad". Their current focus, in addition to their bread and butter anti-Ahmadi propaganda, is targeting of the secular thought leaders in Pakistan.

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It is common knowledge that not all Saudi money was coming through proper channels. A lot of it was donated directly to various religious outfits to train the Mujahideen and promote Wahhabi puritanism in Pakistan. Along with a host of other anti-Shia organisations, AMTKN has been a beneficiary of this funding. Clerics associated with AMTKN travel all over Pakistan and even overseas to mobilise their followers against the Ahmadis. In dozens of mob attacks in recent years, AMTKN affiliated clerics have taken active part in criminal activities against the community.

But when it comes to murders, both the target killings and vigilante actions are commonly attributed to the more militant organisations like Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, named after Haq Nawaz Jhangvi, a notorious anti-Shia cleric. It seems to be the main group responsible for Ahmadi and Shia killings across Pakistan. There is a whole spectrum of Deobandi groups, ranging from hard-line Taliban to the Punjab based Ahle-Sunnat-wal-Jamaat (ASWJ) which are known to have instigated or perpetrated violence against Ahmadis on a regular basis.

Even the less puritanical Barelvi sect is no stranger to anti-Ahmadi violence. In fact, the mob violence against Ahmadis is usually instigated in rural Punjab by Barelvi clerics. Nankana Sahib hosted a major Barelvi anti-Ahmadi conference a few years ago. Guest speakers included a retired high court judge, who called for the implementation of death penalty for apostasy. Speeches were made by the representatives of major Sufi shrines from across the region, all of whom vowed to persecute the Ahmadis until their last breath. What hope is there if all Sunni denominations in Pakistan are hell-bent on making life as miserable for Ahmadis as possible? The government has always been a willing ally of the clerics against the Ahmadis. Add to the mix the resurgent blasphemy focused groups, Ahmadis in Pakistan are in even greater danger now than ever before.

Lutful Islam is a pharmaceutical development scientist by profession, and blogs about Pakistan, history and Islam in Europe. His Twitter handle is @lutfislam.