

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan News Report May 2017

One more Ahmadi murdered for his faith

Khanpur, Distt. Rahimyar Khan; May 3, 2017: An Ahmadi Basharat Ahmad from Khanpur, district Rahimyar Khan was shot dead for his faith on May 3, 2017. Mr. Ahmad was going home on motor bike from his petrol station located outside the city. Unknown gunmen shot him at close range and left him on the road. He died on the spot.

He had no hostility with anyone. He was 62 years old and is survived by his widow and three children, a daughter and two sons.

Spokesperson of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Pakistan Saleemuddin condemned this barbaric attack and said that in the last 35 days this was the third murder of an Ahmadi in the Punjab province. Before this an Ahmadi lawyer Malik Saleem Latif was killed in Nankana district, while Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad was killed in Lahore. Saleemuddin said, "Hate material is continuously being spread against the community and as a result there are more attacks against Ahmadis. Under the National Action Plan hate speech was specifically mentioned and there were plans to curtail it. But nothing has been done against hate speech, and opponents of Ahmadis are openly propagating hatred against Ahmadis." He demanded that the culprits should be arrested and more should be done to provide safety to Ahmadis.



Since the promulgation of the anti-Ahmadi Ordinance XX in 1984 by General Zia, 264 Ahmadis have been killed for their faith. Of these, 182 were murdered in Punjab alone. All concerned authorities in the province were informed accordingly by the Ahmadiyya central office.

Two Ahmadi community officials sentenced to three years' imprisonment by Anti-terrorist court

Faisalabad; May 31, 2017: It is learnt that Mr. Idrees Ahmad and Mr. Sabah-ul-Zafar were awarded three years' prison sentence by a judge in Faisalabad.

These two Ahmadi functionaries were among the four arrested and seven charged in the case registered after the raid by the Counter-terrorism Department on Ahmadiyya central offices in Rabwah on December 5, 2016. The raid was assessed hideous, unwarranted and unlawful in Ahmadi quarters.

The text of the 'judgment' was not made available at the time of announcement of the verdict, so any comment is withheld for the time being.

Supreme Court rejects appeal for bail of Ahmadi accuseds

Islamabad; May 25, 2017: A three-member bench of the Supreme Court rejected the application for release on bail of the three Ahmadi accuseds from Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura.

It would be recalled that a contrived case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad and Mobashar Ahmad under PPCs 295A, 337-2 and 427 on May 13, 2014 in Police Station Sharaqpur after someone tore down an anti-Ahmadi poster from a wall. Mr. Khalil Ahmad was arrested, and was murdered while in

police custody by a madrassah student two days later. The remaining three were arrested on July 18, 2014. Their plea for bail was first rejected by a judge and then by the Lahore High Court. They are in prison for the last nearly three years without being found guilty.

At the Supreme Court the plea for bail was heard by a bench comprising Justices Manzoor A. Malik, Sardar Tariq Masood and Mazhar Sher.

The madrassah student who murdered the Ahmadi in police custody was arrested on the spot; however he has yet to be pronounced 'guilty'.

Harassment in District Sialkot

Tarsaka Siyan, Distt. Sialkot; May 2017: A man named Fayyaz Ahmad is very active on anti-Ahmadiyya front. In 2009 he opposed and prevented the burial of an Ahmadi woman Hajrah Bibi in the local cemetery.

Now Fayyaz is harassing Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad, a local Ahmadi office-bearer. He dropped garbage in front of Mr. Ahmad's house, and called bad names to him. He sent a false application to the DPO that Mr. Ahmad had kidnapped his nephew and tried to convert him. The local SHO called both of them and told them to reconcile. Mr. Ahmad agreed but Mr. Fayyaz refused. At this, the SHO registered a case against both under PPC 107/51 and locked them up. Both got their bails and were released from prison the next day. Now this fabricated case is in the court. Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad is facing prosecution for no valid reason.

A Press report implicates Aalmi Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme-i-Nabuwat in murder of Ahmadis

Lahore; May 21, 2017: The daily Dawn, Lahore published the following report on the front page of its Metro Central section, today:

Four held in Ahmadi professor's murder case

LAHORE: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of police on Saturday took four members of Aalmi Majlis-i-Tahfuz-i-Khatam-i-Nubuwaat into custody for their alleged involvement in killing a retired professor of the Ahmadi community.

Dr Ashfaq Ahmad, 68, a nutritionist by profession and a retired professor of the Lahore University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, and his grandson were travelling by a car to attend their religious gathering in Sabazazar when an unidentified motorcyclist stopped them at a traffic signal near Shah Fareed Chowk on April 7 and fired on them. Mr Ahmad suffered critical bullet wounds and succumbed to his injuries on the spot.

Earlier, Sabazazar police had registered a [murder] case against unidentified person(s) but later handed the case over to the Lahore CTD police who added terrorism charges [to the FIR].

Later, a banned militant outfit Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al-Alami had claimed responsibility for the killing. A news release issued by the outfit stated that a commando of the the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al-Alami's Riaz Basra brigade had killed Mr Ahmad.

According to sources, the CTD police had raided a house in Singhpura locality of Baghbanpura and took Hassan Moavia, Irfan, Muhammad Khan and Jahanzaib into custody.

A senior CTD police officer on condition of anonymity told Dawn that they had taken four suspects who belonged to Aalmi Majlis-i-Tahfuz-i-Khatam-i-Nubuwaat into custody for interrogation. One of the suspects, Hassan Moavia, was released because he was declared innocent and others were still in custody and would be interrogated, he added.

On March 30, Malik Latif, a prominent lawyer belonging to the [Ahmadi] community, was shot dead in Nankana Sahib. Banned sectarian outfit Lashkar-e-Jhangvi had claimed responsibility for the attack.

The CTD have arrested the suspect and registered a case against him under terrorism charges.

Note: For long we have been suggesting in these reports that Khatme Nabuwwat organizations are involved, directly or indirectly, in attacks on Ahmadis. We have also mentioned the role of Mr. Hassan Moavia in numerous atrocities committed against Ahmadis in Lahore. However, this brother of Allama Tahir Ashrafi, an influential cleric, manages to evade consequences of his criminal acts.

Persecution in Nankana

Jhangar Hakamwala, Distt. Nankana: Rai Muhammad Afzal, Ahmadi has faced persecution since 2013. He is a school teacher by profession. In the month of Ramzan in 2013 mullas implemented his social boycott and announced from loudspeakers in mosques that all social ties with him were *haram* (illicit); even exchange of greetings was not permissible with him. Thereafter threats to his life were conveyed. He had to shift elsewhere, but returned after sometime. One night some attackers entered his house, threatened him and his family for life and told him to quit the Ahmadiyya community or expect a follow-up visit. They departed having looted some cash and gold ornaments.

Mr. Afzal shifted to Nankana city in the face of severe hostility in his village. When the administration of the school came to know the religious identity of his son, they sent for Mr. Afzal and told him to leave the community or get his son enrolled in another school. He opted for the latter.

Ahmadis are facing hardships in Nankana. Approximately 90% shops carry this warning: “Entrance of Qadianis (Ahmadis) is prohibited.” This hostility has become worse in the city after the recent murder of Mr. Saleem Latif an Ahmadi lawyer.

Worship denied to Ahmadis in Iqbal Town, Lahore

Iqbal Town: An Ahmadiyya mosque was built here in 1987; Ahmadis used it for worship and community gatherings.

Later, mullas raised hue and cry over this place of worship and, in league with authorities, had the worship discontinued at the location.

Over the years, Ahmadis started using the place for worship again. The mullas approached the police and demanded that Ahmadis stop worshipping there as per earlier decision. The police sent for Ahmadi elders and reiterated the ban on worship.

Ahmadis have discontinued worship at the site. They have no other place for worship in the neighborhood.

The prime minister is on record to have asserted: “All citizens of Pakistan, all over, regardless of their faiths, avail equal rights. I am sincerely committed to the welfare and protection of rights of all minorities: Nawaz Sharif.” (*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, April 6, 2015*)

Communal tension in District Peshawar

Bazid Khel, District Peshawar; May 2017: Mullas and vigilantes are bent upon disturbing communal peace of this small town where three Ahmadi families reside, while two others live on its outskirts. The former demand that Ahmadis leave the town.

On May 13 a boy was shouting ‘Death to Qadianis’ in a street. An elderly Ahmadi heard this and beat him up. This precipitated an ugly reaction. The police intervened, took away both the parties to the police station and arranged reconciliation.

The next day mullas in surrounding villages came to know of the incident, and they decided to reactivate the unrest. They assembled an angry procession and proceeded to knock at the door of another Ahmadi, Mr. Rafiq Ahmad. Mr. Ahmad got frightened, took out his

gun and fired in the air. As a result, the police took him and his son in custody and drove them to the police station.

The next day the police addressed the two parties. The anti-Ahmadi elements demanded that Ahmadis be expelled from the town. The police explained that they did not have the authority to impose such a penalty. So the meeting remained inconclusive.

Mullas were bent upon agitation. They organized an End of Prophethood rally on May 16. Foreseeing the likelihood of harm, Ahmadis shifted their families from the town for the time being.

The police have handled the situation competently and provided the needed protection to the targeted families during the days of communal tension. Ahmadis requested them to ensure the security of their homes and belongings in their absence.

Narrow escape from blasphemy charge

Ganga Pur, Distt. Faisalabad; May 2017: Mullas announced here holding of a Khatme Nabuwwat conference on May 20, 2017. They advertised it through banners and posters. Mr. Faheem Ahmad, an Ahmadi tore down a poster from a rickshaw. The rickshaw owner reported this to a mulla who agitated the issue. The local Aman (peace) Committee was about to resolve the dispute peacefully when mullas of Sunni Tehrik from outside intervened and rejected the proposal of the Aman Committee. They protested, encircled the police station Kurrianwala and demanded registration of a blasphemy case. At this, higher police officials called both the parties to their office and told Ahmadis to apologize to the other party. Ahmadis did that and the issue was settled. The police took two Ahmadi youths in custody and released them later.

Anti-Ahmadiyya conference

Ganga Pur, Distt. Faisalabad; May 20, 2017: Mullas held 15th Annual Tajdare Khatme Nabuwwat conference in Ganga Pur, Distt. Faisalabad. Approximately 800 men who participated in it were mostly outsiders. Mulla Badiuzzaman from Lahore addressed the audience and used foul and hateful language against the Ahmadiyya community.

Ahmadis had requested the police for security. The police were present throughout the rally and ensured that there was no violence.

Seven years on, perpetrators of attack on Ahmadi worship places still at large:

a press report by Rana Tanveer (of The Express Tribune, Lahore)

Published: May 29, 2017

LAHORE: Seven years have passed since two Ahmadi worship places were attacked in Lahore on May 28, 2010, but the masterminds and perpetrators of these attacks are still at large.

In January this year, an anti-terrorism court had sentenced an accused to death and his accomplice to life imprisonment for the attack on Ahmadi worship place in Model Town. Both the accused were overpowered by Ahmadis in the worship place and later handed over to the police. However, no one is arrested nor brought to the book for attacking or facilitating the attack at the other worship place in Garhi Shahu the same day. At least 72 worshipers were killed in Garhi Shahu while 22 died in the Model Town attack. In the following days, the death toll surged to 104 (sic). The Punjab Taliban claimed the responsibility for these attacks.

A survivor from Model Town, Amjad Ahmed, told The Express Tribune he has lost hopes for any justice as his community has already suffered a lot for handing over two attackers to police after overpowering them. He said they were pressurized by the police several times in the name of investigation. He said both the accused have been kept in custody for seven years but none of their handlers or facilitators were arrested.

Amjad said the twin attacks have made the lives of Ahmadis more difficult.

Clinical psychologist's report on an Ahmadi victim of persecution

Rabwah: Recently an NGO undertook research in some cases of Ahmadi victims of persecution who were interviewed in the presence of a clinical psychologist. The latter subsequently rendered a professional report; here we reproduce for record description of one such case:

Case study

Ms. Ruby Tabbasum, a 33 year old lady, widow of martyred Mr. Qamar ul Zia and mother of three children (12 year old Huzaifa Ahmad, 9 year old Amtul Mateen Bisma and 5 year old Late Amtul Hadi) was referred to clinical psychologist by a general physician of Fazle Omar Hospital one year after trauma of her husband's brutal martyrdom (he was martyred on 1st March 2016). According to her, she had more than 40 visits in emergency department of Fazle Omar Hospital and Tahir Heart Institute, Rabwah with complaints of severe anxiety and high blood pressure right after the death of her husband.

She was assessed psychologically and was given a diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and depression. She had developed symptoms like recurrent flashbacks of trauma a number of times during day, nightmares, inability to experience positive emotions, feeling of detachment from others, diminished interest in activities, concentration problems, disturbed memory, state of denial, psychosomatic complaints (aches and pain in body, stiffness in muscles, digestive problems) and insomnia. There was a clinically significant distress in functioning. According to her, she had passed a satisfied, happy, and family-oriented life full of motivation and creativity. She had strong bonded family, never had any of financial problems as her husband never let them feel any of financial worries and provided them a warm, caring and full of life environment. After sudden and unexpected martyrdom of her husband she remained in state of denial and anger (main features of grief) for long. Her symptoms got more intensified 24 days after death of her 5-year old daughter, who witnessed death of her father and couldn't endure it, stated by her. Her relationship with family members also got disturbed. She received psychotherapy along with psychiatric medication which has become a part of her life now. She still has frequent episodes of flashbacks of trauma and anxiety associated with that trauma.

According to Ms. Ruby Tabbasum, her children have developed fear and low self-control after death of their father and younger sister. Her elder son is facing adjustment issues and learning difficulties after occurrence of trauma. She also has financial issues that have made her lead a compromising life. These conditions can be more psychologically unhealthy for her and her children.

Note: The case of Ms. Tabbasum could represent a type among victims in similar circumstances; we at the headquarters, however, know through experience that reactions and response to acts of persecution vary with different individuals. We have come across some others who bear up with tyranny and affliction with poise, balance, even *sangfroid*.

Fear and Silence

Lahore; 2010: Mohsin Hamid, a great novelist is also known as 'a master critic of the modern global condition'. He has written superb articles on various issues; these have been published in book named: *Discontent and its Civilizations*. One of these is about Ahmadi in Pakistan. It was published in the daily Dawn as well in 2010. It examines Ahmadi's persecution from a different perspective: its harm to Pak society in general. Also, it is a piece of literature. It is reproduced as Annex to this report.

A noteworthy comparison

May 2017: A news item in the daily Dawn of May 31, 2017 has triggered a comparison between a modern secular state (the US) and an 'Islamic' republic (Pakistan):

It was reported from New Jersey, US that:

“A New Jersey town will pay an Islamic group \$3.25 million to settle a lawsuit over its denial of a permit to build a mosque, the Department of Justice announced Tuesday.

Under the settlement, the group will be allowed to build the mosque and the town agreed to limit the zoning restrictions placed on houses of worship.”

Compare the above with the situation of Ahmadiyya mosques in Pakistan. It is now decades that Ahmadis have not been granted permission to build for themselves a house of worship anywhere in Pakistan.

Other figures on this issue, since the promulgation of the anti-Ahmadiyya ordinance, are given below:

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

It should be mentioned that in most of the above cases, authorities (administrative, police, municipal or judicial) played some role in commission of these abominations. They, of course, quote some reason or excuse to justify their actions.

Granted that the great religion Islam promotes peace, tolerance and interfaith respect, its followers should occasionally examine their conduct in the light of its teachings.

A good news – eventually

Rabwah; May 2017: Mr. Tahir Mahdi Imtiaz, printer of Ahmadiyya publications was acquitted by an Anti-terrorism court on all counts on 5 May 2017 and released. He remained incarcerated for two years, one month and six days. He was prosecuted under the blasphemy laws, anti-Ahmadi law, anti-terrorism law and other penal clauses in a fabricated police case in which he was fraudulently framed, implicated and arrested. It is a sad but memorable story that deserves a brief resume’ at the auspicious occasion of his acquittal.

On complaint of a mulla, the police booked in April 2014 two Ahmadi brothers who worked at a burger outlet in Lahore. The complainant accused them of preaching Ahmadiyyat. He managed to produce from somewhere a copy of the Ahmadiyya monthly Ansarullah in support of his fake case. The police co-operated and booked as many as six Ahmadis in the case including Mr. Imtiaz the printer of the monthly. At the time of the alleged preaching, Mr. Imtiaz was over 150 kilometers away at his home in Rabwah with his family. The charges included one (PPC 295-A) from the blasphemy section and another (PPC 298-C) Ahmadi-specific.

Mr. Imtiaz was arrested by the police on March 30, 2015 when he was in Lahore on a visit.

In view of the circumstances of the case, Mr. Imtiaz’s plea for bail should have been routinely granted but the judge did not. Mr. Imtiaz then took his plea to the Lahore High Court where a bench of two pious judges refused him bail and ordered that Anti-terrorism clause 8-W ATA be added to the case which should be heard by an ATA court. Ahmadis were distressed by the decision while the mullas celebrated it.

Four months later, a two member bench of the supreme court also did not grant Mr. Imtiaz’s plea for bail. This was most surprising as the prosecution did not point to a single passage or even a line that could be remotely considered blasphemous or promoting terrorism. Mr. Imtiaz remained behind bars and the prosecution continued.

The tormentors of Mr. Imtiaz got encouraged and demanded that the more deadly clauses of the blasphemy section, PPC 295-C and 295-B be added to the charge sheet. This was also conceded by the trial judge. Now Mr. Imtiaz was fighting for his life, after having committed no offence.

Ahmadiyya annual report on persecution for 2015 mentioned this case and offered: “Some impartial NGO or eminent journalist should look into this case in depth and place on record a fair opinion on current role of the state and society in handling an Ahmadi’s court case.”

Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, judges of ATA courts get transferred for departmental reasons, and the cases before their courts get prolonged as a result. Mr. Imtiaz had entered the third year of his confinement. The latest judge cared more for justice than the opinion of watch-dogs sent by clerics. He acquitted the innocent accused of all charges. May God bless the worthy jurist.

It should be mentioned that authorities were repeatedly informed, formally and informally, that the case against Mr. Imtiaz was fake and baseless.

Mr. Imtiaz’s release deserves to be celebrated; but what about the loss in prison of two precious years of his prime time in life. The plight of his family during this period defies description.

The stress of the trial, the hardships of prison life, the high financial costs of the trial and incidental expenses have taken their toll. The state imposed all this on an innocent Ahmadi for no valid reason, to no avail, wrongfully and viciously.

And this is not the end; there are many Ahmadis in prison under somewhat similar circumstances. They are all innocent of any wrong-doing. To quote one – Mr. Abdul Shakoor, octogenarian book-seller, is now in second year of his incarceration. He was awarded five years (plus three years) in prison by an Anti-terrorism court. The state and the mullas, in this case too, cannot point to even one line from the publications he sold, in support of terrorism. Is this the way for the state and society in Pakistan to fight the monster of terrorism? Is it not indirectly a support to the menace?

There are thirteen such Ahmadis behind bars in six cases.

Last, but not least, Mr. Imtiaz is being prosecuted in another similar case, and the judge has told him to deposit his passport with his office. This was demanded by Mulla Moavia.

Update on major atrocities of 2016

1. **CTD raid on Ahmadiyya offices on December 5, 2016.** This fake police case was not withdrawn; instead the authorities took it to an Anti-terrorism court. Mr. Sabah ul Zafar and Mr. Idrees Ahmad were denied release on bail. The ATC judge has announced imprisonment for three years for both of them and acquitted the other accuseds.
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. They were refused bail by the supreme court.
2. 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 the next day have been granted bail, but not Mr. Ahmad.
 3. 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.
 4. 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 remained behind bars as bail was not granted to them. The judge announced three years' imprisonment to both of them.
 5. A violent mob deviated from the authorized route, to attack an Ahmadiyya mosque in Dulmial on December 12, 2016. Forewarned Ahmadi's 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 Ahmadi's 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 Ahmadi's, on orders of a judge. None of the four Ahmadi's has been released on bail.
 6. Two Ahmadi's, 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

Assailants mow down Ahmadi man (in Khanpur)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 5, 2017

Four (of MTKN) held in Ahmadi professor's murder case

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 21, 2017

A Mirzai recants to become a Muslim (in District Chiniot). Safdar Ahmad was renamed Muhammad Safdar.

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, May 6, 2017

Legislation by AJK Assembly on Qadiani issue is a great achievement (azeem karnama): MTKN

The daily Insaaf; Lahore, May 10, 2017

Qadianis' hand in terror incidents: Maulana Badr Alam (IKNM)

The US is responsible for worldwide terrorism: (Mulla) Kafil Bokhari Non-believers should not issue for themselves the role of guiding the Muslims

Qadianis should be restrained to abide by their constitutional status

The daily Din; Lahore, May 28, 2017

26 die as Senate deputy leader survives bomb attack in Mastung

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 13, 2017

Expose of brain-washing by banned organizations in Punjab educational institutes. (Targeted) students are financially supported.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 18, 2017

Boy killed, policeman hurt in mob protest over 'blasphemy' (in Hub)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 5, 2017

Chiniot: CTD raid; MPA (Ilyas Chinioti PML N) cousin arrested for alleged links with banned org.

The daily Nawa-e-Waqt; Lahore, May 4, 2017

All institutions and people have to put up a joint fight against terrorism: Army Chief

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 31, 2017

JIT grills Hussain (Nawaz) about London properties

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 31, 2017

Sami (JUI-S) claims role in release of girls kidnapped by Boko Haram

The daily The News; Lahore, May 10, 2017

JI provincial (KP) chief against amending blasphemy law

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, May 1, 2017

Amendment to Blasphemy laws will not be tolerated: Milli Yahjehti Council (Liaquat Baloch presided)

The daily Din; Lahore, May 5, 2017

Govt told (by LHC) to add punishment for blasphemy to cybercrime law

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 2, 2017

Ahmadi religion leader assaulted in Bangladesh. His condition is serious.

The daily Aman; Faisalabad, May 11, 2017

First Arab-Islamic conference today. 54 heads including Trump (of US) will participate.

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, May 21, 2017

S Arabia, US agree on huge arms deal during Trump visit

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 21, 2017

UN accuses S. Arabia of using terror laws to suppress free speech

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 6, 2017

Britain defiant as IS claims Manchester massacre

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 24, 2017

Three men working on CPEC road project killed (in Baluchistan)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 20, 2017

Town in (US) that denied mosque permit to pay \$3.25 m sum

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 31, 2017

Indian mob kills two Muslim men over suspected cow theft

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 2, 2017

12 dead, 40 burnt in Afghan attack during census

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 6, 2017

New attack on Egypt Christians kills 28

The daily The Nation; Lahore, May 27, 2017

Two Americans killed while protecting Muslim women

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 28, 2017

Advani, others BJP leaders to undergo trial in Babri case (destroyed mosque in India)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 31, 2017

Jakarta's Christian governor jailed for blasphemy

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 10, 2017

Denmark bans six (foreign) hate preachers

The daily The Nation; Lahore, May 3, 2017

Iran threatens to hit militant 'safe havens' in Pakistan

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 9, 2017

PTI to file petition against PM for receiving funding from Osama

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 9, 2017

10 construction workers gunned down near Gawadar

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 14, 2017

Chinese couple abducted from Quetta

The daily The Nation; Lahore, May 25, 2017

Mashaal case: The incident appears to be the result of days of advance planning. Where were the police and the (university) administration? Was there any departmental action or inquiry over this: Supreme Court

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 18, 2017

Father blames (Mardan) varsity officials, police for Mashal's killing

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 25, 2017

Govt told (by LHC) to add punishment for blasphemy to cybercrime law

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 2, 2017

Afghan woman killed (by a Muslim Afghan) in Germany for conversion

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 19, 2017

Man stoned to death in Taxila, apparently for honour

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 25, 2017

Surgeries under mobile phone light (in state hospital in Punjab)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 31, 2017

Fake pir violates 6-year old boy, chops his head and arms and buries him in wilderness (near Lala Musa, Punjab)

The daily Express; Faisalabad, May 6, 2017

Six-year-old girl killed after rape (in Punjab village)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 9, 2017

Women burnt for giving birth to girl dies (in Muzaffargarh, Punjab)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 8, 2017

The Punjab government has announced Rs. 1,000 raise in minimum wages increasing it from Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 15,000

The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 2, 2017

Op-ed: Terminology in journalism

AN item in the press appearing some days ago under the headline 'Ahmadi professor found murdered', drew attention to the challenges of news coverage, especially news related to crime.

Such a report could have been given quite a few other headings. For instance, the heading could have been 'A woman found murdered'. The common reaction in our male-dominated society might have been 'poor thing'. But it would not be comparable to the shock if the victim had been a man.

The heading could also be, 'A professor found murdered'. In this case, the response might have included a tinge of regret over the loss to students and the problem caused to the teaching institution.

A shrug of the shoulders would perhaps have been the response to the news of an Ahmadi professor being murdered, because the death of an Ahmadi might be perceived as no

loss. One might have even blamed the Ahmadis for disturbing a peaceful order by being targeted every now and then. ...

IA Rehman in the Dawn, May 11, 2017

Report: HRCP decries poor state of implementation of laws in country – (2016 report)

...While presenting the situation of freedom of thought and religion. Asma expressed concern over the situation of Ahmadi community and the incitement of violence in the name of religion on traditional and social media. She said that impunity given to the violators is deeply concerting for human rights activists.

The News, May 11, 2017

Editorial: Hub on the boil

The possibility of the ‘blasphemy’ being manufactured is very real as the blasphemy card is not infrequently played where personal grievances and rivalries are involved. Religious minorities, as in this case are especially vulnerable. The rule of law is cancelled by the blasphemy curse, and anybody so accused is immediately a dead person walking if they ever attempt to re-enter society. Somebody will kill them, there is no escape. They are defenseless, prey to debased and degraded society driven now by a perverse religiosity. And it is going to get worse. A lot worse.

The Express Tribune, Lahore; May 6, 2017

Annex: Fear and Silence

Fear and Silence

Why are Ahmadis persecuted so ferociously in Pakistan?

The reason can't be that their large numbers pose some sort of 'threat from within'. After all, Ahmadis are a relatively small minority in Pakistan. They make up somewhere between 0.25 per cent (according to the last census) and 2.5 per cent (according to the Economist) of our population.

Nor can the reason be that Ahmadis are non-Muslims. Pakistani Christians and Pakistani Hindus are non-Muslims, and similar in numbers to Pakistani Ahmadis. Yet Christians and Hindus, while undeniably discriminated against, face nothing like the vitriol directed towards Ahmadis in our country.

To understand what the persecution of Ahmadis achieves, we have to see how it works. Its first step is to say that Ahmadis are non-Muslims. And its second is to say that Ahmadis are not just non-Muslims, but apostates non-Muslims who claim to be Muslims. These two steps are easy to take any individual Pakistani citizen has the right to believe whatever they want about Ahmadis and their faith.

But the process goes further. Step three is to say that because Ahmadis are apostates, they should be victimised, or even killed. We are now beyond the realm of personal opinion. We are in the realm of group punishment and incitement to murder. Nor does it stop here. There is a fourth step. And step four is this any Muslim who says Ahmadis should not be victimised or killed, should themselves be victimised or killed.

In other words, even if they are not themselves Ahmadi, any policeman, doctor, politician, or passerby who tries to prevent, or just publicly opposes, the killing of an Ahmadi, deserves to die. Why? Because anyone who defends an apostate is themselves an apostate.

Aha.

This is what the persecution of Ahmadis achieves. It allows any Muslim to be declared an apostate. For the logic can be continued endlessly. When an Ahmadi man is wounded in an attack and goes to a hospital for treatment, if the doctor agrees to treat him, she is helping an apostate, and therefore she becomes an apostate and subject to threats. When a policeman is deputed to protect the doctor, since she is an apostate, the policeman is helping an apostate, so he too becomes an apostate. And on and on.

The collective result of this is to silence and impose fear not just on the few per cent of Pakistanis who are Ahmadis, or even on those who are Christians and Hindus, but on all of us. The message is clear. Speaking out against the problem means you are the problem, so you had better be quiet.

Our coerced silence is the weapon that has been sharpened and brought to our throats.

This is why Nawaz Sharif's statement in defence of Ahmadis met with such an angry response. Because the heart of the issue isn't whether Ahmadis are non-Muslims or not. The heart of the issue is whether Muslims can be silenced by fear.

Because if we can be silenced when it comes to Ahmadis, then we can be silenced when it comes to Shias, we can be silenced when it comes to women, we can be silenced when it comes to dress, we can be silenced when it comes to entertainment, and we can even be silenced when it comes to sitting by ourselves, alone in a room, afraid to think what we think.

That is the point.

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