

# Plight of Rabwah

2017

## **Major anti-Ahmadiyya conference in Rabwah**

**Rabwah; 19-20 October 2017:** Mullas hold numerous hostile conferences in the headquarters town of the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan every year. They held one on September 7, 2017. Every time Ahmadiyya officials wrote to the authorities to disallow such hateful conferences in their home-town, but the authorities not only allowed but also facilitated these sectarian rallies. This time again the Ahmadiyya office wrote to the authorities. But the conference was fully facilitated by the authorities. Mullas from all over Pakistan participated in it, including Maulana Fazlur Rahman of JUI-F and Liaquat Baloch of JI. They all made sectarian and hateful speeches against the Ahmadiyya community.

This 36<sup>th</sup> annual Khatme Nabuwat conference was held in five sessions. All mullas spoke venomously against Ahmadis and their elders. A few excerpts of the speeches are given below:

Jewish lobby wants that all religions in the country avail freedom of preaching; this will disintegrate Muslims... Qadianis are infidels; disgrace is their destiny; universal infidelity is the substance of Mirzai anatomy. ... Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani (Founder of Ahmadiyyat) was a big thief, fraud and the head of the *kufr*. ... Qadianis are basically shameless; Stop dealing with Qadianis and meeting them; this is a *Dajjali* (Anti-Christ) sect; they are the enemies of Islam and traitors to Pakistan and the Muslim people, etc.

Liaquat Baloch (JI) said, "O Qadianio! Listen, we would not let your conspiracy succeed."

Maulvi Ibtisam Ilahi Zaheer, another rabidly anti-Ahmadi mulla, said, "... those who consider Qadianis to be Muslims, are not Muslims... Qadiani sect was set up by the British, only to divide the Muslims... nobody can stop us in the whole world from raising slogans about Qadianis' infidelity... ."

Maulvi Fazlur Rahman, president of JUI-F said, "Listen O Qadianis! Our elders have chased you in the past, now we'll do that all over the world... America and western powers want to demolish our religious institutions ... the government should not oppose us, otherwise we'll confront it from every platform."

Following resolutions were passed at the conference, *inter alia*:

- Qadianis should not be commissioned in Pak Army.
- Sharia punishment for apostasy (death) should be enforced in the country.
- Religion column should be added to the National Identity Card so that it becomes easy for common man to differentiate between a Muslim and a non-Muslim.
- The constitutional amendments (sic) 7B and 7C regarding Qadianis (participation in elections) should be restored in their original format.

The district administration provided wholesome support to the conference. High level security was provided. Approximately 10,000 men were brought over from far and near, most of them from KPK. Free food and accommodation was provided to them. Heavy power generators were deployed. Medical facilities, emergency services were provided. The question is: Who met the costs and how?

Ahmadis were affected to the extent that all schools were closed in the town. Women and children were advised to stay at home. Ahmadi youth had to remain alert to defend against any aggressive move by these hostile visitors. The businesses remained shut. Rabwah looked like a town under siege.

### **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.

### **Mulla-led processions in the Ahmadiyya headquarters town**

**Rabwah; December 1, 2017:** Mullas took out three different processions in Rabwah (Ahmadiyya national headquarters) at the occasion of 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal (birthday of the Holy Prophet PBUH). The administration had permitted these processions who behaved provocatively. Ahmadis had to exercise vigilance and remain on guard.

The first procession was led by Mulla Umair Arshad from Masjid Bukhari at 09:45 a.m. Approximately 100 persons participated in it, mostly boys. It reached the Aqsa Square via the bus stop and returned to the bus stop. The mullas addressed the crowd in the Aqsa Square, the centre of the town. Participants were holding the banners of Tahrike Labbaik Yarasulullah (TLY of the Islamabad sit-in fame).

The second procession was led by Mulla Rizwan from Khichian at 11:30 a.m. It passed through the Aqsa Square and met the first procession at the bus stop. Approximately 200 men participated in it. Some outsiders from Chiniot and suburbs also joined it. They were also carrying banners of TLY.

Majlis Ahrar (an anti-Ahmadiyya organization) held its annual Khatme Nabuwwat conference in the Madrassa Ahrarul Islam in Kot Wasawa at the outskirts of Rabwah. The conference started at 11:45 a.m. and ended at 1:40 p.m. It was presided over by Syed Ataul Muhaiman Shah Bukhari, Central Amir of Majlis Ahrar Pakistan. Approximately 1000 men participated in it. Mulla Ubaidullah of Toba Tek Singh, Sultan Muaviya of Khanewal, Syed Muhammad Muaviya of Chichawatni, Muhammad Zakariya of Faisalabad, Hafiz Hamdullah (a JUI-F senator) addressed the crowd.

These mullas spoke venomously against the Ahmadiyya community; some quotes: “Qadiani is a community of mischief... Qadianio! Listen, you have robbed the Khatme Nabuwwat (End of Prophethood), come to the right path...Why does the Operation *Raddul Fassad* spare Qadianis? Qadianis do not obey the constitution and are busy, in and outside the country, in conspiracies against the country and the constitution... .”

They took out this procession after the Friday prayers. It was the third and the largest procession in Rabwah. It passed through the Aqsa Square and arrived at the bus stop. On their way they stopped in front of Aiwane Mahmood (central offices of Ahmadiyya youth in Pakistan) and made fiery speeches against the Ahmadiyya community. Mullas Ilyas Chinioti MPA (PML-N), Muhammad Mugira, Abdul Lateef Khalid Cheema, Muhammad Syed Kafeel Shah Bukhari, Syed Ataul Muhaiman Shah Bukhari and Shahid Kashmiri of Lahore addressed the participants. They exhorted, “Qadiani are the mischief created by Jews and Christians. National Assembly has

declared them non-Muslims ... We are the heirs of 13000 martyrs who died in defense of End of Prophethood.”

(Note: By this they referred to the anti-Ahmadiyya agitation of 1953 in the Punjab; a high-level judicial inquiry counted the dead rioters as 37.)

It reached the bus stop at 4:00 p.m. and dispersed from there.

Ahmadis remained on guard all day. Ahmadi youth were deployed on security duties, while women were advised to stay at home. The whole town remained like under siege.

### **Another hostile conference in Rabwah**

**Rabwah; December 8, 2017:** Just one week after inflicting three processions on Rabwah, the Khatme Nabuwwat organization held another anti-Ahmadiyya conference in Jamia Masjid Muhammadia at the railway station, Rabwah. It started at 1:10 p.m. and ended at 2:40 p.m. It was presided over by Maulvi Ghulam Mustafa, incharge of Jamia Arabia, Muslim Colony. Approximately 250 men participated in it. Maulvi Muhammad Ismail of Aalami Majlis Khatme Nabuwwat from Multan also spoke in it. They badmouthed Ahmadis and their elders. They provoked the audience against the Ahmadiyya community with tons of slander and disinformation. A mulla came up with, “We have never even thrown a stone at a Qadianis’ house nor irritated (*cherna*) them.”

### **Terrorism suspect arrested in Muslim Colony, Rabwah**

#### **Major attack averted**

**Rabwah:** The daily Din, Lahore of March 6, 2017 published the followed report:

**“CTD action: Chenab Nagar spared extensive destruction. Terrorist arrested.**

**Plenty of explosive material recovered from Amir Niazi, the accused who was taken away to an unknown location.**

**Chenab Nagar (Correspondent):** CTD arrested a man in possession of large quantity of explosives. As per details, CTD District Chiniot arrested a man near Chenab Park in Muslim Colony. He was in possession of ½ kilo explosives, liquid material, four non-electric detonators and eight safety fuses, all this in a computer box. As per sources, the 35-years old man was recognized as Amir Khan Niazi, resident of Mianwali. Security agents shifted him to an unknown location for further investigation. According to the Bomb Squad, this timely action has saved Chenab Nagar from a catastrophe. We are informed that all the recovered stuff was meant for a major terrorist attempt.”

We, in the past, have repeatedly hinted in various reports a liaison between the Khatme Nabuwwat leadership and extremism/terrorism. The evidence is known to state agencies; however media report of smoking-gun evidence has come out with this arrest.

This news was reported by vernacular newspapers; however, most of them added opinion to the facts, in an effort to distance the religious leadership, resident at Muslim Colony, from the accused. Some reported that the accused was arrested from a hotel in the Colony. In fact, there is no hotel in the Muslim Colony; there is only a PTDC restaurant. Others reported that the accused’s arrest from the Muslim Colony means that the mosque and seminary in the Colony

were his targets. That is ridiculous. Surely, the investigating agencies are better informed of the hideous plan of the terrorist and his felicitators and sponsors.

### **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 manifested itself in this year's 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 support 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><b>Tax description</b></i>	<i><b>Present rate</b></i>	<i><b>Proposed rate</b></i>	<i><b>Increase percentage (Not published)</b></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.

