

Anti-Ahmadiyya conference in Ahmadiyya headquarters town, Rabwah

September 7, 2017: Mullas hold rallies and conferences all over Pakistan on September 7 to commemorate the anti-Ahmadiyya 2nd Amendment to the Constitution. This amendment was introduced by the Z.A. Bhutto government of PPP in 1974, through which Ahmadis were declared not-Muslims. This amendment opened the flood gate of persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan.

Mullas have been holding special Khatme Nabuwwat (end of prophethood) conferences annually for the last 30 years in Rabwah – the centre of the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan, Ahmadis here form more than 95% of the population. Mullas come from all over to hurl abuses against the residents of the town and the persons they respect. Every year authorities allow and facilitate this conference in Rabwah despite request from Ahmadiyya headquarters to disallow this provocative conference in their home-town. On the other hand when Ahmadis request permission to hold their traditional conference in their own centre, the authorities do not even acknowledge the receipt of the application.

This year the 30th annual Khatme Nabuwwat (KN) conference was held on September 7, 2017 by the International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement (IKNM). We report its proceeding below in some useful detail along with essential comments which would be helpful to a keen analyst to understand the nature of such rallies that are claimed by their organizers to be perfectly peaceful and lawful, and even blissful spiritually. There was no surprise this year; as expected the mullas indulged in profuse slander, lies, deceit, propagation of hate and violence and made demands that blatantly violated internationally accepted, including Pakistan, norms and statutes of human rights and religious freedom. This report is primarily based on press reports which were reproduced from the press-releases of the media section of the conference management. While most of the Urdu dailies provided plenty of space to these reports, we have prepared this narrative primarily from the stories given in the daily Jang, Lahore of September 8 and 9, 2017.

This conference was announced well in advance in the press, and the public had been urged by some leading mullas to attend in large numbers. The leadership of the Aalami Majlis Tahaffuze Khatme Nabuwwat placed an ad in the daily Jang of September 7, 2017 urging the ulama and prayer-leaders to address the countrymen that day to apprise them ‘of the importance and defense of the KN (End of Prophethood) and Qadianis’ belief system and their ‘apostate activities.’ Mulla Abdur Rauf Makki (from Makka, Saudi Arabia) issued a statement that “this conference will prove to be a huge exposition of Ummah’s unity and will be the last nail in the coffin of Qadianiat.” (*The daily Ausaf; September 7, 2017*)

The authorities not only permitted holding this sectarian conference, they provided all the essential support. The organizers proudly had it reported in the press that all arrangements were perfect and rescue squad, ambulance service, bomb disposal squad, security personnel etc numbering over 950 were all available. *They*

said: In view of delicate security situation in the country, fool-proof security and stringent safety measures had been adopted. One may ask the organizers and the authorities – why at all hold this vain and futile anti-Ahmadi conference in an Ahmadi-populated town?

At the conference, the speakers said little on the merit and excellence of the ideology of the Khatme Nabuwwat; instead they indulged in many issues and facets that violated the sanctity of the fair theme. We reproduce below samples and extracts, under specific topics.

International politics. The speakers said, “It was not up to us but for the world to ‘do more’. International powers have failed; they should not dump the garbage of their failures, humiliation and disgrace on Pakistan. Pakistan is a great country; it is proud to possess nuclear capability. We’ll not be cowed by American threats. No Pakistani child will hesitate to sacrifice his life for the protection of the dear country.” Sheikh Maulana Abdul Rauf Makki (of Makka Mukarrama) the deputy Amir of International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement said, “Qadianis are the tools of international Evil and Zionist powers; they are working to help the West to round off the Zionist agenda. We’ll never let this Qadiani and Zionist agenda flourish; Qadianis are busy in their evil attempts to break up the country.” Maulana Qari Shabbir A Usmani, another deputy Amir of the IKNM said, “... We strongly condemn the anti-Pakistan statement of the American president and tell him that we’ll turn Pakistan into Americans’ graveyard...” A doltish speaker recommended war against India.

The speakers told the participants, “Qadianis’ political bond with Israel and India is a huge conspiracy against Pakistan and the Islamic world.” *The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; September 8, 2017*

Promotion of violence. The mullas were discrete but clear in propagating violence. For instance, Zahid Qasimi, a mulla on government pay roll said, “7 September is a day of rejoicing for Muslims. We’ll rather get slaughtered and die than permit any tampering with the finality of prophethood of our master. We shall continue to fight till our last breath on all fronts to safeguard the Khatme Nabuwwat.”

Maulana Saleem Muaviya of Gilgit Baltistan said, “It is duty of us all to crush the head of Qadianiat. We must continue to fight for the honour of the Prophet, till the last drop of our blood.”

Lies and slander. Maulana Sufi Akram said, “It is the duty of the government of Pakistan to fire all Qadianis who have penetrated Pakistan’s atomic program and remain busy in conspiracies to deprive Pakistan of its nuclear capability.”

Maulana Saad Kamran said, “Qadianis in official lobbies and key posts are deliberately occupied in bankrupting the dear country socially, religiously and geographically by looting the national treasury.”

Allama Shah Nawaz Farooqi, the secretary general of Pakistan Ulama Council said, “Qadianis are at the back of terrorism in the country and the sectarian controversies.”

Maulana Rafiq Wajhwi said, “The mischief (*fitna*) of Qadianism was planted by the British; it is a Jewish political auxiliary organization. We’ll continue to confront them. Qadianis have always taken to aggression, violence and violation of the constitution.”

M. Arshad Hijazi said, “Qadianiat is bent upon cutting the roots of Islam and Pakistan.”

And still another: “The participants of the conference shed tears when told the stories of Qadianis’ atrocities on *Mujahideen* of Khatme Nabuwwat.”

Also: “In fact it is the Jews who are responsible for all the atrocities against Rohingyas.”

And to top it all: “Rabwah is the headquarters of all terrorism.”

Deceit. Maulana Yusuf Ahrar said, “Mirzais (Ahmadis) are now converting to Islam because Mirzaiat is not a religion or faith, it was only a political mischief created by the British.”

Qazi Saeedi said, “No sensible Muslim is ignorant of the Qadiani conspiracies and opposition against Islam and Muslims.”

Qari Shabbir Usmani said, “The stature of Pakistan is that of a *Masjid* (mosque); its defence is a part of our faith.”

A mulla stated that this conference was committed to fight extremism.

Promotion of hate. Maulana Farooqi said, “Jews and Hindus are backing up Qadianis who are a great cancer which must be destroyed.”

Javed Kasuri of Jamaat Islami said, “The traitors to Pakistan deserve no relief. National security demands that all activists busy in conspiracies against Pakistan, particularly the Qadiani gang should be neutralized.”

Maulana Safdar of Pakistan Ulama Council said, “Qadianis, by not accepting their constitutional status, are guilty of rebellion. They should be booked for violating the constitution and being traitors.”

Threats. The mullas not satisfied with their to-date achievements against Ahmadis, made known their future aims and ambitions. Qari Usmani said, “If Muslims continue to act in union, the day is not far when Qadianiat and its supporters will disappear and lose even their trace in this tsunami (of our onslaught).”

It is sardonic that while all this was being preached, the same mullas shamelessly introduced a resolution: “This gathering condemns in strongest terms the atrocities being committed against Muslims in Burma, Palestine, Kashmir and Syria. Human rights organizations should take due notice of these and have these stopped.”

At the end of the last session of the conference, numerous resolutions were moved and passed. Some of these are translated below, in abridged form. These are interesting in their blatancy in the face of universally accepted human rights norms:

- A ban should be imposed on Qadianis’ activities. They should be fired from all key posts.

- Computerized I.D. cards should mention the holder's religion, or Muslims' cards should be of different colors to ensure religious distinction to meet legal and constitutional imperatives.
- Sharia punishment for apostasy should be imposed as recommended by the CII (*death*).
- Qadiani TV channel should be banned.
- Declaration (official permission to publish) of Qadiani periodicals should be withdrawn.
- The dogma of End of Prophethood should be included in school syllabi.
- Qadiani endowment (*auqaf*) should be nationalized.
- We condemn exclusion of Jihad, Seerat and other Islamic themes from school syllabi.
- Quranic inscriptions in Qadiani places of worship should be 'protected'.

The mullas appear to be conscious of their extremism and violence-prone rhetoric, which violates the provisions of the National Action Plan that enjoys support of the army; therefore they have adopted the policy of verbal support to the Pakistan Army. Their press-release mentioned: "This gathering pays tribute to the patriots of Pakistan's armed forces who from 1965 till the Operations *Zarb Azab* and *Radd al Fasad* have sacrificed their lives for the defence and security of their country. It also pays tribute to Army chief General Qamar Bajwa for his brave challenge to anti-Pakistan forces... and assures him of its full support."

It is common knowledge that these mullas establish, manage and maintain the nurseries where the so-called *mujahideen* (*aka* terrorists) are trained to harm their own people, governments and armed forces, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths and casualties. The pretense, duplicity and slyness of the mulla are vast and consequently obvious.

The number of participants at the conference was pathetic – a few hundred. The management made no mention in their press release of the number of participants. The management quoted over 950 officials present to provide support; we do not know if this number is correct, but it will surely support the expenditure bill to be claimed in petro-dollars. The management profusely thanked the DC and the DPO for the excellence of the official support made available.

Reprehensible role of the vernacular press. As stated above, only a few hundred participants took the trouble of coming over, or being brought over to Rabwah to listen to all this bigotry, slander and ill-will, but the Urdu press came up with their unworthy help by publishing the organizers' press releases in plenty of detail, and passed their hateful message to hundreds of thousands of their readers. What the mulla could not achieve on his own, the fifth pillar of the state made it possible, while the administration facilitated it. If the country and its people come to harm as a result of such campaigns and rallies, mullas should not be the only ones to deserve the blame.

It is noteworthy that the final session of the conference was presided over by “Fazilatu Sheikh Maulana Abdul Rauf Makki (Makka Mukarrama)”. What was this mulla from Saudi Arabia doing here by the river-side of Chenab on September 7, 2017? Why was he accepted as the patron of this conglomerate of politically ambitious priests who promote hatred, sectarian violence, theological tyranny, fanaticism, extremist agenda and violation of human rights?

Parties and organizations who were invited or who participated were the following: Jamaat Islami, JUI (F), Pakistan Ulama Council, JUI (S), Wafaq ul Madaras, PML-(N), Minhaj ul Quran, Ahrar Islam, Pasban Khatme Nabuwwat, MTKN etc.

Mullas have imposed their ‘right’ to hold these conferences in memory of an action taken by the state over 40 years ago, though many of the political descendents of Z.A. Bhutto (PPP) now voice their regrets over it in private. Mullas held similar, sparsely attended conferences in Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Faisalabad, Hyderabad, Bahawalpur, Sargodha, Rawalpindi, Multan, Sheikhpura, Jhang, Sukkur, Mirpur Khas, Rahim Yar Khan, Mandi Bahauddin, Sahiwal, Okara, Kasur, Toba Tek Singh, Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Gujrat, Jaranwala, Chichawatni, Chiniot, Kamalia, etc. The press reported them all.

Although not many attended, but the vernacular gutter rags carried their message of hate far and wide without realizing that one terrorist is enough to kill a hundred innocent persons, and terrorists are gullible and halfwit youth who can easily turn into unguided missiles.

It deserves mention that a fortnight later, at the advent of the month of Muharram, the Punjab Government took extraordinary measure to ensure sectarian security. Half-page ads were placed in newspapers to educate people on security, giving them Emergency Control Room phone numbers and telling them to simply dial 15 at any time, of day or night to report any unpleasant incidents. The same authorities facilitated the same religious bullies to hold anti-Ahmadi conference in Rabwah.

NO wonder, neutral observers blame Pak authorities of double standards and unsteady policies in controlling extremist elements.