

Fair questions arise

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

Bomber traumatizes Lahore

The daily Dawn; February 14, 2017

Lahore: Suicide attack; 13 martyred

A mini doomsday scenario after the explosion

Banned Jamaat Al-Ahrar claims responsibility

The daily Jang; February 14, 2017

Lahore blood-soaked once again

National flag will be at half-mast in the country today

13 including 6 officials martyred; DIG Traffic Ahmad Mubeen and SSP Zahid Gondal among them; 87 wounded, 17 gravely injured

Theaters closed; schools will not open today

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

Lahore tragedy: Sorrow all around, martyrs committed to earth

Mourning Day observed in the entire province

The daily Dunya; February 15, 2017

Amin's funeral prayers: burial midst sobs and lamentations

The suicide attack is incompetence of the Punjab government: Aitzaz Ahsan

The daily Pakistan; February 15, 2017

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

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

The daily Express; February 15, 2017

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

Also, as if with nothing else to do, in 2015 the CTD planned and raided the only book shop in Rabwah, and arrested the octogenarian Abdul Shakoor and his Shia shop assistant for selling Ahmadiyya books. Their effective follow-up secured 8 years' imprisonment for the docile book-seller and five years for the innocent assistant. So the question is who has been launching this powerful force on peace-loving anti-terrorist sections of the society, and on whose call? Is the questionable relationship between the authorities and the pulpit legitimate, appropriate and constructive?



Peace-loving Ahmadis made to lie down on ground during the raid of CTD on Ahmadiyya Office on December 5, 2016



Octogenarian Abdul Shakoor dragged by the CTD