Lack of security for Ahmadis and agitation after the riot in Dulmial

I. The daily Dawn published the following story on January 6, 2017, regarding Dulmial:

Ahmadi family’s house burgled

Chakwal: Despite the deployment of over 150 police personnel in the troubled village of Dulmial, burglars broke into the house of an Ahmadi family and took away cash, jewelry and prize bonds.

The house of Khalid Javed, who died of a cardiac arrest during the December 12 attack on the place of worship of the Ahmadi community, was lying vacant as the family had moved to a safer place in the wake of the incident.

“We returned to our house on Tuesday evening and found the main gate locked from inside. I opened it by climbing the wall,” Subhan Ayub, the son of late Khalid Javed told Dawn. He said when the family members opened the safe; they found Rs. 280,000 in cash, jewelry sets worth Rs 800,000 and prize bonds missing.

II. Follow up by clerics in Lahore

A mulla in his Friday sermon on 24 December 2016, in Masjid Hanafia Ashrafia, Shad Bagh Lahore spoke venomously against Ahmadis and termed the Dulmial incident as one contrived by Ahmadis. He urged revenge for a Muslim’s death in Dulmial. He told ‘Muslims’ to revive their sense of shame which he called ‘dead’.

He announced a rally for the next day, December 25, 2016, on this issue.

The police were informed and they took firm action to restrain the mulla.

III. Protest rally restricted in Chakwal

The mullas announced a big rally for the 40th day (chehlum) after the death of the riot participant in Dulmial. They asked permission to hold the rally in Chakwal Stadium. This was not granted. So they held it in a small mosque close to the Bus Station.

It seems the authorities advised the mullas to restrain themselves. As a result the leading mullas decided to keep away from the rally. The participants were no more than 300. They were not allowed to use loud-speakers. The public were told to remain peaceful; they complied.

IV. Situation in the village eight weeks afterwards

A report in the prestigious daily Dawn of February 9 provides a glimpse of what sort of treatment is being meted by authorities to some of the victims:

Dulmial’s Ahmadis reel in aftermath of mob attack

CHAKWAL: Dulmial resident Malik Zahid Hameed was shocked when he received a transfer order stating that he was being transferred to a primary school in Lari Shah Nawaz on Jan 6.
Mr. Hameed, 47, is a primary school teacher who taught at a school in his hometown from 2002 to 2012.

In 2012, he was transferred to a school in the nearby Tatral Kahoon village, where he was recently replaced by “Khodija Siddeqa of Lari Shah Nawaz”, according to a transfer order issued by Executive District Officer (EDO) Education Dr Ghulam Anjum.

The order reads: “An application submitted by a resident of village Tatral Kahoon and members of SMC of Government Primary School Tatral Kahoon regarding the activities of Mr. Zahid Hameed PST of the said school who belongs to Ahmadi firqa.

“And due to the current incident at village Dulmial the Muslim community of the village demanded to shift the said teacher immediately to other school and no vacant post of PST is available in tehsil Choa Saidan Shah. Therefore Ms. Khodija Siddeqa of Lari Shah Nawaz may be shifted to GPS Tatral Kahoon and Mr. Zahid Hameed is hereby shifted to GPS Lari Shah Nawaz on administrative grounds to resolve the grievances of the community.”

Mr. Hameed’s new school is around 18 kilometres from Dulmial, and while the order states that he has been transferred to ease the “grievances” of Tatral Kahoon’s Muslim community, it does not explain what these grievances are, or what sort of “activities” Mr Hameed has indulged in.

A day after he received the transfer order, Mr Hameed was told by his assistant education officer that he could not teach at the school in Lari Shah Nawaz either, because the area’s residents were not willing to accept his transfer.

The Dec 12, 2016 mob attack on an Ahmadi place of worship has disrupted the lives of Ahmadis in Dulmial. Like the Sunni Muslims of Dulmial, Muslims from Tatral Kahoon are also furious with members of the persecuted community because a man from Tatral Kahoon was killed in the attack.

On Jan 25, Mr Hameed submitted an application with the EDO education asked for a posting in Dulmial so he could work easily, action has not yet been taken in this regard. Dr Anjum, meanwhile, told Dawn he was doing his best to find a solution.

The consequences of the Dec 12 attack in a village where Sunni Muslims and Ahmadis have lived for a century are still being revealed, two months after the incident. Up to 100 police officials are still deployed in the village.

Even though a case has been registered against 3,000 people, on charges of terrorism and sections of the PPC, only 61 people have been arrested and deemed guilty by a joint investigation team.

In the meantime, a social boycott has begun against the village’s Ahmadi residents. Mr Hameed said they are not able to visit shops, and have to travel to Choa Saidan Shah just to buy daily household items.

“One of my Sunni relatives died a couple of days ago but I could not go for condolence,” said Maqsood Begum, 67. “[They] do not even speak to us.”

The place of worship that was attacked in December is still sealed, and local police are unwilling to reopen it.
“The Muslims have 10 mosques in the village, while we only have one place of worship and that too is sealed. We have to pray five times a day but we cannot visit our place of worship,” said one Ahmadi resident.

The place of worship remains sealed despite an order, available with Dawn, issued on Jan 17 by the National Commission for Human Rights. It stated: “The commission recommends to the police/administration to move into the relevant court for withdrawal of the application filed under section 145 of Criminal Procedure Code.

While local politicians are trying to reconcile the two communities, the village’s Muslim community is unwilling to hand the place of worship back to the Ahmadi community before a court decision.

The spokesperson for the Jammat-i-Ahmadiyya Pakistan, Salimuddin, said: “This is not the way to deprive a community of its place of worship. The place of worship should be unsealed and restored to the Dec 11 position. Then let the legal battle begin. We will accept the court’s decision.”