

Policy statement by the Prime Minister

Karachi; March 15, 2017: PM Nawaz Sharif made a speech in Karachi at Hindu festival of Holi. The daily Dawn of March 15, 2017 reported this speech. It deserves a place on record – (extracts):

KARACHI: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said the people of all faiths enjoy equal rights under the Constitution and no one will be allowed to create religious disharmony and instability in the country.

“Islam is a religion of peace, love and humanity, which teaches respect for all religions. There is no religious dispute in Pakistan,” he said, adding that the only tussle going on was between the good and the evil, the progressive and the retrogressive elements.

...

Extending greetings to the Hindu community on their religious festival, the prime minister said his government was committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all communities as it stood for complete religious freedom and equal rights guaranteed under the Constitution. The government would enact more stringent laws to protect minorities and curb crimes against them, he added.

He said Holi was a festival of colours which gave the message of love and peace. Diversity of religions and faiths was a vital ingredient for unity and all communities would have to transform this element to further foster the bonds of brotherhood and affection, he added.

...

He said that some elements had tried to weaken Pakistan by misusing religious differences or distorting history, but the nation had rejected such attempts. The elements trying to create fissures in society on the basis of religion had no place among the people, he said, adding that no one would be allowed to hinder the path of religious tolerance and unity as well as progress of the country.

He said Pakistan was created on the basis of equal rights to all communities and the government would protect all mosques, churches, temples and other places of worship.

The above is a commendable policy statement that echoes somewhat the off-quoted views of the Quaid i Azam in his historic speech in the Legislative Assembly on 11 August 1947. However, this raises the following pertinent questions:

1. Why did the Punjab Government mount a CTD raid on Ahmadiyya central offices on December 5, 2016, while the authorities, the CTD and even the mullas know that Ahmadiyya Community has never indulged in terrorist activities? Also, if a mistake was committed by the CTD and its keepers, why the prosecution under

- this fake case was pursued and the two detained accused were not released on bail?
2. Why was 80-years old Ahmadi book-seller Mr. Abdul Shakoor arrested by the CTD personnel in Rabwah for selling Ahmadiyya publications, and his release was not being pursued by his tormentors and prosecutors?
 3. Why did the Punjab Government comply with condemnable recommendations of its Ulama Board, and banned Ahmadiyya publications of scriptural status, as also all of the community's periodicals, thus violating constitutional guarantees as also the policy guidelines of the federal government, given above?
 4. Why is the Dulmial Ahmadiyya mosque still officially locked, as demanded by the criminal mob who attacked it on December 12, 2016?

The federating units of Pakistan must honour the guidelines given by the founding father and also the public policy given by the PM of the Federal Government in consonance with the Constitution and the International conventions signed by the Pakistani state.