

# The Media

2017

## **A commendable synopsis of Ahmadiyya situation in Pakistan**

**Online:** The Sunday Guardian, London, released an op-ed on 15 April, 2017 titled: **Between dictators and democrats, Pakistan's Ahmadis continue to suffer.** It encapsulates effectively the Ahmadiyya situation of the past four decades. It refers briefly to the triggering roles of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and General Zia, and moves on to how democrats like Benazir Bhutto and dictators, local and foreign, nurtured the evil plant of anti-Ahmadi bigotry. It spotlights the role of AMTKN (Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat) an End of Prophethood organization, its role in Pakistan and abroad and the Saudi financial support it enjoys. It minces no words in the mention of AMTKN's links with extremist violence-prone elements. It arrives at the conclusion: *Ahmadis in Pakistan are in even greater danger now than ever before.* This op-ed is very readable and deserves a place in archives.

## **Fear and Silence**

**Lahore; 2010:** Mohsin Hamid, a great novelist is also known as 'a master critic of the modern global condition'. He has written superb articles on various issues; these have been published in book named: Discontent and its Civilizations. One of these is about Ahmadis in Pakistan. It was published in the daily Dawn as well in 2010. It examines Ahmadis' persecution from a different perspective: its harm to Pak society in general. Also, it is a piece of literature. It is reproduced at Annex IV.

## **Journalist receives death threats for writing about Ahmadis – run over by car**

**Lahore:** The blog **Rabwah.net** issued the following story on June 10, 2017 regarding Mr. Tanveer Ahmad (not an Ahmadi):

A Pakistani journalist known for reporting on Pakistan's minorities was run over by a car on Friday. The incident comes just days after Police refused to investigate death threats against him.

39-year-old Rana Tanveer who works for the Pakistan-based Express Tribune was run over by a speeding car on Friday afternoon as he was coming back from the Punjab Union of Journalists' meeting. He was



taken to hospital with a suspected leg fracture where he is currently awaiting surgery.

Tanveer for years has reported on the country's increasing persecution and mistreatment of religious minorities. His recent reports on the Freemasons, Ahmadis, and Jains attracted the attention of right-wing Islamist groups, who consider such reporting an act of Blasphemy, a crime punishable by death.

Just last week, when Tanveer and his family returned to their home in Lahore they found their house vandalized and graffiti calling him a 'Kafir' (Infidel) & 'Worthy of Death' sprayed on the front door of his rented house.

The threat written in Urdu read, "قادیانی نواز رانا تنویر کافر واجب القتل" "Qadiani supporter Rana Tanveer is an Infidel who deserves to be Killed". 'Qadiani' is a derogatory term used for minority Ahmadi Muslims who are severely persecuted in the country.



The Police have so far refused to register both of these cases. Several Pakistani journalists on Friday tweeted condemnations against the attack on Tanveer.

The above story has been assessed authentic. However, there were further developments after June 10. The police have registered an FIR and are investigating. They have not yet disclosed the vandalers nor the driver who sped away after running over the victim. Rana Tanveer has been operated upon for fracture in the leg. He may be unable to walk for weeks.

It was learnt that the notorious anti-Ahmadi activist Muaviya, brother of well-known Allama Tahir Ashrafi had conveyed to Rana Tanveer in the past that his writings in favour of minorities had been taken note of.

When this reporter visited the injured Rana Tanveer, he found him undaunted, spirited and unimpressed by a message to him and a fellow journalist on social media: "*If there are other volunteers for getting bashed-up, we are ready to serve.*" (Translated from Punjabi)

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) condemned the killing of a journalist in Haripur and death threats to and an apparent attack on another (Rana Tanveer) in Lahore. *The daily Dawn, June 13, 2017*

It is for consideration that if a 'Qadiani supporter' journalist meets this kind of animosity, what would be the level of spite against 'Qadianis' themselves in the bigoted sections of state and society in the country.

### **False and hateful anti-Ahmadiyya propaganda in the daily Ausaf, Lahore**

**Lahore:** The vernacular daily Ausaf is one of those newspapers that have adopted the policy of maligning Ahmadis routinely and excessively. In this, the daily violates the provisions of the National Action Plan as also the decent norms of journalism. It fabricates news, when

there is nothing to report, and prints these in multiple headlines. Also the wording of the news items convey the prejudice and malice of the editorial staff. Below we produce translation of a three-column news published by this paper on September 27, 2017.

**(Ahmadi) Youth disgusted by the filthy and frivolous language of Mirza Ghulam. Qadianis put a ban on their books.**

**Hundreds of educated youth feel dissatisfied with illogical views of the cursed Mirza. The Chief of Canadian (Ahmadi) Mission accepts Islam.**

**Now only a few parts of Mirza's writings of his final years will be available for reading; London (headquarters) will permit and specify these.**

In the fine print, the quoted source is a 'representative' of Ausaf. It is mentioned that 'hundreds of educated Qadianis are adopting the Right Path (Non-Ahmadiyya Islam); their Caliph in London will, now onward, authorize the few extracts to be made available for reading; in 2008, open permission to read whatever Mirza wrote was given, but this resulted in conversion to Islam; there were dangerous consequences for the Qadiani community, ...'

### **Anti-Ahmadiyya rhetoric on electronic media**

In a T.V. program 'Point of View' on Channel '24 News' on 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 a panel comprising Dr. Danish (host of the program), Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Asif Jalali, Mr. Umar Riaz Abbasi and Mr. Arif Hameed Bhatti discussed the issue of 'end of prophethood'. With reference to this doctrine, Ahmadi-bashers bad-mouth the Ahmadi community. This penal did the same; however, one of them indulged in such falsehood and slander that it should be placed on record. Umar Riaz Abbasi, a member of the Pakistan Awami Tahrik, a politico-religious party headed by Dr. Tahir ul Qadri, ranted as follows:

"I would like to expose some realities today.

- In the KN (end of prophethood) movement of 1953 approximately 18,000 people embraced *Shahadat* (martyrdom).
- Shahbaz Sharif handed over 60 schools of Punjab Education Foundation to Qadianis through an NGO; why?
- Khushab DPO is a Qadiani and a class-fellow of Shahbaz Sharif; why?
- Qadianis attacked an Eid Milad-un-Nabi procession in Chakwal; the administration remained silent over the *shahadat* (martyrdom) of our man, and was partial to Qadianis; why?
- Is the Punjab Government *Qadiani nawaz* (well-wisher of Ahmadis)?
- I would like to disclose another fact today: In the Model Town incident, shooters in police uniform were hired Qadianis."

The above is simply a pack of lies. For instance, in the 1953 riots, a judicial inquiry concluded that 37 men were killed by security personnel. Abbasi raised this total to 18000, 80% more than even the figure of 10,000 to which most of the mullas have settled down 60 years later. Abbasi went berserk at the last point in making a very serious, entirely false allegation against Ahmadis.

It is dismal that neither the host nor any participant asked Abbasi to provide some evidence. The Channel management also failed to note the gravity of the charge, and thus sullied their self-reputation at the hands of a corrupt and irresponsible guest. A milder comment by us will not do justice to the enormity committed by Riaz Abbasi of PAT (led by no other than Maulvi Tahir ul Qadri).

### **An Ahmadi's call to mother(land)**

*On Twitter; August 13, 2017:* Mr. Kashif N Chaudhri is an Ahmadi from Pakistan. He is residing abroad now. On August 14, 2017 Pakistan was celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was a memorable event. Mr. Chaudhri moved by the import and gravity of the occasion felt touched to the core and tweeted the following loaded message:

Mr. Chaudhri represented hundreds of thousands of Pakistani Ahmadis, living abroad or inside the country, in posing the above emotive question to his fellow Pakistanis. It has been like that for over 40 years – a long time.



**Kashif N Chaudhry**   
@KashifMD

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