

The Mulla

2017

A typical criminal case under anti-Ahmadiyya law and its classic follow-up

Lahore; March – August 2017: On March 13, 2017 two Ahmadis in Lahore, Mr. Amjad Iqbal Saloni and Mr. Ikram Ilahi allegedly violated anti-Ahmadiyya law by defending the Ahmadiyya position to some non-Ahmadis. A mulla Hassan Muaviya who is a younger brother of Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, the well-known cleric close to the official circles in Islamabad, is a full time anti-Ahmadi activist; he made sure that the police registered a case against the two Ahmadis, although they were reluctant to do that. In fact, Muaviya obtained the help of a court to get the FIR registered.

The police registered the case not only under a clause of the anti-Ahmadiyya law, PPC 298-C, but also under a blasphemy law PPC 295-A that may be tried in an anti-terrorism court, and is punishable with 10-year imprisonment.

The accused were arrested, and the case ended up in an anti-terrorism court. The ATA judge gave the opinion that anti-terrorism clauses were not applicable in the case and it should be taken to a normal court.

In the meantime, the accused applied to the Lahore High Court for release on bail. On July 11, LHC sent the case back to a magistrate for routine handling. The magistrate sent the case to the civil judge. After a few court appearances the civil judge sent the case to the Additional Sessions Judge. The ASJ Mr. Khizr Hayat Minhas heard the case on 19 August 2017, and refused the plea for bail in the first hearing.

The Ahmadi accused, denied the basic and essential relief, now await trial for allegedly defending their community position in the presence of ill-wishers. Ahmadis wonder how to defend themselves against repeated accusations in vernacular gutter rags that Ahmadis are the greatest enemies of Pakistan and Islam.

The accused applied to the High Court for release on bail; it has not found time to hear and give a decision.

Police action under threats of Khatme Nabuwwat activists

Syed Wala, Nankana Sahib; November 01, 2017: A bogus police case was registered under sections 337/H, 34/B, and 11-20/65 against Mr. Muhammad Zafarullah, a son of Mr. Basharat Ahmad the president of the local Ahmadiyya community. The police apparently registered the case under duress, on insistence of the local Khatme Nabuwwat group.

Mr. Basharat reported that their private security guard was on duty at their shop. The police came there for routine security check. They told the security guard to fire from his gun, to check if it was in working order. He attempted three times but all were misfires. The police personnel then checked his gun and told him to clean it before further trials.

After the visit, while the police was still in the bazaar, the guard again fired three shots in the air. All were success. The activists of Khatme Nabuwwat however made it an excuse and lodged an application in the police station against him, alleging spread of terror. The SHO attempted to calm them down and told them that the trials were conducted on police demand, but the activists remained stubborn and threatened him with protest, procession and strike. At this the SHO registered the bogus case.

Booked for trivial misdemeanor

Rabwah: Mr. Naveed A Khan, an Ahmadi from Sukkur was on a visit to Rabwah. He stayed with a relative there. On October 23, 2017 he undertook routine maintenance on his licensed 9 m.m. pistol. On completion, he fired a few shots in the air for trial.

Not far from where he was staying, mullas have built a madrassah. Hearing the shots, they came running, raised hue and cry and reported to the police, falsely accusing Mr. Khan and others of attacking them.

Mr. Khan got apprehensive and quit the place. The mullas mounted heavy pressure on senior police officials over this non-issue. The latter, as a result, directed Ahmadi leadership to present Mr. Khan. They did that, and the police booked him under T.P. 337H2 and violation of A02015-A013/20/65/2B.

The accused had to present Rs 50,000/- as security bond for release on bail.

Narrow escape from blasphemy charge

Ganga Pur, Distt. Faisalabad; May 2017: Mullas announced here holding of a Khatme Nabuwwat conference on May 20, 2017. They advertised it through banners and posters. Mr. Faheem Ahmad, an Ahmadi tore down a poster from a rickshaw. The rickshaw owner reported this to a mulla who agitated the issue. The local Aman (peace) Committee was about to resolve the dispute peacefully when mullas of Sunni Tahrik from outside intervened and rejected the proposal of the Aman Committee. They protested, encircled the police station Khurrianwala and demanded registration of a blasphemy case. At this, higher police officials called both the parties to their office and told Ahmadis to apologize to the other party. Ahmadis did that and the issue was settled. The police took two Ahmadi youths in custody and released them later.

Exertion and sweat required to build an Ahmadiyya community center in Pakistan - unbelievable

Gorgaj, District Larkana; May - July 2017: There is a sizeable Ahmadiyya community in the village Gorgaj located in District Larkana, the home town of the well-known Bhutto family. Ahmadis there decided to build a small complex comprising a school, a mosque and a residence for the religious teacher. For this they had a plot of land. The mullas however had their eyes on that plot and they intended to occupy it. The construction had already started, but the mullas from the nearby town of Wara became active to stop it. They reported to the police, as a first step.

The police visited the site and talked to the local population. Having heard the general opinion, the police permitted Ahmadis to resume construction of the boundary wall, but not build any madrassa etc. At this occasion the visiting police inspector and the local chief (a non-Ahmadi) reproved the mullas for attempt to deny the Ahmadis their right to practice their faith.

A few days later, urged by the mullas, the building contractor stopped the work on the boundary wall. When approached by Ahmadis, he regretted his action and resumed the work.

Thereafter, a delegation of mullas from Wara called on the village chief of Gorgajj who put them to shame for their unworthy campaign. The mullas noted the chief's annoyance, went back and declared that Ahmadis in Gorgajj were not their concern.

A week later the mullas changed their mind and decided to become aggressive. They declared that they would hire a crane to demolish the boundary wall. On hearing this, the village chief sent them a message that the crane would be destroyed on trespassing.

On July 5, the mullas arrived in numbers. The situation became tense. The police were informed by the Ahmadis. They came, dispersed the crowd and arrested one of the miscreants. Later, the mullas got him released.

The next day, the mullas took out a procession in Wara and indulged in bad-mouthing the Ahmadis. They accused the village chief of conversion. They decided to proceed to Gorgajj and destroy the built-up portion of the complex. The police as well as the district ISI official were informed. The police arrived, so did a group of miscreants all set to undertake the demolition. The police threatened to open fire. The miscreants had to beat the retreat.

The mullas thereafter took a few days to approach the district leadership of JUI who expressed sympathy with their cause. At this the village chief invited the senior mulla at Wara to come personally to solve the issue; the chief did not invite people from Larkana to meddle with the local affairs.

Eventually, it was decided by mutual agreement that one Mr. Tharo Khan, chief of the Chandio tribe would decide the issue. However, on July 16 the mullas formally applied to the police to register a blasphemy case against 8 named Ahmadis for allegedly defiling the Quran. The penalty could have been life imprisonment to all. The police took down the names of these Ahmadis but withheld further action for the time being.

On July 18, Mr. Tharo Khan gave the following verdict:

- The boundary wall already built (8 feet high) will be dismantled to the height of 5 feet.
- A large entrance gate may be installed.
- No further construction is permitted. No school or mosque shall be built.

The police hurried to have the verdict signed by the Ahmadis.

True: Believe it or not!

Agitation over entrance to an Ahmadiyya mosque

Lodhran; December 2017: The local Ahmadiyya community has a mosque here which has two gates. Its main gate opens on the main-road and is rarely used, while the other opens in the back street. The main gate needed maintenance and reinstallation after essential repairs. The opponents found an excuse therein to raise hue and cry. They said that Ahmadis had

fixed a new gate which should be blocked. Mullas sent an application to the administration. Ahmadis approached the Assistant Commissioner, explained him the factual position, and he closed the issue – for the time being.

Pir Zafar Ali Shah Mehrvi led a procession on 12 Rabiul Awwal. He is a rabidly anti-Ahmadi mulla. He stopped in front of the main gate of Ahmadiyya mosque and again agitated the gate issue. At this the Ahmadis received a message from the DPO to close down the gate within two days. Ahmadis approached the AC who had settled the issue earlier, but he also relented and advised Ahmadis to close the gate lest higher officials seal the mosque. Ahmadis had no option but to close the main-gate of their own mosque.

The incident shows the absence of protection of law, for Ahmadis.

Administration imposes uglification on an Ahmadiyya mosque

Chak 287, Pilsar, District Toba Tek Singh; December 7, 2017: The local administration told Ahmadis to demolish the minarets of their mosque. When asked the reason, they said that they had received no complaint from the locals, but received the photos of minarets of the mosque from the provincial head office, hence demolish these forthwith. Eventually it was settled that the outer wall would be raised high enough to cover the minarets from being visible from outside.

Politics of religion

April 2017: The role of religion and the Ulama is significant and rife in Pakistan. It has a history that is older than the birth of this Islamic republic. The present condition of the state of Pakistan is the direct result, at least partly, of this role. Its future in the same way is linked to the vision and actions of the Ulama who are deeply involved in politics. The centenary celebrations in KPK, of JUI (Fazl ur Rahman) on 7-9 April along with the proceedings of the Namus Risalat (honour of the Prophet) conference held on February 1 in Islamabad where Maulana Rahman assumed its leading role provide a clear window of overview of this phenomenon.

JUI is a successor of the Jamiat Ulama Hind (JUH) that came into being in 1919. JUH's members, as also leadership, comprised primarily men of Muslims of Deoband school, originally a reformist group that soon turned to politics. They even issued a *fatwa* that, "It is *Haram* (unlawful as per Sharia) for a Muslim to be a member of the Muslim League." During the Raj, this party reckoned that it was no use rising in armed revolt against the British, so it co-operated with the Congress to attain freedom. By early 1940s, Indian Muslims generally rejected the political leadership of JUH, and supported Muslim League – as a result Pakistan came into being.

In Pakistan, NWFP (now KPK) to be specific, JUI was led by Mufti Mahmud, the father of Maulana Fazl ur Rahman. It wielded political clout in the province and on account of its Deoband appeal, controlled a fair share of mosques and madrassahs in other provinces of Pakistan. With the passage of time, and its emphasis on politics in the society, the JUI's reformist role dwindled, and it represented ultra right-wing Islamist politics in the land. This

helped it maintain its political leverage but it played a major role in radicalizing the society. It developed internal feuds, splitting into JUI (F) and JUI (S), the former claiming the lead role. Islamization of the society by General Zia, assisted by Islamist political parties, led to radicalization which in turn ripened into extremism that subsequently bred terrorism. The JUI had to perform a difficult balancing act to synchronize its politics with the rise and subsequent rejection of terrorism by the state and the society. Till recently Maulana Rahman was publicly sympathetic to the cause of the Mujahedeen, then to the Taliban etc on both sides of the Durand Line; however since the attack on APS in Peshawar, terrorism has earned disgrace in society, so the Maulana has artfully changed his rhetoric to suit the times. His actions however betray no change in practice. The two events, the celebrations in April and the ‘APC’ on February 1 are ample proof of this dichotomy or plain hypocrisy. We elaborate.

The centenary celebrations were designed to show a fair face of the JUI. Even non-Muslim religious leaders were invited to the event. Leaders of PPP and PML-N were asked to address the participants. The Imam Ka’aba and the Saudi minister of religious affairs were invited, as also the Deoband leadership from India. The JUI leadership said the right things to impress all present; for example:

- Muslims, the world over, are wrongly linked to terrorism, violence and intolerance.
- It is a conspiracy to accuse Deoband of militancy and conflict, as this group is committed to democracy, peace and minorities’ rights.
- Spiritual progeny of Sheikh ul Hind (Mahmud ul Hassan) follow his philosophy of peace worldwide.
- Local and foreign evil lobbies accuse madrassahs of militancy while these citadels of Islam only protect the Faith.
- Unity and mutual tolerance are a dire need of present times and we must achieve these despite our differences.
- Religion and faith are integral to politics in Pakistan, and liberals and seculars indulge in wishful thinking to break this link.
- All religious political parties should form a joint front. To that end, Siraj-ul-Haq, the JI Amir gave a free hand to Maulana Rahman.

Précis from the daily Islam “Aalami Ijtema”, April 17, 2017

Whatever the merit or worth of the above proclamations, let’s now recollect the statements and actions of the same leading Maulana and his colleagues in the All Parties Namus Risalat Conference held a few weeks earlier on February 1, 2017 in the Dreamland Hotel of Islamabad.

Those who attended this conference included Fazlur Rahman (JUI), Samiul Haq (JUI-S), Siraj ul Haq (JI), Zafarul Haq (PML-N), Fazlur Rehman Khalil (Ansar ul Ummah), Abdul Khair Zubair (JUP), Kafil Bokhari (Ahrar Islam), Tariq Cheema (PML-Q), Ejaz ul Haq (ML-Zia) etc. Only mulla Allah Wasaya, a cleric of the KN, was present to represent the sponsors. Apparently the stage was handed over to politico-religious leadership to sell their ware in the name of Honour of the Prophet and the End of Prophethood. The ‘church’ and the ‘state’ came out, hand in hand, to exploit each other to the full. The proceedings reported in the press made that very clear.

Maulvi Fazl ur Rahman of JUI-F was given the lead role and he read out ‘the Declaration’. In this he started off with telling the authorities not to meddle with the blasphemy law 295-C, but then quickly fired all his broadsides on Ahmadiyya targets. He demanded, *inter alia*:

- Qadiani (TV) channels should be banned for their anti-Islam and anti-Pakistan transmissions.
- The decision to change the name of the QA University’s Centre for Physics to Dr Abdul Salam Qadiani should be withdrawn.
- Innocent accused Muslims of Dulmial (riot) should be released and action should be taken against officials who were partial against the wronged (*Mazloom*) Muslims.
- Desist from returning to Qadianis the educational institutions nationalized in the days of Bhutto, etc.

The Conference, having made these demands, conveyed that these were not empty words to be soon forgotten, but would be pursued with further action if they were not implemented within deadline of one month. A 15-member committee was formed to plan and implement future course of action. The committee comprised leaders of the participating parties as members, while Maulana Fazal ur Rahman would head the committee.

Following opinions were aired in the conference and reported in the vernacular press (for instance the dailies *Ausaf* and *Islam* of February 2, 2017):

- Trump has come out openly against Muslims. There is need to unite against him.
- The government proceeds to hang Mumtaz Qadri overnight, but fails to implement court’s verdict on Asia Masih.
- Police cases should be registered against bloggers.
- The disbelievers (*Kafirs*) have given the name ‘terrorism’ to Jihad.
- We may have our differences with Hafiz Saeed but the government’s treatment of him is not appropriate. We are all one on religious issues.
- Qadianis have dug in abroad against Pakistan. They have never been deprived of basic rights here.
- An APC should be called on Chakwal (Ahmadiyya mosque) issue to raise voice in support of wronged Muslims.
- Foreign powers attempt to change (school) syllabi; we’ll have to play our role.
- ‘End of Prophethood’ day should be celebrated every year officially.
- Religious and political parties should jointly resist international pressure.
- We respect the PM, but any violation of Sharia restrictions is not licit. If the Ulama head for Islamabad, all (past) sit-ins would be blurred.
- Religious parties should launch the Nizam Mustafa campaign.
- Any effort to change the blasphemy law will result in violent chaos (*fasaad*).
- Qadianis are active against the country.

Comparison of what was said in April with what was undertaken on February 1 is interesting, to say the least. It appears that Maulana Fazl ur Rahman has found it convenient to gloss over the Quranic injunction: **“O ye who believe, why do say what you do not? It is most hateful in the sight of Allah that you say what you do not.”** (61: 2/3-3/4)

Lahore persists in keeping Ahmadis in pressure-cooker

Lahore, July 2017: For years now, Lahore is a centre of anti-Ahmadi activities. Religious bigots enjoy direct or indirect support of the administration to keep the pot boiling. Lahore is the city where in year 2010 terrorists shouting *Khatme Nabuwwat - Zindah Baad*. (Long live - End of Prophethood) killed 86 Ahmadi worshippers at Friday prayers, and the chief minister Shahbaz Sharif decided to not make a condolence or sympathy call on the afflicted community. In fact, the mullas of the official Muttahida Ulama Board have subsequently tightened the noose further on Ahmadis in the Punjab, with the active endorsement of the provincial home department by banning all the written works of the founder of the community. Anyway, the anti-Ahmadi hate campaign goes on at the street level, the administration looking the other way. For example, in July alone:

- Tahrik Ya Rasul Ullah and Tahrik Sirat Mustaqeem Pakistan organizations held a 40-day course of Recitation and Khatme Nabuwwat at Hanifa and Siddiqua Mosques. Maulvi Khadim Hussain used foul language in the class, against the Ahmadiyya Jamaat.
- A lecture (*dars*) was organized in the Ahle Hadith mosque in Daroghawala, Mughalpura. Qari Yunus Azad, the local *Khatib* (prayer-leader) indulged in diatribe against Ahmadis.
- The participants of conference on Seerat un Nabi in Al-Saud Hall, Fateh Garh were harangued on the Ahmadiyya issue. This event was also organized by Tahrik Labbaik Ya Rasul Ullah.
- Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat (AMTKN) held a mass meeting on July 13. Mullas Aziz ur Rahman Sani, Qari Aleemuddin, Abdul Shakoor Haqqani, Qari Abdul Aziz and Saeed Waqar were main speakers.

Abdul Shakoor Haqqani said that opposition to the Blasphemy laws is a Jewish and Qadiani agenda. If the authorities make any move in that direction, the AMTKN will defend the Blasphemy laws at all levels. Qari Aleemuddin asserted that they will not allow any conspiracy to succeed that aims at repealing the Blasphemy law. This meeting passed a resolution that the government should effectively stop Qadianis' relief operations as these promote their deception (*dajl o fraib*).

In addition to the above, AMTKN Gulshan Ravi sector held a meeting on July 16, 2017. Maulvi Mashhud Ahmad presided. The participants were told that the great edifice of worldwide Islam rested on the pillars of End of Prophethood. This dogma is the soul (*Rooh*) of the Islamic principle. Qadianiat is nothing but *Zindiqiat* (worse than apostasy). We'll continue their accountability at all levels. We will tolerate no plot against the Blasphemy law.

UN demands on Pakistan, and Muttahida Khatme Nabuwwat Movement's response

Lahore; August 7, 2017: The daily Insaf published a story filed by its correspondent reporting the recent proceedings of a UN Human Rights Committee, its demands on Pakistan's religious and anti-Ahmadi laws, political mainstreaming of Ahmadis, and the

reaction and comment of a Khatme Nabuwat leader on the UN Report. English translation of the Insaf report is placed below:

Separate voters' list for Qadianis should be abolished: United Nations

Laws on Blasphemy, Qisas and Diyat should be repealed; homosexuality should be encouraged (sic).

Chenab Nagar (correspondent): Religious parties have rejected the findings of the United Nations Committee on Human Rights and its demand on Pakistan government to remove the Islamic laws from the Constitution. They have stated that these days no foreign power has the right to intervene in internal political and religious affairs of Pakistan. The convener of the Liaison Committee of the Mottahida Khatme Nabuwat Movement Pakistan, Abdul Latif Khalid Cheema, stated in his response that in the sessions of the HR Committee of the United Nations held on the 11th, 12th July and then on 25th and 26th July, Pakistan was discussed and the demands were made on the Pakistani government to encourage homosexuality, and repeal the laws on Blasphemy, Qisas and Diyat. He said that the 84-page report of the UN HR Committee is an indictment of Pakistani laws. The committee requires Pakistan to report within a year the progress of implementation on this report. The Committee has given a deadline that the above-mentioned clauses should be removed or revised from the Constitution of Pakistan by 20th July 2020. He further observed that the decline of the western civilization is so significant that it dictates homosexuality to Muslims. He said that the Committee has expressed most of its reservations on the issue of the Blasphemy law. The influence of the Qadiani lobby is obvious as the demand for doing away with separate voters' list for the Qadianis is repeatedly mentioned in their Report. While severely criticizing PPCs 295 and 298 of the constitution (sic) their immediate repeal is demanded, and if their repeal was not possible, changes should be made to them at the earliest to render them ineffective. In addition, the committee has suggested punishment for anyone who reports any painful incident of Blasphemy and for a complainant of such an FIR. According to him the HR Committee has demanded that the syllabi in educational institutes should be looked into afresh and all texts regarding religious beliefs and Islamic practices should be removed. Abdul Latif Khalid Cheema was of the view that the Muslims believe in preaching and cannot tolerate defiling the person of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) the mercy for all mankind. He urged the government to set aside the issue of Panama leaks, defend the Islamic law undisputed over 1400 years, and formally reject the report and recommendations of the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations. He urged all the leaders of different sects as also leaders of political parties to confront and resist these demands.

JUI (S) takes pre-emptive action to keep Pakistan Islamist

Islamabad; August 21, 2017: Maulvi Sami ul Haq of madrassah Akora Khattak issued an invitation for an All Parties Conference to be held in an Islamabad hotel to deliberate upon the likelihood of repeal or amendment to various so-called Islamic provisions of the Constitution and the law.

As per his invitation letter, "After the disqualification of the former Prime Minister, Art. 62 and 63 of the Constitution are under discussion and various quarters are taking interest in their repeal. It is not a question of only two articles; fifteen years efforts, 1970 - 1985, have gone into making the Constitution Islamic. These amendments are not acceptable to the Western, Jewish and Qadiani lobbies, as also to the liberal and secular sections of the country. They would like to open the door of amendments to important clauses like the Blasphemy law, Anti-Qadiani laws, Haddood Ordinance, shifting of the Objectives Resolution in the Constitution proper from its preamble, Separate Electorates,

Sharia Court, CII's clear directions to undo 'interest', and limiting the powers of the Supreme Court and other courts in corruption cases, etc....”

Maulana Sami-ul-Haq called the meeting of leading figures of all political and religious parties and groups at 14:30 on August 28, 2017.

It is relevant to mention that this cleric heads the madrassah in Akora Khattak, which was granted Rs. 300 million as aid by the KPK government of Imran Khan's PTI, not long ago.

Update: The meeting was held on August 28, as planned. As per press report a number of religious parties' representatives attended – Sh Rashid Ahmad of Lal Haveli was there as well. Jamaat Islami's Siraj ul Haq also addressed the meeting. International political situation relevant to Pakistan–Afghanistan was discussed at par with the agenda for which the meeting was called.

Anti-Ahmadiyya pamphlet endorsed by Chairman Ulama Board Punjab circulated

Faisalabad; December 2017: Ahmadi businessmen in Faisalabad, Sialkot, Islamabad and other cities received an Anti-Ahmadiyya pamphlet titled: **An invitation to Qadianis to recant**. It is authored by Maulvi Muhibullah of Khanqa Sirajia Saadia Nakshbandia, Loralai, Balochistan. Abusive language is used in it against the founder of the Ahmadiyya community. An endorsement letter from Maulvi Fazal Raheem Ashrafi, the chairman of Muttahida Ulama Board of Punjab government is added to it, which declares it fulfillment of an obligation on behalf of all the major institutions of Pakistan. Thus the chairman, who gets his allowances and perks from public funds, has made the government a party to fanning fires of religious extremism and hatred, in gross violation of the National Action Plan.

Mulla-led processions in the Ahmadiyya headquarters town

Rabwah; December 1, 2017: Mullas took out three different processions in Rabwah (Ahmadiyya national headquarters) at the occasion of 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal (birthday of the Holy Prophet PBUH). The administration had permitted these processions who behaved provocatively. Ahmadis had to exercise vigilance and remain on guard.

The first procession was led by Mulla Umair Arshad from Masjid Bukhari at 09:45 a.m. Approximately 100 persons participated in it, mostly boys. It reached the Aqsa Square via the bus stop and returned to the bus stop. The mullas addressed the crowd in the Aqsa Square, the centre of the town. Participants were holding the banners of Tahrike Labbaik Yarasulullah (TLY of the Islamabad sit-in fame).

The second procession was led by Mulla Rizwan from Khichian at 11:30 a.m. It passed through the Aqsa Square and met the first procession at the bus stop. Approximately 200 men participated in it. Some outsiders from Chiniot and suburbs also joined it. They were also carrying banners of TLY.

Majlis Ahrar (an anti-Ahmadiyya organization) held its annual Khatme Nabuwwat conference in the Madrassa Ahrarul Islam in Kot Wasawa at the outskirts of Rabwah. The conference started at 11:45 a.m. and ended at 1:40 p.m. It was presided over by Syed Ataul

Muhaiman Shah Bukhari, Central Amir of Majlis Ahrar Pakistan. Approximately 1000 men participated in it. Mulla Ubaidullah of Toba Tek Singh, Sultan Muaviya of Khanewal, Syed Muhammad Muaviya of Chichawatni, Muhammad Zakariya of Faisalabad, Hafiz Hamdullah (a JUI-F senator) addressed the crowd.

These mullas spoke venomously against the Ahmadiyya community; some quotes: “Qadiani is a community of mischief... Qadianio! Listen, you have robbed the Khatme Nabuwwat (End of Prophethood), come to the right path... Why does the Operation *Raddul Fassad* spare Qadianis? Qadianis do not obey the constitution and are busy, in and outside the country, in conspiracies against the country and the constitution... .”

They took out this procession after the Friday prayers. It was the third and the largest procession in Rabwah. It passed through the Aqsa Square and arrived at the bus stop. On their way they stopped in front of Aiwane Mahmood (central offices of Ahmadiyya youth in Pakistan) and made fiery speeches against the Ahmadiyya community. Mullas Ilyas Chinioti MPA (PML-N), Muhammad Mugira, Abdul Lateef Khalid Cheema, Muhammad Syed Kafeel Shah Bukhari, Syed Ataul Muhaiman Shah Bukhari and Shahid Kashmiri of Lahore addressed the participants. They exhorted, “Qadiani are the mischief created by Jews and Christians. National Assembly has declared them non-Muslims ... We are the heirs of 13000 martyrs who died in defense of End of Prophethood.”

(Note: By this they referred to the anti-Ahmadiyya agitation of 1953 in the Punjab; a high-level judicial inquiry counted the dead rioters as 37.)

It reached the bus stop at 4:00 p.m. and dispersed from there.

Ahmadis remained on guard all day. Ahmadi youth were deployed on security duties, while women were advised to stay at home. The whole town remained like under siege.

Hostile visit in Mughalpura, Lahore

Sahwari, Mughalpura, Lahore; September 4, 2017: Mr. Ijaz Ahmad is an Ahmadi; his neighbor Mr. Sajjad Hussain put up a banner on the outer wall of Mr. Ahmad’s house. The banner conveyed, “Get a coffin for free”. A group noticed the banner and objected: “Who has put up this banner on the wall of a *Mirzai*’s house? They are infidels and irrelevant to coffins for Muslims?” They were informed that it was put up by Mr. Hussain who is the neighbor of Mr. Ahmad. “Convey to Mr. Hussain to remove it from here”, they warned.

In the evening a dozen people accompanied by the local mulla turned up at the spot. They were harsh with Mr. Hussain and told him to take the banner off. They also threatened to square up with *Mirzais* on September 8, the day after the Khatme Nabuwwat Day.

Mr. Hussain took the banner off.

The local mulla uses foul language against Mr. Ahmad in Friday sermons and provokes the worshipers against him. Mr. Ahmad has been advised to take precautionary measures.

Communal tension in District Peshawar

Bazid Khel, District Peshawar; May 2017: Mullas and vigilantes are bent upon disturbing communal peace of this small town where three Ahmadi families reside, while two others live on its outskirts. The former demanded that Ahmadis leave the town.

On May 13 a boy was shouting ‘Death to Qadianis’ in a street. An elderly Ahmadi heard this and beat him up. This precipitated an ugly reaction. The police intervened, took away both the parties to the police station and arranged reconciliation.

The next day mullas in surrounding villages came to know of the incident, and they decided to reactivate the unrest. They assembled an angry procession and proceeded to knock at the door of another Ahmadi, Mr. Rafiq Ahmad. Mr. Ahmad got frightened, took out his gun and fired in the air. As a result, the police took him and his son in custody and drove them to the police station.

The next day the police addressed the two parties. The anti-Ahmadi elements demanded that Ahmadis be expelled from the town. The police explained that they did not have the authority to impose such a penalty. So the meeting remained inconclusive.

Mullas were bent upon agitation. They organized an End of Prophethood rally on May 16. Foreseeing the likelihood of harm, Ahmadis shifted their families from the town for the time being.

Welcoming alleged blasphemy and mischief

Shaukatabad, District Nankana: Mr. Muhammad Ishaq, Ahmadi, bought a house here sometimes ago. Outside there was a drain line with a slab on it, put there by the erstwhile owner. The slab was still there.

Later, Mr. Ishaq had the slab lifted in order to raise the drain line. It was discovered that on the underside of the slab Arabic words *Bismillah*, *Allah* and *Muhammad* were written. This caused concern and the news spread like wildfire.

The mulla of the local mosque arrived fast and photographed the slab. A few decent men from the locality had the photos deleted and the slab broken up to be buried. This cooled down the situation to some extent.

Mischief-mongers still pursued the incident hoping to make some unworthy gains.

A liberal intellectual under threat of extremist mullas

Lahore; January 2017: Shan Taseer decided to send a message of sympathy as support on social media to Christian Aasia Bibi, Nabil Masih and others who are targeted under the blasphemy law. This disturbed the mullas greatly and they came out in a big way against this good gesture.

Tahrik Ya Rasool Ullah of Pir Afzal Qadri took the lead in the hostile protest. This is the same party that was in the forefront in the attack on the Ahmadiyya mosque in Dulmial. Qadri gave the fatwa that Taseer was cursed (*Maloon*) and *Wajib-ul-Qatl*. This party took out a hostile rally on this issue on January 1, 2017 in Mughalpura. They demanded that a police case be registered against Taseer.

The participants of the procession abused not only Mr. Taseer, but also the police and the government. They declared: “We’ll sacrifice our lives, but not spare the blasphemer. The government is pro-Qadianis. We’ll kill the blasphemers; they are *Wajib-ul-Qatl*.”

The authorities decided to let the mullas do what they liked, so as to let the event pass.

Confessions of a top militant/Islamist Jihadist

Islamabad; April 27, 2017: Ehsanullah Ehsan, former spokesman of TTP and Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) reportedly surrendered to Pak Army and made a recorded video statement that was released by the Army.

As these Jihadist organizations claim to carry out their militant and terrorist attacks under Islamist motivation; it will be appropriate to place on record the reality as stated by one of their top leaders – their former spokesman. The daily Dawn covered the story in its issue of April 27, 2017 and reported the following (extracts):

“Ehsan, who was the main leader of JuA before being captured and serving as TTP spokesman, throughout the clip looked to be distancing himself from the groups with which he remained attached over the past nine years.

“At one point he said he questioned JuA leader Omar Khalid Khorasani for getting support from RAW.

“I told Khalid Khorasani that what we are doing is helping *Kuffaar* by carrying out activities within our country and killing our own people. In a way we are serving them, he said, adding this led him to believe that militant leaders were serving their personal interests and pursuing “some sort of agenda”.

“Ehsan blamed his former colleagues for sending foot soldiers to fight Pakistan Army, while keeping themselves safe in their sanctuaries. He spoke about turf wars within the TTP, and said its leadership was misleading youths in the name of religion and recruiting them for their own designs.

“Islam does not allow this, said Ehsan, who had in the past claimed responsibility for some of the most gruesome attacks. He mocked at TTP chief Mullah Fazlullah’s rise as the group’s leader through a draw and accused him of forcibly marrying his mentor Maulvi Soofi Mohammad’s daughter.

“We fled to Afghanistan after the Army launched operations in North Waziristan. There I saw these people develop contacts with NDS (National Directorate of Security, Afghanistan) and RAW (Research and Analysis Wing, India), which supported and funded them”, Ehsan, whose original name is Liqueate Ali, said in a 5-minute-53-second video clip released to media by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

“Ehsan is seen in the video say NDS and RAW gave ‘targets’ to TTP and JuA, who received remuneration for every activity they carried out in Pakistan.”

Note: Many analysts and scholars have consistently maintained all along that these so-called Jihadists have little to do with Islam – it is all about money and self-interest.

A long list of proscribed Islamist organizations – and a comment

Islamabad; September 1, 2017: Ministry of Interior this month issued a list to the press of 71 organizations Proscribed/Under Observation, almost all religious and Islamist. One such ad appeared in the daily *Dawn* of September 1, 2017, one day before the festival of Eid ul Azha. The ad is titled: Don’t let your **Donations Fall into Wrong Hands** and the list is introduced with the following warning:

“As per national laws, it is a crime to donate hides of animals to organizations involved in activities related to terrorism. On the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, donate hides of your sacrificial animals to those welfare organizations that are not proscribed under any national and international laws and must be working purely for the national welfare.”

The list comprises organizations, most of which are known for their Salafi, Wahabi, Deobandi etc. origins or membership. Some new names are given along with their former

application, for example; ex SSP, ex JeM, ex TJP etc. This initiative on the part of the Ministry of Interior is commendable; however it calls for a comment in the context of internal national security.

It is well-recognized that half measures and half-hearted steps rarely deliver success and goals. The call to believers to not donate hides of sacrificial cattle to these organizations will affect to some extent their budgets, but they surely do not depend upon hides alone to remain functional and effective.

If these organizations are involved in activities related to terrorism, why are they tolerated to operate with new names? Also if their charity wings are not working purely for the national and general welfare, why allow them to function?

The authorities know that these organizations have sympathizers and facilitators who provide them all kinds of support, including ideological, financial and personnel; these remain in the rear but are known for their not so discreet backing to them. Why these facilitators continue to enjoy free hand in their support activities? These include a number of political as well as religious parties and organizations. They openly support sectarianism, extremism and, indirectly, terrorism. To them, violence against adherents of other beliefs, even though marginally different, is permissible, even mandatory. The mullas of various Khatme Nabuwat organizations openly and repeatedly call Ahmadis *Wajib-ul-Qatl*.

Well-known politicians are on record to openly consort and support leaders of these proscribed organizations. These people have often been called by them 'our people' in political parlance and Taliban Khans have insisted on negotiating with them rather than confronting them. The false scions of the Quaid-e-Azam sent their ministers to participate in the rallies of these mouth-frothing fanatics to register their presence to gain votes of the ignorant masses.

Provinces appear to exercise great autonomy in dealing with them, in disregard of the federal assessment of these people as mentioned in this ad. The Punjab has formed an Ulama Board whose recommendations are treated by the Department of Interior as orders. These Ulama went to the same type of madrassas as the leaders of the 71 advertised organizations. This Board may have contributed little to the fight against terrorism, but it has had great success in banning the entire literature produced by the founder of the Ahmadiyya community, who took a firm stand against terrorism and *Jihad bis Saif* (violence in support of religion) in the 19th century, and the community has followed that teaching ever since.

In the Punjab, counter-terrorism department has mounted successful raids against the peaceful Ahmadis. The CTD arrested an octogenarian Ahmadi book-seller of Rabwah and got him incarcerated for (5+3) eight years through an ATC court. During the trial the prosecution failed to point out any content in the confiscated literature that promoted terrorism in any way.

In Dulmial, District Chakwal, a procession led by extremist mullas, unlawfully altered its authorized route and attacked the Ahmadiyya mosque. It is now almost a year that the mosque has been locked to the worshippers, while the mob leaders and riot planners roam around free. The ring leader managed to flee to Canada, although he was mentioned in earlier dispatches.

More recently, at the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha the anti-Ahmadiyya organizations openly agitated against Ahmadis' right to sacrifice cattle, and directed their followers to

report to the police if any Ahmadi undertook this rite. It is noteworthy that these bullies expected the police to support them. Ahmadis consequently faced difficulties in performing this rite and disposal of hides.

The authorities, both in provinces and Islamabad will do well to implement the National Action Plan in letter and spirit to rid the Pakistani society of extremism and terrorism. And surely, further persecution of the peace-loving Ahmadi community is not an honest and fruitful interpretation of the NAP; it is hypocrisy a *l'extreme* and is nothing but playing in the hands of the evil that the state aims to eliminate.

This 71 org list should be sufficient proof to all in the government, the intelligentsia, the establishment and the civil society in Pakistan that the mulla's 21st century understanding of Islam is faulty and harmful. They must dare to examine and adopt some alternate version even if it is uncommon and unpopular. After all, the wise few of Medina, when faced with unmanageable chaos, picked someone from far away Makka to be their lord, seer and guide, PBUH. This made them historically a model and successful community.