Outpouring of a nominee for caretaker CMship of Punjab

“... We are of the opinion that anyone who claiming to be a Muslim declares himself to be a Prophet, he commits robbery against the prophethood of the Holy Prophet. There is only one way (sunnat) with us; it is the way of our mentor Abu Bakr Siddiq i.e. chop off his neck like that of Musailma the liar, chop off his neck like that of Aswad Ansi. ... There is no other way.” (sic)

Opinion on Ahmadis of Orya Maqbool Jan, a nominee of IK’s PTI

For more on this, read the report on page 5.

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Attack, gross desecration and severe damage to Ahmadiyya mosque and a venerated site in Sialkot, Punjab

The dreadful outrage was undertaken in Sialkot on 23/24 May night by a mob with active assistance of state functionaries. As a result an Ahmadiyya mosque was badly damaged and a revered historic residence destroyed.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani, the founder of Ahmadiyya denomination had stayed in this house and worshiped in this adjacent mosque. As such this complex is of great religious sentiment to Ahmadis, as a number of traditions and reports are associated with it.

Ahmadis had undertaken repairs and renovation of this house with permission from local authorities. Recently mullas came to know of it, and found it a useful tool to precipitate a riot and threaten law and order. Some sections of the civil society, a few bigots from the lawyers community, some careerist officials and a few self-serving politicians supported the mulla and demanded immediate action against Ahmadis for ‘outraging the religious feelings of Muslims.’ A few days earlier, the collaborating district administration proceeded to forbid Ahmadis further work, and sealed the house.

This effort to soothe the miscreants did not succeed, so the municipal authorities decided to join them to do what they demanded.

On May 23, at about 22:45 some officials arrived at the site and told Ahmadis of their intention to demolish the 19th century house for being ‘unlawful’. Their choice of time to carry out this operation is noteworthy. Ahmadis asked them to show ‘authorization’ papers; but they had none. The police also arrived in the meantime and they took the line that though legal written orders were not available, the demolition would nevertheless be undertaken ‘as law and order is threatened’. Soon a mob, 600-700, arrived and all these joined in to demolish the house. Thereafter the miscreants attacked the adjacent mosque and demolished its minarets, domes, doors, etc.

Ahmadis in the interest of communal peace, decided not to respond to violence and not deter the miscreants with force, instead they left it to the authorities to handle the situation, who then used no means at their disposal and made no effort to disperse the vicious attackers.

It is obvious that after sealing the house, it was under official custody, and the authorities were responsible for its security while awaiting judicial verdict; however in gross violation of this trust, the authorities not only initiated its destruction but also encouraged an unruly mob to participate in the heinous act.

These people were there till 03:00. Some of them came back at 04:30 and indulged in further vandalizing. This time the officials did not join them, and acted as mute spectators.

This entire incident happened with the collusion and participation of the administration and the police.

The police earlier booked two Ahmadis, the local Emir and the president on fabricated charge of ‘unlawful construction’. An FIR was belatedly registered over the attack but it has been sealed.

Ahmadis have made a writ petition to the Lahore High Court against the sealing and destruction of the house by the TMA and the Police.

Ahmadis all over the world are very grieved and feel greatly hurt over this sacrilege.

Approximately ten days before this attack, at the demand of anti-Ahmadi elements,
the district administration stopped Ahmadis repair and renovation of the historic house.

Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani, the holy founder of the Ahmadiyya denomination, had stayed at this house on his visit to Sialkot. The house was still there, but its rundown structure needed repairs and renovation. The community undertook to restore it to its original form.

The mullas come to know of it, and as usual raised hue and cry. They alleged that a museum was under construction. The vernacular press gave boost to the propaganda. The mullas further alleged that the place would be used as a mosque. Ahmadis assured the administration that that was not the intention. The issue was agitated by opponents on the social media. A group of lawyers came out in support of bigotry and sectarian animosity.

In the run up to the riot, Mulla Khadim Hussain, the Khatib of the Lukabad Mosque harangued his followers on the issue and agitated them intensely to prepare them for action. He uttered very bad names for the holy founder of Ahmadiyyat and called him “the greatest enemy of humankind”, “an enemy of Islam”, abominable (Beyghairat), shameless (Behaya), of bad character (Bad Kirdar), disgraceful (Bezamir). He called his residence a filthy place (Ghaliz Jagah), a bad location (Ghatya Jagah), abode of rogues (Bad mashi ka adda). He bad-mouthed his fellow Muslims too who had sold the property to Ahmadis, calling the former as despicable (Kameeney), shameless (Behaya), low (Ghatya), traitors (Ghadar), abominable (Beyghairat) Muslims. He did not spare even their mothers, and said, “Their mothers’ character was corrupt.” All this garbage is available on videos. He told the authorities to undertake the demolition of the structure, otherwise “we ourselves will do that.” He took the official informers in confidence and told them to convey all that to the authorities. “We are law-abiding people, we’ll not take law in our own hands; I give you eight days to do that (demolition), after that we ourselves will take the law (… … …),” he asked his audience to complete the sentence; and they did. “We’ll set the property on fire; I myself will do that,” the cleric thundered.

In this open hateful speech, the mulla repeatedly violated sections 153-A, 295-A, 298 of the Penal Code, for which he could be arrested and imprisoned for 5 years; but he was sure that the co-operative administration would not even require him to explain.

The mullas succeeded as they always do in the context of Ahmadis. The administration intervened and stopped the work. The daily Ausaf of May 13 splashed the headline triumphantly: “The birth place (sic) of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani sealed on order of Deputy Commissioner.”

The official sealing of the house did not calm down the mullas, because their object was heightened agitation and unrest, and assertion of their political clout. So they precipitated a riot.

The atrocity was so vicious and senseless that the news soon got viral on social media. Videos of vandalism and its perpetrators became available. According to Reuters, a social media video shows a crowd cheering a local cleric (Hamid Raza) who claims to have ransacked the mosque. “I want to thank the Sialkot administration, the DPO, the DC, the TMA from Municipal functionaries at desecration site the bottom of my heart,” said the cleric from the majority Sunni community.

Mulla Hamid Raza is an activist of Imran Khan’s PTI and can be seen close to the party chief in photos on the Internet. In a video at the destruction site he is seen leading the demolition
gang. After the outrage he delivered a hateful speech and threatened the administration that if they registered a criminal police case against any one of the activists, he will turn the whole city into ashes. In his address he named Jamaat Ahle Sunnat, Sunni Tehrik, TLYR, Al-Ghalibun, Jamia Al-Alim, ATI etc. as collaborators. These are all essentially Sunni groups.

Although after two days, the PTI distanced itself from this criminal attack, through a statement, it is still to be seen if and what action it takes against the villain who led the charge.

The print media and the electronic media in Pakistan mostly kept the news of this attack confidential but most who matter came to know of this atrocity. The news spread abroad and there was a fairly strong general condemnation both in Pakistan and abroad. Bilawal Bhutto of PPP condemned the attack in plain words. Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Murree of PPP took up the issue in the Senate where it was passed to a human rights committee for follow-up. Intellectuals and op-ed writers Marvi Sarmad, Bina Sarwar, Jibran Nasir, Iram Azeem, Yassar Latif Hamadani, and many others came out in support of religious freedom. The daily Dawn reported the attack and made editorial comment.

The incident received its due condemnation from foreign HR and Freedom of Faith activists and organizations. There was a statement of strong condemnation from USCIRF. Mr Knox Thames of US State Department also expressed sympathy for the victimized community. A number of British MPs denounced the attack. In addition the Ahmadiyya persecution was debated at length in the British House of Commons where MP Siobhain McDonagh led the debate, and Sialkot received due mention. Forum for Religious Freedom – Europe took note and issued a statement of concern. The High Commissioner of Canada in Islamabad issued the following statement:

“I am concerned at reports that a group of people damaged an Ahmadi place of worship in Sialkot last night. I trust that the relevant authorities will fully investigate these reports. All women and men have the right to freedom of religion or belief, including the right to worship in peace and security.”

Perry Calderwood
High Commissioner of Canada

Inside Pakistan, the mulla unabashedly owned up the sacrilege and gloated over his ‘great achievement’. He was seen on videos and social media doing that. Mulla Ashraf Jalali, a leader of TLYR expressed great satisfaction over the success of the riot and gave credit by name to Hafiz Hamid Raza, Hafiz Saghir Hussain Naqshbandi, Shoaib Dar and Hafiz Hasan Raza. Others who played a leading role in the attack were named as Aamar Dar, Chaudhri Akhlaq and Tahir Hundli by sources. Hafiz Raza gave due credit to the district authorities, the DC and the DPO: “You have accomplished a great task (Azeem kam); bravo also to the team of the local Chairman (of the Council).”

The rulers from the PML-N chose to hold their peace and issued no statements. They were not guilty of hypocrisy. They had no sympathy for the victims, nor did they show any.

Ms. Irum Azeem, an MPA of Sindh Assembly complained that she lobbied to move a resolution of condemnation of the attack, but not a single legislator supported the idea.

As for the vernacular media, it made no mention of the incident as if it was not news worthy. The TV channels found it prudent to keep quiet. NEO TV channel raised the issue with a team of commentators, but they took the line that as they were not aware of the facts of the case, they are not in a position to comment. How meticulous and above board!

Humsub, an HR website was more frank and forthright to state: “The administration has refused to take the blame, and by destroying peaceful citizens’ property through submission to the Mulla it calls the monstrous action ‘legal’. It is posing as if it only demolished an illegal construction.”

www.humsab.com.pak/13305/newsdesk-118

The Daily Times posted an appropriate headline: “Mob led by PTI leader rains down misery on Ahmadi community, desecrates worship site in
Sialkot." Daily times.com.pk web desk on May 24, 2018

Following media houses also entered reports on this event: Reuters; channelnewsasia; BBC; VOA; Youtube; Times of India; Alaraby.co.uk; Pakistan Today; The Hindu; Anap.dw.com; and others.

The Sialkot administration mentioned above, in fact, means Mr Farrukh Naveed the Deputy Commissioner and Mr Asad Sarfraz Khan the District Police Officer. They, of course, follow the policy guidelines issued from Lahore by the chief minister, Mr Shabbaz Sharif of PML-N.

The bureaucratic machine in the Punjab seems to be well lubricated and functioning as tasked. Thus it was only three days after this outrage that the local Assistant Commissioner Mr Shahid Abbas was awarded Commendation Certificate and a Rs 100,000 reward by the Chief Minister. Believe it or not!

In this Islamic Republic of the Pure, following has been achieved since the promulgation of the anti-Ahmadi Ordinance XX:

| Number of Ahmadiyya mosques demolished | 27 |
| Number of Ahmadiyya mosques sealed by authorities | 34 |
| Number of Ahmadiyya mosques set on fire or damaged | 23 |
| Number of Ahmadiyya mosques forcibly occupied | 17 |
| Number of Ahmadiyya mosques construction of which was barred by the authorities | 58 |

After this successful attack in Sialkot the mulla threatened further such attacks on Ahmadiyya places of worship.

Another Ahmadiyya mosque sealed by authorities

Deryan Wala, Narowal; May 28, 2018: The authorities sealed an Ahmadiyya mosque on May 28, 2018 on demand of some mischief mongers, without talking to Ahmadis. This has a background.

Mr Nizam ud Din was one of the first among residents of Deryan Wala to join Ahmadiyyat. He had built a mosque on his land and bore all the expenses. He was the guardian and caretaker of the mosque. After his death, an Ahmadi lady Ms. Ghulab Bibi donated her 4-acre land to this mosque for its expenses. This continues to-date.

All the children of Mr Nizam ud Din are Ahmadi except one son. This defector made some attempts in the past to take over the mosque and its annexed land but did not succeed.

The other day, two neighbouring families of the mosque requested the Ahmadi caretaker of the mosque for its keys to offer their prayers. He gave them keys in courtesy.

Next morning, when Ahmadis came to the mosque for prayer they saw some non-Ahmadis assembled there for congregational prayers. This was over-stepping the courtesy. Ahmadis carefully handled the situation, and non-Ahmadis left the mosque after their prayer. However, a little later a heavy police contingent arrived at the mosque and sealed it without asking any questions. The two parties were told to report to the district police office. Obviously the entire event was a product of conspiracy in league with the police.

The opponents enjoy full support of mulla Khadim Hussain Rizvi of Faizabad sit-in notoriety.

The grabbers are apparently more interested in the 4-acre agricultural annexed land than the small mosque itself.

Ahmadi survives a deadly attack

Shahdara Town, Lahore; May 26, 2018: Mr. Sajjad Ahmad S/O Mr. Masood Ahmad was attacked on May 26, 2018 in Shahdara Town, Lahore at his house. Two shots hit Mr. Ahmad; one pierced his belly and the other hit his left leg.

According to the details, two youths aged early 20s came to Mr. Ahmad’s house at 9:30
p.m. and knocked at his door. Mr. Ahmad opened the door and they asked about Sagheer. Ahmad told them that no Sagheer lived there, and closed the door. They again knocked at the door. When Mr. Ahmad opened the door, they opened fire at him. As a result one shot hit his belly and the second hit the upper part of his left leg. Mr. Ahmad was rushed to Mayo Hospital, Lahore where he was operated upon. The shot that hit his belly pierced through it but fortunately no surgery was needed. Only stitches were applied. His leg was operated upon and the bullet removed.

Mr. Ahmad is a salesman in Unilever. He is forty-five years old. The police registered an FIR. No reason was found behind this attack other than religion. The assailants were not identified. They identified Mr. Ahmad at their first knocking, and opened fire at the second. Religious hatred and extremism are at peak in this area; and Tehrik Labbaik and Khatme Nabuwat organizations are active here.

A bizarre move by an ‘agency’

Lahore: The daily 92 News published the following story in its issue of May 16, 2018. As ‘agencies’ are normally well-informed on such issues, a report such as this is indeed surprising. As such, we reproduce below a translation of the news report without comment:

Intelligence agency demands ban on Qadianis’ social activities
Their website and use of social media should be immediately blocked: A letter to Ministry of Religious Affairs

Islamabad (Qasim Nawan Abbasi): A civilian intelligence agency recommended in its letter to Ministry of Religious Affairs to play their role to stop heightened activities of Qadians on social media in the country and ban their special website. According to a letter by an intelligence agency to Ministry of Religious Affairs, Qadians are running a website containing blasphemous material; its published content violates religious and constitutional restrictions. According to a copy of the letter held with 92 News, false proselytization continues through the usage of Islamic terms like Khalifa, Masjid, Messiah and Sahabi. In the letter, the Interior Ministry is also requested to ban all Ahmadiyya publications and their use of social media in the country. Also, the Ministry of Commerce is requested to ban import of similar publications in Pakistan. According to the sources, immediate instructions have been issued to the Interior Ministry and Ministry of Commerce to ban all such publications and the informative websites in Pakistan with immediate effect. Moreover the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has raised the issue with Ministry of Religious Affairs concerning books which Qadiani community sent as a gift to the prime minister some time ago during the Commonwealth meeting (in London). The prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was also invited for the program by Qadianis, but he didn’t attend. After the session the two books containing Qadiani viewpoint were distributed as gift to each attendee. These books are writings of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani and Mirza Masroor Ahmad. The Pakistan High Commissioner in UK received those gifts at the session. The Foreign Office handed over these books to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and has asked for their comment on them. According to the sources, Ministry of Religious Affairs has received these books and will soon send a reply to the Foreign Office.

Note: Other press reports named the ‘agency’ as Intelligence Bureau.

Believe it or not: Orya Maqbool Jan is proposed by PTI as Punjab Caretaker CM

Lahore; May 31, 2018: TV channel ARY flashed, and the press reported the next day that the Punjab Leader of Opposition, Mr Mahmood ur Rashid of PTI put up a new list of their candidates for the post of caretaker Chief Minister of the Punjab, and it contained the name of Orya Maqbool Jan as well. Rashid must have obtained endorsement of the proposal from party chief, Imran Khan.

Orya is known as an ultra-right wing brain. He has some following in the country and among the expatriate community. Sometimes
ago he assessed the Taliban rule in Afghanistan as an Islamic model for this era. He is also seen in a video supporting the practice of wife-beating on grounds that ‘women like it’. More recently, he forcefully recommended death for anyone who claimed to be a prophet, or while claiming to be a Muslim followed such a person after the Holy Prophet. In his video he asserts (translation):

“…We are of the opinion that anyone who professing to be a Muslim declares himself to be a Prophet, he commits robbery against the Prophethood of the Holy Prophet. There is only one way (Sunnat) with us, it is the way of our mentor Abu Bakr Siddique i.e. chop off his neck (gardan uraa do) like that of Musailma, the Liar; chop off his neck like that of Aswad Ansi… There is no other way.” He was referring to Ahmadis in his passionate style.

People who know Islamic history know that Orya here twisted facts and misquoted history to suit his purpose. Musailma and Ansi, both raised armies and indulged in armed attack on the nascent Muslim regime. Abu Bakr had no choice but to defend the state by defeating them. Their claims to Prophecy had little to do with these battles.

The Holy Prophet of Islam is on record to have foretold:

“[A time will come when] there will be nothing left of knowledge. People will make the ignorant their leaders and will seek guidance from them in matters of religion. These leaders will issue Fatwas without any knowledge. They will themselves be misguided and will lead others astray.

(Mishkat, Kitab ul Ilm, chap.3 p. 38)

However, it is noteworthy that the attack on Ahmadiyya mosque in Sialkot this month was also led by a PTI activist, Hafiz Hamid Raza. Although subsequently the PTI distanced itself from the grave sacrilege, any party action against the lead miscreant is still awaited.

In the past few months PTI leader, Imran Khan has made a number of moves that belie his liberal credentials. In fact, these betray his very shaky commitment to liberal values. His 5-year partnership with Jamaat Islami in KPK government, his participation in Khatme Nabuwwat conferences organized by extremist mullas, KPK government’s award of huge purse to Mulla Sami ul Haq’s madressah, and now after PTI’s hews and how’s over Punjab CM nominee the proposal to install Orya as the chief minister of the country’s largest province is perhaps the last nail in the coffin of expectations of PTI being a party of higher liberal and secular values that will retrieve Pakistan from the clutches of religious bigotry and hate.

The learned and undaunted Aysha Siddiqua wrote in her op-ed for The News in December 2017:

“A historic overview of the country where religious groups of one hue or the other have played their role with the state to turn it into a hybrid theocracy of today.

“…Now it does not matter anymore if Shariah is formally applied or not. But between Khadim Rizvi and Orya Maqbool Jan, the state is theirs to claim.”

PTI is sparing these fellows the effort to claim the state; it is offering them on a platter.

**Schismatic affidavits promulgated and put into effect**

**Islamabad:** We reported in last month’s report that affidavits for Muslims and Non-Muslim were being prepared for implementation in some government departments. It is now confirmed that NADRA is the first to do that for its personnel. This has been done in pursuance of the verdict given by IHC judge Mr Shaukat Siddiqui.

The affidavit for Muslims requires the deponent to sign the given statement that he believes in the absolute and unqualified finality of the Prophethood of Muhammad (Peace be upon him) the last of the Prophets and do not believe in, or recognize as Prophet or religious reformer, any person who claimed or claims to be a Prophet, in any sense of the word or of any description whatsoever after Muhammad (Peace be upon him).”
It may be noted that mere faith in the ‘Finality of Prophethood’ is not enough; it is the official detailed given meaning and interpretation that is equally incumbent upon the deponent to accept.

In the second affidavit everyone has to state, right in the beginning, that he is a Non-Muslim. As such, for an Ahmadi, it is not enough to declare that he is an Ahmadi; he must declare the non-Muslim status imposed upon him. This is absurd.

NADRA personnel are required to fill in these affidavits at the earliest. NADRA reportedly is considering imposition of these affidavits on all citizens for various purposes dealt with by NADRA.

Annual Report 2017 – Pakistani Media and the Ahmadiyya Community

Pakistan is increasingly descending into a sort of chaos and is becoming a place where members of the Ahmadiyya community are grossly discriminated. It has become very difficult for Ahmadis to live their lives and practice their faith in peace. There is an organised campaign underway to deprived members of the community of their basic rights, such as the right to worship and work or receive education. The hate-mongers seem to have an extensive support network and funding to publish hate material and organise conferences and events to spew hatred. State institutions responsible for HR and freedom of religion often play in the hands of opponents of the community while private sector also plays to the gallery in self-interest and participate in persecution of Ahmadi individuals as well as the community. Vernacular press leads in this atrocious behavior.

Pakistani Urdu press has big role in giving the hate-mongers a vast platform from where to spread hate far and wide. During 2017 Pakistani Urdu press continued to publish one-sided and provocative anti-Ahmadi news stories. The Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan publishes an annual report in Urdu that gives a glimpse of this world of hate-mongering and hostile propaganda against the Ahmadis. The report provides facts and figures of Urdu press and its contribution in instigating hatred against Ahmadis. This report was launched by the Ahmadiyya central office in May 2018 along with the annual persecution report.

In 2017, as many as 3936 anti-Ahmadi propaganda news-items and 532 articles were published against the Ahmadiyya Community. It is the responsibility of the media not to spread hate against any particular group in society, and if there is a negative report or an article published against one party, the viewpoint of the targeted party should also be obtained and published. But, no newspaper spares space for the Ahmadiyya response or viewpoint. The daily Ausaf (editor: Mehtab Khan) stood first by publishing 572 anti-Ahmadiyya news and 154 hateful articles while the daily Nawa-i-Waqat (editor: Rameeza Majeed Nizami) stood second by publishing 410 news items and 65 articles.

Translation of a few hateful anti-Ahmadiyya news is produced below as sample: 
Qadianis are a great threat and a cancer in the country: Mian Abdul Kareem

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, October 9, 2017

Qadianiat means rebellion and hostility against Islam: Yusuf Ansari

The daily Nawa-i-Waqat; Lahore, October 27, 2017

Ahmadis are more dangerous to Islam than any other minority: Rana Sana

The daily Din; Lahore, October 15, 2017

Change in 295-C (Blasphemy law) is not acceptable, Qadiani (TV) channels should be banned: AMTKN

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 16, 2017

Qadianis are agents of the enemies of Pakistan; Ilyas Chinioti (a PML-N MPA)

The daily Jang; Lahore, July 10, 2017

Religious freedom for minorities cannot be given to Qadianis: Rana Sana (a provincial minister)

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, October 15, 2017
Qadianiat is not religion or belief; it is only enmity and rancor against the Holy Prophet: Khatme Nabuwwat Conference

The daily Ausaf; Lahore January 1, 2017

14 secret Qadiani educational institutions disclosed in the country

The daily Ummat; Karachi, March 22, 2017

Conspiracy to evict Muslims from Chenab Nagar

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, January 2, 2017

etc. etc.

It is a 30 page report. It is candid and incriminating. No wonder, AMTKN, a Khatme Nabuwwat organization, declared and the daily Din printed in its issue of May 7, 2018: “Qadianis’ annual report is a conspiracy to bring bad name to Islam and Pakistan.” Another lie.

Ahmadi community on ‘hit-cum-action list’

Lahore: Security squads carried out a successful anti-terrorism operation in the second week of May in Railways’ zone in Lahore. They made a few arrests including facilitators, and recovered arms, munitions as well suicide jackets. The terrorists disclosed inter alia that Qadianis were their targets, and they had carried out the needed reconnaissance. They planned their attacks in the month of Ramadan.

Ahmadi denied burial

Rafiqabad, District Layyah; May 25, 2018: Mr. Hameed Ahmad S/O Pir Muhammad of Chak no. 368, District Layyah died on May 25. Opponents opposed his burial in the cemetery claiming that it was a Muslims’ graveyard and Qadiani would not be allowed to be buried there. In fact Ahmadis intended to bury the deceased in their own section of the graveyard. The opponents raised anti-Ahmadiyya slogans at the site. The police came to the site, but the mullas refused to cooperate. The deceased had to be buried at a faraway location.

A hostile conference

Gorgaij, District Larkana; May 12, 2018: Jamiat Ulamae Islam (JUI) held an anti-Ahmadiyya Khatme Nabuwwat conference here. Speakers badmouthed the Ahmadiyya community and spoke rabidly. They mentioned the local Ahmadis by names, called them to the ‘right path’ and threatened them with grave consequences if they would preach their faith. They took pledge from the audience by show of hands that they would make life unbearable for Ahmadis, so that they leave the village.

Some time ago the opponents disturbed the civic peace by making an issue of the Ahmadiyya prayer centre and the missionary’s house. Ahmadis are exercising great caution in day to day life.

Social boycott imposed by mulla

Gulshan Jami, Karachi; May 2018: Mr. Muneeb Ahmad Khan went to the local market for some shopping. At a shop, a mulla with a mask arrived and told the shopkeeper, “He is a Qadiani; do not deal with him.” Accordingly the shopkeeper refused to sell him anything. Then Mr. Khan went to a vegetable shop. The mulla arrived there as well and forbade the shopkeeper to sell him vegetables. The vendor cared little for the bigot and sold Khan some vegetables.

Earlier, the mulla had good rapport with Mr. Khan but when he came to know that Khan was an Ahmadi, he turned hostile. Once when Mr. Khan said Salam to him, he got infuriated and told him, “I will get you arrested in two minutes; you are an apostate and Wajibul Qatl (must be killed).”

Innocent Ahmadis harassed even after their acquittal by High Court

An armed contingent of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) carried out a raid on Ahmadiyya central offices and Zia-ul-Islam
Press, Rabwah on December 5, 2016 and made unjustified arrests. Mr. Sabah ul Zafar and Mr. Idrees Ahmad were awarded three year’s prison sentence by a special court. An appeal against the judgment was made in the Lahore High Court which acquitted them of the charges on February 26, 2018. They were released from jail on March 5, 2018.

The CTD filed no appeal against the judgment. However, Suleman Bin Abdul Rehman from the anti-Ahmadi lobby filed an application in Lahore Registry of the Supreme Court in which he appealed against the judgment passed by Lahore High Court calling it ‘impugned judgment’. A notice from the opponent lawyer Mian Ghulam Hussain Advocate on Record (Supreme Court, Lahore) was sent to the victims.

**One accused of fraud imposes un-Islam on Ahmadi witness**

*Canal View Township, Lahore; May 22, 2018:* Mr Abdullah Gill, an Ahmadi is a drug inspector. He registered a case against a local medicine manufacturing company for supplying non-standard ORS to the government.

On May 22, 2018 he went to the drug court in official capacity to follow-up the case. When about to record his statement on oath, the defense lawyer told the judge that the inspector was a *Mirzai* so he should take the oath of a non-Muslim. “I belong to the Ahmadiyya denomination. I call myself a Muslim but we are non-Muslim vide the Constitution. You can administer me whichever oath you want”, said Mr Gill. At this the state attorney told the defense lawyer that Ahmadis also believe in Allah.

It seems that the defense attorney wanted to assert to his advantage that the prosecution witness was a ‘non-Muslim’ while the accused was a ‘Muslim’. On insistence of the defense lawyer the judge administered Mr Gill the oath, “I solemnly declare that I will tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth”. The wording of oath for Muslims is slightly different: “I swear by Almighty God that I will tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth”.

**Deadly attack on the Interior Minister, and the Tehrik Labbaik**

*Lahore:* Federal Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal was seriously injured in murderous attack in District Narowal on May 6, 2018. The assailant was arrested on the spot.

Two days later, the daily Mashriq reported the following on May 8 in a follow-up report (Translation):

“The accused attacked after getting motivated by speeches of Tehrik Labbaik: Report

“The accused is linked with Tehrik Labbaik. Abid targeted the Interior Minister over controversial amendment (to Khatme Nabuwat rules): Deputy Commissioner.

“We do not support violence. The government should hold judicial inquiry: Khadim Hussain Rizvi, Pir Afzal Qadri”

**The futility of vain and devious politics**

*Chiniot:* PML-N led by Sharif brothers of Lahore have ruled the country and the Punjab province for many years in the past including the recently concluded 5-year term. They are surely responsible for the present state of the country, including of course the plight of the Ahmadi community.

It has been a consistent policy of Sharif brothers to support the mulla to remain in his good books for a comfortable vote bank. In this they did not mind violating principles of good governance, the Constitution and even dishonoring their own word. For example, as for
religious minorities. Mr. Shahbaz Sharif is on record in press having stated in 2015: “Hateful speeches totally unacceptable”, “We’ll annihilate extremists and make the country a cradle of peace”, “We shall ensure security of citizens”, etc. In the same year Human Rights Watch made the cutting edge report: “Sharif govt has failed to protect religious freedom”, The Daily Dawn; Lahore, January 30, 2015. Our report on recent demolition of a historic Ahmadiyya mosque, mentioned in the lead story this month exposes the entrenched pro-mulla and anti-Ahmadi policy of Mr. Shahbaz Sharif in the Punjab.

Here, we make a simple mention of some actions of Shahbaz government in the Punjab, taken on demand of the mulla, in clear violation of Ahmadis’ human rights and freedom of religion:

- Ahmadis disallowed to publish their translation of the Holy Quran
- Ahmadis forbidden to print books written by their founder
- All Ahmadiyya press (daily and periodicals) proscribed, including monthlies for children and women
- Carried out first-ever armed raid on Ahmadiyya central offices
- Arrested and imprisoned an octogenarian book-seller in Rabwah for selling Ahmadiyya literature. etc. etc.

All these condemnable actions were taken by the Shahbaz government on instigation and demand of mullas and groups like the Ulama Board. The aim was to keep the mulla’s support intact to maintain the vote bank. But then, laws of nature are complicated, and function in mysterious ways. By the end of his term in office, this month, Mr. Shahbaz Sharif was deserted by his mullas and political coterie – at least in District Chiniot. The picture above, reproduced widely in press and social media, proves the futility of his vain and devious policies. On his visit to Chiniot, leading mullas and his party stalwarts were invited to a major function held in his honour. They decided to refuse or delay their participation.

These, who idolize votes, worship a false god.

Ahmadis behind bars

1. A contrived case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad and Mubashir Ahmad of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhupura under PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 on May 13, 2014 in Police Station Sharaqpur. Two days later on May 16, 2014 Mr. Khalil Ahmad was then murdered by a madrassah student, while in police custody. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. A year later the deadly clause PPC 295-C was added to their charge-sheet by order of a high court judge. A sessions judge sentenced them to death on October 11, 2017. Appeal against this decision has been made to the Lahore High Court.

2. Officials of Punjab’s Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) accompanied by a contingent of the Elite Force raided Shakoor Bhai’s book shop, arrested him and Mr. Mazhar Abbas the shop assistant, a Shia, on December 2, 2015. A speedy trial in an Anti-terrorism Court dispensed 5 years’ imprisonment to each of the two accused, while octogenarian Mr. Shakoor was sentenced in addition to three years’ imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadiyya law. He appealed against the verdict and has sought release on bail from the Lahore High Court which has not spared time for over a year to hear his plea.

3. Mr. Saeed Ahmad Waraich was charged on a false complaint of blasphemy under PPC 295-C with FIR no. 645 in Tandlianwala police station, District Faisalabad on January 20, 2018. He was arrested a day earlier.
From the media

- Pakistani mob destroys 100-years old minority Ahmadi mosque
  www.reuters.com/article/us.pakistan-ahmadis/pakistan

- Pakistan legislators (Sindh Assembly) refuse resolution condemning mob attack on Ahmadis’ mosque
  Rabwah.net/Pakistan-legislators

- Attack on Ahmadi place of worship outrageous and unacceptable
  Tweet by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on May 25, 2018

- 24 unlawful Qadiani centers sealed in Khusab. …Religious organizations had threatened a campaign. Action in pursuit of the Ummat’s report
  The daily Ummat; Karachi, May 9, 2018

- Ahmadis have faced the worst intolerance in Pakistan and their persecution apparently has the support of the administration: HRCP
  HRCP State of HR in 2017 Report; p.85

- Intelligence Bureau’s recommendation to close down Qadiani websites is welcome: Maulana Rafiq Nafisee
  The daily Ausaf; Lahore, May 21, 2018

- Debate in UK’s House of Commons on May 24, 2018 on Persecution of Ahmadies in Pakistan
  Twitter

- Efforts underway to keep Ahmadis out of politics
  bbc.com/Urdu/Pakistan-43984340

- Teachers, scholars protest renaming of QAU physics dept.
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 5, 2018

- Municipal Council Chenab Nagar makes life difficult for citizens by imposing new taxes.
  Law torn away by not heeding objections raised by citizens
  The daily Ausaf; Lahore, May 19, 2018

- Chenab Nagar: Darul Nasar West and Centre void of civic facilities; drain pools all over. Extensive dust due broken up roads. Many fall sick. Difficult to move out when it rains.
  The daily Nawa-i-Waqat; Lahore, May 21, 2018

- National peace is at stake on account of Qadiani Museum: Qari Rafiq Nafisee (IKNM)
  The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, May 21, 2018

- Qadianis’ annual report is a conspiracy to being bad name to Islam and Pakistan: AMTKN
  The daily Din; Lahore, May 7, 2018

- Qadianis are consuming away the Constitution like termite: Mulla Abdul Ghafoor
  The daily Khabrain; Lahore, May 22, 2018

- N-League support for Qadianis record-breaking: (Mulla) Khalid Cheema
  The daily Islam; Lahore, May 24, 2018

- Countless Qadianis are entrenched in AJK administration. They should be pulled out. Khadim Rizvi (of TLYR)
  The daily Ausaf; Lahore, May 1, 2018

- The first Caliph dispatched deniers of Khatme Nabuwwat to hell: (Mulla) Abdul Ghafoor Rehmani
  The daily Islam; Lahore, May 16, 2018

- Over 3,000 Hazaras killed since September 11, 2011
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 24, 2018

- Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal severely injured in murderous attack. Accused arrested.
  The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 17, 2018

- I was angry over Ahsan Iqbal’s statement over Khatme Nabuwwat: First statement of Abid, the accused.
  The daily Insaf; Lahore, May 7, 2018

- One thousand religious seminaries are receiving foreign and billions are donated by 17 Muslim and non-Muslim states: Punjab Police report
  The daily Pakistan; Lahore, May 5, 2018

- Six thousand madrassahs are not even registered
  The daily Pakistan; Lahore, May 5, 2018
- Balochistan: Colonel Suhail of MI martyred; 3 terrorists killed.
  The daily 92 News, May 17, 2018
- Suicide attack on FC vehicle leaves one dead
  The daily The News; Lahore, May 19, 2018
- Row over prayer leader claims two lives (in TT Singh)
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 23, 2018
- The birth place of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani sealed on orders of Deputy Commissioner (Sialkot)
  The daily Ausaf; Lahore, May 22, 2018
- If in power, PTI will turn Pakistan into Madina State: Imran Khan
  The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 21, 2018
- Parliament is powerless; it is no longer independent; judges have no fear of God: Khurshid Shah (Leader of Opposition)
  The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 11, 2018
- SC takes suo motu notice of attacks on Hazaras
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 3, 2018
- MMA pledges to establish welfare state, protect minorities
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 14, 2018
- Nation needs new messiah: Fazl (JUI)
  The daily The News; Lahore, May 3, 2018
- HRCP deplores state of human rights in country
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 28, 2018
- Follow-up of corruption scandal.
  Decision taken to open up fresh reference against (Capt.) Safdar Nawaz Sharif gave Rs 9 billion to his son-in-law, in violation of rules. NAB obtains record of 9b worth transactions: Sources
  The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 2, 2018
- 13 killed as family attacks three churches in Indonesia
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 14, 2018
- 68 worshippers blown up in 2 mosques in Nigeria
  The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, May 2, 2018
- Sweden allows mosque to call for prayers
  The daily The News; Lahore, May 9, 2018
- Israel kills 55 Palestinians as US opens Jerusalem embassy
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 15, 2018
- Muslim trader beaten to death in India over suspicion of cow slaughter
  The daily Jang; Lahore, May 21, 2018
- Rohingya militants massacred Hindus: AI
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 23, 2018
- Trump tears up Iran nuclear deal, revives sanctions. President Rouhani says Iran will remain committed to multinational accord.
  Netanyahu hails (Trump’s) decision
  Iran used accord to sow discord, says S. Arabia
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 8, 2018
- First Pakistan-origin man gets key UK cabinet job as interior minister quits.
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 1, 2018
- Pakistan puts tit-for-tat curbs on US diplomats
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, May 12, 2018
- MMA, PML-Q and District Bar Association (Sialkot) take out joint protest rally and meet the DC over Qadiani museum in Sialkot
  The daily Khabrain; Lahore, May 13, 2018
- Attack on Ahsan result of ‘appeasing’ extremists: Nawaz Sharif
  The daily Nation; Lahore, May 8, 2018
- Elections will be contested between supporters and traitors of Khatme Nabuwwat: (Mulla) Zahid Habib
  The daily Aman; Faisalabad, May 23, 2018
- Imran Khan sent me a bouquet (after an assault on me), for which I am grateful; however in the evening the courier defended the attacker on TV: Ahsan Iqbal
  The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 24, 2018
Op-ed: **Pakistan and India, the failure of nation state idea**

So what is the solution? I do not speak for India because I am not a citizen of that country and therefore it is not my jurisdiction. However, for Pakistan to progress and become a useful part of the global march of humanity, it must shed its character as a nation state and instead become a truly constitutional state emphasizing the rights of citizens and upholding the contract between the citizens and the state.

This means an immediate and unconditional end to identity politics especially that which is there to serve the majority community in Pakistan. For Pakistan to be successful it must serve every Pakistani citizen equally without regard to that citizen’s religion, gender, sect, caste, sexual orientation or beliefs. Let us transform Pakistan into the first post nation-state based entirely on constitution and fundamental rights enshrined therein. This means going back to the drawing board and making a constitution that is keeping with the times.

_YL Hamdani in Daily Times, May 7, 2017_

Op-ed: **The stars beckon**

…This search starts with a basic sense of curiosity and wonder. But if we begin with the premise that all has been explained in ancient texts, then clearly, there is little incentive to explore, test and theorize. This is the rut that traditional societies are stuck in.

Indeed, Prof Abdus Salam’s example is a case study of how backward countries that fear scientific progress deal with their most brilliant minds. Pakistan’s only Nobel laureate in physics was not supported in his quest to establish a research institute in his own country, and was forced to leave Islamabad’s Quaid-i-Azam University where he had been invited to speak, by Jamiat thugs.

This is why no Muslim country has made any significant contribution to scientific progress
Editorial: Attack on Ahsan Iqbal

The assassination attempt on Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday in his home constituency at Narowal during a corner meeting provides a bleak assessment of the country today and certainly does not augur well for the coming election. …

Others who are complicit in creating the conditions for such groups to thrive – and, consequently, for such attacks as the one on Ahsan Iqbal – most definitely include the political parties who demagogued on the Khatme-Nabuwwat issue to score points against the government. These parties know how inflaming religious passions can endanger lives – and yet they persisted. False accusations of blasphemy have soared in recent years, with often lethal consequences for those who are accused. From Salmaan Taseer to Mashal Khan, we know how baseless blasphemy accusations can be lethal. Ahsan Iqbal was lucky to survive on Sunday but, if we keep following our current trajectory, the next person may not be as lucky. A line in the sand needs to be drawn. No longer should groups or parties that encourage and spread hate speech be allowed to dictate the terms of debate. Any political parties that hop on their bandwagon should also be shunned. Such groups and parties have blood on their hands and cannot be treated as legitimate in any way.

The News International, May 8, 2018

Editorial: Writ of Law Compromised

A state remains a state if it can protect the rights of life and property of every citizen. However, Pakistan is an exception to the ideals of the social contract between the citizen and state. Not a day passes when the rights of minorities are compromised in this country. It has become a routine when an angry mob challenges the writ of the state and violates the rights of defenceless people. The ugly scene that the city of Sialkot witnessed two days ago is a testimony to how the government is failing its religious minorities.

The daily The Nation; Lahore, May 26, 2018