Fake social media posts spurred anti-Ahmadi violence in Ghaseetpura
The daily Dawn reported on August 27, 2018:
“FAISALABAD: Unbridled unauthenticated fake posts on social media created problems for the police to maintain law and order in Ghaseetpura in Balochni police area that witnessed an attack on Ahmadi worship place on Thursday.
“Scores of such posts were seen on social media which claimed that seven Muslims were killed by the firing of the Ahmadi community and others were injured while police were not providing security to the Muslims.
“However, not a single casualty has been reported or confirmed by any government institutes like hospitals, Rescue 1122, police and other law enforcement agencies. But the social media worked like fuel to the fire and played a major part in fanning the emotions of the Muslims who did not know the reality.”

According to some mullas, it is permissible to tell lie in support of religion - at times even mandatory.
• Anti-Ahmadi agitation persists in District Nankana. Perpetrator remains undeterred by police notice and advice.

• Ahmadis denied freedom of faith. Made to sign agreement in violation of their rights guaranteed by constitution. Police DSP became a party to deprive Ahmadis of their rights.

• Ahmadi, innocent of any wrongdoing, accused of blasphemy

• Ahmadi harassed by mob for reporting hateful sermon to police

• Anti-Ahmadiyya conference scheduled and permitted for September 7 in Ahmadiyya headquarters town, Rabwah

• Hateful graffiti on Ahmadiyya mosque's wall in a cantonment area in District Rawalpindi. Police registers case.

• Ahmadi student faces hatred and threat to life from a university fellow

• Murder threat to Ahmadis in Mandi Bahauddin

• Ahmadis behind bars

• From the media
**Murder of an Ahmadi jeweller**

*Syedwala, District Nankana; August 29, 2018:*

Six armed robbers, riding three motor-cycles came to Syedwala and proceeded directly to the jewelry shop of Mr. Basharat Ahmad, an Ahmadi. Some of these indulged in indiscriminate firing outside the shop as also inside, while the others looted the ornaments. Having taken what they wanted, they singled out Mr Muhammad Zafrullah son of Mr. Ahmad as target among others present in the shop. Mr. Zafrullah was hit with three bullets and he died as a result.

The police and the Elite Force chased the dacoits and shot dead three of them.

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**Mob attack on Ahmadis and Ahmadiyya mosque in District Faisalabad**

*Ghaseetpura, District Faisalabad, Punjab; August 23, 2018:*

Ahmadiyya head office issued the following press release on August 24:

**Press Release**

An Ahmadi place of worship in Ghaseetpura Faisalabad attacked by a mob on the basis of a minor personal dispute.

After physically attacking the place of worship the assailants set it on fire. 5 Ahmadis injured during gun fire.

This attack is highly condemnable and the authorities need to take swift action against the perpetrators.

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**Chenab Nagar (PR) Yesterday, on 23 August 2018,** an Ahmadi place of worship in Ghaseetpura, Faisalabad was attacked on the basis of a minor personal dispute between two parties, by a mob of 300-400 people. A number of the attackers were armed. The assault began at the time of the *Maghreb* prayer when armed men began firing at the place of worship. Five people were injured by gun shots.

According to details, extremist elements in the town took advantage of a minor personal dispute to whip up enmity against the local Ahmadi population and gathered together a mob which went on to attack the place of worship by pelting stones and firing at it. The Ahmadis inside the building managed to get out and escape with their lives. The mob then vandalized the main prayer hall before setting fire to the things that were in the place of worship. An Ahmadi home situated next to the place of worship also suffered some damage.

The spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan condemned this attack in the strongest possible terms. He said that attacks against Ahmadi places of worship were now becoming far too regular an occurrence. In May of this year an Ahmadi place of worship in Sialkot was attacked and yet nothing has been done to bring the perpetrators of the assault to justice. Rarely is action taken against those who commit crimes against Ahmadis and this has resulted in a climate of impunity. The spokesperson also said that after the attack in Ghaseetpura the assailants took to social media to make false and hateful accusations against the local Ahmadis that means that the situation continues to be volatile and further attacks against the community are possible. He called on the authorities to take full and requisite measures to bring things under control and take swift action against the perpetrators of the attack. End

Additional information and subsequent developments in this case are summarized below:

- In the circumstances leading to this event, social media displayed videos showing clerics of Tehrik Labbaik (TLP) agitating the people against Ahmadis. These are still there and the
agitating mullas have not been held accountable by the authorities.

- Mulla Ilyas Chinioti (a PML-N MPA) visited Ghaseetpura to assure support to the perpetrators of the attack on the Ahmadiyya mosque. Thereafter he called on the DIG Police of Faisalabad and informed him of the excesses against Muslims in the police case (sic). This mulla unabashedly supports rioters who attack others’ places of worship.

- When Ms. Sheerin Mazari the Federal Minister of Human Rights and the Federal Minister of Information were informed of the happenings at Ghaseetpura, they took notice and sought reports. However Minister Fawad Chaudhry described the incident as mere personal dispute between two groups, as a case of law and order, and with no religion dimension. Many in the print and social media asked him that if that was so, what is the explanation for a mob to assemble and attack a place of worship and indulge in arson. We attach a relevant op-ed as Annex from the daily Nation.

- The daily Dawn of August 27 published a wholesome report on how fake social media posts spurred violence in Ghaseetpura. Some of these claimed that seven Muslims had been killed by Ahmadis’ firing. In fact not a single person from both sides died of firing or physical attack.

- A few from the vernacular press played up false propaganda as before. For example they printed: 1) Ahmadis themselves set their worship place on fire to pose as victims. 2) AIG Abu-Bakar Khuda Bux’s appointment as the Enquiry Officer has upset the Muslims greatly. 3) No Qadiani property has suffered any damage. 4) Qadianis reacted because they had been denied permission to build a new mosque. Etc.

The leading Urdu language daily ‘Jang’ published the news of this very painful event in a one-column story on page 15.

- Ahmadis mentioned hereafter were injured as a result of rioters’ action: 1) Mr. Mubeen Ahmad was wounded by an axe. 2) Mr Tahir Alam was shot and hit in the leg. 3) Mr Shaukat Qamar was hit in the right arm. 4-6) Mr Sarfraz, Mr. Muhammad Waqas, and Mr Qaisar Daud also received fire arms wounds. Of these six injured, four Ahmadis are under arrest while admitted in hospital.

- The police have registered a criminal case against the Ahmadi defenders as well as the attacking mob. Thirteen Ahmadis, namely Messers Rashid Ahmad, Shakeel Ahmad, Shaheen Mubeen Ahmad, Talha, Bilal s/o Jamil, Bilal s/o Ejaz, Zain, Sarfraz Ahmad, Tahir Ahmad, Aamar, Waqas and Shaukat Qamar are named in FIR Nr. 278/18 dated 24 August 2018 under PPC 295-A, 7 ATA, 324, 436, 427, 148, 149 at P.S. Balochni, District Faisalabad. Six of these accused were arrested, four are hospitalized with injuries inflicted by attackers.

- The authorities have arranged a reconciliation between the two parties. According to the truce, both sides will promote peace and desist from provocative action. Ahmadis will themselves bear the cost of repairs to the damage done to their mosque by the rioters.
Ahmadis face great hardships to practice their faith on Eid ul Azha

Various location in the Punjab; August 2018: Mallas now create problems for Ahmadis at the festival of Eid ul Azha in their ritual of sacrificial cattle (Qurbani). They tell Ahmadis to refrain from this practice, and, in league with police, attempt to get criminal cases registered against Ahmadis under anti-Ahmadi laws. These incidents are on the rise with every passing year.

Ahmadis were very cautious and discreet in exercising their right to practice their religious rites at this occasion. Despite all this care a number of Ahmadis were harassed by the local mallas and the police.

Four such cases of police intervention were reported from Lahore, two from Sheikhpura, one each from Districts Gujrat, Gujranwala, Okara and Narowal. At these locations Ahmadis faced one or more of the following hardships:

- Police cases were registered against Ahmadis in Sadhokay District Gujranwala and in District Narowal.
- Ahmadis were made to report to police stations, a few were detained for a while.
- Ahmadis’ cattle were taken to the police station, kept there but released later on.
- Ahmadis were made to sign undertaking that henceforth they will not undertake Qurbani.
- A policeman took down the name plate of Mr Muhammad Hafiz, an Ahmadi and took it away, for ‘Muhammad’ was written on it.
- Mallas of TLP took out a procession in Guldasht Town against the Cartoon Competition in Holland, but they availed the occasion to promote agitation against Ahmadis on Qurbani issue.
- It should be mentioned that at places, the police acted fairly and dismissed the objectors or dispersed the unruly elements agitating against Ahmadis’ Qurbani, for instance in Samnabad.

It is disturbing to notice that the attitude and policy of the PML-N government, especially in the Punjab, during the past five years encouraged the mallas to become more demanding and they expanded their regime of bigotry, which encouraged sectarianism and extremism that has led to acts of terrorism in the country.
Ahmadis’ harassment continues in Quaidabad; the police look the other way

Quaidabad, District Khushab; August 2018: For some time members of the Ahmadiyya community have faced extreme hostility in District Khushab. It is led by mulla Athar Hussain, ex-resident of Takht Hazara in District Sargodha where he precipitated a riot in which five Ahmadis were killed and numerous injured.

Written applications and reports were made to the authorities to control the situation and maintain law and order. Unfortunately no action was taken; this has encouraged the extremists.

On July 30, a few mullas entered two Ahmadi-owned shops ‘Mubarak Dawakhana’ and ‘Alqamar Tailors’, threatened them, threw stones on shops to damage them. Ahmadis informed the police but they took no action against the vandals.

Penal action by Ahmadi-bashers subsequent to Ahmadiyya boycott of elections

An ‘announcement’ was published in the dailies Abtak and the Frontier Post declaring that as Ahmadis had been placed on a separate electoral list dispute Joint Electorate and also to be eligible for voting they were required to sign an affidavit delinking themselves from the Holy Prophet, they would boycott the elections.

Subsequent to this, mullas are making efforts to implicate Ahmadiyya leadership in the country in a criminal case. Two writs have been moved in courts at Lahore and Lalian in District Chiniot.

Mullas applied to the police as well to register criminal cases against Ahmadi leaders, but as there was no justification for that, the police refrained from the requested follow-up.

The opponents subsequently moved a writ petition against Mr. Saleemuddin, the Ahmadiyya director of public affairs, in the court of Addl. Session Judge Lahore Mr Azhar Iqbal Ranjha. The judge has initiated preliminary hearings. Similarly a writ petition has been moved with the Addl. Session Judge Chiniot for registration of a case with police. The judge has given 11 September as the date of hearing.

Anti-Ahmadi agitation persists in District Nankana

Shaukatabad, District Nankana; August 2018:

Last month we had reported hostile activities of one Zahur Ahmad against the local Ahmadis, particularly Mr. Shamoon Ahmad, a medical practitioner and three younger men of his family. They were wrongfully booked by the police; however a court released them on bail and they temporarily took refuge in another town.

During this month, Zahur Ahmad maintained his anti-Ahmadi hostile activities. For instance, he took the stand that the Ahmadiyya mosque in the village was built on land owned by his forefathers, as such it should be reverted to Muslims. His claim is not correct as the land was the property of one Mr. Hakim who donated it for construction of the mosque. Anyway, the issue has been passed to a mediator who will give his findings.

Zahur has filed an application with the Health Department against Mr Shamoon who practices medicine. Zahur and his colleagues are determined to not let him practice medicine in the village. They have implemented a social boycott against Shamoon and made life very difficult for the Ahmadi family.

As a result, Ahmadis have been forced by the locals to give an undertaking that Mr Shamoon will no longer maintain his clinic in the village. This amounts to denying his family livelihood or compels them to shift elsewhere.
Ahmadis denied freedom of faith

Baidapur Virkan, Sheikhupura; July/August, 2018: Ahmadi youths sat in their mosque with the missionary when a non-Ahmadi fellow came there and asked them to accompany him to meet someone. There approximately 25 men and a visiting mulla were present. They told the Ahmadiyya missionary that from now onward Ahmadis should stop saying Azan (call for prayers), their mosque should not have minarets; their graveyard should be separate and they would not undertake Qurbani (sacrificing cattle on Eid). The Ahmadiyya missionary replied that he would call the local Ahmadiyya president and they could talk to him. They said no to that and told him to simply convey the message.

On July 31 a Khatme Nabuwwat conference was held at the same location. They decided to lay siege to the Ahmadiyya mosque the next Friday. Ahmadis informed the police of the plan. The police then heard both parties. The opponents presented three demands: 1) Erase the Kalima (Islamic creed) 2) Separate the graveyard 3) Agree not to undertake Qurbani. On August 1 the DSP sent for both the parties to discuss these demands. He gave time to both the parties to solve the issues by mutual consultation; otherwise he would himself give the verdict.

Both parties met to solve the issue. Non Ahmadis agreed to withdraw their demands. They had some questions over the writings of the founder of the Ahmadiyya community; Ahmadis gave answers which were to the satisfaction of the other party. This apparently solved the communal problem.

After some days mullas intervened and reignited their mischief, and threatened agitation. So, the DSP once again sent for both the parties on August 13; the opponents arrived with approximately 40 mullas. Ahmadis were put under great pressure with the help of police, and the following agreement was imposed upon them:

- Ahmadis will perform their worship inside their worship place and will never use loudspeakers.
- Ahmadis will not preach their belief to the villagers.
- Ahmadis will not undertake Qurbani and other rites in the days of Eid ul Azha.
- Ahmadis will arrange for a separate graveyard for them and will not bury any of their dead in others’ graveyard. Within seven days they will inform the local police and administration about the land of new graveyard.

If any of the party is in breach of the pact it will pay Rs. 10,00,000 as penalty to the other party and will also face the legal consequences.

Accused of blasphemy

Och Sharif, District Bahawalpur; August 2018: Mr Muhammad Inaam Nasir, Ahmadi had got the sewage repaired in front of his house. The mason used papers on the gutter cover; on these papers religious inscriptions were written. Recently when the cover broke, the writings showed up.

Opponents came to know of this and they mounted a group attack on Mr Nasir’s home, calling him a blasphemer. They knocked at his door, raised slogans and threatened him. In the meantime, the police arrived, took Mr Nasir in custody and drove him away. His family was also shifted for security.

Mr Nasir had recently been told by locals to shift, and had received threats. The sewage repair work had been undertaken 12 years ago, while the papers found on the slab are fresh. So this could be a deliberate plan against the Ahmadi. He could be charged under PPC 295-B that prescribes life imprisonment for one declared guilty.
Ahmadi harassed by mob for reporting to the police
Adda Loharan Wali Khoi, District Pakpattan; August 24, 2018: The local mulla bad mouthed Ahmadiyya community in his Friday Sermon. He called Ahmadis Wajib ul Qatl (must be killed), urged their boycott and incited the worshippers against them. The DPO Pakpattan was informed and he told the SHO to intervene. The police arrested the mulla.

Over this arrest, a crowd of approximately 1000 people assembled and took out a procession in protest. They blocked the road in front of the house of a local Ahmadi Mr Tariq Mahmood and burnt tires, etc. According to the participants of the procession, Mr Mahmood informed the police about the Friday sermon of the mulla for which he was arrested; so they would not let him live there. The procession stayed on and offered their Maghrib prayer there. The police arrived at the spot and dispersed the procession. The processionists demanded that Mr Mahmood be handed over to them or the person be named who reported the mulla to the police. The police controlled the situation.

Anti-Ahmadiyya conference scheduled in Ahmadiyya headquarters town, Rabwah

Rabwah, August 2018: According to press reports, a Khatme Nabuwwat conference at Jamia Usmania Muslim Colony Chenab Nagar is scheduled on September 7, 2018.

Mullas have been holding this Khatme Nabuwwat (end of prophethood) conference annually for the last 31 years in Rabwah. Participants are brought from different areas and cities to Rabwah. In this conference, speakers through loudspeakers use foul language against Ahmadis. They agitate the audience and prompt them to take extreme actions against the Jamaat. This seriously disturbs the peaceful environment of the city.

It is noteworthy that the opponents of Jamaat Ahmadiyya are always permitted to hold this provocative program in Rabwah. Its participants are transported here from outer cities. Contrary to this, Ahmadis are not allowed to hold their traditional peaceful conference in their own town.

This year also an application was made to the authorities by the Ahmadiyya head office to the effect: “It will be appropriate in view of the national sensitive political situation to not grant permission for such a conference that causes serious threat to peace. This conference is part of an organized, bigoted and gruesome drive against Jamaat Ahmadiyya; through this, baseless allegations and harmful edicts of Wajib ul Qatl are issued against Ahmadis. That is why, so far 265 Ahmadis have been murdered and hundreds have faced arson attacks. Now if this conference causes any untoward incident, then its entire responsibility will be that of its participants and the Administration.

“It is hoped that you will choose proper modus operandi to maintain the peaceful environment and disallow the conference. This sensitive and immediate issue demands your special intention. If permission of the conference is unavoidable then in the interest of security video recording of the program should be undertaken to expose its reality to you.”

Hateful graffiti on Ahmadiyya mosque’s wall

Wah Cantt, Rawalpindi; August 5, 2018: An unknown person sprayed ‘Countless curses on Qadianis’ on the outer wall of the Ahmadiyya mosque in Wah Cantt, Rawalpindi.

At about 09:00 a.m. an Ahmadi passerby saw the sprayed message on the outer wall of the mosque. He informed the local Ahmadi elders who informed the police. The police arrived, took photographs and checked the CCTV recording. The wall was cleaned under the supervision of the police.
The police has registered an FIR of the incident. No arrests have been made yet.

**Ahmadi student faces hatred and life threat**

*Lala Musa, District Gujrat; August 6, 2018:*

Mr Hamza Farooq is an Ahmadi from Lala Musa. He is a student of BSIT in Superior University, Kharyan. His university fellow Ali turned hostile for his faith. He is propagating hatred against Hamza for being an Ahmadi; whosoever sits with him would be outcast from Islam. Many students now oppose Hamza.

Recently Ali issued life threat to Hamza and said that he would kill him by the end of the semester. He has sought assistance from mullas for this purpose. He tells people that killing Ahmadis is a rewarding act. He has sent Hamza’s photo to different people.

Hamza and his father have been advised to meet the university administration and ask for action; if necessary also report the situation to the police.

**Murder threat to Ahmadis in Mandi Bahauddin**

*Mandi Bahauddin; August 20, 2018:*

Ahmadiyya community in Mandi Bahauddin has been receiving threats for some time. After the month of Ramadan, every Friday the police provided security at prayers in the Ahmadiyya mosque. Recently Mr. Ijaz Ahmad, president of the local Ahmadi community received a threat letter in red ink, “You and your family will be kidnapped and killed. Decided – consider it blood, not red ink... Thirsty for your blood: Righteous man”.

After this letter some Afghan youths were seen in the vicinity of the Ahmadiyya mosque. The police was informed of the whole situation, and the higher authorities instructed the SHO City for appropriate action and security.

Ahmadis have upgraded safety measures.

**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. Mr. Khalil Ahmad was then murdered by a madrassah student, while in police custody, two days later on May 16, 2014. 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 suggestion 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 two years 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. He is under trial.

4. Mr. Javed Ahmad Ghuman was charged in a fabricated blasphemy case under PPC 295-C in police station Chobara, District Layya on July 1, 2018 in FIR Nr
288/18. His interim bail was cancelled on July 14, 2018, was arrested and sent to Layya Jail. On August 6, Rai Yasseen Shaheen the Additional Sessions Judge Layya refused his post-arrest bail.

5. A mob attacked Ahmadis and Ahmadiyya mosque in Ghaseetpura, Faisalabad on August 23, 2018. Six Ahmadis were injured. The police registered a case against both parties including 13 Ahmadis; six of them were arrested, namely Mr. Shaukat Qamar (Missionary), Mr. Mubeen Ahmad, Mr. Tahir Ahmad, Mr. Sarfraz Ahmad, Mr. Rashid Ahmad and Mr. Shakeel Ahmad. Of these six, four injured were arrested while admitted in hospital. All the accused were booked under PPCs 295-A, 324, 436, 427, 148, 149 and 7 ATA in FIR nr. 278/18 at police station Balochni, Faisalabad on August 24, 2018.

From the media

- 18 hurt as (Ahmadiyya) place of worship attacked in Faisalabad. Cases registered against over 200 people under terrorism charges.
  *The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 25, 2018*

- Non-Muslim Mirzai booked for violating Shaair-e-Islam (Qurbani, in Kamokay)
  *The daily Insaaf; Lahore, August 25, 2018*

- Fake social media posts spurred violence in Ghaseetpura
  *The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 27, 2018*

- 12 Diamer (GB) schools torched in overnight attacks
  Most of the institutions targeted are girls’ schools
  *The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 4, 2018*

- Three Chinese engineers among five injured in Dalbandin suicide attack
  *The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 12, 2018*

- MNA-elect Aamir Liaquat charged with contempt of court over hate speech

CJP regrets how individuals with no control over their tongue can be allowed to sit in Parliament
  *The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 11, 2018*

- 100 Ulama and Zakirs will face restrictions on speech and entry in District Faisalabad
  *The daily 92 News, August 2, 2018*

- It is essential to reserve seats for ulama in Assemblies: Qari Shabbir
  *The daily Aman; Faisalabad, August 8, 2018*

- Qadianis face no problem in the country: Maulana Allah Wasaya
  *The daily Islam; Lahore, August 4, 2018*

- We’ll consider blocking Twitter if blasphemy contents are not removed: Islamabad High Court (Justice Siddiqui)
  *The daily 92 News, August 8, 2018*

- 48 killed in suicide attack on students in Kabul
  *The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 16, 2018*

- Ban on full-face veil in Denmark draws ire of rights activists
  *The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 2, 2018*

- Sit-in by Muslims against Chinese plan to demolish mosque
  *The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 11, 2018*

- Afghanistan: Suicide attack in mosque. 30 dead, more than 40 injured.
  *The daily Mashriq; Lahore, August 4, 2018*

- Tony Blair asks Boris Johnson to apologize over attack on burqas
  *The daily The News; Lahore, August 8, 2018*

- S. Arabia freezes Canada trade ties over ‘interference’. Riyadh expels Canadian envoy and recalls its own which comes after Ottawa denounced a new crackdown on rights activists by kingdom.
  *The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 7, 2018*

- Dozens killed, including children on a bus, in Yemen Coalition air strikes
  *The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, August 10, 2018*
- Rashid Talib (Palestine born) first Muslim woman to enter American Congress
  *The daily 92 News; Lahore, August 9, 2018*
- First Muslim woman joins Australia senate
  *BBC; August 15, 2018*
- US priests ‘abused thousands of children’
  *BBC; August 15, 2018*
- Imran takes oath as PM
  *The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 19, 2018*
- Usman Buzdar elected Punjab chief minister
  *The daily The News; Lahore, August 20, 2018*
- Pervaiz Elahi elected Punjab speaker amid uproar
  *The daily The News; Lahore, August 17, 2018*
- 31% voted for PTI, 23% for N League and 12% for PPP. MMA got 5%, TLP 4%, GDA 2%, ANP 1.5%, Mutahiddah 1.3%.
  *The daily Jang; Lahore, August 2, 2018*
- Religious parties clinch over 9pc share of votes in National Assembly
  Dominate electoral space in KP by securing 18.8% votes
  *The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 1, 2018*
- Jamaat (Islami) expels 20 shura members after election debacle. “The JI candidates had contested elections for 39 seats of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and only Inayatullah Khan retained his seat from upper Dir.”
  “An insider told Dawn that for the first time in the JI history, a member has filed nomination papers against party Chief Sirajul Haq in Lower Dir showing the magnitude of resentment among members.”
  *The daily Jang; Lahore, August 7, 2018*
- Accountability court declares Imran Yusuf, son-in-law of Shahbaz Sharif, a declared offender (in Punjab Power Company case)
  *The daily Mashriq; Lahore, August 8, 2018*
- Three policemen martyred in attack on Gilgit check post
  *The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 12, 2018*
- Shahbaz Sharif required to present himself before NAB on August 20 in 56 Companies’ Scandal
  *The daily Mashriq; Lahore, August 18, 2018*
- Joint opposition protests ‘rigging’ in elections
  *The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, August 9, 2018*
- Hussain, Hassan Nawaz black-listed; passports blocked
  *The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, August 9, 2018*
- Fazlur Rehman has gone crazy by loss of privileges: Sh Rashid
  Sh Rashid, head of AML reacted sharply over Maulana Fazlur Rehman’s statement over not celebrating 14 August
  *The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, August 10, 2018*
- None whosoever (Mai ka la’l) can turn Pakistan into a secular, liberal state: Siraj ul Haq (JI)
  *The daily Jang; Lahore, August 4, 2018*
- Minor (girl) ‘tortured’ at seminary dies in hospital (in Multan)
  *The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 4, 2018*
- Nawaz, Maryam placed on ECL. Hassan, Husain & Dar will be brought back.
  *The daily The News; Lahore, August 21, 2018*
- PTI played politics on Khatme Nabuwwat issue for months; but in oath-taking ceremony they could not read the oath correctly. God will punish them: Rana Sanaullah
  *The daily Jang; Lahore, August 25, 2018*

**Op-ed: The PTI’s First test**

Speaking to the media, the new Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Fawad Chaudhry, claimed that the incident in Faisalabad was nothing more than a personal dispute that had gotten out of hand, with no religious motivations involved. This statement is puzzling for several reasons; it can hardly be considered business as usual when a frenzied mob can engage in running street battles for several hours before torching a place of worship with impunity as the police simply looks on. More importantly,
disputes of this kind – and there are many – usually do not end with massive acts of arson, nor do they unfold to the sound of sectarian slogans and coordinated attempts to punish a specific community. Under normal circumstances, a dispute over a dead chicken would probably involve harsh words and perhaps even a brief fistfight, not a massive conflagration involving dozens of people. Indeed, it is impossible to shake the feeling that events took the course that they did precisely because one of the parties involved happened to be an Ahmadi.

Much is expected of the new PTI government which has, after all, come to power promising radical change. Yet, while many understandably focus on big-ticket issues like loadshedding or corruption, the everyday acts of violence directed towards Pakistan’s minorities are no less important. On one of the first occasions that the PTI had to signal its seriousness about bringing change to Pakistan, it has gone ahead and buried its head in the sand much like its predecessors did. All the party or any of its many spokespersons had to do was make a statement denouncing the violence and yet, all that was said was yet another variation on the idea that the concerns of religious minorities in Pakistan are either unfounded or unimportant.

Hassan Javid in The Nation of August 26, 2018

Editorial: Faisalabad Mosque Attack

Imran has been criticized consistently, and rightly so, for lacking the courage to speak up against the religious intolerance in his political journey he has made so far. The inability to speak up against the religious fanaticism – that has morphed in Frankenstein’s monster – will bite Imran and his government back in the days ahead.

In the otherwise positive speech that Imran Khan as Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan delivered, there was no mention of how Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) would eradicate the menace of terrorism and intolerance that was plaguing the society. While Imran talked about equality of citizens before the law and supremacy of law in the Naya Pakistan, it is the time for his government to set a solid precedent by acting against those who perpetrated the heinous crime.

The Nation; August 25, 2018

Annex: Not festive for all - an op-ed in the daily The Nation; Lahore, August 29, 2018
Not festive for all

Another Eid brings with it a day of mourning for members of the Ahmadiyya community in Faisalabad. 31 people were injured and an Ahmadiyya mosque was burnt down as a result of a verbal argument turning ugly. Reports have been scant, due to both the closure of most media outlets as a result of Eid holidays and the general lack of coverage given to issues faced by the marginalized minority group, but it seems that a verbal kerfuffle took a religious colour when youths from both the Ahmadiyya community and Muslims from the surrounding area argued about something very minor. But as is the norm with most arguments concerning any minority group, the Muslim antagonists turned it into an issue of religion which led to the attack on the Ahmadiyya mosque.

What was supposed to be a day of celebration and festivities will be permanently remembered by the family members of victims as a day when the Pakistani state failed them yet again. Pakistan’s treatment of its minorities often borders on indifference until property disputes or any other issues involve someone from a non-Muslim background. This indifference then turns into open vitriol and violence against marginalized sects, often culminating in burning down homes or the community worship area.

The Ahmadiyya community has suffered much at the hands of their fellow Pakistanis, and apart from the loss of lives and property, one of the worst things the Pakistani state has done is to muzzle them completely, to make sure that no member of the marginalized sect can even come out and talk about the state-sponsored injustice they face on a daily basis. There is an absence of political representation, and due to separate voter lists and other forms of discrimination, the community does not even get to vote in any electoral contests and most individuals do not openly admit their religion to their peers around them, through fear of further victimization.

Our collective silence has only exacerbated the problem, until the majority speaks out for the minority, their rights will not be safeguarded in a country where the state only looks to protect the powerful and uses religion to gain support from the populace. Bringing up the issue of a revision in the blasphemy laws – a revision mind you and not a repeal – can bring about a swifter mob-sponsored death sentence than any actual crime mentioned in the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). In a situation like this, even those that might be sympathetic to everything the Ahmadiyya community and others (Christians, Hindus and other religious minorities) have been through stay silent due to fears for their own lives.

A new government brings new possibilities and it is hoped that the PTI government can turn a corner and work for the betterment of those that really need it – extending basic protection to minority communities should not be out of the question and it is hoped that PM Khan will focus on this. Although he neglected to talk at length about the plight of minorities in his maiden address to the nation, it is hoped that the following days and this unfortunate tragedy will bring this issue into the limelight.

But this hope is faint. It is not very likely that this government will have the gumption required to take on decades of internalized hate. There is no silver lining, no optimism and nothing in the way of hope that the Ahmadiyya community can take from this piece, sadly. For now, all that needs to be done is for this issue to be talked about, over and over again, until society finally takes notice of how much it has wronged a community that has sacrificed everything to call this country its home. Until there is a better day, somewhere far in the future, all the Ahmadiyya community can really do is what has been the status quo for a while; hide in plain sight and hope no one notices their existence, or else their lives risk getting a lot more perilous.