

Provincial minister threatens murder – personally

Lahore; January 24, 2018: On 24th January 2018, in an Urdu current affairs talk-show on TV Channel 24, MrZaeem Qadri, Punjab Minister of Religious Affairs asserted that he will personally strangle (*galaadabaunga*) any Ahmadi who peddles the Ahmadiyya translation of the Holy Quran.

Among other participants in this program in which Dr Danish was acting as anchor, one was Maulvi Tahir Ashrafi, the chair of the Pakistan Ulama Council. With reference to his brother (who is a full time anti-Ahmadi activist, and has been investigated by the police for criminal conduct), Ashrafi demanded MrZaeem Qadri to take action against Ahmadis who were marketing the Holy Quran with Ahmadiyya translation. This was a false complaint, as, because of the law, this Quran is no longer available in the market in Pakistan.

In reply to Maulvi Ashrafi's allegation, the minister said, "The mentioned Quran has been banned, police raids have been undertaken, presses have been sealed and people have been booked (by the police). ... If someone still distributes this Quran, I'll personally strangle him."

He further elaborated upon this theme and said, "... As for me, I am not prepared to give the Ahmadis even their rights granted by the Constitution to Non-Muslims."

This hate-filled dialogue was not interrupted by the anchor, who even encouraged it, and the channel management decided not to delete this content. This was serious violation of the declared state policy on sectarian issues.