

Rabwah: A Place for Martyrs?

A brief on the situation of Ahmadis' human rights in their community town in Pakistan

The above title was that of a Report of the UK Parliamentary Human Rights Group (PHRG) mission that visited Rabwah in 2006. This report received good press in Pakistan, and a number of prominent column-writers wrote columns in support of that report. Apart from other locations, the Foreword by Lord Avebury to this readable report is available on website: <http://www.persecutionofahmadis.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/08-Rabwah-a-place-for-martyrs-Lord-Avebury-Foreword.pdf>

Rabwah was established by Ahmadis in 1948. Ninety-five percent of its 60,000 population is Ahmadi. It is the headquarters town of the community in Pakistan, and in a way its world headquarters. It suffered its heaviest blow when in 1984 it lost its crown in that the Khalifatul Masih (the Supreme Head of the Ahmadiyya community) was left with little option but to migrate from here.

Soon after the promulgation of the anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinance XX, the government of General Zia took several steps in league with the mulla. A number of mullas were facilitated to be posted in and around Rabwah whose sole function was to indulge in anti-Ahmadiyya activities. A mulla Allah Yar Arshad once claimed to his credit registration with police of 40 criminal cases based on religion against Ahmadis. A large number of Ahmadis of Rabwah, hundreds of them, have suffered prosecution in courts under the anti-Ahmadiyya laws.

Senior community officials were booked in police cases and had to travel at times as far as Karachi to face prosecution in courts. The senior most Ahmadi official in Pakistan Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the Nazir A'la (Director General), current Head of the worldwide Jamaat Ahmadiyya, was charged, arrested and put behind bars.

This tyranny through bad laws reached its climax when the entire Ahmadi population was booked by the police in 1989, and again in 2008. Rabwah is the only town in Pakistan where any citizen can be arrested anytime by the police, as the relevant FIR has remained open.

As if the imposition of non-Muslim status was not enough, the government had earlier proceeded to unlawfully usurp Ahmadiyya-owned land on the west bank of the river Chenab in 1975, and allocated it to non-Ahmadis to establish a Muslim Colony where extremist mullas subsequently built a big seminary, a congregational mosque and a clinic of Al-Rashid trust, an organization now banned for its terrorist links. This neighborhood is a hub of anti-Ahmadiyya activities. Its special target is Rabwah itself.

Since 1984, the government has not permitted Ahmadis to hold their annual conference here, while non-Ahmadi mullas are routinely permitted every year to hold two or three major open-air conferences in Rabwah. Participants and fiery speakers are transported to Rabwah from other cities. These sectarian events pose a serious threat to citizens of Rabwah. It is noteworthy that

while the authorities grant the freedom of assembly to all, be they jihadists, racists, anarchists, extremists, communists, atheists, whatever – but not to Ahmadis, who have not been permitted to hold their peaceful traditional religious conference for 34 years. A report on one such anti-Ahmadiyya conference in Rabwah held on September 7, 2017, is provided as Annex A.

Ahmadis of Rabwah were disallowed to peacefully celebrate their centenary in 1989. The government forbade them to illuminate their houses, distribute sweets to children and serve food to the poor. The authorities repeated the exercise in May 2008 when Ahmadis wanted to celebrate the Centenary of Ahmadiyya Caliphate.

Community level sports programs are also not permitted. Pakistan Amateur Basketball Association arranged a championship in Rabwah in April 2008, but the authorities, urged by the mulla, employed police and forced the Association to cancel the championship. Players who had arrived in Rabwah had to go back without playing.

Rabwah was reputed for its schools and colleges. Non-Ahmadis also availed of their high standard of education. The government nationalized them along with others in 1972. However, the government has changed its policy in recent years, and has denationalized most of those who applied for it, but not the Ahmadiyya institutions although Ahmadis have met all the prescribed pre-conditions. The standard of these nationalized schools and colleges has plummeted to a low level which has done irreparable damage to the education of Rabwah children and youth.

The Ahmadiyya press at Rabwah is denied the freedom of press that everyone else enjoys in Pakistan. Ahmadi editors, publishers, printers were booked in a record number of police cases. They suffered arrests and prosecution for years. These difficulties continue to-date. At present the Ahmadiyya daily and all the community periodicals published in Rabwah have been shut down by the Punjab government. This shameful treatment of the Ahmadiyya press has no parallel in the country. It is blatant violation of Ahmadiyya community's fundamental human rights.

All this is undertaken on behest of the Ulama Board. The Provincial Home Department has forbidden Ahmadis to publish the Holy Quran with Ahmadiyya translation. All the books written by the founder of Ahmadiyyat have been banned. On this issue, counter-terrorism officials raided the only book depot in Rabwah and arrested its 80-year old proprietor, Mr Abdul Shakoor. He has been imprisoned for 8 years.

In 1999, the government even changed the name of Rabwah, against the wishes of its inhabitants. This was another frightful blow to the civil rights of its residents. This was undertaken by the government of Mr. Shahbaz Sharif.

Job opportunities for Ahmadis in Rabwah are very limited. Although a number of state offices have been established in the town, like the police station, a court, town council, post office, telephone office, WAPDA, railway station, revenue offices, etc but the government adopted a policy of not posting Ahmadis in these billets. Not even 5 % of these vacancies are filled by Ahmadis who form 95% of the town's population.

The case of the Rabwah town council deserves special mention. The government has implemented such rules and procedures that Ahmadis not only cannot contest the local government elections, they cannot even vote. As such, not a single councilor in the town council

of this Ahmadiyya town is an Ahmadi. The council does not represent the town's population; so they pay no heed to the plight of the town. Its water supply, sewage system, state of cleanliness, etc are in a deplorable state. Rabwah's streets and roads are as if these are in a war zone. Two national newspapers reported the following on Rabwah in vernacular in May 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-Waqt; Lahore, May 21, 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

Rabwah continues to suffer not only municipal neglect but also persistent tyranny from the state. It is a mirror of the plight of Ahmadis in the entire country. A sample of what goes on here is briefly mentioned in our annual reports. The chapter on Plight of Rabwah from the 2010 Report is provided here as Annex B.

More recently, Mr. Abdul Quddoos, an Ahmadi from Rabwah was killed on March 30, 2012. This killing can be summarily described as: **A deliberate murder of an innocent Ahmadi through torture by a team of police officials, under the supervision of a superior, on behest of higher political, religious, administrative and police authorities.** Mr. Quddoos was 43 years old, a teacher by profession, president of the local Ahmadiyya chapter, a breadwinner of his family, a father of four children, a greatly respected man in his social and professional circles. Mr. Quddoos became victim of some conspiracy and succumbed to police torture. They released him a few days before his death declaring him innocent of the criminal accusation. Later two policemen involved in torture were charged of murder, but, surprisingly, not arrested for months. They were suspended; but they have been reinstated by orders of a court. The entire population of Rabwah was shocked to learn about Mr. Quddoos's murder. "Who is safe here if not Quddoos, a community president?" they ask. This incident in essential detail is described in Annex C, reproduced from the Ahmadiyya News Report, for March 2012. It answers once again the UK PHRG question: **Rabwah: A Place for Martyrs?**

Ninety –five percent of Rabwah population is Ahmadi, so it is very easy for terrorists to carry out attacks here with sole aim of targeting Ahmadis. The attack on Mehdi Mosque and the murder of Canadian-American Dr Mehdi Ali Qamar in 2014 were undertaken with this premise.

In 2016 the authorities undertook a vicious act they had never attempted before. They mounted a raid by the Elite Force on the Ahmadiyya central offices. They made arrests in the name of counter-terrorism. A year later a court acquitted the accused, as the raid as well as the arrests were malafide.

July 1, 2018

Annexes:A

An anti-Ahmadiyya conference in Ahmadiyya headquarters town, September, 2017

B Plight of Rabwah: A few pages from the annual report of Ahmadis' persecution in Pakistan – Year 2010

C President of local Ahmadi community in Rabwah tortured to death by the Punjab Police - 2012

An Anti-Ahmadiyya conference in Ahmadiyya headquarters town, Rabwah

September 7, 2017: Mullas hold rallies and conferences all over Pakistan on September 7 to commemorate the anti-Ahmadiyya 2nd Amendment to the Constitution. This amendment was introduced by the Z.A. Bhutto government of PPP in 1974, through which Ahmadis were declared non-Muslims. This amendment opened the flood gate of persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan.

Mullas have been holding special Khatme Nabuwwat (end of prophethood) conferences annually for the last 30 years in Rabwah – the centre of the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan, Ahmadis here form more than 95% of the population. Mullas come from all over to hurl abuses against the residents of the town and the persons they respect. Every year authorities allow and facilitate this conference in Rabwah despite request from Ahmadiyya headquarters to disallow this provocative conference in their home-town. On the other hand when Ahmadis request permission to hold their traditional conference in their own centre, the authorities do not even acknowledge the receipt of the application.

This year the 30th annual Khatme Nabuwwat (KN) conference was held on September 7, 2017 by the International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement (IKNM). We report its proceeding below in some useful detail along with essential comments which would be helpful to a keen analyst to understand the nature of such rallies that are claimed by their organizers to be perfectly peaceful and lawful, and even blissful spiritually. There was no surprise this year; as expected the mullas indulged in profuse slander, lies, deceit, propagation of hate and violence and made demands that blatantly violated internationally accepted, including Pakistan, norms and statutes of human rights and religious freedom. This report is primarily based on press reports which were reproduced from the press-releases of the media section of the conference management. While most of the Urdu dailies provided plenty of space to these reports, we have prepared this narrative primarily from the stories given in the daily Jang, Lahore of September 8 and 9, 2017.

This conference was announced well in advance in the press, and the public had been urged by some leading mullas to attend in large numbers. The leadership of the Aalami Majlis Tahaffuze Khatme Nabuwwat placed an ad in the daily Jang of September 7, 2017 urging the ulama and prayer-leaders to address the countrymen that day to apprise them ‘of the importance and defense of the KN (End of Prophethood) and Qadianis’ belief system and their ‘apostate activities.’ Mulla Abdur Rauf Makki (from Makka, Saudi Arabia) issued a statement that “this conference will prove to be a huge exposition of Ummah’s unity and will be the last nail in the coffin of Qadianiat.” (*The daily Ausaf; September 7, 2017*)

The authorities not only permitted holding this sectarian conference, they provided all the essential support. The organizers proudly had it reported in the press that all arrangements were perfect and rescue squad, ambulance service, bomb disposal squad, security personnel etc numbering over 950 were all available. *They said: In view of delicate security situation in the*

country, fool-proof security and stringent safety measures had been adopted. One may ask the organizers and the authorities – why at all hold this vain and futile anti-Ahmadi conference in an Ahmadi-populated town?

At the conference, the speakers said little on the merit and excellence of the ideology of the Khatme Nabuwwat; instead they indulged in many issues and facets that violated the sanctity of the fair theme. We reproduce below samples and extracts, under specific topics.

International politics. The speakers said, “It was not up to us but for the world to ‘do more’. International powers have failed; they should not dump the garbage of their failures, humiliation and disgrace on Pakistan. Pakistan is a great country; it is proud to possess nuclear capability. We’ll not be cowed by American threats. No Pakistani child will hesitate to sacrifice his life for the protection of the dear country.” Sheikh Maulana Abdul Rauf Makki (of Makka Mukarrama) the deputy Amir of International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement said, “Qadianis are the tools of international Evil and Zionist powers; they are working to help the West to round off the Zionist agenda. We’ll never let this Qadiani and Zionist agenda flourish; Qadianis are busy in their evil attempts to break up the country.” Maulana Qari Shabbir A Usmani, another deputy Amir of the IKNM said, “... We strongly condemn the anti-Pakistan statement of the American president and tell him that we’ll turn Pakistan into Americans’ graveyard...” A doltish speaker recommended war against India.

The speakers told the participants, “Qadianis’ political bond with Israel and India is a huge conspiracy against Pakistan and the Islamic world.” *The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; September 8, 2017*

Promotion of violence. The mullas were discrete but clear in propagating violence. For instance, Zahid Qasimi, a mulla on government pay roll said, “7 September is a day of rejoicing for Muslims. We’ll rather get slaughtered and die than permit any tampering with the finality of prophethood of our master. We shall continue to fight till our last breath on all fronts to safeguard the Khatme Nabuwwat.”

Maulana Saleem Muaviya of Gilgit Baltistan said, “It is duty of us all to crush the head of Qadianiat. We must continue to fight for the honour of the Prophet, till the last drop of our blood.”

Lies and slander. Maulana Sufi Akram said, “It is the duty of the government of Pakistan to fire all Qadianis who have penetrated Pakistan’s atomic program and remain busy in conspiracies to deprive Pakistan of its nuclear capability.”

Maulana Saad Kamran said, “Qadianis in official lobbies and key posts are deliberately occupied in bankrupting the dear country socially, religiously and geographically by looting the national treasury.”

Allama Shah Nawaz Farooqi, the secretary general of Pakistan Ulama Council said, “Qadianis are at the back of terrorism in the country and the sectarian controversies.”

Maulana Rafiq Wajhwi said, “The mischief (*fitna*) of Qadianism was planted by the British; it is a Jewish political auxiliary organization. We’ll continue to confront them. Qadianis have always taken to aggression, violence and violation of the constitution.”

M. Arshad Hijazi said, “Qadianiat is bent upon cutting the roots of Islam and Pakistan.”

And still another: “The participants of the conference shed tears when told the stories of Qadianis’ atrocities on *Mujahideen* of Khatme Nabuwwat.”

Also: “In fact it is the Jews who are responsible for all the atrocities against Rohingyas.”

And to top it all: “Rabwah is the headquarters of all terrorism.”

Deceit. Maulana Yusuf Ahrar said, “Mirzais (Ahmadis) are now converting to Islam because Mirzaiat is not a religion or faith, it was only a political mischief created by the British.”

Qazi Saeedi said, “No sensible Muslim is ignorant of the Qadiani conspiracies and opposition against Islam and Muslims.”

Qari Shabbir Usmani said, “The stature of Pakistan is that of a *Masjid* (mosque); its defence is a part of our faith.”

A mulla stated that this conference was committed to fight extremism.

Promotion of hate. Maulana Farooqi said, “Jews and Hindus are backing up Qadianis who are a great cancer which must be destroyed.”

Javed Kasuri of Jamaat Islami said, “The traitors to Pakistan deserve no relief. National security demands that all activists busy in conspiracies against Pakistan, particularly the Qadiani gang should be neutralized.”

Maulana Safdar of Pakistan Ulama Council said, “Qadianis, by not accepting their constitutional status, are guilty of rebellion. They should be booked for violating the constitution and being traitors.”

Threats. The mullas not satisfied with their to-date achievements against Ahmadis, made known their future aims and ambitions. Qari Usmani said, “If Muslims continue to act in union, the day is not far when Qadianiat and its supporters will disappear and lose even their trace in this tsunami (of our onslaught).”

It is sardonic that while all this was being preached, the same mullas shamelessly introduced a resolution: “This gathering condemns in strongest terms the atrocities being committed against Muslims in Burma, Palestine, Kashmir and Syria. Human rights organizations should take due notice of these and have these stopped.”

At the end of the last session of the conference, numerous resolutions were moved and passed. Some of these are translated below, in abridged form. These are interesting in their blatancy in the face of universally accepted human rights norms:

- A ban should be imposed on Qadianis’ activities. They should be fired from all key posts.

- Computerized I.D. cards should mention the holder's religion, or Muslims' cards should be of different colors to ensure religious distinction to meet legal and constitutional imperatives.
- Sharia punishment for apostasy should be imposed as recommended by the CII (*death*).
- Qadiani TV channel should be banned.
- Declaration (official permission to publish) of Qadiani periodicals should be withdrawn.
- The dogma of End of Prophethood should be included in school syllabi.
- Qadiani endowment (*auqaf*) should be nationalized.
- We condemn exclusion of Jihad, Seerat and other Islamic themes from school syllabi.
- Quranic inscriptions in Qadiani places of worship should be 'protected'.

The mullas appear to be conscious of their extremism and violence-prone rhetoric, which violates the provisions of the National Action Plan that enjoys support of the army; therefore they have adopted the policy of verbal support to the Pakistan Army. Their press-release mentioned: "This gathering pays tribute to the patriots of Pakistan's armed forces who from 1965 till the Operations *Zarb Azab* and *Radd al Fasad* have sacrificed their lives for the defence and security of their country. It also pays tribute to Army chief General Qamar Bajwa for his brave challenge to anti-Pakistan forces... and assures him of its full support."

It is common knowledge that these mullas establish, manage and maintain the nurseries where the so-called *mujahideen* (*aka* terrorists) are trained to harm their own people, governments and armed forces, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths and casualties. The pretense, duplicity and slyness of the mulla are vast and consequently obvious.

The number of participants at the conference was pathetic – a few hundred. The management made no mention in their press release of the number of participants. The management quoted over 950 officials present to provide support; we do not know if this number is correct, but it will surely support the expenditure bill to be claimed in petro-dollars. The management profusely thanked the DC and the DPO for the excellence of the official support made available.

Reprehensible role of the vernacular press. As stated above, only a few hundred participants took the trouble of coming over, or being brought over to Rabwah to listen to all this bigotry, slander and ill-will, but the Urdu press came up with their unworthy help by publishing the organizers' press releases in plenty of detail, and passed their hateful message to hundreds of thousands of their readers. What the mulla could not achieve on his own, the fifth pillar of the state made it possible, while the administration facilitated it. If the country and its people come to harm as a result of such campaigns and rallies, mullas should not be the only ones to deserve the blame.

It is noteworthy that the final session of the conference was presided over by “Fazilatu Sheikh Maulana Abdul Rauf Makki (Makka Mukarrama)”. What was this mulla from Saudi Arabia doing here by the river-side of Chenab on September 7, 2017? Why was he accepted as the patron of this conglomerate of politically ambitious priests who promote hatred, sectarian violence, theological tyranny, fanaticism, extremist agenda and violation of human rights?

Parties and organizations who were invited or who participated were the following: Jamaat Islami, JUI (F), Pakistan Ulama Council, JUI (S), Wafaq ul Madaras, PML-(N), Minhaj ul Quran, Ahrar Islam, Pasban Khatme Nabuwwat, MTKN etc.

Mullas have imposed their ‘right’ to hold these conferences in memory of an action taken by the state over 40 years ago, though many of the political descendants of Z.A. Bhutto (PPP) now voice their regrets over it in private. Mullas held similar, sparsely attended conferences in Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Faisalabad, Hyderabad, Bahawalpur, Sargodha, Rawalpindi, Multan, Sheikhpura, Jhang, Sukkur, Mirpur Khas, Rahim Yar Khan, Mandi Bahauddin, Sahiwal, Okara, Kasur, Toba Tek Singh, Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Gujrat, Jaranwala, Chichawatni, Chiniot, Kamalia, etc. The press reported them all.

Although not many attended, but the vernacular gutter rags carried their message of hate far and wide without realizing that one terrorist is enough to kill a hundred innocent persons, and terrorists are gullible and halfwit youth who can easily turn into unguided missiles.

It deserves mention that a fortnight later, at the advent of the month of Muharram, the Punjab Government took extraordinary measure to ensure sectarian security. Half-page ads were placed in newspapers to educate people on security, giving them Emergency Control Room phone numbers and telling them to simply dial 15 at anytime, of day or night to report any unpleasant incidents. The same authorities facilitated the same religious bullies to hold anti-Ahmadi conference in Rabwah.

NO wonder, neutral observers blame Pak authorities of double standards and unsteady policies in controlling extremist elements.

Plight of Rabwah

Relevant section from the Annual Report for year 2010 is reproduced below as sample to illustrate what this town experiences around the year at the hand of the state and the society.

Report of processions held on 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal in Rabwah

Rabwah: The Ahmadiyya central office in Rabwah issued a circular for urging the authorities to stop the gatherings and processions led by mullas in Rabwah in which they routinely use abusive language against elders of the Ahmadiyya community and create a law and order problem. This letter is reproduced in chapter 6. Authorities took little notice of this letter, and the mullas were given free hand to provoke the Ahmadis of Rabwah and take out a number of processions in the town.

The events scheduled for 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal began on February 26, 2010 after the Friday prayer. Mulla Ataul Muhaiman Bukhari of Multan held a conference in *Kot Wasawa*. Five clerics, including Ghulam Fareed Paracha Deputy Secretary JI and mulla Mugaira of Rabwah made anti-Ahmadiyya speeches. The attendance was approximately 350.

The second session started at 9 p.m. Mulla Muhammad Ahmad Ludhianwi arrived in a procession of 6 buses, 40 motorcycles and an open-top vehicle carrying armed men. This mulla is a leader of a banned organization but is free to carry on his mischief. They reached *Kot Wasawa* through the main roads of Rabwah waving their weapons. The attendance at this session was approximately 1000. Six mullas addressed the audience.

The third session continued till noon the next day. They took out a procession at 3:30 p.m.

On 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal the first procession was taken out by mulla Allah Yar Arshad at 9:50 a.m. from Masjid Bukhari. It arrived at Aqsa Square via the Bus Stop and Aqsa Road (the main road of Rabwah). Mulla Muhammad Yamin Gohar spoke to the participants. Then the crowd went back to the Bus Stop. They halted in front of the Ewan-e-Mahmood (Ahmadiyya Youth Central Office) and post office and used abusive language against Ahmadis. They demanded a ban on the daily *Alfazi*. This procession ended at the Bus Stop at 12:20 p.m.

Another procession was launched by Maulvi Shahid, son of Maulvi Mushtaq from nearby *Khichian*. This procession went to the Bus Stop through Aqsa Square. Approximately 400 people formed this procession. It dispersed at 1:00 p.m. They did not use abusive language.

The third procession was led by the Ahrar from *Kot Wasawa*. It used the main roads of the city including College Road, Aqsa Road and stopped at Aqsa Square. A speech was made there. In front of the Ewan-e-Mahmood speakers including Ataul Muhaiman Bukhari used foul language against the Ahmadiyya community. This went on till 5:30 p.m. The procession ended at the Bus Stop. There were 3500 – 4000 people in the procession. A group among them threw stones on the gate of the Ahmadiyya graveyard. The police intervened and stopped them. Some mullas also urinated on the graves of Ahmadis in the public cemetery.

The Ahmadiyya community remained alert at all times against any eventuality. All shops and markets remained closed for almost two days. The Ahmadiyya youth acted as models of self-discipline in the face of provocation in their home town.

Mullas create tension in Rabwah through a non-issue

Rabwah; December 29, 2010: A few policemen accompanied by some mullas came over to the main Ahmadiyya mosque in Rabwah before sunset and wanted entry to the compound to inspect if minarets were being built. This mosque, in fact, already has minarets, and there is no need to build new ones. The

Ahmadis on guard duty told the police that as the mullas were in their company, they would allow none to enter the mosque.

In the meantime the local SHO also arrived at the scene, so did some other people including personnel of the security and intelligence departments. Considering the gravity of the situation and the mullas' threat of a countrywide agitation two days later on 31 December in support of the Blasphemy law, senior Ahmadi community officials arrived at the scene. Finding the mullas there, including Shabbir Usmani, a senior cleric, Ahmadi officials told the police that they would not allow mullas to enter the compound. The SHO then proposed that he would take along no mulla inside the mosque.

Accordingly the SHO went inside. He saw that no new minarets were under construction; only some repairs were underway to the old ones. He reported the same to his superiors and to the mullas. Apparently, they were satisfied, and dispersed. The DPO was further briefed by the Ahmadi seniors. However, when the mulla is bent upon mischief and the administration acts timid, no one can be sure of peace and harmony.

Stone blasting in the residential area of Rabwah

Rabwah: Stone blasting in Rabwah's hills is a problem that refuses to go away – thanks to the stone-mafia and corrupt bureaucracy. A report published in the daily Ausaf of March 12, 2010 is translated below:

- **Illegal blasting in Karana Hills endangers human lives. Several wayfarers have been killed. Citizens and factory workers have been seriously injured.**
- **Stones fly faraway to the residential area on both sides of the hill due to heavy explosions that hit rice mills, houses and traffic.**
- **Citizens and factory workers have been seriously injured, several wayfarers have been killed. DCO ordered registration of a case against the contractor, but no action has been taken yet.**

Chenab Nagar (Staff Reporter): Influential contractor of minerals carries out stone blasting in Karana Hills from Choongi No. 3 to the bridge of Chenab Nagar Unit 10 at night despite the imposition of PPC 144. Many stones have hit residential area on both sides, houses in Darul Fazal, Shahab Rice Mills, other houses and traffic on the Sargodha Road due to heavy detonations which has resulted in the death of several wayfarers and serious injuries to local citizens living in houses and the factory. It is worth noting that many delegations of local social groups and elders have failed to persuade the stubborn contractor to stop such illegal blasting in view of such casualties and dangers. A delegation comprising elders and victims of such casualties visited the DCO Chiniot and presented him with a written application. DCO told SHO Chenab Nagar to register a case against the contractor but no action has yet been taken in this regard. The lives of people living on both sides of the hills are at constant risk. They demanded that the higher authorities of the mineral department cancel the lease (of stone-blasting).

Loot in the name of Government

The daily Din of Lahore; April 9, 2010 published a report regarding the extortion campaign by the Excise Inspector Chenab Nagar (Rabwah). Its translation is produced below:

**Private men of the excise inspector take money by deceit in the name of property tax
Iftikhar Gujjar has employed five men who fraudulently pocket money by showing fake
Demand Notices, in different areas.**

Chenab Nagar (Correspondent): Private men of the excise inspector have started extorting money from common people in the name of property tax. Citizens have protested strongly. As per available details, Iftikhar Gujjar, an excise inspector in Chenab Nagar, has employed Aslam, Basharat, Asif, Ansar and Zulfiqar privately for the collection of property tax. They go to different neighborhoods, blackmail and threaten the women and common folk through fake notices, and collect money. Citizens have strongly protested against it and said that the excise inspector is seemingly a partner in this loot. When the excise

office Chiniot was contacted in this regard they denied any link with these men, and said that they are not employees of the office.

Deplorable state of sanitation in Rabwah

The daily Aman, Faisalabad; April 11, 2010 published a report about the poor state of sanitation in Rabwah. Its translation is given below:

Heaps of filth in Chenab Nagar. People suffer from various diseases.

Piles of filth and garbage are evidence of the Administrator's performance, recently appointed after the Nazims

Citizens demand immediate attention of the CM Punjab, DCO and higher authorities

Chenab Nagar (Correspondent): Chenab Nagar has transformed into a depot of filth and a breeding ground of flies and mosquitoes. The officials have paid no heed to this situation for months. Heaps of filth in streets, neighborhoods and markets mock the administration of the Administrator who has been appointed recently in place of Nazims. The sanitary inspector, who was recruited by the previous Tehsil Nazim, never visited this town to see the state of poor sanitation. ... Local political, social, welfare, business and religious leaders have requested immediate action from the DCO Chiniot against the incompetent sanitary inspector. They have urged the DCO to visit the town personally especially Rahmat Bazaar and Railway Road which are getting choked by encroachments as well.

Rabwah: destruction of environment continues even at human cost

Rabwah; June 4, 2010: The daily Ausaf, Lahore of June 4, 2010 published the following report:

Chenab Nagar: Roof collapsed due to stone blasting on a hill; 13 years old girl severely injured

The contractor ignited large amount of explosives with a big bang near the populated neighborhood of Darul Yuman

Stones fell on the roof tops. Shumaila, asleep inside a room was severely injured. Locals protest.

Chenab Nagar (special correspondent): A roof collapsed due to stone blasting on a hill near a populated area. It caused severe injury to a 13-year old girl. It is learnt that the contractor detonated a large quantity of explosives on the hill in Darul Yuman. As a result, stones fell on roof tops. Many houses suffered damage. A 15kg rock fell on the roof of a house and it collapsed. Consequently 13-years old Shumaila who was asleep inside the room got severely injured. The locals protested and demanded that action be taken against the contractor, and the populated area should be declared a 'red zone area'.

An incident in Rabwah

Rabwah; July 2, 2010: The authorities conveyed to Ahmadis that Rabwah could be a priority target of terrorists, so they should take appropriate and effective security measures. As such the residents are on high alert and have undertaken essential measures like raising outer walls and installing road barriers. However, as the Ahmadi public is not trained adequately in the art of defense, this poses a problem.

On July 2, 2010 a resident mulla accompanied by two others and a woman in a car, came across a road-block. He took offence at this, and was very harsh with the duty personnel. At this, a young man, fired at the car to show that he was serious about defense. No one was harmed, but the car was hit at the front. Two or three other youth on duty also fired in the air in sympathy. At this the police arrived.

The community officials took serious notice of this incident and relieved the young man and his superior from their duties.

The mullas made a great hue and cry over the incident. The police responded with their usual imbalance to the mullas' protest and booked initially as many as 11 Ahmadis including the president of the Ahmadiyya community of Rabwah, who had been abroad for weeks on leave. He was abroad on the day of the incident.

The police registered the case under PPCs 109, 148/149, 324/427 at Police Station Chenab Nagar.

Mr. Ejaz Ahmad was arrested. Now he has to face prosecution in the courts for how long, nobody knows.

Threat to Rabwah

Rabwah; July 18, 2010: A note conveying serious threat was thrown inside an Ahmadiyya mosque in Darul Fadl, Rabwah. Translation:

“Islam – Zindabad (long live), Mirzai – Murdabad (may perish)

O Mirzais! Mend your ways and do not put our self-restraint to test. There is still time to embrace Islam. Do not go to your places of worship this Friday. You will not see your children and your place of worship again if you hold a Friday Prayer. Remember the Friday, otherwise ...

That’s all

Servant of Khatme Nabuwwat Islam

Allah-o-Akbar (God is the greatest)”

Leaders of Khatme Nabuwwat faction claim to be religious and non-violent. This message, however, confirms that they promote violence and terror.

Rabwah suffers from poor sewage

The daily Lahore Post published a story on August 20, 2010 about the bad sewage system in Rabwah. Its translation is given below:

Bad system of sewage in Chenab Nagar; rain water stagnates in lower parts of the city.

Four feet of water in Muhallah Bashirabad after spell of current rains

Chenab Nagar (Special correspondent): The rain water of the eastern part of the city accumulated in the lower areas of Bashirabad due to poor sewage system in the city. Four feet of water stagnates in approaches to Bashirabad. Vehicles and motorcycles are nearly submerged and stalled. There is no alternate route to Bashirabad. Children, elders and women face great hardship in moving about. The official insensitivity is glaring. The Chenab Nagar municipality is not serious about attending to the civic problems even after collecting millions in revenue. No arrangements were made to drain the sewage even after the complaints. Mr. Abdur Razzaq Bhatti, a well-known social worker of Muhallah Bashirabad, stated that the youth had been working on self-help basis, and tried to drain out the stagnant water. The municipality did not bring over a turbine to drain out the water, even after numerous reminders. He said that it was essential to take immediate notice of this and find lasting solutions to problems of residents.

Severe environmental damage to Rabwah suburbs

Rabwah: Rabwah and its neighboring city Chiniot are located on the right and left bank of the river Chenab respectively. Anyone who crosses the river by road or train during the day will not miss the great beauty and majesty of the natural spectacle of the river and the range of great hills that are eons old. These hills have been under persistent attack by a mafia which has dynamited this heritage into near oblivion, with the connivance and support of some officials.

There is now some faint light at the end of this long tunnel. The daily Dawn published the following story on this topic, on August 5, 2010 referring to ‘Chiniot’ hills (no objection, as long as this heritage is saved):

Stone crushers eating up Chiniot hills

By Aurangzeb Malik

CHINIOT, Aug 4: The government needs to take action to stop stone crushing machines eating up the ancient mountains along the River Chenab in Chiniot.

The chain of mountains is going to be diminished as mountain stones have been consumed unchecked for commercial purposes for the last many decades.

In 2007, a blast in such a mountain resulted in the appearance of a cave from a mountain. The cave, local residents say, had ancient stone statues and other items. Before archaeologists could study them, a big stone rolled down and capped the cave entrance.

In 2007, the Punjab Information, Culture and Youth Affairs Department declared these hills historical sites under the Special Premises under Punjab Special Premises (Preservation) Ordinance, 1985.

A landlord, Col Asim Ali Shah (retired), offered his adjacent land to establish a museum and Archeological Department offices. Mines Department contractors, however, continue to crush stones.

Seeing inaction of the Punjab government, some residents wrote to Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani seeking his help to stop contractors from crushing the stones.

The Prime Minister's Secretariat issued a directive on May 9, 2010, to the culture division secretary with subject 'Chiniot rock art at the mercy of stone crushers' directing him to take necessary action to safeguard the visual heritage of the country. No action, however, has been taken.

Recently, the Lahore High Court, on a writ petition, stayed the stone crushing ordering the administration to ensure halt of blasting and preserve the cultural heritage.

Ahmad Ali, a resident of the mountainous range, said he had seen some statues inside the cave.

DCO Dr Irshad Ahmad says he had asked the police and revenue authorities to stop this stone crushing work.

Civic problems of Rabwah

Lahore: The daily Ausaf of Lahore in its issue of October 17, 2010 published an article "The problems of District Chiniot" written by Rana Abrar Hussain Chand. Although this daily attempts to take the lead in anti-Ahmadiyya propaganda, its correspondent could not ignore the plight of Rabwah in the said article. Excerpt:

"Chenab Nagar (Rabwah) which is located in this sub-division (of Lalian) is a well-known town all over the world, for being the center of Qadianis. Its state is close to that of ruins. No road in the town is in good shape; all of them are in a bad way. State owned educational institutions in the town, Government Nusrat Girls High School and Government Talimul Islam College are more like ruins. Their buildings have been declared dangerous. A major catastrophe can happen anytime, as the lives of thousands of students remain at risk in these institutions. The town has no sewage system whatsoever. There is no state-supported hospital. The mafia has occupied state land worth billions. ... Likewise the precious railway land has been usurped"

Note: The above is only a part statement on the plight of Rabwah's civic situation.

Authorities informed

The authorities cannot complain that the Ahmadiyya central office does not keep them informed of the communal threats posed to the community by its opponents. As before, the community headquarters at Rabwah informed all concerned about an anti-Ahmadiyya sectarian conference planned to be held by the mulla, at Rabwah on September 7, 2010. The translation of the Circular is given below:

Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya Rabwah (Pakistan)

Ph: 047-6212459

Fax 047-6215459

E-mail: nuasaa@hotmail.com

Sir,

I bring to your notice an important and sensitive issue. According to press reports, opponents of the Ahmadiyya community have announced that they are holding a Khatme Nabuwwat Conference in Chenab Nagar (Rabwah) on September 7, 2010.

Ahmadis, who comprise 95% of the population of Chenab Nagar (Rabwah) are not permitted to hold here their annual conference, public meetings and various other community functions. However, their opponent organizations are allowed a free hand to transport outsiders to Rabwah, take out processions, use loud-speakers in public, hurl insults against Ahmadi leaders, make foul gestures, provoke, insult and disturb the law and order of the town.

Once again, one such conference is announced for September 7. This time, it is scheduled in the sacred and blessed month of Ramadan. This conference is a threat to the law and order of the town. As ever, it is likely that members of banned organizations will come to Rabwah to participate. Here, they make sorties in groups, enter residential neighborhoods and make provocative visits to Ahmadiyya places of worship. There is a risk of some unpleasant incident in the town at this occasion.

Under these circumstances, it will be appropriate not to permit this conference, nor to extend it official sanction. In other circumstances, the participants should be directed to use only the main roads, not misbehave with women, not raise provocative slogans, desist from misuse of sound systems, and refrain from hateful sectarian speeches that incite violence.

In case there is an unpleasant development, the administration and participants will be responsible.

Last year too, you were requested action on these lines, however there was no positive response.

It is hoped that effective steps will be taken to ensure peace of this town.

It is a sensitive issue, and deserves immediate action.

Sincerely,

Saleem ud Din

Director of Public Affairs

Rabwah (Chenab Nagar) District Jhang

Dated: 31 August 2010

(We regret to report that the conference was nevertheless allowed and facilitated by the authorities.)

Anti-Ahmadiyya open-air conferences in Rabwah

A major nuisance, indeed serious threat to the residents of Rabwah is from the numerous conferences held here by mullas with permission of authorities.

Provocation

Rabwah; February 2010: Some mullas in a tractor-trolley passed by the Jamia Ahmadiyya (Junior Section). They abused the Ahmadiyya community, and threw stones which broke the window pane of the security room. The police were informed.

Oppression

Rabwah; July 27, 2010: Two Ahmadis own houses in eastern part of Rabwah, which the authorities have unlawfully designated as 'Muslim Colony'. Ahmadis owners of property continue to face harassment from the mullas and officials in that area. Mr. Asad Shafiq and Munir Ahmad undertook repairs to their houses, and a mulla intervened. He reported to the police and demanded arrest. The police, without due inquiry detained them and charged them in separate cases. Both were later released on bail; but the prosecution goes on.

And a false case

Rabwah; January 25, 2010: There was an incident in a Rabwah neighborhood involving an outsider which the community elders reported to the police. The police took notice, but as the accused was influential, the police booked a dozen Ahmadi community officials in a criminal case. Eventually the case was filed.

President of local Ahmadi community in Rabwah tortured to death by the Punjab Police

Rabwah; March 30, 2012: The following press release was issued by the Ahmadiyya central office in Rabwah:

Abdul Quddoos, school teacher dies of police torture. Strong legal action demanded against police officials responsible for this murder. Spokesman Jamaat Ahmadiyya

Chenab Nagar (Rabwah) PR: School teacher Abdul Quddoos died of torture at the hands of savage police officials of Police Station, Chenab Nagar. As per reports, the police detained Master (teacher) Abdul Quddoos as suspect in the murder of Ahmad Yusuf, a stamp-papers vendor of Nusrat Abad, Rabwah. The police subjected him to intense inhuman torture to forcibly derive from him an admission of complicity in that murder. After he was fatally injured, the police released him after obtaining a written statement from his relatives under threats. He was losing blood fast as a result of the torture. The doctors in the local hospital made frantic efforts to save his life. The victim, however, succumbed to his injuries on Friday, March 30, 2012.

The spokesman of the Ahmadiyya Community expressed deep grief and concern over the inconsolable death of Master Abdul Quddoos and termed the torture grossly inhuman. He stated that the murder of Mr. Yusuf must be investigated and the guilty must be punished, however ‘who has authorized the police to torture people to death in the course of investigation?’

According to him, the antagonists of the Ahmadiyya Community wanted to implicate some leaders of the community in the murder of Ahmad Yusuf. The arrest of Master Abdul Quddoos, president of the Ahmadiyya community of Nusrat Abad, Rabwah, and his torture to obtain a forced admission of involvement from him was an act to that end. “Officials who indulged in unlawful torture should be punished as per law,” the spokesman said. He demanded that a high level commission be set up and the so-called law-enforcement officials involved in the murder of an innocent man should be severely punished for violation of the law.

Press Release in London. The Press Secretary Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat International issued a press release two days later in London on this incident and added:

Whilst in custody, Mr. Master Abdul Quddoos Ahmad was hung upside down from his ankles for long periods. Furthermore, whilst laid supine, an extremely heavy wooden roller, similar to those used to flatten cricket pitches, was rolled all over his body, as attendants stood at each side of him making sure he could not move. Such inhumane and merciless treatment led to multiple organ failure and crushed his muscles. These are just a few examples of the torture inflicted.

The daily Express Tribune reported the incident on March 21, 2012, (excerpts):

“When his body could not take further torture, his relatives were blackmailed and he was released. He was admitted to a local hospital where doctors tried to save his life, but Quddoos died due to several injuries and excessive loss of blood,” Abdul Quddoos’s brother in law Imtiaz Ahmad said.

“He (the SHO), however, maintains that the accused was picked up on March 24 and was released two days later as the police was convinced of his innocence. Hussain (the SHO) says a fatal disease could be the possible cause of death.”

Vernacular print media: The incident was so gruesome that even the vernacular newspapers that are normally unsympathetic to the Ahmadiyya issues took notice and gave multi-column coverage to the story. Headlines are translated below:

- Chenab Nagar:** **School teacher dies of Police torture. Citizens' strong protest**
The daily Nawa-e-Waqt, Lahore; April 1, 2012
- Chenab Nagar:** **Death of Teacher Abdul Quddoos. The entire area in mourning.**
The daily Pakistan, Lahore; April 1, 2012
- Chenab Nagar:** **Death of school teacher due police torture. Business centers close.**
The Daily Express, Faisalabad; April 1, 2012
- Chiniot:** **School teacher's death due alleged police torture. Teachers' Union announces 3 days' mourning.**
The daily Awaz, Lahore; April 1, 2012
- Chenab Nagar:** **School teacher, the sole supporter of his family, dies of police torture.**
The daily Musawat, Lahore; April 1, 2012

Some important facts of this case:

- Mr. Abdul Quddoos was approximately 43 years old. He was highly respected in his neighborhood and was known as a good teacher.
- He has left behind his wife and four children, the eldest is 14.
- Shujaat Malhi, a police inspector and former SHO in Rabwah, was transferred away from here sometimes ago for non-professional conduct. He was transferred back very recently to Rabwah as an investigating inspector. Immediately on arrival, he shifted Mr. Abdul Quddoos to a distant undisclosed location where he and sub-inspector Manazer Ali subjected Mr. Quddoos to fatal torture.
- Mr. Quddoos told his friends on release that the investigating team was initially overseen by some senior officials; they required him to implicate in writing the senior leadership of the Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan of involvement in the murder of Ahmad Yusuf. Mr. Quddoos refused to be a party to this fabrication. They proceeded then with torture.
- Once admitted in the local hospital, the doctors found that his kidney and lungs had been severely damaged; he was losing excessive blood through vomiting and stool and sank into unconsciousness repeatedly.
- His funeral was attended by approximately 4000 men. Subsequently, thousands more including women visited his family and home to offer condolences.

The Latest: Till the filing of this report in the monthly Newsreport, the police officials against whom an FIR has been registered have not been arrested by the authorities.

Comment: This tragic incident highlights the following few facts about the present-day governance and society in Pakistan that deserves serious consideration of the democratic leadership and the intellectual torch-bearers of the land:

- The state has conveyed to its functionaries that Ahmadis are a fair game and their persecution will be amply acceptable.
- The federal government, despite its verbal support to minorities has virtually given a *laissez faire* license to the provincial government in the Punjab.
- The Punjab Government run by the PML (N) led by Sharif Brothers follows an overt anti-Ahmadiyya policy to the extent that its intentions and stance are not lost on even the lower echelons of the administration and police.
- The Punjab Government's policy of solidarity with religious extremists is manifested unabashedly in District Chiniot (of which Rabwah is part) by the fact that mulla Ilyas

Chinioti, the local MPA was accepted with open arms in the PML (N) after the elections. This liaison is a constant source of hardship for the Ahmadiyya population here.

- The Punjab Police can illegally detain citizens for weeks although the law requires them to produce the detainee before a magistrate by the next day.
- The police detain citizens without bringing their detention on records and move them to other locations without making appropriate entry in records.
- They detain people without acquiring even minimal credible evidence.
- They torture them to sign admission-of-guilt papers.
- They torture them to death with techniques that leave no external signs but damage their internal vitals beyond recovery.
- They do not care to take their casualty to a hospital for treatment or even first-aid to protect his life or secure him against permanent injury.
- They hand over their victims to relatives after forcing them to sign certification designed by the police.
- Rather than making professional investigation they opt to torture a detainee to obtain from him confessions about involvement of other fake or real accomplices.
- The higher police hierarchy leaves it to the lower echelons to commit such horrors, or they remain blissfully ignorant of what goes on in police stations.
- Police officials, even if charged in an FIR, are provided protection by their superiors and are not arrested for their *prima-facie* crimes as per law applicable to all accused.
- There is apparently little departmental accountability of police officials, who even if found guilty of misconduct or unprofessional behavior get only transferred; they are transferred back to the same location on some excuse.
- In case the police officials, obviously guilty of torture and murder in this case, are not punished, that will substantiate the allegation that some seniors were involved in this conspiracy – be they political, religious, administrative or police office-holders.
- The unprofessional conduct and character of police officials calls for a major change in the administrative policy of this very important branch of administration to protect citizens from its rapacious conduct and turn it into a force that serves the society as expected in civilized countries.