

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

Monthly Report

January 2019

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

Article 19:

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

Pakistan is signatory to UDHR.

(However, read the story on page 1 regarding state crackdown on Ahmadiyya TV channels)

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Assassin acquitted by anti-terrorism court

Nankana Sahib; January 21, 2019: Advocate Saleem Lateef community president of the district Nankana Sahib was target-killed on his way to courts on March 30, 2017 by a religious extremist Rashid. The killer has been acquitted by judge Abdul Qayyum.

Mr. Lateef was going to the court on a motor cycle with his son Muhammad Farhan when the assassin, already present on the way, opened fire as the motor cycle slowed down at the spot. Mr. Lateef died on the spot. After this the attacker tried to kill his son but luckily failed. This family was facing threats for some time.

After the incident the assassin was arrested. He worked as a guard at Ali Jewellers in Nankana Sahib, and the weapon he used was also registered in the name of the proprietor of the shop. After his arrest the case was heard in an anti-terrorism court at Lahore.

On January 21, 2019 the judge acquitted the accused.

Closure of an Ahmadiyya mosque

Peshawar Road, Rawalpindi; January 2019: On December 18, 2018 a policeman came over to Bait ul Ata (Ahmadiyya mosque) with the message that the SHO had sent for the administrator of the place Col. ® Ijaz Minhas. On December 21, 2018 the SHO himself visited the mosque and repeated his demand. At this, Col. Minhas went to the Westridge Police Station and met the SHO. The SHO informed Col. Minhas of a security report that some days earlier terrorists had attacked an army check post, killed two army personnel and fled away. Therefore it became essential to remain on high alert in the Cantonment area and also to upgrade security of all places that could be targeted by terrorists. Ahmadiyya guest house (Bait ul Ata) located on Peshawar Road is on the same hit list,

he said. It is located in a narrow street and is surrounded by Muslims' houses. Any attack there could cause big damage, according to the SHO.

The SHO told Col. Minhas that the status of this building was only a community guest house, so it cannot be used for worship. "If you want to use it for worship obtain permission from relevant offices, and till then, the location cannot be used for Friday prayers," he said.

Thereafter the SHO obtained Col. Minhas' signatures on a statement that until the permission was obtained from the relevant office there would be no Friday prayer in Bait ul Ata. On December 28 the SHO himself visited Bait ul Ata to check the implementation of his orders.

This is yet another case whereby Rawalpindi administration has closed down an Ahmadiyya place of worship, without caring to provide a suitable alternative.

Crackdown on Ahmadiyya TV channels

Islamabad; January 17, 2019: PEMRA has issued instructions to all Regional General Managers of this department to stop transmissions and relaying of a number of STV channels, immediately, including the Ahmadiyya MTA 1&2 telecasted from London.

It is relevant to mention that these two channels are relayed worldwide and there is hardly a country that considers their programs and content objectionable.

Pakistan's Constitution provides in Article 20: "Subject to law, public order and morality (a) every citizen shall have the right to profess, practice and propagate his religion; and (b) every religious denomination and every sect thereof shall have the right to establish, maintain and manage its religious institutions."

In the light of the above, PEMRA circular No.... OPS-D/2018/1399 dated January 17, 2019 is in flagrant violation of the country's constitution.

Closure of another prayer centre

Rawalpindi; January 2019: Ahmadis have a prayer centre in Tench Bhata, where they assemble for congregational prayers and Friday prayers. The location is used for community meetings and get-together.

A policeman came over to the location and said that the Assistant Commissioner (AC) had sent for the administrator of the centre. Accordingly Mr Abdul Ghani, the local president called on him.

The AC told Mr Ghani that Ahmadis were using this building in a residential area for worship. This was objectionable. Mr. Ghani told him that the building is registered as a property of Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya and the documents convey that it was meant to be used for religious purposes; hence there should be no objection.

The AC told Mr Ghani to obtain a No Objection Certificate from the Deputy Commissioner, and till that is provided, the location cannot be used for worship.

Thereafter the police obtained an affidavit from Mr. Ghani to that effect. So, now there is no place for Ahmadis of this area for congregational worship.

This is still another case where district authorities have deprived Ahmadis of their place of worship without providing an alternative.

Writ Petition in Lahore High Court against Ahmadiyya English translation of the Holy Quran

Lahore; January 15, 2019: One, Advocate Bilal Riaz Sheikh has approached Lahore High Court with a writ petition against the Federation of Pakistan, etc (in all, 8 authorities and offices) on finding that an App *Holy Quran Arabic/English, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community* is found in Play Store.

In his petition, Mr Sheikh:

- Demands “severe action against culprits”
- Requests that “this matter should be taken as the most urgent matter”
- Suggests to the court that non-removal of this item “will be the alarming situation for the whole Muslim community, and Allah Almighty will not spare us on the day of Judgment”
- Requests that this “App from the play store may very kindly be banned in Pakistan, in the supreme interest of religious faith & Justice.”

Such is the level of bigotry in Pakistan.

An advocate who claims to be Muslim objects strongly against the Ahmadiyya translation of the Holy Quran and expects a High Court to ban it in Pakistan “in the supreme interest of religious faith and justice”.

Mischief against Ahmadiyya mosque

Kharepar, District Kasur; January 2019: For some time some local non-Ahmadis visited Ahmadiyya mosque to offer prayers but their intentions were not fair. They discontinued visiting after some days. This mosque is under Ahmadiyya management for the past hundred years.

More recently, some outsider mullas visited the mosque and went away. Thereafter non-Ahmadis again started offering their prayers in the Ahmadiyya mosque and declared that this was their mosque. In this situation Ahmadis contacted some local influential persons and asked for assistance. Their intervention improved the situation. However, Ahmadis remain alert and on guard to retain their mosque.

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 Sheikhpura under PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 on May

13, 2014 in Police Station Sharaqpur. Two days later Mr. Khalil Ahmad was murdered by a madrassah student, while in police custody, 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 at the 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. The Court has not found time to hear them in over a year.

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 after nearly three years to give its verdict.
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 Ghumman 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; he was arrested and sent to Layya Jail. Rai Yasseen Shaheen the Additional Sessions Judge Layya refused his post-arrest bail on August 6. Later, on October 2, 2018 his bail application was refused by High Court Justice Sarfraz Ahmad of Multan Bench also.

From the Media

- **Chenab Nagar streets, roads dilapidated; water puddles. Residents restricted to homes; life stands still – even walking becomes problematic**

The daily Aman; Faisalabad, January 24, 2019

- **Decision to release Aasia the Cursed was made under international pressure: Majlis Khatme Nabuwwat**

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, January 28, 2019

- **Qadiani mischief is coming to end. A time will come, no Qadiani will be found on earth: Maulana Ismael Shuja Abadi**

The daily Islam; Lahore, January 1, 2019

- **Lok Sabha passes citizenship bill, excludes Muslims**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 9, 2019

- **Belgium: Ban on cattle-slaughter cause of concern to Muslims and Jews**

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, January 4, 2019

- **Twin blasts at church kill 21 in Philippines**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 28, 2019

- **Taliban attack kills over 100 security men in Afghanistan**

The daily The News; Lahore, January 22, 2019

- **US, Taliban 'agree' on troops' withdrawal plan: Taliban promise not to allow any terrorist group to use Afghan soil against any country in future.**

The daily The News; Lahore, January 27, 2019

- **India confiscates additional Rs 150 million property of religious scholar Zakir Naik**

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, January 21, 2019

- **Two US Muslim congresswomen take oath on Quran**

The daily Express; Faisalabad, January 1, 2019

- **Run away Saudi woman welcomed as 'brave new Canadian' in Toronto**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 13, 2019

- **Nine killed, 21 injured in Loralai police office attack**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 30, 2019

- **Zardari says ready to face 50 more cases**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 7, 2019

- **JIT wants assets of Zardari, Omni groups frozen**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 6, 2019
- **Sahiwal tragedy: 16 CTD men booked**
The daily The News; Lahore, January 21, 2019
- **CTD Chief among five removed over Sahiwal shooting. JIT fixes responsibility on Counter-Terrorism Department**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 23, 2019
- **LHC misread Khadija case evidence: SC**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 30, 2019
- **SC throws out review plea, ends Aasia's ordeal**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 30, 2019
- **1800 CNICs stolen from Nadra office ahead of PS-94 by-election**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 24, 2019
- **Justice Khosa takes up reins of Supreme Court**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 19, 2019
- **Pakistan passport listed among five worst Only Somalia, Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq are lower on the Henley Passport Index**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 10, 2019
- **SHO at large after his driver arrested with 10KG drugs**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 9, 2019

- **CII proposes change to 70-year old Talaq procedure. Talaq announced once (only) will be effective.**
The daily Jang; Lahore, January 27, 2019

Op-ed: Resident Evil

The horrors of 1971 stand as clear historical evidence of elite culpability. So does the emergence of the comedian moustached, executioner-eyed tyrant, previously known for the slaughter of Palestinian men, women and children in Jordan. Zia-ul-Haq deliberately unleashed the demons of bigotry, hypocrisy, ethnicity, sectarianism, the Kalashnikov culture and the curse of heroin on the people of Pakistan. He survived in absolute power for 11 long years, longer than any of our other rulers, thanks to the unwavering fealty of the elite. His sudden death was a matter of happenstance. It is entirely characteristic of our rulers that we still do not know, or do not want to know, who was responsible.

...

She did not realize, perhaps no one did. – as to how deeply the evil legacy of Zia had soaked into the nation's soil, poisoning it with extremist violence and systematic, highly organized terrorism.

(Salman Tarik Kureshi in The Friday Times; January 11-17, 2019)