

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

Monthly Report

February 2019

Judgment of SC regarding TLP sit-in

The Feb 2019 SC judgment makes no mention of the plight of Ahmadis and their deprivation of voting rights, but does justice to the highly objectionable conduct of Tahrir Labbaik (TLP) and the incompetent and unbecoming response of the then government. Here we reproduce only such extracts that have a direct or indirect bearing on the human rights and freedom of faith of Ahmadis:

In Para 24 ... As per unanimous view of all the intelligence agencies TLP wanted to maximize political mileage for itself. The ambitious leadership of a fledgling political party projected itself as the defender of the Muslim faith. They provoked religious sentiment, stoked the flames of hatred, abused, resorted to violence and destroyed property worth 163,952,000 rupees.... Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product for the year 2017 was 32,406,956,000,000 rupees, therefore, each day's shutdown is calculated to be 88,786,180,821 rupees. Intelligence agencies reported that politicians visited TLP's leadership camped on the Faizabad Interchange. TLP received prime-time free media coverage and publicity, transforming it overnight into a household name. Two of its candidates got elected as members of the Sindh Assembly and TLP got a sizeable number of votes in the 25th July general elections. ... *(More on page 1)*

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Another striking judgment of Supreme Court

Islamabad; February 6, 2019: It would be recalled that in November 2017 mullas of Tahrir Labbaik (TLP) mounted a major offensive against Ahmadis in order to capture maximum political space for themselves in the next national elections. They based their agitation on the issue of Khatme Nabuwwat and aimed at denying voting rights to Ahmadis (details are available in Chapter 1A in our Annual Report 2017). In the process they partly blockaded the capital, caused great inconvenience to general public, damaged property and caused injuries to many. They succeeded in many ways as they imposed a humiliating defeat on the government and put Ahmadis at great risk, and caused immense harm to general peace and order in the country.

The Supreme Court took *suo moto* notice of the event and a two-member bench comprising Mr. Justice Mushir Alam and Mr. Justice Qazi Faiz Isa was appointed to hear the case. The worthy bench announced its judgment on February 6, 2019. The judgment makes no mention of the plight of Ahmadis and their deprivation of voting rights, but does justice to the objectionable conduct of TLP and the incompetent and unbecoming response of the government and its various departments. Here we reproduce only such extracts that have a direct or indirect bearing on the human rights and freedom of faith of Ahmadis.

Para 12 ... Abusing, threatening and attacking people undermines their right to live a life of "dignity" (guaranteed under Article 14 (1) of the Constitution) which requires enforcement....

Also, ... When property is damaged or destroyed the right to hold and enjoy property (guaranteed under Article 23 of the Constitution) requires enforcement.

In Para 24 ... As per unanimous view of all the intelligence agencies TLP wanted to maximize political mileage for itself. The ambitious leadership of

a fledgling political party projected itself as the defender of the Muslim faith. They provoked religious sentiment, stoked the flames of hatred, abused, resorted to violence and destroyed property worth 163,952,000 rupees. Nearly all economic activity in the country was brought to a virtual standstill by TLP. Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product for the year 2017 was 32,406,956,000,000 rupees, therefore, each day's shutdown is calculated to be 88,786,180,821 rupees. Intelligence agencies reported that politicians visited TLP's leadership camped on the Faizabad Interchange. TLP received prime-time free media coverage and publicity, transforming it overnight into a household name. Two of its candidates got elected as members of the Sindh Assembly and TLP got a sizeable number of votes in the 25th July general elections.

In Para 30 ... and subsection (4) of section 200 of the Election Act, 2017 (the new law) prohibit political parties to: ...

© promote sectarian, regional or provincial hatred or animosity.

In Para 35: TLP leadership created hatred among the people, they abused, threatened and advocated violence; and this was broadcasted by some private channels.

In Para 41: Freedom of speech, expression and the press are guaranteed as fundamental rights in the Constitution.

In Para 49 and 50:

Islam

49. Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) is designated as Rehmatul lil Aalameen (Mercy of the Worlds). Divine revelation states that his was a "great moral character" (*khuluqin azimin*). The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "I am sent only to perfect the noble qualities of character", to bring about a moral-ethical transformation. He was the epitome of virtue, ethics, morality and self-abnegation. Threatening another, violating the law, occupying public roads, destroying property, injuring or causing death does not emulate

the example of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), his *akhlaq* and *aadab*. Those who employ such tactics cannot be the standard bearers of the Muslim faith. ... Muslims must remain vigilant against the self-righteous and arrogant. *"The servants of (Allah) Most Gracious are those who walk on the earth in humility, and when the ignorant address them, they say, "peace"*. The Almighty dislikes pride and conceit – "Allah likes not the proud and boastful. Those hurling abuses wantonly need to study the Holy Quran which denigrates even the raising of one's voice – *"The harshest of sounds without doubt is the braying of the ass"*.

50. ... Slowly, and over a period of time, the real face of Islam is being effaced and the voices of believers, who practice *akhlaq* and *adaab*, have been muffled. Ironically, the most offensive speech and violent behavior purports to represent Islam and Muslims; this is against Islam and the *sunnah* of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). The Constitution holds out the promise that Muslims will be enabled to live "in accordance with the fundamental principles and basic concepts of Islam", and the State shall endeavour, "to promote unity and observance of the Islamic moral standard". Abuse, threats and violence are the antithesis of the Islamic moral standard.

While concluding in Para 52, the honorable judges said in sub Para (8):

A person issuing an edict or fatwa, which harms another or puts another in harm's ways, must be criminally prosecuted under the Pakistan Penal Code, the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 and/or the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 and Sub Para (13).

Intelligences should monitor activities of all those who threaten the territorial integrity of the country and all those who undermine the security of the people and the state by resorting to or inciting violence.

In Sub para (17):

We direct the Federal and provincial governments to monitor those advocating hate, extremism and

terrorism and prosecute the perpetrators in accordance with the law.

It may be added, although sorrowfully, that the Supreme Court has more than once announced landmark judgments and made observations on human rights, for example its judgment of 2014, which should have been a watershed in the social development of Pakistan, but the governments and society have largely ignored to implement SC verdicts in letter and spirit. There is a distinct possibility that this Judgment too will meet the same fate and Pakistani state will continue on its course followed by it in the decades past.

Progress of Ahmadiyya cases pending in courts

The way Ahmadiyya cases pending in courts are handled is a significant aspect of persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan. This handling by the courts, the prosecution, the mullas etc results in lengthy stay of Ahmadi accuseds in prisons for months, even years. For example, Mr. Iqbal, an Ahmadi, innocent of any wrongdoing, was falsely charged of blasphemy, but he had to stay in prison for almost seven years before he was acquitted by the court. Essential elements of a few cases currently before the courts are mentioned below.

Mr. Abdul Shakoor Case: Mr. Shakoor, an octogenarian book-seller was arrested by the Counter-terrorism Department for selling Ahmadiyya publications. A speedy trial in an ATC court awarded him five plus three years' imprisonment. The victim appealed to the Lahore High Court against the verdict. His plea is pending there for the last three years. The accused, in prison, lately requested for an early hearing. As a result the High Court appointed a new Bench comprising Mr. Justice Qasim Ahmad Khan and Mr. Justice Asjad Gharaal. February 6, 2019 was given as the fresh date of hearing of the case. However as the bench was

not available on that date, a fresh date of hearing was announced.

The Bhoiwal Three: Four Ahmadis of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura were charged on a false accusation of blasphemy on May 13, 2014. One of these accused was arrested by the police, however while in police custody, he was shot dead by a madrassah student. The other three were later sentenced to death on October 11, 2017. Their appeal against the sentence is pending before the High Court since then. As for the murderer student, he is still undergoing trial and has not yet been sentenced four and half years later.

Mr. Javed Ahmad Ghumman: This Ahmadi of 368/TDA District Layya was charged under PPC 295-C in a fabricated case of blasphemy on July 1, 2018. He was arrested in October and his plea for bail was rejected by the Multan Bench of High Court. His trial goes on in ASJ court. There was no hearing on February 6, 2019 as announced. A fresh date was given.

Mr. Saeed A Warraich: This Ahmadi of Tandlianwala, District Faisalabad was arrested on fake charge of blasphemy 295-C more than a year ago. He is undergoing trial in ASJ court in Faisalabad. His date of hearing was February 7, 2019; however as the judge was on leave, no hearing took place. The next date of hearing was February 27.

Mr. Shahid Pervez of Sadhoki, District Gujranwala is undergoing trial under PPC 298-C for undertaking religious rite of sacrificing cattle on the festival of Id ul Adha. He was denied bail by the Sessions but was granted the same subsequently by the High Court. His next date of hearing has not been announced yet.

Mr. Tahir A Khalid an Ahmadi religious teacher was booked and arrested on a false charge of blasphemy under PPC 295-B on March 31, 2014. He was released on bail five

and half months later. His trial has been going on for the last five years.

Mr. Iqbal Saloni and Mr. Ikram Ilahi of Lahore were booked two years ago in the so-called burger case on fake charge of proselytizing. They remained in prison for over a year before being released on bail. They are undergoing trial and their last scheduled date of hearing was February 11, 2019.

Mr. Qamar Zia, Ahmadi of Kot Abdul Malik District Sheikhpura was stabbed to death on March 1, 2016. His attacker was arrested by the police. A verdict on him is still awaited three years after the murder. There were no proceeding on the last hearing on February 4; a fresh date of February 12 for hearing was announced.

Dulmial case: It would be recalled that a mob attacked an Ahmadiyya worship place two years ago in Dulmial, District Chakwal. In the riot two persons, one from each side died. An ATC court pended the trial of the accused of both the communities after a truce. Date of February 28, 2019 was announced for the hearing.

The Ahmadiyya worship place that suffered attack and then was locked by authorities remains locked and is not open to Ahmadis for worship. Ahmadis have no alternate facility for congregational worship.

Hostility in Azad Kashmir

Sehnasa, Azad Kashmir; January 2019: Only a few Ahmadis reside in this village and they are facing hostility for their faith. Some recent incidents are mentioned below:

- Some miscreants set fire to the dry grass placed on the roof of an Ahmadi, Mr. Mahmood Ahmad's house. The estimated loss was approximately Rs. 40,000.

- A group of bigots beat up Mr. Talat Mahmood and his brother in Sehnsa on January 18, 2019.
- Mr. Talat Mahmood and Mr. Muhammad Hafeez, Ahmadis were attacked with a knife, in their shop. Mr. Hafeez received minor injuries. The incident was reported to the police. The police arrested two attackers. Later the matter was resolved in the local *Panchayat* where the attacker sought pardon and promised to desist from mischief.

Threat to Ahmadis in Lahore

Baghbanpura, Lahore; February 7, 2019: A non-Ahmadi madrassa student, Muhammad Afzal was killed here in Madrassa Taleemul Quran by the violence of a cleric and two of his students. His relatives reported the murder to the police but they took little action. Afzal's relatives put his dead body on the road and started protesting by blocking the traffic. TLP also joined the protest. The TLP president of Shalamar Town availed the occasion to bad-mouth Ahmadis and promote his party interest. He said, "The police is hostile to us; it is working according to the agenda of Jews. Qadianis are supporting them. This government is of Qadianis. Pray that our Baba (Khadim Rizvi of Faizabad notoriety) is released soon, then we'll take revenge from Qadianis and the government.... Qadianis have taken control of the country; we have to jointly defend this country against Qadianis. Pray for the release of Baba Ji. Only our leader Khadim Hussain Rizvi can save us from Qadianis."

The crowd comprised approximately 170 men.

Life threats to Ahmadi in Quetta

Quetta; February 2019: Mr. Kashif Aslam an Ahmadi, is active in community affairs. He runs

a business of motorcycle parts. He has been receiving WhatsApp messages and calls from an unknown Afghanistani number in the last month. The caller introduces himself as Tehrik Taliban's representative and demands ten million rupees as ransom. He is threatening severe consequences and loss of life if ransom is not paid. Mr. Aslam has reported the threats to the police.

Ahmadis denied funeral and burial rites of their deceased

Nawan Lahore Paneera, District Toba Tek Singh; February 21, 2019: Mr. Abdul Wajid Khan and family is the only Ahmadi resident in the village. A few days ago Mr. Khan died. His widow informed Ahmadis of his death and requested the Jamaat to arrange funeral rites. So, Ahmadis reached there and offered his funeral prayers. After that, they proceeded to Rabwah for Mr. Khan's burial as per his family's wish.

Mr. Khan's birthplace was Quetta. On his family's departure for Rabwah his relatives and locals raised the issue and demanded his burial in Quetta. They threatened severe action for non-compliance. At this Mr. Khan's dead body was taken back to Nawan Lahore. Non-Ahmadis offered his funeral prayers led by a non-Ahmadi mulla and buried him in a quadrangle next to his house.

Problem in repairing an Ahmadiyya place of worship

Chak no. 109 R.B, Narain Garh, District Faisalabad; January 28, 2019: Ahmadis decided to repair the roof of their place of worship and ordered some earth in trolleys. When it was dumped inside the mosque, some miscreants called the police on emergency no. 15. The police arrived there and held a meeting. They demanded that some earth be dumped outside the mosque in the street. This was done. The police went away and told Ahmadis to come to the police station the next morning. Ahmadis

called on the Superintendent Police of Jaranwala the next day. He informed Ahmadis that he had told the parties involved to fill a surety bond worth Rs. 100,000 on a stamp paper to abstain from mischief.

Ahmadis deposited their bond with the police station.

Hateful pamphlet distributed in Narowal

Bado Malhi, District Narowal; January 27, 2019: An anti-Ahmadiyya hateful pamphlet was distributed by mullas in Bado Malhi bazaar on January 27, 2019. The title of this pamphlet is “This is a voice for the honour of the Holy Prophet (p.b.u.h.)”. In this, very obscene language is used for the Ahmadiyya community and its founder. Also, boycott of products of Ahmadis’ factories like Shah Taj Sugar Mills and Shezan etc is urged. Earlier a booklet titled “Invitation to Qadianis for Repentance” was sent to Ahmadi traders in this area. A campaign is going on to incite the people against Ahmadis and implement their social boycott.

Anti-Ahmadiyya meeting in Lahore

Johar Town, Lahore; February 21, 2019: Leaders of Aalmi Majlis Tahafuze Khatme Nabuwwat Lahore, while addressing their workers in Johar Town, Lahore said, “We will protect the law of Khatme Nabuwwat and Namuse Risalat. Qadianiat is the name of revolt and enmity against Islam. Qadianiat is the name of a mischief and political party that renounced the Khatme Nabuwwat doctrine for the British and established a false sect. Ummat Muslima defeated Qadianiat in every front and Tehrik Khatme Nabuwwat stood victorious in every field. The mission of Tahafuze Khatme Nabuwwat doctrine and the Qadianis’ pursuit will continue. Qadianis play their tainted tricks everywhere to destroy the country’s image and get together on call of their foreign lords. We are planning a well-

considered action plan for the people who will soon know how to deal with them.”

The mention of the intended ‘action plan’ is a cause of concern to Ahmadis in Pakistan.

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 in over 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 Nr. 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; 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

- **Filth depots all over in Chenab Nagar. Residents face difficulties.**

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, February 3, 2019

- **Sewerage system in Chenab Nagar causes tremendous hardship to residents. Dust and foul smell make life difficult for citizens, shortage of funds hinder progress in completion of project.**

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, February 9, 2019

- **Qadianis are terrorists. Authorities should counter (their) conspiracies: Asif Jalali (TLP)**

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 9, 2019

- **Qadianiyat is the name of rebellion and enmity to Islam: AMTKN**

The daily Abtak; Lahore, February 11, 2019

- **One who does not consider Ahmadis non-Muslim, cannot be a Muslim: AMTKN**

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 4, 2019

- **Four cops martyred in DI Khan attack ... Hizbul Ahrar claims responsibility**

The daily News; Lahore, February 10, 2019

- **With latest addition, number of proscribed outfits rises to 67; JuD, FIF continue to be on watch-list**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 10, 2019

- **Top security body slaps ban on JuD, its charity wing**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 22, 2019

- **Govt takes control of alleged JeM HQs**

The daily Nation; Lahore, February 23, 2019

- **Minorities enjoy complete religious freedom in Paksitan: Nurul Haq Qadri (Fed Minister of Religious Affairs)**

The daily Islam; Lahore, February 2, 2019

- **Qadianis' conference (Jalsa) on Musleh Maud is illegal: Maulana M Ilyas Chinioti. I shall raise the issue in the (P) Assembly against the organizers and the sanctioning officials.**

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, February 21, 2019

- **Crackdown against extremism on social media soon: minister. Move sets alarm bells ringing for rights activists**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 14, 2019

- **It is a general Sharia principle that worship be facilitated and no hurdles be placed therein: CII**

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 1, 2019

- **Two Indian fighter jets downed, pilot captured. PAF engages six targets in India held Kashmir**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 28, 2019

- **Prince Muhammad's (MBS of S Arabia) grand welcome. MOUs worth \$20b.**

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, February 18, 2019

- **30 Iranian guards killed in suicide bombing**

The daily Nation; Lahore, February 14, 2019

- **Pope admits clerical abuse of nuns including sexual slavery**

BBC February 6, 2019

- **Canada sentences man who killed 6 in mosque**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 10, 2019

- **Former Dutch MP (right-hand man of anti Islam politician Geert Wilders) converts to Islam**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 6, 2019

- **On American intervention Asif Zardari was let off the Surrey Palace case; in no democracy, a man in prison is appointed chairman of PAC: Imran Khan**

The daily Jang; Lahore, February 10, 2019

- **One who stole 15 chickens is in prison, while another who stole 15bn (rupees) is Chairman of Public Accounts Committee, and a father and his daughter who looted 300bn were granted bail: Minister of Information**

The daily Jang; Lahore, February 9, 2019

- **We'll not allow the state to move towards secularism: Maulana Fazlur Rehman**

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 2, 2019

- **The government is cheating the public in the name of Riasat Madina: Fazlur Rehman**

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 11, 2019

- **Fazl's son (Asad Mehmood) elected NA body on religious affairs chairman**

The daily Nation; Lahore, February 13, 2019

- **Saudia is sincere friend of Pakistan: Maulana Ilyas Chinioti**

The daily Islam; Lahore, February 16, 2019

- **Balochistan: Four FC persons killed in attack on Panjgur check post**

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 18, 2019

- **Ex-speaker of KP Assembly (Mr Asad Qaisar) found to be illegally using official vehicles.**

DG Audit orders recovery of Rs 1.1m from Qaisar

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 3, 2019

- **Speaker Sindh Assembly (Siraj Durrani of PPP) arrested**

The daily Jang; Lahore, February 21, 2019

- **Grave threat to the life of chairman NAB. Emergency alert.**

The daily Jang; Lahore, February 11, 2019

Op-ed: (From the Friday Times, Lahore)

Walter Benjamin said, "If they are successful, even our dead in their graves will not be safe." He was referring to the fascists and authoritarian extremists of his era, in the 1930s.

(Hurmat Ali Shah in The Friday Times, March 1-7, 2019)

(Note: The above is relevant to the attack on Ahmadiyya graveyard in Model Town, Lahore on December 2, 2012 when 120 graves were vandalized (Ref: p.77 of our Annual Report 2012) with police complicity, during the rule of Mr. Shahbaz Sharif.)