

# **Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan**

## **Monthly Report**

**March 2019**

### **Justice Shujaat Ali Khan of LHC directed that (extracts):**

ix. all the public functionaries, in particular law enforcement agencies, shall ensure that no religious material is imported from abroad without issuance of NOC in terms of 8(11) of the Rules, 2011 and if any importer, stockist, bookseller or recording company is found involved in selling/delivery of any banned material, firstly, the importer be taken to task and secondly the recipient of said material be also proceeded against in terms of Rules 9 *ibid*;

x. all non-Muslim communities be sensitized about the repercussions of printing/publication of material by using names of the religious books of the Muslims, in particular the Holy Qur'an, using the name of the Muslim authors. Further, the non-Muslims in particular *Ahmadis/Lahoris/Quadianis* be restrained to use the epithets of the Muslims;

...  
xvi. the Federal as well as the Provincial government shall ensure that the Holy Qur'an and other religious material being taught in different institutions conforms with the standard copy duly certified by the Qur'an Board and  
**(For more details see story on p. 6)**

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## **The New Zealand shooting hits very close to home for Ahmadi in Pakistan. Why? Ruling elites in Christchurch (NZ) and Lahore (Pakistan) – a candid comparison**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Week March 2019:* There was a major terrorist attack on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand by a white supremacist at the time of Friday prayers on March 15, 2019. Fifty persons were killed and numerous injured. A similar attack was mounted on Ahmadi worshipers assembled for Friday prayers, in two mosques in Lahore on 28 May 2010. Eighty six Ahmadi were killed and scores injured.

Apart from the basic similarities of the two attacks and their consequences, there are other numerous relevant reports, reactions, comments etc from different sections of the two societies, whose comparative study would be constructive. An enlightened analysis could be meaningful, particularly for the well-wishers of Pakistan.

Media and other authentic reports placed on record the following:

### **Christchurch**

- New Zealand in a daze after mosque attacks  
Gunman live-streams shootings that left 49 (*later 50*) dead. PM Ardern calls it ‘one of the darkest days at New Zealand’.
- The police arrested the killer.
- PM Ardern stated that the killer “had extremist views that have absolutely no place in New Zealand, and, in fact, no place in the world”.

- PM Ardern met the relatives of victims, hugged them and kissed the victims’ children. At the occasion she wore a *hijab* to express solidarity and love for the victims. She spoke with compassion. She declared that the government :
  - will cover funeral costs.
  - provide financial support for those who will suffer income loss due to the terror attack.
  - do so regardless of immigration status and citizenship.
- Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the Khalifa tul Masih V said, (extract): “On behalf of the Ahmadiyya Community worldwide, I express my deepest sympathies and condolences to all those affected by the barbaric terrorist attack that has taken place in Christchurch. ... Our heartfelt prayers are with the victims of these attacks and all those who have been affected. May the perpetrators of this evil act be promptly brought to justice.”
- NZ authorities arranged *Azaan* (call for Islamic prayers) for Friday prayers to be aired on state TV and Radio.
- PM undertook to revise NZ gun laws.
- A group from New Zealand tribe Haka performed display and sang heart-touching song to honour the victims at a service.
- A major newspaper published the attack story with a full-page cover photo of the attacker calling him **MONSTER** in bold letters.
- Non-Muslim fellow citizens of New Zealand left flower bouquets at the site with messages like: “This is not New Zealand”.

- A white man stood outside a mosque in Manchester with placard: "You are my friends. I will keep watch while you pray".
- PM Imran Khan of Pakistan tweeted: "Shocked and strongly condemned the Christchurch terrorist attacks on mosques. This reaffirms what we have always maintained that terrorism does not have a religion." He saluted bravery of mosque attack victims. Pakistan national flag was half-masted on March 18.
- Fawad Chaudhry, Pakistan Fed Minister of Information tweeted: "Dialogue amongst Civilizations is only way forward; rise of hate mongers on the World Stage is making World unsafe."

## Lahore

- The terrorist attack on Ahmadis was made on May 28, 2010 simultaneously in two major Ahmadiyya mosques in Garhi Shahu and Model Town of Lahore. 86 worshippers were killed, as also a Christian worker. One hundred and twenty were injured. There were two or three attackers at Model Town, while a larger contingent attacked the Garhi Shahu mosque. The attackers used hand grenades and sprayed bullets. Some of them shouted the slogan: *Khatme Nabuwwat Zinda Baad* (Long live – End of Prophethood)
- Initially TV people arrived at the scene of the ongoing massacre. The police arrived thereafter. The Elite Force were there; however they took no action while the terrorists carried on their bloodshed. Eventually, it was after over two hours, when all was over, the police entered the Garhi Shahu mosque. On entry, they went up to the roof and fired absurdly a spray

of bullets in the air as a show of victory. At Model Town, Ahmadis themselves overpowered two attackers and handed them over to the police. This was first time ever that terrorists in action were overpowered.

- After the massacre neither the President nor the Prime Minister found it necessary to make a sympathy call on Ahmadis. Mr. Shahbaz Sharif the Chief Minister, in whose capital this gruesome atrocity had been committed, stayed away deliberately from the victims. He did not offer condolences for the dead, nor visited the injured in hospital, nor did he visit the sites.
- Mr. Salman Taseer, the Governor (from PPP) extended courtesy to make the sympathy call at Garhi Shahu mosque while the Interior Minister Rehman Malik (PPP) visited the injured in hospital. The former was later killed in a terrorist attack over the Aasia Bibi case.
- The National Assembly urged by its women members did condemn the killing of Ahmadis in a resolution; but the Senate could not muster enough political courage or moral response to do the same.
- The Chief Justice of Lahore High Court took no *suo motu* notice of the massacre, although a month later when a terrorist attack occurred at Data Darbar in the city, that resulted in half the number of casualties, he visited Darbar and sent for the CPO to explain the lapse in security.

- When the funerals of the massacred Ahmadis took place, no politician, no official showed up.
- Hate banners against Ahmadis remained in place even after the tragedy and the authorities took no action to remove them lest the extremists mind it.
- A captured terrorist, who got injured in the incident, was delivered to a state hospital for treatment by the police, without informing the hospital staff that he was the terrorist. Later at night, one of the Ahmadis admitted in the same facility noticed his presence and freedom, and he told the hospital staff of the monster's status. It was then that he was isolated as a prisoner. The next night, his handlers mounted a murderous attack on the hospital to either get him released or kill him. In the attempt, a number of official staff got killed
- The Punjab government appointed a high level inquiry team to investigate the incident. The team, thereafter were told to stay put, as hardly any one appeared before it, and Ahmadis were not called to testify. Eventually there was, of course, no inquiry report.
- As for the mulla, he felt no shame whatsoever over the monstrous bloodshed. Ibtisam Ilahi Zaheer, a leading Wahabist mulla still termed Ahmadis *Wajib ul Qatl* (must be killed) as per his version of Shariah. Another, Munawwar Hasan, the Amir of Jamaat Islami shamelessly warned that another major Khatme Nabuwat (anti-Ahmadiyya) movement could be launched on the same lines as 1953. (That movement, in addition to a lot of bloodshed, brought Lahore to standstill and the imposition of first ever martial law in Pakistan.)
- Ms Farzana Bari of HRCP was however pragmatic; she aired the view that the state of Pakistan was primarily responsible for the Lahore tragedy, as the country's laws and constitutional amendment provided incentive to undertake violence against Ahmadis.
- The print media was generally sympathetic – even the vernacular press. The English press forcefully condemned the extremists and highlighted the state's incompetence to provide protection to Ahmadis. The electronic media, the TV channels, their anchors, reporters conducted themselves almost disgracefully. While reporting the incident 'live', most of the reporters seemed to be confused whether to call the Ahmadiyya mosque a 'Masjid', and what name to give to Ahmadis' Friday prayers as these prayers are essentially the same as with other denominations. PTV reported the police intervention to be very successful and the arrangements in hospitals excellent, although some state hospitals refused to receive the dead bodies and the injured due 'lack of space'. A TV reporter referred to the Ahmadi martyrs as *Halaak* (perished) but for the dead terrorist, he used the term *Jan Bahaq* (one who delivers his soul to God). An Ahmadi leader held a press conference at the site after the tragedy; it was well attended but was hardly put on air, as the management feared to displease the mulla. Mr. Lucman, an anchor person of some rank, for his own reasons, stressed in a program that Ahmadis were not simple infidels but are *Murtad* (apostates)

whose penalty according to Shariah is nothing short of death. The program was repeated twice the next day. No advice from Pemra!

- The Ahmadiyya Khalifa tul Masih V in his speech took a lenient view of the young terrorists who were misled to act like robots, and he called their sponsors and handlers the main culprits. He urged the government leaders to undo the constitutional and legal provisions against Ahmadis.
- The Federal Interior Minister disclosed that the province (Punjab) had been informed before hand of the terrorist threat to the Ahmadiyya community.
- A year later, Lt Gen Pasha, the DG ISI testified before the OBL Commission: "... In Lahore the police protected those who attacked the Qadianis last year, and even directed them to the hospital where the wounded were being treated. The provincial government had been informed of the situation but it took no heed of the advice and information provided by the ISI. No guards were assigned to the hospital as venal political influence intervened everywhere." (Al-Jazeera)
- There was no shortage of good advice to the political leadership of Pakistan. The Friday Times wrote an op-ed on this issue under the title: **A weak state without conscience**. Declan Wash of The Guardian minced no words: **"This past week, though I am silent, the massacre of 94 (sic) members of the minority Ahmadi community on May 28 has exposed something ugly at the heart of Pakistan, in its laws, its rulers, its society."**

## Conclusion

The state took no worthwhile long-term action to redress what was wrong in this field. No relief whatsoever was provided to the Ahmadi community and it remained gagged as before. It could not reassert in public that it also believes in *Khatme Nabuwwat*. The politico-religious lobby continued in its ways, and the state and society submerged deeper in the marshes of extremism and terrorism. As a result there occurred:

- Terrorist attack on Data Darbar, a month later
- Mr. Salman Taseer, Governor of Punjab was murdered by his guard.
- Two month later, Federal Minister Shahbaz Bhatti was killed.
- 85 Christians were killed in attack on Peshawar church in 2013.
- 134 children massacred in Army Public School in 2014.
- Pakistan reportedly spent \$118bn in war on terrorism till 2016; 3000 policemen were killed.
- TLP mullas imposed disgraceful surrender on spineless PML (N) government after *Dharna* (sit in) at Faizabad in November 2017.
- In October 2018, a mulla Pir Afzal Qadri declared three Supreme Court judges to be *Wajib ul Qatl* (must be killed) and urged 'Muslim' generals to rebel against their Army Chief.
- Jaish-e-Muhammad owned up terrorist attack at Pulwama. India-Pakistan disastrous war narrowly avoided.

**In short, Pakistani state, if not for the sake of its Ahmadi citizens, in its larger interest should immediately take firm action against religious bigots, extremists and terrorists before they deliver their terminal blow to this *Mumlikat Khuda Daad* Pakistan (God-given country).**

## **Sectarian tension in District Khushab – cause for great concern**

*District Khushab, Punjab; March 2019:* Members of the Ahmadiyya community are facing excessive hostility in District Khushab in general, and Quaidabad in particular for a long time.

Miscreants, led by mulla Athar Hussain, continue to severely harass Ahmadi individuals as well as the community. They enjoy support of the local MNA, MPA and councilors. Ahmadi's houses and shops were burnt here in 1974 by anti-Ahmadiyya elements. This hostility is increasing day by day. Ahmadi's have received threats letters in the past, which often resulted in attacks on their persons.

One, Muhammad Bashir Ahmad Shaheen from the group of mulla Athar Hussain attacked Mr. Nawab Ali Shah an Ahmadi at his dispensary. Shaheen called Mr. Shah a *Khariji* and punched him on face hurting him severely. As a result his lips swelled. His colleagues rescued him from Shaheen. This happened on December 12, 2018.

Mulla Athar Hussain compiled a list of all the Ahmadi men with their workplace addresses, and circulated it urging the locals to socially boycott them. He requested mullas to mention them by name in their sermons and speeches for follow-up action. Ahmadi's were declared *Wajib ul qatl* (must be killed) through *fatwas* (edicts) of extremist ulama.

These activists have contacted proprietors of houses and shops rented by Ahmadi's and urged them to get these vacated. School-owners have been asked to expel Ahmadi children. Stickers have been put up in restaurants and business centres to not admit Ahmadi's. Ahmadi's face problems at times in buying essential items like vegetables, fruits

and miscellaneous items of daily needs. They feel their lives are at risk.

It should be pointed out that mulla Athar Shah resided at Takht Hazara in District Sargodha prior to settling in Quaidabad. There he precipitated a riot in which five Ahmadi's were killed and numerous injured. The mulla and his colleagues were booked by the police and punished mildly by a court on findings of guilty.

This mulla's hostile activities succeeded in depriving Ahmadi's of their mosque in village Chak 2/TDA, District Khushab.

This mulla, in league with his acolytes Shamsul Arifeen, Tahir ur Rehman, Zain ul Abideen, Allah Bux etc is busy in their anti-Ahmadiyya provocative and harmful activities. This could lead to violent agitation with frightful consequences. Apparently no action has been taken by the administration to deter him from such activities; hence the hype.

## **High-level official probe in Ahmadiyya printing presses on demand of a mulla**

*Rabwah; March 2019:* Mulla Hasan Muawiya who is secretary of Tahaffuze Khatme Nabuwwat Forum had applied to Lahore High Court on May 25, 2018 that, despite the official ban, Quran was being published in Rabwah; he demanded action. The court ordered the concerned authorities to hold a fresh inquiry and report results.

Accordingly, the DC, the DPO and the Chairman of Quran Board, Punjab accompanied by a number of mullas came to Rabwah on November 29 and inspected the printing presses. The team was escorted by a sizeable contingent of police. Muawiya demanded his own presence as well, but rightly was not allowed by the police for his hostile and malicious attitude.

Authorities submitted the report to the LHC. The judge required the IGP to be present at the hearing on March 5. Justice Shujaat Ali Khan observed, "Quran Act should be implemented without discrimination of colour, race or bias." He directed the IGP to act according to law and pay special attention to this matter. The court verdict was released later; it is reported elsewhere in this report.

## **Sectarian hostile conference in District Khushab**

*Chak 2TDA, District Khushab; 15, 16 March 2019:* A Khatme Nabuwat conference was held here in memory of Mulla Athar Hussain. His anti-Ahmadiyya activism was praised profusely at the occasion and a great deal of ill will and animosity was expressed against Ahmadis. It was highlighted that Ahmadiyya places of worship resemble mosques, so these must be reoriented differently. Qadianis call themselves Muslims, while in fact they are apostates and *Zindique* and should be dealt with accordingly. The government is supporting the blasphemers and hurting the lovers of the Prophet. Qadianis should be quashed forthwith, otherwise intense hostility will arise.

Approximately 300 men participated in the conference.

## **Now, an Order Sheet by Justice Shujaat Ali Khan of Lahore High Court**

*Lahore; March 05, 2019:* It would be recalled that last year Justice Shaukat Siddiqui (later disgraced) issued an Order Sheet on March 9, 2018 concerning Ahmadis, without hearing them at any stage. Then in July, he issued a detailed 172-page judgment sheet.

Now Justice Shujaat Ali Khan of Lahore High Court has issued on March 5, 2019 a 40-page Order Sheet on the issue of

publication etc of the Holy Quran. This sheet contains general rulings on the subject, in addition to specific directions concerning Ahmadiyya editions of the Holy Quran and its translations. The writ-petitioner, mulla Hassan Muawiya, a brother of Maulana Tahir Ashrafi the President of Mutahidah Ulama Board Punjab, had also specifically objected to Ahmadiyya publication of the Holy Quran abroad. So, in a way; this case was handled mainly as Ahmadi-specific and has affected Ahmadis, and the rulings further restrict their freedom to recite, refer to and understand their primary scripture. Here, we make no comments on the Order Sheet, but report below its last para that contains a set of directions issued by Judge Shujaat Ali Khan.

32. As a necessary corollary to the above discussion I am of the considered view that neither the non-Muslims, in particular Ahmadis/Quadianis/Lahoris, can pose themselves as Muslims nor can they publish any material by using the names of the books of the Muslims, in particular Holy Qur'an, with the names of the Muslims authors just to portray that the same belongs to Muslims. Further, they have no right to use Muslims epithets to make the others to believe that they are Muslims. Consequently, this petition is **disposed of** with the directions that –

- i. the Federal as well as the Provincial Government shall ensue availability of a standard copy of Holy Qur'an alongwith its literal meaning, at Federal, Provincial, District and Tehsil levels, duly approved by the respective Qur'an Boards to use it as a specimen to determine as to whether any subsequent publication qualifies the test of authenticity of original text of Holy Qur'an and its literal meaning or not;
- ii. the Federal as well as Provincial government shall take steps to ensure that only the printers/publishers, authorized by the Qur'an Board, are allowed to print Holy Qur'an and other religious books of the

Muslims. Further, the authorized printers/publishers be bound down to give specific **Bar/QR code as well as distinct serial number against each copy of every religious books, in particular the Holy Qur'an**, to know the authenticity of the said book and to fix responsibility in case of any omission/commission on the part of any publisher/printer. **Furthermore, each page of the Holy Quran be embossed with name of the publisher/company** in order to eliminate the possibility of replacement of any page at subsequent stage;

- iii. in view of the ever increasing importance of the Information Technology, the Federal Government, in collaboration with other stakeholders, in particular Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) shall take measures that the search engines/websites showing proscribed religious material are blocked. Further, only the websites which are registered with PTA and possess certificate from the Qur'an Board regarding authenticity of the religious material, in particular the Holy Qur'an, be allowed to display online Holy Qur'an and other religious books of the Muslims. Moreover, all other unregistered websites, displaying such religious material against its original text and literal meaning, be blocked forthwith. For the purpose, the Federal as well as the Provincial Government shall display at conspicuous places, in particular the web portals owned and operated by the government, the registered/approved websites for information of the public-at-large;
- iv. the Federal Government shall ensure that the e-copy of Holy Qur'an, duly approved by the Qur'an Board, is available at Google Play Store, App Store and Windows Store etc. for reference. Further, the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs should take up the matter with the managers/owners/operators of the application stores to remove every application containing unauthentic text of the Holy Qur'an and other religious books of Muslims;

- v. every printer/publisher be bound down to put a certificate at the end of each copy of Holy Qur'an to the effect that the same is 100% compliant with the copy approved by the Qur'an Board. Moreover, the contact numbers (telephone, e-mail id & Facebook id etc.) of the Qur'an Board should be available on each and every copy of the Holy Qur'an to facilitate the reader to highlight any issue relating to printing and publication of religious material of Muslims in particular the Holy Quran.
- vi. in case of surfacing of any book even with the name of Holy Qur'an but with distorted text or mutilated translation the same be confiscated forthwith and the individuals/communities or the corporate bodies/companies involved in publication of said book be taken to task while implementing the provision of the Act, 2011 and the Rules made thereunder;
- vii. the Qur'an Board at Provincial and Federal level be made more efficient to have vigilant eye on publication and printing of any religious material in particular the Holy Qur'an against its original text or authentic meaning.
- viii. all the communities, companies, bodies corporate, publishers and individuals be bound down to give free access to the Chairman of the Qur'an Board, at any time, for inspection of the site used for publication of Holy Qur'an and other religious books;
- ix. all the public functionaries, in particular law enforcement agencies, shall ensure that no

religious material is imported from abroad without issuance of NOC in terms of 8(11) of the Rules, 2011 and if any importer, stockist, bookseller or recording company is found involved in selling/delivery of any banned material, firstly, the importer be taken to task and secondly the recipient of said material be also proceeded against in terms of Rules 9 *ibid*;

- x. all non-Muslim communities be sensitized about the repercussions of printing/publication of material by using names of the religious books of the Muslims, in particular the Holy Qur'an, using the name of the Muslim authors. Further, the non-Muslims in particular *Ahmadis/Lahoris/Quadianis* be restrained to use the epithets of the Muslims;
- xi. all the wings of the Law Enforcement Agencies be mobilized to curb printing/publication of any proscribed material by the non-Muslims;
- xii. necessary measures be taken for interfaith harmony amongst the citizens representing different religious, communities, clans and localities;
- xiii. necessary measures be taken for safeguarding the rights of minorities in terms of Articles 20 and 36 of the Constitution provided they are not involved in any activity which offends against any provision of the legislations discussed *supra*;
- xiv. the Qur'an Board, Cabinet Subcommittee on Law and Order in the province, Committee Muthida Ulma Board Punjab, Police Department, Auqaf and Religious Affairs Department Government of Punjab, Association of Publishers and Traders of Religious Books Punjab and Information Technology Department shall coordinate

*inter-se* with regular intervals and their deliberations shall be shared with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Government of Pakistan to formulate a uniform policy/SOP for the entire country to curb printing and publication of proscribed religious material;

- xv. the Federal as well as the Provincial Government shall ensure that before accepting copy of Holy Qur'an, *Paras* and *Surahs*, as defined under Section No.2 (d) of the Act, 2011 in any mosque, shrine, institution religious or otherwise, the head/owner/operator/organizer of the above institutions, shall confirm that the same is in line with the standard copy of the Holy Qur'an.
- xvi. the Federal as well as the Provincial government shall ensure that the Holy Qur'an and other religious material being taught in different institutions conforms with the standard copy duly certified by the Qur'an Board and
- xvii. the Federal as well as the Provincial Government shall ensure that the conditions for printing/publication of Holy Qur'an, as enshrined under Rule 8 of the Rules, 2011, are strictly adhered to and any person/authority/community/company etc. found involved in violation of the said rule be awarded punishment provided under rule 9 *ibid*.
33. Before parting with this order, it is directed that the Registrar of this Court shall arrange for Urdu translation of this order and to ensure circulation of this order, alongwith its Urdu translation, to the Secretary, Government of the Punjab, Home Department, Lahore for its further circulation amongst the heads of the Police at provincial/divisional/district/tehsil levels as well as Police Stations. He shall further

transmit a copy of this order, alongwith its Urdu translation to the Secretary, Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Islamabad for information.

34. The Assistant Registrar, Media and Publication of this Court, is directed to share this order, alongwith its Urdu translation, with the media persons for its circulation/publication in the print/electronic media.

(Shujaat Ali Khan)  
Judge

Approved for Reporting

Judge

Last but not least, para 31 of the Order Sheet informs us of the following:

31. Learned Assistant Attorney General has apprised the Court that in view of sensitivity of the issue the efforts of the Federal Government to bring a codified law to eliminate the publication of any proscribed material by the non-Muslims in the country are at final stage and the same is expected to be enforced within two or three weeks. This Court lauds the efforts, being made by the Federal Government, to tackle issue of such important nature.

The above information would have ordinarily been a cause of concern to the Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan, however in view of the directions already given by the worthy judge, it appears that the authorities will not be able to add much to further deprive Ahmadis of their Freedom of Belief, Freedom of Expression, Freedom to Practice their Belief, Freedom to Educate their Children, Freedom of Opinion, Freedom to undertake Interfaith Dialogue, etc.

## **Chohan pays for his acidic tongue with cabinet job – a comparison with an earlier similar outrage**

*Lahore:* The daily Dawn of March 7, 2019 reported that PTI's Mr. Fayyaz Chohan, Punjab Minister for Information and Culture was made to resign from his post a few days after his remarks against the Hindu Community.

We do not know what exactly he said, except that it must have been obviously objectionable.

This remind us of a somewhat similar incident last year when Mr. Zaeem Qadri, the PML-N Punjab Minister of Religious Affairs uttered perhaps worse outburst against Ahmadis, on TV Channel 24 on January 24, 2018. He said on the issue of marketing of Holy Quran with Ahmadiyya translation:

"The mentioned Quran has been banned, raids have been undertaken, presses have been sealed and people have been booked (by the police)...If anyone still distributes this Quran, I'll personally strangle him...."

"As for me, I am not prepared to give the Ahmadis even their rights granted by the Constitution to non-Muslims."

In view of its short term political interest, the PML-N top leadership, Mr. Shahbaz Sharif and Mr. Nawaz Sharif took no notice of this immense outrage and let it pass. In the elections, a few months later, nevertheless, Mr. Qadri was rejected outrightly by the electorate. The two Mian brothers lost their prime posts in the Federation and the Punjab and ended up in prison on corruption charges.

Such people forget that there is Someone up there who cares for equity and justice.

## **Octogenarian Abdul Shakoor released from prison after 3 years and 3 months on false accusation of terrorism**

*Lahore; March 2019:* Lahore High Court bench comprising Justices M Qasim Khan and A. Javed Gharal adjudged that Mr. Abdul Shakoor the book-seller and his Shia shop assistant's sentences be considered 'as undergone' and they should be released. They were set free on March 18 on completion of formalities.

Both were arrested on December 2, 2015 by the Elite Force and charged under terrorism sections while Mr. Shakoor was charged in addition under PPC 298-C an anti-Ahmadiyya law. They were given a speedy trial in a Special Court and sentenced to (5+3) years and 5 years respectively, maximum penalties under the imposed clauses.

Pleas were moved with LHC for revision and bail, however it took the Court over three years to give a verdict. The honourable judges did not acquit the accused, but released them deciding that the remaining imprisonment be considered 'as undergone'. It was indeed thoughtful and obliging on their part.

A layman's fair overview of the case would show that the two were not guilty of any terrorism whatsoever in the first instance, and their long imprisonment was highly inappropriate. Following points highlight the circumstances of the arrest, trial and sentence of this case of historic importance:

- The books that were confiscated in the first raid and were mentioned in the FIR were not of the banned category. The notification for their banning was not issued till much later – on January 20, 2016.
- To support their case, the prosecution produced as evidence a letter in the court, ostensibly recovered during the

raid on the book shop on December 9, 2015; it conveyed an instruction from Ahmadiyya Director of Public Affairs to Mr. Shakoor that such and such publications have been banned by the government and that he should not indulge in their display or sale. This letter was entirely fabricated by the prosecution. They stole the Director's signature and stamp from elsewhere and affixed it on the forged letter presented in the court. The prosecution was guilty of perjury and willful falsehood; it blatantly violated its traditional code of conduct.

- The CTD inspector, in his personal capacity, presented an advocate (Mulla) Ghulam Mustafa in the court who told the court that it was his mission and practice to oppose the 'Qadianis' in all cases whenever possible. Mustafa is an activist of the Khatme Nabuwwat Movement that openly propagates 'death for Qadianis'.
- If the terrorism clause was applied for selling 'anti-Islam hate material', it is strange that a Muslim was actively involved in the sales activity as shop assistant. In fact issue of selling hate material was not raised in the trial by the prosecution. "Then why were the anti-terrorism clauses applied and why was the trial held in an Anti-terrorism court", one should ask.
- Ahmadiyya religious books preach peace and harmony anyway. Non-Ahmadi mullas have accused Ahmadis of being anti-Jihad for the last 125 years.
- The CTD personnel were in league with mullas like Hassan Muawiya and Ghulam Mustafa. It does no credit to CTD to be in league with such sectarian extremists. This was against the state policy professed in National Action Plan.

- Imposition of maximum penalty on the octogenarian Ahmadi who had never been in a police station or court for any crime except under discriminatory anti-Ahmadi laws or religion-based clauses. He is known to be pious, helpful, light-hearted and customer-friendly. His sentence was religious rather than lawful.

It should be added that the extremist mullas succeeded entirely in obtaining active support of state institutions, in that anti-terror laws were invoked to terrorise a gentle old Ahmadi. Consequently the accused suffered special harsh treatment and uncommon restrictions imposed on terrorists. His imprisonment was solitary, in addition. He is a hernia patient, but under the circumstances, he dared not offer himself for an operation.

Although a number of VIPs and prestigious organizations pleaded with Pakistani authorities to intervene on behalf of the good old fellow and the innocent Shia, it is surprising, unbecoming and unbelievable that the state took over three years to attend to this case of obvious merit and police misadventure.

## **Ahmadiyya mosque at risk in Gujrat**

*Shadiwal, District Gujrat; March 2019:* Ahmadiyya mosque in Shadiwal is at risk at the hand of a non-Ahmadi, Irshad Daraji. He lives near the mosque. He claims, “This mosque has minarets and mosques belong to Muslims, not to infidels. This mosque belonged to our ancestors.”

He has recently returned from Makkah after performing *Umra*. He claims to have made a pledge at the grave of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) that he would get the mosque ceded to Muslims. He became a follower of Haq Bahu clan in recent years. He is addicted to drugs but is financially strong, politically influential.

## **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. 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.
3. 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**

- Govt, Pemra, PTA ordered to remove, block unauthentic e-copy of Quran from internet

**LHC orders only website registered with PTA be allowed to display Quran, other religious books on internet; says non-Muslims cannot be allowed to use distinctive characteristics to camouflage their identity.**

*The daily News; Lahore, March 29, 2019*

- **Qadianis are snakes up the sleeve, and greatest enemy of Muslim Ummah: Maulana Abdul Mahboob Azad (in Khatme Nabuwwat Conference)**

*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, March 18, 2019*

- **Qadianis support Narendra Modi's aggressive designs: Abdul Latif (Ahrari)**

*The daily Jinah; Lahore, March 02, 2019*

- **Qadianism is a threat to national security: Alami Khatme Nabuwwat Movement, Punjab**

*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, March 9, 2019*

- **Terminal hurt to world peace is attributable to Jewish-Qadiani lobby: Mian Shafiq (of PTI)**

*The daily Din; Lahore, March 18, 2019*

- **We shall pursue Qadianis all over the world: M. Jamiat Ahle-Hadith**

*The daily Pakistan; Lahore, March 11, 2019*

- **Bahawalpur: Student stabs professor (Khalid Hameed) to death. Khalid Hameed arranged a fun fair; it is forbidden by Islam: Khalid Hussain (the murderer).**

*92 News; Lahore, March 21, 2019*

- **Maulana Abdul Aziz dodges ICT admin, delivers sermon at Lal Masjid.**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 23, 2019*

- **Two killed as Mufti Taqi (Saif ul Islam) survives attempt on life**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 23, 2019*

- **JeM chief's son, brother among 44 held in crackdown**

**Banned outfits labeled as high risk to meet FATF terms**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 9, 2019*

- **JuD offices in Muridke, Lahore taken over**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 8, 2019*

- **Corpses of two (Ahmadi) doctors including a Pak-origin American discovered in Attock Dam  
Dr Aziz and Dr Iftikhar went missing three days ago in Gali Jahangir from their farmland**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, March 19, 2019*

- **IJT activists thrash PU students 'rallying for transport facility'**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 21, 2019*

- **China thwarts move to declare JeM Chief a global terrorist**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 14, 2019*

- **Police told to not arrest anyone without incriminating evidence, empowered to decide pleas for FIR to end 'frivolous' complaints: IG Police (Sindh)**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 21, 2019*

- **JI busy in protection of minorities: Azim Randhawa (Dist Amir Faisalabad)**

*The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, March 26, 2019*

- **New Zealand in a daze after mosque attacks**

**Gunman livestreams shootings that left 49 dead**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 16, 2019*

- **Indian court acquits all Samjhauta blast accused**

**Pakistan's Foreign Office says judgment has exposed India's hypocrisy on terrorism (42 Pakistanis were killed in the terror incident)**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 21, 2019*

- **Five mosques vandalized in Birmingham**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 22, 2019*

- **US recognizes occupied Golan Heights as Israeli territory**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 26, 2019*

- **Death toll from attack on Mali herders (a Muslim tribe) rises to 157**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 28, 2019*

- **BD court sentences five 'war criminals' to death**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 29, 2019*

- **Private US diplomacy averted war: FM**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 7, 2019*

- **Kurdish-led forces proclaim end of IS ‘caliphate’**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 24, 2019*
- **Karadzic sentence for Bosnia war crimes increased to life**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 21, 2019*
- **(We are) Not soft on Qadianis. The constitution declared them a minority: Noor ul Haq Qadri (Fed Minister of Religious Affairs)**  
*The daily Awaz; Lahore, March 9, 2019*
- **We’ve decided to implement NAP in national interest: Shah Mahmood (FM)**  
*The daily Jang; Lahore, March 10, 2019*
- **6 Levis killed by terrorists in attack on check-post in Balochistan**  
*The daily Jang; Lahore, March 21, 2019*
- **Zardari calls on JUI-F chief for one on one meeting**  
**PPP cadre in the dark about meeting which took place hours after former president, Bilawal appeared before NAB.**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 22, 2019*
- **I believe in jihad; an attacker on madrassahs will have to advance over my dead body: Sh Rashid (Fed Minister of Railways)**  
*The daily Din; Lahore, March 19, 2019*
- **Chohan pays for his acidic tongue with cabinet job**  
**PTI leaders take to social media to heap scorn on Punjab minister over anti-Hindu remarks**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 6, 2019*
- **(SC) Regrets Sindh government does not want to see any development in province and always shifts responsibility to others.**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 6, 2019*
- **Agha Siraj Durrani’s (PPP leader under arrest) family, required by NAB to testify, left for the US**  
*The daily Jang; Lahore, March 14, 2019*
- **Blast on railway track in Dera Jamali (Balochistan): 5 passengers dead, 10 injured.**  
*The daily Jang; Lahore, March 18, 2019*
- **Bilawal elected NA human rights panel chairman**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 6, 2019*
- **IGP Punjab should move against those who translate the Quran incorrectly: Lahore High Court (Justice Shujaat Ali Khan)**  
*The daily Pakistan; Lahore, March 6, 2019*
- **SC bench questions allotment of 20 kanals for construction of Jamia Hafsa (in Islamabad)**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 13, 2019*
- **Ministry of Religious Affairs holds Holi festivity in Islamabad**  
*The daily Jang; Lahore, March 28, 2019*
- **Bahria Town offers afresh Rs 485 bn (to settle land cases)**  
*The daily Jang; Lahore, March 14, 2019*
- **Polygamy is tyranny (zulm) against women: Head Jamia Azhar**  
*The daily Insaf; Lahore, March 4, 2019*
- **Two suspects thrash judge after bail rejection**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 14, 2019*
- **Govt believes \$11bn stashed abroad by Pakistanis**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 19, 2019*

**Report: Student who stabbed professor was encouraged by outsider**

... Hussain’s (the killer’s) eagerness to take credit for the murder paints an alarming picture of a boy who was inspired by videos of preacher Khadim Hussain Rizvi and possibly radicalized through social media....

*Situation in the daily Dawn of March 27, 2019*