

# Action against Press and Publications

## 2019

### **High-level official probe in Ahmadiyya printing presses on demand of a mulla; the mulla objects vehemently to Ahmadis' bond with Holy Quran**

*Rabwah; October, 2018:* Mulla Hassan Muawiyah who is secretary of Tahaffuz 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. Muawiyah 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 in chapter 1B in this report.

Later Justice Shujaat Ali Khan issued a 40-page verdict in March this year and directed the administration and police to implement the Quran Act 2011 in true spirit.

Mulla Muawiyah again on September 25, 2019 lodged another application to DPO Chiniot to implement the decision of the court as Ahmadis were allegedly still printing the Quran and using PDF copies of it electronically and spreading it. He said that copies of the Quran with Ahmadiyya translation were distributed to winners in a prize distribution ceremony, Quran classes were being held in Ahmadiyya schools, children were given Ahmadiyya-printed Qurans. He further accused that all these unlawful activities were being done from the offices of Sadr Anjuman, Tehrike Jadid and Waqfe Jadid. He named the high officials of the Ahmadiyya community i.e. Messrs. Khalid Shah, Malik Khalid Masood and Saleem ud Din as supervising this activity. He named the printing presses of the community, and the educational institutes where the Quran was taught.

The DPO told the DSP Chenab Nagar to hold inquiry, which is in progress.

Mulla Muawiyah has submitted another application to the DPO in October alleging Ahmadis violate the Quran Act and thus demanded the police to register a case under 295-B and 295-C against the officials of the Ahmadiyya community in Rabwah. These sections carry penalties of imprisonment for life and death respectively.

The malice and spite of this Mulla is boundless. He is a brother of Mulla Tahir Ashrafi, the chair of the Punjab Ulama Board. He was placed earlier in Fourth Schedule, for his criminal activities, however he gets great attention at the High Court.

## **Writ Petition in Lahore High Court against English translation of the Holy Quran by Ahmadis**

**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”.

## **Another title authored by the Ahmadiyya founder recommended to be banned**

**Lahore; March 29, 2019:** The daily *Pakistan*, online, published a report that the Chairman Mutahiddah Ulama Board, Allama Tahir Mahmud Ashrafi sent his recommendation to the Home Department, the Auqaf Department and the CTD Punjab that the book *Kashti Nooh* (Noah’s Ark) be confiscated forthwith and its publication and distribution be stopped.

This book was authored by the founder of the Ahmadiyya community in 1902 during the Raj. It contains fairly detailed description of his teachings and is thus of prime value and standing for the members of the Ahmadiyya community. The work does address the virulent and unfair attacks on Islam and its Holy Prophet (PBUH) by some leading clerics of other faiths, and as rebuttal shows them the mirror through quotations from their own scriptures and narratives. It is indeed a classic work and is of great value for the researchers as well as the disciples.

The Ulama Board, when accused of curbing the religious freedom of Ahmadis takes the line that it has also banned numerous publications produced by clerics of other denominations. This excuse is *malafide* and hollow as those publications were authored by subsequent scholars and mullas, while the books produced by Mirza Sahib are of nearly scriptural value to Ahmadis. The Ulama Board dare not recommend a ban on even *Sahih Bokhari* (of Sunnis) or *Nehjul Balagha* (of Shias). We quote below briefly the story of one similar ban on the Ahmadiyya TAZKARAH, by the Punjab Mutahiddah Ulama Board, to show the prejudice and bigotry in play in such anti-Ahmadi recommendations.

The Home Department Punjab, vide its Notification no. SO(IS-III)6-15/2010 dated 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 “banned, and to be forfeited wherever found,” a book titled TAZKARAH ‘authored’ by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani, on grounds that “the Government of the Punjab is satisfied that (the) book contain (sic) material which is treasonable and seditious in nature (and...) prejudicial to national integration”. This calls for a little explanation.

This book TAZKARAH is a compendium of Ahmad’s dreams, visions and revelations. He died in 1908, forty years before Pakistan came into being. Till 1908, Pakistan scheme had not surfaced, even its name was not suggested. Someone may ask the Ulama Board and the government of the Punjab of

2014 as to how do they justify their reasoning that the pre-1908 dreams etc are treasonable and seditious to the Pakistani state. Obviously the reasons quoted are fabrications, even ridiculous.

The ban on TAZKARAH is maintained intact by the present government of the Punjab despite the fact that Pakistan has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) whose Article 19.2 lays down:

“Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.”

We understand that the mullas of the Punjab Ulama Board might never have bothered to read the ICCPR, but the high officials of the provincial government must have known of this international covenant and obligation and are expected to convey to the Board that they will not be allowed to bring disrepute to Pakistan through violations of its international treaty obligations.