

Cases under Electronic Crimes law

2019

First drop of the poisonous rain

Ahmadi arrested by Cyber Crimes Wing

Lahore; June 20, 2019: FIA Cyber Crimes Wing arrested Mr. Mahmud Hashmi, an Ahmadi, and booked him under PPC 295-A and Ahmadi-specific PPC 298-C in FIR Nr. 88/2019 dated 20.6.2019 at Police Station FIA Cyber Crimes Wing, Lahore. His crime is not promotion of terrorism or violence or sexual obscenity or anything of that nature; he is accused of sharing with others translation of the Holy Quran by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, according to some scholars a high quality Urdu translation of the Arabic original.

The complaint was made by one Muhammad Irfan, a friend of Mulla Hassan Muawiyah an anti-Ahmadi activist and religious thug formerly registered in the Fourth Schedule by the authorities.

The accused Ahmadi is a 53-year old respected businessman from Lahore. He along with three others was reportedly 'admin' of a social media group on which this translation of the Holy Quran was shared.

It deserves special mention at this occasion that while the state of Pakistan promulgates laws apparently well-justified against evils and threats to the society and the state, the mulla demands that anti-Ahmadi laws should be specifically mentioned therein as actionable in the new law. The authorities readily agree to that, and the mulla gets still another tool in his hand to persecute Ahmadis and bring bad name to the country and its people. It was under such circumstances that on behest of mullas the authorities arrested octogenarian Abdul Shakoor for selling Ahmadiyya publications (that promote peace and harmony) and took him to an Anti-terrorism court for speedy trial and award of 5+3 years imprisonment. Now while the cyber crimes law may have its valid rationale and justification, the mulla and unscrupulous authorities agitate it in corrupt ways to harm citizens who indulge in innocent intellectual and doctrinal pursuits.

It is unfortunate that the state of Pakistan allows itself to be manipulated, exploited and harmed by mullas who otherwise belong to the Fourth Schedule category.

Mr. Hashmi is a patient of lungs disease. He remained behind bars more than two months for sharing translation of the Holy Quran, in the Islamic Republic. His trial goes on.

A mulla of criminal history arranges arrest of an Ahmadi student

Lahore; November 12, 2019: On complaint of mulla Hassan Muawiyah, FIA carried out a raid, arrested Mr. Waqar Ahmad a student at Jamia Ahmadiyya, and also booked Mr. Azhar Mangla, a lecturer at the Jamia and Syed Mubashar Ahmad Ayaz, the principal, with FIR No 152/2019 of Police Station FIA Cyber Crimes Wing, Lahore under anti-Ahmadiyya law PPC 298-C, blasphemy

laws 295-B and 295-A, Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act PECA-11 and PPCs 120-B, 109 and 34. Blasphemy clause PPC 295-B condemns its accused to imprisonment for life, if declared guilty.

As per the FIR, Mr. Waqar Ahmad is accused of being involved in some project dealing with translation of the Holy Quran. The mulla, who in the past was listed in the Fourth Schedule and was recognized as being regularly involved in anti-Ahmadi activism, accused the poor student of being involved in some translation project of the Holy Quran which the mulla termed as disgusting (*Ghanaonay*) and diminution (*Takhfif*). The mulla's assessment is a self-serving lie.

The mulla admits in the FIR that he trapped the student by adopting a fake name and lured him to be in telephonic touch with him. He thereby himself committed a crime.

The accused have been charged under very severe clauses of the PPC, 295-B, 295-A, whose reading shows that as per the FIR itself, these are not applicable. These have been added only because they are severe and accuse the victims of the dreaded Blasphemy. PECA was applied only to involve FIA in the case. It is interesting that while the FIR is based on the alleged 'crime' of translating the Holy Quran, the Quran Act has not been applied in the charge sheet.

Prima facie, this case has been built upon a foundation of lies, deceit, tyranny and misuse of state power by a cleric of doubtful character and reputation. This one is another of hundreds of such cases against thousands of Ahmadis. It is a pity that the laws and rules of doubtful merit are applied against innocent citizens to persecute and harass them over little. Cyber crime laws were initially promulgated to prevent serious crimes against the state and the society, but here we find that a credulous youth who is allegedly involved in translating the Holy Quran is targeted by a malicious mulla and state functionaries through misuse of law.

A few days later the Urdu press in the Punjab published stories of this event quoting 'Agencies'. The narrative was highly misleading, one-sided and even hate-promoting. The story was fabricated on the following lines:

1. FIA Cyber Crimes Wing Lahore acted timely and promptly to neutralize a major anti-Islam conspiracy of Qadianis.
2. The translation was corrupt (*tehrif shudah*).
3. The translations were up-loaded on Play Store and App Store and were about to go viral.
4. If action had not been taken, all the (corrupt) material would have been uploaded.
5. The arrested accused was carrying corrupted copies of the Holy Quran. (*An absolute lie — The Holy Qurans published by Ahmadis in the past did not differ even in a vowel from those published by non-Ahmadis.*)
6. If Qadianis had succeeded in their evil designs (*napak azaaim*), it would have become very difficult to remove this material (from the Internet). (*Note: This is another disinformation, as the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Jamaat is in a position to have the translations uploaded on the social media from dozens of countries outside Pakistan.*)

The dailies Aman, Express, Nai Baat, Jahane Pakistan etc, on December 1, 2019

The FIR shows that the raiding party comprised an assistant director, an inspector, a sub-inspector, a head constable and most likely the mulla and perhaps a few others. This reminds one of the armed raid on Ahmadiyya head office in December 2016 by the Counter Terrorism

Department of the Punjab. Khatme Nabuwwat leadership claimed that it was initiated on their 'complaint'. With benefit of hindsight an official inquiry would confirm that the raid was unwarranted, unlawful and absolutely futile (not for the mulla but the state). In fact USCIRF issued an Immediate Release condemning the raid. Now, this operation on behest of mulla Muawiyah is of the same category for its absurdity, futility and bootlicking of a cleric of doubtful reputation.

Translating the Holy Quran is a high-class intellectual activity and is undertaken as a noble task by scholars. Scores of different translations of the Holy Quran in vernacular languages are available in South Asia. Each has its own merit and a few perceived flaws depending upon the belief system of the reader. It is relevant to mention that the world-famous Islamic university of Jamia Al-Azhar of Egypt rated 'Top' the English translation of the Holy Quran done by Dr Zafrulla Khan, an Ahmadi from Pakistan. The translation rated 'Second' by the University was by Maulvi Sher Ali, also an Ahmadi from the Sub-continent.

The FIA officials require closer supervision of their superiors when hobnobbing with mullas like Muawiyah, to maintain their professional reputation.