

## Miscellaneous, brief reports ...

2019

### **A new platform for anti-Ahmadiyya hot air**

TikTok is a fun app that allows users to create and share videos with their friends. Statistics show that 90% of the TikTok users are below the age of 30. This social media app has taken millions of young people by storm including Pakistanis. It gives many of them a platform to express themselves.

When it comes to expressing yourself, you can express anything including hate speech on TikTok. Anti-Ahmadi elements do not miss an opportunity to spread hate against Ahmadis. TikTok is also being used by anti-Ahmadiyya activists to propagate hostility against Ahmadis. A recent example was published in the daily *Dawn* of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019. A youngster named Tahir Zaman, likes to use mulla Khadim Rizvi's (TLP) voice to make TikTok videos. Tahir also records anti-Ahmadiyya videos on his TikTok profile in which he curses Ahmadis and the founder of Ahmadiyya Community copiously.

### **Anti-Ahmadiyya activities near peak in Pir Mahal, Punjab**

*Pir Mahal; District Toba Tek Singh, August 2019:* Mr. Abdul Shakoor, an Ahmadi victim of persecution, was invited to a Ministerial program in United States of America. There Mr. Shakoor called on the US President along with some other victims. His call video became viral in Pakistan. This initiated hateful anti-Ahmadi activities in Pir Mahal too. Opponents made life hard for Ahmadis there. A few recent incidents are mentioned below:

- On July 19, 2019 a procession was taken out in the name of Khatme Nabuwwat. Slogans like "Death in slavery of Prophet (pbuh) is also acceptable" were raised. After the event, participants of the rally were very vociferous against the community on social media. They shared anti-Ahmadiyya video with local shopkeepers to spread hatred.
- An Ahmadi youth Syed Tahir Ahmad worked as apprentice in a mobile-phone repairing shop in the town. His boss's attitude changed on knowing of his Ahmadiyya faith, and he occasionally took up arguing with him religious issues. One day his boss's friend came to their shop and used foul language against the Ahmadiyya community. Thereafter Ahmad's father stopped him going to the shop. His boss sent him a message that they would get him back at any cost, as they 'were concerned about him'. His boss also mentioned him to mullas, and one of them sent for Mr. Ahmad. Very upset, Mr. Ahmad fled from home.
- An Ahmadi Fazal Ahmad runs a jewellery shop here. His market-fellows stopped tea service to him, and approached their union president for his complete boycott. Now most

shops show the stickers: “Qadianis! first enter Islam, then enter the shop”, and “One who drinks Shezan juice will be deprived of the holy drink (at *Hauze Kausar*)”.

- Mr. Muhammad Anwar Shehzad and his family joined Ahmadiyyat in July 2019. He runs a *tandoor* (clay oven for making bread) near the courts and the police station. His brother came to know of his belief shift, and he informed his parents and other relatives about it. They implemented a boycott of Mr. Shehzad. This news reached courts’ employees and the area mosque.

The president of the local bar association called Mr. Shehzad and told him that everyone had turned against him. He told him that he would call him to his office to render an apology, close down his *tandoor* and leave the area to avoid any clash. Mr. Shehzad had to pack up his business.

The mulla of the local mosque assigned some youths to harass Mr. Shehzad. On August 23 at 10 p.m. some masked men attacked his home. His family locked themselves in a room for safety. The attackers bad-mouthed Mr. Shehzad and scuffled with him. At the time of the attack, his TV was tuned to an Ahmadiyya channel, so the attackers smashed the TV and its dish antenna. On leaving they threatened to burn down his house if he did not recant.

### **Hostility in Azad Kashmir**

*Sehnasa, Azad Kashmir; January 2019:* Only a few Ahmadiis 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. Talaat Mahmood and his brother in Sehnasa on January 18, 2019.
- Mr. Talaat Mahmood and Mr. Muhammad Hafeez, Ahmadiis 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.

### **Severe hostility against Ahmadiis in District Nankana**

*Kot Rehmat Khan, District Nankana; June 2019:* Ahmadiis are facing great hostility in this village. An influential mulla of Tehrik Labbaik Ya Rasulullah (TLP) is resident of the village mosque. He is very hostile to Ahmadiis. Through his sermons, he has turned the village illiterates against Ahmadiis. This has disturbed greatly the peace of Ahmadiis in many ways, for example:

- One day some boys threw stones at the Ahmadiyya mosque. Another day they smashed the lights in the mosque.
- Stones were pelted on the local Ahmadiyya missionary once after the morning prayers. At prayers times miscreants come to the mosque and harass the worshippers.

- The mulla, accompanied by his acolytes raised slogans against the local Ahmadi president and behaved badly to disturb the privacy of his residence.
- Some days ago, a non-Ahmadi woman died here. The lady's son is an employee of Malik Zaheer Ahmad, an Ahmadi. The youth asked his employer to join his mother's rituals. Mr. Ahmad went to his house for condolences. There the TLP mulla took exception to his visit and behaved badly. At this, Mr. Ahmad left. The same day the mulla's gangsters challenged the Ahmadi elder again, and the police had to intervene to maintain peace.
- On June 18, 2019 the Assistant Commissioner came here accompanied by police and said that she had received an application marked by the Director ISI that Ahmadiyya mosque's minarets were illegal and should be demolished. Ahmadi talked to her, and she told them to come to her office.

## **The New Zealand shooting hits very close to home for Ahmadis 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 Ahmadis 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 Chaudhary, 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 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 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).**

### **Misaq-e-Pakistan declaration**

Sada Salamat Pakistan Forum held a national conference 'for the promotion of peace and tolerance in the country' on March 27, 2019 in Islamabad. Various political, religious, social circles participated in the conference and adopted a resolution titled "Misaq-e-Pakistan". It states that every Pakistani is entitled to religious and ideological freedom. No creed could be imposed on anyone; non-state armed groups could not be allowed, and action against them under the National Action Plan was supported. Production and dissemination of hateful material should be banned, on social media, etc.

Opposition Senate leader Senator Raja Zafar ul Haq (PML-N) was a keynote speaker who said that the Muslims of the entire world have to be united; he condemned the occupation of Golan Heights in Syria by Israel. He also denounced the role of USA in this regard.

Ramesh Kumar, a PTI's MNA, said that we should promote tolerance and brotherhood within the country and that we should celebrate all religious festivals together, according to the vision of the Quaid-e-Azam.

Maulana Ghafoor Haideri was also there. He asserted that Islam promotes tolerance and fraternity.



Such conferences are very good to hold, but there is a lot of difference between the words and actions of our elite. The remarkable judgment of 2014 by the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the National Action Plan of the same year still await action. It is heartening to read moderate words from Raja Zafarul Haq who on the ground is rabidly anti-Ahmadiyya. How can a people be called moderate if their minorities are not safe? Here we reproduce only his performance on anti-Ahmadiyya front as sample to spotlight the hypocrisy of a large section of our elite: (courtesy of [www.thepersecution.org](http://www.thepersecution.org))

Raja Zafarul Haq was born in District Rawalpindi of the Punjab in 1935. He grew up to be a lawyer by profession but was not a great success in this field. He developed anti-Ahmadiyya prejudices early in his career and was a gratis defense counsel for Aslam Qureshi, a lift operator, who carried out a criminal assault with dagger in 1970 on Mr. M. M. Ahmad, a prominent Ahmadi and an Advisor to the President of Pakistan. Later, the Raja switched over to politics and flourished in this field during the dictatorial regime of General Zia. He was appointed a Federal Minister from 1981-85. When in the Federal Cabinet, he played an active role in preparation of the notorious Anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinance XX, and helped General Zia in opening floodgates of persecution and tyranny against the Ahmadiyya community. He also announced in 1984 a 7-point plan whereby all the Muslim countries were to form a united front to strive for the eradication of Ahmadiyyat (*Pakistan Times*, 12 May 1984). He also had an anti-Ahmadiyya compendium issued by the government. All this resulted in a spate of serious violations of Human Rights not only in Pakistan but also in some other Muslim countries. During the 1985 elections, he failed to win a seat in the National Assembly, so he was appointed an ambassador to Egypt. Thereafter he was appointed advisor to the dictator.

After Zia's death in a plane crash, Raja Zafarul Haq has been in the political limelight only when the Muslim League (N) was in power in Islamabad. ... Mr. Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, appointed him Federal Minister of Religious Affairs and Minorities from 1997 to 1999. According to a press report, Raja Zafarul Haq told a visiting delegation of mullas: 'Qadianis (Ahmadis) are enemies of both Pakistan and Islam; they are worse than Jews'. He also informed them that a master plan was being prepared to negate Ahmadi propaganda abroad concerning their persecution.' (*The Daily Jang*, 5 September 1997). This statement subsequently was not disowned by him, thereby admitting it as his and the Ministry's position. He has been elected senator in 1991, 1997, 2009 and 2015.

More recently, at the end of 2017, Raja Zafarul Haq played a leading role in parliamentary process whereby Ahmadis were denied 'forever' participation in national elections. The Prime Minister chose him to chair the Committee that was appointed to investigate and assign responsibility as to who initially facilitated the draft that placed Ahmadis on the joint electoral role.

Our elite should know that the people will not respond sincerely to their assertions unless they are themselves sincere to their statements. Hypocrisy has been in vogue for decades; only concrete and visible action across the board in support of Freedom of Religion or Belief will provide credibility to sermons on Islamic tolerance and fraternity.

**General ® Musharraf—a page from Ahmadiyya history**



**Islamabad:** General Musharraf ruled Pakistan for nearly nine years (1999-2008). The rough treatment Ahmadiyya Community was meted then in Pakistan was mostly attributable to him. In view of some recent developments, here we mention only one incident, as sample.

Separate Electorate system had been going on in the country for 23 years. Saner elements of civil society kept on telling President Musharraf that this system made no sense in a modern democratic republic. Musharraf got somehow convinced and introduced Joint Electorate in the country in early 2002. The mulla got upset to find that Ahmadis would thus get a right to vote as normal citizens, so he protested. The commando president found it convenient to get cold feet and told his Ministry of Religious Affairs to appease the mulla.

A *Seerat* (Life of the Holy Prophet) Conference was organized by the government at Islamabad on May 25, 2002. The Ministry of Religious Affairs invited a large number of Ulama, and asked the President to attend and address the assembled mullas. The proceedings of the conference were telecast live by Pakistan Television. After the President had spoken, a Mulla Saleemulla of Nifaze Shariat Group (same type as the horde whose leader Sufi Muhammad had led thousands into Afghanistan in support of the Taliban) stood up and demanded of General Musharraf to reinstate Separate Electorate and openly declare Qadianis as infidels. As on similar occasions during the past regimes, Saleemulla assured the general that by doing so he would win the gratitude of the Ulama and the support of the people. At this, President Musharraf readily offered his opinion that those who did not believe in the End of Prophethood were Non-Muslim. The mullas cheered him profusely. The President then advised them to be large-hearted as they live in the world that is more like a global village; however he asked them to have faith in the government and reassured them that he would consider their demand.



The general asked the minister Dr. Ghazi to come to the microphone, who came and reassured his guests that the constitutional provision to treat Ahmadis as non-Muslims will be maintained (more cheers), reported the dailies *Nawa-i-Waqt*, *Jang* and *Insaf*, of May 26, 2002. Some people are of the opinion that the entire incident was stage managed.

Sure enough, the general did not wait for October when elections were to take place; he issued his Chief Executive Order No. 15 of 2002 only a fortnight later to comply with the mulla's demand.

The new law enforced, "7B. Status of Ahmadis etc. to remain unchanged.— Notwithstanding anything contained in.... ." It provided mechanism to demand the Affidavit concerning the "unqualified Finality of Prophethood" etc from all voters claiming to be Muslim. According to the amendment, in case

he (an Ahmadi) refuses to sign the given declaration, he shall be deemed to be a non-Muslim and his name shall be deleted from the joint electoral rolls and added to a supplementary list of voters in the same electoral area as non-Muslim.

Ahmadiyya head office in Pakistan issued a formal protest on the issue in following words:

"As consequences of this revision only Ahmadis have been excluded from the common list and their names have been transferred to a list designated as a non-Muslim list. This strange measure has resulted in a ridiculous situation in which there is a common list of voters which contains the names of all the Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Christian and Buddh voters and a second list termed as non-Muslim list comprising Ahmadis only. This procedure adopted by the Election Commission is directed against Ahmadis alone and is flagrantly discriminatory and against all principles of justice and democracy."

Some election-watchers did not get the full implication of the mulla's drive and the government's compliance. They argued that Ahmadis were being placed only on a supplementary list, they can still vote. Little did they realize that the mulla knows that Ahmadis, as a matter of principle, would never vote as non-Muslims, as such, by implication they would get effectively disenfranchised. Some liberal and secular elements voiced their concern over this turn of events. Mr. Ayaz Amir, a leading columnist wrote his column for the *DAWN* and titled it 'Back to the future'. His opening remark was: EVEN in a land renowned for silly edicts, the most recent addition to the statute book, Chief Executive's Order No. 15, takes the prize for silliness.

Silly, yes, but a more objective analyst could call it absurd, injurious and outrageous. What Musharraf ordered in his Chief Executive's Order 15 has been made a part of the Elections Act, 2017, and a minister claimed that its provisions are now operative 'for ever'.

President Musharraf, like a number of his predecessors thought that his anti-Ahmadiyya posture and tactics to keep the mulla happy would help perpetuate his rule. He had learnt no lesson. He was wrong like all those who preceded him and those who followed him. We tabulate below briefly what happened to him in the next few years:

**2006-2008—President Musharraf was severely reviled and even abused in print and electronic media.**

**2008—Resigned and went into self-exile**

**March 2013—Returned to Pakistan and faced intense hostility from political lobbies**

**November 2013—Charged with high treason for imposing Emergency and Suspension of the Constitution**

**March 2016—Intensely harassed by judicial pursuit, fled to Dubai. Declared proclaimed offender.**

**Later his properties in Pakistan were confiscated for not appearing in Court to face the trial.**

**2019—Press reports about his failing health and hospitalization**

**December 17, 2019—Special Court awards him hanging on five counts.**

There is a lesson to learn here—for those who are willing to learn from failings of others.