

PERSECUTION OF AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

Monthly Report April 2023



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DID YOU KNOW?

AHMADIS FACE THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT UNDER FEDERAL LAWS FOR:

- Self-identifying as a Muslim
- Calling their place of worship a ‘Masjid’
- Making the call to prayer (Azan)
- Preaching or propagating their faith

AHMADIS HAVE TO DECLARE THEMSELVES
NON-MUSLIM

TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE AND STAND FOR ELECTION

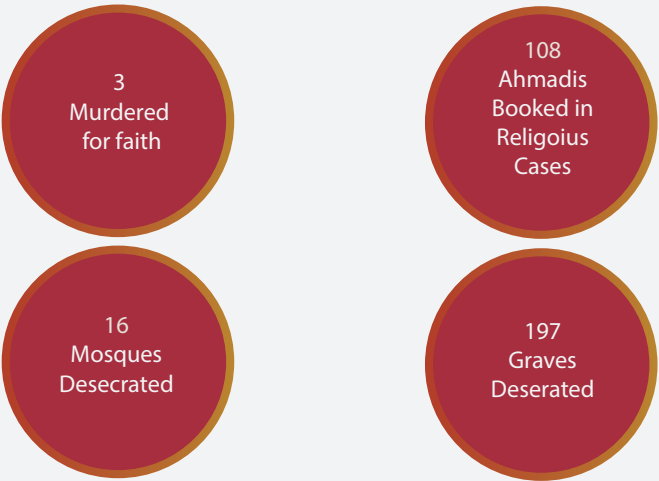
SEE PAGE 17 FOR DETAILS ON VOTING RIGHT FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

Highlights

FROM 1984* TILL DEC 31, 2022



DURING 2022



DURING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 2023

- Ahmadi brutally murdered on religious grounds.
- Ahmadi lawyer critically injured in a cleaver attack.
- Senior Ahmadi advocate beaten up and arrested under blasphemy clauses for having ‘Syed’ in his name.
- Ahmadi leader arrested from the headquarters of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan.
- Ahmadi arrested for listening to the Holy Quran, another Ahmadi leader booked under blasphemy clause.
- Eight Ahmadiyya Mosques attacked, minarets of another mosque concealed by a wall, another prayer centre besieged by a violent mob
- Burial of an Ahmadi woman denied in a common cemetery.
- Three graves damaged by opponents.
- Sacred inscriptions removed from three Ahmadi houses.
- Two Ahmadi students expelled from school.

* SINCE THE PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCE XX

The incidents highlighted in this report depict the ongoing persecution faced by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan. It is deeply concerning that a senior Ahmadi advocate, known for his work on Ahmadi-related cases, was unjustly arrested under blasphemy clauses merely because he had ‘Syed’ in his name. This arrest raises serious questions about the impartiality of the legal system and the safety of Ahmadi individuals exercising their legal rights.

Furthermore, the destruction of minarets at an Ahmadiyya mosque and the violent mob besieging another Ahmadi prayer center reflect the targeted aggression and intolerance towards the community. The offensive graffiti found on the wall of Darul Zikr Lahore, one of the twin mosques previously attacked in 2010, adds to the distressing pattern of hatred and discrimination faced by Ahmadis.

Amidst these incidents, it is disheartening to learn that an Ahmadi lawyer was severely injured in an attack involving a cleaver, further highlighting the physical threats and risks faced by individuals associated with the Ahmadiyya community.

These incidents underscore the urgent need for attention, protection, and measures to ensure the safety and well-being of Ahmadis in Pakistan. We call upon government officials to ensure the rule of law and safeguard the rights of all citizens.

Together, let us stand against religious bigotry and work towards a more inclusive and harmonious society in Pakistan.

ELDERLY AHMADI LAWYER BEATEN UP IN KARACHI AND ARRESTED

Karachi; April 27, 2023:

In a shocking turn of events, Syed Ali Ahmad Tariq, Ahmadi, a 77-year-old senior advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, was attacked and beaten up along his office assistant by a bunch of bigots, while present in Karachi City Court on April 27, 2023. The attackers were mostly lawyers; they took him forcibly to the police station. Instead of providing him with necessary aid and protection, the police registered a case against him under anti-Ahmadi law PPC 298-B and arrested him. The opponents claimed that Syed Ali Ahmad Tariq's name contained "Syed", which is a Muslim name, and they believe Ahmadis are not allowed by law to use Islamic names. However, there is no law that forbids Ahmadis from using 'Islamic names'. They accused the victim of calling himself a Syed and a Muslim. In fact, there is no such thing as 'Islamic names'; almost all these, (including Syed) existed in Arabia prior to the appearance of Islam.

This is not the first time Mr. Tariq has been targeted for being an Ahmadi. Last year, on November 21, 2022, the police registered a similar case against him under Section 298 B & C of PPC and 34 for having "Syed" in his name. It is noteworthy that both cases were registered against him for the same reason, in the same police station.

Syed Ali Ahmad Tariq has been representing Ahmadis in fabricated anti-Ahmadi cases and has served as their counsel for the past 39 years, since the promulgation of Ordinance XX.

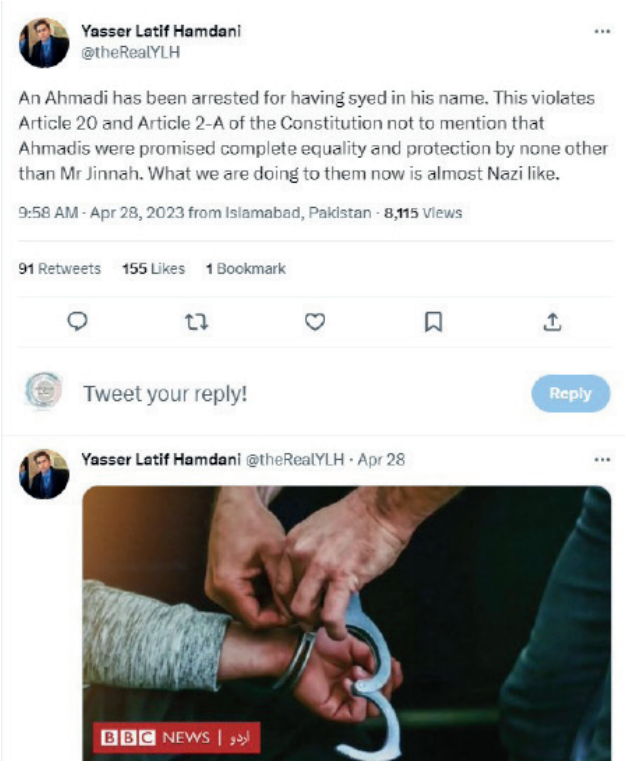
The spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya Community Pakistan condemned his arrest and stated that he was taken into custody on absurd charges in an attempt to impede his work in support of the Ahmadi victims. The spokesperson also expressed concern that such actions could damage the country's reputation in the international community. Additionally, the spokesperson criticized the apparent mockery of the law in registering two cases against Syed Ali Ahmed Tariq under the same provisions and for the same type of charge at the same police station. He further said that such events were

damaging the reputation of our beloved Country and creating a perception that Pakistan is increasingly being influenced by religious extremists. The spokesperson called for immediate dismissal of the baseless case against Syed Ali Ahmad Tariq, his release from custody, and the accountability of those responsible for attacking and hurting him and his assistant (a non-Ahmadi).

The attitude of the police seniors is noteworthy that when Ahmadiyya officials contacted them to stop this brutal, illegal and inhuman treatment of an elderly Ahmadi, they expressed their helplessness (in the face of unruly lawyers' gang).

Mr. Tariq was sent to jail on judicial remand. He contacted a lawyer friend from Hindu community for legal assistance. At first, he agreed but after completing initial formalities, he refused to follow-up and returned the fee. No other lawyer is taking up his defence — at present. Ahmadis are looking for a lawyer.

Yasser Latif Hamdani, a renowned barrister, tweeted the following on this issue:



MOB BESIEGES AHMADIYYA WORSHIP PLACE IN LAHORE POLICE BOOKS AHMADI ELDERS

Rajgarh, Samanabad, Lahore; April 15-17, 2023:

On April 15, around 10:30 pm, a violent mob besieged the local Ahmadiyya prayer center. They hit the gate with rods, shouted anti-Ahmadi slogans and made speeches on loudspeaker. They incited people that Qadianis were preaching there, misleading the people and robbing the End of Prophethood. They demanded that police register criminal case against them. The clerics then staged a sit-in in front of the center.

The police SHO telephoned the Ahmadi administration and asked them to open the lock of the center. They were told that there was no Ahmadi in the center at that time. The clerics and the police then wrapped the outer lock with a cloth.

There is a mosque close to the center. The mul-las seem to have plotted the unrest there.

After two days, the police booked four Ahmadis Asad Imran, Ghulam Mustafa Zakria, Abdul Hai and Ahmad on the complaint of Maulvi Abdul Aziz of Aalmi Majlis Khatme Nabuwat under PPC 298-C with FIR No. 1291, on April 17, 2023 in Police Station Sanda, Lahore.

The plaintiff took the stance that there was an unregistered place of worship of the Qadianis at Shamnagar Chauburji, where the above-mentioned accuseds were illegally preaching Qadiyani-at and worshiping, thereby misleading and hurting the sentiments of innocent Muslims. Therefore, action should be taken against them. The police compliantly registered a case whereby the three Ahmadi elders could be imprisoned for three years — for having done nothing.

This is Lahore, the capital of the Punjab, ruled till recently by men like Usman Buzdar (PTI), Parvez Elahi (PML-Q) and now Mohsin Naqvi (the Interim CM).

HATEFUL GRAFFITI ON CENTRAL AHMADIYYA MOSQUE

Lahore; April 16, 2023:

During dark hours, some miscreants graffitied "Mirazais and Qadianis are infidels and apostates—countless curses be upon them" (translation), on the boundary wall of the Ahmadiyya Darul Zikar. The police were immediately informed of the incident. They visited the scene and got this hateful writing painted over. It is one of the two mosques in Lahore where on May 28, 2010, a massacre of Ahmadis took place that resulted in the brutal murder of 86 worshippers.



MUTILATION OF AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN POLICE PRESENCE



Ghoghiat, District Sargodha, Punjab; April 2023:

The opposition of Ahmadis has recently spiked in this village. In May last year, Islamic inscriptions on 30 tombstones of Ahmadis were removed and Ahmadis were prohibited from offering animal sacrifice at their festival of Eid ul Adha. Moreover, opponents filed applications against the century-old Ahmadiyya mosque in the village. The opponents, with the help of the police, had even posted a board outside the mosque declaring, **“This is not a mosque of Muslims, this is a worship place of Qadiani Community”** (translation).

Recently on April 16, 2023, an application was filed by an opponent named Khalilur Rahman to SHO Miani Police Station. The complainant said that he was passing by the Qadiani worship place when he overheard the Qadiani Muallim (religious teacher) teaching the Quran to children, while they are forbidden to perform such activities by the Constitution and Shariah (sic). The complainant said that he informed the on-duty police guard, who told the Muallim to stop. Upon this, the Muallim threatened to kill the complainant—he alleged in his complaint. The complainant appears to belong to the group who believe that a lie in support of religion is not only permissible, it is even obligatory.

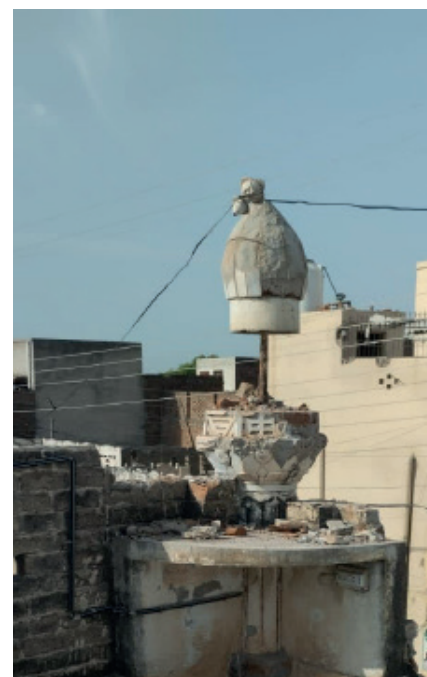
Afterward, at night after the

evening prayer, the opponents came and gathered outside the Ahmadiyya mosque. They demanded that the minarets and niche of the mosque be destroyed. It is pertinent to mention that the said mosque is 118 years old and has stood there long before the promulgation of the anti-Ahmadiyya laws. The police arrived at the scene and the mob turned into a sit-in. Later, they attempted to climb to the rooftop of the mosque using a ladder, but the police stopped them. Around 11:00 pm, the opponents ultimately climbed up the rooftop and demolished the minarets and niche, in the presence of the police.

On April 17, 2023, the police registered a case against three Ahmadis under sections 298-C, 506, and 109 of PPC on false accusations of criminal intimidation and threats.

Ahmadis also filed an application to the police against the attack on their mosque and the destruction of its minarets and niche by miscreants. The police registered a case against 23 named and 19 unknown miscreants under sections PPC 295-A, 149, 148, 427, and 295. Five prominent attackers were arrested.

Favoring the attackers, Rana Khalid Mahmood, Magistrate Bhera, kindly accepted the request for bail of the arrested miscreants saying that as the case was not reg-



Mosque After the Attack

istered by a government official or the police, release on bail was in order. The case had been filed by a common person, so, according to this magistrate, section 295-A was not applicable; all the remaining sections are bail-able, anyhow. He then accepted the bail plea of these criminals who had committed the major offense of injuring a place of worship and acting maliciously to outrage the religious feelings of the victims.

The weekly The Friday Times also took notice of the incident (extracts):

Sargodha: Ahmadi Worship Place Desecrated ‘In Police Presence’

An eyewitness says that all this happened in the presence of local police at around 11 pm on Sunday.

A mob desecrated the minarets and the dome of the Ahmadiyya Place of Worship in Ghoghiat, District Sargodha, on Sunday.

On the condition of anonymity, an eyewitness said that all this happened in the presence of local police at around 11 pm. It is pertinent to mention here that this place of worship is approximately 118 years old.

Attacking and demolishing Ahmadiyya worship places by mobs and government officials is a blatant violation of Pakistan’s constitution and Justice Tasadduq Hussain Jilani’s 2014 decision.

The persecution of the Ahmadiyya community has been on the rise in different areas of Pakistan for some time now. The Punjab province has been the center of it, and the extent of these activities is such that the peaceful Ahmadis are not left alone even in the holy month of Ramazan.

A fact-finding mission led by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has underscored an alarming uptick in the persecution of members of the Ahmadiyya community in Gujranwala and surrounding areas—specifically, the desecration of their graves, the destruction of minarets at Ahmadi sites of worship, and first information reports (FIRs) filed against community members for carrying out ritual animal sacrifice on Eid.....

<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/2023/04/17/sargodha-ahmadi-worship-place-desecrated-in-police-presence/>

BIGOTRY PREVAILS OVER CHARITY

79 Nawan Kot, District Sheikhpura; April 2023:

Ahmadis all over Pakistan, in the spirit of the holy month of Ramadan had planned, and undertook charity to help and support poor sections of the society regardless of the recipients’ caste or creed. Accordingly, Ahmadis of Nawan Kot distributed 250 packets of victuals to the needy in the village, including the non-Ahmadis.

Religious extremists came to know of this distribution effort. They approached the police, and went around the village withdrawing the packets. They took back approxi-

mately 50 packets, however most of the people refused to part with what they had got. Even the Imam of the mosque refused to comply with the demand of the bigots. He was made to suffer for it.

The police took charge of all the recovered packets and took these along saying that these would be returned to the donors.

The donors have not received the packets, nor is there any likelihood of their return, as these have reached the deserving inflation afflicted servants of the state.

AHMADI LAWYER SEVERELY INJURED IN ATTACK WITH CLEAVER

Lalian, District Chiniot; April 13, 2023:

One, Zubair Anwar attacked an Ahmadi lawyer Mr. Amir Munir in his chamber with a cleaver, in Lalian, District Chiniot. He received head injuries and was rushed to the hospital where he received medical treatment.

The police arrested the attacker. The attacker

has a violent record towards Ahmadis.

The town of Lalian is located only 12 kilometers west of Rabwah, the Ahmadiyya headquarters town. The victim, Malik Munir, is a known community worker, and as an advocate, defends Ahmadis accused in religion-based cases, in local courts

BLASPHEMY AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

TV, Bol entertainment; April 7, 2023:

Human rights activists would recall that sometimes back, Mr. Aamir Liaqat, a known pseudo-mulla of 'Aalim Online' notoriety hosted a program on GEO TV on 7th September to commemorate 34th anniversary of Ahmadis being given non-muslim status in Pakistan. He invited two Pak-origin mullas, based in Makka. The program was highly inciting, and the participants used slandering language against the holy founder of the Ahmadiyya denomination. They talked of "blood, Jihad, and Duty to kill". No wonder, within the next two days, two prominent Ahmadis were murdered.

It seems that in this Land of Pure, high and low persistently fail to learn lessons from experience. They condemn terrorism but strive to promote religious extremism. The media takes no risk that could affect its viewership, hence its financial bottom line.

This month, during the holy month of Ramadan, Bol TV known for its entertainment programs for the com-



mon man, availed the occasion to task as an entertainer, Mr. Faisal Qureshi to host a program on the subject of "Safeguarding the Honor of Prophethood". Mr. Qureshi invited a number of ulama to this event and prompted them to air comments on their favorite theme — Blasphemy. They openly stressed that those who commit blasphemy 'must be killed' (Wajib ul Qatal).

The mullas who participated in this program were Hanif Qureshi, Amin Shaheedi, Fazal Subhan, Naveed Abbas, Younus Siddiqui, Muhammad Ali Shah and Mufti Abu Muhammad.

Mr. Faisal Qureshi, who like Aamir Liaqat, is more of an entertainer than a religious scholar, is perhaps subconsciously filling in the vacancy created by the departure of Aamir Liaqat. He forgets that there are few who remember his predecessor fondly.

Faisal Qureshi's program is one that promotes violence and bloodshed in the religion. He must be stopped, if Pakistan prefers peace and harmony in society.



AHMADIS – NOT HUMAN, IN PAKISTAN AN ACADEMIC OPINION

Ahmadis' persecution in Pakistan, at the hands of the state and society is so blatant and extraordinary that it is not uncommon with some foreign human rights authorities to doubt its nature and high level mentioned by Ahmadi sources. However, it is not hidden to people in Pakistan; the mulla and extreme right generally rejoice over it; an average Muslim, influenced by hostile propaganda, shows little concern over it; however, there are a few intellectuals and media persons who occasionally do voice their candid opinion on the plight of Ahmadis.

One such opinion was stated recently in appropriate language, although briefly, by a media anchor on a social media channel. Ms. Fauzia Yazdani is a social and public policy advisor, an HR activist; she hosts, as anchor on YouTube — the channel Nayadaur. While introducing the

issues to be discussed with guest journalists, she referred to the Minorities issue in the following words (translation): (Then) there are our brothers and sisters from minority (communities), minority Pakistanis – they are once again targeted, be they Dr. Birbal from Sindh, or (Diyal) Singh from Peshawar, (or) Kashif Masih; and prior to them, the Ahmadis – we have perhaps now forgotten to consider them human; Peter will join us on this issue....

At minute 00:03:30 on Nayadaur channel at <https://youtu.be/31WNHyC1XeE>

Thereafter, during the program, on its turn, when a participant mentioned Ahmadis, Fauzia intervened at minute 00: 34:25, and again said:

"As for them, we do not consider them human – we have given up reckoning them to be human."

MASHAL KHAN REMEMBERED

April 13, 2023:

Mashal Khan was a student at the Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, KP, in Pakistan who was killed by an angry mob in the premises of the university on 13 April 2017 over false allegations of blasphemy. Mashal Khan was dragged out of his university accommodation by a crowd of hundreds of his fellow students, from the ultra-right wing. He was badly beaten before being shot and his body mutilated. Mashal was not an Ahmadi.

In all, 57 people were put on trial in connection with the murder, including fellow student Imran Ali, who knew the victim well and pleaded guilty to shooting him. He was the only person who received a death sentence. A 58th man was arrested last month and is facing separate proceedings.

Mashal Khan's father, Iqbal Khan, said, Justice has not been done in the case.

"I don't understand how several people were acquitted despite very clear videos and other evidence," he told BBC Urdu.

Recently, on its 6th anniversary, he was remembered extensively on media. One Mona Farooq, on

@Monachaudhry tweeted the following:

Today it's been 6 years since Mashal Khan was lynched by his own university fellows in KPK.

But even a tragedy of this scale couldn't resurrect our dead conscience. The same madness still going on.

Blasphemy laws continue to provide a favourable atmosphere for such tragedies but nobody seems to care.

Such a ruthless nation we are!

The prestigious daily Dawn published an op-ed in Mashal's memory on April 14, 2023. Although we may not agree with all its contents, it befits the memory of the victim, that in support of Freedom of Expression we reproduce it in full as annex to this report. Its writer is Aasim Sajjad Akhtar.

Mashal was no ordinary student. He was extraordinary; he challenged the status-quo. May he rest in peace, and his legacy and propositions he stood for perpetuate and flourish.

A 'PRESS RELEASE' BY LAHORE

Lahore, April 06, 2023:

We have received a copy of a 'Press Release' issued by LHCBA, Lahore. It is in vernacular. The original and its translation is produced at Annex III to this report. Its content and allegations are disturbing and thus noteworthy. The theme of the issue mentioned therein is Blasphemy. It is recommended reading in full. Below we mention only the highlights of the content, remaining close and true to the original. (underlining is ours):

- The session of the LHCBA was held as Emergency on the issue of 'organized publicity' of the blasphemous material on social media.
- Most serious blasphemy is being committed under organized conspiracy against holy personages, the Holy Quran and the Pakistan flag.
- The younger Pakistani generation is being made to undertake such blasphemy through organized conspiracy.
- The meeting expressed satisfaction over the efforts of the Legal Commission on Blasphemy.
- Through the legal efforts of this Commission, 119 of the most vicious blasphemers have been arrested, while 11 have been punished by the courts to death.
- As per evidence provided by the CyberCrime/FIA and the research of the Legal Commission on Blasphemy, such rascals' (badbakht) number exceeds 400,000.
- Legal Commission on Blasphemy has announced April 7, 2023 to be celebrated as Protection of Honour of Prophethood Day. LHCBA would support it fully. It urges the Ulama etc. linked to LHCBA to play their role in promoting awareness on this issue, so that this organized conspiracy against the dear country through internal discord is neutralized. The aim of this organized conspiracy is more anti-Pakistan than anti-religion.

Signed
Sabahat Razvi
Secretary LHCBA, Lahore



Sabahat Razvi - after being elected the first women secretary of the Lahore High Court Bar Association - Feb 2023

If the information provided in the above PR is even half-correct, it is indeed a very serious development. It mentions an 'organized conspiracy', and the target is Pakistan itself.

However, the media has provided little in support of such a conspiracy or mentioned any event, to raise such an alarm. Not a single well-known figure in politics, the intelligentsia, the academics, the journalism, the religious establishment, the judiciary, the administration has in recent times raised this cry of an "organized conspiracy" to promote blasphemy.

It would be appropriate, indeed essential, that competent and reliable quarters hold an inquiry into this PR and inform the public if the alarm raised is justified, or it serves some other purpose of self-seeking individuals and groups. Surely, patriotic circles would not like to raise false bogies and indulge in pointless pursuits, as such actions will expose Pakistan to be assessed as a state that subsists on fake blasphemy accusations.

EASTER GREETINGS FROM PM!

April 9, 2023:

We came across the following tweet by Mr. Shehbaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, from the address @CMShehbaz:



We find this message most appropriate and becoming from the head of the government in Pakistan to a minority community on a day of its festivity. It rightly urges all Pakistanis to do their bit to make this world a peaceful place where all live in harmony and full of hope. The message merits a bit of soul-searching.

Ahmadis are a community on which the state has deliberately and inappropriately imposed a

minority status. They also have their days of festivity, most of which they share with their Muslim "brothers & sisters." Surely, they also deserve to be addressed by the state's top functionaries on such occasions. Regrettably, the facts are otherwise.

Last year, on the occasion of the Eid ul Adha festival, Ahmadis, at more than 10 locations in Pakistan, had problems offering the sacrificial Qurbani. The police should have helped them celebrate appropriately, so they could also live in harmony. Moreover, it has been decades since the authorities have not allowed Ahmadis in Pakistan to hold their traditional annual Jalsa in Rabwah. This deprivation is unjustified, even callous.

We endorse and support PM's message and offer our services to "make the world a peaceful place where communities can live in harmony & build a tomorrow of hope". But, is the state willing and responsive to its prime minister?

MUSLIMS AREN'T THIS WAY ELSEWHERE

Dawn; April 22, 2023:

The daily Dawn published an op-ed by Mr. Pervez Hoodbhoy, an eminent Pakistani physicist and writer. It is highly readable. It sums up well the consequences of a decades-long effort to 'Islamize' the Pakistani state and society. It is very relevant, though indirectly, to the (mal)treatment of Ahmadis in Pakistan. We do not reproduce it in this report, but provide its address for easy reference and read <https://www.dawn.com/news/1748962>

One, Ms. Zainab, @Syyeda14 tweeted the following conclusion from this op-ed with her remark: How true



WHOSE WRIT — THE STATE’S OR THE MULLA’S?

Chaklala, Rawalpindi, April 2023:

The mulla is no longer discreet in challenging the writ of the state, he does it openly, blatantly and aggressively. Recently, a video was posted on social media in which a mulla Qari Idrees challenges the Education Department on posting of an Ahmadi as headmaster of a government school. He spoke in Urdu, we provide below its English translation (he started off with customary Islamic opening and verses in Arabic):

I am addressing the residents of Rehmatabad, Chaklala, Dhok Munshi Khan. I have just received a news that in the Rehmatbad high school, where a large number of our Muslim children are enrolled and their strength is around 1500 to 2000, a Mirzai, Qadiani, named Masood Bhatti has been appointed as the headmaster. I condemn this decision and appeal to officials of the Education Department, the respected Commissioner, and the administration to sack this cursed person (laanati) forthwith. Masood Bhatti is not acceptable to us as a headmaster on any condition. We will not let him enter the school anyway. If he ever tries to come to the school, he will not leave walking on his legs. The officers of the Education Department and the administration will be responsible for any consequent bloodshed or harm. I appeal that he should be sacked forthwith; Masood Bhatti is not acceptable to us as the headmaster in any province or any region. I also appeal to the religious leaders of the area and remind the residents of Rehmatabad, “You have a history that you have always confronted Mirzais and Qadianis.

Confront this despicable person (badbakht) as well”. We have called a meeting of the ulama, the religious elements, and the political figures of Rehmatabad. From tomorrow onward, we will patrol the premises of the school, and would not let him enter, under any condition. May Allah, the Generous, protect us all. Assalam O Alaikum

Following aspects of the mulla’s address are noteworthy:

- He rejects the appointment of the headmaster only for reason of his faith and belief.
- He openly declares use of force to deny the appointee freedom of movement to enter to his place of official duty.
- The mulla threatens bloodshed and physical harm to the government official (the headmaster) on reporting to his place of duty.
- He, without any justification whatsoever, extends his ‘jurisdiction’ to other provinces and areas, by saying that Mr. Bhatti’s posting in any province or area as headmaster is not acceptable to him.
- He forewarns all of his plan to patrol and reconnoitre the school, to implement his threat.



POLICE HOSTILITY AGAINST AN INNOCENT AHMADI

Nawan Kot, Sheikupura;

There is only one Ahmadi family, that of Mr. Hafeez Ahmad currently residing in Raheem Abad, Nawan Kot, District Sheikhpura. A member of his caste, Mr. Sattar Baksh, who had left Ahmadiyyat, went to the mosque of non-Ahmadis. Upon this, some miscreants raised objections regarding his visit to the mosque. When the dispute reached the

police, they took away Hafeez Ahmad along with Sattar Baksh to the police station for investigation. To close the issue—in the presence of the police—it was agreed that both Hafeez Ahmad and Sattar Baksh would not go to the mosque of non-Ahmadis. Mr. Hafeez Ahmad already does not go to their mosque. He was unnecessarily troubled to join the investigation at the police station.

FURY OF THE MOB A NEWS ITEM, EDITORIAL COMMENT

Dasu, KP, April 19, 2023:

Recently, a Chinese national working at the Dasu hydropower project came close to being lynched by a frenzied mob. The daily Dawn, today wrote a lead editorial on this alarming incident. For its great relevance to HR, FORB and terrorism in today’s Pakistan, it deserves to be placed on record.

Fury of the mob

ANOTHER chapter in our history of religious violence was written on Sunday when a Chinese national working at the Dasu hydropower project came close to being lynched by a frenzied mob.

Labourers at the site were reportedly enraged over his objections to “precious time” being lost on account of prayer breaks and accused him of committing blasphemy. They then went and incited others in nearby villages about what had taken place; a large crowd gathered and tried to storm the Chinese camp where the foreign national was present. Fortunately, the cops arrived and managed to whisk him away to the police station from where he was airlifted to Abbottabad.

On Monday, the man was charged with blasphemy by an ATC and sent on 14-day judicial remand. The only silver lining in this episode was that another horrific murder like that of the Sri Lankan national, Priyantha Kumara, was avoided. In December 2021, Mr Kumara, a factory manager in Sialkot, was set upon by a hundreds-strong mob after being accused of blasphemy. In a bestial orgy of violence, they beat him to death and set his body on fire.

Six years ago, Mashal Khan was lynched by a mob of fellow students on the same pretext. Videos of the gruesome act laid bare the ugly reality of what decades of a state-sponsored triumphalist view of religion — propagated through the pulpit and sections of the media — can do to a society. It later emerged that certain university officials were infuriated by Mashal’s courageous activism about corruption in the administration department, etc.

An allegation of blasphemy was all it took to bring this young man’s life to an end. That was all it took in 2014 for a raging mob to burn alive a Chris-

tian couple, both of them brick kiln workers, and leave their three young children orphaned. That is all it takes in today’s Pakistan to destroy lives, uproot families or entire minority communities from their homes. Even the mentally handicapped have not been spared the fury of the ‘righteous’.

Although in far too many instances, the perpetrators have been let off, in some more recent cases — notably the murders of Mashal and Kumara — severe punishments were handed down. And yet, the bloodletting in the name of faith has not stopped. Punishment has clearly not been a deterrent. Nor has the law against blasphemy prevented vigilante killings. According to a study, 84 people were extrajudicially killed on allegations of blasphemy by March 2021 and around 1,450 people accused of the crime. Turning back the tide will take a Herculean effort, one that requires the state to abjure the strategy of using religion for political ends. Recent signs are not encouraging. But unless it is done, this society will continue to devour its own.

Published in the Dawn, April 19th, 2023

This editorial rightly refers to the past incidents of the murders of Mr. Kumara, Mr. Mashal Khan, and the Christian couple, the kiln workers. Somehow, Ahmadi victims fail to get a mention in the media; perhaps it is the assumed public terror, or is it kosher to slaughter Ahmadis for their alleged ‘blasphemous belief’? We hope that the society remembers the stabbing to death of Mr. Naseer Ahmad in broad daylight at the bus stand in Rabwah on August 12, 2022, by a man who had not known him earlier. The assassin had come there armed with a dagger to simply kill an Ahmadi. Also mentionable is the case of Mr. Tahir Ahmad Naseem, a US citizen, presumed to be Ahmadi who was shot dead on July 29, 2020, in a courtroom in Peshawar in the presence of the judge. The police arrested the killer, but the cops had no shame in making selfies with the smiling murderer. This was the year when Minister Ali Muhammad Khan (PTI) released a video statement with comment, “Qadianiat basically is a great mischief (fitna) against Islam”. The state should go for foot-soldiers only after it has held the political and religious leaders accountable for their blood-soaked rhetoric.

A NEW STUDY COURSE FOR MUSLIM STUDENTS ONLY

The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) in one of its letters addressed to all Vice-chancellors/ Rectors/ Heads of universities dated 27/03/2023 (Annex II) directed that

"All the Pakistani universities/Degree Awarding Institutes (DAIs) are advised to incorporate a course on Holy Quran with translation, tajweed, and tafseer for Muslim students as a mandatory degree award requirement for all undergraduate degree programs with effect from fall 2023 without making it part of the examination or provision of additional marks. The course shall be non-credited."

Following are the possible implications of this directive.

This directive toward the universities is in line with a Senate resolution of 16th January 2023 in which the Senate unanimously passed two resolutions, recommending attaining knowledge of the Holy Quran, the Sunnah, and the Seerat of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) at educational institutes from primary to a higher level.

Both resolutions were moved by Senator Mush-taq Ahmed of Jamaat-e-Islami.

This directive seems to be an extension of the earlier initiative of the Government to load up the primary school single national curriculum (SNC) with religious contents across subjects and grades. The Islamic content was dramatically increased in the early years of education with special emphasis given to the topic of Khatam e Nabuwwat (Finality of Prophethood) in the SNC. Additionally, compulsory teaching of the Holy Quran (only by trained teachers) was also implemented.

Civil society and human rights activists criticized this move, while some called it "An Overdose of Religion". Sane voices highlighted that there is a fair chance that instead of mainstreaming madrasahs, mainstream teaching will be heavily influenced by the madrasahs in the future.

Extending this directive to universities and Degree awarding institutes will further magnify the problem of radicalization and hatred among the youth toward minorities.

Bringing about such changes is a step towards caving into the right-wing demand to make Pakistan a 'truly' Islamic republic.

The universities of Pakistan in the past have been a breeding ground of hate, sectarian violence, and Jihadist elements.

Since the 1970s, political & religious factions in Pakistan have played a significant role in arming students and encouraging them to participate in violence. Violence gradually escalated in the following years. For instance, at the University of Karachi, particularly between 1979 and 1987, students were pitted against each other through conscious planning by religio-political leaders. Over time, the Islami Jamiat-e-Talba (IJT), the student wing of the right-wing Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), began using strong-arm tactics and regularly clashed with members of left-leaning student wings such as the National Students Federation (NSF) and Democratic Students Federation (DSF). The rise of the IJT militia was prominent in major public universities of Pakistan's major urban centers. Eventually, student organizations were militarized and their power became conditional upon their military strength.

Today, many universities in Pakistan have become breeding grounds for fundamentalism, extremism, linguistic and ethnic hatred, and violence.

A mandatory course of the Holy Quran & Seerat (life) of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) only for Muslim students would be used as a backdoor entry for seminary teachers & radicalized elements from madrasahs and jihadi organizations into mainstream educational institutions.

Instead of highlighting positive notions of peace, tolerance, human rights, and coexistence, these classes would be used as a platform by radical teachers to spread hate against minorities, especially Ahmadi students.

Ahmadi students will be easily identified as they will not be allowed to be part of this mandatory class, and will be singled out thus compounding their discrimination, stigmatization & persecution in Pakistan.

With the existence of the radical element already present in the universities, there is a high probability of physical & emotional torture, harm, and violence to the students of marginalized communities.

A THOROUGH PROBE IN LIBRARIES! GUESS AGAINST WHAT!

Chiniot; April 5, 2023:

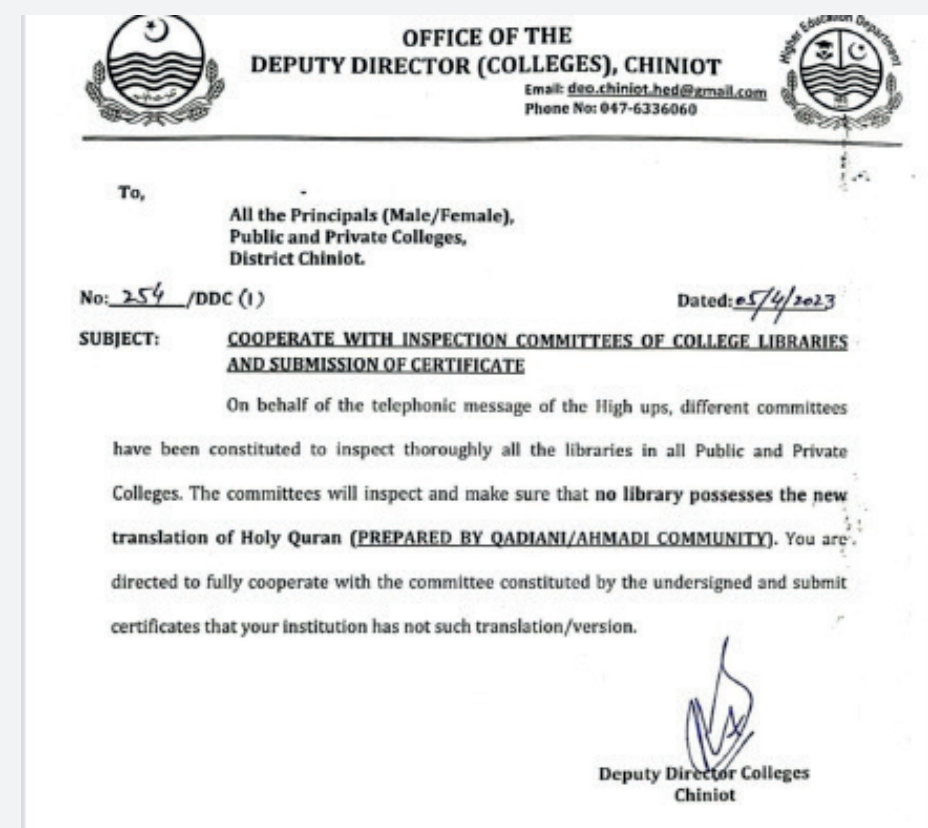
The Deputy Director (Colleges), District Chiniot has issued a circular forming committees, comprising professors and lecturers, to investigate and report that no library of any college (public or private) has a copy of the Holy Quran with 'new translation' prepared by the Qadiani/Ahmadi Community. The committees were directed to obtain certificates from all the Principals to the effect 'separately', and submit the report to DD's office within three days. The urgency is noteworthy.

The opening sentence of this circular mentions, "On behalf of telephonic message of the High ups, you are directed to inspect thoroughly all the libraries..."

It is interesting and noteworthy that this circular makes no mention of the title of the pub-

lication nor of its publisher, nor any other identity, whose absence is to be verified. It is mentioned as 'new translation'; even Ahmadi are curious to know and locate such a translation. Only a few Ahmadi on Pakistan might be aware of a recent translation of the Holy Quran in Dogri language. Most Ahmadi would perhaps not know the country where it is spoken. The Deputy Director would have done better to task his Committees to locate an Ahmadi or a non-Ahmadi who in their area can read and understand Dogri. We are sure that the DD himself has not seen this 'new translation'.

One Sadia Ahmad, @SadiaTheSadia reproduced this very circular in her tweet with this note: The interim government has gone nuts. It is doing everything except the job given to it. Now the libraries and schools will be raided to "produce" Qurans with Ahmadiyya translation. Hilarious!



The Deputy Director (Colleges), District Chiniot issued circular to investigate and report that no library of any college (public or private) has a copy of the Holy Quran with 'new translation' prepared by the Qadiani/Ahmadi Community

AHMADIS BEHIND BARS

1

Mr. Rohan Ahmad, Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad, etc. were booked on May 26, 2020 with FIR Nr. 29/2020 at Police Station FIA Cyber Crimes Wing, Lahore under PPCs 295-B, 298-C, 120-B, 109, 34 R/W, 2016-PECA-11. Pakistan's Cyber Crimes Department, Lahore that works under Federal Investigation Agency, arrested Mr. Rohan Ahmad.

Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad were arrested dated 30.09.2020 on reporting to the FIA office; they are in Camp Jail Lahore.

Syed Ali Abbas, Addl. Sessions Judge Lahore added the blasphemy clause PPC 295-C to the charge sheet on June 29, 2021. Thus, they are now exposed to penalty of death.

The SC rejected their post-arrest bail application.

2

Mr. Abdul Majeed s/o Mr. Abdul Waheed, resident of Shaheen Muslim Town, Taj Chowk, Phandu Road, District Peshawar, aged 20, was accused of blasphemy by a minor named Mr. Imran Ali. The police succumbed to the pressure of the mullas and registered a fabricated case against him under section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 which carries a sentence of death, on September 10, 2020 with FIR Nr. 648 at police station Phandu, Peshawar. He was arrested on 13.09.2020. The ASJ acquitted Mr. Majeed of the blasphemy charge but declared him guilty of hurting religious feelings thereby, and awarded him five years imprisonment.

3

Mr. Shiraz Ahmad etc. were booked by Cyber Crime Police Station Lahore on June 20, 2019 under FIR Nr. 88, under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, PECA-11, for allegedly creating a group "Sindh Salamat" and allegedly sharing Ahmadiyya content in it. He was arrested from Hafizabad on February 25, 2021. Subsequently the trial court added section 295-C of PPC to the said case.

4

Malik Zaheer Ahmad was arrested on September 30, 2020 in a fabricated case under Sections 298-C, 295-B, PECA-11 and 109. He was granted bail on February 23, 2021 and was expected to be released in four to five days after paper formalities. On February 27, when Malik Zaheer Ahmad was expected to be released from the Camp Jail, the Cyber Crime Wing Lahore team arrested him under FIR Nr. 88 as outlined in the above case, under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, PECA-11. He was not even formally nominated in the case.

5

Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani was arrested on January 7, 2023 from his home in Rabwah. He was booked with FIR Nr. 661/22 under sections 295-B, 298-C and the Punjab Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) Act 2011. He was sent to Jhang Jail after judicial remand and later transferred to District Jail Faisalabad. His bail application is under trial in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Lalian, District Chiniot.

6

The police booked Syed Ali Ahmad Tariq under PPC 298-B with FIR No. 54 on April 27, 2023 in the police station City Court Karachi. He was arrested and sent to jail.

RIGHT TO VOTE FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

TO PARTAKE IN ELECTIONS AHMADI MUSLIMS ARE PLACED ON A SEPARATE ELECTORAL LISTS, THEY ARE GIVEN THE CHOICE;

1. REMAIN ON THE LIST AND VOTE AS A NON-MUSLIM (*REQUIRES TO ACCEPT NON-MUSLIM STATUS*)
2. COME OFF THAT LIST AND VOTE AS A MUSLIM (*REQUIRES TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION*)

BOTH CHOICES ARE INCONCEIVABLE TO AHMADI MUSLIMS

DECLARATIONS BY THE CANDIDATE ELECTION ACT 2017 AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

(iii) I believe in the absolute and unqualified finality of the Prophet-hood of Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), the last of the Prophets and that I am not the follower of anyone who claims to be a prophet in any sense of the word or of any description whatsoever after Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), and that I do not recognize such a claimant to be prophet or a religious reformer, nor do I belong to the Qadiani group or the Lahori group or call myself an Ahmadi.

[Note: This paragraph is for Muslim candidates only and is not applicable to non-Muslim candidates.]

DECLARATION AND OATH TO REGISTER AS A MUSLIM VOTER ELECTION ACT 2017 AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

I, _____ (name of the voter), do solemnly swear that I believe, in the absolute and unqualified finality of the Prophethood of Muhammad (Peace be upon him), the last of the prophets and that I am not the follower of anyone who claims to be a Prophet in any sense of the word or of any description whatsoever after prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), and that I do not recognize such a claimant to be prophet or a religious reformer, nor do I belong to the Qadiani group or the Lahori group or call myself an Ahmadi.

(Name & Signature of Voter)

AS OF APRIL 30, 2023:

- Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani - principal Hifz School Rabwah was arrested in Jan.
- Mr. Syed Ali Ahmad Tariq - advoate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan arrested in Apr.
- 8 Ahmadis are behind bars solely on account of their faith.
- Fabricated cases against 8 Ahmadis were registered during Nov and an FIR is registered against some members of Ahmadiyya leadership in Pakistan in Dec.
- Two further cases registered and one Ahmadi arrested in Feb 23
- A 20-year-old Ahmadi student has been awarded 5 years imprisonment in Nov 2022, for hurting the religious feelings.
- 13 Ahmadis were arrested during August 2022 for sacrificing animals on Eid.
- A 65 year old Ahmadi lady and another Ahmadi were arrested under blasphemy clauses during February for allegedly tearing off an anti-Ahmadiyya poster. They both were released on bail. Their trial continues.
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died while in police custody (Feb. 2021 & Jan 2022.)

Injuring or defiling places of worship, with the intent to insult the religion of any class

295

Up to two years' imprisonment or fine, or both

Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage the religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs

295 A

Up to ten years' imprisonment, or fine, or both

Defiling, etc., of the Holy Quran

295 B

Life imprisonment

Use of derogatory remarks, etc; in respect of the Holy Prophet

295 C

Death and fine

Uttering words, etc., with the deliberate intent to injure religious feelings

298

Up to one year imprisonment or fine, or both

Use of derogatory remarks etc., in respect of holy personages

298 A

Three years' imprisonment, or fine, or both

Misuse of epithets, descriptions and titles etc., reserved for certain holy personages or places, by Ahmadis

298 B

Three years' imprisonment and fine

An Ahmadi, calling himself a Muslim, or preaching or propagating his faith, or outraging the religious feelings of Muslims, or posing himself as a Muslim

298 C

Three years' imprisonment and fine

Alarming Facts SINCE JANUARY 2021

- 6 Ahmadis have been murdered for faith, raising the total to 276 since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 19 murder attempts, 10 attacks during 2022, 2 attacks this month.
- Fabricated cases against 8 Ahmadis were registered during Nov 2022 and an FIR is registered against some members of Ahmadiyya leadership in Pakistan in Dec. Two new cases registered, one Ahmadi arrested in Feb 2023
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died in custody, they were imprisoned for their faith.
- 28 Ahmadiyya mosques desecrated, 1 mosque sealed by the authorities. 8 attacked in during 2023
- 246 graves have been desecrated, 180 of these were during 2022. Burial of an Ahmadi lady denied and the graveyard sealed in Nov. Burial of another Ahmadi lady denied in Jan 2023.
- 47 new cases have been registered against Ahmadis under the blasphemy laws & Anti-Ahmadi laws, 10 of these were registered during August. A criminal case was registered against 16 Ahmadis during Sep and Nov 2022. Another case was registered against the top leadership of Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan in Dec 2022.
- Sacred inscription from 22 houses and shops have been removed

AHMADI CENSORSHIP

- The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has blocked 20 non-Pakistan based foreign websites affiliated with the worldwide community and properly registered in their respective countries. PTA has also issued notices to their operators with criminal prosecution for violating Pakistan's blasphemy and anti-Ahmadiyya laws. According to PTA any website that portrays Ahmadis as Muslims will be blocked in Pakistan.
- Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has ordered that Ahmadi channels (MTA) should not be carried by any distribution service licensee.
- In 1996, the government of Punjab issued a notification to return all nationalized educational institutions, that affected the community's 8 Schools and 2 colleges which were nationalized in 1972. Despite fulfilling all terms and conditions, and regardless of repeated requests and numerous reminders, the community's institutions are not denationalized.
- The entire population of Rabwah i.e. Ahmadiyya headquarters in Pakistan, was charged under section PPC 298-C on Dec. 15, 1989, and again on June 8, 2008. (Rabwah population is approximately 60,000.)
- The government has banned all outdoor rallies & conferences of Ahmadis in Rabwah.
- The government of Punjab has banned the publishing of the Quran and its translation
- The government of Punjab has banned the entire written works of the Founder of Ahmadiyyat.
- Ahmadiyya daily newspaper and periodicals for women, youth, children and elders were banned by a Punjab government notification.
- Authorities have prohibited sports events organized at a community level.

FROM THE MEDIA

- Ahmadi lawyer severely injured after being attacked with a cleaver in Chiniot
dissenttoday.net/news/Ahmadi on April 14, 2023
- Five held for desecrating (Ahmadiyya) worship place in Sargodha district
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 18, 2023
- Qadiani lawyer, practicing law as a Muslim, arrested. Ali Ahmad Tariq posed to be a Syed. Case registered in City Courts PS (in Karachi) on protest of lawyers.
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 28, 2023
- Terror-stricken Sikh community weary of its safety
- 125 policemen martyred in militant attacks in three months
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 04, 2023
- Two soldiers martyred, four hurt in Khyber IED attack
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 8, 2023
- Wholesome operation against terrorism approved
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 8, 2023
- Qureshi (PTI) blames all stakeholders for the militants’ return
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 17, 2023
- Protection of minority communities demanded (by Women’s Action Forum in Islamabad)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 03, 2023
- Ailing elephant is being shouted at and maltreated by (Karachi) zoo helpers, Dawn visit reveals
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 9, 2023
- Loyalty to state, govt must be distinguished: LHC
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 7, 2023
- Judges must not be seen as ‘politicians in robes’, says Justice Minallah
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 8, 2023
- Supreme Court imposed fine of 5 lakhs on brothers for filing the case instead of giving the inheritance to sister
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 8, 2023
- (India) All acquitted in key Gujarat massacre trial.
- Six judges presided over the trial that lasted nearly 13 years.
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 21, 2023
- 85 killed, many hurt in Yemeni stampede for donations
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 21, 2023
- Four soldiers martyred in Iran cross-border attack

- The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 2, 2023*
- A foreign-funded man committed the crime of making CPEC controversial: Shahbaz Sharif
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 3, 2023
- Saudis invited PM Shehbaz Sharif and Nawaz Sharif to perform Umrah
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 3, 2023
- Court charges Trump with 34 felony counts
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 5, 2023
- India: Mughal chapter removed from syllabus. We are now spared from fake history: BJP
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 5, 2023
- Trump indictment: US going to hell, says ex-president
BBC Top Story April 5, 2023
- Over 350 held in Israeli raid on Al-Aqsa
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 6, 2023
- India: Hindu gangsters stop Muslims’ Taravah prayers (in Nenital)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 6, 2023
- Azan on loudspeaker 5 times daily permitted in US city of Minneapolis
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 15, 2023
- Ex-India Muslim MP brothers shot dead on live TV in handcuffs
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 17, 2023
- Chinese worker in custody after mob accused him of blasphemy
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 17, 2023
- PTI leaders call on JI amir (in Lahore)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 2, 2023
- Insaf Lawyers Forum (under IK’s instructions) issues a call to lawyers’ organizations to reach the Supreme Court today
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 3, 2023
- SC overrules ECP, wants Punjab to vote on May 14
- Govt vows not to let CJP have his way
- Fresh bench overrides Justice Isa’s order on suo motu cases
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 5, 2023
- Anti-corruption establishment probe into illegal PA postings by Pervez (Elahi)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 5, 2023
- Coalition (govt) rejects SC order (on election schedule), vows to put up resistance on all forums
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 6, 2023
- NA’s motion of confidence in Shehbaz Sharif. Rejects move to spare Rs 21 bn for elections.
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 28, 2023
- The Difa-i-Pakistan Council (DFC), an umbrella

- coalition of primarily jihadi groups that had been dormant for several years, huddled at a local hotel with a one-point agenda — deliberations on how to pre-empt conspiracies allegedly hatched by politicians to hurt the national interest.
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 8, 2023
- Most wanted founding terrorist leader of Baluchistan rebellion arrested
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 8, 2023
- Sharifs lead chorus asking top judge to step down
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 8, 2023
- PTI issues scathing ‘white paper’ on PDM’s rule
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 9, 2023
- Two cops martyred in Kuchlak attack (Baluchistan)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 10, 2023
- Political parties concerned over new military operation
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 10, 2023
- Four dead, 21 injured in twin Quetta blasts
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 11, 2023
- Sardar Ilyas (PM AJK) sent packing for ‘contempt of court’
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 12, 2023
- Four cops martyred in deadly Kucklak operation
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 12, 2023
- Six policemen martyred during hostage rescue operation (in Sindh)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 27, 2023
- Two soldiers martyred in Khyber shoot out
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 27, 2023
- Pakistan Bar Council announces countrywide strike, protest against ‘controversial bench’ (on CJ’s powers)
- SC puts on hold non-existent law (on CJ powers) in pre-emptive strike
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 13, 2023
- Gloves off as NA vows to repay SC in same coin
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 15, 2023
- SJC complaint seeks removal of eight SC judges
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 15, 2023
- Anwarul Haq elected AJK PM
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 20, 2023
- ACE (anti-corruption) registers another FIR against Bhatti (Former Principal Secretary to Mr Parvez Elahi, president PTI)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 20, 2023
- I’ve seen nothing except good (khair) in Imran: (Maulvi) Tariq Jamil
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 25, 2023

- LHC stops transfer of land to army for corporate farming
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 1, 2023
- Stampede during food distribution claims 12 lives in Karachi
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 11, 2023
- Another three robbery suspects fall prey to lynch mob in Multan
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 2, 2023
- Dr Adil Najam (of Karachi) named WWF International President
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 5, 2023
- Heavy rains and hailstorms destroyed wheat worth Rs 23bn
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 5, 2023
- Irsa confirms 37pc water shortage for Kharif
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 7, 2023
- Sharmeen to direct ‘Star Wars’ film
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 8, 2023
- Man awarded death for minor daughter’s rape
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 8, 2023
- 50% discount on everything (Rauza package) by Hindu trader of Batgram wins Muslims’ applause
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 8, 2023
- Increase in National Savings profits: 18.5 % on savings account
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 8, 2023
- Four firefighters die, five hurt as burnt-out factory in New Karachi collapses
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 14, 2023
- Climate advocacy earns Sherry spot on Time’s list of 100 most influential people
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 15, 2023
- Two policemen killed after dacoits storm check post in Ghotki (Sindh)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 20, 2023
- Driver of vehicle that hit minister’s car had 13 speeding tickets
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 20, 2023
- Seven passengers die of fire on board Lahore-Karachi train
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 28, 2023
- Blast at Swat police station claims 12 lives
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 25, 2023

Op-ed: Constitutional abyss
In today’s Pakistan, fundamental rights and ‘principles of policy’ sound so alien.
“The framers had inserted Article 184 (s) intending that the jurisdiction shall be exercised to ensure that the fundamental rights of the weak, vul-

nerable and marginalized classes are protected.”
— Justice Athar Minallah
Written by Zafar Mirza in the daily Dawn of April 21, 2023

Tweets:



Translation: Decoits of Punjab have become International decoit. Where is the looted money of Punjab gone?

- Barcelona Hotel in Barcelona
- Taxi service comprising 250 cars in Spain
- Several parking plazas in Spain
- Fruit farms in Canary Islands
- Several apartments in Spain

Note: Mr Tarar is Special Assistant to the Prime Minister



Translation: Arifwala: Musarat Bibi, a Christian widow, a mother of three daughters, a resident of 66EB. She is a deputy peon in a girls’ school. She cleaned the school’s store and set fire to the trash as told by the staff. When they found some holy pages therein, people accused her of burning the Quran. What could she know of holy pages. Pakistani society is finished, dead. It is not worthy to be called a society. It is a zombie torture room. There is no such thing as law and justice here. Character, conscience, morals are entirely missing. Every human right is violated.

ANNEX I

Op-ed by Asim Sajjad Akhtar published in the daily Dawn on April 14, 2023

Mashal is waiting
MASHAL Khan was murdered by a mob of his fellow students six years ago. His loved ones still run from pillar to post seeking justice. But business as usual continues in the land of the pure, an ostensibly watershed moment banished to virtual oblivion.

The same judges that periodically summon Mashal’s father, Iqbal Lala, for hearings are seen to be embroiled in a no-holds barred fight amongst themselves. Religious clergymen and zealous media persons are busy calling for public lynchings of alleged blasphemers. And our exceedingly young population is rootless, prone to hateful herd behaviour and extreme alienation.

The sense of déjàvu does not stop there.

Lately, officialdom has pronounced that `terrorism` is back and that a new spate of military operations is required to snuff out the threat at source. For the best part of the 2000s and 2010s, metropolitan Pakistan was sold stories of unerring victories against proverbial `terrorists` in the `badlands` of Waziristan and other border zones with Afghanistan. Critical voices were crying hoarse to be heard above the propaganda then, just as they are now.

Lest anyone has forgotten, Mashal not only challenged the reactionary ideologies of the religious right, cultivated for decades by the security establishment and its lackeys in the educational, media and political mainstream, his worldview also centred on the class warfare waged by landed aristocrats, big business and civil/ military personnel against the wretched of the earth in war-ravaged KP and across Pakistan at large. His struggle encompassed women, girls and other oppressed genders, and demanded liberation from patriarchs in the home, seminary and security establishment. Mashal unapologetically aligned himself with the best antiimperialist humanist traditions of the modern era.

Understood in their totality, voices like Mashal’s are the real threat to a rotten status quo that is degenerating with each passing day. As the political imbroglio confirms, there is nothing necessarily `democratic` about judges superficially invoking the `rule of law`, or elected politicians defending `parliamentary supremacy` whilst refusing to hold elections. More young people than ever before see through the establishment’s perennial claims to being `saviours of the nation`, but the rot doesn’t stop there.

Take India as a cautionary tale. On the surface, it remains the world’s `largest` democracy. With the exception of Indira Gandhi’s two-year emergency, Indians have elected their leaders without interruption. Its parliamentary democracy has not been weighed down by decades of defacto khaki rule. Indian judges, while not angelic, have generally been less politicized than our judiciary.

But India today stands on the cusp of a majoritarian tyranny animated by domestic and global business elites, an increasingly reactionary urban middle class, and a deeply entrenched RSS intellectual vanguard. Modi’s BJP has been able to deepen its political and social base through `democratic` institutions, with Western `liberals` often acting as cheerleaders. And this in a country where genuinely leftist political forces have enjoyed far greater traction in society compared to Pakistan. Indeed, it is not only `democratic` India which shows us how the far right feasts on class, masculine and other forms of rage that are symptomatic of contemporary capitalism. If India has its Modi, then the US has Trump, Turkey has Erdogan, Brazil has Bolsanaro, and Pakistan has Imran Khan.

There are more examples, and the point is not to suggest that they are all exactly the same. What needs to be acknowledged is that hateful rightwing ideology has gained enormous ground in the current

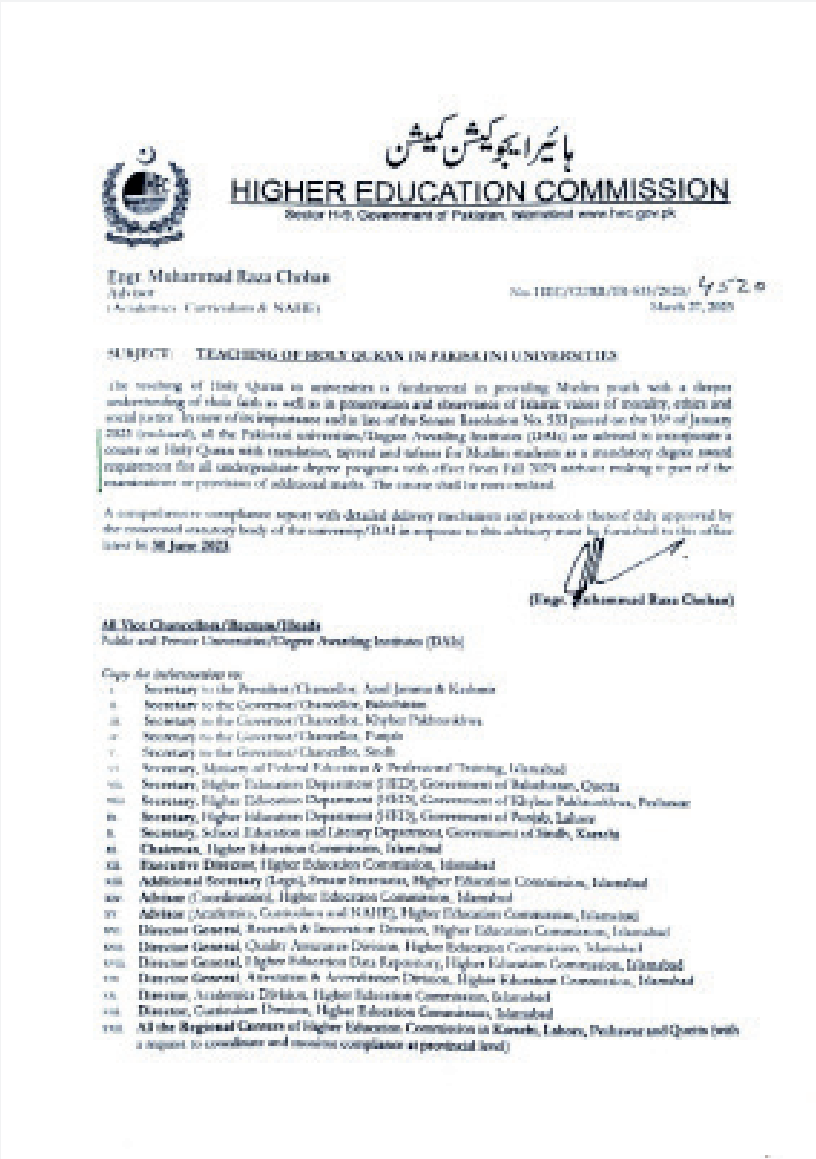
conjuncture, at least partly because the political and intellectual mainstream is silent on class and other material deprivations that are leaving newer generations of working people worse off than previous ones.

It is this gap that progressives like Mashal have always tried to fill. There can be no wishing away the ideologies of the right until and unless there is a rooted politics within working class communities to displace it. This is what too many `democrats` here refuse to acknowledge, mostly because their class interests are not consistent with a genuinely anti-status quo politics.

There is nothing democratic about protecting the interests of the Malik Riaz’s of the world whilst sanctioning dispossession of workers and peasants. There is nothing liberal about the permanent militarization of Baloch, Pakhtun and other peripheries. And there is no respite from our economic crisis if we do not demand accountability of donors and imperialist countries alongside our own propertied classes. If only our `democrats` took out a leaf out of Mashal’s book, he would not still be waiting for justice.

ANNEX II

A notification by Higher Education Commission on teaching of Holy Quran in Pakistani universities



ANNEX III

A press release by Lahore High Court Bar Association on ‘Original conspiracy – commission of most serious blasphemy’. English translation is provided overleaf.

Press Release

(by Lahore High Court Bar Association)

An emergency meeting of the office-bearers of the Lahore High Court Bar Association was held regarding the organized distribution of blasphemous content on social media. Severe blasphemy of Allah Almighty, the Holy Prophet, his pious family members, his wives, his companions, the Holy Quran, and the Pakistani flag is being committed on social media—under an organized conspiracy. Due to lack of rules and regulations for social media, Pakistani youth, under this organized conspiracy, are being beguiled to commit such blasphemies. The monitoring of social media is not being undertaken by the state, nor by the society. Even parents are not monitoring the use of social media by their children. On the other hand, social media technology has become everyone’s vital necessity. The struggle of the Legal Commission on Blasphemy—concerning the issue— was admired in the meeting, which has proven to be a strong hindrance to this organized conspiracy. Owing to its struggle on legal grounds, 119

filthiest blasphemers have been arrested and 11 cases have been concluded, all of them have been sentenced to death. There is plenty of evidence against the accused, so no court has accepted their bail. According to the provided facts and figures by Cyber Crime/FIA to the respected court, and research of Legal Commission on Blasphemy Pakistan, such wretched people have exceeded four hundred thousand. It is the duty of Pakistan Telecommunication (PTA) that a filtration should be urgently applied so that no blasphemous content could be uploaded or downloaded within our beloved country. Till the government takes responsibility, parents should monitor their children. Social media control apps for children can be used in this matter to ensure that they are using it for constructive purposes and are not sinking deep into the quicksand of explicit content, which would eventually lead them to commit the blasphemy of the Holy Prophet and make them indulge in sabotage. To raise awareness of the initiatives taken for its prevention, Legal Commission on Blasphemy Pakistan has announced to celebrate Friday, 16th April 2023, as “Youm e Tahaffuze Namoos e Rasalat” “Safeguarding the honor of Prophet-hood Day”. Lahore High Court Bar Association has declared its full support for it. It is requested from all scholars, leading orators, teachers, journalists, columnists, businessmen, social media activists, anchors, and political, social, and religious figures—affiliated with Lahore High Court Bar Association—to play their part in this awareness campaign team; so, this organized conspiracy against our beloved country may be countered and stopped to curb violence which incites sects against sects, religions against religions, minority against the majority, and public against institutions. Rather than having religious motives, this organized conspiracy focuses on annihilation and anarchy. We will utilize all our resources to raise awareness and celebrate this blessed Friday as the day of safeguarding religions, Prophets, family members and companions of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), as if we, ourselves, have initiated the call for this event.

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMA'AT IS A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATION, INTERNATIONAL IN CHARACTER, WITH ESTABLISHED BRANCHES IN OVER 210 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES IN ASIA, AFRICA, THE AMERICAS, EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA. IT HAS TENS OF MILLIONS OF MEMBERS WORLDWIDE AND IS GROWING. THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY WAS FOUNDED IN 1889 BY HADRAT MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD OF QADIAN, ON TEACHINGS THAT HE SAW AS AN EMBODIMENT OF THE BENEVOLENT MESSAGE OF ISLAM: PEACE, UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD, AND SUBMISSION TO THE WILL OF GOD. HE CLAIMED TO BE THE LATTER-DAY MESSIAH AND REFORMER AWAITED IN LEADING WORLD RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD. HE OPPOSED VIOLENCE AS A MEANS OF ADVANCING RELIGION AND REJECTED TERRORISM IN ANY FORM OR FOR ANY REASON.

DECLARING AHMADIS AS NON-MUSLIMS

THE PAKISTANI RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT BRANDS THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY HERETICAL IN NATURE AND DOES NOT APPROVE OF ITS REFORMATORY NATURE. POLITICIANS HAVE ALSO FOUND IT EXPEDIENT TO SUPPORT THE RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT IN THEIR ANTI-AHMADIYYA STANCE. THE FIRST COUNTRYWIDE WAVE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE COMMUNITY ERUPTED IN 1953. FOLLOWING THE EXTENSIVE RIOTS, AN IN-DEPTH JUDICIAL INQUIRY BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND A JUDGE OF LAHORE HIGH COURT FOUND POLITICS TO BE THE MAIN CAUSE OF DISTURBANCES. MANY YEARS LATER, IN 1974, MR ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO, THE THEN PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN, FOUND IT POLITICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO HAVE AHMADIS DECLARED A NON-MUSLIM MINORITY, WHICH IN PAKISTAN IS A FORM OF SECOND RATE CITIZENSHIP. IT WAS A UNIQUE INNOVATION; WHILE OTHER NON-MUSLIM RELIGIOUS GROUPS, LIKE CHRISTIANS AND HINDUS, WERE NON-MUSLIM MINORITY BY THEIR PROFESSION, AHMADIS WERE FORCIBLY DECLARED A NON-MUSLIM MINORITY THROUGH LEGISLATION.

ORDINANCE XX

FOLLOWING BHUTTO'S LEAD, GENERAL ZIA UL HAQ, THE MILITARY DICTATOR OF PAKISTAN FROM 1977 TO 1988, TRIED TO COURT EXTREMISTS BY PROMULGATING THE NOTORIOUS ANTI-AHMADIYYA ORDINANCE XX IN 1984. THE ORDINANCE ADDED SECTIONS 298-B AND 298-C TO THE PAKISTAN PENAL CODE. THROUGH THIS ORDINANCE, THE RELIGIOUS RIGHTS OF AHMADIS WERE DIRECTLY VIOLATED. UNDER ITS PROVISIONS, AHMADIS COULD BE IMPRISONED FOR THREE YEARS AND FINED AN ARBITRARY AMOUNT FOR ORDINARY EXPRESSION OF THEIR FAITH. ADDITIONALLY, TO PROHIBIT AHMADIS FROM PROSELYTIZING, IT EXPRESSLY FORBADE THEM FROM CERTAIN RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AND THE USAGE OF ISLAMIC TERMINOLOGY. THIS ORDINANCE EFFECTIVELY MAKES A CRIMINAL OUT OF EVERY AHMADI BY INCLUDING THE BROAD PROVISION OF "POSING AS A MUSLIM" A COGNIZABLE OFFENCE, GIVING THE EXTREMISTS À CARTE BLANCHE TO TERRORIZE AHMADIS WITH THE BACKING OF THE STATE.

HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS OFFICE UK

Contact Info

+44 (0) 20 3988 3862

humanrights@tabshir.org

2 Sheephatch Lane, Islamabad
Tilford, GU10 2AQ, UK