



HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION
AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS

Persecution of Ahmadis IN PAKISTAN

Monthly Report
December 2021

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Highlights

TWO MORE AHMADIYYA MOSQUES DESECRATED IN DECEMBER

Two Ahmadiyya mosques were desecrated in the last month of 2021, raising the total to 13 mosques desecrated in a single calendar year. The first day of Dec. witnessed the removal of the Kalima from a mosque in Bhera, and the minarets of another mosque in Gajju Chak, were destroyed and buried in concrete in mid-December. Ahmadi gravestones were plastered to hide Islamic inscriptions. All by the Punjab Police.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AHMADIS IN GOVERNMENT JOBS

Page 10 describes how re-employing a competent Ahmadi official becomes a disservice to the country and a way to expose Pakistani Muslims to a torturous situation. Mr Talha Ahmad Shaikh and Mr Muhammad Abdul Salam applied for the Pakistan Army and were denied jobs because they were Ahmadis. An instructor told Mr Salam, leave Ahmadiyyat and save your job. Details are on page 12.

DAY-TO-DAY LIFE FOR AN AHMADI

Ahmadi face severe challenges in regular life. They face hostility in public places such as markets and shops. Two such incidents are reported on page 14. Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, is where an Ahmadi customer was shouted at by a stamp paper seller: How dare you come to my shop? The other incident occurred in Rawalpindi with a lady. One Ahmadi who ran an auto workshop was beaten and harassed because of his faith.

AHMADIS APPROACH THE SUPREME COURT FOR BAIL

Page 6 records an ordeal of an Ahmadi who remained imprisoned for 274 days for a petty case under 16 MPO (maintenance of public order) that escalated and ended up in the Supreme Court for bail. The bail application for other three Ahmadis is in the Supreme Court now. Historically, the Supreme Court ruled that Ahmadi Muslims were not Muslims because their beliefs differed from those of the majority of Muslims. (Zaheeruddin v. the State - 1993). Toward this verdict, the International Commission of Jurists, in its briefing paper, correctly states, "This judgment was a disavowal of the human rights of minority Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan. It provided legitimacy to their legal as well as societal persecution, invalidated their right to religious belief in its entirety, and left them with no forum for redress." An introduction to this paper is given on page 18-20.

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

A SAMPLE CASE OF THE PUNJAB POLICE HANDLING AHMADIYYA MOSQUE AND GRAVES — IN 2021 UNDER PTI’S DEMOCRATIC RULE

Gajju Chak, District Gujranwala; December 16, 2021:

Mullas had applied to the police that Ahmadis, pretending to be Muslims, have built minarets and niche in their place of worship. Moreover,



Before

they have written Islamic words, the Kalima (Islamic Creed), names of Allah (Ya Hayyu, Ya Qayyum), on their gravestones etc. They have drawn Khana Kaaba and Roza Rasool (the tomb of the Holy Prophet (p.b.u.h.) on these while this is against the law (sic).

The law book mentions no such prohibitions.

On December 14, an Ahmadiyya delegation had a meeting with the police who conveyed that mullas had agreed that the minarets of the Ahmadiyya place of worship should be buried in concrete, and the Islamic inscriptions inside the mosque and its wallboard with clock, showing prayers timings and the Kalima should be removed. Similarly, the niche should be removed and the Islamic inscriptions on tombstones should be covered. The delegation conveyed their concern about the minarets and suggested that they had agreed under constraint to build a wall around the minarets to conceal their visibility from outside. As for the inside, Ahmadis have a right to be free to practice and display their beliefs.

The next day, on December 15, the Ahmadiyya delegation went again to meet the police,

where they showed their plan with photographs to cater for the mullas’ demand. At this, the police said that they had convinced the mullas with great difficulty on burying the minarets instead of removing them. Now building a room there for this



After

purpose will create difficulties. They threatened to report to higher officials against Ahmadis for not cooperating.

At midnight of December 16, the police broke open the lock of the Ahmadiyya mosque, built walls around the small minarets, and then locked it up with their lock.

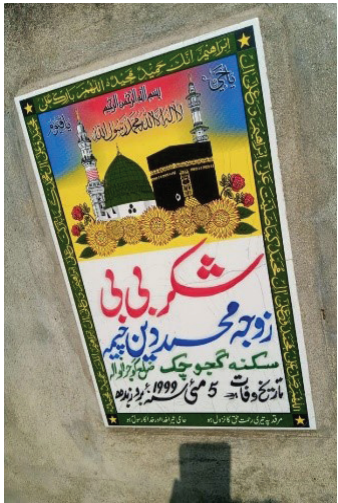
On Friday, Ahmadis asked the police to open the lock for Ahmadis to offer their Friday prayers. The police refused and told Ahmadis to first meet the CPO. Under the circumstances, Ahmadis had to offer their Friday prayers in a private house.

Later, the police covered the roof with a tent, demolished the tops of the two big minarets of the mosque, built a wall around the minarets, filled them with concrete and buried them.

Similarly, they plastered Ahmadis’ tombstones. For the time being Ahmadis are not allowed to visit their graveyard.

We hold our comments; instead, we quote below an extract from an op-ed in the prestigious daily Dawn.

“In hindsight it is clear that the PTI government never recovered from its victory in the 2018 elec-



Ahmadis’ gravestones

tions. It has literally been downhill from the day that Prime Minister Imran Khan took oath of office in August of that year. That was the highest point for the PTI. Each year since then has weakened the government’s performance, diluted its credibility and undercut its viability as a party that is fit to rule. If it somehow survives in office in 2022, it would do so as a weakened shell of its original self. The humiliating defeat in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa local government elections has provided this evidence, if one was needed.”

Mr. Fahd Husain in the daily Dawn of December 25, 2021

DESECRATION OF AN AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN BHERA

Bhera, District Sargodha; December 01, 2021:

In the last report of November 2021, we mentioned some details of the destruction of the Islamic creed from the Ahmadiyya mosque in Bhera. Page 7. The committee formed by the Police in regards to the repair work of the mosque decided to inscribe ‘Bait-ul-Zikr’ in place of ‘masjid’ on the main wall. Ahmadis were also told that

Muslims would not accept ‘Kalima’ written anywhere in the mosque. On October 30, ‘Bait-ul-Zikr’ was written on the main wall. Later on December 01, the police came to the mosque at night and destroyed the Kalima.

We produce below the pictures from the actual scene.



Some facts in regards to the desecration of Ahmadiyya mosques, see page 15

AHMADIS APPROACH THE SUPREME COURT FOR BAIL

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 allegedly and essentially for a quiz program concerning Ahmadiyya literature including the Holy Quran. The police arrested Mr. Rohan Ahmad, an Ahmadi religious teacher under this FIR on May 26, 2020.

Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad were arrested on appearance in the FIA office; their plea for bail was rejected on September 30, 2020.

In response to a plea of the opponents Addl. Sessions Judge Lahore added the deadly blasphemy clause PPC 295-C to the charge sheet on June 29, 2021. This exposes the accused to

penalty of death.

On March 9, 2021, Additional Sessions Judge Lahore Hamid Hussain rejected their pleas for bail. They filed an appeal in the Lahore High Court against the decision, and Justice Muhammad Amjad Rafique rejected it on August 30. Thereafter they filed leave to appeal in the Supreme Court of Pakistan. In the meanwhile, the trial of the case goes on in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Lahore Ali Abbas.

The Supreme Court was scheduled to hear the bail application on December 16. A three-member bench of the apex court comprising Justice Sardar Masood, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail adjourned the case till next month.

ANOTHER SAMPLE CASE OF AN AHMADI'S BAIL

Lahore; December 30, 2021:

We report a good news in the closing days of the year 2021. Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Tahir incarcerated in Camp Jail, Lahore has been released on bail by the order of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The story of his arrest and release is fit for archives.

Mr. Tahir of Chak 3/S.P. District Okara was booked and arrested by the police, in a petty religious case on 31 March 2021 with FIR No. 217 of P.S. Haveli Lakha. The section applied was 16 M.P.O. that aims at 'maintenance of public order'. They had accused him of allegedly negative remarks on Facebook program of a madrassah.

It has now become a routine to deliberately upgrade the charges against Ahmadis in religion-based cases; so the police, on plea of mullas, later upgraded the charge to that of PPC 295-A which provides for 10 years' imprisonment sentence.

On April 23, 2021, a magistrate Noor Alam rejected the plea for bail of the accused. The poor fellow then appealed this decision with a higher court where Addl. Session Judge Muhammad Shafiq, on June 14, 2021, also rejected the accused's request.

In the meantime, the DPO referred this case to the FIA.

Accordingly, FIA's Cyber Crime Wing, La-

hore entered a fresh FIR No 112 and got Mr. Tahir transferred to a jail in Lahore. An appeal for release on bail was made, and ASJ Syed Ali Abbas rejected this plea on September 2, 2021.

The accused moved the Lahore High Court against this rejection of his plea for bail. Justice Shahbaz Ali Rizvi rejected this plea as well, on November 16, 2021.

Thereafter, Mr. Tahir approached the Supreme Court. There, Justice Tariq Masood, head of the three-member bench, sent for the DPO Okara and the complainant. On December 21, 2021, the Supreme Court accepted post arrest bail application of Mr. Tahir under the FIR registered by the FIA Cybercrime Wing, Lahore and ordered his release. On completion of formalities, he was released on December 30. Furthermore, the FIR registered by Police Station Havelilakha was cancelled by the Police.

In view of the fact that this ordinary case had become a high profile one, Mr. Tahir decided to stay away from his residence and shifted elsewhere for safety.

An arrest under 16 MPO rarely escalates to end up before the honorable Supreme Court for bail. Only an Ahmadi is granted this status.

STATE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC DECEMBER 2021

An op-ed

The daily Dawn:

An op-ed titled 'Shiver...' written by Mr. Fahd Hussain was published on December 11, 2021. It is factual, loaded, useful reading. It is reproduced as annex to this monthly report, so that it remains in archives for reference. This article records national situation on the ground at the end of this year, and opines, "We are fast transforming into a society that is corroding from inside" It describes the state and society as, "What is this if not a sign of a system growing fat by eating its own children?"

According to Hussain, "The schism within us — we seem to tell ourselves should be deep, and it should be dark" This schism is a multi-headed dragon, however its most heinous form took shape in 1974 in post-1971 war era, in the shape of anti-Ahmadiyya Amendment II to the Constitution. It morphed manifestly in 1984 in the shape of General Zia's Ordinance XX. It is still cherished and upheld by the pseudo-religious lobby, which put up a huge billboard in Lahore with warning written in bold: "If attempt is made to make a change in the 1973 Constitution, Chenab Nagar will be colored red with the blood of Qadianis, and the world will forget even Tamerlane". Therefore, the disease

mentioned in the op-ed is most relevant to Ahmadis' plight in Pakistan. That makes it a historic essay, fit not only for record but also for introspection and remedial action.

The writer opines, "Something deeper is required from the leadership in order to convalesce our society back to health." He is not very hopeful when he concludes, "Something somewhere is terribly wrong when the only thing moving forward at the end of the year is the calendar on our wall".

However, let us not lose hope. Start with the Ahmadiyya issue. Initially do what is doable and easy. Remove your partisan lens, think, plan and act right — courageously. Don't forget, the Holy Quran that you claim to hold so dear and holy, tells you that killing one person is, as if killing all mankind. (However, when 86 Ahmadi worshipers were killed in Lahore, the Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his entire administration did not have the courtesy to even extend their condolences to the families of the slaughtered.

Well, perhaps there is still time to 'change'. Happy reading a third opinion — move on to Annex II.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1663120>

PUNJAB POLICE VERSION OF 'FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF'

Ghoghiat, District Sargodha; December 21, 2021:

Anti-Ahmadi elements approached the police at Miani in district Sargodha that 'Qadianis' residing in Ghoghiat pretend to be Muslims, use Islamic rites and have constructed their place of worship in the style of a mosque. This act of Qadianis is an open violation of the law and the orders of the higher judiciary; it is a threat to local peace, they wrote. They demanded action.

And the police who are duty-bound to uphold citizens' fundamental rights responded — and how?

The police named three persons from both sides, Ahmadis and non-Ahmadis, and constrained them under section 107/151 as 'prophylaxis', and referred the case to Magistrate Rana Khalid Mehmood, Bhera under Section 30 for further action.

Sargodha Police is extraordinarily fair; it treats both the victim and the aggressor alike!

SOME FACTS

- 272 Ahmadis have been murdered for their faith since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 7 Ahmadis have been killed for their faith since 2020
- 11 murder attempts have been made on Ahmadis in 2021 so far, 409 since 1984.
- 1 Ahmadi prisoner of faith died while in police custody in 2021.

THE PUNJAB AND PUNJAB ASSEMBLY

Punjab; May – December 2021:

This year there were plenty of news in the country, mostly from the Punjab, that were grim, almost shocking, unbelievable for any self-respecting state and society. A brief review of these would be useful to spotlight the causes. And this huge province led in anti-Ahmadi activism; so there is some sort of link, visible to a discerning eye.

Pakistani provinces are ruled under the parliamentary system. A chief minister, with his cabinet, is the leader of the house (in Assembly), and is head of the administration. The Assembly thus wields great power, more than in a presidential form of government. The Punjab government

is a coalition one — PTI, in league primarily with PML-Q. The latter is led practically by Chaudhry Parvez Elahi who is also the Speaker of the Assembly. PML-Q, although a minority party, thus exercises clout in the Assembly and the government far beyond its numbers.

In this story, we shall first mention from the media, the sort of things happening in the province — only as a sampling of the plight of the society and the state institutions; thereafter we shall reproduce news of the sort of Assembly business conducted by the rulers in the house. The reader can draw his own conclusions.

The Punjab (Some news from the press; May 2021 – December 2021)

- Nine shot dead by dacoits for being ‘police informers’ (in R.Y.Khan)
The daily Dawn; QLaahore, October 11, 2021
- Father of five kills wife and commits suicide for abject poverty (in Lalian, Punjab)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, September 3, 2021
- Ghastly murder of Lankan man in Sialkot shames nation, Mob lynches victim over blasphemy charge, burns body
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 4, 2021
- Five arrested for stripping, assaulting four women in Faisalabad (at 10:30)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 8, 2021
- Yet another online taxi driver found murdered
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 20, 2021
- FIA refers ‘gang-raped’ boy’s death case to police
The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 10, 2021
- Hindu temple vandalized (in R.Y. Khan)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 5, 2021
- Lawyers torture judge who convicted DC, AC
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 1, 2021
- 50pc of Kasur cops tested for drug use found ‘positive’
The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 23, 2021
- 12 prisoners flee Model Town judicial lock-up as police look on
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 7, 2021
- Three cops held for looting family (in Lahore)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 1, 2021

- Vulnerable groups hit hardest in 2020 in Punjab: HRCP
The News International Lahore, June 26, 2021
- Lahore again tops list of world’s most polluted cities
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 10, 2021

Assembly (and the Rulers) (Some news from the press; May – December 2021)

- Resolution approved (in Punjab Assembly) to hang Khatme Nabuwwat verses in offices
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, September 29, 2021
- Ban on TLP revoked at Punjab govt request
The daily Dawn; Lahore, November 8, 2021
- CS (Chief Secretary) told (by CM) to order Darood Sharif at school assemblies (after the recitation of Holy Quran and before the national anthem).
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 1, 2021
- Boys dance clad as girls video goes viral. Collage sealed. CM (Punjab) takes notice. Commissioner Bahawalpur and Secretary Education told to submit report.
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 8, 2021
- Teachers should arrange prayers in school assemblies against smog and respiratory diseases: Parvez Elahi (Speaker PA)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 4, 2021
- PA resolution supports Tableeghi Jamaat
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 22, 2021
- Recitation of Darud mandatory in (Punjab) schools. Notification issued.
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 8, 2021
- Parvez Elahi advises gov’t to ‘shun ego’ while dealing with TLP’s march
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 30, 2021
- Punjab Assembly Resolution to recite the Holy Quran prior to the National Anthem
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, November 23, 2021
- Punjab Government has ordered that Verses and Ahadith regarding Khatme Nabuwwat be displayed in all public spaces
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, October 07, 2021
- Punjab Assembly: Resolution adopted to include Khatme Nabuwwat declarations in the Nikah Nama (Marriage deal)
Declaration is essential to ensure that the groom is not a Qadiani: Speaker (Ch. Parvez Elahi)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 30, 2021

Notes:
1. All the above Resolutions passed in Punjab Assembly (PA) were unanimous.
2. It was eventually in the closing weeks of this period that the TLP march to the Capital and the horrific murder and burning of Sri Lankan Mr. Kumara materialized in the Punjab.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED AHMADI COMPETENT OFFICIAL

A MAJOR ISSUE, FOR THE MULLA

Multan, December 24, 2021:

We have come across a letter written by a mulla, Allah Wasaya of the Head Office, Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nubuwwat (AMTKN) Multan, to the Prime Minister, with copy to the President, the Chief Justice, etc. It appears from the letter that one Mr. Khuda Bux, an Additional DG FIA, who happens to be an Ahmadi, and is going to retire from service for having reached his service limit, is being considered for re-employment in a different but related position. This has upset the KN mullas immensely and they have written a threatening letter to the PM.

We offer the following comments, on the contents of the above letter:

1. It appears that Mr. Khuda Bux rendered excellent services to his department in his career, as despite being an Ahmadi, he rose to the rank of Addl. DG FIA.
2. His competence and output must have been of the type that his superiors would like to avail of his expertise as an advisor. Hence the recommendation for his re-employment under an Agreement.
3. Re-employment is rarely at the request of a retired official, it is always the state that, based on its needs and requirements, offers it to the individual, and the deal is done if both parties agree on an Agreement.
4. The sectarian malice, ill will and bigotry that motivated this letter is obvious from its content.
5. Mr. Khuda Bux's religious identity and activities must have been of the type, well within the norms of service, to cause no hindrance to his public service or his re-employment.
6. What is wrong even if he made his land available for Ahmadiyya get-togethers or he, occasionally participated in his community functions? The mulla failed to notice that Sunni and Shia state functionaries, routinely participate in their Majalis, Milaads, Mehfil Samaa, Darud congregations, Ijtimaas, etc. Those who make available their properties for these occasions do so freely and are greatly appreciated

- for their gesture. As such, the mulla's protest against Mr. Bux is grossly discriminatory and baseless.
7. The mulla is banking upon some judicial order that forbids giving extension to government servants, but one can assume that the high government officials are more aware of relevant rules and the applicable judicial orders, and they must have made a recommendation that is lawful and valid.
 8. The mulla threatens that the proposed agreement would be provocative for and intolerable to Islamiane Watan. The mulla claims to represent all the Pakistani Muslims, although he knows that more than 99% of them have not ever heard of Mr. Khuda Bux. A vast majority of even Ahmadis do not know him.
 9. The mulla assures the PM of the sincerity of his motivation in writing this letter and asks him to follow this role model!

With such guidance given by the religious leadership, the lower grades go further low in exercise of bigotry. Recently the 'Residents of Fateh Jang, District Attock' wrote the following to the Chief Secretary at Lahore on appointment of an Ahmadi as the local 'chief officer', (extract): *"The residents of Fateh Jang hold Sunni beliefs and follow the Hanafi Fiha; they also fully believe that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) was the last prophet and messenger of Allah and there would be no prophet after him, therefore the appointment of this chief officer could precipitate disorder and an unpleasant situation in the entire district."* This shows the direction and the goal of Maulvi Allah Wasaya, a top leader of the Khatme Nabuwwat organization. No wonder the society is now well-tuned in psyche that produces incidents like lynching of Sri Lankan Kumara.

Note:

- The original Urdu version of this AMTKN letter is reproduced at Annex I to this report.
- The English translation is produced on the next page.

(Seal)

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Tahaffuz Khatme Nubuwwat
Masjid Bab-ur-Rahmat. Old Numaish
MA Jinnah Rd. Karachi
Ph. 021-32782337 Fax 021-32760340
Head office (and Branches).....

An open letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan

To: Mr. Imran Khan Niazi, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Islamabad

Assalamo Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatoh. Greetings. I would like to draw your attention to an extremely important and sensitive issue, in that:

1. Additional DG FIA Khuda Bux Nathuka is a confirmed (sikka band) Qadiani.
2. A proof of his being a staunch (Januni) Qadiani is that he has been facilitating district and division level religious get-togethers (Ijtima) on his farmlands in District Khushab. While the district administration would not allow Qadianis, under law, to hold conferences to preach to Muslims, he continued to facilitate Qadianis by offering his farmland near the Atomic Power Plant in District Khushab. He even presided over the sessions, despite being a government servant.
3. One of his brothers is head of the Qadiani Jamaat in Multan even now. There is plenty of evidence to support his mechanizations, his violation of law that forbids preaching Qadianism, his provocations to Muslims and thereby creating a law and order problem.
4. Khuda Bux Nathuka, while in service, recruited Qadianis at will. Today, his nephew and son-in-law Waqas Nathuka, a Qadiani, is appointed as an S.S.P. He promoted Qadianism through improper use of official authority, so that for ages the Police and FIA Department have remained a Qadiani terrain.
5. Now, this person is due to retire on January 6, 2022 on completion of his service limit. A court order forbids extension of service to public officials. Despite that, with the support of hidden Qadianis in the government of Pakistan, an agreement is in process to appoint him an Advisor to FIA. The (case) file is on your table, Mr. Prime Minister.
6. In total disregard to a judicial order, this diehard Qadiani is again being imposed on Muslims for years, through the back door (chor darwaza).
7. While all government servants of his type retire on completion of service, it is not only a disservice to the country to extend his service in deviation from law and service norms, it is exposing the Muslims of Pakistan to a torturous situation. You are requested to never, never, grant him extension of service through Agreement. The door of worst support to Qadianism (badtareen Qadianiat nawazi) should be closed, otherwise this will amount to incitement of Muslims in the country; and it is not tolerable at all.

We hope that you will give serious consideration to these submissions. May Allah enable you to do that. Please remember to attend to this issue with the same sincere sentiment for Pakistan as the one that motivated this application.

Wassalam

Allah Wasaya
Servant of Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat
Multan
December 24, 2021

Copy to:

1. President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
2. Chief Justice of Pakistan, Islamabad
(Etc.)

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AN OVERVIEW OF THE SOCIAL BARRIERS AHMADIS FACE IN PAKISTAN - DECEMBER 2021

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AHMADIS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Faisalabad and Attock; December 2021:

Mr. Talha Ahmad Shaikh appeared in an interview for service in Pakistan Army. The interview panel, comprising a brigadier and four officers asked him to introduce himself. He was then asked about his siblings, to which he told them that one of his brothers is an Ahmadiyya missionary. They asked him about his posting and allowance, etc.

Then, they asked him questions about the differences between Ahmadiyyat and other sects of Islam. They asked him to explain any three differences. Furthermore, they asked him about the descent of Hazrat Isa and the Ahmadiyya belief in the Holy Quran. They asked a few questions of general knowledge as well. They asked him about the difference between the Qadiani and the Lahori groups of Ahmadis and remarked that there were differences among Ahmadis since the life of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani. This statement is not correct.

In response, Mr. Shaikh started answering

but was told to leave. The interview lasted about 25 minutes. It was primarily about his system of belief. He was not selected, of course.

In another case, Mr. Muhammad Abdul Salam, an Ahmadi, a resident of Kasran District Attock, was recruited as a sepoy in Pakistan Army. He reported to the Artillery Center on 26th June 2021 for training.

A few days later, he was told to leave and report to the Center. When asked the reason, the instructor told him that as per the army rules no Qadiani could serve in a fighting corp.

A few days later, he was sent for by Col. Noman Zahoor. Going for the interview, one of the instructors told him, "Leave Ahmadiyyat and save your job." "If I lose the job for my faith, then I would let it go", he replied. After the interview, Mr. Salam was told to leave immediately. He was sent back on 12 July 2021. He has not been called back since then nor has been formally told the reason for his dismissal.

AHMADI TEACHER FACED HOSTILITY AT SCHOOL

Kirto, District Sheikhpura; December 2021:

Mrs. Javed is working as a Secondary School teacher at Sheikhpura District Local Government Girls High School. Due to the vacated post of Headmistress, the Government has appointed her as in-charge Headmistress. After this, a few Kirto residents and school staff sent a complaint to CEO on baseless allegations against her that she forbids the teaching of the Holy Quran in the school.

On December 22, 2021, the police were called and told that there was religious tension in the school and immediate action should be taken. The police, education officials as also the local Ahmadi president reached there. The allegations turned out to be false after investigation. Accordingly the matter was settled on reconciliation among all concerned.

AHMADI BUSINESSMAN FACES ASSAULT, LIFE THREATS AND SOCIAL BOYCOTT

Chak Beli Khan, District Rawalpindi; 2021:

Mr. Zafar Ahmad runs a book shop here. For some time now, he has been facing hostility of mullas, it is increasing day by day.

In November 2021, two non-Ahmadi men of village Raika Meera came there and made inquiries about the Qadiani's shop.

Now, the shopkeepers in the bazaar suggest to customers to make no purchases from his shop as he is a Mirzai and tell them that they do not trade with him in any way. This is affecting his business. Nearby hoteliers, do not sell him food. The fellow shopkeepers who used to eat together, now boycott him on mullas' calling.

In September 2021, a shopkeeper who had been hostile to him came over, beat him up and threatened to kill him. There is a mosque in front of his shop where for some time now hate speeches are made against the Ahmadiyya community in

Friday sermons. This has worsened the situation.

In August 2021, two mullas came to his shop and advised him that he should change his religion, or leave Chak Beli Khan, otherwise they would kill him. Ahmad reported the visitors to the local police who registered an FIR against them. The police interrogated one, Mufti Dawood Siddiqui. This mulla runs a madrassa in Raika Meera village and makes hate speeches against Jamaat Ahmadiyya on loudspeaker.

In March 2021, the vernacular daily Ausaf published a report against Mr. Ahmad.

Ahmad has been running the shop here for a long time. Now the social hostility has reached the level that one day when he went to get his motorcycle repaired, the mechanic was impolite to him for his faith.

Mr. Ahmad feels disturbed — greatly.

AHMADI BUSINESSMAN BEATEN AND HARASSED

Muridke, District Sheikhpura; December 2021:

Mr. Zahid Ahmad, an Ahmadi, runs an auto workshop here. Over time, people came to know about his faith and have turned hostile towards him. Opponents now tell customers about his faith and stop them from trading with him. They have also told wholesale dealers in Lahore, from where Mr. Ahmad used to buy items for his shop, about his Ahmadiyya faith. At this Lahoris refuse dealing with him.

Mr. Ahmad also received threats. Some people beat him up, but a few good people intervened and helped him escape from greater harm. The opponents told the landlord to get his shop vacated by Mr. Ahmad, as he was a Qadiani. At this, the owner told Mr. Ahmad to vacate, and Mr. Ahmad had to vacate the shop. He had to shift his equipment and stock to another place. His business has come to stand still.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SOCIAL BARRIERS AHMADIS FACE IN PAKISTAN - DECEMBER 2021

AHMADI GRAVES AT RISK

Syedwala, District Nankana Sahib; December 21, 2021:

Mr. Hafeezullah's grandmother's and mother's graves are located in the common graveyard; these were in dilapidated state. Mr. Hafeezullah got the repair work started on the graves. A few mullas came there and told them to stop the work and said, "We have just stopped a large crowd from coming over." Accordingly, the work was stopped so as to avoid any unpleasant development.

'Bismillah' was inscribed on his mother's gravestone; the mullas photographed it and sent

it to the Special Branch.

In the evening, a cop came over and inspected the graveyard and reported that there was no problem. Later at 10 pm, the SHO called and conveyed that the opponents were demanding an FIR, so he told Hafeezullah to remove the repairing tools from the site immediately.

Meanwhile, the mullas gathered a mob in the graveyard. The police came over and dispersed the crowd. Thereafter as per the instructions of the police, Hafeezullah reverted the graves to their original condition of dilapidation.

AHMADI DENIED LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Margalla Town, Islamabad; November 20, 2021:

Mr. Zafar Mehmood Ahmed's sister passed away on October 24, 2021. Thereafter her children had to prepare stamp papers for inheritance and transfer of property. So they went to a stamp-seller in Blue Area Islamabad on November 20, 2021, who provided them with the required forms. Therein they wrote 'Ahmadi' in the box of religion. At this, the seller's assistant went to his proprietor

and informed him of the Ahmadi customers. At this, the proprietor told the nephews of Mr. Mahmood that he does not do business with Qadianis. "How dare you come to my shop? Leave my shop now," he shouted.

Thus he humiliated them and refused to do deal with them simply because they were Ahmadis. A stamp-seller is officially forbidden such conduct on the basis of religion or belief.

AHMADI WOMAN FACED A HOSTILE SITUATION IN MARKET

Dhumial Camp, District Rawalpindi; December 2021:

Ms. Amtul Wadood went for groceries in a nearby market along with her son Mr. Mubariz Ahmad. There she saw a teacher of his son, to whom she said "Salaam (Islamic greeting)" for respect. The teacher reacted very badly and started shouting that why should she be 'greeted in Islamic way'

by Qadianis. She also told the shopkeepers not to sell anything to them. She bashed the founder of the Ahmadiyya community and his successors.

A large crowd from the market gathered there, but no one stopped her unbecoming outrage. Ms. Wadood and her son left the place without doing any shopping.

SOME FACTS ON AHMADIYYA MOSQUES AND DESECRATION OF GRAVES - 1984 TILL 2020

- **30** Ahmadiyya mosques **demolished**
- **40** Ahmadiyya mosques **sealed** by the authorities
- **28** Ahmadiyya mosques set on fire or damaged
- **18** Ahmadiyya mosques **forcibly occupied**
- **60** Ahmadiyya mosques, **construction of which was barred** by the authorities
- 39 Ahmadis' **bodies exhumed** after burial
- Burial of 76 Ahmadis was **denied in common cemetery**
- **156 graves were damaged** only in 2020

YEAR 2020

- 2 AHMADIYYA MOSQUES DESECRATED DURING DECEMBER
- 13 AHMADIYYA MOSQUES WERE DESECRATED IN 2021
- 92 GRAVES HAVE BEEN DAMAGED IN 2021, HALF OF THEM WERE DESTROYED DURING SEPTEMBER.
- THE POLICE IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SUCH INCIDENTS

HORROR IN SIALKOT

Sialkot; December 2021:

Mr. Zarrar Khuhro, a well-known journalist, mentioned the following in his op-ed in the daily Dawn of December 06:

“Last week, Priyantha Kumara, a Sri Lankan manager at a local factory in Sialkot was murdered by a mob that had accused him of blasphemy. Kumara had been living and working in Pakistan for over a decade,.....

“First he was stripped naked and beaten to death, with crowd of hundreds gathering around and raining blows on his dying body. His mutilated corpse was then set on fire and afterwards, the killers cheerfully admitted their crime in front of TV cameras, proudly claiming to have sent a blasphemer to hell.

“After that it was selfie time,....”

The incident happened on December 3, 2021. We report it here as it is very relevant to the Ahmadiyya experience in Pakistan. In 2010 religious terrorists attacked two Ahmadiyya mosques and killed 86 Ahmadis. Last year Mr. Naseem, a former Ahmadi was shot dead in a courtroom in the presence of the judge. Sometimes ago, another Ahmadi, Mr. Khalil Ahmad of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura was shot dead while locked up in police custody in a police station. The killers were motivated by their sponsors on false plea of blasphemy. As the state took such incidents lightly, the Sialkot tragedy was waiting to happen. Some intellectuals are of the opinion that Sialkot murder was no surprise, more of this is in store unless the state and society act firmly to ensure extermination of the motivational philosophy and the facilitating instruments like the blasphemy law. The incident, involving a foreign Non-Muslim, and its ferocity shocked the whole nation — top to bottom. The prime minister expressed his anger and concern in a tweet: *“The horrific vigilant attack on factory in Sialkot and the (killing) of (a) Sri Lankan manager is a day of shame for Pakistan. I am overseeing the investigations and let there be no mistake, all those responsible will be punished with full severity of the law. Arrests are progress.”*

In one of the videos from the scene in Sialkot, two of the instigators of the violence refer to the Tehrik Labbaik’s (TLP) slogans to justify their

actions against the victim.

Political leaders, media intellectuals, even ulama condemned the horrific attack. However there were a few opinions in public, which added ifs and buts; these deserve a mention.

Defense Minister Pervaiz Khattak (PTI) surprisingly diluted the gravity of the heinous act in a TV talk, *“Boys do things in passion. Even I can get excited and do wrong when it comes to religion. It was wrong to blame the government, instead of blaming the government, it is the responsibility of the media to explain this to the people”*. Then news.com.pk further reported, *“Pervaiz Khattak says Sialkot should not be linked to any party”*. Someone commented, *“A weak state, unable to stop this spread of a retrogressive mindset has turned the country into a breeding ground for violent extremism”*.

Maulvi Fazlur Rahman of JUI, more of a politician than a maulvi, upheld the blasphemy notion in his statement: *“The incident in Sialkot is reprehensible and shameful. There should be a comprehensive investigation. However, if the state does not take action against those accused of blasphemy, then such incidents will continue to happen.”*

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, a senior PML-N leader, rightly and courageously (but with political respect) took Fazal to task in his statement: *“With due respect, Maulana Sahib, such incidents should be unconditionally condemned, as Islam does not allow such fanaticism and illegal killings by mobs in any case. The nation expects religious scholars to guide them in such matters.”*

While most leaders demanded severe punishments for the perpetrators of this crime, very few talked about the root causes of religious extremism, and the contribution of the blasphemy laws to such crimes. But there were notable exceptions.

Allama Javaid Ghamdi explained in a video that the blasphemy laws in Pakistan have no support in the Holy Quran, the Traditions, nor in early Islamic theological thinking.

IHRC, an international committee comprising mostly Ahmadis, expressed *“deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of Priyantha Dirawadna”* and demanded that the Government of Pakistan *“bring its laws and practices in conformity with international standards as ordained by Article*

20 (of the constitution) and United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 2, 18 and the IC-CPR Article 25, 26.”

It is very relevant to mention that a few days earlier than the Sialkot tragedy, a mob set fire to a police station in KPK and its vehicles after the police refused to hand over a demented person accused of blasphemy to the mob.

The Sialkot incident was reported in the media worldwide. This did great harm to the reputation of Pakistan. Leadership back home felt greatly concerned. The societal situation calls for honest introspection; it was not shy in coming forth.

Some people are of the view that what happened in Sialkot was just a trailer of the horror that

awaits Pakistanis. We end this story with another quote from the wise man, Mr. Zarrar Khuhro:

We’ll see the truth of this soon enough when the next Pakistani — be he or she Muslim, Hindu, Christian or otherwise — is lynched in the name of blasphemy. Because that’s going to keep happening no matter what becomes of those arrested in the Sialkot lynching. You know it, and I know it too. And if you believe otherwise, you may as well try to cure cancer with dispirin. Make no mistake; there will be several thousand more Kumaras and Mashals before this runs its course, if it ever will. And let’s face another fact. It won’t end. Why should it?

Zarrar Khuhro in ‘Sialkot surprise’ in the daily Dawn of Decem-

ber 6, 2021

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)

BRIEFING PAPER BY INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS REFERS TO AHMADIS

Geneva (Switzerland):

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) issued this year in July a Briefing Paper titled:

Violations of the Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief in Pakistan.

The ICJ introduces itself as “Composed of 60 eminent judges and lawyers from all regions of the world, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) promotes and protects human rights through the Rule of Law, by using its unique legal expertise to develop and strengthen national and international justice systems. Established in 1952 and active on the five continents, the ICJ aims to ensure the progressive development and effective implementation of international human right and international humanitarian law; secure the realization of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, safeguard the separation of powers; and guarantee the independence of the judiciary and legal profession.”

The Paper is copyrighted and issued from ICJ headquarters Geneva 1, Switzerland. The ICJ has produced this briefing as its contribution as a member of The Freedom of Religion or Belief Leadership Network (ForBLN). It is available on www.icj.org

The paper deals with three main topics; of these we produce below extracts from its sub-section on ‘The Rights of Ahmadis’:

THE RIGHTS OF AHMADIS

The Ahmadiyya movement was founded in the late nineteenth century by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. Ahmadis identify as Muslims, but certain orthodox Muslims regard them as heretics because of some of their beliefs, including the sanctity they attach to Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.

...

Criminalization of religious practice

In 1974, during Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's first term in office, as mentioned above, the Parlia-

ment amended the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, to declare that any person

who does not believe in the absolute and unqualified finality of The Prophethood of Muhammad (Peace be upon him), the last of the Prophets or claims to be a Prophet, in any sense of the word or of any description whatsoever, after Muhammad (Peace be upon him), or recognizes such a claimant as a Prophet or religious reformer, is not a Muslim for the purposes of the Constitution or law.

Pursuant to the second Constitutional amendment, Ahmadis were specifically labeled as a non-Muslim religious minority community.

As discussed earlier in the section above on the “blasphemy laws”, General Zia-ul-Haq made a number of changes to the Pakistan Penal Code in furtherance of an “Islamization” agenda. On 26 April 1984, General Zia-ul-Haq promulgated Ordinance XX of 1984, which introduced sections 298-B and 298-C to the PPC and made it a criminal offence for Ahmadis to call themselves Muslims, use terminology associated with the Prophet Muhammad, use Muslim practices in worship, or propagate their faith. In essence, these criminal provisions make any form of public practice of religion by Ahmadis a crime.

Provisions related to Ahmadis in Pakistan Penal Code

S. 298-B and S. 298-C: ...

The role of the courts

In a 1993 case, *Zaheeruddin v. the State*, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of these laws. The Court decided that minority Ahmadi Muslims are not Muslims because their beliefs and theological doctrines are at variance with the beliefs of the majority of Muslims. This made Ahmadis imposters, who were deceptively “posing” as Muslim. The Supreme Court analogized “posing” as Muslims with infringing trademarks, and relied on laws and jurisprudence relating to fraudulent

trade practices to hold that the State had a legitimate interest in protecting “real” Muslims from such “deception”.

...

The Supreme Court's judgment also appeared to condone violence against those alleged to “blaspheme” against the Prophet Muhammad, including Ahmadis:

It is the cardinal faith of every Muslim to believe in every Prophet and praise him. Therefore, if anything is said against the Prophet, it will injure the feelings of a Muslim and may even incite him to the breach of peace, depending on the intensity of the attack...

After reproducing some of the teachings of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Court added:

Can then anyone blame a Muslim if he loses control of himself on hearing, reading or seeing such blasphemous material as has been produced by Mirza Sahib?

This judgment was a disavowal of the human rights of minority Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan. It provided legitimacy to their legal as well as societal persecution, invalidated their right to religious belief in its entirety, and left them with no forum for redress.

...

Inconsistency with international human rights law

The constitutional provision declaring Ahmadis non-Muslim, as well as the criminalization of any public practice of their religious beliefs are wholly inconsistent with the right to freedom of religion or belief. These criminal provisions and their enforcement violate the right of Ahmadis to freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of their choice; the freedom to manifest their religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching, either individually or in community with others, in public or private; as well as the freedom not to disclose their religion or belief. They also contravene the right of Ahmadis not to be discriminated against on prohibited grounds and their right to equality before the law and equal protection of the law without discrimination.

A number of UN human rights mechanisms have raised concern about these laws. Soon after they were enacted, the then United Nations Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities expressed “grave concern”

at the promulgation of Ordinance XX, and found that it openly violated the right to liberty and security of Ahmadis; the right to freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention; the right to freedom of thought, expression, conscience and religion; the right of religious minorities to profess and practice their own religion, and the right to an effective legal remedy. The Sub-Commission expressly asked the Government of Pakistan to “repeal Ordinance XX and to restore the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons in its jurisdiction.” Similarly, the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief, following a visit to Pakistan in 1995, found that law “applied specifically to the Ahmadi minority is particularly questionable and in some respects frankly unwarranted.”

Violence and discrimination

Those provisions of the Constitution and the Penal Code that violate the right of Ahmadi Muslims to freedom of religion or belief and discriminate against them also contribute to acts of violence, hostility and other discrimination against them by non-State actors. Ahmadi “places of worship”, which, by law, minority Ahmadi Muslims are prohibited from calling mosques, are routinely targeted by violent mobs, and Ahmadis are assaulted and even killed only because of their faith. The police have often been complicit in harassment of Ahmadis, and have brought fabricated charges against Ahmadis or have not intervened to stop anti-Ahmadi violence. The Government's failure to address the religious persecution of minority Ahmadi Muslims has further facilitated violence against them in the name of religion.

Pakistan's election laws also effectively exclude Ahmadis from voting. To register to vote, minority Ahmadi Muslims must either renounce their faith or agree to be on a separate electoral list and accept their status as non-Muslim. Because many Ahmadis refuse to do so, they are disenfranchised. Furthermore, all Pakistani Muslim citizens applying for passports are obliged to sign a declaration explicitly stating that they consider the founder of the Ahmadi community an “imposter”, and consider Ahmadis to be non-Muslims.

While the Constitution labels Ahmadis as non-Muslims, it recognizes their religious minority status. However, certain religious groups — as well as Members of Parliament and Government officials — argue that Ahmadis are not a “religious

minority”, as they do not identify as such. In 2020, for example, the Government constituted a Commission on Minorities to safeguard the right of religious minority communities. However, it decided to exclude Ahmadis from membership of the Commission. The Information Minister defended this decision by arguing Ahmadis do not “fall in the definition of minorities.”

UN human rights experts have expressed concern about discrimination and violence against Ahmadis on multiple occasions. In 2018, for example, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions called on Pakistan to “repeal discriminatory provisions in its electoral law which is leading to members of the Ahmadiyya minority being persecuted and targeted in violent attacks.”

The State, therefore, is responsible not only for directly persecuting Ahmadis and denying their right to freedom of religion or belief, it has also failed in its obligation to protect their human rights, which requires it to take measures to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses by non-State actors. Furthermore, as noted above, under international human rights law, the principle of non-discrimination applies and is integral to the enjoyment of all human rights, whether civil, cultural, economic, political or social. States, therefore, have the duty to refrain from discriminating against individuals or groups of individuals because of their religion or belief, as well as the obligation to take necessary measures to prevent discrimination by non-State actors. Successive Pakistani Governments have failed in this regard on both counts.

Recommendations

- Repeal provisions of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, and the Pakistan Penal Code that declare Ahmadis non-Muslim and criminalize the

practice of their religious beliefs;

- Ensure that the full range of human rights be guaranteed in law and in practice to minority Ahmadi Muslims; and
- Ensure prompt, independent and impartial investigations into attacks on Ahmadis, bring perpetrators to justice, ensure Ahmadis have access to justice and effective remedies for human rights violations.

- *The report is available online at;*

<https://www.icj.org/pakistan-right-to-freedom-of-religion-or-belief-under-sustained-attack/>

- *It can be downloaded at;*

<https://www.icj.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Pakistan-FoRB-Advocacy-Analysis-biref-2021-ENG.pdf>

Violations of the Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief in Pakistan

A Briefing Paper
July 2021



CAPTAIN SAFDAR, SPEWS HATE AGAINST AHMADIS — YET AGAIN

Islamabad; December 2021:

Captain (r) Muhammad Safdar has again launched an attack on the Ahmadiyya community. He is the son-in-law of the former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif.

Capt. (ret'd) Safdar is seen in a video dated December 21 talking to pressmen against former Supreme Court judge Justice (retired) Ejaz Afzal Khan, in a land dispute case. Mr. Afzal Khan is not an Ahmadi.

Following is the translation of Safdar's outburst and trash against Mr. Afzal Khan directly, and against Ahmadis indirectly.



“As regards Ejaz Afzal, it's not a litigation, it's enmity,” said Safdar.

“The enmity is, that in the past he defended the rebels of the 1973 Constitution and the deniers of Khatm-e-Nabuwwat, as their advocate. He has fought four cases of Qadianis as per record, in Mansehra and that is the reason for the enmity,” he added.

“Why are you using religion as weapon?”, asked a reporter (Matiullah Jan).

“I have many weapons; he runs to Peshawar High Court at times, sometimes to Supreme Court. I am telling you my reason for the enmity. It is spiritual case. Allah has given me this duty,” Safdar said.

“But it's a land dispute case, how is spirituality involved in it?” asked a reporter. Safdar: “Ejaz Afzal has nothing to do with the land, neither does his wife nor anyone else. If it was his land then why he got it occupied forcibly? Why did he send security gunmen? The respectables of Mansehra have asked me to make peace with him, but I told them that how would I answer to my Prophet (PBUH) on the day of judgment, if I make peace with one who was an advocate of his deniers.

“I'm not worried about inflation, I'm worried about the faith of the people of this country,” he said before walking away from the reporters.

Earlier, on December 8, 2021, Captain (r) Safdar said in the same context, “Anyone who is an advocate of the Master's deniers, do you think that he can die honorably? No. No one in Mansehra will offer his funeral prayer, inshallah. I pray that a Maulvi who leads his funeral prayer, be deprived of the intercession of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.). Whether I fight this case or not, it is certain that no one will offer this person's funeral in Mansehra. Ejaz Afzal, who was a judge in this court, was the advocate of the Qadianis. Now he is a land grabber. I am ready to go anywhere in Pakistan, because this case is not mine but that of my elders (waris !). I am appearing here as a servant (munshi) of Madina.”

Capt (r) Safdar has a high opinion of himself, and is vocal about it. In his presser of 21 December he says, “May Allah give decent sons-in-law to all, like myself given to Nawaz Sharif.” Perhaps he has a sense of humor!

AHMADIS BEHIND BARS

1

A contrived case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad and Mubashir Ahmad of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhupura under PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 on May 13, 2014 in Police Station Sharaqpur. Two days later Mr. Khalil Ahmad was murdered by a madrassah student, while in police custody, on May 16, 2014. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. A year later, the deadly clause PPC 295-C was added to their charge sheet at the suggestion of a high court judge. A sessions judge sentenced them to death on October 11, 2017. Appeal against this decision was then made to the Lahore High Court. The Lahore High Court, Lahore through verbal Order dated 08.12.2021 removed Section 295-C of PPC but secured conviction under Section 295-A of PPC. Further details will be given once a written Order is produced. These three Ahmadis are in prison for seven and half years.

2

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 on appearance in the FIA office; they are in Camp Jail Lahore.

Syed Ali Abbas, Addl. Sessions Judge Lahore added the deadly blasphemy clause PPC 295-C to the charge sheet on June 29, 2021. Thus, they are now exposed to penalty of death. Their post arrest bail application is pending before the Supreme Court.

3

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. He is currently in Peshawar Jail.

4

Four Ahmadis Mr. Muhammad Mahmood Iqbal Hashmi, 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. Mr. Shiraz Ahmad was arrested from Hafizabad on February 25, 2021, while Mr. Hashmi was re-arrested on August 9, 2021 after cancellation of his bail.

5

Malik Zahir Ahmad was arrested on September 30, 2019 by fabricating a 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 Zahir Ahmad was expected to be released from the Camp Jail, the Cyber Crime Wing Lahore team arrested him under FIR Nr. 88 as outlined above, under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, PECA-11. He was not even formally nominated in the case.

6

The police registered a case with FIR No. 750 against Mr. Naveed Ahmad and others under Sections 149, 148, 324 of PPC in P.S. Dijkot, District Faisalabad on the complaint of Muhammad Waseem, brother of the injured attacker. Muhammad Amin, a non-Ahmadi friend, although not named in the FIR, was also detained for his cooperation with Ahmadis. Mr. Ahmad is in Jail.

7

Mr. Asghar Ali Kalar, an Ahmadi, aged 70, was booked under the blasphemy law PPC 295-C with FIR Nr. 651 on the complaint of Hafiz Javed Mustafa Head of Jamia Saeedia Model Town, Bahawalpur, in the police station Baghdad Aljadid on September 24, 2021. He was arrested and sent to Bahawalpur Jail. His bail application is pending before Additional Sessions Judge, Bahawalpur.

As of December 31, 2021:

- 12 Ahmadis are behind bars solely on account of their faith.
- A 70 year old Ahmadi has been arrested under PPC 295-C in September 2021, this clause carries death penalty.
- PPC 295-C is added to the case of three imprisoned Ahmadis in June.
- A 20-year-old Ahmadi student is in jail under PPC 295-C.
- 3 Ahmadis have been on death row since 2017 and in prison since July 18, 2014
- 1 Ahmadi prisoner died while in police custody in Feb. 2021

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

Know the Facts

THIS YEAR SO FAR

- 2 Ahmadis have been murdered for faith, raising the total to 272 since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 11 murder attempts
- 1 Ahmadi prisoner died in custody, he was imprisoned on the basis of his faith.
- 13 Ahmadiyya mosques have been desecrated
- 92 graves have been desecrated, 45 of these were in September 2021
- 20 new cases have been registered against Ahmadis under the blasphemy laws & Anti-Ahmadi laws
- Sacred inscription from 16 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 Ahmadiyya Muslim 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

- Khatme Nabuwwat column should be added in the marriage form: Unanimous resolution in KPK Assembly

Media Report

- Ghastly murder of Lankan man in Sialkot shames nation, Mob lynches victim over blasphemy charge, burns body

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 4, 2021

- Man accused of blasphemy ‘not mentally fit’.

The Express Tribune; Lahore, December 1, 2021

- ATC should down 16-year jail term to 19 TLP men

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 4, 2021

- Zero tolerance for extremist elements: Pak Army

The News International; Lahore, December 9, 2021

- Blasphemy convict acquitted after 11 years

The Express Tribune; Lahore, December 9, 2021

- TTP declares end to ceasefire

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 10, 2021

- Second copy escorting polio team martyred in two days

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 13, 2021

- If the state takes no action against accuseds of blasphemy or defiling Khatme Nabuuwat, such incidents (like murder of Mr. Priyantha Kumara in Sialkot) will continue to happen.....: Fazlur Rahman (JUI)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 5, 2021

- So long as alive, I'll not let a repeat of the Sialkot incident: Imran Khan

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 8, 2021

- PM pledges stern action against brutality in name of Islam

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 8, 2021

- Recitation of Darud mandatory in (Punjab) schools. Notification issued.

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, November 8, 2021

- Boys dance clad as girls Video goes viral. College sealed.

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 8, 2021

- Tahir Ashrafi and Maulana Tariq Jamil call on Sri Lankan High Commissioner. Express regrets and call the Sialkot incident inhuman.

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 23, 2021

- ‘We are ashamed’: Mulana Tariq Jamil condemns act of ‘cruelty’ against lynched Sri Lankan national.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 23, 2021

- US Attacker of mosque and synagogue sentenced to life imprisonment

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 31, 2021

- Insulting Prophet violates religious liberty, says Putin

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 25, 2021

- US creating special envoy to combat Islamophobia

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December16, 2021

- Teachers should arrange prayers in school assemblies against smog and respiratory diseases: Parvaiz Ilahi (Speaker PA)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 4, 2021

- (Minister) Fawad, in a talk show, called (PTI Senator Chaudhry) Ejaz’s meeting with TLP Chief Saad Rizvi soon after his release from jail last month ‘absurd’. He also questioned why the Senator did not visit the homes of the policemen, who were martyred (during the TLP long march).

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 7, 2021

- CS (Chief Secretary) told (by CM) to order Darood Sharif at school assemblies (after the recitation of Holy Quran and before the national anthem).

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 1, 2021

- Bangladesh: 20 students sentenced to death over killing a student

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 9, 2021

- US sanctions elite paramilitary unit of Bangladesh

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 12, 2021

- OIC pledges money, food aid for Afghanistan and fears of chaos

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 20, 2021

- Man lynched for ‘sacrilege’ at Golden Temple (Amritsar)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 20, 2021

- NAB arrest Sindh PA speaker on Supreme Court’s premises

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 4, 2021

- Shahbaz, sons failed to give trail of Rs. 16bn in Sugar scam: FIA

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 20, 2021

- Six dead in LG polls in KP. Suicide explosion, firing, scuffle, attacks on polling stations. Aerial celebratory firing kills winner candidate.

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 20, 2021

- After mutual agreement among political parties, no woman voted in polls in Hazara (KPK)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 20, 2021

- Tehrik Insaf loses badly in KPK (LG election) to JUI-F

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 21, 2021

- Three cops held for looting family (in Lahore)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 1, 2021

- Lawyers torture judge who convicted DC, AC

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 1, 2021

- 162 Pak troops in UN mission have offered the supreme sacrifice: ISPR

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 3, 2021

- Class-IV boy murdered after rape (in Gujrat)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 4, 2021

- 12 prisoners flee Model Town judicial lock-up as police look on

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 7, 2021

- Five arrested for stripping, assaulting four women in Faisalabad (at 10:30)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 8, 2021

- Driver stopped the train and went to buy yogurt. Video viral.

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 8, 2021

- Record has gone missing in Zardari case, NAB

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 10, 2021

- Lahore again tops list of world’s most polluted cities

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 10, 2021

- (PM) Launches Rs 35bn Green Line bus service

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 11, 2021

- SHO held for ‘raping’ boy

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 18, 2021

- Daily, labour wages raised to Rs 800 per day in Punjab

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 23, 2021

- Yet another online taxi driver found murdered (in Lahore)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 20, 2021

- CM (Punjab) approves hiring of 70,000 Arabic teachers

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 28, 2021

- Person of the Year: Elon Musk (of USA; his net worth — above \$300billion)
- Heroes of the Year: Vaccine Scientists
- Athlete of the Year: Simone Biles

Weekly TIME, December 27, 2021

- Pope accepts French archbishop’s resignation

The News International; Lahore, December 3, 2021

- First suspected case of Omicron reported in Karachi

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 10, 2021

Editorial: Horror in Sialkot

It is indeed a day of shame for Pakistan. Having repeatedly vented our bloodlust on our own, this time the extremists amongst us turned on an individual who was a guest in this country. Not surprisingly, however, the official denunciations only touch upon the here and now, the tip of the iceberg. The bitter truth is, on the last day of his life, Mr Diyawadana came face to face with the consequences of the Pakistani state’s decades-long policy of appeasing religious extremists. Even though the violent ultra-right outfits once used for strategic objectives began to be reined in a few years ago, other sectarian groups that were radicalised as part of the same process have since gained new ground. As extremism seeped into the body politic, blasphemy increasingly became weaponised, an expedient tool that could be wielded in a variety of situations: to take over the land of minority communities, to settle personal disputes — even to engineer protests to destabilise a sitting government in 2017. All it takes now is an allegation of blasphemy and an individual or two to incite a mob to commit murder. Who can forget young Mashal Khan, lynched by his fellow students in 2017, or Shama and Shahzad Masih, burned alive in a brick kiln in 2014? These are but three victims in a long chronology of horror. Each act of lynching, each desecration of a place of worship, each life destroyed as a result is an indictment of a state that has long made cynical use of religion as part of its playbook. We must reverse course before the flames of intolerance devour us as a nation.

Dawn, December 5, 2021

FROM THE MEDIA

Op-ed: Fiddling while Rome burns

The result is that Pakistan is poised at the edge of the precipice. When I say so, many friends argue it has already gone over the edge. Despite my undiluted optimism, I too am losing hope, simply because there is no evidence of any organised attempt to stop the descent into self-harm of gargantuan proportions. Pakistan's security establishment has long advocated 'mainstreaming' militants but does not present a coherent and workable deradicalisation programme to accompany such a process as surely that has to be a prerequisite. There have been proposals that militants be drafted into security forces.

Without a deradicalisation programme who is to say that the 'extremist' view, attractive as it is to so many, does not become the mainstream ideology? That would be the reverse of the desired goal, the dilution of the extremists' toxic ideology.

Abbas Nasir, Published in daily Dawn on December 5, 2021

Op-ed: The pitfalls of ideology

Pakistan's misfortune is to have the soul brother of Erdogan in power today. Forget the falling rupee — it will surely make some small recoveries soon and, for a while, everyone will be satisfied again. Much more serious is that our schools are producing hordes of ignorant, bigoted, hyper-religious Sialkot-type lynchers who are totally skill-deficient. This will get far worse when the ideologically motivated Single National Curriculum (SNC), the brainchild of PM Imran Khan — becomes fully operational.

Pervez Hoodbhoy, Published on December 25, 2021 in daily

Dawn

Tweets:



Slogamongers of 'Labbaik' have done this to the nation. So callous! It is not individual on fire, the entire mankind is aflame. (Ref: Sri Lankan ablaze)



Children do that often; they indulge in fights: Pervez Khattak (on lynching of the Sri Lankan Kumara)



(Tr): PPP plays religion card in Lahore elections.

Display: Labaik Ya Rasulallah, Mujahid e Khatme Nabuwat, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto

ANNEX 1

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وزیر اعظم پاکستان کے نام کھلا خط

بخدمت جناب عمران خان نیازی وزیر اعظم پاکستان، اسلام آباد

السلام علیکم ورحمۃ اللہ وبرکاتہ مزاج گرامی! ایک انتہائی اہم اور حساس مسئلہ کی طرف آپ کی توجہ مبذول کرانا چاہتا ہوں کہ:

- 1..... ایڈیشن ڈی جی ایف آئی اے خدا بخش تھو کہ سکہ ہندو قادیانی ہیں۔
- 2..... اس کے جنونی قادیانی ہونے کا یہ ثبوت ہے کہ ضلع خوشاب میں اپنی زمینوں پر قادیانیوں کے ضلعی ڈیوڈیٹرل مذہبی اجتماع منعقد کرتا رہا ہے، جب کہ ضلعی انتظامیہ بھیر قادیانی کی پاسداری کے قادیانیوں کو مسلمانوں میں جلسہ عام کے ذریعہ تبلیغ کرنے کی اجازت نہ دیتی تو علی الاعلان دھڑلے سے روڈہ ضلع خوشاب ایٹمی پاور پلانٹ کے قریب اپنی زمینوں پر قادیانیوں کو جلسہ کرنے کی سہولت دیتا رہا اور سرکاری ملازمت کے باوجود ان اجلاسوں کی صدارت کرتا رہا۔
- 3..... اس کا ایک بھائی آج بھی قادیانی جماعت ملتان کا ہیڈ ہے، اس کی ریشہ دوانیاں اور قانون شکنی کر کے قادیانیت کی تبلیغ کرنا، مسلمانوں کو اشتعال دلانا اور لاء اینڈ آرڈر کا مسئلہ پیدا کرنے پر ایک زمانہ گواہ ہے۔
- 4..... خدا بخش تھو کہ اپنے زمانہ ملازمت کے دوران جن جن قادیانیوں کو بھرتی کیا، آج اس کا بھتیجا اور داماد وقاص تھو کہ قادیانی ایس ایس پی کے عہدہ پر ہے، اس نے سرکاری حیثیت سے ناجائز فائدہ اٹھا کر ایسے قادیانیت کو ترقی دی کہ مدق پولیس اور ایف آئی اے کا محکمہ قادیانیوں کی آماج گاہ بن رہا ہے۔
- 5..... اب یہ شخص 6 جنوری 2022ء کو اپنی مدت ملازمت پوری کر کے ریٹائر ہو رہا ہے، چونکہ عدالتی حکم سے سرکاری ملازمین کو تسبیح دینے پر پابندی ہے۔ اس کے باوجود حکومت پاکستان میں جیسے قادیانی عناصر کی شہ پر ایف آئی اے کے ایڈوائزر کے طور پر اس کے ساتھ ایگریمنٹ کیا جا رہا ہے۔ اس کی فائل جناب وزیر اعظم صاحب آپ کی میز پر رکھی ہوئی ہے۔
- 6..... عدالتی فیصلہ کو یکسر نظر انداز کر کے چور دروازے سے اس متعصب قادیانی کو دوبارہ سالہا سال کے لئے مسلمانوں کے سروں پر مسلط کرنے کا کھیل رچایا جا رہا ہے۔
- 7..... جب تمام سرکاری ملازمین و افسران اس کے ہم پلہ مدت ملازمت پوری کر کے ریٹائر ہو گئے تو اسے قادیانی ہونے کے ناطے دوبارہ خلاف قانون اور متعین راستوں سے ہٹ کر تسبیح دینا جہاں وطن عزیز کے ساتھ زیادتی ہے، وہاں مسلمانوں کو بھی اذیت ناک صورت حال سے دوچار کیا جاتا ہے۔ آنجناب سے درخواست ہے کہ ہرگز ہرگز اسے دوبارہ ایگریمنٹ پر تسبیح نہ دی جائے اور بدترین قادیانیت نوازی کا دروازہ بند کیا جائے ورنہ یہ مسلمانوں کو اشتعال دلانے کے مترادف ہوگا، جو کسی طرح قابل برداشت نہ ہوگا۔

امید ہے کہ ان معروضات پر شخصہ دل و دماغ سے غور فرمائیں گے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ آپ کو توفیق بخشیں۔ یاد رکھیں کہ پاکستان کے بہترین مفاد میں جس جذبہ صادق سے یہ درخواست کی گئی ہے، اسی جذبہ سے اس پر توجہ فرمائیں۔

والسلام

اللہ وسایا

خادم عالمی مجلس تحفظ ختم نبوت ملتان

۲۳ دسمبر ۲۰۲۱ء

کا پی برائے:

۱..... صدر مملکت اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان

۲..... چیف جسٹس آف پاکستان، اسلام آباد

PTO

Original image of Allah Wasaya's letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan

ANNEX II

Shiver...

Fahd Husain

Published December 11, 2021

THERE is an old-fashioned charm to being nice.

As the year drags itself towards closure, the short days remind us of all that we could have had and should have had if most of us had our way. But deafened by the noise of partisan politics, Pakistanis have learnt that the best way to deal with this unbearable cacophony is to contribute to it.

The megaphone of the social media has enabled us to do just this. And do so with a vengeful gusto few thought they could muster. The last few years have been consumed by the pursuit of this poisonous passion; the kind that infects you as you infect the others while they are busy infecting even more. It is a poison that dilutes the sweetness of kinship, friendship and relationship; that weakens the bonds of affection, goodwill and harmony; and instils in us emotions that are triggered by loathing, revulsion and hate. The outcome is unsurprising. We are fast transforming into a society that is corroding from the inside.

What is this if not a sign of a system growing fat by eating its own children?

Are we there yet? Perhaps not. But we are certainly on our way. Listen carefully to the sound of partisan contempt that burns like acid; hear the cry of fanatical detestation that cuts like a sharp dagger; and feel the painful laceration of blinding bigotry as its ruptures the insides like an exploding ulcer. This is the story of nation stabbing itself again and again to cure a malignancy that grows like a tumour not in the body but in the mind — and in the heart.

There was a time not too long ago that we could be civil to each other. It was a time when the scorching heat of political rivalries did not have to burn through cultural norms and societal reverences; when flames of political belligerency did not need to scorch through familial bonds and personal attachments. It was indeed a time — now so drenched in nostalgia — when opponents across the aisle shook their fists and then shook their hands; when they shouted abuse on the floor of the House and shouted pleasantries over a home-cooked meal; and when they exchanged vitriol in jalsas only to exchange greetings on Eids. There was something very normal in these human interactions even in times of political abnormality and turmoil. Hate may have fuelled rivalries but it did not nourish social discourse.

And now?

Now we are suffering through a new normal spawned from the womb of corrosive abnormality. It is a normal that says it is acceptable, admissible and even respectable to treat your rivals like your enemies and loathe them from the core of your being. The force of this hate should be such that it must override professional requirements and societal values; the potency of this abhorrence should be such that it melts through organisational and cultural hierarchies and seeps down all the way to

the deepest core of the community. The schism within us — we seem to tell ourselves now — should be deep, and it should be dark.

Do you see this fissure around you? Do you feel it in you? Harken the spirit that defines your identity and ask who among us has the right to bestow partisan hate on the other; who carries the moral weight to pour scorn on the other, and who has earned the badge of undeserved superiority to diminish the worth of the other. Ask. In the heat of political battles, have we lost the sight of what has held us together in one form or another? This politics we see raging around us like a sandstorm, does this reflect who we are? Or were? Or want to be? Or is it ravaging us into something else? Something new? And vile?

Our society is baring its teeth. The lynching of men, stripping of women and abuse of children with almost — how should one say it — almost a sense of bestial entitlement, what is this if not a sign of a community retching its worst instincts onto its own lap? The state making people disappear while their wives and children grovel in front of authority to give them what is their right, the police murdering and torturing its way through law enforcement as victims knock on doors shut tight, and a system shut tighter, what is this if not a sign of a system growing fat by eating its own children?

The law? It was supposed to have been made more equal for all this year. Has it? Justice? It was supposed to have been made more accessible and affordable for all this year. Has it? Accountability? It was supposed to have been made more equitable for all this year. Has it?

How then should we measure progress — any progress — that may have registered itself on this land we call home? Cut through this partisan rhetoric, slice away this political bluster, shear down vague claims, and peer into the hollowness that is left behind in the shape of yearnings that are now manifesting themselves in disappointment, disillusionment and — yes, anger.

But it is an anger we can ill-afford. Like the hate and loathing and revulsion we can ill-afford. This country now needs to heal. It needs to repair the damage it has done to itself; to stitch the self-inflicted wounds and bridge the self-dredged crevices that divide us into parts and sub-parts. Macroeconomics cannot medicate micro-cleavages, and high politics cannot mend low tolerance. Something deeper is required from the leadership in order to convalesce our society back to health.

But what is the leadership doing? And thinking? And planning? Read today's headlines and scroll through your social media feeds. Go ahead, sense the mood that prevails among the decision-makers and how it reeks of their priorities. Go ahead and inhale the toxins of misplaced intentions as they float around like a cloud of bad odour. Then sit back, remove your partisan lens, untie your ideological strings, and consider this:

Something somewhere is terribly wrong when the only thing moving forward at the end of the year is the calendar on your wall.

The article can be reached at <https://www.dawn.com/news/1663120>

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

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