



HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION
AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS

Persecution of Ahmadiis IN PAKISTAN

Monthly Report
June 2021

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Highlights

TWO AHMADIS ARRESTED FOR THEIR FAITH

Last year, local Ahmadis were accused of preaching religion in the community's owned primary school in village Allah Dad in Rajanpur and a case was registered against six Ahmadis. Mr Naseem Ahmad and Mr Naseer Ahmad Qamar, applied for bail on June 2, 2021. Judge Bakht Fakhar Behzad rejected their application and ordered their arrest. Both were arrested and shifted to Rajanpur jail.

THREE AHMADIYYA MOSQUES DESECRATED WITH POLICE SUPORT

Three Ahmadiyya mosques have been desecrated during the month. The first half of the year 2021 has seen nine such holy places desecrated with the involvement of state machinery, the worst ever in six months. A total of 125 Ahmadiyya mosques have been destroyed, demolished, set on fire, sealed by authorities or forcibly occupied since 1984, after the anti-Ahmadiyya ordinance.

GRIEVING AHMADIS ATTACKED DURING BURIAL OF THEIR BELOVED DECEASED

In Nawan Kot, an Ahmadi lady died on June 6. On the occasion of her burial at the designated place for Ahmadis, the opponents arrived and disrupted the burial. The confrontation lead to a fight. The police registered a case against both parties. The opponents are pressurizing police to dismiss all cases against them. (see details on page 11)

LAHORE HIGHCOURT JUDGE ENDORSED VERDICT IN ANTI-AHMADIYYA CASE

In connection with a blasphemy case against two Ahmadi Muslims, the LHC affirmed a lower court's decision criminalizing the accused's 'apparent belief'. This means that now Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan can be criminally prosecuted without any public act or expression on the mere basis of an Ahmadi Muslim's privately held beliefs. The ongoing grave human rights abuses of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan have extended to serious deprivation of freedom of thought and conscience and not simply religion or belief. (See details on pages 5-8)

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 21 FOR DETAILS ON VOTING RIGHT FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

SPECIAL NOTE

This report, spread over 39 pages is among the longest such reports in the past 10 years. As such, it is correct to infer that the level of persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan has shot up to another peak.

The desecration and damage to Ahmadiyya mosques by the Punjab Police have become routine. Within one week, two mosques were attacked by the police in District Faisalabad alone. This month's report carries five stories concerning Ahmadiyya places of worship.

It was also in June that Honorable Justice Farooq Haider, a high court judge endorsed that:

1. Ahmadiyya places of worship are 'Unholy'.
2. Ahmadis who read the Holy Quran are guilty of crimes punishable with death and/or imprisonment for life.
3. Ahmadis who have their founder's works like Malfozat are similarly guilty of the violation of the deadly blasphemy clauses.
4. Quantum of damage caused by Qadianies to Islam is unconceivable.
5. The vile web of conspiracy woven by Qadianies is extremely treacherous, etc.

This verdict has put almost the entire Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan at mortal risk.

Justice Qasim Khan, Chief Justice Lahore High Court directed the federal government to take steps to promote Islamic websites and ensure that Qadianis, etc. who 'distort Islamic teachings' should be prosecuted by the government and to not leave it to private individuals to complain. The cabinet should set up 'a full-fledged body to monitor the (religious) program all over the world'. Justice Qasim was retiring in a month; he apparently, was providing a turn-key for a future project, better called: 'Theocratic Pakistan'.

At the end of this month, 13 Ahmadis were behind bars on religion-based charges. Three of them have been condemned to death for, unbelievably, blasphemy. They are waiting for a hearing of their appeal in the High Court; it is their seventh year in prison, despite their innocence of the alleged crime.

In our humble opinion, the situation is grave, primarily for Ahmadis, but potentially for everybody else too. Some say Taliban are not here yet, but Talibanization is already here, not only in the streets but also in corridors of power.

TWO AHMADIS ARRESTED IN FAKE POLICE CASE

Rajanpur; June 2, 2021:

It would be recalled that a spurious police case was registered on July 23, 2020 in Rajanpur City over a non-issue of a small school in Village Allah Dad. Ahmadis were accused of preaching religion in their school. In an exceptionally broad sweep, six Ahmadis including high community officials, not directly involved in the primary school, were named in the FIR. The case was registered under PPCs 295-B, 295-A, 298-A, 298-B, 298-C, 506-B. PPC 295-B provides imprisonment for life.

Mr. Naseem Ahmad and Mr. Naseer Ahmad Qamar, who were also booked in this case applied for confirmation of bail on June 2, 2021. Judge Bakht Fakhar Behzad rejected their application and ordered their arrest.

Both the accused were arrested and shifted to Rajanpur jail.

OKARA CASE WORSENS

Chak 3/S.P. District Okara; June 2021:

The police booked Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Tahir with FIR No. 217 under 16 M.P.O. at police station Haweli Lakha, District Okara on March 31, 2021, and arrested him. The plaintiff alleged that Mr. Tahir passed negative remarks about his religious ceremony.

In response to protest and a rally by the opposition, the SHO added more fateful Section 295-A to the charge sheet; it carries a penalty of

ten-year imprisonment and fine.

On April 23, 2021, Mr. Noor Aalam, Magistrate rejected Tahir's plea for bail. He then applied in the sessions court. On June 14, 2021, Additional Session judge Muhammad Shafique also rejected his bail.

Mr. Mansoor A Tahir remains behind bars over an alleged petty faux pas concerning religion. He is exposed to 10 years in prison.

A HIGH COURT JUDGE DISPOSES SUMMARILY A HIGHLY MALICIOUS ANTI-AHMADIYYA POLICE CASE

Lahore, Nankana; 2020-2021:

Anti-Ahmadi activists got a police case registered against three Ahmadis under anti-Ahmadi clauses PPC 298-B and 298-C in P.S. Mangtanwala District Nankana Sahib on May 2, 2020. A lot of water has passed under the bridge since, and now these charges stand hugely upgraded with additional clauses PPCs 295-C and 295-B for which the penalties are 'Death' and 'Life Imprisonment' respectively.

One of the accused, Mr. Akbar Ali has already died in prison, while awaiting release on bail.

The Honorable Mr. Justice Farooq Haider of Lahore High Court recently endorsed the verdict forbidding Ahmadis:

1. To have any association with Kalima Tayyaba, the Islamic Creed
2. To recite the Holy Quran or even have its copy
3. To keep books of their own holy founder in possession, otherwise face charges under the blasphemy sections PPC 295-C and/or PPC 295-B.

This ominous decision has far-reaching implications for all Ahmadis in Pakistan and their Human Rights in general and Freedom of Faith in particular. It could open yet another floodgate of tyranny.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CASE

Three Ahmadi accused, Messrs. Sharafat Ahmad, Akbar Ali and Tahir Naqqash were arrested on October 3, 2020 when their plea for bail was rejected even at the High Court level. Mr. Akbar Ali died thereafter on February 16, 2021. Seven days thereafter, a Lahore High Court judge mercifully granted bail to the remaining two accused.

Initially the police case was registered as the complainant allegedly essentially found:

1. Islamic creed written in the Ahmadiyya mosque
2. Copy of the Holy Quran was found there
3. A volume containing the spoken words of the Ahmadiyya Founder was also recovered from there.

UPGRADATION OF CHARGES

Anti-Ahmadi activists were not happy that the accused were charged only under the anti-Ahmadiyya sections. They applied to Magistrate Adil Riaz to add the more (and most) grave blasphemy clauses PPC 295-C and PPC 295-B. The magistrate granted the request on January 4, 2021.

Along with the issue of upgradation of the charges was the plea for the confirmation of bail after arrest. Both the magistrate and the Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Suhail Anjum rejected their plea for confirmation. However, as stated above, the High Court granted the bail after the death of Mr. Akbar Ali, one of the accused. The case of upgradation of charges was first decided by the magistrate; then Additional Session Judge Abu Bakar Siddique heard the appeal against that.

APPEAL REJECTED BY THE LAHORE HIGH COURT

Thereafter the accused took their plea to the august high court in Lahore where Justice Farooq Haider heard their plea and rejected it, upholding the ASJ's decision and his reasoning. Justice Haider added little to the ASJ's verdict and simply endorsed it expressing his satisfaction with sessions' reasoning and conclusions.

Here we quote a few extracts from the Magistrate's decision and the ASJ's verdict, inter alia, that are mentioned in the Order Sheet of the Lahore High Court in this Case No. CrI. Misc. No. 31929-M of 2021, Tahir Naqqash and another VS The State etc., issued by Justice Farooq Haider. Magistrate Adil Riaz chose to lean heavily on two specific decisions, one of the Supreme Court 1993 SCMR 1787 (a majority verdict) and High Court PLD 1992 Lahore I, to support his decision. **He quoted and wrote (extracts):**

".....The reason is that when an Ahmadi or Ahmadis display in public on a placard, a badge or a poster or write on walls or ceremonial gates or buntings, the Kalima', or chant other 'Sahee're Islam'(sic) it would amount to publicly defiling the name of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) and also other prophets, and exalting the name of Mirza Sahib, thus infuriating and instigating the Muslims to that there may be a serious cause for disturbance of the public peace, order may be serious cause for result in loss of life and property..."

The use of Kalima Tayyiba by the Non-Muslims Ahmadis falls within the ambit of 295-C PPC (PLD 1987 Lahore, 458). (sic)

In the light of judgment PLD 1992 Lahore 1, the Hon'ble Court laid down in paragraph No. 35 that 35.... "In view of the specific claim of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, it is apparent that belief of Ahmadis is that Mirza Sahib is Prophet Muhammad and souse of the words (ﷺ) in the banners or the badges worn by an Ahmadi would be at his own peril as it amounts to defiling the scared name of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) and such acts certainly fall within the purview of section 295-C, PPC.

That according to recovery memo, copies of the Holy Quran has been recovered from the Unholy place of occurrence under the administration of accused persons who are declared infidels which tantamount the conduct of the accused persons that is in derogatory manner and for unlawful purpose and fall within the ambit of 295-B PPC Defiling of Holy Quran.

It is pertinent to mention here that in many verses of Holy Quran the name of Holy Prophet (ﷺ) is mentioned thereof the recitation of Holy Quran by Qadianis falls within the ambit of 295-C PPC.

According to PLD 1991 10 and PLD 2014 FSC 18 the name of other Holy Prophets defiles fall within

the ambit of 295-C PPC.

The Book "Malfozat JILD 2 of Qadianies is also recovered in which they defiles the sacred name of Allah, the Holy Prophet Sallallahu Alihi Wasallam, the other Holy Prophets, the Holy Quran and the other Holy books on page No's 1, 65, 99, 200, 217, 278, 422, 437, 477, 488, 489, 504 etc. and such acts certainly fall within the purview of section 295-B and 295-C, of PPC.

Charges once framed would not become right or irrecoverable; it can be altered or changed u/s 227 Cr.P.C, if it is so warranted by the circumstances.

From bare perusal of the contents of the instant FIR and other material available on record the offences under section 295-B and 295-C PPC apparently are made out and after perusing the contents of the FIR and in the light of law laid down and the judgments of the Hon'ble Superior Courts it is crystal clear that the sacred name of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alihi wasallam) was derogated and the Holy Quran was defiled by the accused person, hence this application.

Defiling the name of Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alihi wasallam) by illegal usage of ShairElIslam Kalma Tayyiba fall within the purview of section 295-C, PPC.

In view of what has been discussed above, the court has arrived at an irresistible conclusion that offence u/s 295B/C PPC are bound to be added along with 298-B & C PPC as the accused have prima facie committed offence of (توپین قرآن) and (توپین رسالت) S.A.W. With these observations the application filed by the complainant duly forwarded and supported by the prosecution seeking addition of charges stands accepted....."(Sic)

Justice Farooq Haider similarly quoted ASJ Siddique from his order dated May 3, 2021 (extracts):

At the very outset this Court observes that the petitioners during the investigation never negated this fact that they belong to 'Ahmadi' group. Though Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan envisages freedom of religion but 'Ahmadis' and 'Qadianies' have different background who cannot be equated with Christians and Jews. Without dilating further upon their religion suffice it to say that our Constitution has declared the 'Qadianies' as non-Muslim. After having comparative analysis of other religions with Islam it can easily be inferred that followers of no other religion claim themselves to be Muslims but in case of 'Qadianies' they consider themselves Muslims and rest as non Muslims. Element of deception and misrepresentation in case of 'Qadianis' is much stronger and it is this factor which demands more caution to take initiatives to forestall 'Qadianis' from using 'Shaair-e-Islam and Shaair Ullah' which are specific to Muslims. If a Qadiani reads Kalima Tayyiba it will not only outrage religious feelings of a Muslim but it will defile and desecrate the name of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) as in such a case 'Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani' is referred to as the prophet. This court observes that Kalima Tayyiba is the founding stone of religion of Islam and basic identity of a Muslim. A 'Qadiani' can by no way be allowed to use Kalima Tayyiba.

In the instant case, it is abundantly clear that the petitioners inscribed Kalima Tayyiba in their place of worship to which they regarded as 'Masjid' which act itself constitutes an independent offence u/s 298-C PPC. Record also divulges that copies of Holy Quran were recovered from the place of worship of the petitioners. In many verses of Holy Quran the name of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) is found mentioned as on umpteen occasions Allah Almighty addressed Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) by his name. If a 'Qadiani' reads Holy Quran he will read it with the apparent belief that the word of Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) found mentioned in the Holy Quran was (Naooz Billah) used for "Mirza Ghulam Muhammad Qadiani"(sic). Reading the Holy Quran with the conviction is itself desecration and defiling of Holy Quran.

This court observes that quantum of damage which is being caused by 'Ahmadies' and Qadianies' to the religion of Islam is unconceivable because a naïve Muslim is simply unable to comprehend the sinister designs of 'Ahmadies' and 'Qadianies'. The vile web of conspiracy woven by 'Ahmadis' is extremely treacherous and intriguing and it is clarion call of the time that all such measures should be taken by the State which will pre-empt the 'Ahmadies' and 'Qadianies' in implementing their nefarious designs.

In the instant case during the course of investigation, the book in the name and style of 'Malfuzaat-e-

Bazbaan' Jild 2 was also recovered. A cursory glance of this book is enough to outrage the religious feelings of a Muslim because it expressly defiles and desecrates the name of Allah Almighty. Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) other Prophets, the Holy Quran and other Holy books which clearly constitutes the acts which fall within the four corners of section 295-B, 295-C PPC.

... This contention of the learned counsel for the petitioners that the complainant and other prosecution witnesses entered into their place of worship without any authority does not hold water as the petitioners has referred their place of worship as "Masjid". Masjid/mosque is considered as a public charity. It appears that upon having an ingress into such place it dawned upon the complainant and other prosecution witnesses that how the petitioners were desecrating and defiling the Holy Quran, Kalima Tayyiba and other Shaair-e-Islam in utter disregard of Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Law of the Land."(Sic)

Ahmadis have gone to the Supreme Court to seek relief in support of their constitutional human rights and freedom of faith against this decision of Justice Farooq Haider of LHC that depends almost entirely on reasoning of a magistrate, who called Ahmadiyya mosque an Unholy place, and an ASJ who considers the damage done to Islam by Ahmadis 'unconceivable'. Here one is reminded of a 172-page verdict of Justice Shaukat Siddique (now retired) of Islamabad High Court in which he promoted inter alia the idea of Ahmadis to wear clothings of a particular colour and to be forced to add the words Mirzai or Ghulam Mirzai as surname to their names. However, all said and done, higher judiciary is the last hope of fairness in this Land of the Pure. On numerous occasions in the past, the superior judiciary and even judges below have refused to act like mullas and provided relief and justice to the persecuted.

Here, we hold back our comments on Justice Farooq Haider's Order Sheet in this case, and leave it to the Honorable Supreme Court to give a verdict. As for 'Banning Religious Scriptures', a readable and relevant 2-page article is placed at Annex I.

LHC CHIEF JUSTICE QASIM KHAN'S PARTING GIFT

Lahore; June 10, 2021:

The daily Dunya published the following news report (translation of extracts):

Government should take steps to promote authentic Islamic websites: Chief Justice LHC

Government should get an FIR registered if Islamic teachings are distorted; It is against the law to ask private citizens to make the complaint: Remarks Lahore (court reporter): Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan has directed the federal government to take steps to curb anti-Islamic content and popularize Islamic authoritative websites all over the world, in a case against uploading offensive content on social media.

After concluding the arguments, the court ruled on the petition. In the decision, Chief Justice Qasim Khan said that this is the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and we have to promote Islamic laws and Islamic ideology, the government should itself create a website for the teachings of Qur'an and Hadith. While creating this kind of website, scholars

of all schools of thought should be included in the board. People who want to gain Islamic teachings through the Internet will find an authentic website. If there is any distortion in Islamic teachings on a website, it should be pointed out.

Qadianis or people who have been declared non-Muslims should be identified and cases should be registered against those who distort Islamic teachings, which is a crime under the laws of Pakistan. The government should file a case against them, saying that private individuals should come and file a case, is against the law. The cabinet should set up a full-fledged body to monitor the program all over the world. The dubious programs should be immediately referred to the board of scholars. If the board of scholars sees distortion in Islamic teachings, the board then has the right to decide on its blocking. Let the government release videos for the education of the common people on the internet, YouTube. ...

RECENT ANTI-AHMADI POLICE CASES IN LAHORE HIGH COURT

Lahore:

Following was learnt recently from Lahore High Court (LHC), briefly:

1. Justice Farooq Haider, in his Order Sheet on Tahir Naqqash & another Vs The State, etc. dismissed in limine the accused's plea against ASJ Nankana Sahib's decision that blasphemy clauses PPC 295-C and PPC 295-B be added to their charge sheet.
2. Mr. Rohan Ahmad, Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad were arrested in an FIA case on religious grounds. Their plea for release on bail was rejected by a sessions court. They appealed against the verdict to the LHC. Mr. Justice Shehram Sarwar declined on June

7, 2021 to hear the appeal, and sent the case back to the Chief Justice.

3. Thereafter the above case was referred to Justice Anwarul Haq Punnun for hearing who also declined to hear it on June 17, 2021, and sent it back to the Chief Justice.
4. The trial of the above case is being held in the court of ASJ Syed Ali Abbas, Lahore. On June 29, 2021, at the request of the opposition mullas he added PPC 295-C to the charge sheet. The penalty for this blasphemy section is death.
5. Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan is the Chief Justice of Lahore High Court these days. He is due to retire in the first week of July. There could be light at the end of this tunnel.

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY MEMBERS VOW CURSES ON THE HOLY FOUNDER OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Lahore; June 2, 2021: The Daily Qudrat a YouTube channel uploaded the proceedings of June 2, 2021 of the Punjab Assembly. In the assembly, Mr. Nazir Chohan, Raja Basharat (Punjab Law Minister) and Mr. Saeed Akbar Khan Nawani etc. made speeches on the religious status of Mr. Shahzad Akbar and Ahmadis. They demanded formation of a committee comprising assembly members to probe the issue and demanded from Mr. Akbar that he curse the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Community to prove his Islamic identity.

We withhold our comment and produce below translation of their speeches (extracts):

Mr. Nazir Chohan said, "If he is a true Muslim and a lover of the Prophet (p.b.u.h.), then he should confess to the media that he believes in the finality of the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.), and send la'anat (curse) on Mirza Ahmad Qadiani. "The issue can be solved in two words fraternally;

you have accused me; but tell me where you are. I will come to you and clear up the issue. I am a lover of the Holy Prophet, and I send countless curses on Mirza Ahmad Qadiani. ..."

(One could hear from the rear lines hateful slogans: Countless curses on Mirza Qadiani.)

Raja Basharat Ahmad (Punjab Law Minister) said, "Mr. Chairman, he (Mr. Chohan) raised a question about someone and he (Mr. Akbar) answered his question. I think if a person stands up and says that he is a Muslim and he curses the Qadianis, then what will the committees do. ... I curse, I am sending curse ... And he has sent curse. ... I send curse. All the honorable members send curse. ... He (Mr. Akbar) has sent curse; his categorical statements have already been removed."

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LacizNwZ2k&ab_channel=DailyQudrat)

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY NEW HALL INAUGURATED WITH **KHATME NABUWWAT** SAYINGS ON INTERIOR

Lahore; June 2021:

Construction of the new building of the Punjab Assembly has been completed after 15 years. Its new hall is now the largest in Asia with a seating capacity of 422 members while the guest gallery has a seating capacity of 800. The building was originally set to cost Rs 2.37 billion but due to repeated delays, the project was completed for Rs 5.39 billion.

The painting and calligraphy work of the building was done under the supervision of the National College of Arts (NCA). Quranic verses and the Prophet's sayings are written in many places inside the new hall.

Just behind the chair of the Speaker, there is a Prophet's saying written in bold letters, "I am the seal of prophets and there is no prophet besides (after) me".

Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervez Elahi is taking credit for his great service for the assembly hall by writing this Prophet's saying.

Pervaiz Elahi said, "I am grateful for appreciation of the Quranic Ayats and Ahadith related to Khatam-e-Nabuwwat in the new building of the Assembly. The new building of Punjab Assembly has the honor of not only being the largest parliamentary building in Asia and also being the first building in which Ayats and Ahadith related to Khatam-e-Nabuwwat have been displayed." (Sic)

Members of the Punjab Assembly also praised him for this. The deputy speaker Sardar Dost Muhammad Mazari felicitated Pervaiz Elahi on displaying these Verses and Ahadith in the new building of the Punjab Assembly.

The initiative taken by PA Speaker has also been praised by mullas.

Note: Punjab Assembly, however, bends backward to ensure that Ahmadis do not exercise the freedom to declare that they also believe in Khatme Nabuwwat.

THE RISING HATE CAMPAIGN AGAINST AHMADIS IN PUNJAB

Ghoghyat, District Sargodha; June 2021:

Opponents of the Ahmadiyya community had tried to destroy the minarets and niche of 115-year old Ahmadiyya mosque in 2018. They have not given up and made a major move recently to achieve their malicious objectives.

They filed a fresh application in Police Station Miani District Sargodha and demanded action against Ahmadis for adopting Islamic inscriptions and practices in their worship places, graveyards and homes.

Ahmadis were then told to appear in the SHO's office on June 26, 2021 to state their stance. After that, the local Ahmadiyya leadership met the DPO.

The SHO of P.S. Miani forwarded the application of the opponents to the DPO. In the meantime,

the mullas organized a sit-in and blocked the main Sargodha-Gujrat Road. They delivered hateful speeches against the Ahmadiyya community and raised anti-Ahmadiyya slogans in presence of police party. Participants of the sit-in and the SP Headquarters Sargodha had a dialogue, which resulted in the end of the sit-in. It was decided that the SP would visit Miani on 30th June to meet the leader of the sit-in to respond to their reservations. The Ahmadiyya delegation was first told to come to Bhalwal in this regard, then they were called to Miani Police Station along with their district leadership.

Ahmadiyya delegation went to the police station and appeared before the SP Special Branch Sargodha. The SP then visited the Ahmadiyya graveyard and mosque in Ghoghyat and took

some pictures as well. After which they had a meeting.

During the meeting, the SP directed the Ahmadiyya delegation to efface the sacred and holy inscriptions from their gravestones. Ahmadis replied, "We will not do it ourselves nor allow any civilian or mulla to do it". At this, the SP said that the police would do it themselves and will remove the sacred writings.

AHMADIS WERE ATTACKED DURING BURIAL OF THEIR DEAD

Chak 79 Nawan Kot, District Sheikhupura; June 6, 2021:

Opposition to Ahmadis has grown exponentially here over time. For example, the desecration of graves occurred in 2020 and sacred words were removed from nine Ahmadis' houses in April 2021.

As elsewhere in the Punjab, the opponents agitated to desecrate the Ahmadiyya mosque here as well; this became their priority. They lodged a complaint at police station against the minarets of the Ahmadiyya mosque. The police sent for the Ahmadiyya delegation to the police station on June 5 and told them to take down the minarets. Ahmadis refused to oblige. The police called them again on June 6, but an Ahmadi woman died that day, and the opponents attacked the funeral party. Essential details are mentioned below.

The wife of an Ahmadi Mr. Zafarullah died on June 6. At the occasion of the burial, the opponents announced on loudspeaker that Muslims should come to the graveyard and stop the proceedings. The burial was planned in the plot allocated to Ahmadis for this purpose.

Opponents arrived at the cemetery and disrupted the burial. The confrontation led to a fight. Ahmadis retaliated defensively. A few persons were injured. Meanwhile, the police arrived, told Ahmadis to leave, and assured them of the security of the grave. Ahmadis left, but the opponents remained in the cemetery for some time.

Ahmadis pleaded with police that they had undertaken burial in their own part of the cemetery, but the opponents attacked them. The police reprimanded the protesters. The video of the fight went viral on social media.

On June 8, the opponents declared on social media that the Ahmadi woman would be exhumed. The matter was reported to the police. When the mullas gathered in the graveyard, the police also arrived there. The mullas could do

nothing in police presence.

In these circumstances, the police registered two FIRs. One was against the mullas and their associates under the Punjab Sound System Act and the Corona Act for making provocative announcements from the speaker and gathering the people. The other FIR was over the fight. In this, 11 nominated and 20/25 unidentified Ahmadis, while 14 nominated of the opponents and 20/25 unidentified persons were mentioned.

A settlement was reached between the parties in the matter of burial in the cemetery. According to which Ahmadis could be buried at the allocated place. Similarly, the old graves of Ahmadis located in the opponents' part of cemetery were not to be desecrated.

On June 9, Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith (JAH) announced a rally, which was also publicized on social media. Ibtisam Elahi Zaheer the former president of JAH and other mullas gathered at Jamia Masjid Rabbani, Batti Chowk, Sheikhupura for this purpose. In a meeting between the police and the mullas, the latter made four demands:

1. Dismiss all the registered cases against Muslims of the Nawan Kot village.
2. Action should be taken against the Qadianis who waved their arms and opened fire at the funeral.
3. Qadianis should have a separate cemetery in Nawan Kot.
4. The Qadiani woman who was buried in the Muslims' cemetery should be exhumed and buried in the Qadianis' cemetery.

The police, except for the exhumation, accepted all the demands of the mullas. Ahmadis were treated as 'others' and not taken in confidence. The mullas threatened with blockade of the Batti Chowk Road if their demands were not met by June 11. With reference to the demolition of the minaret of the Ahmadiyya mosque, Ahmadis were apprehensive of police action against these.

AHMADIYYA PLACES OF WORSHIP

DURING JUNE 2021

AHMADIYYA MOSQUE PARTLY DEMOLISHED AND SEVERELY DESECRATED BY THE POLICE

Chak 261 R.B. Udhwali, District Faisalabad; June 17, 2021:

The police accompanied by the officials of the local council came to the Ahmadiyya mosque of Chak 261 R.B. District Faisalabad on June 17, 2021 after sunset, erased Kalima (Islamic Creed), Names of Allah and Quranic verses, and demolished the minarets. They erected a wall in front of the niche to conceal it. Moreover, they destroyed sacred inscriptions from four Ahmadis' houses.



Earlier, there had been an increase in the opposition to Ahmadis in the village for some time. The opponents held anti-Ahmadiyya gatherings and invited hostile clerics from outside. They urged destruction of the niche and minarets of the Ahmadiyya place of worship and removal of Islamic inscriptions from Ahmadi homes.

Contacts were made with authorities at different levels to solve the issue. A letter was also

written to the IG Punjab.

The police arranged a meeting of the Peace Committee with Ahmadis, and as feared, the members of the Peace Committee, the AC and the SP issued a unanimous recommendation that the Kalima and the minarets should be removed. An appeal was made against the decision well in time as provided in the decision.

Unfortunately, without paying any heed to our plea, the SHO Dajkot Police Station and several policemen accompanied by around 30 workers from the council arrived well after sunset and carried out desecration and demolition work for about three hours.

During the felony, the police wore masks to hide their identity, switched off all the lights and allowed none to approach the worship place. Similarly, no one was allowed to take any picture or make a video. The police also took away some



- 3 AHMADIYYA MOSQUES DESECRATED DURING JUNE
- 9 AHMADIYYA MOSQUES HAVE BEEN DESECRATED SO FAR IN 2021
- THE POLICE IS INVOLVED IN ALL INCIDENTS

Ahmadis' mobile phones for making video or a picture. Policemen were posted on rooftops of nearby houses to deny anyone approach the scene of the unworthy action.

At the end, the police took away some debris from the worship place and patched up the spots from where the inscriptions were removed. They also raised a wall in front of the niche of the worship place to hide it.

This is an example of the state-backed persecution of the Ahmadiyya community and a gross violation of human rights. Such attacks on worship places are directly against the landmark

2014 judgment of the Supreme Court (Chief Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani) about the protection of places of worship.

Ahmadiyya places of worship have come under attack on numerous occasions. This is in blatant violation of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and religious freedom to all citizens of Pakistan.

The police claim that they undertake this shameful activity under law and Constitution; the question arises, if it is so lawful and constitutional why do they always undertake it in dark hours and make sure nobody prepares its video.

THE PUNJAB POLICE REMOVED MINARETS AND KALIMA FROM THE AHMADIYYA MOSQUE

GB 57 Ghayala, District Faisalabad; June 2021:

Local Ahmadiyya representatives were summoned to the police station on June 18 and told to remove the minarets of the Ahmadiyya mosque. Ahmadis refused to carry out the task, upon which the SHO threatened to take action through Tehsildar. An FIR would also be registered, he added.



On June 24, five police vans came after dark. They cordoned the roads leading to the Ahmadiyya mosque, entered therein after breaking the locks. They switched off all the lights and snatched the mobile phone of the local president

so that their condemnable actions could not be recorded. Thirty policemen in addition to Special Branch personnel and the Patwari were present when the police destroyed the minarets and sacred inscriptions. The police took away the debris with them and warned the local Ahmadiyya president to remain cautious lest a procession makes its way to the area.

Approximately 23 Ahmadi families reside in this village, comprising 33 members. The mosque was built in 1948, and the minarets were there since then. There is a wave of hate and organized operations against Ahmadiyya places of worship by the Punjab Police in league with the mulla. The Punjab government seems to have not only failed to stop such incidents but has also supported them.



AHMADIYYA PLACES OF WORSHIP DURING JUNE 2021

MINARETE OF AN AHMADIYYA MOSQUE DEMOLISHED

Ghari Awan, Hafizabad; June 2021:

Ahmadis have a small mosque here. It is owned by a former Ahmadi Mr. Khurshid Hayyat, and was built by his Ahmadi elders. All local Ahmadis offer prayers in it; no one has ever objected or complained about it.

As the paintwork of this mosque got faded, Ahmadis decided to repaint the interior. When the paint was finished, someone lodged a complaint with police against it. At this, Mr. Hayyat and Ahmadis told the police that the mosque was built

by their elders and has been with them for seventy years. The police revisited the next day and took Mr. Hayyat with them. They detained him in the police station for about five hours and took an oath on affidavit from him. In this, they wrote that this place will be used only for worship, no minarets will be built on it and if there was any minaret already, it will be removed within twenty-four hours. After this, Mr. Hayyat himself took down the minaret in the darkness of night. Ahmadis came to know about in the morning. They felt gravely hurt.



ANOTHER MOSQUE AT RISK

Drigh Road Karachi; June 2021:

For some time now, opponents of Ahmadis are engaged in extensive anti-Ahmadi activities in Karachi over the issue of minarets and niches in Ahmadiyya mosques. Recently, they started a cam-

paign on social media by highlighting minarets of the Ahmadiyya mosque in Drigh Road. A message was circulated in WhatsApp groups along with a picture of the mosque.

SOME FACTS ON AHMADIYYA MOSQUES 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

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2021, **NINE** AHMADIYYA MOSQUES HAVE BEEN DESECRATED
FURTHER ACTION AGAINST SOME AHMADIYYA MOSQUES IS **IMMINENT**

DISTRIBUTION OF PROVOCATIVE AND HATEFUL LITERATURE

Rabwah; June 2021:

Provocative literature against Ahmadis is being distributed across the country in general and in Punjab in particular. The Ahmadiyya head office wrote the following complaint to authorities against the managers of the hate campaign (translation).

Request for legal action to stop distribution of provocative literature against Ahmadiyya Community across the country in general and in Punjab in particular.

It is submitted that under the supervision of Aalmi Majlis Tahaffuze Khatme Nabuwwat Chakwal (with contact No. 0301-5782490, 0334-8610113, 0335-5373755, 0333-5903470) provocative literature is being distributed along with the drive to take extreme steps against Ahmadis. Baseless allegations against the Jamaat Ahmadiyya are made in the enclosed pamphlet. (Annex III)

It is unfortunate that despite the government ban on provocative and sectarian literature, such literature is being distributed across the country in general and in Punjab in particular. The distributors are reckless and careless, as they print their identity and contact numbers on the pamphlet.

In the current context, unfortunately, the sole purpose of such actions seems to be the spread of prejudice and hatred in the holy name of religion, by distributing literature based on hateful and baseless material. That is why bigots and discriminatory attitudes are on the rise. A handful of extremist elements are flourishing in their nefarious designs.

In view of the sensitivity of the issue in this situation and the strong possibility of negative consequences of distribution of such literature, it is requested that immediate lawful action be taken to curb anti-Ahmadiyya activities and distribution of provocative literature. It is requested that all provocative literature including this pamphlet should be proscribed and action under law be taken against those responsible.

This issue calls for immediate action. It is hoped that you will ensure the protection of life and property of every citizen irrespective of religion and nationality, under the Constitution of Pakistan and in the line of your duty and responsibility. I will be very grateful to you.

(Spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya Community)

Note: In this hateful pamphlet, allegations were made against the founder of Jamaat Ahmadiyya, and his books have been distorted without context. It says about Ahmadis: "It can be said with full confidence that anyone who has become a Qadiani or is already a Qadiani by birth can have only two reasons for being a Qadiani. One is ignorance, the other is greed, and no third reason is possible to remain a Qadiani."

The purpose of this pamphlet was to promote hatred against Ahmadis through lies and indulge in obnoxious falsehood concerning the Founder's death. The producers of the pamphlet seem assured of immunity against the applicable PPC 295-A.

HATEFUL WALL-CHALKING IN CANTONMENT AREA

Wah Cantt, Rawalpindi; May 26, 2021:

On a wall near an Ahmadi's house, someone did the wall-chalking: "Mirzai Kafir (infidel), Qadiani Kafir, whoever erases it is also a Kafir." Ahmadis reported this to the POF administration, FIU and the police. The police came over, took the residents' statement and effaced the obnoxious text.

NOT A WHIFF OF AHMADIYYAT PERMITTED IN PAKISTAN

Jamshoro; June/July 2021:

The Sindh University posed a multi-choice question in its question paper for entry test for M.Phil. on June 28, 2021. The question was about the author of a set of Quranic exegesis: "Tafseerat-e-Ahmadiyya is written by? (A) Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani (B) Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (C) Ghulam Ahmad Pervez (D) Mulla Jewan".

The answer to the above question was (D) Mulla Jewan. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani, although arguably the greatest scholar of his time in exegesis-writing and interpretation of the Holy Quran did not write these volumes. However, this did not desist the mulla raising a hue and cry; they objected to even including the name of the Ahmadiyya Founder in the list of four likely answers.

Over this non-issue, a great deal of dust was raised in the social and electronic media. Some from the daily press printed the protests and negative comments. TLP (of April countrywide-riots fame), known for its extremist conduct led the campaign.

TV channel 92 News held a discussion on this 'outrage' in a show wherein Mufti Zubair offered the opinion that even to recognize Qadianis as exegesis-writers was an affront to the Sharia and Law; this violation of the constitution deserves immediate notice, he said.

Mulla Hamid Raza, Chair of the Sunni Ittehad Council stated that posing such questions in our universities amounted to introducing Qadianiat to students. He urged that Sindh Government and Higher Education Commission take serious action against those guilty of this faux pas. He demanded even a judicial enquiry.

Mufti Qasim Fakhri, a TLP member of the Sindh Assembly moved a Resolution in the house that demanded wholesome action against the 'culprits'. The resolution was not carried.

It is for consideration of the sensible members of the civil society if such an attitude to research and inquiry in our universities will lead us to enlightenment or push us in the dark alleys of religious bigotry.

AHMADI TEACHER FACES HOSTILITY AT SCHOOL

Premkot, District Hafizabad; June 2021:

Mr. Mubeen Ahmad is a teacher at the Government Special Education School. He has been serving there for five years. One of his colleagues, Luqman, who was friendly in the beginning, turned his back on Mr. Ahmad after he came to know about his Ahmadiyya belief.

Luqman started sending anti-Ahmadiyya messages to the WhatsApp group of teachers. When the school principal reprimanded him, he told the principal that she did not know these people. They are obviously Kafir (infidels) and those who support them are also Kafir. He then accused her being a Qadiani as well. After this, his behavior

became harsher.

When Mr. Mairaj Ahmad, Ahmadi, was martyred in Peshawar for his faith, the principal expressed her sympathy to Mr. Mubeen Ahmad. She alerted him about Luqman's links with banned organizations and advised him to be careful. Mr. Ahmad has also received warnings from other staff members regarding Luqman.

Luqman has refused to attend functions in which Mr. Ahmad is an invitee. He is busy doing propaganda against the Ahmadiyya community and is trying to agitate the staff members against Mr. Ahmad.

CHRISTIAN COUPLE ACQUITTED IN BLASPHEMY CASE

Lahore; June 4, 2021:

The daily Dawn published the following report under the above heading (extracts):

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Thursday acquitted a Christian couple of blasphemy charges and set aside their death sentence awarded by a district and session court in 2014.

Gojra City police of Toba Tek Singh district had in June 2013 registered a first information report (FIR) on the complaint of a local prayer leader against Shafqat Emanuel, a guard at a local school, and his wife, Shagufta Kausar Masih....

A two-judge bench comprising Justice Syed Shahbaz Ali Rizvi and Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh announced its verdict in an open court on Thursday and allowed the appeal.

The couple was in prison for the last eight years. It is great that they have been set free. However, who is going to account for the loss of eight years of their lives? It is a long time — very long.

The daily Dawn made editorial comment on this case on June 6, 2021 (Extracts):

“Misused law

....At the time of her arrest, Shagufta worked as a helper at a school and earned a paltry Rs 3,500 a month. Her husband Shafqat, who is reportedly handicapped, owned a mobile repair shop. The couple from Gojra in Toba Tek Singh come from a very humble background, and one can only imagine how their four children must have fared during the prolonged incarceration... The Supreme Court has often warned against false blasphemy accusations and even called on politicians to ensure that those jailed under these offences have not been wrongly accused. Yet little progress has been made on this issue and citizens continue to spend too many years of their life awaiting justice.... This trend must come to an end and our law makers must find a solution so that more innocent citizens do not suffer.”

ISLAMIST RESPONSE TO A LHC VERDICT

Lahore High Court acquitted the condemned Christian couple on June 3, 2021. Among the various comments on social media from the civil society, one was from an Islamist body; whose text provides internal evidence that one Professor Muhammad Hussain Azad of Team Fikre Bilal Shaheed of links with Khatme Nabuwwat (End of Prophethood) advocates circulated it. We produce its translation below, and withhold our comment: **“Blasphemy accused acquitted.**

Government of Pakistan yields to the pressure of European Parliament.

Honour of Prophethood (PBUH) bargained.

Lahore High Court today, on June 3, 2021 honorably acquitted school teacher Shagufta Kausar

and her husband Shafqat Emanuel of Gojra imprisoned since 2014 in the case of committing blasphemy against the Holy Prophet. This news reached the Team Fikre Bilal Shaheed at 4 p.m. through the lawyers of the Khatme Nabuwwat (faction); however, they had issued no Notification. Now, BBC, a worldwide news corporation, has broadcast it.

It may be recalled that EU Parliament passed a Resolution on April 29, 2021, which demanded the repeal of sections 295A/B/C concerning defiling the Prophethood (P.B.U.H.) Religion, as also Section 298-A on insulting the Companions. In addition, release of the imprisoned Shagufta Kausar and Shafquat Emanuel was de-

manded by name.

Within a month, the Government of Pakistan gave in to the European Parliament, and this case, under prosecution for 7 years, was disposed off in a few days. These two were defended by Advocate Saif-ul-Muluk who was also the attorney for the insolent Aasia Bibi who was released and allowed to escape during the early days of the PTI regime. Although Khatme Nabuwwat advocates have a right to appeal in the Supreme Court against this verdict, but by the time the appeal is heard, these insolents shall be let flee.

And this will not stop here. EU Parliament is not of one country; it legislates for 27 European countries. Thus, the pressure is not from one country but 27. Pakistan government was anyway up for sale; so, there is an obvious risk of repeal of a few Islamic provisions in Pakistan law, particularly the PPC 295-C.

1. As such, Muslims should not allow this issue to die down for any (other) breaking news. Team Fikre Bilal Shaheed is going to initiate a Twitter trend against the LHC verdict, and Inshallah there will be numerous trends on this issue. All social media teams/activists/Tweeters should participate in this trend. Those who use social media but are not on Twitter should open a Twitter account. At present, there is nothing else as effective as Twitter to register your protest and to convey your message to the relevant people.
2. Religious, political, social parties and their leaders should not merely issue statements through videos/writings/newspapers and

tweets, but should come forth in the open. First, they should get these insolents' names entered in E.C.L. Thereafter rather than spending billions in holding conferences and rallies and thus propagating themselves, they should spend money copiously in the Supreme Court case and engage renowned lawyers.

3. The respected ulama and people should tell common people of the importance of the law on the honour of the Prophethood (P.B.U.H.) and remind them to motivate themselves like those 10,000 martyrs (sic) who shed their blood in one day on Mall Road, Lahore in 1953, and persuade them to reject by force the likely decisions of the authorities.
4. Political parties, through Assemblies, and journalists through media/newspapers should force the government to stay clear of the 'Red Zone 295-C' and legislate chopping the head in public of all the imprisoned (blasphemy) insolents.
5. The most important factor. This Resolution of the EU Parliament is very important in that they will have it implemented by all means. Numerous fake news will be floated to distract Muslims away from this issue. Before you 'share' anything, think that thereby you do not become instrumental in setting aside the issue of honour of Prophethood.

Professor Muhammad Hussain Azad 2021/07/03 (sic)
Team Fikre Bilal Shaheed

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S OPINION

Amnesty International issued a statement and comment on June 3, 2021 on the news of the acquittal of the Christian couple on death row over blasphemy charges in Pakistan.

It commented (extract):

....Pakistan's blasphemy laws are overbroad, vague and coercive, enable abuse and violate Pakistan's international legal obligations to respect and protect human rights, including freedom of

religion or belief and of opinion and expression. They have been used to target religious minorities, pursue personal vendettas and carry out vigilante violence. On the basis of little or no credible evidence, the accused struggle to establish their innocence while angry, and violent groups of people seek to intimidate the police, witnesses, prosecutors, lawyers and judges.

[Amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/06/Pakistan-acquittal-of-couple....](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/06/Pakistan-acquittal-of-couple....)

AMKN URGES BOYCOTT OF AHMADIYYA PRODUCTS

RIGHT TO VOTE FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

Twitter; June 2021:

The campaign against Ahmadiyya-produced products goes on in social media by Aalmi Majlis e Khatme Nabuwwat (AMKN), where it has appealed through an advertisement to the people of Pakistan to boycott Ahmadiyya products to show love and respect to the Prophet (P.B.U.H.). The images and descriptions against Ahmadiyya products have been posted on social networking websites, stating: “Faith requires that if the Prophet’s love is true faith, then hatred of Prophet’s enemy is also part of the belief. Lovers of the Prophet should decide themselves. To uphold the honor of your faith and intercession of the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) on the doomsday, boycott the products of unbelievers of Khatme Nabuwwat Qadianis completely. Famous Qadiani manufacturers and their products” (are shown here).

Yasser Latif Hamdani, a lawyer by profession and a human rights activist, shared this advertisement calling for the boycott of products made by the Ahmadiyya community. Mr. Hamdani wrote: “This poster, calling for the boycott of Ahmadi brands in Pakistan, in a posh area of Islamabad. Needless to say I shall be buying from these brands exclusively and so should every patriotic Pakistani who wants an end to hate speech and genocidal politics.” (Sic) Ahmadiyya owned Companies, which are mentioned in the ad, are as follow:

- Shezan Beverages
- Shahnawaz Ltd
- MTA TV Group
- Universal Stabilizers
- Zaiqa Ghee and Oil
- Can-Olive oil
- Shan Aata
- Raja Soap
- Shahtaj Sugar Mills



EVEN TOWNS ARE CALLED ‘BLASPHEMOUS’ ANOTHER ‘FIRST EVER’

Twitter; June 27, 2021:

Mubashir Zaidi, a well-known journalist tweeted something that had yet not been reported in media. He posted photo of a notice by a Pakistani online retailer who refused to deliver order to a member of the Ahmadiyya Community. The notice conveyed.

Hi....
We had received your order. We regret to inform you that we had cancelled your order and we are not delivering to Chenab Nagar as it's blasphemous Area for us. We can't deliver to Qadian Areas. (Sic)
Mr. Zaidi added his own comment, (translated):
Now even towns are rated blasphemous (!)



@Xadeejournalist

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
2. COME OFF THAT LIST AND VOTE AS A MUSLIM

REMAINING ON THE LIST REQUIRES AHMADIS TO SELF IDENTIFY AS NON-MUSLIMS

COMING OFF THE LIST REQUIRES AHMADIS TO SIGN A DECLARATION STATING THEY ARE NOT AHMADIS AND DO NOT ACCEPT THE FOUNDER OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY AS A PROPHET OR RELIGIOUS REFORMER.

NEITHER OPTION IS ACCEPTABLE TO AHMADI MUSLIMS AND THIS IS A GROSS VIOLATION OF THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS TO VOTE.

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)

DESPITE JOINT ELECTORATES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED AHMADIS ON A SEPARATE LIST OF VOTERS, AS NON-MUSLIMS. THEY AMENDED THE LATEST ELECTION ACT 2017 TO INCLUDE ALL THE DISCRIMINATORY AND PROHIBITIVE PROVISIONS TO PREVENT AHMADIS’ VOTING.

RESULTANTLY, AHMADIS HAVE NO REPRESENTATION ANYWHERE IN PAKISTAN.

EVEN IN RABWAH, WITH 95% OF AHMADI RESIDENTS, THE LOCAL COUNCILS DO NOT HAVE A SINGLE AHMADI REPRESENTATIVE. PRACTICALLY, AHMADIS HAVE NO SAY IN THEIR LOCAL AFFAIRS. THEREFORE, ESSENTIAL CIVIC SERVICES LIKE WATER, STREETS, SEWAGE, ETC. ARE IN A DEPLORABLE STATE IN THIS TOWN OF 60,000 POPULATION.

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 Sheikhpura 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 Court has not found time to hear them for three years. These three Ahmadis are in prison for seven 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. If declared guilty they could be imprisoned for life. Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad were arrested on appearance in the FIA office; they are in Camp Jail Lahore.

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

Mr. Tariq A. Tahir and Mr. Safwan Ahmad were booked in FIR Nr. 83/2020 under blasphemy clause PPC 295-B at P.S. Nagar Parker, Sindh on November 25, 2020. Mr. Tahir was arrested.

5

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.

6

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, under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, PECA-11. He was not even formally nominated in the case.

7

Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Tahir was booked in a police case with FIR No. 217 under 16 M.P.O. at police station Haweli Lakha, District Okara on March 31, 2021 and was arrested. The plaintiff alleged that Mr. Tahir passed negative remarks about his religious program which outraged him. Later, the DPO referred his case to FIA who booked him in a new FIR. He is now under detention for both the FIRs.

8

Mr. Naseem Ahmad, Mr. Naseer Ahmad Qamar and four others were booked under PPCs 295-B, 295-A, 298-A, 298-B, 298-C, 506-B with FIR Nr. 325 at police station Rajanpur on July 23, 2020. Mr. Naseem Ahmad and Mr. Naseer Ahmad Qamar applied for confirmation of bail on June 2, 2021. Judge Bakht Fakhar Behzad rejected their application and ordered their arrest. Both the accused were arrested and shifted to Rajanpur jail.

As of June 30, 2021:

- 13 Ahmadis are behind bars solely on account of their faith.
- 2 Ahmadis have been arrested for their faith in June 2021.
- 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, which carries death penalty.
- 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

CANADA AND PAKISTAN-IN 2021 C.E.

A BRIEF SOCIETAL COMPARISON

June 2021: On June 6, 2021, in London, a town in Ontario, Canada, a 20-year old man killed four members of a Muslim family of Pakistan origin by running them over with his truck. A nine-year-old boy was injured but survived. A police official later told the media that this seemed a premeditated act motivated by hate.

REACTION TO THE ATTACK IN CANADA

Following reports are quoted from the media:

- The police arrested the attacker, charged him for four counts of first-degree murder, etc.
- The city mayor said flags would be lowered for three days in London.
- Canadian PM Mr. Trudeau condemned the attack and vowed in the Parliament to move against far-right groups. He observed a moment of silence for the victims in the House of Commons in Ottawa. He called the attack brutal, cowardly and brazen.
- Mr. Justin Trudeau tweeted as follows:
- I'm horrified by the news from London, Ontario. To the loved ones of those who were terrorized by yesterday's act of hatred, we are here for you. We are also here for the child who remains in hospital - our hearts go out to you, and you will be in our thoughts as you recover.
- Canadian PM visited the location of the attack and observed silence in respect to the victims. He also attended a huge meeting that was held in memory of the deceased.
- Mayor Holder of 'London' called the attack an act of mass murder, perpetrated against Muslims, against Londoners and rooted in unspeakable hatred. The mayor said he was speaking "on behalf of all Londoners when I say our hearts are broken."
- Police were weighing the possibility of terrorism charges.
- Ontario Premier Ford tweeted, "Hate and Islamophobia have NO place in Ontario."
- PM Justin tweeted further officially:
- To the Muslim Community in London and to Muslims across the country, know that we stand with you. Islamophobia has no place in any of our communities. This hate is insidious and despicable—and it must stop.
- Elger Baraker, a citizen replied to the PM in the following inimitable words:
- Please advocate for the immediate implementation of equality, diversity, inclusivity, and antiracism training to be implemented in all levels of our Canadian education system. This is the ACTION we need to start to remove the cultural weeds of hatred planted by our ancestors.
- Flags were half-masted in Ontario government buildings, Lamington municipal facilities, Classic Rock County facilities, Nor Hills Hosp, Whitby town hall, Bluewater District School Board, Northumberland Country Exhibition Place (Toronto), Burlington County, Barri City Hall etc., etc.
- Ahmadiyya Jamaat Ottawa expressed, "utterly shocked and heartbroken to learn about the car attack targeting a Muslim family in London, ON....Love for All, Hatred for None."
- MTA Canada (Ahmadiyya) tweeted: "As the Nation comes together to mourn the loss of an innocent Muslim family, let us focus on the love that is outpouring from Canadians for the Muslim community."
- With education and solidarity, we can stand united against Islamophobia.
- German Embassy in Ottawa tweeted:
- Horrifying attack in London Ontario, Sunday. Our thoughts are with the young child still in hospital whose life has been tragically affected. Germany and Canada stand together against racism and hate.
- Mr. Erin O Toole, MP and Leader of Opposition said:

- The scene in London tonight was heart breaking. The impact of this act of terrorism is massive. What comes after grief is commitment. We have to commit ourselves to working across party lines, and with Premiers and mayors, to end the violence and hatred that took these lives.
- Canadian Armed Forces tweeted:
- Last Sunday, four Canadians lost their lives in an act of hate and bigotry.
- They had goals, ambitions and future to achieve and enjoy together.
- We stand by our Muslim colleagues and members in denouncing Islamophobia. @CanadianForces on June 11, 2021
- On June 10, Supdt Beverly Sgt Sangha of York Police visited Baitul Islam Mosque to offer their condolences and to reassure that YRP stand with Muslims in solidarity and their commitment to peace, safety and security of all places of worship.
- PM Imran Khan stated: Islamophobia will have to be stopped in the West.
- Pak FM Qureshi telephoned to Canadian FM: They agreed to make joint efforts against Islamophobia.
- Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi declared Friday 11 June as Protest Day over the incident.
- Some dailies in Pakistan published the incident news as the front-page banner headline.
- The daily Dawn of June 10 commented on the incident in its lead editorial.

HATE ATTACKS OF SIMILAR NATURE IN PAKISTAN

Planned and deliberate attacks on Ahmadis occur in Pakistan. These are also terror assaults based on hate. For instance in the recent past:

- Mr. Tahir Ahmad Nasim a US citizen was shot dead in Peshawar courtroom, in the presence of the judge on July 29, 2020. The murderer assumed that the targeted 'blasphemer' was still an Ahmadi.
- Mr. Mairaj Ahmad, Ahmadi of Peshawar was shot dead at about 9 p.m. near his store on August 12, 2020. He had received threats prior to the day of the attack. A month later, his brother Gulzar Ahmad in Peshawar was shot; he was hit with five bullets.
- Professor Dr Naeemuddin Khattak, Ahmadi, was target-killed while driving homeward in Peshawar on October 5, 2020.
- Mr. Mehboob Ahmad Khan, Ahmadi, 82, was on his way back home in Peshawar, after visiting his daughter when someone shot him dead at close range on November 8, 2020.
- On, February 11, 2021 Dr Abdul Qadir, Ahmadi, was shot dead in Peshawar.

On this series of pre-planned murders, there was hardly a news or comment in the press except for a mention when Professor Khattak was killed. There was no condolence visit to the victims' families by any VIP. No mention was made in the Parliament nor the Provincial Assembly.

It is on record that subsequent to the murder of Mr. Tahir A Nasim, the elite police squad had themselves photographed in a selfie fawning over the arrested murderer. A known social media activist, a senior Supreme Court lawyer and a leading politician's son visited the killer's family to show solidarity. Within a fortnight of the murder, Syed Imran Shah MNA expressed solidarity with the killer in the National Assembly and demanded that he be released immediately through a Presidential ordinance, or the State pay his Diyyat (blood price) for release, otherwise he and his friends would pay. He claimed that Minister Ali Muhammad Khan and Junaid Anwar MNA and many others would join him to bear this expense.

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

- 1 Ahmadi has been murdered in 2021, raising the total to 271 since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 7 murder attempts
- 1 Ahmadi prisoner died in custody, he was imprisoned on the basis of his faith.
- 9 Ahmadiyya places of worship have been desecrated
- 45 gravestones have been removed
- 19 new cases have been registered against Ahmadis under PPCs 298, 298-B,C, 295-A,B,C
- Sacred inscription from 15 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

- Govt rejects ex-judge’s assertions Removed for conduct unbecoming of his position. Justice Siddiqui has mentioned his meetings with ISI Chief in his appeal. The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 11, 2021
- Express TV fires Aamir Liaquat over inappropriate conduct The Current.pk Newsdesk, June 9, 2021
- JUI leader under fire over molestation video. Mufti Aziz ur Rehman, sons arrested from Mianwali after 3 days of manhunt. The daily Pakistan; Lahore, June 20, 2021
- Police register FIR against Mufti Aziz for sexually assaulting student The daily Nation; Lahore, June 18, 2021
- LHC points to several defects in blasphemy case The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 24, 2021
- Vulnerable groups hit hardest in 2020 in Punjab: HRCP The News International Lahore, June 26, 2021
- Singel national curriculum: Publishers object to textbook review fee, Ulema’s role The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 4, 2021
- PM’s aide suggests a ‘secret complaint’ cell to deal with child abuse cases The daily Nation Lahore, June 28, 2021
- Govt asked to establish ‘Special Islamic Board’ The Express Tribune; Lahore, June 11, 2021
- No ulema role in approval of Science text books: ministry The News International Lahore, June 23, 2021
- I am protector of Khatme Nabuwat like every Muslim: Shahzad The News International Lahore, June 1, 2021
- Two clerics get death for kidnapping, murdering student The News International; Lahore, June 16, 2021
- Pope voices ‘pain’ over deaths (of indigenous

- children) in Canada, but doesn’t apologize The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 7, 2021
- Canadian PM vows to move against for-right groups The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 9, 2021
- Government should register police case if Islamic teachings are tampered with. Chief Justice LHC’s remarks The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 10, 2021
- PM urges world leaders to act against Islamophobia The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 13, 2021
- Pakistan committed to fight without discrimination all sorts of terrorism: Spokesmen Foreign Office The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 29, 2021
- In a short duration, we have achieved what past governments could not in 70 years: Buzdar (CM) meeting with Arbab Rahim (in Lahore) The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 30, 2021
- Lord Tariq, British Minister for South Asia met Usman Buzdar (CM Punjab) The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 23, 2021
- HRCP voices concern over climate of fear in media The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 2, 2021
- Indigenous schools: Trudeau (Canadian PM) tells Catholic church to “take responsibility” for its role (in 215 children found buried in one school). BBC Top Stories, June 5, 2021
- Covid scientist targeted by a far-right sniper in Belgium BBC Top Stories, June 5, 2021
- Facebook suspends Trump accounts for two years BBC Top Stories June 5, 2021
- Body of (Kurdish-Iranian) baby who died in the channel found in Norway....The Kurdish-Iranian family had been attempting to reach the UK from France. (He) died along with four family members

- when the boat they were traveling in sank in October. BBC Top Stories, June 7, 2021
- Muslim family of four killed in Canada attack The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 8, 2021
- Pakistan calls murder of Muslim family in Canada terrorism The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 9, 2021
- Richest 25 Americans pay little (income) tax. Most (rich) pay zero. The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 10, 2021
- 751 bodies found at indigenous school in Canada The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 25, 2021
- 72 terror suspects arrested in a week The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 6, 2021
- Lahore blast near jailed JuD leader’s house kills three The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 24, 2021
- Attack on demining team in Afghanistan; 10 killed, 16 injured The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 10, 2021
- NATO leaders declare China a global security challenge The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 15, 2021
- Boko Haram leader Shekau is dead, claims rival group The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 6, 2021
- Canada: First-ever, Muslim judge named on Supreme Court The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 19, 2021
- No compromise on Saudi Arabia’s security: (Hafiz) Ashrafi The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 21, 2021
- \$1.5bn per year oil facility available now: Govt The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 22, 2021
- Shahbaz Sharif laundered Rs 25bn through employers: Farrukh Habib (Minister). Shahbaz interrogated for one hour by FIA. The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 23, 2021
- PTI ally Pervaiz Elahi meets Zardari

- The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 23, 2021
- IHC dismisses Nawaz’s pleas against conviction in two reference The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 25, 2021
- Sugar scam probe: Hamza shows ignorance about (huge) bank deposits The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 25, 2021
- Five FC personnel martyred in Sibi attack The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 26, 2021
- Two policemen on polio duty killed in Mardan The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 10, 2021
- In a historic move, the (PTI-led) government got 21 Bills approved in one day in the National Assembly The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 11, 2021
- Soon our economy will rise sky high (Aasmanon ko chhuai gi): Firdaus Aashiq (PTI) The daily Dunya; Lahore, June 13, 2021
- Capt (R) Safdar applied for security for being at risk to life over a property dispute The daily Dunya; Lahore, June 13, 2021
- Baluchistan: Bomb attack on military vehicle in Mawara. Four martyred. The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 14, 2021
- Torrents of abuse-National Assembly. Budget books used for attack. A woman MNA and an official were injured. The house turns into a battlefield during Shahbaz address. Mohsin gets head injury. Bosal and Rana Sana wounded: Maryam Aurangzeb. Ali Gohar’s slogans and Abbasi’s challenge triggered the brawl: Ministers The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 16, 2021
- NA still in tumult as both sides remain unchastised Speaker bans entry of four opposition, three PTI members Shahbaz’s speech interrupted again by sloganeering Opposition to move no-trust motion against Qaisar (speaker)

FROM THE MEDIA

- The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 17, 2021

Baluchistan Assembly’s exterior turns into a battlefield (Maidan Jang). 3 MPA’s injured

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 19, 2021
- We’ll not talk to the vulgar (Bad Zuban). A time will come, all will be in Afghanistan; there will be no Pakistan: Fazlur Rehman (JUI)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 21, 2021
- The city (of Karachi) has been destroyed (Tabah)

Order issued to demolish many buildings, land to be vacated and records to be updated within three months. Chief Justice (SC)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 17, 2021
- Illegal construction at Mansehra temple irks Hindus

The News International; Lahore, June 10, 2021
- Former Asstt Professor sentenced to 10 years RI for harassing lady professor

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 17, 2021
- PBC takes notice of resolutions passed against judges

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 18, 2021
- Women MNAs come to PM’s rescue after outcry over remarks (on purdah)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 18, 2021
- 50pc of Kasur cops tested for drug use found ‘positive’

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 23, 2021
- Pakistan to stay on FATF grey list for another year

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 26, 2021
- Dr Sir Iftikhar Ayaz OBE KBE (Ahmadi) receives Queen’s Medal for Humanitarian Service

Community News June 2021
- Blasphemy: Condemned couple acquitted

Shagufta and Shafquat Enmanuel were booked in Gojra, sentenced in 2014. Two member HC Bench acquitted (them) on completion of hearing.

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 4, 2021
- Taliban say Islamic system only way to peace in

- Afghanistan
- The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 21, 2021
- If woman wears few clothes, it will impact men: PM

The daily News International; Lahore, June 22, 2021
 - Smoking forbidden in Islam, says Ashrafi

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 3, 2021
 - Mazari meet Pervaiz, praises Quranic verses display in PA

The News International; Lahore, June 17, 2021
 - Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi calls on CM Usman Buzdar
- 
- The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, June 5, 2021
- World loses \$2.6tr to corruption annually, UNGA told

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 5, 2021
 - Women can perform Hajj sans mahram

The Express Tribune, Lahore, June 15, 2021
 - Woman operated upon by guard (of Miyo. Hospital) dies

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 7, 2021
 - 55 (later over 65) perish as trains collide at dead of night (near Sukkar)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 8, 2021
 - Mardan: Firing at the polio team. Two policemen died

The daily Dunya; Lahore, June 10, 2021
 - South Africa woman gives birth to 10 babies, sets record

The daily Dunya; Lahore, June 10, 2021
 - Macron slapped in face during crowd stop

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 9, 2021

- Literacy rate stagnant at 60%

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 11, 2021
- 23 devotees die in Khuzdar bus accident; 45 injured

The daily Dawn; Lahore, June 12, 2021
- Over 50 die, 100 injured in Ghotki trains crash

The News International; Lahore, June 7, 2021


Op-ed: Pandering to extremists

Contrary to common belief, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto’s government did not criminalise the Ahmadiyya from calling themselves Muslims or practicing their beliefs — that happened under Gen Zia. But Bhutto did allow the opening of a Pandora’s Box.

A weak opposition had cornered a majority regime through a tricky theological issue. The government tried to usurp the issue in a bid to neutralise the opposition. Instead, the move strengthened the government’s opponents. The amendment and then the 1984 ordinance flung open a Pandora’s box, from which bigotry and violence have continued to spew. (s ic)

Nadeem F. Paracha in the daily Dawn of June 20, 2021

Tweet:



George Fulton
@GeorgeFulton1

If you want to have the majority hate you in Pakistan, win a Nobel prize. It worked for the last two.

Op-ed: Cost of enforced modesty

By inviting mullahs to regulate biology textbooks the PTI government has put Pakistan in reverse gear. IMPLEMENTATION of the PTI’s Single National Curriculum has started in Islamabad’s schools and for students the human body is to become a dark mystery, darker than ever before. Religious scholars appointed as members of the SNC Committee are supervising the content of schoolbooks in all subjects including science. In the name of Islamic morality they have warned textbook publishers not to print any diagram or sketch in biology textbooks that show human figures “sans clothes”.

Mazari is, of course, very correct. Her proposal would

work far better at protecting children than having child killers and rapists swing from lamp posts, a popular demand. But such educational campaigns require making children aware of basic biological facts so that they can tell between proper and improper behaviour. How can that possibly square with Imran Khan’s and Shafqat Mehmood’s clerically supervised SNC? The guardians of sharm-o-haya find undraped diagrams shameful. Yet, to protect their own kind, they suppress every scandal that might implicate them. Earlier this week, unchallengeable video evidence emerged of a mufti’s sexual wrongdoing with a madressah lad. While he was stripped of his madressah teaching post after investigation, no cleric suggested Sharia punishment and all religious parties stayed mum.

Saudi Arabia and the GCC countries used to be the world’s most stoutly conservative countries while Pakistan was counted among the more open, relaxed ones. This has changed. Presently, Pakistan is not just in reverse gear, it is hell-bent upon moving backward as fast as possible. The kind of mixed-up, confused and ignorant generations PTI’s curriculum changes will produce in times ahead is absolutely terrifying.

Pervez Hoodbhoy in the Dawn of June 19, 2021

Newsreport: GSP+ conventions to be fully enforced: FM

Mr Qureshi also briefed Mr Borrell on Pakistan’s progress towards the comprehensive implementation of the Financial Action Task Force action plan and sought the EU’s support in the review process. He emphasized that at a time of rising Islamophobia, racism and populism, the international community must show a common resolve against xenophobia, intolerance and incitement to violence on the basis of religion or belief.

Tweet:

Justin Trudeau @JustinTrudeau · 17 Jun
Officiel du gouvernement - Canada

The defacing of Edmonton’s Baitul Hadi Mosque is unacceptable, as is the growing number of Islamophobic attacks and incidents across the country. The burden to confront this hatred must not lay squarely on those attacked - all Canadians must stand united against these vile acts.



AhmadiyyaCanada @ahmadiyyacanada- 16 Jun

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat is deeply concerned to learn that Baitul Hadi Mosque Edmonton was vandalized with a Swastika sign.

While healing from the grief of the attack on an innocent Muslim family in London, the congregation is saddened to see this symbol of hatred on their mosque.

Tweet:

Usama Khilji @UsamaKhilji · 17 Jun

Never thought we’d see a day where an Islamic cleric would shamelessly defend his right to consensual intercourse with a young boy when in

reality it’s nothing but grooming & molestation.

These are the men who set standards of morality

#muftiazizurrehman



Op-ed: The oppressor and the oppressed

Status quo is the ugliest expression of oppression in the life of nations...

Around two million cases are pending in our courts — from the district judiciary to the Supreme Court.

Every day, hundreds of thousands of people are ‘plundered’ on court premises due to poor control and coordination between the bar and bench, and inefficient executing agencies, especially the police.

These entities delay the dispensation of justice. Then, we have a very influential non-state institution called the clergy, which exploits the religious sentiments of the ignorant youth for political and economic gains and reinforces polarisation and extremism in society.

This kind of relationship between our institutions and the public is a part of a sadistic drive, and according to Paulo Freire, “sadistic love is a perverted love — a love of death, not life”.

Altaf Husain Khosa in the daily Dawn of June 7, 2021

THE IDIOCY OF
BANNING RELIGIOUS SCRIPTURES

THERE IS A TENDENCY in most societies to ban ‘others’ scriptures or put restrictions on them in some ways. It is more prevalent in under-developed societies and states. For example, in the Pakistani Punjab there is a law that places restrictions on the printing and publishing of the Holy Quran. This law targets Ahmadis in particular and prohibits them to publish translations of their holy book, the Quran, or even to print its Arabic original. Beyond that, this province has issued orders to ban the entire set of books written by the Ahmadiyya Founder, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani.

In May 2021, Honourable Mr. Justice Farooq Haider of Lahore High Court endorsed a judgment of Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Abu Bakr Siddique and a decision of Judicial Magistrate Adil Riaz whereby these judicial officials proceeded to interpret this absurd law and these provincial orders in their own way, and even added to their initial mischief. The Lahore High Court Order Sheet, Tahir Naqqash & another VS The State etc., puts across that the reading/recitation of the Holy Quran by an Ahmadi falls within the ambit of the blasphemy clauses that prescribe Death and Life Imprisonment as penalties. According to these three judicial officials books written by the Ahmadiyya Founder also defile other religions, so Ahmadis who possess them also invite application of the merciless sections PPCs 295-C and 295-B.

It seems that the Punjab legislators and its administrative and judicial officials are heavily influenced by the mulla and find it convenient to ignore a view of this issue from different perspectives. We explain. For majority Muslims among the Punjab authorities and these three judicial officials, the Holy Quran is the final Word of God, the Final Truth, the Greatest Book ever, etc. (Ahmadis believe the same). However, do they know how some ‘others’ find it, and would like to treat it? Lets’ see.

- Soviet Russia banned the Quran from 1925-1957.
- In 2005, the Quran was banned from schools in Gate City N.C. of USA.
- As late as 2009, there were several attempts to criminalize the practice of Islam in the US and the possession of the Quran considered an instrument of sedition, punishable as treason.
- Geert Wilders told Euronews his opinion that the Quran should be banned in Netherlands.
- Most recently, one Waseem Rizvi, a former chairman of a Waqf Board has filed a Public Interest Litigation before the Supreme Court of India that some (26) verses of the Holy Book promote terrorism (Nauzu Billah), and has requested PM Modi to authorize the use of the amended ‘new Quran’ in all madrasas and Muslim institutes in the country.

Surely, these unworthy opinions, decisions and practices were irrational, malicious and idiotic. All such in this genre are.

In addition, the men of law would be aware that a banned book is not illegal to read.

It is available on record in electronic media that in 1984/85, Messrs. Chandomal Chopra and Kishore Chakraborty felt strongly about Islam and Muslims, and decided to take concrete steps against them. The former filed a writ petition in Calcutta High Court on 29 March 1985 claiming that the Quran “on grounds of religion promotes disharmony, feeling of enmity, hatred and ill-will between different religious communities and incites people to commit violence and disturb public tranquility.....,” as such it should be banned. It would be noted that these accusations are somewhat of the same nature as endorsed against Ahmadis by the Honorable Mr. Justice Haider of Lahore High Court.

It goes to the credit of India that the Union government and the West Bengal government decided to make themselves a party to the case and oppose the petition. It is on record that Pakistan Minister of State for Religious and Minority Affairs claimed that the petition was the ‘worst example of religious intolerance’.

The petition was however dismissed by Mr. Justice Basak in May 1985. On June 18, 1985, Chopra

THE PERILS OF BEING
AHMADI IN PAKISTAN

KNOX THAMES:

The young man sat dejected in front of me, in stark contrast to the bright spring day outside. “They insist I’m not a Muslim but I am. I can’t even say the simplest of greetings without risking jail,” I remember him saying when visiting Pakistan as an American diplomat. “The government and terrorists are both out for us. What future can I have here?”

Welcome to the life of an Ahmadi in Pakistan. Ahmadis (also known as Ahmadiyya) face constant threats from Pakistani authorities and extremists. As the young man explained, they confront immense hurdles from both government and society. For example, members cannot identify themselves as Muslim or face jail; simple religious greetings are prohibited; their mosques cannot be called mosques; and the specter of violence hangs over everything. Even in death, tombstones are expunged of their Muslim identity if not outright destroyed. Furthermore, criminal charges are brought against its leadership in Pakistan and abroad. Overall, the community’s plight is ignored. The future for Ahmadi Muslims, therefore, is increasingly bleak in Pakistan. The Ahmadiyya community is innovative, entrepreneurial, and peaceful. So why are they marginalized, routinely exposed to violence and arrest, and cut out of Pakistani society?

Who are the Ahmadis?

The community traces its roots back to colonial India, when the founder, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, proclaimed a revivalist message to Muslims worldwide in 1889. From the small northern Indian town of Qadian, he proclaimed, “love for all, hatred for none.” With the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, Ahmadis left for Pakistan along with millions of other Muslims. With their emphasis on education, Ahmadis quickly rose to the top of Pakistani society. The first Foreign Minister of Pakistan Zafarullah Khan was an Ahmadi. He eloquently defended the religious freedom articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights before the UN General Assembly vote. He also wrote one of the first treatises of how Islamic principles support human rights. Ahmadis view themselves as within Islam and proclaim their Muslim identity as a critical part of their faith. Ahmadis consider their founder as another prophet, but one that did not replace Prophet Muhammed but instead presented a fresh revelation from God. Islamic schools of thought, however, have generally viewed Ahmadi theology as outside of Islam. Theological tension will always exist between new revivalist movements and traditionalists, such as the debate within Christianity about the placement of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (the Mormons). Yet, in hypercharged Pakistan, the debate evolved beyond the theological into an effort to erase Ahmadism from the country and equate it to apostasy or blasphemy. It’s deadly dangerous to be Ahmadi in Pakistan. Less than a decade after Pakistan’s birth, large-scale riots broke out in Lahore in 1953 against Ahmadis that killed hundreds if not more than a thousand people from the community.(sic) Stores and homes were looted and destroyed. From there began a slow slide towards marginalization, discrimination, and outright persecution. Now an entire cottage industry exists not just to defend traditional Islamic interpretations but to castigate Ahmadis, encouraging boycotts of their business, their continued exclusion from society, and even violence against them.

Levels of persecution

Today, Pakistani Ahmadis face an interconnected web of limitations, penalties, societal violence, and disenfranchisement unique in the world. It starts with the constitution. While many countries establish an official faith, Pakistan has also declared

filed a review petition, which was speedily dismissed on June 21. After the case was closed, the Chief Minister in Sri Nagar demanded action in a mass rally against Justice Padma Khastgir for permitting the petition to be filed. On August 31, 1987, the police arrested Mr. Chopra for writing the book ‘The Calcutta Quran Petition’.

The Times of India published three articles that praised the Quran during the Petition controversy. Mr. Gupta, Deputy Secretary Home Department Government of West Bengal, filed an affidavit before the court saying, “the court has no jurisdiction to pronounce a judgment on the Quran, the Holy Scripture of Muslims all over the world...”. He further stated, “As the Holy Quran is a Divine Book, no earthly power can sit upon judgment on it, and no court of law has jurisdiction to adjudicate it. The Holy Books like the Quran, the Bible, the Geeta, the Granth Sahib etc. or their translations cannot be subject matters of adjudication in a court of law. All Holy Scriptures are immune from judicial inquiry.” The Attorney General of India argued, “Certain passages taken out of context cannot be referred to for invoking the writ jurisdiction of this court.” He submitted that the petition is in violation of the Constitution that guarantees all Indian citizens “liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship.” (In principle, somewhat the same is the constitutional position in Pakistan.)

- Mr. Justice BC Basak observed, inter alia:
- It is dangerous for any court to pass its judgments on such a Book by merely looking at certain passages out of context.
 - Banning the Quran would amount to infringement of Art. 25 which provides that all persons shall be equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and to propagate religion. Banning or forfeiture of Koran would infringe that right.
 - Banning or forfeiting the copies of the Quran is unthinkable.
 - The court should be circumspect in such kinds of matters and be very cautious about the same. Otherwise, though it might attract cheap publicity but may cause untold misery and disruption of religious harmony. The High Court should have been spared of the embarrassment caused.

Mr. Justice Chandra Basak rejected the petition and observed, “The petition should have been rejected forthwith and in limine as unworthy of its consideration as soon as it was moved.” BRAVO JUSTICE BASAK. He knew the true and full meaning of justice, democracy and freedom. A read of his entire judgment would be useful and fruitful to administrative and judicial high authorities of Pakistan. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) is reported to have told Muslims:

Wisdom (Hikmat) is the mislaid belonging of the Muslim (Momin); he should take it wherever he finds it, as he is more entitled than others to take it.

Jame Tirmizi Abwab ul Ilm

Sources: Google, Wikipedia and Ahadith-un-Nabi (PBUH)

June 2021

who is not a part of the established religion. In 1974, the charismatic and secular prime minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, catered to Pakistan's right-wing by amending the constitution to write Ahmadis out of the Muslim faith. The Second Amendment created an apartheid-like system based on religion instead of race. The amendment described Ahmadis as non-Muslim minorities and defined Islam in such a way as to prevent their claiming it.

And the hits kept coming. General Muhammad Zia ul Haq would overthrow and eventually execute Prime Minister Bhutto. Zia took this process further, saturating both statutory law and constitutional provisions with his narrow religious views. In 1984 and 1986, Zia amended the Pakistani Penal Code adding Sections 298-B and C and Section 295-C. Sections 298-B and C were custom crafted for Ahmadis and stipulated up to three years in prison if Ahmadis posed as Muslims by worshipping in non-Ahmadi mosques, performing the Muslim call to prayer, using the traditional Islamic greeting in public, disseminating religious materials or propagating their faith. In 295-C, Zia turbocharged the blasphemy law, a colonial-era holdover, by amending it to include the death penalty with no evidence required. Ahmadis have been a consistent target of 295-C.

More laws aimed at the Ahmadi community followed, effectively disenfranchising those who refused to renounce their Muslim identity. Zia created an exclusionary voting system where non-Muslim minorities could only vote for non-Muslims. As the constitution defines Ahmadis as non-Muslims, they had to renounce their faith to vote. The separate electorate was abolished for minorities by General Pervez Musharraf in 2002 by an executive order, but kept the anti-Ahmadi provisions due to hardliner pressure. When asked to choose between their faith and their vote, Ahmadis have chosen their faith — and hence are effectively disenfranchised.

One of the more tragic outcomes regards Pakistan's first Nobel Prize winner in 1979, Dr. Abdus Salam. A devout man, he was the first Muslim to win the Nobel Prize.(sic) When receiving the prize, he proudly wore traditional Pakistani attire instead of a tuxedo. He spoke emotionally about how his win combated the inadequacy many Muslims felt against the more prosperous West. But due to his Ahmadi faith, he was not celebrated. Textbooks never mention his success. Students never learn how a diligent countryman, self-taught math by candlelight, went to Oxford and undertook groundbreaking atomic physics. A story that could inspire millions, most Pakistanis have never heard of him. Vandals even blotted out the reference to his Muslim faith on his tombstone.

A culture of impunity

One cannot overstate the uniqueness of Pakistan's discriminatory legal provisions that range from the vague and rapacious blasphemy law, specific criminal codes targeting Ahmadis for being Ahmadi, and their effective disenfranchisement. Other than Baha'is in Iran, few other communities must confront such a noxious web of laws customized to punish members of a specific faith group for peacefully living out their beliefs.

In this narrow legal environment, Pakistanis of all faiths also suffer. Many outside of Pakistan knew the plight of the Christian woman Asia Bibi, the highest profile blasphemy case in the world until her 2018 release and 2019 flight, but cases continue to accumulate. And while minorities are a consistent victim, new studies indicate a trend where roughly 75% of the 200 blasphemy cases filed in 2020 were against Muslims for allegedly blaspheming their own faith. Pakistani civil society tries to push back, but faces hostility from both the military and extremists. Those brave enough to protest risk everything; 2021 was the tenth anniversary of the assassinations of Punjab's Governor Salman Taseer and my friend Shahbaz Bhatti who spoke out about the Bibi case.

The lawfare against Ahmadis grinds on. Authorities constantly charge Ahmadis under anti-Ahmadi provisions. For instance, the elderly Abdul Shakoor was sentenced to eight years in jail by an anti-terror court for selling Ahmadi books, a tragi-comic development considering how actual terrorists go free. Police filed a First Information Report (FIR) against Ramzan Bibi for the "crime" of donating to a non-Ahmadi mosque. In just the last year, reports indicate more than 24 Ahmadis, including their senior leadership, have been charged with blasphemy and for referring to themselves as Muslims. Authorities are now reaching out internationally as well. The Pakistani government has targeted American Ahmadis in the United States for these same "crimes."

Collectively, this leads to a culture of impunity, with radicals emboldened to take the law into their own hands. In 2010, the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP or Pakistani Taliban) attacked two Ahmadi mosques

in Lahore, killing more than 85 people. On the individual level, just this past fall, an extremist murdered an Ahmadi Muslim in a Pakistani courtroom before his trial for being an Ahmadi Muslim. Murders at workplaces persist, with an Ahmadi doctor killed inside his Peshawar clinic.

Ignoring violations

Over my years of working the Pakistan file in different government positions, the repression and targeted murder of Ahmadis is an all-too-common occurrence. Yet, the government ignores the topic, something I repeatedly experienced when serving in a special envoy role in the Obama and Trump administration State Department. When I would raise issues confronting Ahmadis, either to Pakistani officials in Washington, Islamabad, or Lahore, I would often get no response. Literally nothing, as if I had not said the word "Ahmadi" or raised the issue. Why? Because my interlocutors knew they were powerless to offer any solutions. And I believe they felt at risk should they even discuss the topic.

Sometimes, however, the religious bigotry felt toward Ahmadis became visible to Western audiences. Some years ago, during a meeting with Maulana Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, a delegation I organized to visit Islamabad received an earful from him about the deceitfulness of Ahmadis. He now serves as Prime Minister Imran Khan's special representative on religious harmony. The treatment of Atif Mian, a Princeton economist asked to join Khan's economic advisory council, is another example. It became global news how Khan's administration publicly revoked Mian's appointment in 2018 due to complaints from hardliners about his faith.

In the face of deep-seated repression confronting Ahmadis, as well as Shia, Christians, Hindus, and reform-minded Sunnis, the Trump administration designated Pakistan a country of particular concern for its severe violations of religious freedom, an action no previous Republican and Democratic administration had the gumption to make. It was the right decision, and I led the State Department's negotiations for potential delisting. Yet, without the leverage of punitive sanctions, I struggled with the limits of "naming and shaming" to move the needle. Pakistan should have been embarrassed by this oppressive system and ongoing human rights violations, but just wasn't. Instead, appeasement and endorsements are the priority. The government continues to appease extremists, and politicians solicit their endorsements and votes. For instance, Prime Minister Khan has been quick to criticize Islamophobia in the West while caving to radicals who threaten violence toward his own citizens. Accordingly, the repression will continue and likely intensify. Considering the global implications of a radicalized nuclear-armed state, the stakes could not be higher.

Ahmadi persecution is a symptom of the larger disease of violent religious extremism. Pakistan ignores these trends at its peril. Despite Pakistan's obligation under its international commitments and founding promise, momentum is accelerating away from human rights, not slowing. The unrelenting nature of anti-Ahmadi crimes kill the inclusive founding vision of the country established by Pakistan's founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who himself was a Shia Muslim. Tragically, in today's Pakistan, an influential, vocal, and violent minority cares more for jihad than Jinnah.

Uncertain future without reforms

Broad reforms are needed, or the future of the Ahmadi faith in Pakistan is in doubt. Repealing the anti-Ahmadi and blasphemy laws would be an act of supreme courage (political and otherwise), driving a stake into the ground, signaling to extremists, besieged activists, and persecuted believers a return to Pakistan's founding roots. It would end over three decades of extremist expansion that has distorted the country and threatens everyone. It would restore Pakistan's reputation and make it a positive leader in the Muslim world. Sadly, this day is far from certain.

The question is, how many Ahmadi Muslims must suffer or die until it comes?

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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

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