

MR IMRAN KHAN

HIS RULE AND

THE AHMADIYYA JAMAAT

IN PAKISTAN

*HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION
AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS*

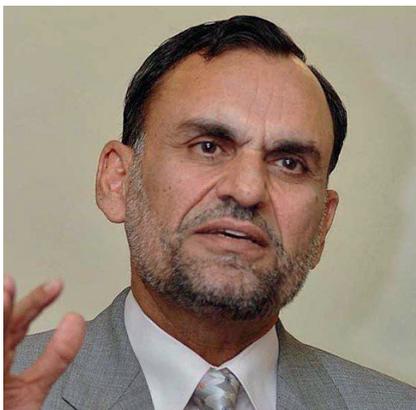
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PAKISTAN TEHRIK INSAF (PTI) led by the assumed liberal Mr. Imran Khan came to power on 17 August 2018 and formed coalition governments in the federation and provinces of Punjab, KP and Baluchistan. During the election campaign, Khan attended an End of Prophethood conference at Golra Sharif and there he declared that he believed in unconditional Khatme Nabuwwat (KN) and considered anyone claiming prophethood after the Holy Prophet (PBUH) to be a liar. Here was yet another politician ready and willing to use religious crutches for political support.

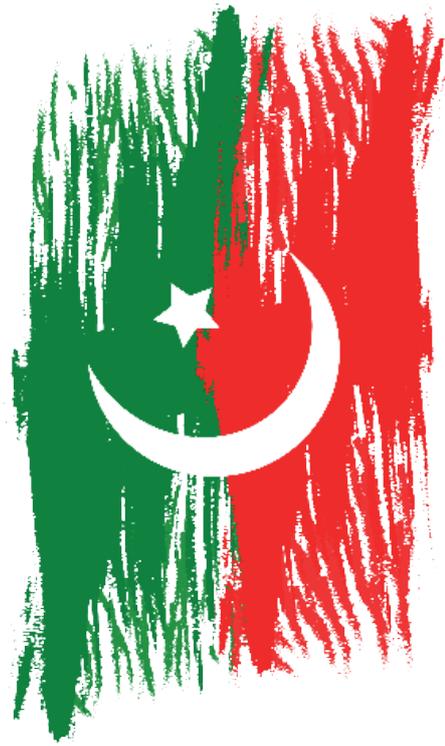
Upon assuming power, Khan, made a policy decision that the plight of the Ahmadiyya community in the country was not an issue with him. His party thus adopted a laissez faire attitude; some of its leaders, in fact, made anti-Ahmadi statements. Mr. Azam Swati, a federal minister said in public, ***"I curse them and Imran Khan also curses Qadianiat."*** Additionally, Mr. AM Khan, a minister of state termed Ahmadiyya a great mischief (fitna) and called for the beheading of blasphemers. Early in its tenure, the PTI government appointed Dr Atif Mian, a brilliant Ahmadi economist, on its 18-member Economic Advisory Council. A few weeks later, bowing under the pressure of mullas, the government asked him to resign.

In November 2018, the federal government held a major conference in Islamabad on the theme of: ***"Khatme Nabuwwat and Muslims' Responsibilities"***. There, a Saudi-based mulla, Ahmad Ali Siraj told the prime minister from the rostrum that in the name of Khatme Nabuwwat, 1200 Companions of the Prophet were martyred in Riasat Madinah. He assured the PM of support if he accorded high priority to the issue of KN. Khan did not refute the mulla's brazen misreading of history.

Thus, the stage was set for Ahmadi's situation to get worse.



Azam Swati



Official circles found it convenient to follow the sectarian line given by the ruling clique. In May 2020, the Punjab Assembly adopted a hostile KN resolution. The federal government declared that Ahmadis would not be nominated to the National Commission for Minorities. A Notification directed that the name of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) must be preceded by the epithet Khatam an Nabiyyeen. A major object of such measures was to make the public highly sensitive to the KN issue, while Ahmadis were not allowed to even say that they also believe in Khatme Nabuwwat; their slightly different understanding of this dogma is only a matter of semantics. Mr. Pervaiz Elahi of PML-Q chaired the Punjab Assembly in this era, as PTI coalition partner. He had no qualms about exploiting religion for political gains. This Assembly, led by Elahi, went into high gear in production of religious resolutions, laws and pronouncements, never running short of capitalizing on the issue of End of Prophethood. Eventually, the PML-Q and the PTI came up with the ruling that in future, a Nikah (marriage) would be valid only if the groom, the bride, the witnesses, the Nikah solemniser, and also the Registrar, all sign a Khatme Nabuwwat affidavit. The stated aim was to ensure that the groom was not a 'Qadiani'.

In September 2021 Mr. Pervaiz Elahi released a special video message to commemorate the passage of the 2nd Amendment that declared Ahmadis to be NotMuslim, and called it the Day of Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat. On his insistence and follow-up by the compliant PTI chief minister Mr. Usman Buzdar, the



usman Buzdar



Ali Muhammad Khan



Tahir Ashrafi

DEA Sialkot issued instructions to all the District Education Officers in August 2021 to:

1. **Appoint only Muslim teachers to teach Arabic,**
2. **Students be given lectures from time to time on Khatme Nabuwat, and**
3. **A given cherry-picked Hadith on Khatme Nabuwat should be displayed on prominent and safe places of schools.**

Such official actions sent a clear message to all the state institutions, the mulla and the society that human and citizen rights of Ahmadis could be freely violated. This resulted in persis-

tent and hurtful attacks on Ahmadis' freedom of worship, jobs, education, political rights, social status et al, including their personal safety.

Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, head of the Pakistan Ullama Council, poses to be a tolerant mulla, but he cannot help holding back his intolerance against Ahmadis. In 2019, he made a statement in an open multi-religious meeting, "... **I am not willing to accept them (Ahmadis) in this country ... I am speaking of Qadianis here. They are full of mischief. They are misleading humanity by using the name of Muslims. ...To speak against the Qadianis is religious**

harmony." Despite such incendiary statements, in September 2021, Mr. Imran Khan appointed him as The Prime Minister's Special Representative on Religious Harmony

During the PTI rule, eleven Ahmadis were target-killed for their faith, and eighty-eight suffered murderous attacks. Attacks in Peshawar, where PTI ruled, were brazen as never seen before. For instance, Mr. Tahir Naseem, a US citizen and a former Ahmadi, on 29th July 2020 was murdered in a courtroom in the presence of the judge. The killer killed him assuming that he was an Ahmadi.

DURING THE PTI RULE, ELEVEN AHMADIS WERE TARGET-KILLED FOR THEIR FAITH, AND EIGHTY-EIGHT SUFFERED MURDEROUS ATTACKS.

There are numerous examples of barbaric attacks on Ahmadis during this time. Again in Peshawar, someone shot dead Mr. Mairaj Ahmad, an Ahmadi, aged 61. Five weeks later, gangsters, perhaps from the same group, shot his brother Mr. Gulzar Ahmad. Ahmad was hit five times. Professor Dr. Naeem Khattak was shot dead while driving. Elderly Mehboob Khan was shot dead at a bus stop. Early in 2021, a homeopath Abdul Qadir was killed in his Peshawar clinic. It is noteworthy that in most cases, Ahmadis had been threatened on social media prior to the attacks, and the killers had brazenly posted even their own phone numbers. Authorities took no effective measures to pursue and deter the grisly gang. In addition to target killings, the opponents mounted numerous assaults on Ahmadis for their faith; these fortunately did not result in homicide. Unidentified men fired at Ahmadis' homes in Bazid Khel, Peshawar at about

1 a.m. on March 12, 2021. Families of Messrs. Arshad Iqbal, Ruhul Amin and Sahibzada Muhammad Rafiq reside there. Nine shots hit Mr. Arshad's home while the other two were shot at four to five times. The aim was to make Ahmadis flee from their ancestral homes. The authorities did little to support or protect the targeted families.

Furthermore, the PTI regime in Punjab not only failed to ensure the sanctity of the of Ahmadiyya mosques, its administration and police supported religious thugs in their persistent attacks on Ahmadiyya places worship and freedom of religion. During this regime, **26 Ahmadiyya mosques and places of worship were destroyed in part, defaced, defiled, sealed, handed over to others, were ordered to be closed, attacked or kept under surveillance by the opponents,** were threatened through police interference, subjected to inessential litigation, or their repairs/construction had to be

stopped on orders. In most cases, all that a mulla had to do was to spend one rupee for a sheet of paper to forward an application to the local SHO/DSP who would do the rest. Surely, nowhere else in the world, a state or society has in the recent history undertaken such aggression against places of worship of a specific community.

Following is just one example of what went on to violate Ahmadi's places of worship. In 2019, Mr. Ashiq, a KN mullah approached Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur with a complaint that Ahmadis had made their place of worship to resemble like other Muslim mosques, including erecting of minarets and a dome. The career minded Deputy Commissioner feeling nervy told the Assistant Commissioner to undertake the sacrilege at the 'earliest'. Along with labor and machinery, the AC arrived at the site of the Ahmadi mosque. The AC did not have an official warrant at that time. On October 25th at about 3:30 pm, the Ahmadiyya mosque was partially destroyed under the supervision of the officials and the police.

During this time, the campaign to **forbid Ahmadis to undertake animal sacrifice (Qurbani) at their Eid festival** gained momentum. At various locations in the Punjab, the police wrongfully restricted Ahmadis from this ritual, even arrested them. In 2021, the police registered three criminal cases in Rabwah in this context. This had never happened before.

Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act was passed in 2016. The first drop of this poisonous rain fell on Ahmadis during the PTI regime when on June 20, 2019 an Ahmadi was charged and arrested for sharing on-line translation of the Holy Quran with someone. Since then twenty three Ahmadis were booked and seven arrested under this law.

In an FIR, FIA's Cyber Crimes Wing, Lahore booked an Ahmadi teacher and added to the charge sheet PPC295-B for which the penalty is life imprisonment. The PTI government's message of discrimination against Ahmadis was clearly understood by the administration and the police. One outcome of this was registration of fabricated police cases against them. **During this regime, 48 police cases were registered based on religion against 193 Ahmadis under clauses which include penalties of long imprisonment, life imprisonment – even death.**

Ahmadis were booked and prosecuted maliciously and persistently. Mr. Ali Kalaar, a 70-year old Ahmadi was booked for alleged blasphemy in 2021. He applied for bail. While incarcerated, his health worsened and he started to vomit blood. He died

in hospital on January 10, 2022, fifteen weeks after arrest. His death came during police custody. On February 16, 2021, in District Nankana, Punjab, an Ahmadi, Mr. Akbar Ali, died of heart attack while in custody. He was one of the three accused against whom Adil Riaz, the magistrate had wrongfully applied blasphemy Laws, Sections 295-C and 295-B PPC.

In most cases, the police acted as a tool of the mulla. In order to keep an influential mulla happy, who happens to be the brother of Hafiz Ashrafi (Chairman Pakistan Ullama Council), the FIA (Cyber Wing, Lahore) unjustifiably booked Ahmadis under numerous clauses (***** need name of the law *****) including the most severe blasphemy clauses. These clauses included PPC 295-A, which allows the prosecution to take place in the special Anti-terrorism Court. The police felt free to include the names of senior Ahmadi leadership in the FIRs. Tyranny – pure and simple.

During once notable instance, even the school for children was not spared. Ahmadis run a primary school in Allahabad Draishak, District Rajanpur, Punjab. There, the children are admitted regardless of caste or creed or religion. A mulla contacted the DC accusing the management falsely of preaching Ahmadiyyat at the school. On orders from seniors, the police sealed the school and booked six Ahmadis, including the District Amir and the Director of Ahmadiyya Education in Pakistan. The clauses applied included those that prescribe life imprisonment as penalty and the facility of trial in an anti-Terrorism Court.

The Punjab Government led by PTI's Buzdar dithered wherever and whenever the mulla intervened in official business concerning Ahmadis. For example, in the face of nominal protests of petty clerics and bigots, the provincial head-office transferred a local government official, an Ahmadi, Mr. Shaukat Majoka, from Bhakar to Khanewal, then to Raheem Yar Khan, then to Chakwal, thereafter to Fateh Jang, then to Noorpur Thal, thereafter to Mianwali, then to Rawalpindi, then to Lahore head-office, thereafter to Khushab, and eventually again to Lahore within a few months. Unbelievable, but true.

In another case, Ms. Ramzan Bibi of District Nankana, an Ahmadi woman donated Rs 250 to the local non-Ahmadiyya mosque. They refused to accept it. This resulted in a dispute, even quarrel in which Ms. Bibi was injured. The opposition fabricated a blasphemy accusation against her which the police accepted without due and fair inquiry. Ms. Bibi was arrested under the deadly Blasphemy

charge and sent to a lock-up. This was first ever such case, as no Ahmadi woman was ever arrested, not even during the oppressive Zia regime. A few months later, she was released on bail — thanks to a caring judge.

Even dead Ahmadis were not spared. Desecration of Ahmadis' graves by the authorities

at various locations became routine during this regime. For instance, in Trigari, District Gujranwala, on 13/14 July 2020, in compliance with mullahs' demand the police destroyed 67 Ahmadiyya tombstones. In all, the authorities defiled and desecrated 374 graves during this regime — a grand total that could surely find a place in the Guinness

The Authorities defiled and desecrated 374 graves during the regime of PTI.

DURING THE PTI RULE, ELEVEN AHMADIS WERE TARGET-KILLED FOR THEIR FAITH



Mr. Muhammad Zafarullah
29-08-2018



Mr. Mubeen Ahmed
29-08-2018



Mr. Mahdi Khan
03-01-2019



Dr. Aziz Ahmed
13-03-2019



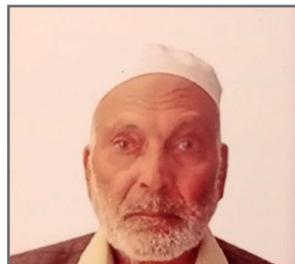
Mr. Tanzeel Ahmad
27-02-2020



Mr. Mairaj Ahmad
12-08-2020



Prof. Naeem ud Din
05-10-2020



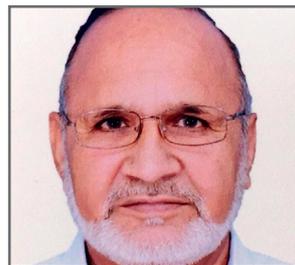
Mr. Mehboob Ahmad Khan
08-11-2020



Dr. Tahir Mehmood
20-11-2020



Dr. Abdul Qadir
11-02-2021



Mr. Asghar Ali Kalaar
19-01-2022

World Records. Only four days before this ignoble regime ended, it managed to vandalize 43 grave-stones of Ahmadis in Pero, District Sialkot. The Assistant Commissioner (Daska) and the SHO Motra were present at the site to supervise this depravity.

The judiciary's conduct worsened in this period. Firstly, it became more difficult for Ahmadis to avail bail even at the high court level, as the state prosecutors would oppose the grant of bail. Those who murdered Ahmadis for their faith, in broad daylight, were acquitted by trial courts. Responding to the political climate, two judges of AJK High Court, in January 2020 ordered that separate voter-lists, political rights and records be kept of 'Qadianis'. Justice Farooq Haider of LHC found it convenient to endorse that PPC 295-C (penalty of death) and

PPC 295-B (penalty of life imprisonment) be added to the charge sheet of Ahmadis who either possessed a copy of the Holy Quran or had kalima written on the walls of their mosques. The PTI-appointed Advocate General of the Punjab found this entirely acceptable, and it was the Ahmadis, who themselves had to knock at the door of the Supreme Court to have this unjust ruling quashed.

As for the anti-Ahmadiyya hate campaign, it has always been widespread, but this regime encouraged it by example, to reach a new height. Ahmadi-bashers put up a huge banner in Lahore with threat in bold letters that for any changes to the 1973 Constitution, "Chenab Nagar will be colored red with the blood of Qadianis and the world will forget even Tamerlane".

To make it brief in single sentences we list here, some

“**Chenab Nagar Will be Colored RED with the BLOOD of 'QADIANIS' and the World will forget even TAMERLANE.**”

of the excesses meted out to Ahmadis in the PTI rule.

- A PTI Special Committee issued instructions to re-impose ban on Ahmadiyya Community's daily Al-Fazl.
- A school administration in District Khushab told nine Ahmadi children to leave.
- PEMRA ordered distribution service licensees in May 2020 that they shall not carry any Ahmadiyya TV channel.
- Three top international NGOs took notice of attacks on Ahmadis and conveyed their special concern to the government of Pakistan who paid little attention to it.
- The official PTA (Pakistan Telecommunication Authority) sent a notice to the Wikipedia, concerning one of the entries regarding Ahmadiyyat. It also sent a prosecution notice to two US Ahmadis of Pakistan origin, on their role in a US-based site that allegedly violated Pakistan's blasphemy laws.
- A Punjab provincial authority issued orders for an official's removal for being an Ahmadi. The Punjab Police raided numerous Ahmadis' homes in many districts and effaced or destroyed religious writings written there.
- A mulla-led group attacked an Ahmadi woman's funeral procession, and the police accepted all their demands except her disinterment. In the Punjab Assembly, members repeatedly sent

curses on the Founder of the Ahmadi Community — unbelievable.

This Ahmadi-specific report is indicative of the state of the state and society during this regime. An explosion was expected with real consequences on the daily lives of all Pakistanis. On December 3, 2021, a mob lynched Sri Lankan Mr. Kumara in Sialkot, and set alight his body for alleged blasphemy. This shocked and shamed the nation.

The Punjab became the epicenter of mal-governance. Damaging and defacing Ahmadiyya mosques and demolition of Ahmadiyya gravestones encouraged the PTI to be autocratic sans limite. They changed 5 Inspector Generals (Police) and six Chief Secretaries to pressurize these senior civil servants to tow the political line. Even one day prior to their collapse they changed the IGP and the CS.

However, the malady is now deeply ingrained, and there is no commitment nor political will to bring about a real change. The captain who had come to power on the promise of Change (Tab-deeli) failed to deliver. In fact, from his first day in PM office, he decided that as far as the Ahmadis were concerned, there would be no change. If at all, any change for worse would be quite acceptable. After 44 months, enough was enough; nature and destiny took over, and pushed out the incumbent from the PM office on April 10, 2022, caring little for the hue and cry of the self-seeking delinquent, full of air.