

A Special Report

Ill-advised Misrule of the Pakistan Punjab

In Ahmadiyya Context



Human Rights Section

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS OFFICE
02 SHEEPHATCH LANE, TILFORD, UK TEL: 44 (02) 20 3988 3862

Foreword:

This report is prompted by Punjab authorities' recent desecration of Ahmadiyya places of worship and defiling of Ahmadis' graves thus causing intense hurt to not only local Ahmadis but to all Ahmadis in Pakistan and indeed the world over.

We write this not only to inform the government of our views as a targeted community but also to inform those decent people who are concerned with human rights and freedom of faith anywhere.

The most populated province of Pakistan, is not being governed and managed as it deserves. In a way, it seems that the writ of the state is under the influence of the mulla. Granted that this has not happened entirely during the current regime, it was gradually brought about by the previous regimes, but it is a pity that there is literally no 'change', as is obvious from the way the government, the administration and the police treat Ahmadis which although small is a very important community.

We still believe that there is no reason for utter despair, as the downward slide can still be halted. What is needed is the political will to do so. It is in the nature of things that no regime lasts forever – even the mighty King Faisal, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, General Zia, Mian Brothers, all got replaced prematurely. What lasts nearly forever, are good deeds and good reputation.

We have produced this paper primarily not to incriminate anyone, but as a service to inform those in power and those concerned with human rights of the situation on the ground, as this information is the base for these people, on which they can build and raise good governance, or help to do so. We are well-wishers of the Punjab, and of those who contribute to an improved life and society where fundamental rights and freedoms flourish. Punjab is the largest and strongest province of Pakistan, a better Punjab means a better & thriving Pakistan and we dearly aim to achieve that.

Human Rights Section

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS OFFICE
02 SHEEPHATCH LANE, TILFORD, UK TEL: 44 (02) 20 3988 3862

A Special Report

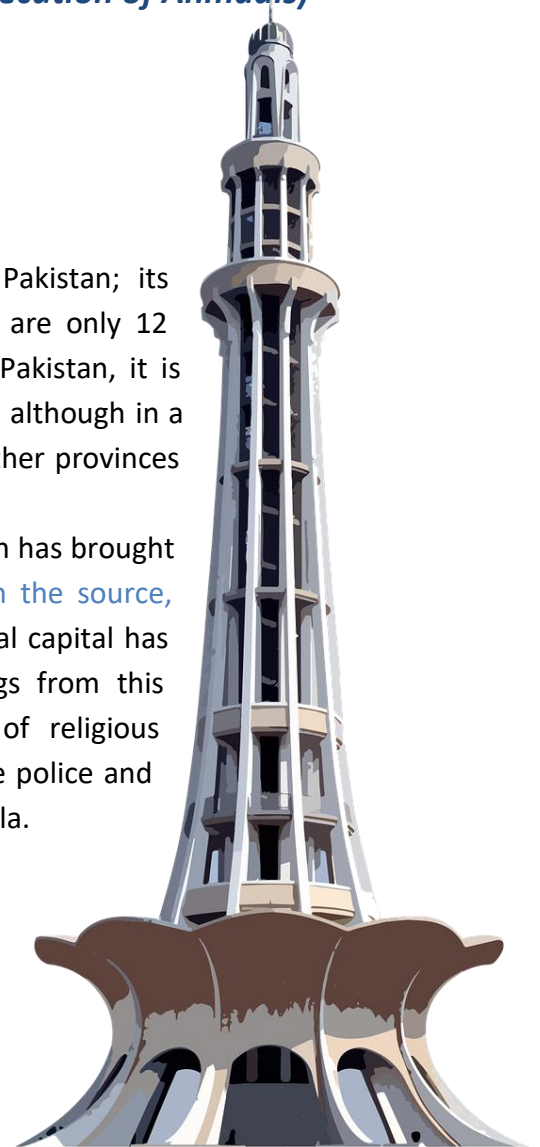
Ill-advised Misrule of the Pakistan Punjab In Ahmadiyya Context

(A brief report on egregious and extensive persecution of Ahmadis)

Introduction

Punjab population-wise is the largest province of Pakistan; its population is more than that of over 200 countries. There are only 12 countries whose population is more than this province. In Pakistan, it is stated to be the richest and more literate, socially developed although in a limited sense, and wielder of more political influence than other provinces and territories.

Treatment of religious and ethnic minorities in Pakistan has brought no kudos to the country. *As for Ahmadis, Punjab has been the source, harbinger and developer of Ahmadis' persecution.* The federal capital has responded to the demands of sectarian and political thugs from this powerful province. The politicians cater for the wishes of religious extremists, and in turn, those in power induce and direct the police and the administration to deal with Ahmadis as desired by the mulla.



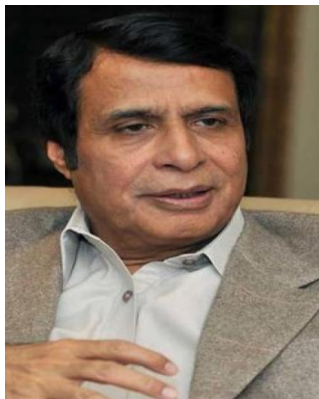
*Minar-e-Pakistan (Symbol of the movement of Pakistan)
Lahore, Provincial Capital of Punjab*

Powerful cadres

After the national and provincial elections in 2018, Mr. Usman Buzdar of PTI (abbreviations are described in the Annex) formed the government in the Punjab in league primarily with PML-Q led by Chaudhrys of Gujrat. PML-Q, bereft of any credible political philosophy, depends mostly on echoing the rhetoric of Sunni mullas particularly those who make a living on *Khatme Nabuwwat* (KN: End of Prophethood) issue and anti-Ahmadi rhetoric. Chaudhry Pervaiz Ilahi, the Speaker of Punjab Assembly, some ministers from PML-Q, and of course PTI MPAs, mullas of the official Ulama Board, helped by some careerist bureaucrats produced and got passed the *Tahaffuz-e-Bunyaad-e-Islam Bill* (Protection of the Foundation of Islam Bill) last year through the Assembly. It was so retrogressive that due to a strong public backlash the said bill was never sent before the Governor for assent. The Bill should be read to believe its bigotry and mischief particularly in violation of freedom of expression. PML-Q, however, rated the Bill as historic.



*Mr. Usman Buzdar
Chief Minister*



*Mr. Pervaiz Ilahi of PML-Q
(Speaker PA)*

Earlier, in May 2020 the Punjab Assembly adopted a hostile KN resolution. This posture of the Punjab Government sent a clear message to all the state institutions, the mulla and the society that religious and citizen rights of Ahmadis were kosher to be violated. It resulted in persistent and hurtful attacks on Ahmadis' freedom of faith and worship, jobs, education, societal acceptance *et al*, including their personal safety. The mulla was thus let loose to have a field day. In this, the careerist police and administrative officials avidly pursued the policy of their political superiors of doing the mulla's bid.

Desecration and defiling — adopted as policy

Accordingly the encouraged mulla set down his action-list. In order to cause extreme hurt to Ahmadis' sentiments and to provide himself corrupt mental satisfaction, he listed desecration of Ahmadiyya mosques at the top, followed closely by defiling of Ahmadis' graves, while the third item was violation of sanctity of Ahmadis' homes. Registration of criminal cases with police against Ahmadis and their arrests was of course given due priority. The Punjab administration was apparently given these tasks and the results were to the mulla's entire satisfaction. Some facts and figures would prove that.

First the desecration of Ahmadiyya mosques:

PTI-led regime in the Punjab not only has not ensured the sanctity of Ahmadiyya mosques, its administration often supported religious extremists in their persistent attacks on Ahmadiyya places of worship and freedom of religion. It went further in fact, on behalf of the Ahmadi-bashers it took upon itself what they demanded but dared not undertake. For



Ahmadiyya Mosque prior to attack

instance, the unbelievable incident on March 17, 2021 at Garmula Virkan in District Gujranwala.

Anti-Ahmadi elements in Garmula Virkan approached the police with plea that the minarets of the Ahmadiyya worship place and the *Kalima* (Islamic Creed) on its internal front-wall should be removed. Ahmadis met the police including their senior officials, and conveyed to them that the law makes no mention whatsoever of forbidding minarets on Ahmadiyya mosques. The *Kalima* written therein is also the Ahmadiyya creed, and Article 20 of the Constitution gives Ahmadis freedom of faith, hence the demand violated the Constitution in addition to being immoral. The police however insisted that Ahmadis remove the *Kalima*. Ahmadis were firm that they will not undertake the sacrilege themselves, nor would they allow a non-official do that, however if the police in uniform did it, Ahmadis will not resist it and will allow that reluctantly.



Mosque after the desecration

Lo and behold, after a meeting with mullas, the Regional Police Officer ordered, and the local SHO arrived with 7 policemen and three municipal workers at about noon on March 17. They had brought along the needed tools like hammers, chisels etc. They climbed up to the roof of the mosque and destroyed the elegant minarets. Thereafter they defaced the *Kalima*. Soon came an official of the anti-terrorism squad who took some photographs. This went on till 3 p.m. How hurt the local Ahmadis felt, is beyond description.

According to the BBC, a police spokesman said that the action was taken to reduce tension in the area. DSP Khalid Aslam stated that as per law, Ahmadi's worship place should not look like Muslims' mosque (sic). Aslam was fabricating his own law or quoting the mulla, as there is no such mention in the statute book.

Ahmadi spokesman told BBC that the police violated an order of the Supreme Court that requires the police to provide protection to worship places of all minorities. He accused the administration of accepting unlawful demands of miscreants and acting on their whims.

The police is of the view that if the minarets and the *Kalima* had not been removed, the communal tension in the area would have increased. However it is very odd and unacceptable that the police, rather than maintaining order and peace by imposing the law, provides peace by denying the vulnerable communities their basic rights and by yielding to unlawful demands of the extremists.

This reminds one of the Babri Masjid in Ajothya, but the Indian authorities were not physically and openly involved in its destruction.

After the incident, the local police station voiced a statement that the removal of the *Kalima* and destruction of minarets were achieved through the mutual consent of the police and Ahmadi's. **This was a lie.** Ahmadi's categorically denied this baseless accusation and reiterated that Ahmadiyya Community has always upheld the law, and cannot even imagine consenting to such shameful acts.

Just a glimpse of one more such incident. In 2019 Mr. Ashiq, a KN mulla approached the Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur with complaint that Ahmadi's had provided a niche in their place of worship in Chak 161 Murad; it should be removed. The careerist DC, feeling nervy, told the Assistant Commissioner to undertake the sacrilege earliest. The AC arrived at the site along with labor and machinery, but no official warrant. At about 3:30 p.m. on October 25, 2019 the Ahmadiyya mosque was partly destroyed under the supervision of officials and the police.

The authorities, while implementing the political policy, destroy completely or partly Ahmadiyya mosques or seal them, hand these over to others, close them down, restrict worship, defile the worship places, allow their surveillance or allow attacks on them by opponents, stop their construction, or even make essential repairs problematic. In year 2020, seven such incidents were reported, while in 2019 there were 11 such cases. During the four and half months of PTI rule in 2018, four such despicable cases were mentioned in *dispatches*. In no civilized country, worship places of minority communities are treated or allowed to be treated this way.

After the Garmula Virkan atrocity someone aptly tweeted:

"On the same day as an Ahmadi mosque is vandalized by State authorities in Pakistan, the standing committee on religious affairs and harmony is busy condemning a report that decries the ongoing persecution of Ahmadi Muslims. Such is the hate for Ahmadi's in Pakistan."

Next, the defiling of graves:

It can be said with certainty that no government elsewhere in the world in this 21st Century openly undertakes damage and desecration of graves of its citizens. But the authorities in Punjab do that. For instance.

Some miscreants wrote to the police in District Nankana that Ahmadis' graves in their graveyard have Islamic inscriptions written on their tombstones. The police did not talk to Ahmadis to hear their version; they came over at 9 p.m. on March 11, 2021, broke down **16** tombstones and took away the debris — to leave no trace of the criminal act. The choice of night time shows that the police were mindful that the operation was condemnable.



The month before, a mulla started an anti-Ahmadiyya drive in District Faisalabad. He specifically targeted Ahmadiyya graves in Chak 565 GB, Jaranwala. The issue was raised at the SHO's office. He inspected the site and unlawfully told Ahmadis to take down the tombstones. Ahmadis refused to undertake the sacrilege. So, on February 3, 2021 the police arrived accompanied by some local non-Muslims. They tore down **25** tombstones and took away the broken pieces.

Imagine the hurt and heartbreak of local Ahmadis who, not only were distressed to see the desecration of the graves of their respected ancestors, but also felt abandoned by their government whom they expected to act as fair patron of all citizens, including Ahmadis.

On 13/14 July 2020, the authorities desecrated **67** Ahmadis' tombstones in Trigari, District Gujranwala. On December 28, 2020 the police in Shah Miskeen, District Sheikhpura destroyed **40** tombstones. In recent months there is a hype in such incidents. From January

to March alone this year, **44** graves were vandalized by officials. On numerous such occasions the police is accompanied by local mullas and hooligans. It is reasonable to assume that SHOs undertake these obscenities with the approval of district superiors who have a nod from the provincial capital.

Violation of sanctity of Ahmadis' homes:

The mulla not being content with hurting the sensitivities of Ahmadis for their mosques and graveyards, and encouraged by authorities' compliance with his demands, decided to hurt Ahmadis in their very homes. He therefore targeted pious inscriptions written on the fronts and gates of Ahmadis' homes. These inscriptions are not all purely Islamic; for instance ماشاالله (Masha Allah). Masha Allah is essentially Arabic and it means "Whatever God wills" or *Dei gratia*. The mulla's SOP is to write to the police and expect them to have the pious writing removed from Ahmadis' homes. The police become active, tell Ahmadis to remove the Masha Allah; Ahmadis refuse to commit the sacrilege, so the police undertake the depravity themselves, despite the fact that the law does not forbid Ahmadis writing of Masha Allah on their homes. The same is true for such other inscriptions. We describe only two incidents here to illustrate.

Mr. Idrees Ahmad, Ahmadi of Rahwali, District Gujranwala had a Masha Allah plate on his residence's exterior. On January 15, 2021 a few mullas told him to remove the plate. Ahmadis refused to do that. The next day the mullas applied to the police with the same demand. The Security Incharge contacted the Ahmadis who thereafter met the SHO who offered to send the case to the local peace committee. The peace committee has no Ahmadi member. The DSP added, "You should take the inscription off yourself, to avoid riots." Ahmadis replied, "We have used these words to praise Allah Almighty and not for desecration of His name, so we will not do it ourselves nor will allow anyone else do that, except the police in uniform". Ahmadis vainly hoped that the DSP would not act outside the law. But he did, and sent two officials on January 26 who broke the plate to pieces, and based on the information provided some parts of which were found to have fallen below in the drain.

This reminds one of the observation of the renowned judges who produced the widely-acclaimed Report on Punjab Disturbances of 1953: *"The Ahrar (anti-Ahmadi agitators) were treated (by the authorities) as members of the family and the Ahmadis as strangers."*

In Rahwali Cantt, a group of religious bigots wrote in February 2021 to the police against Masha Allah plate on three Ahmadiyya homes. Ahmadiyya delegation met the SHO who told the Security Incharge to act as per the SOP. Based on the recent events it may be inferred that the police has an SOP to destroy and deface sacred inscriptions on Ahmadiyya locations. On February 25, the police went to Ahmadis' homes to destroy the inscriptions. There the Security Incharge told a fellow policeman to break them, but he refused to comply. He then sent for a mason who broke down the tiles. Similarly, they unashamedly broke the word **Haji** written on the name plate outside Mr. Maqsud Bajwa's house. Haji is

the title of one who has performed a pilgrimage to Makkah. [The Holy Quran, the Sunnah, the Hadith and the Constitution of Pakistan do not forbid a pilgrim to call himself Haji.](#) The Punjab Police and its political superiors are apparently scared stiff of the mulla and do his bid in the guise of maintaining law and order.

Apparently the ruling political superiors, the police and the administration have formed a team to serve the mulla. If the rulers deny this, then the question is, whether they know what is happening in the province. At present the mulla has an SOP; all he has to do is to write an anti-Ahmadi demand to the police on a piece of paper; that costs him one cent. The police, in turn has its own SOP to do the rest against Ahmadiyya mosques, graves and homes. Also, incidents are on record where miscreants who defiled Ahmadiyya mosques and graves were spared by the police; instead they registered a criminal case against Ahmadis.

The intense hate campaign

The mulla is not alone in his drive against Ahmadis. A sizable section of civil society now supports him in his hateful campaign. It was not always like that. The present situation is the end result of decades of state subservience and support to the mulla. The mulla has been given full freedom to preach anti-Ahmadi hate under the cover of *Khatme Nabuwwat* conferences and rallies. These are held even in Rabwah with government permission and support. The two held here in September and October are major events to which participants are transported from other towns. The authorities must be keeping a record of the hate spewed therein. It is Himalayan, and a great threat to the peace and normal life of the Ahmadis' town where they assemble — 13,000 of them. Why does the government not question these clerics about the source of funds for such huge events? While the mulla profusely bad-mouths Ahmadis, the targets are denied the right even to respond that they also believe in End of Prophethood; the difference is only semantic.

The daily vernacular press in the Punjab is virulent against Ahmadis. They publish statements of clerics in multi-column headlines whereby Ahmadis are most wrongfully accused of being enemies of Pakistan and Islam. The daily *Ausaf* got so carried away in its issue of July 7, 2018 as to publish Ahrari garbage that, 'Qadianiat is a *grave threat* to humanity....' Why does the Punjab Government not take notice of such hateful expressions of the mulla and the press? Why the law PPC 153-A (Promoting enmity between different groups etc.) and PPC 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class...) are not applied to these clerics and scandal-sheets?

Anti-Ahmadi hate campaign takes many forms. In Lahore, Universal Traders put up a huge banner with text: **The belief in Khatme Nabuwwat (p.b.u.h.). If there is an attempt to make changes to the 1974 Constitution, Chenab Nagar will be colored red with the blood of Qadianis and the world will forget even Tamerlane.**



The hateful banner in the capital

Why did the Punjab Police not take action against these messengers of hatred and criminals?

A leading cleric decided to declare in public in a Religious Harmony conference *“I am*



not willing to accept these (Ahmadis) in this country...To speak against Qadianis is Religious Harmony.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRBPSsQhDj0>

The cleric has been appointed Chairman of the official Mutahidda Ulama Board, Punjab. The political bosses owe an explanation to the decent public for this. The same Board, corrupted by such mentality, opposed Ahmadiyya efforts to provide relief to general public in fight against the ravages of Covid-19

Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi Chair, Ulama Board, Punjab

pandemic. This Board, specific only to the Punjab, merits dissolution.

Anti-Ahmadiyya hate is sans-limit in the Punjab. Anybody can get away with any statement here. Malik Rab Nawaz Advocate addressing All Pakistan Lawyers Forum in Chiniot on September 10, 2020 said, *inter alia*, **“Jamaat Ahmadiyya is a wounded snake; its head should be crushed.”** (*The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, Sept 10, 2020*) In any other country of even average governance, this Lawyers’ Forum would get banned —and more.

Mulla Khadim Rizvi has died, but not his teachings and organization. His acolytes and minions are active in the entire Punjab, and enjoy the freedom provided to them by the cold-footed government.

In November 2020, a huge billboard was put up in a busy central location of Lahore. It explicitly called for the murder of blasphemers, (translation): **“Muhammad (Peace be upon him). There is only one punishment for insolence against the Prophet: Head is to be chopped from the body. Head is to be chopped from the body.”** This particular slogan for ‘murder’ was promoted by Rizvi. By letting it stay for days, the Punjab Government perhaps endorsed it.

This *laissez-faire* attitude of the government produced its own crop of murders and assaults. To quote an example, members of an Ahmadi family assembled in their house in Marh Balochan, District Nankana Sahib for Friday congregational prayers. When they came out at the end, a young man outside riddled them with bullets. **Thirty-one year old Dr Tahir Mehmood** died, while his father was critically injured along with two others. The killer was religiously motivated through propaganda unchecked by the state. Ahmadis are forbidden by law to even explain their position.

How deep has seeped the anti-Ahmadi hate among the youth was manifestly shown by an incident in Gujranwala. BBC reported that the portrait of **Professor Dr Abdus Salam, the Nobel laureate in Physics**, put up outside a college along with other icons, was blackened with paint by a group of students. Later the portrait was replaced by that of

Maulvi Shah Ahmad Noorani of JUP. Subsequently, one Shaheer Sialvi tweeted in February 2021: *If a portrait of Dr. Abdus Salam is shown outside any school, college, the City Council will be suspended. What right do you have to a position if you cannot bar anti-state elements? In place of this picture (of Dr Salam) you can put up picture of Dr Abdul Qadeer or any Mujahid of the End of Prophethood.*"

Sir or Madam, the situation is much more serious than assessed by Punjab authorities or even what we have been able to convey. The Punjab is sinking in a muddy morass from where it will find difficult to pull itself out.

General but extensive persecution

Now we move on to general and miscellaneous but extensive cases of Ahmadis' persecution in the Punjab which are attributable to bad governance. The primary yardstick to measure the same are the police cases registered against Ahmadis under the anti-Ahmadi laws, the blasphemy laws and cases based on the accused's religion. During the first three month of year 2021 **twenty-seven** Ahmadis were booked. In the past 31 months, such criminal cases against **95** Ahmadis were registered.

These include **48** accused under the blasphemy laws. No Ahmadi would ever even consider blaspheming Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) and his Scripture, but the police find it convenient to yield to the mulla or to share his fake claim to reward in the afterlife for making life unbearable for a *Kafir*. For instance.

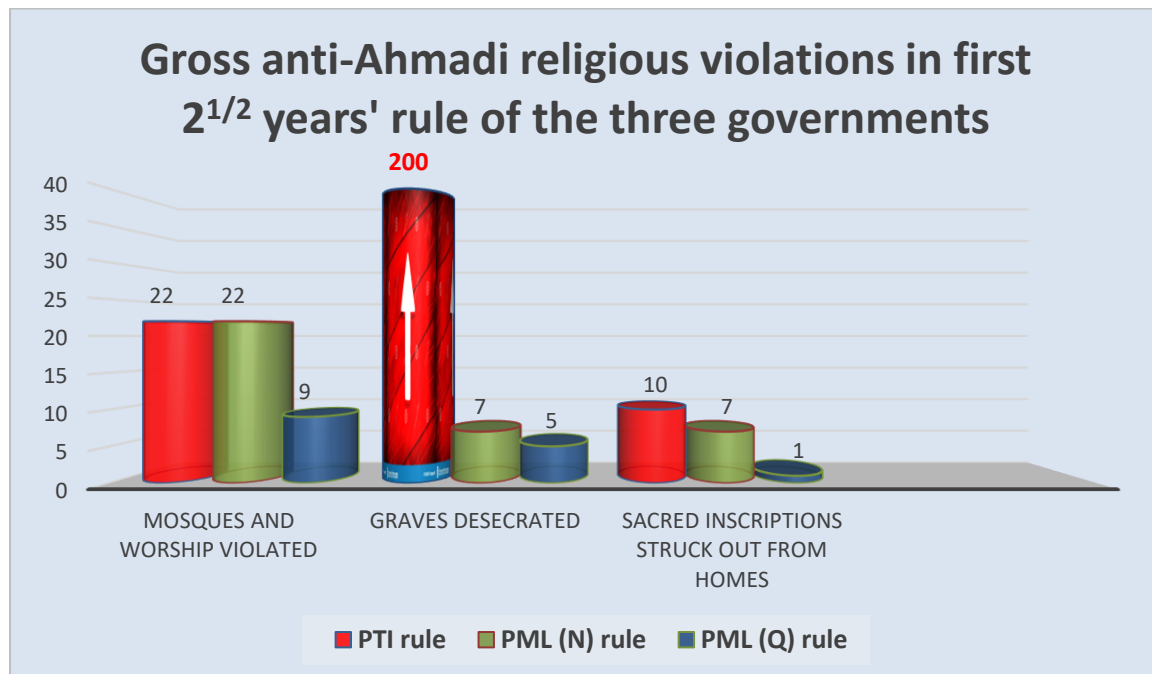
Ms. Ramzan Bibi of District Nankana, an Ahmadi lady donated Rs 250 to the local non-Ahmadi mosque. They refused it. This resulted in dispute, even quarrel in which Ms. Bibi was injured. The opposition fabricated a blasphemy accusation against her which the police accepted without due and fair inquiry. Ms. Bibi was arrested under the deadly blasphemy charges and sent to lock up. **This was the first ever such case, as no Ahmadi woman was arrested even during the oppressive Zia regime.**

The conduct of the DPO, of the present regime, deserves special mention. On receipt of news of this incident in the village, he issued direction that the village elders' opinion be sought and the local police proceed as appropriate. This was obviously very inefficient handling. Considering the gravity of the accusation and the situation, he should have driven to the village and made sure that justice and fair play was done. During the 'condemned' Raj, such a DPO would have been fired.

Numerous Ahmadis including high-ranking community officials were booked under many laws including blasphemy laws and Cyber Crimes laws by the provincial Cyber Crimes Wing of FIA. FIA is a federal agency but its Lahore office is mostly manned by Punjabis who have allowed themselves to be co-opted by local mullas. A petty mulla from Lahore, whose only strong point is to make sectarian mischief, is very influential with this Wing. **This team has committed great wrongs against Ahmadis, even criminally tortured some of the accused.** It brings no credit to a federal agency when its provincial wing is manipulated by a provincial extremist who has little to his credit other than his kinship with a temporary high-placed cleric.

Criminals who attack Ahmadis are rarely brought to justice. However two murderers who had killed Ahmadis in broad daylight were arrested some years ago. The judges in Districts Nankana and Sheikhupura acquitted them. Did the authorities in Lahore take note of these acquittals and hold an inquiry into the quality of police investigation and prosecution?

The above are only sample cases. PTI came to power on the slogan of CHANGE. What change has occurred to Ahmadis' plight in the Punjab, if not for worse?



We hope that the Punjab Secretariat took notice of the occasion when a Lahore High Court judge, on instigation of infamous mulla Muawiyah, ordered high admin and police authorities in the Punjab to revisit and ensure that printing and publishing houses in Rabwah comply with laws and orders of the government. Accordingly a high level team carried out raids in Rabwah — and reported once again to the judge that the restrictions were being complied with by Ahmadis. **The question arises** as to whether the Punjab administration considered making an appeal to the Chief Justice or to the Supreme Court that judges not interfere in executive functions of the provincial government and not pay much attention to religious extremists of objectionable conduct?

Here it is very relevant to bring up the issue of interpretation of law and the constitution. The Punjab Police at places is known to have arbitrarily extended the meaning of anti-Ahmadi law, more like a mulla than a fair official. A few laws do place a few specified restrictions on Ahmadis, and the police cannot be blamed for applying these bad laws as per their text, but the cops have no authority to extend such laws to areas which have not been mentioned in the law. **For instance, Ahmadis undertake Qurbani** (sacrificing cattle) at the festival of Eid ul Adha. There is no law forbidding *Qurbani* to Ahmadis, then why at some places the police join hands with mullas and make *Qurbani* problematic for Ahmadis. For instance in August 2020, three Ahmadis were booked in FIR/710 in Pir Mahal PS in District

Toba Tek Singh, Punjab for undertaking *Qurbani* and distributing meat among Muslims. Mr. Fazl Saeed, the main accused had gone to far-away Karachi, but the DSP telephoned him to present himself to the police back home on August 13. He was then arrested. A magistrate rejected his plea for bail. The temporary bails of other two accused, including his elderly father, were not confirmed. Is this the right way to govern the Punjab? By denying freedom of faith to its citizens!

Freedom of faith and its practice has been denied to Ahmadis in the Punjab more than in any other province of the country. This province has promulgated a law regarding printing of the Holy Quran and its translation, in that it is specifically worded to deny Ahmadis their right to print and have a copy of their own foremost scripture. **Not content with that, the Punjab Government has banned production of all the books written by Ahmadiyya founder. Un-believable, but true.** All this is, as if in the US, Jehovah's Witnesses were forbidden to publish and own their Bible and the written works of Charles Russel. Apart from these criminal enormities, violating Pakistan's Constitution itself, **the Punjab has banned publication of Ahmadiyya daily and monthlies including those of Ahmadi children and women.** Granted that these rules and orders were promulgated by the previous regimes, why the PTI, claimant to CHANGE, has not repealed those orders. In most of these cases, the government has simply to issue a letter.

These rules and their strict application have adversely affected even Ahmadiyya libraries. **The Khilafat Library in Rabwah** had to do away with over 50,000 books, newspapers, periodicals, historic posters, items of archives, etc. Copies of all the Holy Qurans, and volumes of exegesis had to be removed. Security agents made discrete visits to the library to ensure such compliance.

This is a direct attack on Ahmadis' freedom of expression, information and knowledge. How does the Punjab government justify that, while the Federation is signatory to international covenants like UDHR and ICCPR? Does the province not realize the disrepute it can bring to the entire country?

A few words about the harm that government policies are doing to the civil society and the communal peace:

During the days of the Raj, many mosques were shared by Ahmadi and non-Ahmadi Muslims. They got together at times of joy and grief. They enjoyed freedom of religion. One hardly ever heard of anti-Ahmadi large scale riots.

The unwelcome social and communal situation now prevailing in the Punjab is mentioned below very briefly.

- Mr. Muhammad Arif joined the Jamaat Ahmadiyya in 2017 in Ahmadpur East. In the face of severe opposition, he had to leave the town. In December last year his uncle sent for his sister and told her, *"We have waited for three years, but your brother has not become a Muslim, so we have demolished his house to build a madrassah in its place. You should take away its debris."* Whither freedom of faith!

- In Johar Town of the provincial capital, an Ahmadi family, whose head was away in West Africa in August 2020, was told to vacate the rented house as soon as possible, because the owner was under great pressure from the neighborhood after the Peshawar incident (where a former Ahmadi was murdered in the court room in the presence of the judge, a few days earlier).
- In village Jatoi, Muzaffar Garh, an Ahmadi, Ehsan Ahmad faced unjustified claim to his property by a non-Ahmadi relative. Both approached the local chairman and explained him their claims. The chairman then telephoned some mulla and asked for an edict (*Masala*): “In a litigation, one party is Qadiani but has the right, while the other party is Muslim and is in the wrong; what to do?” The chairman held back the obvious decision after the mulla gave him his verdict.
The opponent later told his lawyer that there was a precedent – the lawyer who defended Mumtaz Qadri (who murdered Governor Taseer) charged no-fee; similarly in this case (now in court) a Muslim should be supported with no-fee.
- Mr. Masroor Ahmad, an Ahmadi student, in Government College Chawinda, District Sialkot faced opposition for his faith. Explaining the rights of non-Muslims, the Islamic Studies teacher said, “All non-Muslims should be given their rights, but Qadianis are apostates, infidels; don’t be sympathetic to them. Kill them, wherever you find them.” After the lecture, students became hostile to Ahmad and started bad-mouthing the Jamaat Ahmadiyya and uttered threats. This incident happened early in March 2021. Are the senior officials of the Punjab education department aware of this incident? If not, why has not the College reported it to them and proposed disciplinary action against the lecturer?
- Last but not least. An Ahmadi runs a primary school in Allahabad Dareshak, District Rajanpur. Children are admitted there regardless of caste or creed. A mulla approached the DC accusing the management falsely of preaching Ahmadiyyat there. On orders from seniors, the police sealed the school and booked six Ahmadis, including the District Amir and the Director of Education in Pakistan (Ahmadiyya). The clauses applied include those that prescribe life imprisonment as penalty and the facility of trial in an anti-terrorism court.

Ms. Ashiq Awan, government spokesperson was quoted recently on *Waseb TV*: *Buzdar government is determined to deliver people’s rights at their doorstep! Consider.*

Loss of state writ

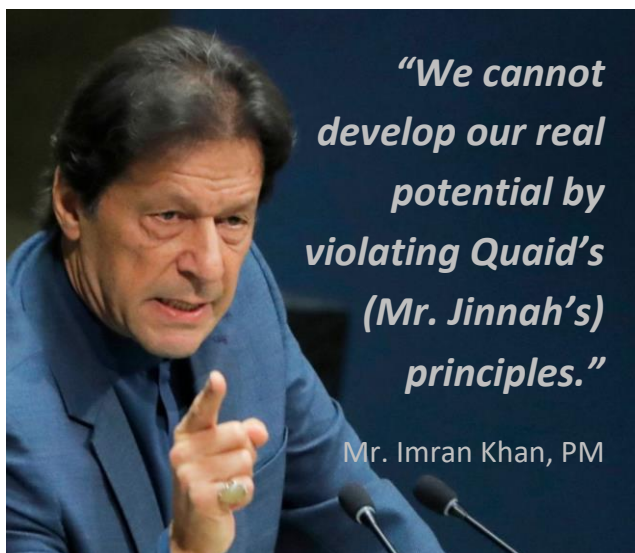
It is obvious that hypocrisy reigns supreme in the Punjab. Right words are often spoken, but actions betray them. Occasionally the political bosses themselves express them in public to look sincere and truthful. The prime minister stated recently, and GNN TV reported; ***“We cannot develop our real potential by violating Quaid’s (Mr. Jinnah’s) principles.”***

The question is: Who is stopping you; you are the overlords?

Mr. Shibli, Minister of Information was quoted the same day by the same channel: ***The rule of law is, as if not there.***

He was right. Where is the writ of the state if the state functionaries voluntarily submit to the writ of the mulla? At occasions the authorities behave as if paralyzed; then how can they perform their functions uprightly?

Not long ago, the incident at Attock demonstrated that openly. Its very brief resume’ is in order.



AC Hussain leading procession of extremists

Ms. Jannat Hussain, Assistant Commissioner in Attock dared to emphasize on Human Rights Day 2019 that all minorities including Ahmadis should enjoy equal rights.

Mullas objected to that and launched a few students to fulminate over it. Ms. Hussain’s seniors got cold feet, deserted the lady, and ‘advised’ her to explain and retract her opinion. She was made even to lead a procession of religious extremists who shouted slogans like: ***“Countless curses on Qadianis.”*** The BBC quoted a very apt tweet at the occasion: ***“If in a country an Assistant Commissioner has to defend herself before religious bigots and wretches and rascals, for promoting better treatment of minorities, that country has no right to criticize and condemn the Indian RSS’ Hindutva bodies and state actions.”***

How come this simple message of an average citizen is lost on PTI plenipotentiaries!

Accountability by internal standards

We are not alone in our observations made above. Such views have been expressed, often formally, at the highest national forums. Why the National Action Plan has been forgotten? The noble well-considered *Paighame Pakistan* was promulgated in 2018 – why is it not applied in the Punjab. And the decent Code of Conduct was thereafter drafted and advertised by none others than the grand clerics of IIC, with reference to *Paighame Pakistan*. Why have the Ahmadis been made exception to its provisions? Islam is claimed to be a universal religion of tolerance. The much-lauded verdict of the honorable Supreme Court in 2014 went as far as requiring a special force to protect minorities' places of worship; in the Punjab the police instead takes it upon themselves to damage and destroy Ahmadis' mosques. Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, the Chair of the Ulama Board makes many good and reassuring statements, but the Punjab has its own action plan. Is it an SOP?

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be frankly stated that the Punjab, the most populated province of Pakistan, is not being governed and managed as it deserves. In a way, it seems that the writ of the state is under the influence of the mulla. Granted that this has not happened entirely during the current regime, it was gradually brought about by the previous regimes, but it is a pity that there is literally no 'change', as is obvious from the way the government, the administration and the police treat Ahmadis which although small is a very important community. There is no reason for utter despair, as the downward slide can still be halted. What is needed is the political will to do so. It is in the nature of things that no regime lasts forever – even the mighty King Faisal, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, General Zia, Mian Brothers, all got replaced prematurely. What last nearly forever, are good deeds and good reputation.

We have produced this paper primarily not to incriminate anyone, but as a service to inform those in power and those concerned with human rights of the situation on the ground, as this information is the base for these people, on which they can build and raise good governance, or help to do so. We are well-wishers of the Punjab, of its masters and of those who contribute to an improved life and society where fundamental rights and freedoms flourish.

For those who violate higher values and principles, the Holy Quran's reprimand should suffice:

And when We decide to destroy a town (population), We (first) send a definite order (to obey Allah and be righteous) to those among them [or We (first) increase in number those of its population] who are given the good things of this life. Then, they transgress therein, and thus the word (of torment) is justified against it (them). Then We destroy it with complete destruction.

Al-Quran 17:16

March 31, 2021

Annex: Abbreviations

Abbreviations

AC	Assistant Commissioner	JIT	Joint Investigation Team
AD&SJ	Add. Distt. & Sessions Judge	JUI (F)	Jamiat Ulamae Islam (Fazl)
AJK	Azad Jammu and Kashmir	JUP	Jamiat Ulamae Pakistan
AMTKN	Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat	KN	Khatme Nabuwwat (End of Prophethood)
APC	All Parties Conference	KNLF	Khatame Nabuwwat Lawyers Forum
ASI	Assistant Sub-inspector (of police)	LHC	Lahore High Court
ASJ	Additional Sessions Judge	MNA	Member of National Assembly
ASWJ	Ahle Sunnat wal Jamaat	MQM	Mutahiddah Qaumi Movement
ATC	Anti-terrorism Court	NA	National Assembly
ATA	Anti-terrorism Act	NAP	National Action Plan
CIA	Criminal Investigation Agency	NAB	National Accountability Bureau
CII	Council of Islamic Ideology	NS	Mr. Nawaz Sharif
CJ	Chief Justice of Pakistan	PAT	Pakistan Awami Tehrik
CM	Chief Minister	PBUH	Peace be upon him
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card	PECA	Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act
COAS	Chief of Army Staff	PEMRA	Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority
CPO	City Police Officer	PML (N)	Pak Muslim League (Nawaz)
CrPC	Criminal Procedure Code	PML (Q)	Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid-e-Azam)
CTD	Counter-terrorism Department	PPC	Pakistan Penal Code
DC	Deputy Commissioner	PPP	Pakistan Peoples Party
DHA	Defence Housing Authority	PS	Police Station
DIG	Deputy Inspector General (P)	PTI	Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf
DPO	District Police Officer	PUC	Pakistan Ulama Council
DSP	Deputy Superintendent of Police	RAW	Research and Analysis Wing, India
ECL	Exit Control List	RPO	Regional Police Officer
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan	SC	Supreme Court of Pakistan
EDO	Executive District Officer	SHC	Sindh High Court
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas	SHO	(Police) Station House Officer
FIR	First Information Report	SP	Superintendent of Police
FIA	Federal Investigation Agency	ST	Sunni Tehrik
HRCP	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan	TJP	Tehrik Jafria Pakistan
HRW	Human Rights Watch	TLP	Tehrik e Labbaik Pakistan
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)	TLYR	Tehrik Labbaik Ya Rasulal Allah
IHC	Islamabad High Court	UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
IG	Inspector General (of police)	UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
IK	Mr. Imran Khan	UNHRC	UN Human Rights Council
IKNM	International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement (End of Prophethood)	USCIRF	United States Commission for International Religious Freedom
ISPR	Inter-Services Public Relations	ZAB	Mr. Zulfiquar Ali Bhutto
JI	Jamaat Islami		