

PERSECUTION OF AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

Monthly Report January 2023

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DID YOU KNOW?

AHMADIS FACE THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT UNDER FEDERAL LAWS FOR:

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

AHMADIS HAVE TO DECLARE THEMSELVES
NON-MUSLIM

TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE AND STAND FOR ELECTION

SEE PAGE 15 FOR DETAILS ON VOTING RIGHT FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

Highlights

SINCE THE
PROMULGATION OF
ORDINANCE XX IN 1984

276
Murdered
for faith

473
Murder
Attempts

4147
Ahmadis
Booked in
Religious
Cases

201
Mosques
Desecrated

IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS
DURING 2022

3
Murdered
for faith

14
Mosques
Desecrated

107
Ahmadis
Booked in
Religious
Cases

197
Graves
Desecrated

A NEW YEAR FOR AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

As we welcome a new year, it is disheartening to witness the multiple incidents targeting the Ahmadi community in Pakistan within the first 31 days of 2023 AD. The attacks on two Ahmadi mosques in Wazirabad and Karachi, the assault on an Ahmadi cemetery, and the dissemination of a video inciting violence against Ahmadis are clear violations of the basic human rights of individuals. Furthermore, the prohibition of burying an Ahmadi deceased in her village and the wrongful arrest of an Ahmadi leader in the headquarters of the community in Pakistan on charges of blasphemy are deeply concerning. It is alarming that these events have occurred so early in the year, leaving 11 more months with a potential for more incidents.

It is important that authorities take immediate action to prevent such incidents from happening again and to ensure the safety and security of all individuals, regardless of their beliefs. The new year should be a time for hope, but for the Ahmadi community in Pakistan, it has started with fear and uncertainty.

MINARETS OF AHMADIYYA MOSQUE DEMOLISHED BY PUNJAB POLICE



Wazirabad Mosque after the incident.

Wazirabad, District Gujranwala; January 10, 2023:

The minarets of Ahmadiyya mosque were demolished by the Punjab Police in the dark hours of January 10, 2023. These were demolished in defiance of the Supreme Court's 2014 decision to protect places of worship.

Someone put up an application to the police that the Ahmadis have built a room with minarets on it, which resembles a mosque, while they cannot build it as per law (sic). The police accordingly told Ahmadis to disband the minarets. Ahmadis told the police of the community's position on this issue and told them further that this worship place was built in 1915.

The police wrongfully booked five Ahmadis under anti-Ahmadiyya sections 298-B and 298-C. ASJ Noor Muhammad Dhothar rejected their bail on January 23, 2023.

The daily Express Tribune published the following story on January 11, 2023:

Police accused of 'desecration' of Ahmadi worship place in Wazirabad

A historical worship place of Ahmadi community situated at Moti Bazar has been allegedly desecrated by police

LAHORE: A historical worship place of Ahmadi community situated at Moti Bazar, Wazirabad, which was established back in 1915, was allegedly desecrated by district administration (police) last night.

A local leader of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), Irfan Iliyas Butt had filed a complaint before Assistant Commissioner Wazirabad stating that the Ahmadi community had established a room similar in

looks to a nearby mosque with minarets on it.

He had sought action under Section 298-B and 298-C of Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

Section 298-C of PPC reads, "Any person of the Qadiani group or the Lahori group (who call themselves "Ahmadis" or by any other name), who directly or indirectly poses himself as a Muslim, or calls, or refers to, his faith as Islam, or preaches or propagates his faith, or invites others to accept his faith, by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representations, or in any manner whatsoever outrages the religious feelings of Muslims, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine."

Spokesperson of the Ahmadi community while speaking to The Express Tribune decried the act stating it was "tantamount to discrimination against them as well as against the Supreme Court's judgement".

He further quoted a judgement by a three-member bench of Supreme Court of Pakistan headed by Justice Tassadaq Hussain Jilani.

As per the details of the ruling, it had asked for ensuring protection of minorities' worship places by the government. It had directed for establishment of task force in this regard.

He further revealed that "unfortunately the government bodies such as the police are demolishing our worship places, instead of protecting them."

It is pertinent to note that last month, minarets from a worship place of the Ahmadi community in Gujranwala were also demolished by police.

TLP leader Irfan Iliyas, when contacted over telephone, said he was not interested in sharing his version of the incident.

VANDALS ATTACK AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN KARACHI

Martin Road, Karachi; January 18, 2023:

Opponent of Ahmadiyyat are primarily busy nowadays desecrating Ahmadiyya mosques and graves. They were active in the Punjab, but lately they have spread their mischief to Sindh. They desecrated minarets of the Ahmadiyya mosque in Martin Road, Karachi. Earlier they got registered a police case under PPC 298-C against Ahmadis for constructing a mosque-style worship place. Encouraged this way by the timidity of the police and the administration, they upgraded their depravity.

On January 18 in the afternoon, more than a dozen miscreants come to the Ahmadiyya mosque. Some of them climbed up a ladder to reach the roof of the mosque. They tore down the two minarets of the mosque with hammers.

Ahmadis informed the police, but before the police arrived they fled away.



**STRANGE!!
THIS POSTER WAS ON DISPLAY NEAR THE
AHMADIYYA MOSQUE
NO AUTHORITY TOOK ANY ACTION**

Translation:

Demand from management
Qadianis cannot use the rituals of Islam.
1984 Prohibition Qadianis under Ordinance 8-298
and C-298 Qadianis cannot use domes, minarets,
mihirabs, Kalima Tayyaba (THE ISLAMIC CREED),
Quranic verses on their centers, apostasy houses
like mosques.
We demand from the administration that the rites
of Islam should be removed immediately from the
apostate houses of the Qadianis.

From: The residents of Jamshed Quarters Karachi



AHMADIYYA TOP LEADERSHIP BOOKED UNDER BLASPHEMY CLAUSE — ONE ARRESTED

Rabwah; January 2023:

We reported earlier in our monthly report for December 2022 that the Police has registered a criminal case against some members of the top Ahmadiyya leadership in Pakistan under the blasphemy clause PPC 295-B, the anti-Ahmadiyya law PPC 298-C and the Punjab Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) Act 2011, on December 6, 2022. The blasphemy clause 295-B prescribes imprisonment for life.

One of the nominees in this case Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Sani was arrested subsequently on January 7, 2023 from his home in Rabwah. He

was sent to Jhang Jail after judicial remand. His bail application is under process in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Lalian, District Chiniot.

The opponents petitioned against the verdict of his judicial remand; they would rather have him in police custody. They gathered a number of clerics and anti-Ahmadi activists in the court to pressurize the proceedings and made hateful speeches. They demanded that the case be transferred to the anti-terrorism court. Their demand was malicious as well as ridiculous. The court dismissed their petition.

BURIAL DENIED TO AN AHMADI WOMAN

Peeru Chak, District Sialkot; January 21, 2023:

An anti-Ahmadi activist of Tahaffuze Khatme Nabuwwat filed a complaint with PS Motra against Ahmadis for allegedly violating anti-Ahmadiyya Sections PPCs 298-B and 298-C. The police destroyed 45 tombstones of Ahmadis here. This graveyard has the graves of Ahmadis on one side and non-Ahmadis' on the other, and has been thus shared for the past 71 years.

A few days ago an Ahmadi woman Ms. Bushra Bibi died. Arrangements were made for her burial in the said cemetery, but the administration, on the complaint of a mulla, disallowed Ahmadis to bury the dead there and told them to take it elsewhere. The administration was told that Ahmadis have always buried their dead here. The officials found it convenient to threaten Ahmadis to 'cooperate', otherwise their names would be put in the Fourth Schedule and a criminal case could be registered against them. They were told that every time it is Ahmadis who cooperate with the administration while the opponents create problems and get away with their wrongful demands. They have four graveyards in the village, while Ahmadis have only one.

The authorities then sent the case to the District Core Management Peace Committee, on

which they opined that the cemetery was allotted to Muslim emigrants at the time of the Partition, the majority of whom were Qadianis. Despite the constitutional amendment, there was no dispute over the burials until 6 months ago. Later, differences arose, and the situation has become volatile which can precipitate a dangerous incident at any time. Apart from the disputed cemetery in Peeru Chak there are four cemeteries for Muslims. The Qadiani side has more graves in the disputed cemetery. Organizations that maintain law and order should find a permanent and sustainable solution to this so that there will be no threat to peace, they timidly suggested.

On this, surprisingly the AC decided to seal the Ahmadiyya part of the cemetery and said that some other area of the government land would be allotted for the cemetery. Ms. Bushra's dead body had to be taken away elsewhere for burial.

On January 21, an Ahmadi woman Ms. Khurshid Bibi died. The opponents intervened and stopped her burial. The higher authorities took the side of the anti-Ahmadis, and threatened Ahmadis with police cases for not taking the dead body elsewhere from the village for burial. Ahmadis had to comply.

A MINISTERIAL PRESSER

Islamabad:

A press conference was held on January 5, 2023 by Rana Sanaullah the Interior Minister, Mufti Abdul Shakoor the Religious Affairs Minister and Mr. Hanif Abbasi a PML (N) leader, wherein the leading issue was publication of the Holy Quran. This had a background.

Mr. Hassan Muawiyah of Khatme Nabuwat Lawyers Forum had placed a writ in Lahore High Court (LHC) that the 17-point verdict of Justice Shujaat Ali Khan regarding the Holy Quran is not being implemented and Jamaat Ahmadiyya continues to publish the Holy Quran (not true: Editor). This case is being heard by Justice Shujaat Ali Khan; he required the presence of the principal secretaries of the prime minister and the chief minister. Dr. Tauqir the Principal Secretary to the PM told the court that the PM had been briefed of the court verdict and he had decided to discuss it in a cabinet meeting. "A Secretaries Committee had been formed on this issue, we'll submit the action plan in the court, the PM has told us to convey to the court that to do all this is our duty," he said.

In the presser the Interior Minister said that it has been decided that the Ministry of Religious Affairs, after preparing a standard version of the Holy Quran in original and its translation will present it to provincial Quran Boards. This version will be unanimous, authentic and better in all respects. This will then be forwarded to all districts and Tehsils. The provincial governments and the federal ministry of religious affairs will ensure that this standard version would be beyond doubt and controversy. If anyone obstructs this, he will face disciplinary action.



The minister added that some elements, persisting in their error, indulge in wrong translation of the Holy Quran. Some of them are mis-

guided. The Cyber Crime Wing of FIA and PTA have been directed to work as coordinated by the federal Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Mufti Abdul Shakoor was more forthright in pointing the finger at Ahmadis. He said that those who indulge in this insolence (gustakhi) deserve to be punished. It is our duty to implement this court order. We warn those who act irresponsibly on social media to desist from their practice. Their conduct is extremely disgusting (ghanaone) and we warn those who were guilty of this lapse. These people who indulged in this, and the court verdict went against them, those in Chenab Nagar who committed this excess, Qadianis or anyone else, those held responsible by the court, must be punished by the governments. We request provincial governments to take this seriously, the Mufti elaborated.

Rana Sanaullah added that translation and commentary are different (categories), unanimously agreed (muttafiqah) translations are available (maujud hein). Mufti Shakoor, in reply to a query replied that the (standard) translation has been done already, all agree with it. At this, Rana Sanaullah intervened and said that it is not appropriate to discuss this issue in the open, great scholars of different schools got together and agreed upon one translation, this is available — it will be sent to Quran Boards of all provinces; they will go through it and endorse it. Once endorsed, there will be no objection to it. Thus unanimous translation will be distributed all over. At one location, a police case has been registered for incorrect translation (at Rabwah: Editor) and they have been apprehended, so that no such activity is undertaken in future, and if done it would be overturned completely.

Other issues of political nature were discussed in the presser subsequently.

Our footnote: More than a century ago, a renowned non-Ahmadi scholar and journalist Muhammad Aslam visited Qadian, the Ahmadiyya headquarters town in India, and described his impression in writing as follows (extract): "*The true love for the Holy Quran that I noted in this Jamaat (Ahmadis), I've not seen anywhere else. I found the Quran all over the Ahmadi Qadian (Quran hee Quran nazar aya).*" The weekly Badr; March 13, 1913

GOVERNMENTAL ORDERS REVERSED ON DEMAND OF BIGOTS

Sargodha; January 3, 2023:

The appointment of an Ahmadi doctor, Shafqat Ullah Nasir, as the Additional Principal and Medical Superintendent of District Headquarters Hospital, Sargodha was cancelled under the pressure of a few religious fanatics.

Anjuman Tahaffuze Huqooq Shehryan Sargodha, falsely claiming to be the representatives of people and Muslims of Sargodha, published a poster on various platforms which demanded his removal from the recent appointment within three days. They accused wrongfully Dr. Shafqat of propagating his faith and hurting the sacred sentiments of Muslims. They also threatened the authorities with a protest-call in case their demands are not met. We provide its copy and translation below:

Dr. Shafqat graduated in 1992 and served in Silanwali, AIMC Lahore and Sobhaga, District Sargodha. He had also faced discrimination in

AIMC Lahore. He is a competent professional and his recent appointment as the MS, along with his promotion to grade 20, shows his ability and merit. Surely, the patients in the hospital are least interested in his sectarian identity and theological convictions.

Such transfers are not unusual. Previously in 2021, Mr. Shaukat Hayyat Majoka, another qualified government servant, an Ahmadi, was transferred repeatedly for his faith, on demand of religious bigots. In 2014, he was posted at Bhakar, then because of some opposition he was transferred to Khanewal, then to Raheem Yar Khan, thereafter to Chakwal, then to Fatah Jang and Jund Pindi, District Attock. Soon after, he was transferred to Noorpur Thal, thereafter to Mianwali, then to Rawalpindi, then to Lahore head office thereafter to Khushab, and eventually again to Lahore.

Unbelievable, but true. Yes, true.

“Protest... Protest... Protest

Unacceptable...Unacceptable...Qadiani MS unacceptable

There is ire in religious circles on the appointment by the Punjab government of a fanatic Qadiani Murabbi (missionary) Shafqatullah Nasir as the Medical Superintendent of DHQ Hospital Sargodha. Shafqatullah Nasir was earlier found preaching Qadianism in Silanwali, on which there



احتجاج...احتجاج...احتجاج
نامنظور...نامنظور...نامنظور
قادیانی ایم ایس نامنظور

حکومت پنجاب کی جانب سے تعصب پسند قادیانی مربی شفقت اللہ ناصر کو ڈی ایچ جیو ہسپتال سرگودھا کا میڈیکل سپرنٹنڈنٹ تعینات کیے جانے پر مذہبی حلقوں میں اضطراب پایا جاتا ہے شفقت اللہ ناصر قبل ازیں سلاوالی میں قادیانیت کی تبلیغ کرتے پائے گئے تھے جس پر سلاوالی میں شدید احتجاج ہوا تھا، اب سرگودھا میں شفقت اللہ ناصر کو بطور ایم ایس تعینات کر کے مسلمانوں کے جذبات مجروح کیے جا رہے ہیں، اہلیان سرگودھا کا حکومت پنجاب سے مطالبہ ہے کہ ڈی ایچ جیو ہسپتال کے میڈیکل سپرنٹنڈنٹ کے عہدے سے قادیانی ایم ایس کو فوری طور پر ہٹایا جائے، تین دن کی وارننگ دیتے ہوئے ڈی ایچ جیو ہسپتال سرگودھا سمیت پنجاب اسمبلی کے سامنے احتجاج کی کال دی جائے گی۔

was a strong protest in Silanwali. Now the sentiments of Muslims are being hurt by appointing Shafqatullah Nasir as MS in Sargodha. The people of Sargodha demand the Punjab government to immediately remove Qadiani MS from the post of Medical Superintendent of DHQ Hospital, giving a three-day warning, otherwise a protest call will be made in front of the Punjab Assembly including DHQ Hospital Sargodha.”

انجمن تحفظ حقوق شہریاں سرگودھا
پنجاب:

MR. PARVEZ ELAHI CM PUNJAB IN THE NEWS

Lahore; January 2, 2023:

The daily Dunya published the following news, which is worthy of placing on record. We produce below its translation: Services of Pervez Elahi for Faith shall be remembered for life: Chohan.

Rawalpindi (News reporter): Mr. Fayaz ul Hasan Chohan, the spokesperson for the chief minister of Punjab, said that the services of the CM Mr. Parvez Elahi for Faith (Deen) will be remembered for lifetime (ta hayaat). Parvez Elahi played a great and lofty role on issues of End of Prophethood (Khatme Nabuwat) and Honour of Prophethood (Namus Rasalat). He said that the establishment of Khatam an Nabiyyeen University for the first time in history is a great achievement for 220 million Pakistanis and the entire Muslim Ummah. One billion rupees have been set aside for the Khatam an Nabiyyeen University.



THREE AHMADIYYA GRAVES LEVELLED IN FAISALABAD

89 Ratan, District Faisalabad; January 22, 2023:

Unknown miscreants leveled the soil and desecrated the graves of three Ahmadis. The attackers trespassed the Ahmadiyya graveyard by cutting the barbed wires. Later, they tried to torch the coffins and some other items stored in the adjacent room.

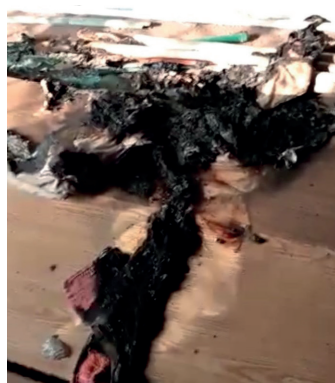
A similar attack was carried out on November 20 in the same graveyard, where they removed gravestones from three Ahmadiyya graves and stole some fixtures from the site.

The Human Rights of Commission of Pakistan had then said: *"The recent desecration of an Ah-*

madi worship place in Gujranwala is not only a grave violation of the community's fundamental rights, but also contravenes the very spirit of the 2014 Tasadduq Jillani judgement."

The incident was reported to police who didn't register an FIR.

Last year, 144 graves of the Ahmadiyya Community were desecrated, mostly by the Punjab Police. The mulla and the police seem to act jointly in this malicious campaign. Even in death, Ahmadis are not allowed to rest in peace. Their living relatives feel immensely hurt and persecuted.



BIGOTRY GROWS IN PAKISTAN

Thefridaytimes.com January 23, 2023:

A recent op-ed in the Friday Times is well-written, timely and informative. It provides useful information on historic development of blasphemy laws in Pakistan, however here we produce only selected extracts:

Bigotry Against Religious and Sectarian Minorities is Growing in Pakistan

On January 18, 2023, National Assembly approved amendments in Section 298-A of the Pakistan Penal Code 1860, enhancing the punishment for 'defiling' the sacred names of wives, family and companions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) to 10 years with a million rupees fine.

This is the newest slip down the slippery slope of blasphemy legislation that this country has had to suffer haplessly.

Earlier, Parvez Elahi, former chief minister of Punjab, doubled down on Khatme-Nabuwwat, as the central plank of his political programme. After the government's great administrative achievement of insertion of the anti-Ahmadi clause in the nikahnama, the latest gimmick is the affixation of the Quranic verses in the committee room of the chief minister's office and the founding of the Khatam-ul-Nabiyyeen University.

The changes are significant because they indicate a further downward spiral at a time when

Pakistan's human rights record is already the subject of global criticism. Pakistan is one of the worst countries of the world when it comes to curbs on religious freedom and freedom of expression.

Imagine, in the 21st century, Pakistanis will remain busy litigating disputes from the 7th century Arabia between the holiest personages of Islam. There is no occasion for blasphemy laws in the 21st century. You just cannot punish people for things like blasphemy and heresy anymore. That time has passed. Pakistan is merely trying to swim against the tide but the march of humanity cannot be stopped. Even Saudi Arabia has been forced to reform and move with times.

Unlike Saudi Arabia, Pakistan is not an oil rich country but a bankrupt poor country. The persecution of minorities, both religious and sectarian, is not going to win the country any friends in the comity of nations. It will only paint us as a priest-ridden society which privileges one faith over others and infringes on the fundamental rights of its citizens.

Other than finding it tragic, the world also sees us as a joke. In the process, we end up embarrassing Muslims everywhere. Sadly our politicians are more concerned with misusing religion than Pakistan's reputation.

"POUR PETROL ON IT, NOT WATER", A SENIOR MULLA'S GUIDANCE

Sargodha; January 2023:

International Human Rights Committee issued the following Incident Report on January 08, 2023. We reproduce it below verbatim for benefit of all concerned. However first we translate the relevant extract of the mulla's address:

"To eat, drink, sit, stand, doing business, to be with them in their moment of sadness and moment of happiness, to buy things from their shop, to give them things from your shop, to hire them as salesman, all these things fall under the category of being Haraam. If a Mirzai passes away, his funeral should not be offered, if he falls ill he should not be attended, if he is found fallen down on the road he should not be taken to hospital, and if his house catches fire in your neighborhood, if possible you may pour petrol on it, not water. The rights of minorities are for Christians, Jews, Sikhs, and Hindus — not for them. There cannot be any concession to Mirzaiat and Qadianiat."

INCIDENT REPORT

"POUR PETROL ON HIS HOUSE, NOT WATER": PAKISTANI MULLAH INCITES DEATH ON AHMADI MUSLIMS

In another major escalation of anti-Ahmadiyya sentiment in Pakistan, a radical religious cleric has called for a total boycott of Ahmadi Muslims. In a speech by Syed Muhammad Sibtain Shah Naqvi (Patron Markazi Jamiat Ahl-e-Hadees, Punjab; Founder and Principal of Markaz Imam Bukhari Sargodha), he went to the inhumane extent of saying, "if an Ahmadi's house is on fire, you should pour petrol on it, not water". This egregious and toxic statement risks influencing impressionable youth in an environment already extremely hostile to Ahmadi Muslims who have every basic human right stripped away from them in the country. Their voice is being suffocated as Ahmadi representatives are being de-platformed at events and educational institutions. Last year saw a violent and cynical escalation of anti-Ahmadiyya activities with grievous murders, gravestones vandalized and mosques attacked. Now the New Year begins with fresh calls for violence, hatred and inhumane action against Ahmadis, in unrelenting systemic persecution against the peaceful and charitable Ahmadiyya Muslims Community.

The cleric went on to claim that minority rights apply to Jews, Christians, Sikhs and Hindus but not to Ahmadis. "The rights of the minorities are for the Christians, Jews, Sikhs, Hindus and it is not for them. There cannot be any relaxation with Mirzaiat and Qadianiat." He said: "To eat, drink, sit, stand, do business, to be with them in their moment of sadness and moment of happiness, to buy things from their shop, to give them things from your shop, to hire them as salesmen all these things fall under the category of being Haraam." The mullah went on further dehumanize Ahmadis in a sickening and twisted speech which echoes the worst crimes of ostracisation and 'othering' seen in human history. "If a Mirzai (derogatory term for Ahmadis) passes away his funeral should not be offered, if he falls ill he should not be attended, if he is found fallen down on the road he should not be taken to the hospital, if his house catches fire while he is living in your neighborhood, and if possible you can pour petrol on it, not water." This level of dehumanization is not only

against international human rights but every basic human and moral principles. It reeks of extreme hatred, prejudice and venom. This kind of rhetoric continues in Pakistan with authorities turning a blind eye. Anti-Ahmadiyya laws give license for such degraded sentiment to flourish with impunity. The international community is urged to pressure the government of Pakistan to afford Ahmadi Muslims the same basic standards of human rights and protection of minorities offered to others and enshrined in international human rights laws. On July 13, 2021, UN human rights experts expressed their deep concern over the lack of attention to the serious human rights violations perpetrated against the Ahmadiyya community around the world and called on the international community to step up efforts in bringing an end to the ongoing persecution of Ahmadis. We once again urge the international community to pressure the Government of Pakistan to honor its responsibility to provide protection to all its citizens, ensure freedom of religious practice to Ahmadis, and bring perpetrators of inciters of such vicious attacks to justice. The Government of Pakistan must also bring its laws and practices in conformity with international standards as ordained by Article 2, 18 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Article 25, 26.

END



MASSACRE OF AHMADIS IN BURKINA FASO ITS PARALLEL IN PAKISTAN

January 11, 2023:

Terrorists brutally executed nine worshippers at Ahmadiyya mosque in the village of Mehdi Abad, near the town of Dori in Burkina Faso (BF). Thereafter they threatened others not to return to the mosque.

Map locating Burkina Faso

Early reports mention that the terrorists first attended a nearby Wahabi mosque before raiding the Ahmadiyya mosque at the next congregational prayer, Isha (night). After detaining the worshippers, they indulged in a brief religious discourse with the Ahmadi Imam and elders, only to declare them Kafir and Wajib ul qatl. They asked their victims to renounce Ahmadiyyat, but they opted not to do so. The gang picked out senior members in the congregation and shot them dead.

The Spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya Community said:

“Our community, all around the world, is a family and we are heartbroken at the brutal murder of our brothers and grieve with their local ones. We pray that God envelops the martyrs in His mercy.

“We also pray for the security of Burkina Faso and that the Government fulfils its duty to protect all Burkinoke people, including Ahmadi Muslims, and that the perpetrators of this heinous and evil crime be brought to justice.”

According to a press report in the defensepost.com

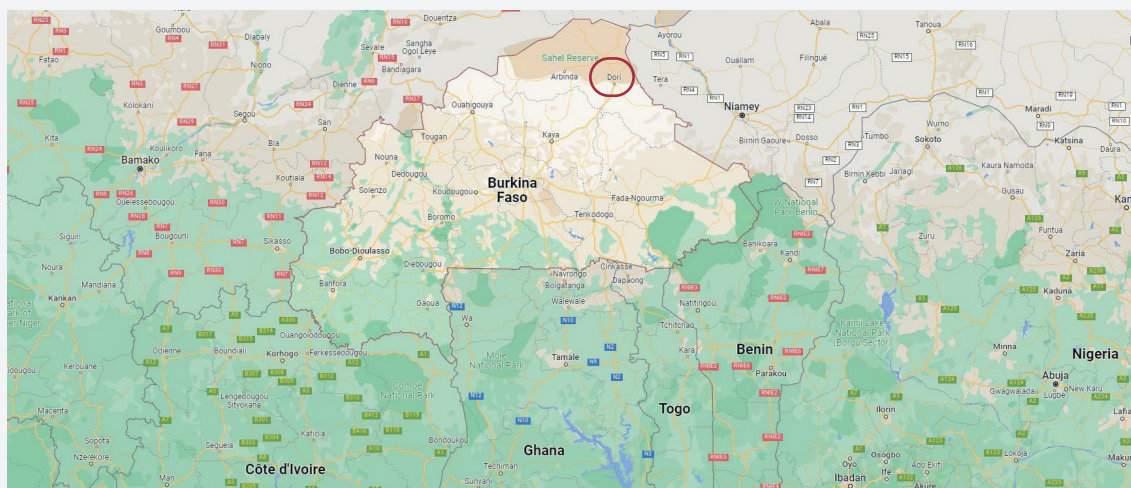
“Thousands of people have died and more than two million people have fled their homes since jihadists began launching attacks on Burkina Faso

from neighboring Mali in 2015.

“More than a third of the country’s territory lies outside of government control.”

A local parallel. Pakistani press gave little importance to this news. Most locals who came to know of the incident, assessed it as a happening in world’s backyard — remote uncivilized Africa. But they forget that in somewhat similar attacks in Pakistan, violent extremists killed 86 Ahmadi worshippers in Lahore in 2010 – 10 times more victims. Earlier in Mong, Punjab, in year 2005, two terrorist, fired from the back of worshippers in line, killed 8 of them and injured 20. This latter incident is more comparable to the attack in BF, so we mention below its few relevant facts:

- Religion apparently was the motivating factor in both cases. Initial report indicate that the terrorists in BF were Islamists, Jihadists and of Wahabi orientation.
- While the BF gang was choosy about their victims, the Pakistanis fired their bursts without discrimination.
- In BF the terrorists undertook the massacre at leisure, while the Pakistanis fired and fled. They did not tell the rest ‘Don’t come to worship again’. This was better – but that was 17 years ago.
- One of the Mong killers was arrested, some months later. He had committed other murders too. The police were sure that he was the team-leader at Mong firing. In the subsequent trial, the judge acquitted him and set him free. Sometimes later, someone killed him.
- No wonder, Lahore massacre occurred five



years later.

- The above mentioned report in the defencepost.com on the BF incident that a third of the country's territory lies outside of government control should be an eye-opener for Pakistan. After all, the TTP is Islamist, Jihadist, Deobandist (if not Wahabist). Other groups, practicing violent extremism to terrorism, like TLP etc. could opt to upgrade overnight their activism to terrorism.
- In the 21st century, Burkina Faso is not all that far and remote from Pakistan. There is little time left for the Pakistani state to fall into the same ditch as BF. Terrorists are knocking at the door.

P.S. News report

"Burkina Faso: Supposed Jihadis abduct 50 women

The daily Dunya, Faisalabad, January 15, 2023



DESECRATION OF GRAVES, ELSEWHERE TOO

A BRIEF COMPARISON

BBC, 1st week January 2023: BBC issued the following news report on [bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-64163185](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-64163185), (extracts):

Anglican Church and UK condemn desecration of Jerusalem graves

Anglican Church and United Kingdom have expressed "dismay" at an attack on a historic cemetery close to Jerusalem's walled Old City.

More than 30 graves at the Protestant Cemetery on Mount Zion were desecrated on Sunday. Crosses were broken and headstones toppled and smashed.

"We see more exclusion, more segregation and that is what really grieves us in this city of Jerusalem," (Archbishop Naocrem added.)

The Israeli ministry of foreign affairs also condemned the vandalism at a cemetery. This immoral act is an affront to religion and the perpetrators should be prosecuted, it tweeted.

Security camera footage shows two young men (wearing tippahs or skullcaps) carrying out the attack. ...

The Anglican Church said it had received supportive words from Israel's president, the chief rabbi of the Commonwealth, Sir Ephraim Mirvis, and other political and religious leaders.

In Pakistan. Ahmadiyya graves have been desecrated here too, but there is a difference – vast and important.

- The incidents of desecration of Ahmadiyya graves in Pakistan are many time more, and have gone on for years. For instance 67, 128 and 144 graves were desecrated in year 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively.
- In these appalling acts of vandalism, headstones were toppled and smashed. Vast majority of these hate crimes were undertaken by the police and the administration. They occasionally co-opted mullas to help them. Almost



always, they undertook sacrilege on demand of religious bigots. While the action is undertaken after the nod of district authorities, the policy directive is obviously given by the political bosses in capitals.

- It was decent of the Israeli president and its ministry of foreign affairs to condemn the vandalism at the cemetery. In Pakistan no official has ever uttered a similar word in public.
- While the Anglican Church received “supportive words from political and religious leaders”,

no leader in Pakistan had the courage to support Ahmadis openly against these immoral acts that are affront to any religion or society.

- However, there is a ray of hope over the horizon. It is not rare that the police undertakes this shameful act under the cover of darkness at night. Also, often these petty officials, collect the debris of broken headstones, and take it along. Obviously they are more sensitive and decent than their mighty masters who order or authorize these operations in self-interest.

OFFICIAL GERMAN COMMENT ON PERSECUTION OF AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

Germany; January 15, 2023:

Mr. Frank Schwabe, the Federal Government Commissioner for Freedom of Religious or Belief issued a statement on official website at the occasion of Day of Religions. It included a para on the Ahmadi situation in Pakistan. We produce below its official translation (extracts):

Day of Religions: Schwabe focuses on religious minorities

Website of the Federal Government Commissioner for Freedom of Religion or Belief.

“Religious affiliation has different regional emphases and many believers belong to either a majority religion or a minority religion, depending on where they live. But there are also religious communities that are always a minority. Such as the Baha’i, the Ahmadiyya or the Jehovah’s Witnesses”, explains Frank Schwabe.

“The Ahmadiyya are discriminated against and persecuted as a religious minority. In Pakistan in particular, where around four million members of the religious community live, they are particularly affected by ar-

rests and charges of the criminal offense of ‘insulting Islam’. Their places of worship are regularly torn down and cemeteries are desecrated. Ahmadiyya cannot live in safety in other countries either. Just a few days ago, nine Ahmadi Muslims were killed in a mosque in Burkina Faso.

“As the representative, I will continue to work to ensure that discrimination and persecution of religious minorities are made public, protection against threats and persecution is increased and the situation of religious actors in minorities is improved.” Says Schwabe.

Frank Schwabe,
Beauftrgter der
Bundesregierung für
Religionsfreiheit
15.01.2023



A WORTHY PROCLAMATION BY US PRESIDENT

White House; January 13, 2023:

Mr. Joseph R. Biden Jr, the President of the United States of America issued today a Proclamation on Religious Freedom, and proclaimed January 16, 2023 as Religious Freedom Day. This

Proclamation is principled, noble and meritorious. Although directly relevant to the US, it is noteworthy for states like Pakistan and many others, for its applicability in their own countries. It is reproduced at Annex I.

MOUNTING REPRESSION IN DISTRICT KASUR

Bhulair, District Kasur; January 2023:

Last few years have seen a spike in violent attacks against Ahmadis in Punjab, and manifold increase in registration of police cases. The spike has been fueled by the rise of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) in 2015, and the efforts of a single extremist mulla from Lahore, Hassan Muawiya.

The police recently registered a case against 11 Ahmadis of Bhulair, pretexting a fight. Local cleric Abdul Rauf was instrumental in this.

Locals invited an outsider fanatic who gave fatwas of disbelief and murder against Ahmadis. He undertook somewhat the same against Shias

and Ahl-i-Hadith. Ahmadis informed the police at Police Station Phoolnagar fearing the after-effects of the speech. The other two communities complained likewise.

Since 2015, twenty-seven Ahmadis have been killed in Pakistan, and hundreds wounded for their faith. Hate speeches and sermons motivate bigots to indulge in violence. In recent years TLP is most active and violent against Ahmadis. They have adopted this as a matter of policy. The Punjab administration and police seem to have the political blessing to yield to the whims of these mullas.

A SUMMARY FOR JANUARY

Year 2023 Anno Domini started only 31 days ago and there have been 2 attacks on Ahmadi places of worship, in Wazirabad and Karachi, an attack on an Ahmadi cemetery, the widespread circulation of a video calling for violence against Ahmadis, official forbidding of an Ahmadi deceased's burial in her village, the arrest of an Ahmadi on false blasphemy charge; and there are 11 months yet to go in this year.

Ahmadis felt greatly grieved over the massacre of Peshawar policemen in a mosque and their hearts go out to sympathize with the families of the martyrs. However, the incident reminds them painfully of an earlier incident in which terrorism, police and Peshawar, all three



Peshawar elite police squad fawning over and eagerly posing for a selfie with the pious murderer

are mentioned in dispatches. Details are available in our Annual Report 2020 (p.12)

Lesson learnt: *Terrorism is evil in all forms, what ever the motive; must be rejected and resisted with all at our disposal.*

AHMADIS BEHIND BARS

1

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

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

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

The SC rejected their post-arrest bail application.

2

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

3

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

4

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

5

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

RIGHT TO VOTE FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

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

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

BOTH CHOICES ARE INCONCEIVABLE TO AHMADI MUSLIMS

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

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

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

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

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

(Name & Signature of Voter)

AS OF JAN 31, 2023:

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

SOME RELEVANT PAKISTAN PENAL CODES

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

295

Up to two years' imprisonment or fine, or both

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

295 A

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

Defiling, etc., of the Holy Quran

295 B

Life imprisonment

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

295 C

Death and fine

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

298

Up to one year imprisonment or fine, or both

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

298 A

Three years' imprisonment, or fine, or both

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

298 B

Three years' imprisonment and fine

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

298 C

Three years' imprisonment and fine

Alarming Facts

SINCE JANUARY 2022

- 3 Ahmadis have been murdered for faith, raising the total to 276 since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 11 murder attempts on Ahmadis
- 107 Ahmais charged under religion based fabricated cases.
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died in custody, they were imprisoned for their faith.
- 16 Ahmadiyya mosques have been desecrated, 1 mosque sealed by the authorities. 2 desecrated in Jan.
- 197 graves have been desecrated. Burial of an Ahmadi lady denied and the graveyard sealed in Nov. Burial of another Ahmadi lady denied in Jan 2023.
- 26 new cases have been registered against Ahmadis under the blasphemy laws & Anti-Ahmadi laws, 10 of these were registered during July. Religion based cases against 41 Ahmadis were registered during the last two months of 2022
- Sacred inscription from 4 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

- Chenab Nagar: Defiling the holy book; Qadiani accused arrested
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 01, 2023
- Five Ahmadis Booked For Distributing 'Altered' Version of Quran in Chiniot
The daily The Friday Times, Lahore; January 9, 2023
- FIR of the 'attack on Ahmadiyya Centre' lodged (in PS Jamshed Quarters, Karachi)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 20, 2023
- Persecution of Ahmadi community carries on (with) impunity
The daily Mirror, Quetta, January 24, 2023
- We'll protect the End of Prophethood till the final drop of blood: (Mulla) Shabbir Ahmad (Usmani in Rabwah)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 14, 2023
- Campaign against deniers of End of Prophethood will continue: Speakers (at Muslim Colony, Chenab Nagar)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 17, 2023
- Fighting in Bannu leaves four terrorists dead
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 1, 2023
- Pre-emptive action on table as (Taliban) militants fire salvo
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 5, 2023
- 'Militants' killed, five cops injured in KP terror spat
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 6, 2023
- Thousands rally in Bajaur (in S Waziristan, the next day) for restraint of lasting peace
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 6, 2023
- Cop martyred in Bannu; four militants dead in CTD operation
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 8, 2023
- Peshawar: Attack on Sarbund P.S. Two including DSP martyred
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 14, 2023
- Two cops, civilian martyred (in a terrorist attack in District Khyber)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 20, 2023
- Cop martyred in attack on Charsadda (KP) police post
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 22, 2023
- Jamia Hafsa (Islamabad) students (females) back on streets after police operation
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 22, 2023
- Soldier martyred in Bannu, militant killed in Khyber
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 24, 2023
- Church of England body apologizes for links to slavery
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 11, 2023
- Imran (says he) planned to settle TTP fighters in ex-Fata
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 11, 2023
- 13 Moroccans drown trying to reach Spanish territory
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 1, 2023
- 45,000 migrants made Channel crossing to UK last year
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 2, 2023
- Hindutva groups threaten movie starring Shahrukh Khan, Padukone
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 6, 2023
- Indian supreme court suspends Uttar Khand high court's order to expel thousands of Muslims from their homes in Baldwari neighborhood
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 6, 2023
- Jerusalem Christian cemetery attack: Two (Jewish) teenagers arrested
BBC Top Stories; December 7, 2022
- Anglican church and UK condemn desecration of Jerusalem graves
bbc.com/news/world/middl-east-64163185
- Nine (Ahmadis) killed in mosque attack in Burkina Faso
The Peninsula; Qatar, January 12, 2023
- 10 killed in California shooting
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 23, 2023
- Politicians slam burning of Holy Quran in Sweden
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 23, 2023
- After Sweden, Quran desecrated in Netherlands too
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 25, 2023
- Shoe hurled at Governor Tessori
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 2, 2023
- Jungle law in the country: Conspiracy behind my murder (attempt) ... Arranging murders is nothing big with Rana Sana, Shehbaz: Imran Khan
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 7, 2023
- ECP wants Imran to explain how can he head party after 'disqualification'
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 7, 2023
- Pakistan is like a child that no one owns up: Amir Jamaat Islami
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 7, 2023
- Shehbaz Sharif, Zardari and Imran Khan are more dangerous than atom bomb: Siraj ul Haq (JI)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 9, 2023

Op-ed: Taliban version of Islam

The religious scholars must respond to the TTP challenge. The security establishment also needs to review the ideological conception on which its strategic thinking is largely built. That thinking has been in evidence time and again, despite the huge losses suffered by Pakistan at the hands of the terrorists. The same thinking, ie the Taliban will eventually cooperate with Pakistan to defuse the TTP, was a factor behind the talks with the militant group and it gave the latter a passage to Pakistan. The state institutions have called on the ulema to help many times. It is obvious now that the approach has not worked; but even then, a few in the strategic community harp on the same arguments of historical, ideological, and political linkages with Afghanistan.

Muhammad Amir Rana in the daily Dawn, Lahore; January 15, 2023

Op-ed: New year, ancient clichés

Take terrorism — post-2008, we have really never discussed the issue fully. The military-led operations were successful — this is about all we know. How and why they worked and what didn't, are questions rarely asked and never answered.

The use of force, there was the grand hope held out by the National Action Plan, a one-page document, which never became anything else. We never got around to figuring out if more details were needed to turn the single page into full-blown, detailed plans.

Arifa Noor in the daily Dawn, January 3, 2023

Op-ed: Revamping Nacta

Whole-of-nation response: From 2010 to 2020, when the terrorists were on the run, the focus should have been on capacity building of civilian agencies for combating terrorism and VE. This was not done because there was no national organisation to devise a plan to do it, get the resources and then inform the governments about the progress in implementing these plans. Lack of policy implementation is a serious gap in our CT response. Addressing this weak area is part of Nacta's mandate.

On Jan 5, 2023, the Senate Committee on Defence recommended that a "coherent coun-

terterrorism policy with Nacta in the lead role" be devised to deal with the terrorist threat. This advice merits serious consideration. It should be remembered that while the ongoing military/ police campaign against the terrorists should continue relentlessly, we cannot lose sight of a long-term response. Though formulating such a response must be a collective national effort, Nacta, if given ownership by the government, as it must be, can coordinate the effort, under the guidance of the PM and parliament. Let us not repeat mistakes by ignoring a long-term plan to combat terrorism.

Tariq Parvez in the daily Dawn, Lahore; January 14, 2023

Op-ed: As opium is to heroin addicts

... Bhagwat spoke (in India) of a thousand-year war the Hindus were fighting, which made them a force to contend with. Was the release of the convicted killers of Bilkis Bano's family and her rapists an aspect of this historic conflict with boisterous Muslims? How much blood would be shed before the advent of the new golden era for India, possibly in 2024?

Jawed Naqvi, Dawn's correspondent in Delhi; January 17, 2023

Op-ed: Waiting for a lifeline

Key economic reform can no longer be put on the back burner.

THE spectacle of desperate men and women thronging the shops for subsidized flour provides just one glimpse of the worsening level of privation. A father of six died in a stampede in Mirpurkhas recently while queuing for the commodity. The rising cost of living has pushed more people into destitution. It's an extremely grim situation with no sign of improvement in the economic outlook. The worst is still to come. But our economic czar is busy showing a rosy picture. ...

As in the past, this time too we may be able to avoid the immediate threat of default with the support of some friendly countries. But our perennial economic problems will not go away with the lifelines thrown by lending agencies and friendly countries. The situation has gone beyond a patch-up job.

The failure to address fundamental structural problems will keep the country trapped in a perpetual financial crisis, presenting the biggest threat to our national security. Economic depen-

dence also compromises our sovereignty. Instead of waiting for a lifeline to bail us out, we need to take tough reform measures before it is too late.

Zahid Hussain in the daily Dawn January 11, 2023

Editorial: Big picture

The Swiss INGO has also identified a laundry list of Pakistan’s woes — a debt crisis, sustained and/or rapid inflation, state collapse and a heightened risk of default. It warns that the “affordability and availability of basic necessities can stoke social and political instability”, which could spiral into much larger stability issues for a country like Pakistan. Particularly chilling is the related warning of “A combination of extreme weather events and constrained supply” leading to “a catastrophic scenario of hunger and distress for millions in import-dependent countries or turn the energy crisis towards a humanitarian crisis in the poorest emerging markets”. Disquietingly, this is exactly what seems to be happening in Pakistan, which has started to feel the aftershocks of last year’s devastating monsoon rains.

The daily Dawn, Lahore, January 13, 2023

News report (extracts): Church of England body apologizes for links to slavery

LONDON: A Church of England funding body apologized on Tuesday for its historic links to slavery, promising to address the wrongs of the past with investment in affected communities.

“The Church Commissioners is deeply sorry for its predecessor fund’s links with the transatlantic slave trade,” the organization said in a statement.

The commissioners committed 100 million (\$122 million) of investment over the next nine years to “a better and fairer future for all”.

“Nothing we do, hundreds of years later, will give the enslaved people back their lives,” the commissioners wrote in a foreword to the report.

“But we can and will recognize and acknowledge the horror and shame of the Church’s role in historic transatlantic chattel slavery and, through our response, seek to begin to address the injustices caused as a result.”

The Church of England has apologized before for its past links to slavery, as Britain reckons with the legacy of its controversial colonial past.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 11, 2023

Tweets:



ANNEX I

A PROCLAMATION ON RELIGIOUS

whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/01/13/a-proclamation-on-religious-freedom-day-2023

On Religious Freedom Day, we reflect on our right to practice, pray, and preach our faiths peacefully and openly. Across the country, we practice many different religions. We celebrate many different traditions. And we honor our faiths in many different ways and places — from churches, to mosques, to synagogues, to temples. This religious freedom — this freedom to practice religion fully and freely or to practice no religion at all — is enshrined in our Constitution. And together we must continue to preserve and protect it.

This effort is as important now as it has ever been. In the United States, we are facing a rising tide of antisemitism and renewed attacks against certain religious groups. Across the world, minority communities — including Uyghurs, Rohingya, Ahmadiyya Muslims, Jews, Christians, Bahá'ís, Yezidis, atheists, and humanists — continue to face intimidation, violence, and unequal protection under the law. This hate is harmful to our communities and countries, and it is on all of us to speak out and stop it.

That is exactly what my Administration is doing. We established the Protecting Places of Worship Interagency Policy Committee last January, and implemented the largest-ever increase in funding for the physical security of non-profits — including churches, gurdwaras, mosques, synagogues, temples, and other houses of worship. In my 2023 Budget proposal, I called for another large increase in funding for this key program. In September, we hosted the United We Stand Summit, the first White House summit on combating hate-motivated violence, including violence on the basis of religion. In December, I established a new interagency group to increase and better coordinate the Federal Government's efforts to counter antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of bias and discrimination within the United States. As its first order of business, this group is developing a national strategy to fight antisemitism. To build bridges across beliefs and backgrounds, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships is collaborating with diverse faith and community leaders on a range of projects — including helping families recover from disasters, distributing COVID-19 vaccines, improving maternal and child health, and resettling refugees across the United States.

The United States is also speaking out and standing up against religious persecution around the world. Last year, my Administration provided \$20 million to help promote religious freedom and protections for members of religious minorities globally, including helping ensure that people everywhere can practice their faiths free from fear. I appointed Rashad Hussain as Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom — the first Muslim to hold this post — and Deborah Lipstadt, a Holocaust expert, as the first Ambassador-level Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism. As a founding member of the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance, we also have

1/2

coordinated with partners around the world to promote the rights of religious minority groups and combat persecution. And we are ensuring that United States diplomats continue to receive training on religious freedom and its central importance to our work.

Faith has sustained me throughout my life. For me and for so many others, it serves as a reminder of both our collective purpose and potential in the world. But for far too many people within our borders and beyond, practicing their faith still means facing fear and persecution. Today, let us recommit ourselves to ending this hate. And let us work together to ensure that people of all religions — and no religion — are treated with equal dignity and respect.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2023, as Religious Freedom Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

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 BLANCHETO TERRORIZE AHMADIS WITH THE BACKING OF THE STATE.


HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS OFFICE UK

Contact Info

 +44 (0) 20 3988 3862

 humanrights@tabshir.org

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