

PERSECUTION OF AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

Monthly Report February 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 19 FOR DETAILS ON VOTING RIGHT FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

Highlights

SINCE THE PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCE XX IN 1984

276
Murdered
for faith

4147
Ahmadis
Booked in
Religious
Cases

473
Murder
Attempts

201
Mosques
Desecrated

DURING 2022

3
Murdered
for faith

107
Ahmadis
Booked in
Religious
Cases

14
Mosques
Desecrated

197
Graves
Desecrated

DURING THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 2023

- One Ahmadi brutally murdered for being an Ahmadi
- One Ahmadi leader arrested from the headquarters of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan
- Another Ahmadi arrested for listening to the recitation of the Holy Quran
- Another Ahmadi leader booked under blasphemy clause
- Six Ahmadiyya Mosques attacked, minarets of another mosque concealed by a wall
- Burial of an Ahmadi woman denied in a common cemetery
- Three graves damaged by opponents
- Sacred inscriptions removed from three Ahmadi houses

A NEW YEAR FOR AHMADI MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

The start of the new year has brought fear and uncertainty to the Ahmadi community in Pakistan, despite being a time of hope. The ever increasing violence against the Ahmadiyya Muslim community is deeply concerning, with attacks on their mosques and loss of life due to religious bigotry is unacceptable and condemned. The presence of police as mere observers during these attacks is alarming, and the registration of frivolous cases against Ahmadis goes against principles of justice and equality. Officials who claim to uphold human values at international forums have shown no sympathy or taken any action in response to these events, which is disappointing. It is shocking that hate mongers are allowed to hold conferences and issue video statements calling for the killing of Ahmadi Muslims.

The sense of fear and uncertainty felt by the Ahmadiyya community is understandable and requires urgent attention. The authorities must ensure the safety and protection of all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs.

It is comforting to learn that certain English press outlets and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) have offered their support and brought attention to these matters, and their guidance has been acknowledged with gratitude in this report.

COLD-BLOODED MURDER OF AN AHMADI HOMEOPATH

Gotariala, Gujrat; February 19, 2023:

An Ahmadi homeopath, Dr. Muhammad Rasheed, who had Norwegian nationality as well, in his 70s, was shot dead by assassins in his clinic which is adjacent to his residence in his ancestral village Gotariala, District Gujrat, Punjab.

The reports indicate that Dr. Rasheed was in his clinic when two young assailants posing as patients entered the building and opened fire at him. Succumbing to the injuries of the vicious assault, he died on the spot.

Recently, the deceased's wife, Ms. Parveen Akhtar, saw a dream that her husband was being attacked and someone was trying to take his life. She asked him to remain vigilant. He had often exclaimed that he is well aware of the opposition to Ahmadis and their persecution in Pakistan, but the poor people here have few medical facilities and no one to care for them. The true humanitarian sense of altruism, a prevailing aspect of his personality, inspired him to serve the underprivileged, but it unfortunately resulted in his brutal murder.

Despite having Norwegian citizenship, he preferred living alone in his ancestral village and serving the poor rather than living abroad with his family. Patients have the least interest in the religious belief of their doctor. However, religious fanaticism has caused a great loss to the Pakistani society. It was no surprise that a large number of people, as also from surrounding villages extended condolences to the doctor's bereaved family.

The two assailants were young men who had no personal vendetta with the doctor. It is most likely that they were misguided by some religious fanatic to commit this atrocity. One of the attackers, Hafiz Inam, an anti-Ahmadi goon, was later found dead in the vicinity. Police arrested another, named Babar, for questioning.



Dr. Muhammad Rasheed

LOCAL AHMADI PRESIDENT BOOKED UNDER PPC 295

Khokhar Gharbi, District Gujrat; February 2023:

The police booked the local Ahmadi president along with other un-named Ahmadis under FIR Nr. 28 under PPCs 149, 147, and 295.

Ahmadis were demolishing their old worship place to rebuild it, as they have an adjacent, relatively new building for worship when a leading mulla reached the spot and started to quarrel. He has a criminal record.

The police sent for both the parties to the

police station when TLP extremists put up a demo in the vicinity. Ahmadis had to leave the premises to avoid harm. Later, the police interrogated the locals about the ownership of the disputed land, to which several people testified that the said land is owned by Ahmadis.

Later in the night, the fanatics again put a siege to the police station. As a result, the police conventionally registered an FIR against Ahmadis to appease the crowd.

AHMADI GETS ARRESTED FOR LISTENING TO RECITATION OF QURAN

Kotli, AJK; February 10, 2023:

The police registered here a case against an Ahmadi, Tasleem Ahmad Kashif, under 298-C, APC-504 at Police Station Kotli in FIR 51/23.

The complainant said that Tasleem Ahmad Kashif was listening to the recitation of the holy Quran in high volume in his garments store and that hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims. He also claimed that Mr. Kashif misbehaved with a cleric of Ghousia Mosque who tried to stop him. Qadianis have also constructed minarets and niche in their worship place, which is a sheer violation of the Constitution—he added in his complaint. He also demanded the authorities to demolish minarets and niches of Ahmadi worship places, as also a strict action against Mr. Kashif.

The president of Ahmadiyya Community district Kotli reported that on February 8, 2023 a non-Ahmadi employee of Mr Tasleem Ahmad Kashif had turned on the recitation of the Holy Quran on television. An imam of a local mosque passed by and objected that he had no right to listen to the recitation because he is an infidel. He also used uncouth language against the Jamaat.

Afterwards, some forty to fifty mullas gathered and approached the authorities to take

immediate and strict action against the Ahmadi. Unable to handle the pressure of these fanatics, the police registered the case and arrested him on February 10, 2023.



This novel interpretation of blasphemy laws makes Ahmadis more vulnerable and exposed to miscreants who are always eager to attack the innocent. Although there is no legislation which forbids Ahmadis from listening to the recitation of the Holy Quran, the authorities seem to surrender to religious bigots.

BLASPHEMY CASE ON TOP AHMADI LEADERSHIP TRANSFERRED TO ANTI-TERRORISM COURT

Rabwah; February 2023:

Follow-up: case transferred to anti-terrorism court.

We reported earlier in our monthly reports for December 2022 and January 2023 that a fabricated case had been registered and one of the nominees, 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 and then transferred to District Jail Faisalabad on February 20, 2023. 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 also demanded that the case be transferred to the anti-terrorism court. Their demand was malicious as well as ridiculous. The court consulted the Prosecution Department and Investigation Board Chiniot, surprisingly added anti-terrorism sections and transferred the case to Anti-Terrorism Court, Faisalabad.

BAIL APPLICATION BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT

Islamabad:

A Review Petition lay before the honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) for grant of bail to five Ahmadis. A brief resume of their case is given below.

Mr. Rohan Ahmad, Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad, etc. were booked on May 26, 2020 with FIR No. 29/2020 at Police Station FIA Cyber Crimes Wing, Lahore under PPCs 295-B, 298-C, 120-B, 109, 34 R/W 2016=PECA-11, Pakistan's Cyber Crimes Department, Lahore that works under Federal Investigation Agency arrested Mr. Rohan Ahmad.

Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad were arrested on 30.09.2020 on reporting to the FIA office.

Syed Ali Abbas, Addl. Session 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 (Justice Mazahar Naqvi and Jamal Khan) rejected their post-arrest bail application on April 27, 2022.

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 Salammat" and allegedly sharing Ahmadiyya content in it. He was arrested from Hafizabad on February 25, 2021. Subsequently the trial court added section 295-C of PPC to the said case. Malik Zaheer Ahmad was arrested on September 30, 2020 in a fabricated case under Section 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 he was expected to be released from the Camp Jail, the Cyber Crime Wing Lahore 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.

On application of the opponents, Judge Syed Ali Abbas, added the Blasphemy section PPC 295-C to his charge sheet as well.

Justice Tariq Saleem of Lahore High Court rejected the bail application of Mr. Shiraz Ahmad and Malik Zaheer Ahmad on January 12, 2022.

The plea for release on bail of the above two accused was also rejected by the two-member bench of the Supreme Court (Justice Jamal Khan Mando Khel and Justice Mazahar Naqvi) on April 27, 2022.

Subsequently, a Review Petition was made to the Supreme Court. A three-member bench comprising Justices Mazahar Ali Naqvi, Aijazul Ahsan and Munib Akhtar was appointed to hear the case on February 14, 2023. On the request of the accused and their attorneys, the case was adjourned for a week.

This SC Bench held a hearing on February 22, 2023 and while rejecting the plea for bail, rejected the request for Review of the SC decision. The judges directed Lahore High Court to examine within two months whether the FIA is authorized to apply Sections PPCs 298-C, 295-B and 295-C to this case.

EXTRAORDINARY JUDICIAL INTEREST IN AHMADI ACCUSED

Rawalpindi; January 31, 2023:

A writ petition was made with Lahore High Court (Rawalpindi Bench) regarding 'blasphemy material on social media', against Ahmadis. Justice Abdul Aziz was informed that the accused had still not been arrested, so the court issued arrest orders. Accordingly, an FIR team raided Rabwah. The

court had required the DPO Chiniot's presence, who had rendered his own report. The accused, Mr. Saleemuddin, in the meantime had been granted protective bail by a Karachi court. As such, when this was conveyed to LHC on November 25, 2022, Justice Aziz remarked to the effect that in that case that it was up to that court, and the case was for

the FIA Cyber Crimes Wing Lahore to pursue. The accused felt that this issue had nearly concluded.

But no, it was taken up again by the Rawalpindi Bench of Justice Abdul Aziz on January 25, where the complainant against raised the issue of 'no arrest' of the accused. Justice Aziz sent for the Addl. Director FIA Cyber Crimes Wing, Lahore on

January 27 and questioned him over the arrest.

The Addl. Director was again present in the Court on January 31 to render his report on the 'arrest' issue. Justice Abdul Aziz said that he was granting 15 more days for the arrest, thereafter he expected the good news of the arrest.

HIGH COURT JUDGE SEEKS HELP OF MUTAHIDDA ULEMA BOARD

Chak No. 88 JB, Hasyana, District Faisalabad; February 4, 2023:

Muhammad Ismael, an anti-Ahmadiyya activist, lodged an application with police last year against the minarets of the local Ahmadiyya mosque. He further submitted a petition in the sessions court Faisalabad against the relevant police authorities and Ahmadi officials for allegedly not taking adequate action. In addition, he petitioned the same in the Lahore High Court (LHC).

The writ petition is under process in the court of Justice Shujaat Ali Khan of LHC. He issued notice to the police and relevant authorities, and they submitted their reports to the court accordingly, but the nominated Ahmadi received no legal notice.

Justice Shujaat Ali Khan has asked for the opinion of the Mutahidda Ulema Board. This board consists of mullas who are very hostile to Ahmadi.

AIRBORNE MULLA CALLS FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF AHMADIS

A malicious and fierce campaign is being perpetuated across social media platforms and other online forums. These hate videos aim to identify and target Ahmadi to cause them harm and social isolation.

On February 3, 2023, a known cleric Mufti Abdul Wahid Qureshi recorded a hate-filled video while aboard a flight on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). It called for a boycott of businesses owned by Ahmadi. In this video, Qureshi, a known hate preacher, calls on the Minister of Aviation, Khawaja Saad Rafique to ensure that PIA has no business ties with any business owned by Ahmadi.

Qureshi says that Shezan Ketchup, a division of Shezan International Limited, is being served in flights in violation of the Constitution of Pakistan (sic). He further states that no product or service which is associated with any Ahmadi should be ever advertised (read served on board). We produce below English translation of the vernacular video:

"Today is 3rd of February 2023. ... Viewers, kindly forward it as much as you can, so that it reaches the administration, and they take its notice.

"Peace and blessings of Allah be upon you.

"I'm Mufti Abdul Wahid Qureshi, your brother, speaking to you while on a flight of PIA from Lahore to Karachi. At this moment, the ketchup sachet that you can see, is of the Shezan Company, owned by Qadianis, and in our Pakistan International Airlines, it is being profusely promoted. Our Aviation Minister, Khawaja Saad Rafique, is the son of an eminent personality. He should take notice of this and all those friends who are watching this should forward and convey this message to the minister — what's going on?

"We boycott them (Qadianis) socially. They don't recognize the Constitution of my lovely country Pakistan (sic). Apart from the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet (P.B.U.H.), they don't even uphold our constitution. Therefore, there is no room for them in the Constitution. Why, then are their products being advertised? This shouldn't happen. Stop this and become eligible for the intercession of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.). Thanks."

MISCREANTS DEMOLISH MINARETS OF AHMADIYYA HALL, KARACHI

Karachi; February 2, 2023:

Around 15:30 in the afternoon, some unidentified miscreants vandalized the minarets of the Ahmadiyya Hall, a place of worship. While some aggressively chanted anti-Ahmadi slogans, a few others climbed the wall, by utilizing a bench of a street food vendor, and demolished the minarets with sledgehammers, within a few minutes. They fled thereafter. Although couple of policemen present at the scene, they failed to stop the gang. It is noteworthy that the building is situated in the heart of the city since 1950, long before the anti-Ahmadiyya amendments to the Constitution and the notorious Ordinance XX.

It has become a trend in Pakistan that religious fanatics often use mob-attacks to achieve their heinous motives. It seems that they have found a loophole in the system to evade the legal consequences of their actions. They assume themselves to be the judge, jury and executioner, and exercise their own laws on their targets, without any intervention of law enforcement authorities. The daily The Express Tribune also reported the incident, and the video of the incident went viral on different social media platforms, e.g.:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jwFTKGBkow>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xF-W3d4E3io>

https://twitter.com/Muslim_Scientist/status/1621181035290427393

The report from The Express Tribune is reproduced below.

Unidentified miscreants vandalize Ahmadi worship place in Karachi

Community spokesperson says police were unable to control the situation

KARACHI: A place of worship belonging to the Ahmadi community was vandalized by unknown miscreants on Thursday.

The incident took place in the jurisdiction of Predy police station at around 3:30 pm when unidentified men, chanting slogans against the community, vandalised the minarets of the worship place. The place of worship for the minority community, Ahmadiyya Hall, was built in the 1950s according to community members.

A video of the incident, circulated widely on social media, showed that the policemen deployed outside the site tried to keep away the miscreants but



were unable to control the charged mob. Police have yet to register a case.

“The community is in touch with the police,” said SHO Preedy Sajjad Khan. Talking to The Express Tribune, Khan said that the miscreants also attacked the policemen.

“We will register the case, if the community does not come forward,” he added.

Speaking to The Express Tribune, the spokesman of the Ahmadi community Amir Mehmood condemned the incident and lamented that the police failed to control the attackers. He maintained that recently, worship places belonging to his community were being targeted across Pakistan.

Mehmood added that another worship place located on Martin Road was vandalized on January 18. “A case was registered but no one was arrested,” he added.

A senior member of the community said that they felt “insecure after such incidents” and the case re-

garding both attacks was launched in court.

Last month, a historical worship place of the Ahmadi community situated at Moti Bazar, Wazirabad, which was established back in 1915, was allegedly desecrated by the district administration (police).

A local leader of a right-wing political party, Irfan Ilyas 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 Sections 298-B and 298-C of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

A 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”.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2399175/unidentified-miscreants-vandalise-ahmadi-worship-place-in-karachi>

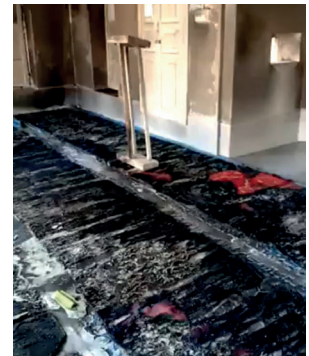
ARSON AT AN AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN SINDH

February 3, 2023; Noor Nagar, district Umar Kot, Sindh:

During dark hours, some unidentified miscreants climbed the boundary wall, entered the mosque, poured petrol, and set the interior on fire. The furniture and the carpets in the main hall of the mosque were destroyed. Local Ahmadis discovered the damage when they gathered at the mosque for the morning prayer. According to initial details, four persons came riding two motor-

bikes, entered the premises of the mosque, and undertook arson.

Ahmadis informed the police and asked them to register an FIR against the arsonists. Efforts are being made to identify the criminals.



views from inside the Mosque



After the incident



Before the incident

ATTACK ON ANOTHER AHMADIYYA MOSQUE IN SINDH

Goth Ghazi Khan Murrani, District Mirpur Khas, Sindh; February 3, 2023:

Unidentified hoodlums attacked the Ahmadiyya mosque in Goth Chaudhry Javed Ahmad, demolished its minarets and committed arson.

The local Ahmadis have sought help from the police to identify the criminals.

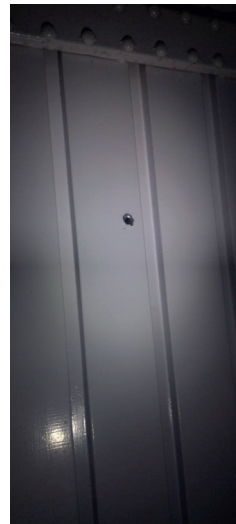


ARMED ATTACK ON AHMADIYYA PRAYER CENTER

Satellite Town, Mirpur Khas, Sindh; February 4, 2023:

Around 8:30 PM, someone opened fire at the Ahmadiyya prayer center in Satellite Town, a neighborhood of Mirpur Khas. The bullets hit the main door and the wall.

At the time of the incident, local Ahmadis including the president of the local Ahmadiyya Community were present in the building. Thanks to Allah Almighty that all of them remained safe in the violent attack. One police constable came over to guard the premises, soon after the horrible attack. Ahmadis requested the police to register a case.



AGITATION IN DISTRICT TOBA TEK SINGH

Aada, District Toba Tek Singh; February 2023:

Agitation against Ahmadis is on the rise in this district now a days. The DSP Gojra sent for Ahmadis and told them to remove the minarets from their mosque. Ahmadis told him that this mosque was built way back in 1964 and the police had no right to order the demolition of its minarets.

Nevertheless, six unidentified men arrived

at the site on the night of January 27, 2023, to demolish its minarets. Ahmadis told them to show order or authorization. At this, they went back, telling Ahmadis to present themselves at the DSP's office next day.

There Ahmadis were told to raise the boundary wall so that no passerby could see the minarets. Ahmadis had to comply with this out-

Before



After



Wall erected to hide minarets of the Ahmadiyya Mosque

landish order.

In another incident, in village Chak 297 GB unidentified goons graffitied “Kutta Kutta” (dog, dog) on an Ahmadi-owned house and the Ahmadiyya mosque. Ahmadis informed the police of the incident.



Graffiti at village Chak 297 GB

AHMADIS MADE TO LEAVE THE MOSQUE AT THE TIME OF FRIDAY PRAYER



Kasur; February 18, 2023:

Around 12:30 pm, Ahmadis gathered to offer congregational Friday prayer at their mosque in Kasur. A mob of hostile miscreants of Tehreek e Labaik confronted Ahmadis and obstructed their worship. Labelling Ahmadis as non-Muslims, the goons exclaimed that they have nothing to do with Islamic rites like Friday prayer. One of them audaciously said that Ahmadis had already offered enough Friday prayers at this place, and even threatened them not to show up ever again for Friday prayer. The incident was witnessed by the policeman, present there on duty. He along with some locals tried to intervene and calm the incensed mob.

Someone called 15 helpline and some more policemen arrived at the scene. Instead of dispersing the hostile crowd, the authorities asked Ahmadis to leave the premises. They then had to offer Friday prayer elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the police and the cleric of the neighboring mosque made announcements from their loudspeaker telling the crowd not to indulge in any unlawful activity—whereupon the mob left the site chanting anti-Ahmadi slogans.

The video of the incident went viral on the internet. These fanatics can be seen severely harassing two local Ahmadis, Sheikh Yousaf and Tanvir Ahmad. When Tanvir Ahmad gave them his name, one of the goons aggressively told him

not to add Ahmad to his name. The audacity with which these fanatics harassed the two vulnerable Ahmadis, shows that they do not care for authorities nor for the consequences of unlawfully detain-

ing Ahmadis.

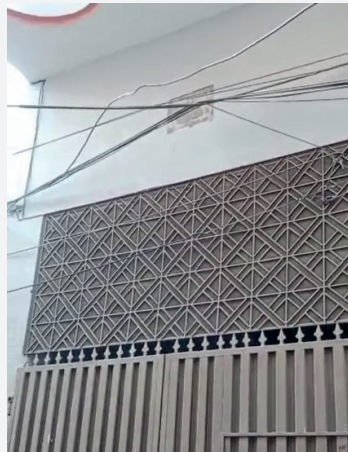
<https://twitter.com/fakharzai7/status/1627604139290009600?lang=en>

PIOUS INSCRIPTIONS REMOVED FROM HOMES

Gujranwala; February 12, 2023:

Some policemen showed up at the residence of an Ahmadi, Munir Ahmad Khokar, at Ameer Park, Gujranwala. They inquired about his religious identity, and stated that they had received a complaint against the words “MashAllah” (what God has willed) engraved on the tiles of his house’s façade, these would be removed. The

residents of the house urged them not to do so. Meanwhile, non-Ahmadi neighbors came over and asked the police to refrain from the enormity. The police replied that if anyone had any reservations, they should come over to the police station. This was an unwelcome invitation in Pakistani environment. So the police removed the tiles on which the holy words were written.



Pious Inscriptions are being removed in the presence of Police

COERCION IN MATTERS OF FAITH

Bahuman, District Sheikhpura; February 2023:

We reported in our monthly report for May 2022 on a brawl in this village between two parties that implicated a few Ahmadis as well.

Three Ahmadis were also arrested, including Rai Nasir. The fight was not over religion, but later the aggressor group gave it a religious color and undertook propaganda on social media.

The opposing group issued various threats to Rai Nasir, and conveyed to him that if he and

his family were to quit Ahmadiyya, they would be spared; even the police case would be withdrawn. Consequently, Rai Nasir declared that he and his family had renounced membership of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat.

There was a mosque at the farmhouse of Rai Nasir, frequented by Ahmadis. On February 1, 2023 activists of TLP were permitted by him to pull it down. They did that raising and shouting anti-Ahmadi slogans.

ANTI-AHMADIYYA CONFERENCE IN FAISALABAD



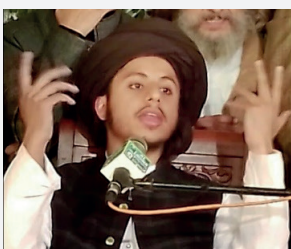
Open invitation to the conference

Chak No. 88 JB, Hasyana, District Faisalabad; January 29, 2023:

TLP organized here a Hazrat Abu Bakr conference. Irfan Mehmood Burq, a hostile mulla, also spoke in the conference. The speakers opted profanity against Ahmadiyya community instead of the main topic. They agitated the audience on loudspeaker against Ahmadis and told the crowd that saying Salaam to them is forbidden. Ahmadis are deniers of End of Prophethood and they could not call their mosque as Masjid, etc. "You are the guardians of End of Prophethood — protect this dogma even at the cost of your lives", they exhorted.



ANAS RIZVI INCITES PUBLIC AGAINST AHMADIS WITH FICTITIOUS HISTORY



In a recent statement, available in video, TLP's leading mulla, Anas Rizvi, son of the known Khadim Rizvi told a large gathering that, "The Companions of the Holy Prophet killed 36000 Mirzais (a derogatory term for Ahmadis) under the leadership of Caliph Abu Bakr Siddique in the battle of Yamama".

Ahmadiyya community came into being in year 1889 whereas the Battle of Yamama happened in 632 AD—twelve centuries earlier.

This mulla attempted to kill two birds with one stone, having no regards to the truth and the logic. Rizvi is leading a political party whose membership is based essentially on religious and sectarian identity. It is a pity this religious leader shows little concern for facts and figures for political gain. A sad state indeed!

“A BREACH OF FAITH” REPORT (2021-2022) RELEASED BY HRCP

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has released the above-titled report. It is an excellent read on the FoRB situation in Pakistan during the past year. It has not improved this year. As for Ahmadis, it got worse with Mr. Parvez Elahi's elevation to become chief minister, Punjab.

A few extracts on Ahmadis from the Report:

Reports of religious minorities' sites of worship being desecrated have continued, but with no response from the state when such incidents involve sites associated with the Ahmadiyya community. In Punjab, the mandatory declaration of faith for marriage certificates has further marginalised the Ahmadiyya community, while attempts to enforce a standardised national curriculum have created an exclusionary narrative that sidelines Pakistan's religious minorities....

Additionally, the Ahmadiyya community has still not been given the option of being part of the (minorities) commission unless it is willing to accept 'non-Muslim status' while representatives of Pakistan's Scheduled Castes have criticized the commission for excluding their community....

The injunction (on marriage documents) was seen as a means of creating a dangerous distinction between the already beleaguered Ahmadiyya community and wider Muslim population, leaving the former more vulnerable to discrimination and violence....

Of these (under PECA 2016), at least 16 cases were filed against members of the Ahmadiyya community.

The following case illustrates how offences under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016 are commonly compounded by the blasphemous

my laws. In August 2021, three Ahmadi men, who had been charged with blasphemy in May 2020 under S. 295-B and 298-C as well as under PECA 2016, were presented in court in Lahore, where the additional sessions judge added S. 295-C—which carries the death penalty—to the charge sheet. Subsequently, the Lahore High Court rejected their bail application. The three men had been accused of sharing links to the Quran 'with a translation or interpretation contrary to belief of Muslims [sic].... It is worth noting that at least seven other incidents of vandalism were reported by the Ahmadiyya community in 2021, including the desecration of graves and sites of worship, but—unlike in other cases—there was no condemnation from the state....

More than half of all online hate speech (53 percent) tends to be directed at the Ahmadiyya community, with another 11.5 percent targeting the Shia Muslim sect.

The brutality of such hate speech continued unabated: one user in a Twitter space hosted in July 2021 called for Ahmadiyya leaders to be chopped into pieces. The comment gained momentum after it was highlighted by prominent Ahmadi rights activist, Kashif Chaudhary. A month earlier, he had received WhatsApp messages urging individuals to report any Ahmadi found taking part in Eidul-Azha festivities.....

While Ahmadiyya leaders claimed their community may have been undercounted because people were reluctant to reveal their religious identity for fear of persecution.....

(<https://hrcp-web.org/hrcpweb/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2023-A-breach-of-faith-freedom-of-religion-or-belief-in-2021-22.pdf>)

PAKISTAN ADVISED

Geneva; 31 Jan-2 Feb, 2023:

The daily Dawn reported the following in its issue of February 2, 2023 (extracts):

Pakistan gets 340 suggestions to improve rights situation

By Amin Ahmed 2023-02-02

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has received 340 recommendations from UN member states on its fourth

periodic report on the human rights situation in the country, and the government will examine these recommendations and report back to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in its forthcoming meeting.

A draft report prepared on Wednesday by the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Geneva-based Human Rights Council, available with Dawn, stated: All conclusions and/

or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting state(s) and/or the state under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Pakistan's response to the recommenda-

tions will be included in the outcome report adopted by the LHC at its 53rd session, it added...

The US demanded repeating or amending blasphemy laws, and ending other discriminating laws used against members of Ahmadi and other religious minority communities.



BBC REPORT ON SURGE IN ATTACKS ON AHMADIYYA MOSQUES

Four attacks on Ahmadiyya mosques in three consecutive days—in Sindh alone—raise suspicion that these were planned and coordinated. BBC also noticed this surge in attacks on Ahmadiyya worship places, especially in Sindh and Punjab, during the preceding month. They investigated and published an article.

on February 4, 2023, titled "A surge in attacks on

Ahmadiyya community's worship places in Punjab and Sindh: It seems an organized campaign" (translated).

The article is written by Mr Azam Khan, who works for bbc.com/urdu. It sums up well most of what we have been reporting in our dispatches. It is available at the following link.

bbc.com/urdu/articles/c2ez5vpj6yvo



MEDIA ICON'S OPINION ON AHMADIS' PLIGHT

The Dawn; February 5, 2023:

The Dawn is the leading English daily in Pakistan. It was founded by the Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. It has a reputation for printing reliable news and well considered opinions.

Ahmadiyya situation in Pakistan has reached a level when the Dawn had to take editorial notice of it. Its leading editorial of February 5, 2023 is readable. It is reproduced at annex I.



HRCP ALSO TAKES NOTE

Lahore; February 15, 2023:

Reports of outrageous desecration of Ahmadiyya places of worship and graves became so numerous that Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) decided to look into these through a fact-finding mission. They formed one, and it rendered its report to the Commission who released it through a media release in the following words: Introduction An HRCP fact-finding report

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has observed a worrying upsurge in the persecution of members of the Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya in Punjab during 2022. This has included the desecration of Ahmadi graves, the destruction of minarets at Ahmadi sites of worship, first information reports (FIRs) filed against community

members for carrying out ritual animal sacrifice on Eid, the forcible removal of Quranic verses from houses belonging to members of the community, and even wanton faith-based murders. Punjab—and especially Gujranwala and its surrounding locales—appears to account for the bulk of reported attacks. More alarming is the allegation that such acts have been carried out at the behest of police and civil administration officials.

Attacks on religious minorities' sites of worship in Gujranwala and Wazirabad

An HRCP fact-finding report (January 2023)

The above report is available at the following link:

<https://hrcp-web.org/hrcpweb/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2023-Attacks-on-religious-minorities-sites-of-worship.pdf>

A SEVERE WARNING

WARNING FOR SOCIAL MEDIA/INTERNET USERS

It is to inform the public that according to the Publication of the Holy Quran (error-free publication and recording) Act 1973, any publication or recording of the Holy Quran published by unregistered publishers of the Holy Quran; or any published Quran or any section of Quran, in any form (book, record, curricular book, etc.) recorded or published in which any word, alphabet, vowel (Araab) has been replaced, or sequence of any verse or chapter has been altered; or any translation or commentary by a non-Muslim which contradicts the beliefs of Muslims; in all of the above-mentioned situations, the perpetrators of such crimes will be subjected to severest punishments.

Moreover, under section 295-B of Pakistan Penal Code, the blasphemer of the Holy Quran, its pages or its excerpts, may be imprisoned for life.

So, the public (Muslim and non-Muslim citizens) is requested exercise utmost care regarding religious matters, holy scriptures, holy personages; and demonstrate responsibility, especially on social media, regarding reviewing, commenting, and publishing etc, on these matters.

Be Aware

that concerned branches of the Government of Pakistan are constantly monitoring any illegal, hate promoting, and blasphemous content and, under the light of the Constitution and judicial orders, take action against those involved in such crimes.

All citizens are requested to immediately report any illegal, hate promoting, and blasphemous content, particularly on social media, to those social media platforms or to Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on the following link: <https://complaint.pta.gov.pk/RegisterComplaint.aspx> content-complaint@pta.gov.pk

Furthermore, for legal actions against the involved persons have a complaint registered with Cyber Crime Wing, FIA on:

Call:1991

helpdesk@nr3c.gov.pk

Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA)

PTA Headquarters, F5/1 Islamabad

PTA; February 2023:

The state in Pakistan seems to be fully committed to its religious agenda, and its various branches are bending backward, or they are being made to bend backward, to implement it. Before we offer our comments, we produce (left) translation of a Warning issued by Pakistan Telecommunications Authority.

A few remarks and observations on the above:

- As for Ahmadis are concerned, we are fully in favour of all reasonable actions taken by the state to ensure that the Quranic text, in any form, should be authentic and untampered in every way.
- We are also cognizant that in the past the state came up repeatedly with laws that apparently were based on fair intentions, but ended up being misused by authorities or groups or individuals with malafide intentions, aims and objectives. These include anti-terror laws, blasphemy laws, Sharia sections, Results Transmission System, Electronic Crimes Act, press laws, maintenance of law and order rules etc. Publication of the Holy Quran Act 1973 is also one such law.
- Few people are aware of any deliberate attempts in Pakistan to corrupt the text of the Holy Quran. Most probably there are none.
- However, "the extension, or any translation or commentary by a non-Muslim which contradicts the beliefs of Muslims" is obviously aimed at Ahmadis.
- The expression 'the beliefs of Muslims' is also more speculative than real. Apart from the belief in One God and Muhammad (PBUH) being His Messenger there is hardly another 'belief of Muslims' that is shared by all the 72 sects in Islam.
- As for translations, there are dozens of translations available in the market; these are all somewhat different from one another. It is in the nature of translation. There is no standard translation version acceptable to all Muslims. Nor is there any such 'commentary'.
- Apparently, there is not sufficient and valid

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 295-C of PPC to the said case. His plea for bail was rejected by SC.

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.

His plea for bail was rejected by SC.

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 and later transferred to District Jail Faisalabad. His bail application is under trial in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Lalian, District Chiniot.

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 FEB 28, 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.
- Two further cases registered and one Ahmadi arrested in Feb 23
- 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 2021

- 6 Ahmadis have been murdered for faith, raising the total to 276 since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 17 murder attempts, 10 attacks during 2022.
- Fabricated cases against 8 Ahmadis were registered during Nov 2022 and an FIR is registered against some members of Ahmadiyya leadership in Pakistan in Dec. Two new cases registered, one Ahmadi arrested in Feb 2023
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died in custody, they were imprisoned for their faith.
- 27 Ahmadiyya mosques desecrated, 1 mosque sealed by the authorities. 4 attacked in Feb 2023
- 246 graves have been desecrated, 180 of these were during 2022. Burial of an Ahmadi lady denied and the graveyard sealed in Nov. Burial of another Ahmadi lady denied in Jan 2023.
- 46 new cases have been registered against Ahmadis under the blasphemy laws & Anti-Ahmadi laws, 10 of these were registered during August. A criminal case was registered against 16 Ahmadis during Sep and Nov 2022. Another case was registered against the top leadership of Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan in Dec 2022.
- Sacred inscription from 22 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

- Another Ahmadiyya worship place vandalized
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 3, 2023
- Mob storms police station, lynches 'blasphemy' accused (in Nankana, Punjab)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 12, 2023
- Terrorism a threat to Pakistan and beyond, warns (FM) Bilawal
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 19, 2023
- Police compound cleared as terror revisits Karachi
- TTP claims responsibility for attack
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 18, 2023
- Exchange of firing: Two officials martyred; 2 terrorists killed, 2 others arrested (in North Waziristan)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 28, 2023
- Three security men martyred in N.Waziristan terror attack
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 12, 2023
- Who brought back the terrorists? PTI govt ruled KP for 10 years. God knows where were Rs 417bn spent: Prime Minister.
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 2, 2023
- PTA allowed (by Justice Shujaat Ali Khan of LHC) to block websites sharing 'objectionable material'
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 7, 2023
- HRCP report highlights marginalization of religious minorities
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 8, 2023
- Minister (Pirzada) urges PM to review amended blasphemy law
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 10, 2023
- Thousands pour onto streets demanding restoration of durable peace in KP. Writers urged to stand up against all kinds of extremism: (Speakers in Literary Festival, Peshawar).
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 6, 2023
- FIA books Tarin in 'sedition' case (for alleged role 'to derail a deal' with IMF)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 14, 2023
- Pakistani elite 'actively manufacture' social, economic inequality, Speaker (NA)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 14, 2023
- Go back to the former price of petrol, otherwise Dama Dam Mast Qalandar: Saad Razvi (TLP).
- This ultimatum is final; if prices are not reduced, we'll do what we are known for.
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 19, 2023
- Terrorism goes on due some policies: Bilawal Bhutto
TV Dawn at 07:25 on February 21, 2023
- Bilawal says Imran's 'policy of appeasing' terrorists ended by PDM-led govt
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 21, 2023
- Tax the rich, subsidies the poor, IMF asks Pakistan
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 26, 2023
- Maryam seeks accountability of 'biased judges'
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 20, 2023
- Nepotism marred judicial inductions, ex- SC judge
- Maqbool Baqar says chief justices 'abused' their powers in past
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 20, 2023
- Ex-PM Abbasi says political, economic and constitutional system has miserably failed
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 20, 2023
- Imran urges judiciary to 'save society' from leaked clips
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 20, 2023
- Pakistan's future determined by its own actions, choices: Indian FM
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 23, 2023
- UNESCO conference tackles disinformation, hate speech
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 28, 2023
- Nawaz Sharif has never done anything honestly (dianat dari say): Imran Khan
TV Dawn news at 19:37 on February 23, 2023
- Never in history there was such a worthless (ghatia) Chief Election Commissioner: Imran Khan
Aaj TV 20:19 February 25, 2023
- People demand protection against political allegations: Siraj ul Haq
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 26, 2023
- Wedding banquet of Justice Farooq Haidar's son
- Judges and politicians participate (Including Chaudhry Shujaat and Parvez Elai, etc)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 26, 2023
- PTI won election (NA seat) despite the aggregation (gath jor) of the govt and the EC: Imran Khan
TV ARY at 06:23 on February 27, 2023
- Political parties should consult one another and propose an election date to us: SC
TV Dawn News at 15:10 on February 28, 2023
- If judges cannot enforce the Constitution, their chairs are worthless: Fawad Chaudhry (PTI)
TV Express at 21:53 on February 28, 2023

Report: TV anchor held for hate speech

Imran Riaz Khan has been taken into custody by the FIA. We can safely say that human rights are completely non-existent in Pakistan, a fascist state where rule of law is absent, says the PTI in a statement.

Condemning Khan's arrest, PTI general secretary Asad Umar said that while journalists and politicians were in jail. Terrorists are walking free in the country. Staff Reporter

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 3, 2023

Editorial: Wikipedia ban

Much like the bans on other websites and platforms, the new curbs will hurt Pakistanis looking for information, as well as be seen as a negative move by foreign investors. At a time when countries are becoming less restrictive about access to technology and tech firms, Pakistan is going the other way. The previous set-up was obsessed with data being accessible to Pakistani users, and tried to push laws to access data servers and force tech companies to have a brick-and-mortar presence in Pakistan in order to enable its own policing. This shows a mentality where ignorance and fear dictate decisions on technological access, and highlights how poor the understanding of our leaders is. The fact that the authorities banned Wikipedia as a knee-jerk reaction to the accessibility of content they deemed controversial, instead of understanding that it is a crowdsourced website where content can be edited, even by the government, is unfortunate. It only underscores how arbitrarily our government can crack the whip of censorship, and how helpless the citizens are in the face of such ignorant actions.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 6, 2023

Editorial: Another lynching

There is no question about it: We are living in a hell of our own making. The kind of medievalism that was witnessed in Nankana Sahib Saturday, when a mob of hundreds of enraged men, lynched a blasphemy suspect and attempted to set his body on fire, is not new.....

Over the decades, it is the state that allowed extremism to grow at home, after weaponizing religion for its own ends. The remedy too lies primarily with the state-but is not an easy one. Deep-rooted

reform is needed that goes well beyond simply reassessing the blasphemy laws; it starts with re-vamping education in schools to promote inclusive thinking and with cracking down on groups and individuals that spew hate against those who hold different beliefs.....

Even in these times of economic distress, the government must not relegate the issue to the backburner.

The daily Dawn Lahore; February 13, 2023

Op-ed: An air that kills

The state and citizens have a contract, according to which citizens submit to law in exchange their rights are protected. This contract is violated if citizens submit to the law but their rights are seized. If you as a citizen submit to the law but your parents and your children's rights are violated every day, what is the duty of the state.

Waqar Younas in the daily Dawn; Lahore, February 14, 2023

Editorial: Disparity in Society

In her remarks to a German broadcaster on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference last week, IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva set out the agenda for good fiscal governance in Pakistan. "What we are asking for are steps that Pakistan needs to take to be able to function as a country and not to get into a dangerous place where its debt needs to be restructured," she said. Her advice: tax those who are earning well in both the public and private sectors and give subsidies only to the poor who actually need it.....

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 22, 2023

Op-ed: South Asia Media landscape

.....That was always going to be the case, considering that Mr Modi had already been given a clean chit by his country's supreme court in the case of the communal violence, which saw over 2,000 people, predominantly Muslims, slaughtered.

This was so, despite overwhelming evidence to suggest that at best he told the police not to intervene as violent Hindu mobs went on the rampage and killed, raped, burned and plundered in Muslim neighbourhoods. This was not innocent dithering. Some observers believe it was a pogrom that accelerated Mr. Modi's journey to the top office in the country.

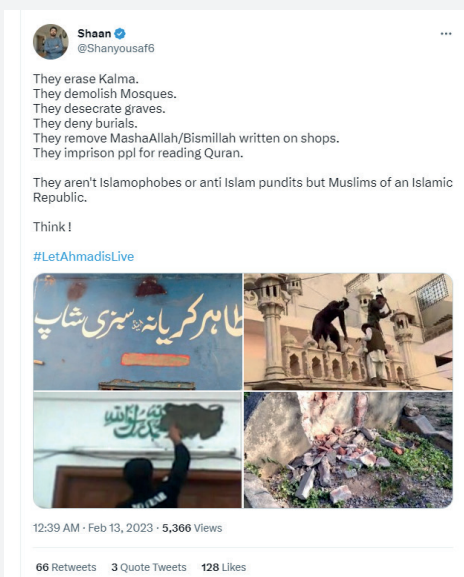
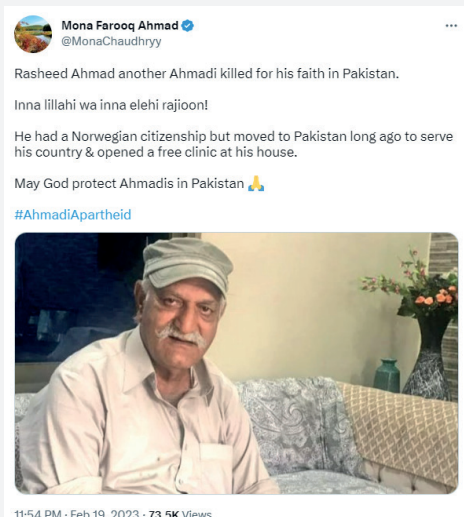
A military commander was later to say in his book that his troops were poised to step in to restore order but waited endlessly to be asked by the state government.....

The Babri Masjid demolition and the frenzy that preceded it, and then, of course, the Gujarat pogrom served as a major reality check. How the frenzy kicked up by such ghastly events completely enamored such a large number of voters was heart-breaking to witness.

It was even more heart-breaking when the realization began to sink in that Indian democracy was being transformed into a neo-fascist state, where some of India's brightest sons and daughters were being imprisoned for publicly calling for pluralism and true democratic norms and where dissent was now a crime.....

Abbas Nasir in the daily Dawn; Lahore, February 19, 2023

Tweets:



GROTESQUE BIGOTRY

Editorial Published February 5, 2023

FREEDOM to profess one's faith is guaranteed by the Constitution of Pakistan. However, for the country's Ahmadi minority, this freedom is severely curtailed, and instead, the group is faced with intense persecution. One example of this ugly bigotry manifested itself in Karachi recently, when an Ahmadi place of worship in Saddar was attacked by a mob. In a highly disturbing video purportedly capturing the incident, individuals can be seen attacking the building and tearing down parts of it while shouting slogans. This is not the first such incident; a similar attack targeting an Ahmadi facility took place last month, in Karachi's Martin Quarters area. The sad fact is that there is a long history of Ahmadi persecution in this country. Members of the community have been murdered in targeted killings, there have been calls for an economic boycott of the group, while gravestones of community members have also been desecrated. Perhaps the most brutal attacks in recent memory were the ones in 2010 targeting two places of worship in Lahore, which resulted in nearly 100 fatalities. It is not difficult to understand what breeds this hatred, as there are groups and individuals in this country whose sole aim appears to be persecution of Ahmadis, particularly by misusing the blasphemy laws against the community.

The problem is that if violent extremism is allowed to fester even after devouring whole communities, one day the obscurantists will come for everyone who does not agree with their blinkered worldview. The bloodbath in Peshawar's Police Lines is a clear example of this terrifying possibility. At least five people have been held for attacking the Ahmadi facility in Saddar. However, the bigger task for the state is to provide protection to the community at large, while working to extricate radicalism from society. The latter is a particularly tall order, when the state itself had for decades nurtured the hard right. The political class, the establishment as well as clerics need to take some bold moves to ensure that vulnerable communities can live in peace, and are not hounded by those bent on eliminating them. Left unattended, the violent vigilantism witnessed in Karachi will one day morph into an uncontrollable ogre. There may still be time to save the nation from sinking into the toxic vortex of obscurantism and violence, should the ruling classes prioritise this goal.

Published in the daily Dawn; February 5th, 2023

انتباہ

برائے سوشل میڈیا / انٹرنیٹ صارفین

عوام الناس کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اشاعت قرآن مجید (غلطیوں سے پاک طباعت اور ریکارڈنگ) ایکٹ ۱۹۷۳ کی رو سے قرآن پاک کی ایسی طباعت، اشاعت یا ریکارڈنگ جو کسی غیر رجسٹرڈ ناشر قرآن پاک کی طرف سے کی گئی ہو یا ایسا مطبوعہ قرآن یا قرآن پاک کا کچھ حصہ جو کسی بھی شکل (کتاب، ریکارڈ، نصابی کتاب وغیرہ) میں ریکارڈ یا شائع کیا گیا ہو اور اس میں کسی لفظ، حرف یا اعراب کو تبدیل یا آیت، سورت کی ترتیب کو تبدیل کیا گیا ہو یا کسی غیر مسلم کی طرف سے اس کا ایسا ترجمہ یا تشریح کی گئی ہو جو مسلمانوں کے عقیدے کے برخلاف ہو تو ان تمام صورتوں میں ان جرائم کا مرتکب سخت ترین سزاؤں کا مستحق ہوگا۔

مزید برآں تعزیرات پاکستان کے سیکشن (B) 295 کی رو سے قرآن پاک، قرآن پاک کے اوراق یا اس کے کسی اقتباس کی توہین کے مرتکب کو عمر قید کی سزا ہو سکتی ہے۔

لہذا عوام الناس (مسلم وغیر مسلم معزز شہریوں) سے اپیل کی جاتی ہے کہ مذہبی معاملات، مقدس کتب، مقدس شخصیات کی نسبت انتہائی احتیاط سے کام لیں اور خاص طور پر سوشل میڈیا پر ان امور سے متعلق رائے زنی، تبصرے، اشاعت وغیرہ میں انتہائی ذمہ داری کا مظاہرہ کریں۔

واضح رہے

کہ حکومت پاکستان کے متعلقہ ادارے کسی بھی غیر قانونی، نفرت انگیز، گستاخانہ مواد کی مسلسل نگرانی کرتے ہیں اور آئین پاکستان، متعلقہ قوانین اور عدالتی احکامات کی روشنی میں ان جرائم میں ملوث افراد کے خلاف کارروائی کرتے ہیں۔

تمام شہریوں سے اپیل ہے کہ سوشل میڈیا پر موجود کسی بھی غیر قانونی، نفرت انگیز، گستاخانہ مواد کی شکایات فوراً متعلقہ سوشل میڈیا پلیٹ فارم پر درج کروائیں یا پاکستان ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن اتھارٹی (پی ٹی اے) کو درج ذیل لنک پر رپورٹ کریں۔

<https://complaint.pta.gov.pk/RegisterComplaint.aspx>
content-complaint@pta.gov.pk

جبکہ متعلقہ افراد کے خلاف قانونی کارروائی کے لیے FIA کے سائبر کرائم ونگ کو درج ذیل ذرائع پر شکایت درج کروائی جاسکتی ہے۔

Call: 1991
 helpdesk@nr3c.gov.pk

پاکستان ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن اتھارٹی
 پی ٹی اے ہیڈ کوارٹرز، F-5/1 اسلام آباد

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ANNEX III

LETTER AGAINST A SENIOR AHMADI POLICE OFFICER

**ملتان**
پاکستان

عَالَمِي مَجْلِسِ تَحْفِظِ خَاتَمِ نُبُوَّة

Aalami Majlise Tahaffuze Khatme Nubuwwat
HEAD OFFICE : HAZOORI BAGH ROAD, MULTAN - PAKISTAN PH: 4783486 FAX : 4583486

اسلام آباد: 051-2829186 لاہور: 042-35862404 فیصل آباد: 0301-7224794 کراچی: 021-32780337 کونسل: 081-2841995 پشاور: 0333-9223020

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

بخدمت عالی جناب..... صاحب

مزاج گرامی!

السلام علیکم ورحمۃ اللہ وبرکاتہ

وقاص اہسن تھو کہ معروف جنونی قسم کا سکہ بند قادیانی ہے۔ آئینی طور پر قادیانی غیر مسلم ہیں۔ خود کو مسلمان ظاہر کرتا ہے اور قانون پاکستان کی مخالفت کرنا اپنا دھڑ بھارت کا ہے۔ سینئر سپریٹنڈنٹ آف پولیس، پبلسٹیک پروٹیکشن یونٹ لاہور کے عہدہ پر فائز ہے۔ اس کو ڈائریکٹر جنرل اینٹی کرپشن اٹلیٹسٹ پنجاب کے سپرد کیا گیا ہے کہ وہ اس کو کسی منصب پر فائز کریں۔ ان حالات میں اس امر کا خدشہ بدیہی طور پر پایا جاتا ہے کہ اسے ترقی دینے کا منصوبہ تو نہیں ہے۔

ان حالات میں آپ سے استدعا ہے کہ یہ شخص اپنی ملازمت اور عہدہ کی بجائے اپنے قادیانی عقیدہ کا وقادار ہے۔ قادیانیوں کو ترقی دینا اسلامی دلوانا، قادیانیوں کی بھرتیاں کرانے کے لیے ہمیشہ یہ سامی رہتا ہے۔ جیسا کہ اس کے متعلق شہرہ ہے اس پر نظر رکھی جائے۔ قانون ضمن منصب اور جنونی قادیانی ہونے کے باعث اس کو کسی قسم کی ترقی نہ دی جائے۔ اسلامی مملکت پاکستان کے مفادات کا تقاضہ ہے کہ اس کو قانون کا پابند بنایا جائے۔ میرا فرض بنتا تھا کہ اس کے متعلق جو عام تاثر زبان زد عوام و خواص ہے اس سے آپ کو باخبر کروں۔ جن تعالیٰ ہمارے ملک عزیز کو ترقی و حفاظت سے سرفراز فرمائیں۔

العارض

(مولانا) عزیز الرحمن جانی

سیکرٹری اطلاعات، عالمی مجلس تحفظ ختم نبوت پاکستان

(کاپی برائے)

بخدمت حضرت مولانا فضل الرحمن صاحب، صدر پی ڈی ایم اسلام آباد
بخدمت جناب میاں شہباز شریف صاحب، وزیر اعظم پاکستان
بخدمت حضرت مولانا مفتی عبدالککور صاحب، وفاقی وزیر برائے مذہبی امور اسلام آباد
بخدمت جناب بلخ الرحمن صاحب، گورنر پنجاب
بخدمت جناب محسن نقوی صاحب، نگران وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب
بخدمت جناب زاہد اختر زمان صاحب، چیف سیکرٹری پنجاب
بخدمت جناب ڈائریکٹر اینٹی کرپشن اٹلیٹسٹ پنجاب
بخدمت جناب حافظ مدثر نواز صاحب، سیکشن آفیسر

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

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 humanrights@tabshir.org

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