

# **Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan**

## **Monthly Report**

**September 2018**

### **Fighting bigotry**

*(An op-ed)*

...

Our realist friends tell us that this isn't the time to pick a fight. Is there ever a good time? In the movie 'American President' there was a great response to such counsel: "You fight the fights you can win? (No) You fight the fights that need fighting." Fighting bigotry being peddled by Khadim Rizvis on the streets, the Orya Maqbool Jans on TV and our school buddies on WhatsApp groups is the fight that needs fighting.

*Babar Sattar in The News International; September 8, 2018*

### **Contents**

- **Brilliant Ahmadi asked unjustly and indefensibly to resign from Economic Advisory Council for his faith p. 1**
- **Penalty of death should be laid down for deniers of End of Prophethood: Siraj-ul-Haq (Amir Jamaat Islami, Pakistan) 2**
- **Special mention of anti-Ahmadi laws in Electronic Crimes Bill (Amendment) moved by PTI 3**
- **Police case against a local Ahmadi community president for undertaking *Qurbani* 3**
- **Another police case for undertaking *Qurbani* 4**
- **Ahmadi wrongfully framed in a blasphemy charge is denied bail even by a high court 4**

*(continued)*

- **Ahmadis made to flee from homes in KPK, only for their faith** 4
- **Police closes down Ahmadiyya prayer centre, in contravention of constitutional rights** 4
- **Campaign for 2018 National Elections – its focus on Ahmadiyyat** 5
- **KN mullas hold a fabulous conference in Rabwah with ill-gained funds** 7
- **Ahmadi faces hardship at job for his faith** 8
- **Ahmadi is denied burial in common cemetery where already 30 Ahmadis are buried** 8
- **Conspiracy against an Ahmadi-owned school** 8
- **Ahmadis face obstacles in normal worship – in Sindh** 9
- **Mullas demand change in the design of Ahmadiyya worship places** 9
- **Ahmadi given time till midnight to flee or face death** 9
- **Infamous Hafiz Saeed’s rant against Ahmadis** 9
- **Hateful antics in public against Ahmadiyya founder and the caliph** 10
- **Mullas support a corrupt fellow and incite a crowd in a business dispute turned sectarian** 10
- **Ahmadi deceased deprived of Ahmadiyya rites** 10
- **Being Ahmadi (in Pakistan) – observations of a neutral observer** 10
- **Ahmadis behind bars** 12
- **From the media** 13

## **Brilliant Ahmadi asked to resign from Economic Advisory Council (EAC) for his faith**

*Islamabad; September 7, 2018:* Professor Dr Atif Mian, an Ahmadi, member of EAC was asked by the government to resign his membership. It is an interesting but pathetic story that foretells the malevolence of the course of the Pakistani state in years ahead. The report was published by the daily Dawn of September 8; its extracts are reproduced below:

### **“Under-fire govt asks minority community economist to quit EAC**

**ISLAMABAD:** Within three days of its rhetoric about the rights of minorities, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government bowed down to pressure from religious groups and asked a renowned economist belonging to the Ahmadi community to step down from the Prime Minister-led Economic Advisory Council (EAC) only to lose another EAC member from the private sector hours later over the controversial move.

The government decision to withdraw Dr Atif R. Mian's name from the advisory council was made public through a tweet by Senator Faisal Javed, who is also chairman of the Senate standing committee on information, on Friday morning.

“Atif Mian was asked to step down from the Advisory Council and he has agreed. A replacement would be announced later,” Senator Javed tweeted at 8.49 am. Over half an hour later, information minister Fawad Chaudhary, who had strongly defended the appointment earlier this week, confirmed the development declaring that the government decided to withdraw his nomination from the EAC to avoid any controversy.

However, the controversy deepened further when another EAC member, Dr Asim Ijaz Khwaja from the Harvard Kennedy School, on Friday evening also stepped down from the council over the withdrawal of Dr Atif's name.

Explaining the circumstances that led to his resignation, Dr Atif said the government was facing tremendous pressure over his appointment from Muslim clerics and their followers. “For the sake of the stability of the Government of Pakistan, I have resigned from the Economic Advisory Council, as the Government was facing a lot of adverse pressure regarding my appointment from the Mullahs (Muslim clerics) and their supporters,” he tweeted.

Earlier on Tuesday, the government spokesman had strongly defended Dr Atif's appointment to the EAC on the grounds that Pakistan belongs to majority Muslims as well as non-Muslim minorities. “What is wrong with the appointment of a professional economist as a member of the EAC?” said Mr. Chaudhary while talking to the media. “He is a member of the Economic Advisory Council and not the Council of Islamic Ideology,” he remarked.

Three days later the government apparently succumbed to the pressure generated by the call attention notice submitted in both houses of parliament against the appointment of a person belonging to the Ahmadi faith and a petition filed in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) challenging his appointment.

The call attention notice was led by Maulana Asad-ur-Rehman, son of JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, in the National Assembly and by Maulana Ata-ur-Rehman in the Senate. The notice was signed by parliamentarians belonging to the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and even liberals belonging to the Awami National Party, National Party and Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party. The Pakistan Peoples Party, however, did not support the call attention notice.

Explaining reasons for the government decision to withdraw the name, the information minister tweeted: “The government wants to move forward alongside scholars and all social groups, and it is inappropriate if a single nomination creates an otherwise impression.”

In another tweet, Mr. Chaudhary elaborated that the ideal state, according to Prime Minister Imran Khan, was of Madina and that the premier and members of his cabinet held Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in high esteem.

... Later Dr Atif, a professor of Economics and the only Pakistani to be considered among International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 'top 25 brightest young economists', tweeted: "Nevertheless, I will always be ready to serve Pakistan as it is the country in which I was raised and which I love a great deal. Serving my country is an inherent part of my faith and will always be my heartfelt desire.

"Moving forward, I now hope and pray that the Economic Advisory Council is able to fulfill its mandate in the very best way so that the Pakistani people and nation can prosper and flourish.

"My prayers will always be with Pakistan and I will always be ready to help it in any way that is required."

...

Meanwhile, Jemima Goldsmith, former spouse of PM Imran Khan, criticized the government decision in her tweet and stated: "The founder of Pakistan, 'Quaid-i-Azam' appointed an Ahmadi as his Foreign Minister."

She said: "Indefensible & very disappointing. New Pak government asks renowned & respected Prof of economics to stand down because of his Ahmadi faith."

In the same issue the Dawn wrote an editorial under the heading 'Jinnah's Pakistan' on this issue and commented as follows:

"A meritorious appointment has been undone for reasons that have nothing to do with professional competence or qualification.

... The political class will try and put the latest capitulation behind it quickly, but the effects will surely linger.

The historical record incontrovertibly demonstrates that concessions to religious zealots further erode the space for rational discourse and decision-making. ... But as security policymakers debate the political mainstreaming of some extant militant networks, there has been a question whether it is, in fact, extremism that is being mainstreamed in Pakistan.

The religious far right in the country has been mobilized in a manner that ought to worry all right-thinking citizens: short-sighted concessions and

manipulations by the state will have far-reaching consequences for society.

...

A brilliant mind has been prevented from serving his country; what hope is there for the average citizen in the face of intolerance and organized hostility? Jinnah's Pakistan is tolerant, progressive, inclusive and democratic. Will Pakistan's leadership return to the vision of the founding father?"

The next day, the Dawn reported: Another jolt for EAC as London-based economist quits in protest. Dr Imran Rasul resigned the membership stated: "If there was one academic on the EAC that Pakistan needs, it was Atif Mian.... Basing decisions on religious affiliation goes against my principles, of the values I am trying to teach my children."

The mullas reaction was different and interesting. Mulla Rab Nawaz who is also an advocate and the president of Khatme Nabuwat Lawyers' Forum, said in a conference; "Mian Atif has been expelled from the EAC, but the government should explain why was he taken in the first place..." *The daily Jang; September 10, 2018*

At this occasion Human Rights Commission of Pakistan issued a press release expressing 'serious concern' over this decision of the government. Its copy is placed at Annex to this report.

Civil society and Awami Workers Party held a demonstration outside Press club in Islamabad on September 10 and protested against exclusion of Dr. Atif from EAC.

## **Penalty of death should be laid down for deniers of End of Prophethood: Siraj-ul-Haq (Amir Jamaat Islami, Pakistan)**

*Lahore:* The daily *Ausaf* quoting its correspondent in Chenab Nagar reported the following in its issue of October 1, 2018 (extracts):

**Penalty of death should be laid down for denier of Khatme Nabuwwat as well: Siraj-ul-Haq**  
**The youth should turn to madrassas to escape Qadiani designs**

Chenab Nagar (Ausaf correspondent): Siraj-ul-Haq Amir Jamaat Islami while talking to Mian Abdul Qayyum Hunjra stated that as per Constitution, Qadianis the deniers of Khatme Nabuwwat are outside the pale of Islam. Penalty for treason against the Constitution is death, so a denier of Khatme Nabuwwat should also face penalty of death (*sazae maut muqarrar ki ja*)... .

**Note:** The above is indicative of the level of bigotry, religious intolerance and political corruption of the emir of a front-line Islamist party in Pakistan.

This demand is perhaps the ‘first ever’ made this way by a leading mulla.

**Three years imprisonment for “calling Qadiani a Muslim or preaching Qadianism”**

***Electronic Crimes Bill (Amendment) presented in the Senate***

**Lahore; September 20, 2018:**The daily *Ausaf* published a news report with the above headlines (extracts) today. An extract of the report is translated below:

“Islamabad (News Agency): Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill 2018 has been moved in the Senate. According to the Bill, desecration of copy of the Holy Quran on social media invites life imprisonment, death for those guilty of blasphemy against the Prophethood (*Risalat*) and the false accusers of blasphemy, and three years’ imprisonment for those who insult religious personalities. The bill has been passed on to the relevant standing committee for perusal. The bill was presented by state finance minister Mr. Hamad Azhar on Wednesday. ... A Qadiani, calling himself a Muslim or preaching his belief will be punished with three years’ imprisonment and fine. The bill proposes death for one who falsely accuses another of Blasphemy. ... The bill proposes 4 years’ imprisonment and three

million fine for one guilty of posting or selling pornographic (*fohsh*) material...”

**Note:** It is noteworthy that the state rather than curbing and restricting the laws on blasphemy etc. is taking further steps to enlarge the scope of application of these laws that have already pulverized the Pakistani society in many ways. Also, the fact that they chose to repeat specifically the anti-Ahmadi laws as well, confirms the PTI’s indirect support to bigotry and sectarian prejudice.

**Police case against a local Ahmadi president for undertaking Qurbani**

**Guldasht Town Gujjarpura, District Lahore; August/September 2018:** It was reported earlier that on August 22, 2018 on Eid ul Azha festival Mr. Muhammad Ahmad, president of the local Ahmadiyya community, undertook *Qurbani*. It was planned to sacrifice two goats and one cow, but while undertaking the *Qurbani* of the first goat, eight mullas accompanied by police arrived at the site. The police took Mr. Ahmad and the meat of the *Qurbani* to the police station, where 25 mullas waited for the raiding party. The police also had taken away with them the other two sacrificial cattle. At the police station the mullas tried their best to pressurize the police. After a two-hour discussion with opponents, the police let Mr. Ahmad go, on the assurance of a local person; however they kept in their custody the sacrificial cattle of Mr. Ahmad, and released them after three days.

On September 5, 2018 the police registered a case under PPC 298-C against Mr. Ahmad for undertaking *Qurbani*.

It should be pointed out that the law does not forbid Ahmadis to undertake *Qurbani*.

## **Another police case against an Ahmadi for undertaking *Qurbani***

*Sadhokey, District Gujranwala; August/September 2018:* Mr. Shahid Hussain undertook *Qurbani* on Eid ul Azha. His neighbor reported to the police that Mr. Hussain had undertaken Islamic rituals. For this the police registered a case against the Ahmadi under PPC 298-C.

Mr. Hussain's pre-arrest bail had been obtained; however on September 11, 2018 the additional sessions judge cancelled his bail. This denial of bail will be appealed in the Lahore High Court.

## **Ahmadi denied release on bail**

*Chak 368, District Layya; October 02, 2018:* We reported last month that Mr. Javed Ahmad Grumman was charged in a fabricated blasphemy case under PPC 295-C in police station Chobara, District Layya on July 1, 2018 in FIR Nr 288/18. His interim bail was cancelled on July 14, 2018, he was arrested and sent to Layya Jail. On August 6, Rai Yasseen Shaheen the Additional Sessions Judge Layya refused his post-arrest bail.

His bail application was submitted in the High Court (Multan Bench). Here also Justice Sarfraz Ahmad refused him release on bail. He is still behind bars only for his faith.

## **Ahmadis made to flee for their faith**

*Abbottabad; September 2018:* Ahmadi families of Mr. Shuaib Ahmad and Mr. Luqman Ahmad are residents of Abbottabad. They started facing difficulties as soon as their neighbors came to know of their faith. This hostility increased over time and they were socially boycotted in their area. They were denied purchase of daily use items from nearby shops. Recently the owner of Mr. Luqman's flat told him to vacate the flat

immediately. When asked the reason, he said, "Approximately a dozen men of Khatme Nabuwat organization came to me and told me to get the flat vacated of Qadianis or be prepared for arson in the block."

Ahmadis had to shift to a far off location at short notice.

## **Police closes down Ahmadiyya prayer center, in contravention of constitutional rights**

*Ichra Colony, Lahore; September 10, 2018:* Pakistan Constitution provides for freedom of religious practice in its Article 20. However for some time opponents have been agitating against the Ahmadiyya prayer center in Ichra Colony, Lahore. They prevented Ahmadis from undertaking *Qurbani* on Eid festival. After this, they were looking for mischief to spread more unrest in the area. So the mullas started getting signatures from the locals to close down the Ahmadiyya prayer center.

The police were informed by Ahmadis of the situation. The SHO sent for both the parties. Three Ahmadis went to the police station while 15 opponents turned up for the occasion. Opponents put great pressure to have the Ahmadiyya prayer center closed down, and falsely accused the Ahmadis of using it for preaching. They also objected to Ahmadis writing the word 'Muhammad' with their names. They demanded that Ahmadis be charged for this 'defiling'.

The police imposed an agreement on Ahmadis that they will wind up their prayer center. The police had no answer to providing them an alternative.

## **2018 National Elections and Ahmadiyyat in Pakistan**

### ***A post-elections brief report***

*January 2018 - September 2018:* General elections were held this year in July. Although Ahmadis did not participate in these elections even as voters because they suffered stark discrimination in election rules, still the Ahmadiyya issue was exploited greatly by all political parties. This political exploitation was extraordinary and massive even by Pakistan standards, however its harmful consequences continue to affect the national scene even after the elections and formation of the new government. As such it is appropriate to briefly present an overall picture of this happening for not only archives but also its likely impact on events, at least in the near future.

These elections were preceded by two major events in the last quarter of 2017. The first was the passage of the Elections Act 2017 and its Amendment and the second was the rise of the extremist Barelvi faction called Tehrik Labbaik (TLP) that subsequently blockaded the capital to the great embarrassment of the ruling party PML-N. These events spotlighted the Ahmadi issue, and while the politicians of the bigot brigade raised high the anti-Ahmadi flag, the mainstream parties, both in the government and the opposition decided to outdo one-another on this theme unbecoming of elections. We produce below a short list of developments from the new year to June 2018, before taking up and commenting on the events of the next three months:

- The PML-N government declared that year 2018 will be celebrated as the Khatme Nabuwat (KN) Year.
- The TLP, a fresh entrant in elections as a politico-religious party, invested a great deal of political capital in Faizabad sit-in in the name of KN.
- The PTI blamed the PML-N of disturbing the KN rules at the time of

passage of the Elections Act 2017. The former knew that the Act, prior to the later amendment, facilitated voting rights to Ahmadis. However it repeatedly held PML-N responsible for the attempted ‘improvement’ and declared the latter accountable.

- Imran Khan asserted in a public statement that none who does not believe the Holy Prophet to be the last prophet can call himself a Muslim.
- The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Parliament declared Ahmadis in February to be a non-Muslim minority. The AJK prime minister is an affiliate of PML-N.
- Three major KN conferences were held in Lahore in March, with more than a mere nod from the PML-N provincial government.
- Ch. Pervaiz Ilahi of PML-Q issued a statement in support of the ‘end of prophethood’ in March.
- Freedom of worship was denied and restricted to Ahmadis in Districts Sargodha and Khushab of the Punjab in April 2018.
- Ahmadiyya mosque in Karachi was threatened and the community members had to flee from their households to escape harm in North Karachi (April 19, 2018).
- Ahmadiyya property in Sialkot was destroyed by mob and a mosque was severely damaged. The mob was led by political mullas (of PTI) while the administration and the police provided support – direct and indirect.
- Ahmadiyya mosque in Deryan Wala, District Narowal was sealed by authorities.
- After a threatening agitation by a mulla, the police booked an Ahmadi on fabricated charge of blasphemy in District Layya on July 1, 2018.

- TLP and AMTKN held pre-polls Iftar parties in Lahore to agitate the guests.
- Capt. ® Safdar of PML-N ranted again against Ahmadis in an electoral meeting. He leaned on the usual blasphemy and end of prophethood themes.
- An Ahmadi was murdered for his faith, in Lahore on June 25.
- An Ahmadi couple was shot in Jaranwala on July 7. etc. etc.

By this time it seemed that the End of Prophethood and the Ahmadiyya issue had become the theme of the 2018 Elections. Political leaders, senior as well as junior, took up this issue in their rallies, and the vernacular media spared plenty of space for their statements.

For example, Mr. Pervaiz Ilahi of PML-Q falsely accused the PML-N government of efforts to repeal the law on End of Prophethood. Fazlur Rahman of JUI-F accused Imran Khan of “promises to Qadianis of a change in Khatme Nabuwat law”. *The daily Din, July 10, 2018*. [PakistanToday.com.pk/2018/07/08](http://PakistanToday.com.pk/2018/07/08) reported: “Imran Khan vows to defend blasphemy law. PTI Chief draws ire for exploiting Khatme Nabuwat (KN) issue for political gain.” The ‘ire’ of the few was apparently ignored by the Captain because for his support to the KN issue the Pir of Golra Sharif offered his support to the PTI. *The daily Dawn, July 3, 2018*. Mr. Imran Khan repeatedly raised the issue of Raja Zafrul Haq’s report on who brought about the KN changes to the Elections Act 2017. This was Khan’s tool to worsen the PML-N, and in using it he failed to see his involvement in a religion-based issue which should not have gained the importance it did. It is indeed deplorable that not a single politician raised the question, “Why and on what basis you want to deny Ahmadis their right of vote?”

During those campaign weeks, PML-N repeatedly fired its unguided missile, Captain ® Safdar to press home strikes against Ahmadis.

He pushed *inter alia* for changing the name of National Physics Centre in Islamabad from Abdus Salam to someone else. Mulla Rizvi of TLP issued a dreadful threat in a public rally to Ahmadis: “The day Islam comes to power, there will be one decision regarding Mirzais – either recite the Kalima (Islamic Creed) or accept death. There won’t be anything else other than this...” *On YouTube (Translation)*. In May, after the destructive attack on Ahmadiyya mosque in Sialkot, a PPP MPA proposed a motion in the Sindh Assembly to condemn the attack, but the senior leadership of PPP did not permit her to move the resolution. In this charged atmosphere of religious intolerance, a man shot Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, the Federal Interior Minister, on his election campaign trail. He survived luckily but according to him he still carries the bullet of hate in his body.

Mr. Imran Khan’s conduct deserves a bit more space on record. In one of his election rallies he proudly announced that in his



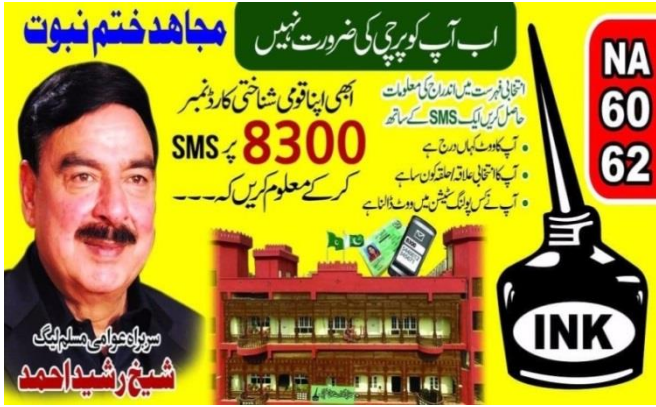
Amir Liaquat – Muhafiz KN

government merit will be the criteria for ministerial appointments; he would not appoint any ‘relative’ as the finance minister, but a competent man like Professor Atif Mian. Later, when there was a rumor of some reaction, the Captain hurried to take back his commitment, saying, “Oh, I did not know that Atif Mian was not a believer in the end of prophethood.”

Anyway in the elections numerous PTI nominees used the title of *Mujahid-e-Khatme Nabuwat* (Warrior of End of Prophethood) in their election campaigns to attract the voters.



PTI nominated Dr. Amir Liaqat Hussain from NA-245 as their candidate. He printed his



Sh. Rashid Ahmad – Mujahid Khatme Nabuwwat

publicity poster calling himself *Muhaffize Khatme Nabuwwat*, (Savior of End of Prophethood). Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, an ally of PTI, also mentioned himself on his publicity poster as *Mujahid-e-Khatme Nabuwwat*. Many nominees expressed their faith in Khatme Nabuwwat in a show of commitment to Islam.

In the first week after PTI came to power, Imran Khan nominated Professor Atif Mian as member of the Economic Advisory Council. In the face of some protests from the mulla the government stood by its decision for two days but soon beat the retreat and requested the Professor to resign his membership.

It seems that PTI, having met its goal of forming the government in the capital, has apparently no heart and no will to make any real *Tabdeeli* (change) to the socio-political scene of the country. It seems that the nation will remain hostage to the far-right mullas for the next five years of PTI on treasury benches.

## A hostile conference in Rabwah by KN mullas

**Rabwah; September 7, 2018:** International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement (IKNM) was allowed again to hold a hostile and provocative conference in Rabwah on September 7, 2018. We do not repeat here its proceedings in detail, as these were no different than in past years,

however we reproduce below extracts from an op-ed/report compiled by one of their media-men, Mulla M. Salman Usmani, published in the daily Islam on September 24, 2018.

### 31<sup>st</sup> Annual International Khatme Nabuwwat Conference, Chenab Nagar

... In (1953) a movement in support of these fair demands got underway from the platform of All Parties Action Forum Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat. The rulers of the time pierced the breasts of more than 13000 sons of *Toheed* (Unity of God) and Lahore's Mall Road was flooded with the holy blood of KN martyrs. (A high level judicial inquiry, however concluded that in all 37 rioters were killed by security forces in the entire Punjab to restore peace)... The Conference, ... was held in the Muslim Colony, Chenab Nagar with great pomp and show (*shan o shaukat*), under the patronage of Hazrat Maulana Dr Saeed Ahmad Inayatullah Central Amir IKNM, while presiding honors went to IKNM Secretary General Maulana Dr Ahmad Ali Siraj (from Madina Munawwarah), Deputy Amir Fazilatu Sheikh Maulana Abdul Rauf of Makka (*Saudi Arabia*), Fazilatu Sheikh Maulana Umar Abdul Hafeez Makki (of Makka Mukarama) and the sons of Hazrat Maulana Abdul Hafeez Makki (*Saudi Arabia*). ...

The participants included Maulana M. Ilyas Chinioti MPA(PML-N) Amir IKNM (Chiniot), Sahibzada Zahid Mahmud Qasimi Secretary General IKNM Pakistan (Faisalabad), Pir Tariqat Maulana Sadiq ul Amin (Faisalabad), Maulana Hafiz M Tahir Mahmud Ashrafi Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council (Lahore), Allama Shah Nawaz Farooqi (Gujranwala), Maulana M Mughira of Majlis Ahrar Islam (Chenab Nagar), from Bareilvi school Maulana Syed Saifullah Shah Farooqi (Lahore), Hafiz Binyamin Abid of Jamaat ud Dawa (Faisalabad), Jamaat Islami's Deputy Amir Dr Farid Ahmad (Lahore), JUI F's Ch. Shahbaz A Gujjar (Jhang), SH Mufti M. Tayyab (Faisalabad), Maulana Ismatullah Bandialvi of Jamiat Isha'at (Sargodha), etc. etc.

... Slogans of KN – Zinda Baad, Martyrs of KN – Zinda Baad were raised sky high. Arrangements for the conference were ideal. The ulama and the participants were treated to fabulous meals and

drinks. Security was strict in view of the sensitive law and order situation in the country...

Rescue 1122, ambulance, mobile dispensary and fire brigade were present to handle any emergency. Municipal Committee Chenab Nagar made excellent provisions for cleanliness. Street lights, water tanks, water spray on dirt paths were made available. The entire district administration deserves congratulations and thanks....

Maulana Shabbir A Qadri, the general administrator of the conference moved various resolutions which were supported by participants by show of hands. (One of these was a demand to enforce change of design in Ahmadiyya places of worship)....

The above report betrays:

1. Support for the conference in petrodollars
2. Presence of guests of honor from Saudi Arabia
3. Participation of Jihadists from parties banned for terrorist activities
4. State support and expenditure to what was a sectarian and extremist activity

## **Ahmadi faces hardship at job, for his faith**

*Layya; September 8, 2018:* Mr. Muhammad Imran Mukhtyar is a resident of Layya city and has been working in Layya Sugar Mills as a senior store keeper for last five years. A few days ago his head of department called him to his office and told him that his faith had become a problem in the Mills. The boss elaborated his remarks, "We cannot impose anything regarding faith on you; however your faith in Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani as a prophet hurts our feelings. We believe the Holy Prophet (PBUH) to be the last prophet, and for this we can give our lives and also we can take the lives of others, as Mumtaz Qadri did with (Governor) Salman Taseer. Your community financially supports its members, so you should arrange another job for yourself to forestall any unhappy incident." Mr. Mukhtyar replied, "We also believe the Holy

Prophet (PBUH) to be the last prophet. The livelihood is in the hands of Allah. You can take action against my inefficiency, if any, but to fire me for my faith is not correct. For this, you are accountable to Allah the Almighty."

Subsequent to this interview Mr. Mukhtyar was told by the Admin Manager that he would not return to the main store but then onward he would join the Admin Office.

In view of the veiled threat of his previous boss, Mr. Mukhtyar now takes additional security precautions for his personal safety.

## **Ahmadi denied burial in common cemetery**

*Chak 5/3, Ahmad Pur Syal, District Jhang; September 30, 2018:* Mrs. Amina Bibi w/o of Mr. Maqbool Ahmad died here on September 30, 2018. Arrangements were being made for her burial in common cemetery when opponents of Ahmadiyya community opposed it. They made announcements from loudspeakers of the local mosque and gathered a crowd. Police arrived at the spot. Opponents insisted not to bury the Ahmadi deceased in the common cemetery. Approximately 30 Ahmadis are already buried in the same cemetery. Ahmadis had to bury her in a private land to avoid confrontation.

## **Conspiracy against an Ahmadi-owned school**

*Kot Shera, District Gujranwala; September 2018:* Ahmadiyya community is running G.A. Girls Middle School here; it enjoys good reputation. The school is serving the locals for the last 25 years. Recently the local mulla conspired against this educational institute, and thereby posed a threat to the peace of the locality.

The mulla wrote the names of the founder of the Ahmadiyya community and his successors on a piece of paper and made it public that Ahmadis had thus included the

preaching of their faith in the syllabus. He incited the locals against Ahmadis over this and made a plan to attack Ahmadis' houses and loot them. In this he obtained the cooperation of Tehrike Labbaik party.

The president of the local Ahmadiyya community came to know of this dangerous plan of the mulla. He approached an influential member of the locality Mr. Salahuddin who had been a counselor in the past and informed him of the situation. The latter went to the mosque to meet the mulla. There he convinced the worshipers that the mulla was misguiding the locals, and the Ahmadis did not teach any such thing in their school. "I know that, as my own daughters go to the same school", he said. He also told the mulla, "You'll go away leaving behind enmities. Refrain from such activities and don't disturb the peace of the locality."

The issue got defused for the time being.

## **Obstacles in worship**

*Qambar Ali Khan, District Larkana; September 2018:* It was learnt by the local Ahmadi community that some people took photographs of Ahmadi worshippers who had congregated in their mosque for the Friday congregational prayers. Photographs were taken from a neighbor's house. On inquiry, the neighbor stated that a few Deobandi mullas had done the photography in his absence.

These mullas approached the police with these photos. The police found this 'complaint' a welcome source of unworthy interest. Ahmadis felt harassed wrongfully.

Ahmadis had to approach people whom the police pay attention. It is hoped that the issue will get resolved.

## **Mullas demand change in the design of Ahmadiyya worship places**

*Sargodha; September 28, 2018:* Excerpt of a news report from today's daily Jang is

reproduced to place on record, still another vulgar demand of mullas of the Khatme Nabuwat faction, aimed at restricting Ahmadis' freedom of religion:

**"Designs of Qadianis' worship places should be changed: Khatme Nabuwat Conference  
A mischief is underway to amend the Blasphemy law. There shall be terrible consequences.**

Sargodha (correspondent)... "So long as Qadianis are not removed from key posts, terrorism will continue in the country, as officials at key posts are using Ahmadiyya funds in anti-Pakistan conspiracies." This was stated by (long list of ulama)... At this occasion a number of resolutions were moved that Qadianis should be removed from key posts and the design of their worship places should be changed."

## **A threat to Ahmadi's life**

*Quaidabad, District Khushab; September 8, 2018:*

We have reported in the past the deteriorating anti-Ahmadi situation in Quaidabad. Ahmadis have been facing extreme hostility there for some time. Recently Mr. Zahid Shafique an Ahmadi received a threat letter in which it was written: "Entry of *Mirza (Mirzaion)* is forbidden. Leave this area; it will be good for you. If you do not, you will not know where you will end up at night. Remember – by midnight. You will find it better to leave the area; otherwise you will be killed. It is better for you. Entry of *Mirza (Mirzaion)* is forbidden; you will be attacked at night." (sic)

Mr. Shafique is a senior Ahmadi community functionary. He has now adapted special security measures.

## **Hafiz Saeed's statement concerning Ahmadis**

*Lahore; September 10, 2018:* Hafiz Saeed is a known figure from Pakistan. He is emir of his politico-religious party, Jamaat ud Dawa which is banned, and he is accused of indulging in acts of terrorism. His views on Ahmadi Jamaat were published in the daily Ausaf on September 10, 2018. Extract:

**“Qadianis are open enemies of Islam and Pakistan, their appointment on important posts is intolerable.**

**Qadianis, by masquerading as Muslims are bringing a bad name to Islam and Muslims: Amir Jamaat ud Dawa**

**Publishing blasphemous sketches is a daunting conspiracy. Muslim rulers should pressurize UN to legislate against blasphemy against prophets.**

**Lahore (Political reporter):** Professor Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, Amir Jamaat ud Dawa said that Qadianis are open enemies of Islam and Pakistan. Their appointment on important posts is not at all acceptable. They should be removed from important posts forthwith and should be barred from anti-Islam and anti-Pakistan activities. Faith in the End of Prophethood is fundamental to the faith of all Muslims. He was talking to delegations of workers and officials. He said that Qadianis were nurtured by the British and this plant of great mischief was planted by them. Ahmadis intend to accomplish their conspiratory plans through influence in the government. Qadianis have accelerated their activities with the incoming of the new government. The government should take cognizance of foreign interference and it should take effective action to block Qadianiat.

Hafiz Saeed added that by posing as Muslims, Qadianis are bringing a bad name to Muslims. The entire Muslim Ummah will have to take united stand to fight back conspiracies against Islam and Muslims....”

## **Hateful action against the founder and the present head of the Ahmadiyya community**

**Chiniot; September 4, 2018:** On September 4, 2018 some mischief mongers spread banners on road next to Umer Hayat Mahal, Chiniot. These banners carried sketches of the founder and the present head of the Ahmadiyya community; along with these, flags of the U.S. and Holland were also printed. People trampled over the banners, and bad-mouthed. The police were

informed of the incident, and they removed these banners from the road.

## **Mullas promote disturbance**

**Bhera, District Sargodha; September 2018:**

An Ahmadi, Mr. Tariq Javed made a business deal with his cousin Mr. Mazhar Iqbal who is not an Ahmadi. The former bought Iqbal a few cattle for production of milk etc. to eventually share the profit between them. Mr. Iqbal sold away some cattle and did not reimburse any amount to Mr. Javed. When Javed asked for the money and the cattle, Iqbal refused to give him anything and gave a religious twist to the dispute. He turned to local mullas for help from the pulpit. Mullas were happy to oblige and agitated the public.

Mr. Javed got upset and approached the authorities with facts of the case. They were helpful and registered an FIR against Mazhar Iqbal to restore law and order. The mullas were impressed by the firm administrative action and decided to distance themselves from their fellow Iqbal.

Peace returned to the village in no time.

## **Dispute over an Ahmadi's burial**

**Chak 103/6R, District Bahawal Nagar;**

**September 2018:** An Ahmadi died here. Ahmadis came to offer his funeral prayers but his son who is not Ahmadi stopped them doing so. The locals sought cooperation of TLP, Mulla Rizwi's party. They created hue and cry, cut off water supply lines to Ahmadis' homes and socially boycotted them. Ahmadis contacted the police who called both the parties and attempted reconciliation.

Ahmadis remain on guard.

## **Being Ahmadi (in Pakistan)**

**Lahore; September 16, 2018:** The daily The News International Lahore published an op-ed titled Being Ahmadi. It is a report based on

interviews subsequent to the episode of exclusion of Professor Atif Mian an Ahmadi from the Economic Advisory Council. In it personal accounts of three Ahmadis and one human rights lawyer have been included that describe the treatment of Ahmadis by the state and the society. These are reproduced below under suitable headings, for record:

### **A school teacher**

Shafiq Ahmed\*, 39-year-old primary school teacher in a government school in a village in Punjab, has had to change schools four times since he came into the teaching profession six years ago.

“Every time, I am told the parents do not have any complaint against me as a teacher, just that they don’t want their kids to be taught by a ‘Qadiani’. The villagers are simple people and they hold the area cleric with utmost respect. So when he tells them being taught by an Ahmadi is worse than being taught by a kafir, they believe him!” The only reason he remained in one school for over a year was because they did not have another teacher so the parents and the education department were compelled to hold on to him.

According to Mehmood (a community official), matters are far worse in Punjab than in the other three provinces. “There is now a ban on publishing and distributing any kind of literature even within the community including the magazines that were published for women, children and youth; our websites are blocked too,” and thus a complete shut down on communication.

Earlier in 2010, the Punjab government had made it mandatory for students to reveal whether they were ‘Muslim or non-Muslim’ before being admitted to school or college, or even before registering for the board exams.

### **In a private job**

Thirty five-year-old Mohammad Saleem\*, food technician at a beverage company, where he had happily worked for nine years and received several promotions, had to leave work earlier this year.

Although people knew he was an Ahmadi and he had learnt to let the snide remarks pass, the

trouble actually began for him when he reported a fraud to the management, happening under his very nose in a section he was heading.

“Before I knew what hit me, posters with my photo had been plastered all over the factory, declaring I was preaching and converting people to the Ahmadiyya faith,” adds Saleem.

The management reacted quickly and resolved the situation. But it only simmered down, for a month and next we saw posters appearing in the main marketplace of the city he worked in. A religious group informed the area police they would be taking out a rally as well.

“The situation got so tense that the management transferred me to an office in another city overnight. They were very supportive and tried their best but I was neither suited nor qualified for the new work and I decided to leave,” says Saleem, adding: “They tried to stop me but my mind was made. They said it was their loss since a competent worker had to leave so unfairly,” and even “apologized for not having me back”.

### **In government service**

Thirty-seven year old Ali Habib\*, an engineer in the Pakistan Air Force, has a similar story to tell. “I converted into an Ahmadi after I had joined the air force. When my seniors found out, everything changed, and I was declared an apostate, therefore *wajib ul qatl* (duty-bound to be killed). A case was filed against me that I was preaching my faith, which I fought against, for almost three years.”

Fortunately, for him, on cross-questioning, his batch mates proved that assertion to be false. But during that time he not only faced a complete social boycott at the base (where even utensils in the mess were kept separate), but even from his immediate family. “I was under a lot of stress; even my parents and wife refused to meet!”

His supervisors also reprimanded him for not having taken permission to change his religion since he had declared himself a Muslim when he joined the air force. “I countered with examples of colleagues, who had converted while in service, from Christianity to Islam, and who were rewarded with promotions and who had not taken any prior permission either.”

When the air force could not find anything to court martial him, he was forced to resign. "I was asked to leave within 24 hours. My immediate supervisor, apologized to me and told me my performance had been exemplary, but they could not retain me in service," says Habib.

Sadly, he was not given any benefits that were his due for the years he served in the air force. In addition, to this date all his important documents, including his educational certificates, remain with them despite his repeated requests. "It's been three years now, and I cannot prove my credentials — neither my work experience nor my educational qualification — to be able to find a good job."

### **Identity documents**

Human rights lawyer, Yasser Latif Hamdani says by not repealing or amending the discriminatory legislations, the state has been "complicit" in abuses perpetrated against the Ahmadis. So is each and every Pakistani citizen who has yet to refuse to sign an affidavit when applying for a national ID card or a passport stating: "I consider Mirza Ghulam Ahmad an impostor prophet. And also consider his followers, whether belonging to the Lahori or Qadiani group, to be non-Muslims".

"I feel I am doing something reprehensible, but I have done it not once but every five years my passport expires!" says Sohaila Waqar, 65-year-old doctor belonging to the Sunni community. Without signing that document that she is forced to, she cannot have the travel document.

...

\*Names have been changed to protect the identity of those people and the names of the cities they now live or work have purposely not been disclosed. (Editor)

### **Ahmadis behind bars**

1. A contrived case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad and Mubashir Ahmad of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura under PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 on May 13, 2014 in Police

Station Sharaqpur. Mr. Khalil Ahmad was then murdered by a madrassah student, while in police custody, two days later on May 16, 2014. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. A year later the deadly clause PPC 295-C was added to their charge-sheet by suggestion of a high court judge. A sessions judge sentenced them to death on October 11, 2017. Appeal against this decision has been made to the Lahore High Court.

2. Officials of Punjab's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) accompanied by a contingent of the Elite Force raided Shakoor Bhai's book shop, arrested him and Mr. Mazhar Abbas the shop assistant, a Shia, on December 2, 2015. A speedy trial in an Anti-terrorism Court dispensed 5 years' imprisonment to each of the two accused, while octogenarian Mr. Shakoor was sentenced in addition to three years' imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadiyya law. He appealed against the verdict and has sought release on bail from the Lahore High Court which has not spared time for over two years to hear his plea.
3. Mr. Saeed Ahmad Waraich was charged on a false complaint of blasphemy under PPC 295-C with FIR no. 645 in Tandlianwala police station, District Faisalabad on January 20, 2018. He was arrested a day earlier. He is under trial.
4. Mr. Javed Ahmad Grumman was charged in a fabricated blasphemy case under PPC 295-C in police station Chobara, District Layya on July 1, 2018 in FIR Nr 288/18. His interim bail was cancelled on July 14, 2018, he was arrested and sent to Layya Jail. Rai Yasseen Shaheen the Additional Sessions Judge Layya refused his post-arrest bail on August 6. Later, on October 2, 2018 his bail application was also refused from

High Court (Multan Bench) by Justice Sarfraz Ahmad.

## **From the Media**

- **Under-fire govt asks minority (Ahmadi) community economist to quit EAC**  
Another EAC member Dr Asim Ijaz Khwaja resigns over the withdrawal of Dr Atif Mian's name from the advisory council after backlash from religious groups.  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 8, 2018*
- **Resounding slogans of Allah o Akbar in Chenab Nagar. 31<sup>st</sup> International KN Conference begins.**  
*The daily Khabrain; Lahore, September 8, 2018*
- **Chiniot: 6 Qadianis convert to Islam**  
*The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, September 1, 2018*
- **Gutters overflow in various neighborhood of Chenab Nagar. Risk of outbreak of dengue fever.**  
*The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, September 25, 2018*
- **Moot soon on madrassah reforms, Ahmadi: Fazl (JUI)**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 11, 2018*
- **Qadianis' citizenship should be annulled and their properties be confiscated: Khatme Nabuwat (Lawyers Forum) Conference**  
*The daily Jang; Lahore, September 10, 2018*
- **There is no space for deniers of End of Prophethood in Pakistan: Rizwan Ahmad (JI)**  
*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, September 7, 2018*
- **Appointment of Qadianis on important posts is unacceptable: Saleem Gujjar (JI)**  
*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, September 7, 2018*
- **Religious lobby angry over Atif Mian's inclusion in EAC**  
*The daily Islam; Lahore, September 3, 2018*
- **(Various) Maulanas demanded that it is not satisfactory that Mian Atif has been ousted from the Economic Council; an inquiry committee should be formed and action should be taken against those who advocate for Qadianis... . On whose advice PM Imran Khan nominated Atif Mian as a member?**  
*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, September 10, 2018*
- **It is 44 years that Qadianis were declared 'non-Muslim', but the law has not been implemented.**  
*Op-ed by Mulla Usmani in Nawa-i-Waqt; September 2, 2018*
- **Qadianis are open enemies of Islam and Pakistan. Their appointment on important posts is unacceptable: Hafiz Saeed**  
*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, September 10, 2018*
- **Chiniot: FIR registered against Muslims, on Qadianis' wish**  
If the government does not withdraw this FIR, it should prepare to face a 1974, 1984-like agitation: participants  
*The daily Islam; Lahore, September 24, 2018*
- **Seven soldiers martyred in North Waziristan ambush**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 23, 2018*
- **Security forces kill four militants in North Waziristan, three soldiers embrace martyrdom.**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 14, 2018*
- **Amir Liaquat to be indicted: CJ**  
*The daily The News; Lahore, September 13, 2018*
- **'Space for religious minorities in Pakistan shrinking', HRCF National Interfaith Working Group holds inaugural meeting.**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 26, 2018*
- **(We) stopped in our (rule's) time the drive against madrassahs: Pervaiz Ilahi (PML-Q)**  
*The daily Jang; Lahore, September 27, 2018*
- **The design of Qadiani places of worship should be altered**  
*The daily Jang; Lahore, September 28, 2018*
- **Minister (HR) vows to ensure minorities' rights**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 13, 2018*

- **Civil society protests ‘forced resignation’ of economist from advisory council**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 11, 2018*
- **PTI is part of a sordid international agenda: Fazl ur Rehman**  
*The daily Aman; Faisalabad, September 7, 2018*
- **30 Nigerian soldiers killed in Boko Haram raid**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 2, 2018*
- **Swiss region overwhelmingly votes for ‘burqa ban’**  
*The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, September 24, 2018*
- **US ups pressure on Palestinians, closes mission in Washington**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 11, 2018*
- **Indian troops kill five Kashmiris in held valley**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 16, 2018*
- **Iran vows ‘crushing response’ after gunmen kill 29 at army parade**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 23, 2018*
- **After Pak protest, Dutch lawmaker cancels caricature contest**  
*The daily The News; Lahore, September 1, 2018*
- **Over 100 migrants drown off Libya**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 12, 2018*
- **German Catholic priests ‘abused thousands of children’**  
*BBC Top Stories September 13, 2018*
- **Saudi Arabia to finance three CPEC projects**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 28, 2018*
- **Adultery no longer a crime in India**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 28, 2018*
- **Suu Kui may lose Canadian citizenship over Rohingya issue**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 29, 2018*
- **Death toll 209 as survivor found in capsized Tanzania ferry**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 23, 2018*
- **KN is a Quranic and faith matter; Qadianis should be removed from key posts: Namus Risalat Conference (in Lahore)**  
**Ch. Sarwar (PTI) Governor Punjab was the guest of honour**  
*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, September 11, 2018*
- **I am delighted to learn through Mufti Naeem that you (PM) would like to talk to me, Maulana Zahid ur Rashidi and Mufti Naeem on the issue of Qadianiat, however... : M Rafi Usmani**  
*The daily Islam; Lahore, September 12, 2018*
- **The government should not open hostilities against madrassas; we are ready to resist: Maulana Fazl ur Rahman**  
*The daily Islam; Lahore, September 13, 2018*
- **Shahbaz Sharif’s son-in-law Ali Imran Yousaf has fled abroad, should be declared proclaimed offender: NAB prosecutor’s request to accountability court**  
*The daily Jang; Lahore, September 25, 2018*
- **Satanic forces again rising in Jihadi garb: Asif Zardari**  
*The daily Khabrain; Lahore, September 21, 2018*
- **PM tells Babar Awan to resign after NAB reference against him over Nandipur Power Project. 27 bn loss.**  
*The daily Jang; Lahore, September 5, 2018*
- **Sharifs home and dry after IHC suspends jail term**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 20, 2018*
- **Son-in-law of ex-CJP (Iftikhar M. Chaudhary) held in housing scam**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 27, 2018*
- **Unchecked: Pork, dog, donkey meat being sold in capital: minister**  
*The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, September 4, 2018*
- **We pay Rs. 6 bn interest every day (on loans): PM**  
*The daily Jang; Lahore, September 15, 2018*
- **‘Compassion is to put yourself in others’ shoes’: (Karen Armstrong in AKU in Karachi)**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 25, 2018*
- **PM okay’s 46 pc rise in gas tariff**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 5, 2018*



## **Op-ed: The deafening sound of silence**

...The PPP has joined the sinister silence that we see everywhere else. Though to its credit it didn't sign the Senate resolution pointing out that Atif Mian was Ahmadi – a fact that is completely irrelevant to his appointment under the constitution.

Shockingly, the ANP – a party that still calls itself secular – did sign the resolution as did the Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) and almost every other mainstream group. There is then simply no one left to stage visible protests against Pakistan's continuous rightward slide or the discrimination against groups within the country.

...

Unfortunately, those who could do so have been demolished over the past decades while political parties that should be taking a stand apparently lack the spine to even issue a statement. We haven't heard from Bilawal Bhutto, Asfandiyar Wali or any other major leader from any political group in this regard.

In such a situation, the Right has an open path to the victory stand. It is currently joyfully making its way down it.

*Kamila Hayat in The News International,  
September 13, 2018*

## **Op-ed: Ahmadis: resolving the puzzle of identity**

...Since we are already suffering sectarian divides, this decision also has the potential to further polarize the society we currently live in. The replacement of Mr. Atif from the EAC also puts a huge question mark on the leadership credibility and capabilities of the PTI, especially Imran Khan. A good leader must understand how different minorities and ethnic groups must cohesively live under one nationality in a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society, and only a short look into the past will show that countries who utilize such a narrow approach to progress, cannot move forward.

*Ihsan Habibullah Khan in the Daily Times,  
October 2, 2018*

## **Op-ed: Was the Quaid-i-Azam not aware of this?**

*(Translation)*... We are interesting citizens of an interesting country. We have not been able to counter the evils of adulteration, fake medicines, lies, hypocrisy, bribery, erraticism, corruption etc; our 25 million children are out of school, also there is no town in the country where clean drinking water is available. But do note the priorities of interesting citizens of our interesting country. They are pursuing Atif Mian with a club in hand, and are not ready to avail gratis the advice of this world renowned economist. What do we want, after all? If we do not accept any non-Muslim in this country and are not prepared to tolerate them, we should announce it once for all. We should expel all non-Muslims from here so that the issue is resolved for all times to come. If we cannot do this, we'll have to make a few big decisions. We'll have to accord 'private' status to religion. We'll have to give equal status to all its citizens regardless of their creed, colour, race and tribe. ...

*Javed Chaudhary in the daily Express,  
September 6, 2018*

## **Op-ed: Obeying the Constitution**

...Last week, when the PTI government first announced and then withdrew the name of Princeton Economist Dr Atif Mian as a member of its Economic Advisory Council, a number of PTI supporters claimed that it was because he did not accept the Constitution of Pakistan. This is because like every other Ahmadi, Dr Atif Mian considers himself a Muslim. Amongst the geniuses who came up with this ridiculous excuse was Ali Muhammad Khan, who claims that he is a lawyer. It seems that these gentlemen do not understand what obedience to the constitution means. It means that you will not try to upend the constitution by illegal means. Disagreeing with constitutional provisions is not illegal or unconstitutional. This is why there is a

process for Constitutional Amendment given in the same Constitution of 1973.

Every time you amend the Constitution, you are actually disagreeing with some part of it. For example, it is perfectly constitutional to disagree with the 2nd Amendment. It is perfectly constitutional to espouse the idea that one day Pakistanis will have the collective wisdom to undo it. Every Ahmadi I know is obedient to the Constitution of Pakistan. The Constitution of Pakistan does not require an Ahmadi to accept that he or she is a Non-Muslim. It states that for the purposes of the Constitution, Ahmadis are Non-Muslim, which means that an Ahmadi cannot hold the office of the President or Prime Minister. The right of an Ahmadi to claim to be a Muslim however is protected by Article 20, the Supreme Court judgment notwithstanding. This is how constitutions work.

We live in perilous times. The sooner we can muster up a constitutional and democratic challenge to this government the better. Otherwise we are sliding fast into majoritarian tyranny and fascism under Prime Minister Imran Khan. Let us not become another Nazi Germany for god's sake.

*Yasser Latif Hamdani in the Daily Times,  
September 10<sup>th</sup> 2018*

## **Op-ed: Fighting bigotry**

...The debate over whether Pakistan is to be a Muslim country or an Islamic state is as old as the country itself. To state the obvious, the state as a juristic entity can't have a belief system. Those who live in it can and do. But a state that seeks to profess a faith will naturally struggle to uphold principles that form the foundation of the contract between the citizen and state, such as the right to equality, dignity, to freely profess and propagate one's religion, and the right to freedom of speech and profession. Our constitution guarantees these to every citizen – including Ahmadis.

...

Those who are seeking to have Atif Mian removed from the EAC are essentially calling for a breach of the rights guaranteed by Articles 9, 14, 18, 20 and 25 of our constitution. Such people wish to impose their prejudices upon the state so it acts against citizens who don't share their beliefs.

...

Are we unconscious of our transformation from being an oppressed minority in undivided India to the oppressor of minorities in an independent state?

...

We want to cut our nose to spite the face. And we have some practice with this. Remember Dr Abdul Salaam? We have allowed prophets of hate to continue to nurture a culture of exclusion, derision, hypocrisy and paranoia within our polity. At risk here are not just the minorities, but our own sense of right and wrong and the ability to protect our own humanity.

...

Our realist friends tell us that this isn't the time to pick a fight with bigots. Is there ever a good time? In the movie 'American President' there was a great response to such counsel: "You fight the fights you can win? You fight the fights that need fighting". Fighting bigotry being peddled by the Khadim Rizvis on the streets, the Orya Maqbool Jans on TV and our school buddies on WhatsApp groups is the fight that needs fighting.

*Babar Sattar in The News International,  
September 8, 2018*

## **Press release of HRCP**

---

[hrcp-web.org/hrcpweb/faith-no-criterion-for-public-service/](http://hrcp-web.org/hrcpweb/faith-no-criterion-for-public-service/)

September 8, 2018

Press release

### **Faith no criterion for public service**

*Lahore, 8 September 2018.* The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has expressed serious concern over the government's decision to withdraw its nomination of Dr Atif Mian for the Economic Advisory Council (EAC). In a statement issued today, HRCP has said:

'There is overwhelming evidence to show that Dr Mian was eminently qualified to serve on the EAC and that his contribution to economic policymaking in Pakistan would have been immensely valuable. The government's decision to withdraw this nomination on the grounds that it might prove divisive – merely because he happens to belong to the Ahmadiyya community – contravenes Article 27(1) of the Constitution of Pakistan, which clearly states that 'no citizen otherwise qualified for appointment in the service of Pakistan shall be discriminated against in respect of any such appointment on the ground only of race, religion, caste, sex, residence or place of birth.'

'HRCP welcomes the government's desire, as expressed earlier, to promote inclusivity by carrying with it all social groups. This sentiment, however, cannot be applied arbitrarily or selectively and certainly not at the expense of beleaguered religious communities that are entitled to the state's protection and to civil society's support. The withdrawal of Dr Mian's nomination does not augur well. The spate of faith-based attacks this year, not only on the Ahmadiyya community, but also on the Christian, Shia Hazara and Hindu communities, should make it clear that any steps by the state that are seen to legitimize religious discrimination are unacceptable. Defending human rights is necessarily a question of moral courage and HRCP strongly urges the government to avoid any sort of precedent that allows a person's faith to trump all other criteria for public service.'

**Dr. Mehdi Hasan**

Chairperson