



HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION
AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS

Persecution of Ahmadis IN PAKISTAN

Monthly Report
December 2022

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Highlights

AHMADIYYA TOP LEADERSHIP BOOKED

The police registered a criminal case against some members of the top Ahmadiyya leadership in Pakistan under the blasphemy clause PPC 295-B, the anti-Ahmadiyya law PPC 298-C and the Punjab Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) Act 2011. An FIR was registered on the complaint MH Muawiyah, on authority of a letter issued by Punjab Quran Board Lahore. His complaint on this issue against some concerned authorities is currently being heard by Justice Shujaat Ali Khan of LHC, where Ahmadis are not part of the proceedings.

BLASPHEMY CLAUSE ADDED TO AN OLD CASE

A criminal case was registered against Mr. Saleemuddin, Director General Affairs and Spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan at FIA Cyber Crime Wing, Lahore on October 28, 2020 under section(s) 295-A, 153-A of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 R/W section 11 of the Prevention of Electronic Crime Act, 2016.

The petitioner filed another plea under section 30 in the court of judicial magistrate Chaudhry Ghulam Murtaza Virk, who added PPC 295-C in the case. The sentence under this clause is death.

MULLA INCITES PEOPLE TO BOYCOTT AHMADIS

Muhammad Ishaq, Ahmadi of Kot Ahmadiyya has been living in New Dambalu town for a long time. He has been opposed since the beginning. There is a seminary here of Wahabi school of thought.

On November 18, 2022 a mulla delivered the Friday sermon against Ahmadis and incited people against Ahmadis by mentioning two Ahmadis by name. After that, they now face greater opposition in the local society and some shopkeepers have refused to sell them anything.

PERSONAL DISPUTES ARE GIVEN RELIGIOUS COLOR

Mr. Mubashir, an Ahmadi missionary, is serving as a teacher in the mission's school and as the local Ahmadiyya president in Kohara. He is a convert from Hinduism. Recently, his relatives came over drunk to his house and started making noise. He went out to protest and a hustle started there. This complicated the situation and the police got involved.

In Bhulair, a local mulla of TLP initiated a fight in a snooker game with an Ahmadi, which worsened and members from both parties got involved in the fight. Two months ago, on demand of the opponents, the police covered the minarets and niche of Ahmadiyya mosque in the village. The said mulla gave this fight a religious color and complained that the Ahmadis had taken revenge of the action taken against their niche and minarets. On demand of this mulla the police booked 11 Ahmadis.

DID YOU KNOW?

AHMADIS FACE THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT UNDER FEDERAL LAWS FOR:

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

AHMADIS HAVE TO DECLARE THEMSELVES
NON-MUSLIM

TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE AND STAND FOR ELECTION

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

AHMADIYYA TOP LEADERSHIP BOOKED UNDER BLASPHEMY CLAUSE

Rabwah; December 6, 2022:

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

The FIR 661/22 was registered in P.S. Chenab Nagar on complaint of a mulla MH Muawiyah, on authority of a letter issued by Punjab Quran Board Lahore dated December 5, 2022. His complaint on this issue against some concerned authorities is currently being heard by Justice Shujaat Ali Khan of Lahore High Court, wherein Ahmadis are not part of the proceedings.

The FIR is registered against some of the Ahmadiyya top leadership in Pakistan. Hassan Muawiyah had put up a complaint on this issue in 2019 and the police and other authorities had under-

taken inquiry and inspection and sought our reply in writing. After all this, it appeared that they were satisfied and the issue had come to an end. However, Muawiyah and his Forum are persisting in their efforts to deny religious freedom to Ahmadis and intend leaving no stone unturned to that end.

It is relevant to mention that since long Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan have stopped printing and marketing the Holy Quran in compliance with law, even though it is the primary scripture of Ahmadis. However, if the mulla and his accomplices think that they will make Ahmadis in Pakistan delink themselves from the Holy Quran, they are in for utter disappointment and total failure.

The registration of this FIR manifests the malicious and successful nature of extremist anti-Ahmadi activism in the country helped by certain state officials.

Note: A press report on the related court hearing is reproduced in a subsequent story in this Report.

BRIDES MADE TO DENOUNCE AHMADIYYA FOUNDER

Recently, after the new orders to include Khatme Nabuwwat affidavit in the marriage certificate, videos are circulating on social media showing brides denouncing the Ahmadiyya founder. The following news item was published on <https://bitterwinter.org/pakistan-swearing-you-are-not-an-ahmadi-marriage/> recently:

Pakistan: Swearing You Are Not an Ahmadi Mandatory for Marrying in Punjab
08/10/2022
by Massimo Introvigne

If you want to marry as a Muslim in Punjab, the most populous province of Pakistan—there are separate marriage rules for Christians and members of other religious minorities—you should swear that you believe in Khatme-Nabuwwat (Finality of Prophethood) before tying the knot.

So wrote, shortly after his election, Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi to all marriage registrars on July 30, based on an ordinance of the previous Punjabi administration. Registrars who will allow persons who had not sworn the

Finality of Prophethood affidavit to marry will go to jail, Elahi explained.

By swearing that they believe in the Finality of Prophethood, brides and grooms will swear that it is part of their faith that Muhammad is the last in a series of prophets that started with Adam, and that there can be no prophets after Muhammad. Those calling themselves prophets after Prophet of Islam can only be imposters and heretics. Although they are not mentioned in the regulations, the oath is devised to target one specific religious minority, the Ahmadis. Their movement was founded within Islam by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835–1908). Conservative Muslims accuse Ahmad of having considered himself a “prophet,” and one who came after Muhammad. The Ahmadi formula for Ahmad, “at the same time a prophet and a follower of the Holy Prophet [Muhammad],” is not enough to establish their orthodoxy in the eyes of Muslim clerics. For them, the Ahmadis deny the Finality of Prophethood.

The marriage oath is carved in a way that Ahmadis who would swear it would deny their faith in the mission of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. By swearing the oath, they should

in fact swear that they are not Ahmadis. The real purpose of the Punjab administration is to prevent Ahmadis from marrying non-Ahmadi Muslims, and further harass the persecuted minority. If Ahmadis will swear the oath, believing that in fact their theology does not really contradict the doctrine of Finality of Prophethood, they will be prosecuted for blasphemy, a crime that is punished in Pakistan with the death penalty. Punjab politicians clearly indicated that this will be the case. That to be allowed to marry brides and grooms should pass tests of religious orthodoxy is further evidence of

how far Pakistan still is from respecting international principles of freedom of religion or belief

Comment: Apparently, the new rules required all involved in the Nikah formalities to sign the KN affidavit, however now some implementers have gone a step further on their own to make the bride (and the bridegroom) to verbally recite in public the concocted affirmation. In the past, some clerics used to make the couple recite the six Kalimas (creeds) at the Nikah ceremony. Now it is the recital of Khatme Nabuwat affidavit. A new Sharia!

BLASPHEMY CLAUSE ADDED TO AN OLD CASE AGAINST AN AHMADI DIRECTOR

Lahore; December 2022:

A criminal case was registered against Mr. Saleemuddin, Director General Affairs and Spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan vide FIR No. 99/2020 at FIA Cyber Crime Wing, Lahore on October 28, 2020 under section(s) 295-A, 153-A of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 R/W section 11 of the Prevention of Electronic Crime Act, 2016.

The case was registered on the application of Shehzad Ahmad Baryar, Advocate High Court, on the plea that in a YouTube program, Mr. Saleemuddin al-

legedly used Islamic terms extensively and injured his feeling by commenting on 'Finality of Prophethood Declaration Form'. The complainant got his application endorsed by the Sessions Court, Lahore that directed the Cyber Crime Wing, Lahore to register the said case. This program was recorded and uploaded on YouTube seven years prior to the registration of the case.

The petitioner filed another plea under section 30 in the court of judicial magistrate Chaudhry Ghulam Murtaza Virk, who added PPC 295-C in the case. The sentence under this clause is death.

POLICE CASE REGISTERED AGAINST AHMADIS

Bhulair, District Kasur; December 7, 2022:

A local mulla Abdul Rauf of Tehrik Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) initiated a fight in a snooker game with an Ahmadi which took turn for the worse. A number of men joined both sides and there was an exchange of fire shots. Someone called on police helpline, who intervened and both the parties were called in the same evening by the SHO to Phool Nagar police station. The TLP local president and other mullas also gathered on this occasion. The police detained four persons from both parties in the fight and presented them before the court the next day where the court reconciled the parties and ended the matter.

Later, the TLP gave the incident religious color, met the DPO and asked him to demolish the Ahmadiyya mosque. They declared a complete boycott of Ahmadis, and demanded exile of Ahmadis from the village.

Mulla Abdul Rauf told the police that Ahmadis had taken revenge of the action taken against their niche and minarets. (Two months ago, on demand of the opponents, the police covered the minarets and niche of Ahmadiyya mosque). On demand of this mulla the police booked 11 Ahmadis namely, Dawood Ahmad, Maqsood Ahmad, Jahanzeb Ahmad, Ansar Ahmad, Muhammad Ahmad, Shafiq Ahmad, Waqas Ahmad, Ashfaq Ahmad, Liaqat Ahmad, Nisar Ahmad and Faryad Ahmad under articles 337F(i), 337A(i), 337H(2), 506/B, 148, 149, 337L(2), in the police station Phool Nagar on December 17, 2022. The opponents announced a rally in the village for this.

The notorious TLP, a Brelvi extremist political party has adopted anti-Ahmadiyya activism as a policy to promote their politics. Most of the hype in defiling the Ahmadiyya mosques can be attributed to them.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LUMS CHAPTER TOLD TO DROP THE AHMADI



December 6, 2022

While we are continuing with the talk the irony of a particular speaker being dropped on a talk about Tolerance in Pakistan speaks volumes. TV make our dissatisfaction known, we will leave an empty seat representing the dropped speaker. Please join us at 6pm today.

Voice of America report on the incident

VOA reported this incident at some length on December 9, 2022 on [VOAd3ddu6yqqaffjd.cloud-front.net/a/lams-forces](https://www.voanews.com/a/amnesty-international-lums-chapter-arranged-a-seminar-on-religious-tolerance-in-pakistan/6411143.html). Extracts — translation from Urdu: "Amnesty International LUMS Chapter arranged a seminar on religious tolerance, on December 6. Representatives of Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Shia and Ahmadi communities were invited to it. Dr Mirza Sultan Ahmad was invited to represent Ahmadi community, but the invitation was regrettably withdrawn, a few hours before the event.

Dr. Mirza Sultan Ahmad is a 'child specialist' by profession, however, he has written books on history and evaluation of Pakistan's constitution and its subsequent amendments.

VOA made numerous attempts to contact Ms. Maheen Shafiq the president of Amnesty LUMS, on this issue but she was reluctant to express her views.

Dr. Ahmad told us that initially the date of this event was changed, thereafter his name was dropped from the list of speakers. When he asked the reason of this exclusion, the LUMS administration could not give a satisfactory response.

According to him, there are universities where one can freely express one's views so that students can see the whole picture, but now it seems that such issues could not be amply discussed in universities like LUMS.

Commenting on the situation of minorities in Pakistan, he was of the view that hateful propaganda is undertaken against minorities in the whole country. It continues even now, he said.

While talking to VOA, Peter Jacob, the chief executive of Social Justice Pakistan, a Christian, said that the prevailing environment in the country results in such incidents. The topic of the seminar was 'Tolerance', well-known guest speakers were invited to it. No extremist views were to be expressed. Despite this the LUMS administration was pressurized to drop the Ahmadi representative. This is unpleasant, as it does not send a positive message, he said.

Lahore; 1st week of December 2022: In a series of tweets, Amnesty International LUMS Chapter told how they were ordered to 'drop' a guest they had invited to a talk they were hosting on tolerance in Pakistan with regards to marginalized minorities. Three of these are reproduced below:

Amnesty LUMS
@AmnestyLUMS Follow

On 6th December 2022, Amnesty International LUMS Chapter intended to host a talk on tolerance in Pakistan with members of various marginalized minorities. Unfortunately, we were abruptly told to drop the Ahmadi representative we had called to speak last night 4:54 PM December 6, 2022

Amnesty LUMS
@AmnestyLUMS Follow

The guests were approved days ago, but OSA randomly chose to recheck our guest profiles. Following which they told us our Ahmadi speaker could not come to the talk. 4:54 PM December 6, 2022

Amnesty LUMS
@AmnestyLUMS Follow

He further said that the issue was not that of LUMS or any other university but Pakistan as a country and nation needs fair reputation. There is no need to get upset if anyone talks about equality, tolerance and justice.

Ramesh Singh Arosa (Sikh MPA) said that international HR organizations, including Human Rights Watch continue to express their reservations on religious intolerance in Pakistan. Anti-Pakistan resolutions are passed on world forums; if such things happen in the country, a negative picture is bound to emerge.

Mind you, this is not the first time in LUMS. Even before, events have been cancelled or invited guests have been disinvited without giving any reason.

Dr. Mirza Sultan Ahmad stated that this does not happen only in universities, it is rare that major media outlets condemn propagation of religious hate.

It may be noted that the government of Pakistan continues to deny discriminations against minorities including Ahmadis. The government maintains that all minorities enjoy rights in Pakistan as per the Constitution."

BBC Report

BBC published an article on this issue on December 8, 2022 on [bbc.com/urdu/articles/cd12z048z53o](https://www.bbc.com/urdu/articles/cd12z048z53o). We produce below a few extracts of the same, translated in English from original Urdu.

"Tolerance, about which he intended to talk, is in a state that even institutions like LUMS, under pressure do not allow us to examine, so said Dr Mirza Sultan Ahmad, a member of the Ahmadi community..."

BBC tried to seek reasons of this incident from the concerned people, however the LUMS university administration did not respond. They, however, did accept that unfortunately they were told to drop the Ahmadi repre-

sentative invited last night.

Dr. Mirza Sultan Ahmad, with reference to the message issued by the administration, said that students who had invited him were very sorry but their hands were tied. "This is not the first occasion; this kind of treatment to Ahmadiyya Community is routine in Pakistan," he said. I am author of five books and have written hundreds of articles on persecution of Ahmadis; who else could speak better than I on this subject, asked Dr. Ahmad.

Mr. Taimur Rehman, the moderator of this seminar said that he was told by the LUMS president that the (University) administration had told him to drop Dr Sultan Mirza. "We received the call, and we are under pressure not to invite him," they said, however, they did not disclose who called them and pressurized them.

The purpose for which this event was organized was set aside. Scholar Javed Ahmad Ghamdi, a panelist, also condemned the incident. It is a fact that Ahmadi community is not safe in Pakistan. If as Pakistani, we do not accept them as a minority, then what is their status? He asked. He stated further, "To deny them education, threaten their lives, boycott them in deals, not accept them in government offices or high ranks (elsewhere), all this has gone on and goes on now — in fact, all this is on the increase with the passage of time. Now it is not acceptable to us that they speak about it on any forum. This sort of treatment of LUMS is indeed regrettable, as LUMS is considered to be an institution where one enjoys freedom of expression. If such platforms are denied to Ahmadis, where will they go? There is need to understand that before their denominational identity (mazhab) they are humans and Pakistanis. It is the responsibility of the state to protect their fundamental rights – this is not visible anywhere, he elaborated."

WHERE TO BURY THE DEAD AFTER SEALING OF AHMADIYYA GRAVEYARD?

Trigri, District Gujranwala; December 2022:

There was a common cemetery here in which Ahmadis and other Muslims used to bury their dead. In 1967, after the acquisition of land, a cemetery, about one kilometer from the village, was allocated for the rest of the Muslims, and the villagers, by mutual consent and unanimous decision, gave the old cemetery to the Ahmadiyya Community. Under this agreement, the old cemetery remained in use of the Ahmadiyya Community. Now over 230 Ahmadi dead are buried here, while about 50 graves of other Muslims are there. In July 2020, on demand of the opponents, the police destroyed the

tombstones of 67 Ahmadis. Later in December 2020, the AC sealed the said graveyard and sent up a proposal to allot another place for Ahmadis.

On December 7, 2022, during the meeting with ADCG (Additional Deputy Commissioner General), this matter was discussed and he was told that the Trigri graveyard had been de-sealed for Muslims; it should be de-sealed for Ahmadis too or else the land that was proposed to be allotted to Ahmadis should be allotted. In this regard, he had earlier marked Ahmadiyya request to the AC. On this, he said that he will decide after receipt of report expected from the AC.

AHMADIYYA MOSQUE **DEFILED FURTHER**



Baghbanpura, District Gujranwala; December 8, 2022:

Anti-Ahmadiyya activists demanded the police about six months ago that minarets built at the outer gate of Ahmadiyya mosque of Baghbanpura should be demolished. The police told Ahmadis to hide the minarets by putting iron sheets on them. Ahmadis complied. However, the opponents continued to put pressure on the police and the administration for the removal of the minarets.

The opponents applied to DC Gujranwala against the minarets. At this, the police sent for the Ahmadiyya delegation to the CPO office where the delegation met with the district security officer and SSP operations on December 3, 2022 and informed them of the Ahmadiyya position. The police said that it is being asked by non-Ahmadis to change the time of Friday prayers of Ahmadis in Gajju Chak, and it is being said that Ahmadi children read the Holy Quran in a loud voice while they

are not allowed to read the Holy Quran. Also, the Holy Quran should be taken out of the Ahmadis' houses, confiscated and an FIR should be registered for possession of the Quran, they add. On this, the Ahmadiyya delegation said that if the authorities entertain such illegal requests, the opponents would harass Ahmadis further by making more demands. The police replied that the District Intelligence Committee had decided that minarets of the Ahmadiyya mosque be removed.

On December 7, 2022, the delegation met with ADCG Gujranwala. He advised Ahmadis to be patient and bear up the treatment, as that was the state policy. Later, on the night of 7th and 8th December at around 2 am, a police force came with heavy machinery and vehicles, blocked the road in front of the mosque and switched off the nearby lights. The police destroyed the minarets and took away the debris with them. During this demolition, the security cameras and the wall of the mosque were also damaged.

ANTI-AHMADIYYA ACTIVITIES IN THARPARKAR

Tharparkar; December 2022:

Mr. Mubashir, an Ahmadi missionary, is serving as a teacher in the mission's school and as the local Ahmadiyya president in Kohara. He is a convert from Hinduism. Recently, his relatives came over drunk to his house and started making noise. He went out to protest and a hustle started there. This complicated the situation and

the police got involved.

Senior Ahmadi leadership in the district approached the police and explained them the facts of the incident, its background and the political support to the opposition. A senior influential was then approached and requested intervention to promote peace and harmony. This has borne fruit and the situation is now calm.

MULLA INCITES PEOPLE AGAINST AHMADIS

Ratooch, District Chakwal; November 13, 2022:

A Jalsa was held in the Ahle Sunnat mosque here, where a mulla from Gujar Khan Rawalpindi spoke. He lashed out against the Ahmadiyya Community and forbade the participants to have any relations or transactions with Ahmadis. After the program, an organizer told a relative of an Ahmadi that they would also throw out the Ahmadi dead from the common cemetery.

Rizwan Ahmad, a former Ahmadi, filed an application in the police station that some people were spreading agitation in the village and saying that they would throw out the dead of Ahmadis from the common graveyard. When the police summoned the parties, the village Maulvi announced a procession against Ahmadis. The police were informed, who came to the village be-

fore the Friday prayers and met the said mulla. The mulla mentioned in his Friday sermon that someone had filed an application against them, so everyone who believes in the End of Prophethood should reach the police station the next evening. At this, Rizwan Ahmad said that he had applied to the police. "The mulla is spreading evil in the village and we just listen silently. If anyone has the courage, take out a dead Ahmadi", he challenged. The influential people of the village present there also supported Rizwan.

Later, in the police station the opposite party apologized to Rizwan and gave in writing that there will be no such mistake in future. The SHO warned these people and let them go.

MULLA INCITES PUBLIC TO BOYCOTT AHMADIS

New Dambalu, District Badin; December 2022:

Muhammad Ishaq, Ahmadi of Kot Ahmadiyya has been living in this town for a long time. He has been opposed since the beginning. There is a seminary here of Wahabi school of thought. On November 18, 2022 a

mulla gave the entire Friday sermon against Ahmadis and incited people against Ahmadis by mentioning two Ahmadis by name. After that, they now face greater opposition in society and some shopkeepers have refused to sell them anything.

COMMENDABLE STATEMENTS FOR RECORD

Islamabad; December 22, 2022:

Mr. Shehbaz Sharif the Prime Minister held a special event at his office in anticipation of the forthcoming Christmas and said things on the issue of minorities that deserve a place on record. We reproduce a few of these news tickers shown 'live' on national TVs, and add a brief comment.

- Religions promote (Talim dena) fraternity and tolerance worldwide.
- Minorities are given equal rights in the Constitution (of Pakistan).
- The Government of Pakistan is guarantor of minorities' security.
- The government undertakes full protection of the rights of the Christian fraternity (Baradari).
- Services of the Christian Community to Pakistan are commendable.

TV channel 'Samaa' at about 19:50 on December 22, 2022 The HUM TV displayed 'Christmas greetings of the PM Shehbaz Sharif to the Christian Community' at 19:56 same day.

Our comment: We, Ahmadis, fully endorse and support the observations and sentiments of the Prime Minister. It was indeed very thoughtful of him to arrange this function at his office.

We, however, do feel that the opinion expressed by the prime minister should be implemented visibly on the ground — not for Christians only, but all others who are designated as 'minorities' by the Constitution.

The Constitution imposes minority status on Ahmadis also. Ahmadis played a great role in the creation of Pakistan and continue to own it up. The past governments since 1974 have openly maltreated them. Under these circumstances, why does not the prime minister and chief ministers hold events in their offices at the occasion of Ahmadiyya festivals — say Eid ul Adha, and dare say some similar words? After all, "(All) Minorities are given equal rights in the Constitution". Lest someone accuses Pakistani state of hypocrisy and violation of its own Constitution!

LHC JUDICIAL NOTICE WORTHY OF RECORD

Lahore, December 08, 2022:

The daily Dawn published a report by its staff reporter on a hearing held by Justice Shujaat Ali Khan of Lahore High Court on a petition by Mr. Hassan Muawiyah, an anti-Ahmadi activist based in Lahore. We reproduce below this news report.



Centre, Punjab vow action against altered Quran publication

By our staff reporter 2022-12-08

LAHORE: The principal secretaries to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Wednesday gave an undertaking before the Lahore High Court regarding the implementation of a 2019 verdict requiring action against the people involved in publication of unauthentic copies of the Holy Quran.

Justice Shujaat Ali Khan was hearing a petition by Hassan Muawiyah who alleged that the Ahmadi community and other non-Muslims continued to publish and upload copies of the holy Quran with distorted Arabic text and mutilated translation on the internet and Google play store, only to mislead Muslims.

The Principal Secretary (PS) to the PM, Dr. Tauqir Shah told the judge that the premier had been apprised of the court's order and he had decided to place the matter before the cabinet and form a committee in this regard. Justice Khan hailed the decision. Dr Shah said a complete action plan would be presented before the court at the next hearing.

The PS to CM Muhammad Khan Bhatti, told the court that the chief minister had presided over two meetings on the matter.

The judge observed that the court's prime concern was not the number of meetings conducted by the government, but implementation of the order. Mr. Bhatti said the order would be implemented in letter and spirit. When will it be implemented, "Should we adjourn the case for 2050?" Justice Khan asked Mr. Bhatti with annoyance. He observed that apparently the provincial government did not want to enforce the verdict.

He directed both the governments to submit detailed compliance reports on the next hearing.

The petitioner contended that repeated applications had been filed with the home department and police

for action against the suspects in light of the judgement. The conduct of the respondent authorities was in violation of the law and the court's decision.

In its 2019 judgement, the court had ordered the government to ensure the copies of holy Quran were duly approved by the Quran Board before their pub-

lication in press and on the internet. The court had also directed the Quran Board and the government to keep a vigilant eye on the publication and printing of any religious material, in particular the holy Quran, against its original text or authentic meaning.

Our comments

- We, as an implicated party respect the opinion of the worthy high court and the judge. However, as the complainant did not name the Ahmadi community as accused (deliberately), nor the court found it essential to require the community, or its advocate present its position on the issue, Justice Khan's observations and remarks could not have the benefit of hearing the opinion of all concerned. We therefore mention a few relevant facts regarding the issues mentioned in the above report.
- The complainant has given wrong impression to the court that Jamaat Ahmadiyya was involved in printing 'the holy Quran with distorted Arabic text and mutilated translation'.
- As for 'mutilated translation', the situation is well known to Hassan Muawiyah who is a mulla, that almost all Muslims and scholars believe that the Quran has numerous in-depth meanings. Everyone knows that even primary meanings of a scripture vary in translation to some extent with different scholars. In Pakistan, there is an edition of the Holy Quran with eight simultaneous different translations by different scholars. It would be very difficult and personalized to pinpoint a 'mutilated' version.
- Ahmadis have translated and published the Holy Quran in 76 languages in the past with great effort, care and expense. The renowned Jamiah Al-Azhar of Egypt once rated the Ahmadiyya English translation of the Quran as the best among all the competing versions. Thus, it is unfair to spuriously call Ahmadi-

yya translation 'mutilated'.

- The above report shows that the PS to the PM intimated that this matter would be placed before the cabinet and then referred to a committee so as to formulate a 'complete action plan' for presenting before the cabinet, at the next hearing. As for Ahmadiis are concerned the PM is welcome to do that, however would it not be better for the cabinet and all the concerned authorities to attend to issues like flood relief, failing economy, political instability, low standard of education, mega-corruption, TTP's terrorism menace, Baluchistan violence, bad law and order situation all over the country, etc. than giving high priority to a non-issue raised by mulla Hassan Muawiyah.
- The same is true for the CM Punjab, who held two meetings on this matter. We do not list here all the real issues faced by him in the province (he knows

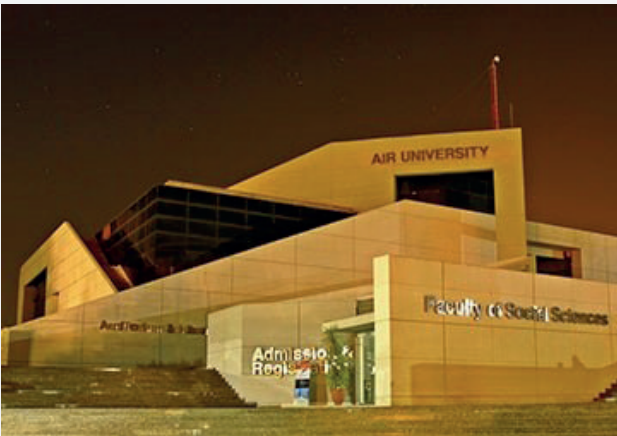
them well), but remind him that the Allah he believes in knows the innermost motivations of humans created by him. No apparent, fake and fabricated religiosity, statements and commitment to Islam will succeed in misleading Him to judge a human in His own way.

- Justice Khan reportedly asked Mr. Bhatti with annoyance, "Should we adjourn the case for 2050?" No need, your honour, just send for an Ahmadi to appear before you, and he will let you know the ground reality, and we think that will help the honourable judge decide the case in the same hearing.
- Following legal opinion of the Supreme Court is most relevant to this case:

In religious issues, the state should not yield to individual: (SC) Justice Faiz Isa

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 17, 2022

ANTI AHMADIYYA COURSE IN AIR UNIVERSITY



Islamabad; December 2023:

Ahmadiis face opposition in all walks of life in Pakistan. In the past few years, opposition in the education field has also increased. This includes expulsion of Ahmadi students from educational institutions simply for being Ahmadi, the teaching of the End of Prophet-hood in schools and colleges and problems created for Ahmadi teachers.

The courses in the Air University Islamabad campus for the year 2021-22 in Islamic Studies & Ethics includes a section against Ahmadiis, titled: "Seal of the Prophets: Constitutional Status of Qadiyaniat". This course covers various topics regarding Ahmadiyya leadership, fatwas (religious edicts) against Ahmadiis and other anti-Ahmadiyya matters. Air University is a semi-government university established in 2001-2. Currently, the chairman of the university's board of governors is Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Babar Sidhu, the current chief of the Pakistan Air Force, while members include Dr. Zarqa Mehmood, a senator, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, former chairman of the Higher Education Commission, etc.

Non-Muslim students and teachers are generally believed to be 'unequal others' but all of them are not believed to be equally unequal. Therefore, it is also helpful to have an idea of the subtle differences in discrimination with regard to different communities. Of all "non-Muslims", the Ahmadiyya community suffers the most from discrimination and oppression, an example of which can be observed in the above-mentioned case.

A FAIRLY CLEAN MIRROR OF PAKISTAN SOCIETY

Pakistan, December 2022:

There is no dearth of intellectuals in Pakistan who know what is wrong with Pakistan. They also show the people the mirror, even though often dim and hazy. They opt to be soft and polite. Bina Shah, a famed writer's op-ed written in the daily Express Tribune years ago 'The Problem Lies with You' has gone viral on social media recently with title "The Mirror".

We reproduce the same in an Annex I, with the only comment that while we agree entirely with her observations, she is unnecessarily forgiving to the country's elite who bear the main responsibility in misleading the common man.

Bina Shah's op-ed is highly recommended for read and record.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVT OF SINDH

NOBLE INTENTIONS!

Karachi, December 10, 2022:

In celebration of International Human Rights Day, HR Department, Government of Sindh had a half-page ad published in the daily Dawn also. It was well designed and was expressive of the fair intention of commitment to the demands of the Universal Declaration. These deserve to be placed on record and call for a fair comment.

This ad printed boldly:

"Dignity, freedom and justice is for everyone.

"Human Rights and equality is the birthright of every human being.

"The priority of Government of Sindh is to create a society that is free from conflict and extremism, in which an environment of inter-faith harmony and justice can be nurtured.

"In this regard, Human Right Department of Government of Sindh is trying to make it possible to provide basic rights and justice to the people.

"If your fundamental rights are being violated in any way, contact Human Rights Department Government of Sindh."

The ad listed a number of 'Major Achievements of Government of Sindh' in various areas of Human Rights.

The above mentioned entries are significant and their mention brings credit to the HR Department. However, it is commonly recognized that the level of grant of human rights is best judged by the way the most-marginalized group is treated. Treatment of Ahmadis in Sindh would thus serve the best yardstick. As such, we mention below only five of the HR violative cases in urban and provincial areas of Sindh as sample.

1. The daily Ummat Karachi, published on February 27, 2022 the following news item (translation).
Mirpur Khas: Decision on changing the appearance of the Qadiani place of worship
The management will be told if you do not alter the appearance, the district administration will act: Deputy Commissioner assures ulama
Mirpur Khas (Ummat News): After the ultimatum given by Tehreek Tahaffuz-e-Namus Risalat Pakistan to change the appearance of the mosque-like Qadiani place of worship, the Deputy Commissioner Mirpur Khas assured the leaders of the Tehreek and of other religious and political parties that the appearance of the worship place will be changed by next week...
2. In October 2021, Mr. Rahat Ahmad Karamat, an

Ahmadi, got his son and daughter admitted in the Creek View Academy, Karachi. A few days later, the principal, having talked to the school proprietor, told Mr. Karamat that his children would not stay admitted for reason of their faith, and he should claim the admission refund. In response to the father's protest the principal responded, "My job is at stake". Later, she refused to talk to him further and told him to contact the office for refund.

This happened in Karachi where the head office of the HR Department of Government of Sindh is located only a few kilometers away.

3. A police case was registered against Syed Ali Ahmad Tariq, an Ahmadi advocate, with FIR No. 172 under PPC 298-B, 298-C and 34 on November 21, 2022 at Police Station City Court, Karachi. One Muhammad Ahmad, a bigot, had objected to the name 'Syed' of this Ahmadi. He complained, "He is not allowed use 'Syed' according to Pakistan laws." The Sindh Police seemed to agree to this fiction. A copy of HR Department ad in the Dawn should be sent to the Head Office Police Department, so that all branches of the Sindh Government are on the same page.

Note: Syed is an Arabic word that means chief, lord, master. It is used by Arabs for non-Muslims as well as Muslims.

4. The Sindh police registered a criminal case against four Ahmadis on September 9, 2022 with FIR No 527/22 under anti-Ahmadi sections PPC 298-B and 298-C for minarets on their place of worship, Ahmadiyya Hall in Karachi.

The minarets were constructed long before the infamous anti-Ahmadi Ordinance XX of 1984. These are small and hardly visible from even a 100 yards distance. The accused are at risk of imprisonment for three years.

The matter is sub-judice, and does not reflect well on the Sindh administration and prosecution who are expected to apprise a judge against complaints that are bizarre and violative of religious norms. The objectors are ignorant of the fact that the original Prophet's Mosque (Masjid Nabvi) had no minarets, nor do they seem to know that more than a dozen faiths and denominations have different types of minarets in their places of worship. These can be seen on the internet.

5. Street urchins in Kunri came to the Ahmadiyya mosque at night on January 30, 2022, smashed the mosque camera with stones. Ahmadis reported the incident to the police. They came again and hurled

threats. Ahmadis informed the police again. We are not aware what action the police took against damage to the camera.

These sample incidents indicate that the Govt of Sindh will have to be more active and effective to ensure provision of basic rights and justice to the people (including Ahmadis).

Last but not least: It seems essential that the ruling PPP should invest some of its political capital to promote HR and FoRB. After all, that is what distinguishes it from other numerous right wing parties who exploit religion in effort to hold on to voters through religious slogans and rhetoric.

AN OP-ED ABOUT MR. PARVEZ ELAHI, CM PUNJAB

Lahore; December 2, 2022:

Mr. Parvez Elahi of PML-Q is currently the chief minister of the Punjab. A few months ago he was the Speaker of the Punjab Assembly. He is known for his open anti-Ahmadi activism. The weekly The Friday Times, early this month published an op-ed titled: A Religio-Political Dilemma: How Far Can Parvez Elahi Afford to Take Anti-

Ahmadi Bigotry in Punjab? (<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/2022/12/02/a-religio-political-dilemma-how-far-can-parvez-elahi-afford-to-take-anti-ahmadi-bigotry-in-punjab>) Mr. Elahi is important in Pak politics, as he is in close liaison with Imran Khan's PTI, arguably the largest political party in the country at present.

We produce the op-ed as Annex II to this report.

PRESS REPORT ON DEFILING AHMADIYYA MOSQUE

Gujranwala; December 7, 2022:

The daily Dawn, Lahore of December 12, 2022 published the following news report:

Minaret of Ahmadi place of worship removed in Gujranwala

GUJRAT: The authorities ordered the removal of the minaret of an Ahmadi place of worship in Gujranwala's Baghbanpura area last week.

According to the representative of the Ahmadi community, police cordoned off the street and switched off the lights before going ahead with the removal of the minaret on December 7,

Some religious outfits had been pressing the administration for the last one year to get the minaret removed from the front side of the building since the law bars the Ahmadis from making their places of worship resemble a mosque.

The building's management had placed steel sheets around the minaret to hide it from public view after the administration advised them to do so in order to avoid a law and order situation.

Official sources said the administration sprang into action after some religious groups asked it to get the minaret removed. The administration called a meeting of the district intelligence committee as soon as an organization lodged a complaint with the police.

The administration also held a meeting with the representatives of the Ahmadi community to sort out the matter. The authorities told them that there was no alterna-

tive but to remove the minaret as passions were running high in the city and things might get out of control.

The administration decided to carry out the operation after obtaining the Ahmadis' consent, according to sources.

Our remarks

- No law bars Ahmadis from making their places of worship resemble a mosque.
- The administration had 'advised' the Ahmadis to place steel sheets around the minaret to hide it from public view. Imagine the absurdity of the advice.
- The District Intelligence Committee is a tool of the district administration.
- It is wrong that the authorities had no alternative but to remove the minaret. The administration is expected by the Constitution and law to uphold HR and FoRB of all citizens and not yield the writ of the state to bigots and extremists.
- It is incorrect that Ahmadis' consent was obtained to carry out the operation. Ahmadis agreed only to not fight the operation if undertaken by authorities and not private parties.
- Our report on this event is entered in a preceding story.
- The Punjab is ruled these days by Mr. Parvez Elahi (PML-Q) in league with PTI that is verbally committed to Riasat Madinah.

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.

3

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

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.

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.

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 Dec 31, 2022:

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

SOME RELEVANT PAKISTAN PENAL CODES

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

295

Up to two years' imprisonment or fine, or both

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

295 A

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

Defiling, etc., of the Holy Quran

295 B

Life imprisonment

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

295 C

Death and fine

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

298

Up to one year imprisonment or fine, or both

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

298 A

Three years' imprisonment, or fine, or both

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

298 B

Three years' imprisonment and fine

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

298 C

Three years' imprisonment and fine

Alarming Facts

SINCE JANUARY 2021

- 5 Ahmadis have been murdered for faith, raising the total to 275 since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 17 murder attempts, 10 attacks during the current year.
- 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.
- 2 Ahmadi prisoners died in custody, they were imprisoned for their faith.
- 21 Ahmadiyya mosques have been desecrated, 1 mosque sealed by the authorities. 2 desecrated in Sep.
- 243 graves have been desecrated, 180 of these were during 2022. Burial of an Ahmadi lady denied and the graveyard sealed in Nov.
- 38 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 8 Ahmadis in Sep. Further cases were registered against 8 Ahmadis during November 2022.
- Sacred inscription from 19 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

- Minaret of Ahmadi place of worship removed in Gujranwala
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 12, 2022
- Four lives lost in TTP-claimed suicide attacks (in Quetta)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 1, 2022
- 25 militants killed as forces secure CTD compound
- ...three security officials martyred, 10 injured in shoot out with terrorists
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 21, 2022
- Militants storm Wana police station, flee with weapons
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 21, 2022
- Cop martyred, six injured in Islamabad suicide blast
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 24, 2022
- Three army-men martyred, two militants killed in Kurram (KP)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 30, 2022
- In religious issues, the state should not yield to individual: (SC) Justice Faiz Isa
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 17, 2022
- Matters of faith are personal, rules SHC
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 19, 2022
- The world needs to change its dated (daqianoosi) opinion on Pakistan: Bilawal
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 10, 2022
- Police not scared of telling lies even in courts
- Police excesses against citizens are routine, bars have no right to be in public service: Justice Sarfraz Dogar (LHC)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 14, 2022
- Kohat churches to be given foolproof security on Christmas
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 21, 2022
- Salutes to the Martyrs of APS Peshawar (8 years ago): Govt of Punjab (ad)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 16, 2022
- Pope says he signed resignation letter in 2013
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 13, 2022
- UN report warns against 'dehumanizing' migrants
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 19, 2022
- US Democrats elect first Black congressional leader
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 1, 2022
- 19 killed, 24 wounded in Afghan seminary blast
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 1, 2022
- Taliban ban university education for girls
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 21, 2022
- Taliban order NGOs to ban working women
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 25, 2022
- UN asks Taliban to revoke policies against women
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 28, 2022
- 'Unprovoked' shelling by Afghan forces kills seven in Chaman
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 12, 2022
- Afghan Taliban and TTP are two faces of the same coin: Addl. IG KP
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 13, 2022
- Country's progress and prosperity is hidden in better relations with Afghanistan (AT): Siraj ul Haq (JI)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 18, 2022
- Border clashes erupt again day, after Kabul apology
- One killed, 15 injured as Afghan forces attack another team repairing border fences
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 16, 2022
- Jamaat chief arrested – Bangladesh
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 14, 2022
- India's Hindu nationalist streak termed 'worrying'
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 18, 2022
- Over 180 Rohingya refugees feared dead at sea
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 26, 2022
- Xi's visit ends Saudi Arabia's 'monogamous marriage'
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 10, 2022
- Nigerian singer sentenced to death for blasphemy in Kano state
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 16, 2022
- Nine Iraqi police officers killed in suspected IS attacks
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 19, 2022
- Bilkis loses appeal against rapists in Supreme Court (in India)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 18, 2022
- Netherlands PM apologizes for 250 years of slavery
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 21, 2022
- Gunman kills three at Kurdish centre in Paris
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 25, 2022
- Moscow ready to negotiate over Ukraine
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 26, 2022
- Trump paid no tax in 2020, records shown
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 22, 2022
- The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 18, 2022
- He (Mr. Asif, Minister of Defense) blamed a total collapse of the provincial KP government for the deadly incident (of terrorism in Bannu)
BBC Top Stories December 20, 2022
- Asif Zardari is offering 500m to 1bn per member: Fayyaz Chauhan (PTI)
GNN 14:34 on December 23, 2022
- Five security men martyred in Chaman, Turbat
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 25, 2022
- Six security men martyred in Baluchistan
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 26, 2022
- Case registered against ASI accused (in Rawalpindi) of raping girl
The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 17, 2022

Editorial: A dark day

But here we are, on the eighth anniversary of the APS carnage, bracing for militant attacks once again. Failure to implement the NAP in its true spirit and the lackluster follow-up on reforms and institution-building — of Nectar in particular — that was to reinforce what was essentially a laundry list of things to do, is much to blame. Instead, the state put its weight behind measures that gave the appearance of robust action against militancy, such as setting up military courts and lifting the moratorium on the death penalty.

The orgy of state-sanctioned violence that followed only underscored the dysfunctionality of our criminal justice system, which is yet to see wide-ranging reforms — one of NAP's 20 points.

Action against violent extremist groups only happened in earnest after FATF placed Pakistan on its grey list, from which it has only recently been taken off. Some high-profile militants meanwhile 'escaped' from the state's custody or, more recently, were handed over to the Afghan Taliban in an effort to revive 'negotiations' with the TTP.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 16, 2022

Report: Balochistan lawmaker censures 'policy of support' for extremism

A Balochistan Assembly member on Friday said the cross-border aggression from Afghanistan was a result of Pakistan's long-held policy of supporting extremism. Speaking on the floor of the house, Awaji National Party Parliamentary Leader Mohammad Sachar Khan Achakzai claimed Pakistan had made efforts for transition of power to the present rulers in Afghanistan after US invasion, yet had to pay the price for supporting the policy of extremism for 40 years.

(<https://www.dawn.com/news/1726767/balochistan-lawmaker-censures-policy-of-support-for-extremism>)

News report: India's Hindu nationalist streak termed "worrying" (extracts)

WASHINGTON: Following United States' failure to include India in a list of states that violate religious freedoms, a Democratic lawmaker has sounded the alarm over the country's potential descent into Hindu nationalism.

In a farewell speech delivered earlier in the week, outgoing Democratic Congressman Andy Levin said that India was at risk of becoming a Hindu nationalist state rather than a secular democracy.

Levin said the rights of all people in India, whether Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Jains, Sikhs, Buddhists, or Jews, need to be protected.

"What is happening in Kashmir deserves the world's attention. While Kashmir may not be in the nightly news, it is still a prime example of how Mr. Modi is taking India

in the wrong direction in terms of human rights and democracy," he said in an earlier statement.

Mr. Levin was vice chair of the subcommittee on Asia, said: "the India of Narendra Modi today is not the India I fell in love with."

Earlier this month, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) decried the Department of State's decision not to include India in its latest designations of "Countries of Particular Concern" (CPCs) under the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA), turning a blind eye to its particularly severe violations of religious freedom.

Last month, at least 21 countries urged India to improve its protection of freedom of religion and rights of religious minorities.

In a joint statement, six international human rights groups also reminded New Delhi that it still needs to implement that recommendations that are part of a recent UN report on India.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 18, 2022

Editorial: Balochistan violence

Religiously inspired militancy has a history in Balochistan; after all, one of the most lethal chapters of sectarian terror group Lashkar-i-Jhangvi at one time operated out of the province, claiming hundreds of lives during its multiple campaigns of terror. Though LJ has been relatively quiet in Balochistan of late, militants belonging to this group would be natural allies of the TTP.

Meanwhile, the porous border with Afghanistan means that armed groups of all persuasion can come and go with relative ease.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 27, 2022

Editorial: Spurious drugs

As reported in this paper, the regulator found that several fake and spurious medicines were being sold under different brand names in the metropolis. Some of these 'medicines' were found to be nothing more than chalk or starch. These disclosures come only weeks after Sindh's drug testing lab found that 18 samples of lifesaving drugs confiscated from Karachi and Hyderabad had no active pharmaceutical ingredient.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 14, 2022

Editorial: Deciphering Mr. (Imran) Khan

On a related note, it was quite baffling to hear the former prime minister recently demand that the army should be 'neutral'. Has he not made it clear in the past that he believes 'neutral' is something only animals can be? Surely, Mr. Khan could not be expecting our respectable armed forces to start acting like animals now? In the absence of any helpful clarification, how does one go about dis-

tinguishing when 'neutral' really just means 'neutral' and not 'animal' in Mr. Khan's eyes? Though such flip-flops are quite amusing, the PTI chairman should consider being more forthright in the days to come. Prevarication and obfuscation rarely arouse much confidence in the public and are generally considered a sign of either dishonesty or lack of self-belief. We are at a critical juncture. Instead of making matters more complicated, the former prime minister must either execute what he promised or simply admit he acted in haste and seek a better approach. Dissolving the assemblies does not seem to be in anyone's interest at the moment, and he can easily walk back his decision without many regrets. What has he to lose?

The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 16, 2022

Tweets:

Translation: Traders are worried about extortion calls and grenade attacks on homes in Peshawar. Traders of Insaaf Traders Wing wrote a letter to Imran Khan that the law and order situation is unsatisfactory, despite bringing it to the notice of the provincial government, no action has been taken, and the citizens are worried about extortion and kidnapping incidents.



← Tweet

Yasser Latif Hamdani @theRealYLH

Introspection rather than deflection needs to be cultivated on the news that Pakistan is now a “country of particular concern” for religious freedom.

I say this because we can check from several sources that we are worryingly close to being genocidal.

@hrw

community continue to be a major target for prosecutions under blasphemy laws as well as specific anti-Ahmadi laws. Militant groups and the Islamist political party Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP) accuse Ahmadis of “posting as Muslims.” The Pakistan penal code also treats “posting as Muslims” as a criminal offense.

According to a Pakistani human rights organization, the *Centre for Social Justice*, at least 1,853 people were charged under Pakistan's blasphemy laws between 1987 and February 2022.

On *May 17*, dozens of people attacked a police station in Islamabad to lynch two brothers charged with blasphemy, breaking

brothers charged with blasphemy, breaking into the facility and battling with police officers before the station was brought under control. The two brothers were physically unharmed. The police arrested a number of individuals who were part of the mob, but none were prosecuted.

On *June 4*, the Lahore High Court acquitted a Christian couple, Shafiq Emmanuel and Shagufta Kausar, of blasphemy after spending seven years on death row. The couple was convicted in 2014 of sending “blasphemous” texts to a mosque cleric.

In *August*, an 8-year-old Hindu boy in Rahim Yar Khan, Punjab, became the youngest person to ever be charged with blasphemy in Pakistan after he was accused of *insulting*

11:30 PM - Dec 9, 2022

Cartoons:



← Tweet

Mian Iftikhar Husain @MianiftikharHus

پشاور میں بھتے کی کالز اور گھروں پر دستی بموں سے حملوں پر تاجر شدید پریشان ہیں۔ انصاف ٹریڈرز ونگ کے تاجروں نے عمران خان کو خط لکھ دیا کہ امن وامان کی صورتحال غیر تسلی بخش ہے، صوبائی حکومت کے نوٹس میں لائے کہ باوجود اقدامات نہیں اٹھائے، شہری بھتے اور اغوا کی وارداتوں سے پریشان ہیں۔

Translate Tweet

12:21 PM - Dec 19, 2022

THE PROBLEM LIES WITH YOU



By Bina Shah January 02-2023

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/315447/the-problem-lies-with-you>

Living in Pakistan, I am unable to decide whether its people truly want honesty and transparency, or lies and corruption.

I think the majority of our people have chosen dishonesty as a way of life.

From the richest to the middle class to the poor, we live in hypocrisy, mendacity, and squalor. I think we prefer it that way.

Pakistanis are truly addicted to lying. It's almost an automatic reflex. We do not love the truth.

For those of you who tell me this is true the world over, I only know the environment in which I live, which is Pakistan. And I haven't seen people like this anywhere else.

Perhaps this is because telling the truth, being moral, being good, is hard work. And we are not brave enough for that. This is our national character, this is how the world perceives us. We had better face up to it, rather than hiding in denial.

In truth, we are a cowardly nation. Afraid of the truth, afraid of hard work, afraid of consequences.

Each human being has these tendencies. But in Pakistan, we indulge them, instead of striving to overcome them.

Political parties, mullahs, intelligence agencies, bureaucrats, did not create this culture of dishonesty. They took advantage of it.

And nuclear might, and strong armies, and full coffers will not make us a strong nation, will not make us strong or good people.

Instead of working hard to overcome our difficulties we cry and point the finger of blame at others. We still haven't faced up to ourselves.

So when you ask what's wrong with Pakistan, realise that the sickness is within ourselves. Each and every one of us.

You students who choose to plagiarise and cheat, the problem lies with you.

You men and women who enter into marriage under false pretenses, the problem lies with you.

You people who make yourselves feel strong by thinking yourselves superior, the problem lies with you.

You who look down on the poor while admiring the rich, the problem lies with you.

You who allow religion to give you a sense of false complacency, the problem lies with you.

You who pander to the powerful and the mighty, and ignore the weak and the frightened, the problem lies with you.

Who are your gods? Not Allah, surely. Your gods are flawed beings who you admire and worship, and your own base selves.

You who chastise your children, but never spend time with them, explaining right from wrong, the problem lies with you.

You who assuage your children with toys and electronics, cars and jewels, the problem lies with you.

Stop thinking the problem is the army, the politicians, the mullahs, the nation. The problem is us. We are the problem.

The same students who plagiarise their papers, who cheat in their exams, are clamoring at rallies screaming for "Inquilab".

The same women and men who point fingers at the immoral leaders are cheating on their spouses.

The same men who cry against the feudals and industrialists are cheating on their taxes and not paying their electricity bills.

The same people who donate so much money to the poor are underpaying their servants.

Each and every person in Pakistan contributes to this system. We are the problem.

And each person who says, "Not me, I'm honest" is the biggest liar of all.

Including myself.

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ANNEX II

A RELIGIO-POLITICAL DILEMMA: HOW FAR CAN PARVEZ ELAHI AFFORD TO TAKE ANTI-AHMADI BIGOTRY IN PUNJAB?

By Dr. Busharat Elahi Jamil

Since the 1950s, the anti-Ahmadiyya card has been used in Pakistan's applied and electoral politics for extra mileage. Particularly after being declared non-Muslims by the Pakistani parliament in 1974, Ahmadis boycotted the political process to preserve their religious identity. Pakistan's political system and so-called democracy has completely failed to provide Ahmadis with their basic rights as human beings and fellow citizens. Factually, after the era of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, it was the regime of General Zia-ul-Haq that snubbed Ahmadis and deprived them of religious rights with the Anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinance of 1984. Despite violating the Constitution of 1973 and international human rights charter of 1948, he succeeded to address and engage the masses' extreme religious sentiments to divert their attention from his illegitimate dictatorial rule.

The Anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinance (No. XX of 1984) ensures involvement and dictation of the state in citizens' beliefs and religious practices. Moreover, the misuse of PPC sections 295, 295A, 295B, 295C, 298, 298A, 298B and 298C against Ahmadis jeopardizes the existence of Ahmadis within the geographical boundaries of Pakistan. These legal and judicial constraints and curbs have exposed the Ahmadis to risks way beyond one's imagination, as a one-sided state-supported poisonous propaganda against Ahmadis allows no platform to respond and leaves no options for Ahmadis but to flee or to hit rock bottom. If Ahmadis complain about their issues, state-sponsored media, political elites, the justice system, and the social and religious fabric all start twisting laws to suppress their voices and put their lives at risk.

On the basis of this inhuman propaganda, Ahmadis are socially exploited and deprived of their basic human rights in the very name of religion. That is not all: the speeches and statements of imprudent politicians like Raja Farooq Haider, Raja Parvez Ashraf, Parvez Elahi and the leaders of religio-political organizations like JUI and TLP are poisoning society, by subjecting it to their political agendas as well as to sabotage their personal and political failures. The most recent example would be the unnecessary remarks of CM Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, who governs the most populous province, literally comprising more than half the country's total population. Yet, in a speech, he used anti-Ahmadiyya sentiments to score political mileage.

His ill-informed statements have a certain history. A tradition runs in the family's politics to use anti-Ahmadiyya stances and attract religious clerics for political benefits. Consider, for instance, the extreme standpoints of his uncle Ch. Zahoor Elahi against Ahmadis, as he pressed the government of Z. A. Bhutto hard on the issue. He had taken the position that the state's response to Ahmadi beliefs was not a secondary issue but a primary subject, from which Z. A. Bhutto can emerge as a hero – and the latter did, indeed, act accordingly in 1974. Parvez Elahi has often referred to and praised the role of his uncle Zahoor Elahi in this context.

It is evident that Bhutto used anti-Ahmadiyya postures to nourish his political drive, compromising his honesty with the state. This is because the state should have no concern with religion – a matter which belongs to the citizens of the state. And no parliament should be able to hold the mandate to decide the religions, beliefs and sects of its citizens.

Often in public gatherings, Parvez Elahi and his party leaders have given anti-Ahmadiyya statements. On 05 June 2020, as Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Ch. Parvez Elahi strongly welcomed the decision of not including

Ahmadis in the National Minority Commission. Likewise, he and others have described Ahmadis as traitors of Islam and Pakistan just to score political mileage with religious lobbies.

Usually in Pakistan, religious and political leaders use the theological terms around the issue to instigate illiterate people against Ahmadis. In his speech, Parvez Elahi, while announcing good news regarding construction of a mosque following the model of the Blue Mosque in Turkey, went on to say that it must be written on this Mosque “the entry of Qadianis is prohibited” – an intolerable sentiment which made it sound as if it were the sole purpose of building the mosque. His statement generates some questions.

There are many religious sects in Pakistan: is he building it for one group specifically?

As CM Punjab, why did he use the derogatory term “Qadianis” for the country’s Ahmadi community? What is the purpose of this ignorant announcement other than incitement?

Can religion be used for enrage public sentiments for one’s socio-political objectives?

In Islamic history, mosques are the places where enemies were spared. How can they be used for political purposes and hatred by Parvez Elahi? His remarks come across as both unnecessary and irrational – and moreover, an underhand attempt to distort the true face of Islam and its peaceful teachings.

In 2006, Parvez Elahi as CM Punjab established Rescue 1122 service. Is it also prohibited for the Rescue 1122 to serve the Ahmadi community in Punjab? As CM, he is not supposed to serve a particular religious community but the entire population of the province. His political services entertaining only the religious majority of the province neither do justice to his portfolio nor to basic human values. No religious community is answerable to him unless they engage in any anti-state activity or violate the civic rules.

The felonious silence of PTI leadership on Elahi’s statement suggests endorsement of the activities and beliefs of Mr. Parvez Elahi. Because of these extreme fanatic thoughts of political and religious leaderships in Pakistan, 279 Ahmadis have been killed (including the 3 Ahmadis that have been target killed in 2022), 31 Ahmadi mosques demolished, 44 sealed by the authorities, 36 set on fire and 18 forcibly occupied by mobs from April 1984 to 15 September 2022. The situation is still worsening for Ahmadis in Pakistan.

Unfortunately, Parvez Elahi as a public office holder is targeting the Ahmadis particularly in Punjab, while hundreds of thousands of Ahmadis are living in this province. The headquarters of the Ahmadi community, ‘Rabwah,’ is also situated in Punjab. The state supported anti-Ahmadiyya drive under CM Punjab Parvez Elahi is poisoning the social and political environment of Punjab in particular. This cynical use of religion for temporary political gains is not serving the nation but only dividing and exploiting them. As CM Punjab, he is defying articles 2, 6, 7, 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as articles 8, 17, 19, 25, 26, 27 of the Constitution of 1973 – putting the future of the country and its social fabric in jeopardy.

(<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/2022/12/02/a-religio-political-dilemma-how-far-can-parvez-elahi-afford-to-take-anti-ahmadi-bigotry-in-punjab/>)

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.


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