



Human Rights Section
Ahmadiyya Muslim Foreign Missions

Persecution of Ahmadiis in Pakistan

Monthly Report
April 2021



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Highlights

PLACE OF WORSHIP VANDALIZED

Extremists desecrated a tombstone and, with the help of Punjab police, destroyed an Ahmadiyya place of worship in Chak 604, Muzaffargarh. Police arrested five Ahmadis.

POLICE CASES & ARRESTS

Police detained five Ahmadis in Chak 604, Muzaffargarh, under PPC 298-B & C and one Ahmadi in Chak 3, Okara, under PPC 295-A, making a total of six arrests in a month. They also booked three brothers under PPC 298-C; one of them is not even an Ahmadi.

ISLAMIC CONTENT IN SCHOOL CURRICULA

Last year, government authorities attempted to exclude religious content from secular subjects. Succumbing to pressure from clerics, however, the government withdrew its notification.

AHMADIS BOYCOTTED AND HARRASSED

In Mural, Sialkot, extremists have stopped Ahmadis from visiting their loved ones' graves. A social media campaign is calling for the boycott of Ahmadis in Mural, Sialkot and Chak 89 Yamzan, Bahawalpur. The situation in Bhiri Shah Rehman, Gujranwala, has worsened since a cleric recently called for the boycott of Ahmadis.

SACRED INSCRIPTIONS REMOVED BY POLICE

A minor clash among the villagers in Nawa Kot, where some Ahmadis also became embroiled for their kinship, resulted in police removing sacred inscriptions such as "Alhamdulillah" and "Mashallah" from the houses of nine Ahmadis.

BURIAL OBSTRUCTED BY TLP

Thereek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) clerics and workers obstructed the burial of an Ahmadi woman. The cemetery had a separate section for Ahmadis. The police intervened and decided to fence off the area of Ahmadis' graves to avoid further problems.

DID YOU KNOW?

AHMADIS FACE THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT UNDER FEDERAL LAWS FOR:

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

AHMADIS HAVE TO DECLARE THEMSELVES NON-MUSLIM TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE

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Tailpiece

Although a tailpiece, it should be introduced earlier. After reading this report, the reader is invited to undertake some analytic and logical exercise in societal and governmental behavior. We quote below statements of some VIPs who represent powerful institutions in our nation-state:

Our minorities are equal citizens of our country. We shall deal firmly with those who target non-Muslim citizens or their places of worship: Prime Minister

(The Daily Jang; Lahore, February 27, 2020)

State must protect minorities: Supreme Court

(The Daily Express Tribune; October 24, 2020)

Islam allows minorities full religious freedom: National Assembly Speaker

(The daily Dawn; Lahore, August 11, 2020)

Minorities have all the fundamental rights and freedom of religion in Pakistan: Nur ul Haq Qadri (Federal Minister)

(The Daily Jang; Lahore, September 19, 2020)

We'll protect minorities' rights: Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, Special Representative to the Prime Minister

(The Daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 22, 2021)

In Riasat Madinah, people of all religions had equal rights: Imran Khan

(on PTV Global News at 14:15 on September 27, 2019)

The exercise attempts to reconcile the above statements, commitments, and assertions with the subsequent reality as described in this report.

Know the Facts

THIS YEAR SO FAR

- 1 Ahmadi has been murdered in 2021, raising the total to 274 since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 7 murder attempts
- 1 Ahmadi prisoner died in custody, he was imprisoned on the basis of his faith.
- 6 Ahmadiyya places of worship have been desecrated
- 45 gravestones have been removed
- 19 new cases have been registered against Ahmadis under PPCs 298, 298-B,C, 295-A,B,C
- Sacred inscription from 15 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 nationalised 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.



Punjab Police Vandalize 35 Years Old Ahmadiyya Place of Worship

Chak 604, District Muzaffargarh; April 11, 2021:

For some time now, extremists have engaged in extensive anti-Ahmadi activities in District Muzaffargarh. With police assistance, they destroyed the minarets and the niche of an Ahmadiyya place of worship in Chak 604.

The police visited Ahmadi's homes and place of worship on the eve of April 11 and asked, "Are you Qadianis?". They replied, "Yes, we are Ahmadi's". The DSP

Allah Yar Saifi then allowed extremists to tear down the niche and minarets. They also removed the gravestone of Mr Faiz Ahmad, an Ahmadi. The police arrested five Ahmadi's from the site and took them to Police Station Chowk Sarwar. The SHO stated that these actions were undertaken on the order of senior officers and under the supervision of DSP Allah Yar Saifi. He further stated that he could charge the detained individuals under the blasphemy law PPC 295-C; its penalty is death.



In the dark hours of April 12, police raided Ahmadiyya houses to arrest more persons. The following day, five Ahmadis arrested earlier were formally booked under anti-Ahmadi laws PPCs 298-B and 298-C under FIR no. 183/21. The police also obtained their two-day physical remand from the court. In the FIR, Syed Sajjad Hussain Shah, the complainant, alleged that the Qadianis of TDA 604 were promoting their faith from the building built like a mosque. Moreover, they had written sacred Islamic creeds on their houses and on the graves, which is provocative and angering people.

Later, on April 16, the Magistrate Kot Addo acquitted the five Ahmadis.

It may be re-stated that the Supreme Court, in its historic verdict of 2014, had issued instructions to authorities to protect minorities' places of worship.

Some Relevant Pakistan Penal Codes

Full text of PPC 298-B and 298-C is on page 23

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

Continued on page 23

Four Dragged Into a Fabricated Police Case

Chak 151/10-R; District Khanewal, March 30, 2021:

A police case was registered against three brothers and a nephew, Messrs Abdul Rehman, Muhammad Arif, Muhammad Alam, and Mubashir Rehman, with FIR No. 139 under PPC 298-C at police station Jhanian, District Khanewal, on March 30, 2021. Of these, Mr Arif is not Ahmadi.

Mr Arif used to pray in the non-Ahmadiyya mosque. Opponents stopped him from praying there, saying that his brothers were Ahmadi, so they would not let him pray in their mosque; the two parties exchanged harsh words. The opponents then called for the expulsion of the listed people from their village. While the demand was rejected, the opposition, the opposition filed a false police case against them for preaching.

Ahmadi Arrested, Charge Upgraded

Chak 3/SP, District Okara; March 31, 2021:

Mr Mansoor Ahmad Tahir was booked in a police case with FIR. No. 217 under 16 MPO* at police station Haweli Lakha, District Okara, on March 31, 2021, and was arrested. The plaintiff alleged that Mr Tahir passed negative remarks about his religious program, which outraged him.

In response to the opposition's protest and march, the SHO police added section 295-A to the charge sheet (it carries a maximum penalty of ten-year imprisonment and fine).

Only three Ahmadi families live in the village. The Ahmadiyya missionary has relocated from the village, given the hostile situation. Opponents demand that the three Ahmadi families be expelled from the village.

* THE PUNJAB MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE
Section 16: Dissemination of rumours, etc

Countrywide Riots by Tehrik Labbaik Pakistan (TLP)

April 2021:

TLP, a politico-religious party, precipitated extensive riots in mid-April 2021 that shook the country and its people violently. TLP has often been mentioned in our dispatches for its anti-Ahmadi activism, so we provide a brief narrative of these happenings based on media reports.

TLP took a firm stand against French the handling of the blasphemous cartoon affair and demanded the ouster of the French ambassador from Pakistan and a boycott of French products. The federal authorities at the ministerial level held talks with TLP leadership and had agreed on a procedure to follow up the demands. By early April, TLP concluded that the government would allegedly not pursue the terms of the agreement, so it declared its intention to march on the Capital to enforce compliance.

Federal authorities, fearing another Capital blockade by TLP, pre-emptively detained Mr Saad Rizvi, the TLP chief, son of the late Allama Khadim Hussain Rizvi. This arrest precipitated extensive riots all over the country by TLP on April 12 and in the following days.

TLP sympathizers were urged to participate in the name of Shan-e-Risalat (Dignity of the Prophet). The protesters soon turned into rioters, creating roadblocks and attacking state security personnel, state

properties, etc. They tortured captured police officials; as a result, two policemen died. The situation progressively worsened.

After four days, 491 state personnel were injured. Of these, 300 had to be hospitalized. Four policemen had died of injuries. As many as 2135 rioters were detained.

The prime minister addressed the nation on April 19, 2021, and explained the official position. He also mentioned the vast damage done to public property. He accused PML-N and JUI of providing support to the agitation for political gain.

Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad addressed the National Assembly that this was the Assembly that passed the law on Khatmw Nabuwat (the Finality of Prophethood). To restrict the spread of the agitation, he rightly noted that Khatme Nabuwat was not the issue at this time.

Mufti Muneeb ur Rahman, former Chair of the Moon-sighting Committee, announced a 'strike' supporting TLP.

The government announced a ban on TLP on April 15 and declared its intention to call on the Supreme Court for its dissolution. On account of the law and order situation in the country, the French embassy advised its citizens to leave Pakistan. Authorities announced the first-ever social-media blockade for four hours in Pakistan on April 16, after Friday congregational prayers.

The situation worsened when TLP held 16 police officers hostages. On April 20, the Ministry of Interior announced the release of detained security personnel, that the French ambassador's expulsion shall be resolved in the National Assembly, that TLP shall be unbanned, and that police cases against TLP members shall be withdrawn. The exact terms of the agreement were not immediately made public.

A subsequent statement by the TLP Shura Committee mentioned that thousands of TLP demonstrators had been injured, and 27 had died.

After that, essential developments took place. The issue of French ambassador's expulsion was taken up in the National Assembly. The EU Parliament adopted a resolution calling for the revision of Pakistan's GSP+ status over blasphemy law abuse and urged Pakistan to treat its minorities well.

The EU Parliament's resolution on GSP+ status was a big issue for Pakistan and was widely discussed in many forums. The press quoted the prime minister as, **"There would be no compromise on End of Prophethood law"**. Minister Fawad Chaudhry tweeted on @FawadPTIUpdates: **"For us, there is nothing ahead of safeguarding the End of Prophethood, so we are paying no attention to**

the Resolution of the EU Parliament, nor is it going to make any difference." The Interior Minister affirmed that on the issue of Khatme Nabuwwat **"We do not lag behind the banned TLP"**. These statements are noteworthy as neither the TLP nor the EU had raised the issue of Khatme Nabuwwat during and after the riots.

We have been reporting the use of anti-Ahmadi rhetoric by the TLP and expressing our opinion in the national interest. The media and civil society openly voiced their opinion on the evil of exploiting religion for political gain. Opinions expressed in the daily Dawn are reported in the section, 'From the Media'.



Sacred Inscriptions Removed from Ahmadi Houses

79 Nawa Kot, District Sheikhpura; April 10, 2021:

Opposition to Ahmadis has significantly increased in 79 Nawa Kot. Last year, more than 40 Ahmadis' graves were desecrated in this village. Recently, there was a clash among some people in the village in which some Ahmadis became embroiled due to their kinship, as is often the case in Pakistan. Opponents linked the personal scuffle to last year's cemetery incident by giving it a religious color. They agitated the issue on social media.

Subsequently, the opponents told the police that Quranic verses are inscribed on Ahmadis' houses and they have minarets on their mosque. On April 10, acting on the demand of the opponents, the police destroyed the words 'Alhamdulillah' and 'Mashallah' from the houses of nine Ahmadis. Referring to the minaret of the Ahmadiyya mosque, they relented, 'as it was old'.

The opponents now plan to prevent Ahmadis from offering Eid prayers and undertaking Qurbani (cattle sacrifice).

Ahmadi Family Boycotted Due to Faith

Chak 89 Tehsil Yazman, District Bahawalpur; April 2021:

The local mullah took an oath from the locals that no one would participate in the marriage ceremony of the sister of Mr Atta ul Wadood, president of the local Ahmadiyya community. Consequently, no one participated in this happy occasion. The mullah bad-mouthed him in his Friday sermon and spread hatred in the neighborhood by calling him a denier of the Finality of Prophethood and being worthy of death (wajib ul qatl). People from the neighborhood visited him and instructed him to leave the Ahmadiyya community - lest he suffers severe consequences. On March 4, 2021, his close friend Mr Muhammad Iftexhar visited him and repeated the same demand, of the locals.

Mr Wadood and the other 11 members of his family feel greatly persecuted. They are the only Ahmadi family in the village.

Anti-Ahmadiyya Agitation in Gujranwala

Bhiri Shah Rehman, Gujranwala; April 2021:

An anti-Ahmadi conference was held in Bhiri Shah Rehman in which a mullah was invited to speak. He called for the boycott of Ahmadis, to stop all dealings, and to vacate shops rented out to Ahmadis. He further advised that one who sells a piece of land to an Ahmadi should be kicked out of the town. Following this incident, locals have exhibited more animus towards Ahmadis.

Ahmadi Harassed in District Sialkot

Mural; District Sialkot, April 2021:

Dr Samjad Sajjad, an Ahmadi, has been facing faith-related hostility for some time. The opponents in Mural have always been hostile to local Ahmadis. Recently have even been stopped to visit the graves of their loved ones and pray for them. Moreover, there is an ongoing campaign to boycott Mr Sajjad and his clinic through social media posts.

TLP obstruct Ahmadi burial

Kot Sondha, District Sheikhpura; April 9, 2021:

Six Ahmadi families live in Kot Sondha. The village has a common cemetery. However, Ahmadis' graves are separately located in the cemetery. In the past, village elders had mutually decided that Ahmadis' graves remain set aside for them.

Ms Hanifa, an Ahmadi woman, died on April 9. Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) clerics and workers obstructed her burial. The police were contacted and asked to resolve the issue. The police intervened, and an agreement was signed between the parties whereby the area of Ahmadis' graves would be fenced off so that there would be no problem in the future.

Note: See PPC 297 on page 23



ATIF MIAN

Current Fellow

Fellow: Awarded 2021

Field of Study: Economics

A Prestigious Award for an Ahmadi

April 9, 2021: Following was reported on tribune.com.pk(extracts):

Atif Mian awarded prestigious ‘Guggenheim Fellowship in Economics’

Islamabad:

Renowned Pakistani-American economist, Dr Atif Mian has been awarded the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship in Economics.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation awards the Guggenheim Fellowship to a select few individuals who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts, (etc.).

...

Dr Atif, a scholar in the field of finance and macroeconomics, is regarded as one of the world’s top young economists.

Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) led federal government in 2018 cancelled his appointment to its Economic Advisory Council (EAC) after facing strong backlash for appointing member of the minority Ahmadi community.

Following the government’s decision, Atif in a tweet had said: “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.”

Last year, the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Karachi cancelled a seminar of Dr Atif, due to the ‘threats the university administration was facing from extremists’.

“Sorry to report that my zoom economics seminar at IBA Karachi has been cancelled due to threats that the university administration was facing from extremists.” Said Atif Mian.

[Tribune.com.pk/story/2293946/atif-main-awarded-prestigious-guggenheim-fellowship-in-economics](https://tribune.com.pk/story/2293946/atif-main-awarded-prestigious-guggenheim-fellowship-in-economics) on April 9, 2021

The Government Caves Into the Mullah – Again

Lahore: In November 2020, the following recommendation was made under the chairmanship of Dr Shoaib Suddle, for implementation in school curricula and textbooks:

Decision No.7 Religious content must be excluded from the books of other subjects and must be restricted to the books intended for religious knowledge (Islamiat/Ethics).

This recommendation made sense as religious material in textbooks of secular subjects is out of place. However a section of ulama did not like losing some ground already gained, so they protested in Lahore, resulting in the Governor issuing a rescinding of the order.

The daily Dawn of April 27, 2021 reported the news as follows:

NOTIFICATION ON ISLAMIC CONTENT IN SYLLABUS WITHDRAWN

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Sarwar has taken notice of omitting Islamic content from the curriculum except the subject of Islamic Studies.

On his directive, the Department of Human Rights and Minorities Affairs withdrew the notification to implement the recommendations of the one-member commission.

Mr Sarwar immediately stopped the implementation of the recommendations of the Shoaib Suddle Commission. A new notification has also been issued. The Muslim scholars expressed their gratitude to the governor.

Talking to the Muslim religious scholars in a meeting on Monday, Mr. Sarwar said the Islamic content would not be removed from the curriculum and it would not be limited to the subject of Islamic Studies only.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister Maulana

Tahir Ashrafi, Chairman of Royat-e-Halal Committee, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad expressed their gratitude to the governor Sarwar on the move.

...Special Assistant to Prime Minister Allama Tahir Ashrafi, Royat-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Wafaq-e-madaris Chairman Maulana Hanif Jalandhari, Jamiat Ahle-e-Hadees Chairman Allama Zubair Ahmad Zaheer, Mufti Ashiq Hussain, the head of Jamia Naeemia Dr Ragheb Hussain Naeemi, Jamia Rehmania Chairman Maulana Amjad Khan, Islami Nazriyati Council member Syed Habibur Rehman Irfani were present in the meeting.

The participants had expressed their concerns over omitting Islamic content from books other than Islamic Studies in Punjab's curriculum.

During a meeting, the religious scholars also demanded strict action against the officers involved in the matter....

Son of a Dictator Shares Father's Pride



Ejaz ul Haq is the son of General Zia ul Haq the dictator in Pakistan during the 1980s. He is active in politics but has a small following, relying on his father's Islamist credentials. Recently a video of his speech surfaced on YouTube. Translation of its extract is provided below to record the view of the Islamist lobby, his father's legacy, on the Ahmadiyya issue.

TRANSLATION:

“Why is it that so much flag-raising in support of Khatme Nabuwat (Finality of Prophethood) has to be undertaken in Pakistan? It is because the greatest mischief in the world is the Qadiani whose roots are in Pakistan. This country came into being in the name of the Kalima, and there should have been no need for such efforts. But the enemy is very clever. They continue with their schemes, slowly but persistently.

You know well of the Ordinance promulgated by General Zia ul Haq, the martyr. You must have observed that this was the last nail in their coffin... If these restrictions had not been imposed upon them, the present awareness, as you can see....(garble). Mr Khan, our current prime minister, appointed a Qadiani, an economic expert. People raised a hue and cry when they realised this; so much that his name had to be withdrawn. Thus I believe that when we talk of the Finality of Prophethood and if faith in it is firm among our rulers and us, no one will dare to make a shift (from this). When I was the Minister of Religious Affairs, I went to the U.S. There was a meeting with the State Department (officials). Then I went to the EU, to Belgium, where elected representatives assemble from all over Europe. I was asked about the tyranny against these (Ahmadis). We do not let them do this and that, they will impose sanctions against us, stop imports of our textiles, and put pressure on (our) governments....

The governments in Pakistan should (fully) implement the (anti-Ahmadi) Ordinance promulgated by General Zia ul Haq Shaheed. If anybody puts pressure on them, they should frankly convey that there would be no compromise on this....

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O53X6vJWK6Q>

The Debasement of the Lawyers' Community

Of course, there are still some great and noble lawyers in Pakistan. Pakistan came into being by a man of law. Another Pakistani rose to be appointed the President of the International Court of Justice at Den Haag. But things have significantly changed. The lawyers' community's decline is all the more regrettable because of their claim to higher education.

For years, some lawyers and bar councils have not only acted bigotedly, but have led others in religious bigotry. Last year bar associations in Islamabad and Multan moved to deny their membership to those who differed with their interpretation of the dogma of Finality of Prophethood.

More recently, three lawyers of Punjab Bar Council wrote an application to their Vice Chairman at Lahore. (translated below):

To the Vice Chairman, Punjab Bar Council

Subject: Requisition to enter the religion column (Qadiani)

We submit that the Council records do not have a religion column, nor is there a column in the enrollment form.

We have come to know that there are many Hindu advocates in the Bar Council. Additionally, there are a large number of Christian advocates.

Also, a large number of Qadianis are enrolled who call themselves Muslims. We plead to the honorable house through this requisition that the column of religion and Qadiani be provided in the enrollment form and computer record so that minorities are numbered and identified.

(Signed)

Farhan Shehzad

Munir Hussain Bhatti

Member Punjab Bar Council

Malik Riaz Member Punjab Bar Council

Note: Unbelievable, but probably true. We have a copy of the original in our office.

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. Two days later, Mr. Khalil Ahmad was murdered by a madrassah student while in police custody. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. In 2015, PPC 295-C was added to their charge sheet at the suggestion of a high court judge. A sessions judge sentenced them to death on October 11, 2017. This decision was then appealed to the Lahore High Court. The Court has not found time to hear the case for three years. These three Ahmadis are in prison for six and half years.

2.

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. If declared guilty they could face life imprisonment. Pakistan's Cyber Crimes Department, Lahore that works under Federal Investigation Agency conducted a raid on the house of Mr. Rohan Ahmad of Wapda Town, Lahore, they later arrested and tortured him. He is currently at Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore. Malik Usman Ahmad and Hafiz Tariq Shehzad were arrested on appearance in FIA office. They are in Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore.

3.

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 mullahs and registered a fabricated case against him under section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code, 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. He is currently in Peshawar Jail.

4.

Mr. Tariq A. Tahir and Mr. Safwan Ahmad were booked in FIR Nr. 83/2020 under blasphemy clause PPC 295-B at P.S. Nagar Parker, Sindh, on November 25, 2020. Mr. Tahir was arrested.

5.

Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Tahir was booked in a police case with FIR No. 217 under 16 M.P.O. at police station Haweli Lakha, District Okara, on March 31, 2021, and was arrested. The plaintiff alleged that Mr. Tahir passed negative remarks about his religious program which outraged him.

6.

Four Ahmadis including Mr. Muhammad Mahmood Iqbal Hashmi and Mr. Shiraz Ahmad, 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. Mr. Shiraz Ahmad was arrested from Hafizabad on February 25, 2021.

7.

Malik Zahir Ahmad was arrested on September 30, 2019, by fabricating a 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 Zahir Ahmad was expected to be released from the Camp Jail, the Cyber Crime Wing Lahore team arrested him under FIR Nr. 88, under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, PECA-11. He was not even formally nominated in the case.

FACTS

AS OF APRIL 30, 2021:

- 11 Ahmadis are behind bars solely on account of their faith
- A 20-year-old Ahmadi student is in jail under PPC 295-C, which carries death penalty.
- 3 Ahmadis have been on death row since 2017 and in prison since July 18, 2014
- 6 Ahmadis were arrested in April 2021. Five of these Ahmadis have been released. However, their cases under PPC 298-B & C are still under process.
- 1 Ahmadi prisoner died while in police custody in Feb 2021

From the Media

- Religious scholar shot at, wounded in sectarian attack (in Karachi)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 01, 2021

- Two killed in violence erupts after TLP chief's arrest

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 13, 2021

- Four die as TLP activists clash with police, hundreds of people injured thousands of protesters arrested; one policeman among dead....

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 14, 2021

- Govt: bans TLP, to move SC for its dissolution. French embassy advises its citizens to leave Pakistan.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 16, 2021

- First ever all social media blocked for 4 hours in the country (on Friday)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 17, 2021

- (Gen) Hamid Gul's son booked under Anti-terrorism law

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 16, 2021

- Lahore. Clashes at Chowk Yatim Khanna. Attack on police station. 12 abducted including DSP. 2 killed; many injured including policemen

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 19, 2021

- On the issue of Khatme Nabuwat we do not lag behind the banned TLP: Sh Rashid (the Interior Minister)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 20, 2021

- I shall take off my shoe and beat you up: Shahid (Khakan) Abbasi's harsh words to the Speaker (Mr Asad Qaisar)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 21, 2021

- Judge says the arrest and illegal detention of a suspect's son was like

short-term kidnapping by police.

The Daily Dunya; Lahore, April 29, 2021

- Saudi FM says ties with Israel will benefit region

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 03, 2021

- Somali army says scores of Shabaab fighters (Islamist suicidal attackers) killed in attack

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 04, 2021

- 11 Muslim groups banned in Sri Lanka

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 15, 2021

- US Commission says religious freedom in India deteriorating further. Recommends for the second year in a row that India be placed on a blacklist for religious freedom.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 21, 2021

- Madrid man faces 15 years in jail for killing, eating mother

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 22, 2021

- Israel committing crimes of apartheid and persecution: HRW

BBC Top stories April 27, 2021

- EU Parliament adopts resolution calling for review of Pakistan's GSP+ status over blasphemy law abuse

Dawn.com Published April 30, 2021

- PDM splits as five parties to form new block

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 03, 2021

- It is Pakistan that maximum security is available to minorities: Governor (Punjab)
- PTI Govt stands with minorities. No tolerance for injustice.

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 05, 2021

- Changed again: Fourth finance minister

installed (by present regime)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 17, 2021

- Four killed, 12 injured in Quetta hotel bomb blast

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 22, 2021

- Investigator removed ahead of pro-Tareen MP's meeting with Imran

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 27, 2021

- Crackdown on Qabza Mafia in the Punjab. 1,55,000 acres of land worth Rs. 450 billion freed.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 01, 2021

- Atif Mian awarded prestigious "Guggenheim Fellowship"

Google News; (Pakistan) at 08.50 on April 11, 2021

- Journalist human rights defender I A Rehman passes away

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 13, 2021

- Pakistan passport fourth worst in the world

Tribune.com.pk

- Justice Isa accuses SJC 'murdering justice'.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 16, 2021

- Seven of family shot dead in Nowshera over class IV post.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 19, 2021

- Pakistan sees record deaths in a day (due Covid-19)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 25, 2021

- SC nixes order for probe into finances of (Justice) Isa's wife

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 27, 2021

- Punjab: Minimum wage raised from Rs 17,500 to Rs 19,500

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 28, 2021

Op-ed: Religion and Political Parties

...Whatever is happening today was foretold. This is in accord with natural law that rules since eternity till eternity. Numerous civilizations and nations have passed through it and their story is preserved by history. It is clearly on record that when religion, deprived of its true genre, is used as a tool of personal interest, it turns into a double-edged sword that someday will cut your own throat...

This policy practiced for the last 70 years has resulted in the state and society becoming hostage to a particular understanding of religion. No exit is now available to religious parties, nor to the political. The loss of writ of the state is apparent to all. I am worried that those who consider themselves guardians of national interest are not perhaps even conscious of this.

Khurshid Nadeem in the daily Dunya of April 26, 2021

Editorial: TLP protest

APPEASEMENT of reactionary forces amounts to playing with fire — and, ultimately, to setting one's own house alight. That reality is once again starkly evident, with dozens of sites in urban areas held hostage by violent mobs suffused with self-righteous rage and, even more dangerously, confident of their power to bring the country to a halt. Since Monday, TLP activists have been demonstrating against the arrest of their leader, Allama Saad Hussain Rizvi. He was detained after announcing countrywide

agitation from April 20 to demand the French ambassador's expulsion and a ban on imports from France in protest against the publication of blasphemous images in that country. The right to protest is contingent upon doing so peacefully. In the ongoing disturbances however, many people have been injured and several killed.

Sadly, the state has carried out multiple experiments in nurturing or at least tolerating ultra-right elements to achieve dubious short-term gains. The TLP is merely the latest in a long line of such ill-conceived initiatives.

...

The current unrest is a result of the PTI government having promised TLP last November that they would take up the matter of the French ambassador's expulsion with parliament. Pandering to demands by reactionary forces only emboldens them further, making the challenge to deal with them ever greater. For the good of the country, and its image as a nation where extremism has no place, such groups must be strictly reined in.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 14, 2021

Op-ed: Hostage to extremism

Once again, the TLP has succeeded in bringing the administration to its knees.

... It was the sit-in in Islamabad in 2017 that announced the arrival of the TLP on the scene as a major sectarian force representing Barelvi militancy. The group's protest centred on a clause in the Election Act relating to the

finality of prophethood.

Religious sentiments were whipped up and the matter soon turned into a political controversy. ...

While the agreement empowered the radical group, the government only managed to postpone the crisis. What has been happening now was inevitable. The way the administration has collapsed in the face of mob violence is alarming to say the least, and underscores how we are failing to deal with rising religious extremism.

How can a particular group become so emboldened as to paralyse the entire country? Once again, the TLP has succeeded in bringing the administration to its knees. The inaction of successive governments and the policy of appeasement has created a veritable monster.

The PTI government's overdose of religiosity has given impunity to extremist religious groups. Now the government faces a more violent form of zealotry. The spectacle of the mob beating police officers and making them hostage has exposed the false claims of the rule of law. ...

The challenge of extremism overall must also be looked at as a significant concern. Religion and its nexus with politics have fuelled bigotry. A joint effort is needed by all stakeholders to deal with this rising menace.

Zahid Hussain in the daily Dawn; Lahore, April 14, 2021

PPC 298-B.

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

(1) Any person of the Qadiani group or the Lahori group (who call themselves 'Ahmadis' or by any other name) who by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representation-

(a) refers to or addresses, any person, other than a Caliph or companion of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), as "Ameer-ul-Mumineen", "Khalifatul-Mumineen", Khalifa-tul-Muslimeen", "Sahaabi" or "Razi Allah Anho";

(b) refers to, or addresses, any person, other than a wife of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), as "Ummul-Mumineen";

(c) refers to, or addresses, any person, other than a member of the family "Ahle-bait" of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), as "Ahle-bait"; or

(d) refers to, or names, or calls, his place of worship a "Masjid";

shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

(2) Any person of the Qadiani group or Lahori group (who call themselves "Ahmadis" or by any other name) who by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representation refers to the mode or form of call to prayers followed by his faith as "Azan", or recites Azan as used by the Muslims, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

PPC 298-C.

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

PPC 297.

Trespassing on burial places, etc.:

Whoever, with the intention of wounding the feelings of any person, or of insulting the religion of any person, or with the knowledge that the feelings of any person are likely to be wounded, or that the religion of any person is likely to be insulted thereby, commits any trespass in any place of worship or on any place of sculpture, or any place set apart for the performance of funeral rites or as a depository for the remains of the dead, or offers any indignity to any human corpse or causes disturbance to any persons assembled for the performance of funeral ceremonies, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMA'ATIS 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 HADRATMIRZA 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 ZULFIKARALI 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 ACARTE BLANCHETO TERRORIZE AHMADIS WITH THE BACKING OF THE STATE.

HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION

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