



HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION
AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS

Persecution of Ahmadis IN PAKISTAN

Monthly Report
February 2022

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Highlights

IMPRISONMENTS IN FEBRUARY

During the month, an Ahmadi 65-year-old woman and another Ahmadi were incarcerated for allegedly tearing down anti-Ahmadiyya posters. They both were released on bail. The inflammatory language used in these posters violated Pakistani law PPC 153A and 295A. No action was taken by the police against the posting of such hate material. The police instead filed a case against those who were directly affected by these posters.

DAUNTING START OF THE YEAR 2022

7 Ahmadis were nominated in 4 different cases under blasphemy laws, in addition to the 7 Ahmadis behind bars, 2 new Ahmadis were imprisoned, 45 Ahmadiyya graves were desecrated, an Ahmadiyya mosque sealed by the authorities, another mosque attacked. Last month an Ahmadi lost his life while in prison in a faith-based case. Pages 8-9 describe the social barriers Ahmadis face on a day-to-day basis. The new year has begun for Ahmadis in Pakistan.

POLICE REMOVES 45 AHMADI TOMBSTONES

The desecration of Ahmadiyya graves continues in the year 2022. A police contingent destroyed 45 Ahmadiyya tombstones in the local graveyard in Premkot, Hafizabad, on demand of opponents of the Ahmadiyya community. Ahmadiyya spokesperson said, 'This was not only an act of violation of Human Rights but also an act that has further dimmed the face of our beloved country Pakistan in the eyes of the international community.'

A NEW TREND IN CASES AGAINST AHMADI MUSLIMS

The state must effectively discourage extremism, hate material and open calls for social and communal boycotts. In practice, this is completely opposite for Ahmadis. PPC 153A and 295A make it illegal to post insulting material, however, displaying a hateful anti-Ahmadiyya poster does not violate the law. Further, we have reported cases where local residents went to the police and filed complaints against someone. Page 4 outlines a new trend where police take suo motto notices. Instead of a citizen reporting to the police, the police have started bringing charges against Ahmadis. This is not a good sign for a vulnerable community.

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 17 FOR DETAILS ON VOTING RIGHT FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

FOUR AHMADIS BOOKED UNDER ANTI-AHMADI LAW

Chak No. 88 JB, District Faisalabad:

Four Ahmadi office bearers, Messrs. Abrar Ahmad (local president), Ahmad Bilal Bajwa (vice president), Irshad Ahmed and Muhammad Rashid were booked with FIR No. 118 under PPC 298-C in Police Station Dijkot on February 19, 2022. The case was registered on fabrication that Ahmadis' place of worship resembles a mosque and Kalima (Islamic creed) is inscribed on it.

It is noteworthy that the complainant is not a local resident, but the police itself. This is something new in police attitude in the Punjab. The FIR mentions that Ahmadis have constructed their place of worship like a mosque with Kalima on it, and this hurts the sentiments of Muslims.

It also mentions that Ahmadis have named their place of worship a 'Masjid'. This is a false accusation. For the police to take such suo motu notice is very unusual, even wrong. Minarets and niches have nothing to do with any religion; in fact, it is only a design and has little religious significance. The Holy Prophet's (PBUH) mosque in Madinah had no minarets. So, for the Faisalabad Police it is inappropriate, indeed wrong to reserve the right to build minaret only for constitutional Muslims.

Ahmadis are often dragged ruthlessly in such cases through bigotry and prejudice, as worship places of other religions also have towers, minarets, steeples etc.

AHMADI WOMAN ARRESTED IN RELIGION-BASED CASE

Sohdreki, District Sialkot; February 2, 2022:

The police booked Ms. Kaniz Bibi, aged 65, Ahmadi, here under PPC 295-A with FIR No. 56 in Police Station Badhiana, District Sialkot and arrested her. She allegedly took off an anti-Ahmadiyya poster.

As per the information, Tehrik-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) posted here a poster inciting hate and violence against Ahmadis. The plaintiff accused that she allegedly tore it up which insulted the sacred scriptures.

A magistrate accepted her bail request and released her on bail on February 10, 2022.

In fact, putting up a hateful poster is a violation of Pakistan law PPC 153-A and 295-A that prescribes imprisonment of up to ten years. The police failed to book the prime mover (of TLP) but went for an easy victim — an Ahmadi woman.

This case was also initiated by the police, and not by a common citizen. This is a new trend whereby the miscreants and bigots are now outsourcing such complaints to the Punjab Police.

We produce below the poster that she allegedly took off. The title reads; 'Qadianis should enter



Islam before entering this shop.' The poster also mentions the ownership and contact details of the Tehrik-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP).

AHMADI ARRESTED IN RELIGION-BASED CASE

Basti Ahmadpur Jhakar Imam Shah, District DG Khan, Punjab; February 2, 2022:

The police booked Mr. Muhammad Yousaf, Ahmadi, under PPC 295-A in Police Station Jhak Atra, and arrested him the next day. He allegedly took off a panaflex of religious content.

Opponents of Ahmadiyyat have agitated communal feelings in this village recently. They put up a panaflex with the Quranic verse Khatam an Nabiyyeen on top, and wrote underneath, "As per Islamic Shariah, and a consensus of all schools of thought it is utterly forbidden and Haram to deal with, trade, socialize, have meals with, participate in ceremonies and rites, visiting the sick and console over death of Qadianis who are the enemies of Allah and His Prophet. Total boycott of Qadianis is the foremost religious duty of Muslims." This message has nothing to do with the verse Khatam an Nabiyyeen of the Holy Quran. Allegedly, Mr. Yousaf tore the poster. At this, opponents assembled and demanded that the police register a criminal case against him. The police detained him overnight at the police station and let him off the next day.

The opponents persisted in agitation. Mr. Yousaf was told to present himself before the DPO. He was then booked and arrested. Later his bail application was accepted on Feb 26 and was released on Feb 28, 2022.

This incident raises a few important questions. The incident happened after a group put up an extremely hateful sectarian message in public

on a panaflex, so:

1. Putting up this panaflex was a flagrant violation of Pakistan law PPC 153-A and 295-A. What action the police took against the perpetrators of this outrage?
2. If the police take no action against such bigots who promote intense hate against a small community in a village, how is it possible to restrict all Ahmadis to tolerate public incitement to hate and likely consequential violence?
3. Is it not for the state to effectively discourage violent extremism and open calls for social and communal boycotts?



POLICE CASE REGISTERED ON ORDERS OF JUDGE

Garhi Shahu, Lahore; February 15, 2022:

In July 2021, on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, an anti-Ahmadiyya activist Ali Jassim Butt Advocate applied to police for registration of FIR against Mr. Abid Naseem Chughtai, an Ahmadi, and some unknown Ahmadis for allegedly offering Eid prayers in Darul Zikr Lahore.

For good reason the police did not register an FIR. So, Butt filed a petition in a court, under sections 22-A and 22-B.

In pursuant to the order under section(s) 22-A and 22-B, the Garhi Shahu police registered an FIR against Mr. Abid Naseem Chughtai and unknown Ahmadis under PPC 298-C with FIR No. 122 on February 15, 2022.

On February 16, a police officer came to Darul Zikr and inquired about Mr. Chughtai.

Ali Jassim is a mischief-monger; he is promoting sectarianism in Lahore and is holding the administration hostage.

AHMADIYYA MOSQUE CLOSED DOWN WITHOUT ANY JUDICIAL ORDERS BY POLICE IN SINDH

A PRESS REPORT

The daily Ummat Karachi published on February 27, 2022 the following news item (translated). This news item throws plenty of light on the conduct of the ulama, the authorities, and the vernacular press.

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-e-Tahffuz-e-Namoos Rasalat Pakistan to change the appearance of the mosque-style 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. According to details, on the call of the Tehreek, on the occasion of the Day of Condemnation, a final ultimatum was given to the district administration of Mirpur Khas to change the appearance of the Qadiani worship place by March 4. After that Deputy Commissioner Mirpur Khas Salamat Ali Memon contacted local leaders of the Tehreek along with other religious and political parties and invited them to his office. Representative of Tehreek-e-Tahaffaz-e-Namoos Rasalat Paki-

stan, Maulana Muhammad Osama Kharani, Hafiz Akbar Rashid of Ulama Action Committee, Maulana Zaheer Ahmed of Sunni Coordinating Council, Hafiz Ehtesham ul Haq, Mufti Muslim of Jamaat-e-Islami, Najamuddin, Noor Ilahi, Hakim Ali Kashkuri of Ahl e Sunnat organizations, Muhammad Atiq,



Babar Obaid of Jamiat Ahl e Hadees, Muhammad Irfan, Maulana Taj Muhammad of Jamiat Ulema e Islam met Deputy Commissioner Mirpur Khas Salamat Ali Memon on his invitation.

During the meeting with the delegation, the Deputy Commissioner said, "We too are Muslim and bound by the Constitution and law. The administration had immediately sealed the mentioned worship place after receiving an application from the Tehreek to change the appearance of the mosque-style Qadiani worship place. Now we have decided that we will first issue orders to the administrators of the said place of worship built in the style of a mosque, to change the appearance of the said place of worship on their own, if they do not do so immediately, then next week, the district administration will implement the rule of law and order by changing the appearance of the place of worship of the Qadianis built in the style of a mosque."

On this occasion, in the presence of the delegation, Deputy Commissioner Mirpur Khas



contacted SSP Shuja Abad, District Mirpur Khas and issued necessary instructions to him regarding the matter. On the other hand, Hafiz Ehtesham Ahmed, General Secretary Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz-e-Namos-e-Rasalat Pakistan said, "We hope that Deputy Commissioner Mirpur Khas will fulfill his promise of changing the appearance of this place of worship built like a mosque before next Friday and apply the rule of law and order by doing so, otherwise, we will be entirely free to give any plan of action after March 4."

Comments:

1. Abbas Nasir wrote in the prestigious daily Dawn on December 5, 2021 an op-ed titled "Fiddling while Rome burns". He concluded the state of the federation as: "The result is that Pakistan is poised at the edge of the precipice." In this situation the Ulama, the bureaucracy, the politico-religious parties, the vernacular press (and indeed the top leadership, indirectly) are totally involved in self-created issue of the appearance of a place of worship of a community on which minority status is imposed. If the country comes to harm, these groups can blame only themselves for indulging in wrong and bizarre priorities – because, indeed, they were fiddling while Rome burnt.
2. The perpetrators of this and such atrocities should ask themselves if the respected great founder of this country visualized and instructed its leaders to shape this country in this form; if not, how do they justify themselves such gross deviations to themselves? Is such conduct not a national crime?
3. Pakistan has recently protested to India on maltreatment of its Muslim citizens by the state and the society. How can it justify to itself the same sort of treatment (if not worse) of its Ahmadi citizens?
"Do you enjoin others to do what is good and forget your own self, while you read the Book? Will you then not understand?" Al Quran: 2-44/45 (Tr.)

AHMADIYYA MOSQUE DAMAGED BY MISCREANTS

Kunri, District Umarkot; January 30, 2022:

Ahmadiyya mosque is located here on the main road; Makrani Baloch live nearby, their children pass by the mosque to go to madrassah. They often hurl stones at Ahmadi's homes and chant anti-Ahmadi slogans while passing in the evening. At midnight on January 30, nine boys came to the mosque and smashed the camera with stones. Ahmadi's reported the incident to the police. After that, the boys while passing by said that they were going to attack this mosque on Friday and break its minarets.



Ahmadi's informed the police of the situation.

- **14 Ahmadiyya mosques desecrated in 2021 by the Punjab Police.**

SINCE THE ORDINANCE XX

- **30 Ahmadiyya mosques demolished**
- **40 Ahmadiyya mosques sealed** by the authorities
- **28 Ahmadiyya mosques set on fire or damaged**
- **18 Ahmadiyya mosques forcibly occupied**

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SOCIAL BARRIERS AHMADIS FACE IN PAKISTAN - FEBRUARY 2022

AHMADI'S CONDOLENCE MADE PROBLEMATIC BY A BIGOT

Qazi Ahmad, District Nawabshah; February 2022:

Rana Ashfaq Ahmad, an Ahmadi, along with his friend, went to his friend's relative to offer condolence. The deceased's family arranged seating outside a mosque. A man took a photo of Mr. Ahmad sitting there. Later, a mulla Hafiz Muhammad Gill lodged a report with the police against the hosts where Mr. Ahmad had gone to offer condolence and accused them of letting a 'Qadiani' sit next to the mosque. "They received his condolence; this insulted Islam greatly", he wrote.

Also, the said person wrote 'Curse, Curse' on Mr. Ahmad's photo and shared it on social media with tag: Qadianis' head is offering condolence while sitting beside the mosque and the administration is idle. They demanded action from the administration. "If the administration does not stop Qadianis, we will stop them with full force", they threatened. Later they filed a case with the Assistant Commissioner.

In this situation, Ahmadis asked the village influentials to intervene for reconciliation.

AHMADI FIRED FROM JOB FOR HIS FAITH

Peshawar; February 2022:

Mr. Anees Ahmad, a resident of Peshawar, has been working in a private company 'BAND BROAD' since 2019. In June 2019, his company's staff refused to work under him because of his faith. The CEO intervened and resolved the issue. After that, when a spate of murderous violence occurred against Ahmadis in Peshawar, the attitude of his staff changed again. Meanwhile, his company started work in Tehkal, a village outside Peshawar, but the locals stopped them alleging ob-

jectionable acts. They would not let them, work in the area. However, after negotiations, they agreed to let the work proceed, but then, for little reason, they started calling the company a 'Qadiani company' and demanded that the company remove Mr. Ahmad, or face protests. A Khatme Nabuwat organization joined them and delivered Friday sermons against the company. In this situation, the company asked Mr. Ahmad to resign. He had to comply.

BURIAL DENIED TO AHMADI

354 JB, District Toba Tek Singh; February 3, 2022:

Mr. Muhammad Akram, an Ahmadi, passed away on February 3, 2022. Arrangements were made for his burial and a grave was prepared. The cemetery is divided in two sections but these have not been allotted yet. At the time of burial,

some miscreants came there and started filling the grave; they said that they will not allow an outsider's dead body to be buried there. The Numberdar was contacted to settle the matter, but he was not cooperative. The dead body had to be taken far away for burial.

AHMADIS DRAGGED TO POLICE FOR USING ISLAMIC EPITHETS

Pero Chak, District Sialkot; February 2022:

Muhammad Bilal wrote to the Deputy Commissioner against six Ahmadis, namely Messrs. Yaqoob Dogar, Maqsood Dogar, Abdul Khaliq Dogar, Abdul Salam Dogar, Jameel Ahmed Dogar and Ghulam Hai-ud-Din. He accused them of writing Islamic rites, Quranic verses, Kalima and Durood Sharif on their homes and shops. He wrote that being non-Muslims, Ahmadis pretended to be Muslim and used Islamic inscriptions; this hurt religious sentiments of Muslims. This a crime under

the Constitution and the law, and according to the decision of the Supreme Court, this use of Islamic epithets is blasphemy (sic). The applicant demanded action against Ahmadis.

The bigot forgot that these inscriptions are a part of the Ahmadi faith, and the Constitution grants freedom of faith to all citizens.

The parties were then summoned to the police station where Ahmadis stated their position on the issue. The police conveyed that they will decide the follow-up.

AHMADI TEACHER FIRED FROM JOB AND AHMADIYYA PRAYER CENTER BARRED IN LAHORE

Green Town Lahore; February 2022:

A fiber shed was being installed in the prayer center Baitul Nassar, when people from the neighborhood gathered there, objected and stopped the work. They said, "We do not tolerate Ahmadis worshipping here, so no one should worship here except the locals and no construction should be undertaken. If you don't comply, we

can do a lot." The shed installation work had to be stopped.

Similarly, the wife of Mr. Tariq Majeed Rana, an Ahmadi, living in this neighborhood is a teacher in a local school. After the incident, she was fired from the job. When contacted the school principal said that he did so unwillingly as he was under pressure.

DENIAL OF CIVIL RIGHTS FOR FAITH

Sillanwali, District Sargodha; February 2022:

The administration here wrongfully deprived Mr. Abdul Aziz, local Ahmadi president, of his property, a plot of land, by sealing it.

Mr. Aziz had rented this space to the medical college. A few months ago, a few locals from the neighborhood propagated that Qadianis were going to develop this plot into a missionary center. The mulla made hostile announcements from

mosques' loudspeakers. This generated hate against Ahmadis.

Thereafter, mullas of MTKN sent an application to the Town Committee stating that Qadianis were building their worship place on the plot. They also published hostile pamphlets on the issue. The administration found it convenient to seal the plot to placate the mulla.

POLICE DESTROYED 45 AHMADIYYA TOMB-STONES IN DISTRICT HAFIZABAD, PUNJAB

Premkot, District Hafizabad; 4/5 February 2022:

A police contingent accompanied by a few laborers destroyed 45 Ahmadiyya tombstones in the local graveyard, on demand of opponents of the Ahmadiyya community.

The Ahmadiyya Press Section SAA tweeted: “The illegal act taken by the @DHafizabad Police against the Ahmadiyya Community is not only an act of violation of Human Rights, but also it is an act that has further dimmed the face of our beloved country Pakistan in the eyes of the international community.”

A few of the destroyed tombstones carried no Islamic words whatsoever; still these did not escape police outrage. Tombstones put up even before 1974 (nearly half a century ago) were not spared, despite their historic value.

A few months ago, a local anti-Ahmadi activist Omar Hayat wrote to DPO Hafizabad against pious and Islamic writings on Ahmadi homes and graves. Ahmadis have built their place of worship like a mosque, the bigot complained. He also put up a writ in the Sessions Court, which the judge disposed off on November 22, 2021.

The miscreants agitated the issue once again in January this year. The DSP Sadar sent for the president of the local Ahmadi community and told him to efface all those writings that had been covered two months earlier with plates, and report compliance to the police. Ahmadis told him that they do not efface scriptural writings and referred to the verdict of the Sessions Judge. The DSP paid no attention to that and threatened: “Wait till a procession will come out, will set your homes on fire and burn you all as was done in Peoples Colony, Gujranwala (where three Ahmadis died), then the Sessions Judge will come to save you.” He also threatened Ahmadis with being booked under PPC 295-C (penalty death).

A few days thereafter, the police itself undertook the sacrilege. In the meantime, an activist of TLP, who was drunk, beat up a servant of the Ahmadi District Amir. At another occasion, he hurled abuse against Ahmadis outside the Amir’s residence and beat up Mr. Akhlaq Ahmad, an Ahmadi. The police were informed of these violations of communal peace, but they apparently took no formal notice.

Voice of America initially reported the inci-

dent, but for reasons, removed it from the website and pointed it again with additional information on <https://dour21.global.ssl.fastly.net/a/Ahmedi-graves-desecrated-by-punjab-police-in-hafizabad-07feb2022/6430498.html>. We produce below some extracts from the same that report the official response:

- According to the police spokesman the actions taken on 4/5 February night were necessary to maintain law and order in the area.
- DC Hafizabad told VOA that this issue was discussed a few days earlier in the District Intelligence Committee and they deliberated on its legal aspects. According to him, the Ahmadi community was on board, and no action was taken without their consent, nor should it have been taken.
- The DC said that the Ahmadiyya community had given in writing that they would remove Islamic Shaair from their homes and graves. They did remove these from their homes but not from their graves; this again caused (communal) tension.
- The DC said the law-enforcing departments and the district administration are persistently monitoring the whole issue; local Ahmadi community is in contact with us all along. They are co-operating with us and they have no problem.
- The DC Hafizabad stated that both the parties had signed an agreement on Stamp Paper according to which the Ahmadi community was given six days to efface all writings considered pious by Muslims.
- The high district official told (us) that Muhammad Luqman, the District General Secretary of the Ahmadi community had committed his people on a Stamp Paper that they are not under any pressure of the Police, District Administration or anyone else.
- On termination of the given six-days deadline by the police, the SHO Police Station Sadr Hafizabad toured the village and reported that the agreement has been implemented and the Ahmadi community had effaced all Islamic writings on their homes.
- The DC and DPO presented the issue to the District Peace Committee, wherein the Police was instructed to take necessary action to

maintain law and order and to destroy (khatam kiyay jain) tombstones of such graves.

- Ahmadi spokesperson accused the police and the district administration to use the disputed laws to placate anti-Ahmadi elements.
- In response to the Ahmadis, the Deputy Commissioner said that the removal of Islamic words from graves was Ahmadis' responsibility. However when the administration undertook the same, the graves have not been desecrated, no grave was destroyed so those who are propagating desecration of graves are entirely in the wrong.

We do not undertake here a detailed analysis of the 'rights and wrongs' in the above statements; they betray clearly the stress, strain, and plight of the local Ahmadi community at the hands of the bigots, the police and the administration. As for the assertion of no desecration of graves, a few pictures of these graves tell the truth.

Last but not the least, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, UK Minister of Commonwealth, Human Rights, etc tweeted the following on this affront to human dignity:



Did you know!

92 graves of Ahmadis were desecrated & sacred inscription from atleast 16 houses and shops were removed during 2021. The year 2022 started with the desecration of 45 graves.

AHMADIYYA SITUATION IN PAKISTAN AS ASSESSED BY A PROMINENT VLOGGER

Humsub.com, February 4, 2022:

Mr. Aniq Naji uploaded on January 30, 2022 his vlog on the subject of Ahmadis' situation in Pakistan, and proposed a solution. It is in Urdu. One column-writer 'Alamnigar' reproduced it partly in humsub.com.pk/442283/alam.nigar-7 and commented on it. Here, we reproduce the translation of Naji's observations, as these fairly and candidly describe the Ahmadis' plight in their homeland:

"We should understand that Pakistani Islam is something different that has nothing to do with original religion of Islam.

"Ahmadis are being persecuted in Pakistan — no doubt about that. However, I would like to say something different to the Ahmadi community. Look, you will have to look for an out-of-the-box solution; if not today, after another 20 years. The reason is that your current response, that you have pursued all along, has given you little except more funerals, humiliation and insults, and has put you at risk. If you continue on this path, I see no relief or justice for you for long....

"In this situation, you have secluded yourself in a corner and expect to be respected. By respect, I mean the right to live. This is a state of paralysis (baibasi). I'm sorry to say that, but that is the fact.

"Your problem will not get solved in the next twenty, thirty or fifty years. This tyranny will



continue. Suggestions on better treatment of Ahmadis are logical and sensible. Nevertheless, how will Pakistan act logically and sensibly in religious issues. It is not in our DNA. We will continue to defy logic, we will act emotionally, and we will shout slogans.

"You essentially appeal to our 'sense of decency'; but we have no 'sense of decency'. You address our collective conscience and demand the right to live, to be considered human, to be treated at par as per the Constitution; but this collective conscience is not present there; you are simply talking to a wall. You are simply playing music to a buffalo (who is unable to appreciate it). Sense of decency does not exist there; there is no conscience..."

Thereafter, he (Mr. Naji) advised Ahmadis to give up their stance and accept that of the opponent mulla.

The column-writer 'Alamnigar' replied to Mr. Naji, "If this is accepted, there shall be no more principle or conscience left in the world. Religious beliefs are not the stuff that

undergoes change when the believer moves from country to country. Nor does a believer declare for the sake of convenience that he accepts this dogma for the next forty or fifty years and he will consider revisiting this belief thereafter to decide whether to maintain the same or change it. Real peace emanates from principles. Set aside principles and you'll deprive yourself of law, order and peace."

...IT IS THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN TO ESTABLISH AN ORDER... WHEREIN SHALL BE GUARANTEED FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING EQUALITY OF STATUS, OF OPPORTUNITY AND BEFORE LAW, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL JUSTICE, AND FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, EXPRESSION, BELIEF, FAITH, WORSHIP AND ASSOCIATION, SUBJECT TO LAW AND PUBLIC MORALITY;

CONSTITUTION OF PAKISTAN - PREAMBLE

WHO WILL DELIVER RIGHTS TO MINORITIES? AN OP-ED IN THE INDEPENDENT URDU

[Independenturdu.com/node/93766](https://independenturdu.com/node/93766):

The esteemed news service issued this article on February 13, 2022. It is candid on various aspects of this important issue, so we produce below translation of a few extracts:

Who will deliver rights to minorities?



...Last year, the Senate Committee on Religious Affairs rejected the bill regarding the rights of minorities. Maulana Abdul Ghafur Haidari, the chair of the committee said that the minorities already enjoyed freedom in the country; as such, there is no need of a new law, the proposed clauses are already there in the current laws.

The proposer and mover of the bill, Senator Javed Abbasi of PML-N said that it contained provisions regarding forced conversion, safeguarding the worship places of minorities, security of inheritance, security of their properties, etc; however, the Committee comprises many individuals of special mindset who think that minorities have no problems.

Army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, met this year the Hindu community during his visit to Nangar Parkar and said that the minorities have

equal rights in Pakistan and their protection is a state responsibility.

On the other hand, on minorities' rights, the situation has worsened, and many international associations have repeatedly criticized it in their reports....

While the Parliament rejects the bill on minorities, the state is helpless in dealing with religious extremists. One remembers that Assistant Commissioner Zeenat Hussain said the same as General Bajwa in Nangar Parkar. AC Zeenat had said that Ahmadis' rights should be respected as Pakistani citizens, however religious activists went over to her office and she had to apologize....

While the US State Department, in its recent report, has included Pakistan in the list of countries where religious freedom is grossly violated, the European Parliament has passed a resolution whereby GSP Plus status of Pakistan will be revisited in view of the worsening of human rights and particularly the minority rights in Pakistan.

However, as in the past in Pakistan, this government also takes provisional rather than permanent steps in the field of minorities' rights. The aim is only to improve the country's image for the time being and not to grant the minorities their rights on a permanent basis.

In its 2014 verdict, the Supreme Court had ordered the federal government, in the context of minority rights to form a national council for minorities that would oversee the grant of Constitutional rights to minorities. Six years later, the federal government, rather than complying with the Supreme Court orders, has re-constituted the National Commission for Minorities. This Commission is little more than an adhoc committee.

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION; THIS RIGHT INCLUDES FREEDOM TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION OR BELIEF, AND FREEDOM, EITHER ALONE OR IN COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS AND IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, TO MANIFEST HIS RELIGION OR BELIEF IN TEACHING, PRACTICE, WORSHIP AND OBSERVANCE.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ARTICLE 18

NEW MEDIA LAW IGNITES HEATED DEBATE

Islamabad; February 21, 2022:

The daily The News International reported as Top Story that the President signed an ordinance making changes in the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, (PECA) 2016. It ignited a heated debate in the media about the consequences of the government move.

The new law is Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022.

This Ordinance broadens the definition of 'person', the 'aggrieved person', requires the trial court to conclude the case within six months, etc.

The implied and possible consequences of this Ordinance were brought forth by media, HR and other organizations by this ad in press.

The daily Dawn of February 23, 2022 published the follow-up on its front page lead story with the headlines; "Cyber law changes assaulted in high courts. Lawyers' bodies come down hard on govt, vow to defend right to freedom of expression, media..."

It is learnt that on February 23 the IHC barred FIA from arresting accused under the contentious clause. IT minister sought roll-back of the Amendment.

DO YOU KNOW!

A WhatsApp message, A photo posted on Facebook, A status update Information shared on Instagram or Twitter, can get you jailed !!!

How?

Because

Our government has changed the controversial prevention of electronic crimes act (PECA) for worse. The change is not via Parliament, via voting or a debate. But through a Presidential Ordinance which bypasses all scrutiny! This change in the law does not only hurt journalists - it hurts you too!

In case of any complaint against your post by anyone at all, the FIA now can put you behind bars without registering an FIR and without even an arrest warrant. No requirement to prove someone guilty first. And the maximum sentence is up to five years in prison.

Without clearly defining "fake news" government is trying to protect its office bearers and institutions from any public criticism. It's a draconian step towards suppressing free speech.

All the Journalist Organizations, Human Rights Organizations and Legal Associations are openly opposing this Black Law, which is against the principle of freedom of expression and your right to know.

Laws should be made to protect the people from the powerful. Not the other way around.

Join this voice before it gets taken away...

APNS PBA CPNE FIC AEMEND

LYNCHING HORROR VISITS KHANEWAL (PUNJAB)

The daily Dawn on February 13, 2022 published this story. Although not directly related to Ahmadi, it reflects clearly and boldly the environment of violent extremism on religious grounds, in the country. It is a cause of extreme concern to marginalized communities — even to every average citizen interested in peace, harmony and the rule of law. The story:

Lynching horror visits Khanewal
2022-02-13 in the daily Dawn

LAHORE. A middle-aged man was stoned to death by a mob over alleged desecration of the Holy

Quran in a remote village of Khanewal district on Saturday.

The killing comes on the heels of an identical incident in Sialkot, where factory workers lynched a Sri Lankan engineer on Dec 3 last year on blasphemy charges.

The Saturday incident took place in Jungle Dera village where hundreds of locals gathered after Maghreb prayers following announcements that a man had torn some pages of the Holy Quran and later set them on fire.

With no one ready to listen to the suspect, who reportedly claimed innocence, the villagers

first hanged him with a tree and then hit him with bricks, until he died.

According to an eyewitness, a police team that reached the village well before stoning arrested the suspect but the growing mob snatched him from the SHO's custody. Chief Minister Usman Buzdar sought a report from IGP Rao Sardar Ali Khan. Imran Gabol

A noteworthy comment: Mr. Pervaiz Rashid, a senior political leader commented upon this incident and summed up the issue in a few lines that are significant and proposed a solution

to this grave problem. He said:

"The Mian Channu (District Khanewal) tragedy was neither first nor the last. So long as the state and opinion makers continue to promote bigotry (Jahalat) humanity will continue to perish." (The daily Dunya, Faisalabad; February 14, 2022)

P.S. According to BBC Urdu, the deceased's brother Zulfiqar Ahmad stated that Mushtaq Ahmad was mentally unstable, and he found all fingers cut off from the corpse.

CHAIR ULAMA BOARD AND EMIR MAJLIS AHRAR CALL ON MR. PARVEZ ELAHI, SPEAKER PUNJAB ASSEMBLY

Lahore: The daily The Nation published the following report in its issue of February 05, 2022. We reproduce it below, without comment:

Parvez Elahi lauds Ulema's role in elimination of sectarian violence

Tahir Ashrafi all praise for Punjab Assembly Speaker over legislation regarding Khatm-e-Nabuwwat
OUR STAFF REPORTER LAHORE

Punjab Assembly Speaker Ch. Parvez Elahi has lauded the role of Mutahida Ulema Board in elimination of sectarian violence and extremism within the country.

We should have the spirit of tolerating, listening and accepting each other's point of view. Ulema should guide the government for solving people's problems. He said while talking to Pakistan Mutahida Ulema Board Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Majlis Ahrar-e-Islam Emir Syed Kafeel Bukhari, and others who called on him in the Speaker's Chambers here on Friday.

Thanking the Speaker, Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi apprised him of the three-year performance of the Ulema Board. Ashrafi told the Speaker that the Mutahida Ulema Board provided guidance to different institutions, courts, government ministries in 208 cases besides clearing 326 academic teaching books wherein no material was included against any sect or religion.

He also paid tributes to Speaker Ch. Parvez

Elahi for rendering religious services. "Credit goes to you for unanimous religious legislation in the Punjab Assembly. Your role in the unanimous legislation over Khatm-e-Nabuwwat will be written in golden words. Inter-faith harmony was promoted during your tenure of government. Oath about Khatm-e-Nabuwwat was included in Nikah Nama, teaching of Holy Quran was made part of compulsory education up to primary 'nazira' and with translation up to matriculation", he said, adding that inclusion of subjects of Khatm-e-Nabuwwat and blasphemy in the academic syllabus were proof of Ch. Parvez Elahi's immense love for the Holy Prophet (SAWW).

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt, also of February 5, 2022, of the same publishing house, reported this meeting in Urdu and printed the Speaker's photo with Ahrar leaders:



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 on appearance in the FIA office; they are in Camp Jail Lahore.

Syed Ali Abbas, Addl. Sessions Judge Lahore added the deadly blasphemy clause PPC 295-C to the charge sheet on June 29, 2021. Thus, they are now exposed to penalty of death. Their post arrest bail Petition is pending before the Supreme Court.

3

Mr. Muhammad Mahmood Iqbal Hashmi, 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. Mr. Shiraz Ahmad was arrested from Hafizabad on February 25, 2021, while Mr. Hashmi was re-arrested on August 9, 2021 after cancellation of his bail.

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. He is currently in Peshawar Jail.

4

Malik Zahir 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 Zahir 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.

As of February 28, 2022:

- 7 Ahmadis are behind bars solely on account of their faith.
- 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.
- 4 new faith-based cases were registered against 7 Ahmadis and several unknown Ahmadis during Feb 2022. Further 6 Ahmadis are fearing similar cases.
- A 20-year-old Ahmadi student is in jail under PPC 295-C (blasphemy clause).
- 2 Ahmadi prisoner died while in police custody (Feb. 2021 & Jan 2022.)

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)

NATIONALIZATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

- BETWEEN 1947 AND 1972, AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY OWNED AND OPERATED A NUMBER OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN PUNJAB, PAKISTAN. IN 1972, THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN INTRODUCED A POLICY OF NATIONALIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THROUGHOUT PAKISTAN. HENCE, 8 SCHOOLS AND 2 COLLEGES WERE NATIONALIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT.
- IN 1996, THE GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB ISSUED A NOTICE GIVING THE OWNERS OF NATIONALIZED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THE OPTION TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THEIR INSTITUTIONS UPON FULFILLMENT OF CERTAIN CRITERIA AND INFACIT RETURNED NUMEROUS OTHER INSTITUTIONS TO THEIR ORIGINAL OWNERS.
- *DESPITE FULFILLING ALL TERMS & CONDITIONS & REPEATED REQUESTS FROM THE COMMUNITY, THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN NO ACTION.*
- *THE SUPREME COURT IN ITS RULING OF FEB 22, 2000 CLEARLY STATED THAT THE OWNERSHIP OF NATIONALIZED INSTITUTIONS RESTS WITH THE ORIGINAL OWNERS. HOWEVER, THIS RIGHT OF OWNERSHIP HAS BEEN DENIED TO THE COMMUNITY DESPITE THE CLEAR VERDICT OF SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN.*
- *THE COMMUNITY THUS MOVED WRIT PETITIONS IN THE LAHORE HIGH COURT. HOWEVER, THE HEARING ON THESE WRIT PETITIONS IS ALSO PENDING FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS AND THIS MATTER IS STILL LINGERING.*

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

Know the Facts

SINCE JANUARY 2021

- 2 Ahmadis have been murdered for faith, raising the total to 272 since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 11 murder attempts
- 2 Ahmadi prisoner died in custody, they were imprisoned for their faith.
- 14 Ahmadiyya mosques have been desecrated, 1 mosque sealed by the authorities.
- 137 graves have been desecrated, 45 of these were during February 2022
- 24 new cases have been registered against Ahmadis under the blasphemy laws & Anti-Ahmadi laws
- Sacred inscription from 16 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

- Aniq Naji told Ahmadis in his vlog: “Look, you will have to look for an out-of-the-box solution, if not today — after another 20 years. The reason is that your current response, that you have pursued all along (committed to faith and non-violence) has given you little except more funerals, humiliation and insults, and has put you at risk. If you continue on this path, I see no relief or justice for you for long...”

(Translation) Aniq Naji’s vlog <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGqgL9ScUio>

- 20 persons left Qadianiat to accept Islam

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 14, 2022

- Decision to alter the appearance of Qadiani worship place; management will be told to do that. If they don’t undertake that, the district administration will act: Deputy Commissioner assures Ulama (in Mirpur Khas, Sindh)

The daily Ummat; Karachi, February 27, 2022

- Lynching horror visits Khanewal
- Middle-aged man stoned to death over alleged desecration of the Holy Quran

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 13, 2022

- Police avert another possible lynching (in District Faisalabad)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 14, 2022

- Gen Zia’s spy chief (Gen. Akhtar Abdul Rehman Khan) among those named in Credit Suisse leak

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 21, 2022

- Tax-payers looted through bogus messages of tax-refused

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 19, 2022

- Ulama’s co-operation vital to solve problems: Parvez Elahi (Speaker). Tahir Ashrafi’s meeting (with Punjab Speaker), briefs him on three years’ performance of the Ulama Board.

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 2022

- Terrorists have led the youth to violence: Imam Kaabah
- Islam is tolerant; Ulama should play their role in dissuading people from terrorism.

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 7, 2022

- Islamophobia escalating to pandemic proportions, warns Pakistan

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 10, 2022

- Pakistani people are the best nation in the whole world: Shaukat Tareen (Fed. Finance Minister)

TV Express at 17:29 on February 12, 2022

- Amnesty terms Israel ‘apartheid’ state

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 2, 2022

- Lord Nazir Ahmad jailed over sex offenses

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 5, 2022

- U.S. Firing incidents in 141 schools last year

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 8, 2022

- India: Takbir slogan by Hijab student (Miss Muskaan) shakes India
- Indian society in rapid decline: Fawad Schools and colleges closed in Karnataka

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 9, 2022

- Islamophobia at peak in India: American daily (NYT)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 9, 2022

- US: Police shot dead one who set fire a mosque

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 13, 2022

- There’s no alternative to Taliban: Imran Khan tells US.
- West urged to show same indignation over atrocities in held Kashmir as they do over Xinjiang.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 13, 2022

- 38 sentenced to death over Ahmadabad bombings (in India)
- A group calling itself the Indian Mujahideen claimed responsibility, saying the blasts (in 2008) were revenge for 2002 religious riots in Gujrat that left some 1000 people dead

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 19, 2022

- Imran reaches Moscow. Meets President Putin today.

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 24, 2022

- Russia launches full-scale invasion of Ukraine

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 25, 2022

- US slaps millions in penalties on NBP for anti-money laundering violations

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 25, 2022

- Biden picks black woman for Supreme Court

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 26, 2022

- Putin puts nuclear forces on alert

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 28, 2022

- Spanish church: Parliament backs move to probe child abuse

The News International; Lahore, February 6, 2022

- If you give us the chief minister (of Punjab) you’ll not

have to approach anyone else: Q-League's offer to the Opposition

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 28, 2022

- 10 suspected terrorists killed in operation (in Baluchistan)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 24, 2022

- Israel, Bahrain sign defense agreement

The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 4, 2022

- Macron's govt seeks to reform Islam in France

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 6, 2022

- Ex-Pope Benedict XVI asks for forgiveness over sex abuse scandal

The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 9, 2022

- Security forces repel attacks, kill 4 terrorists

The Nation; Lahore, February 3, 2022

- 13 terrorists killed in cleanup operation

The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 4, 2022

- Nurseries of terrorism will have to be shut down: Zardari

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 4, 2022

- Five soldiers martyred as Afghan-based terrorists target post

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 7, 2022

- PM admits failure to bring about promised change

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 12, 2022

- Abdus Salam sculpture unveiled

The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 5, 2022

- Shehbaz visits Shujaat after 14 years, seeking support against (PTI) govt.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 14, 2022

- Harsher law for social media

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 20, 2022

- Death penalty and fine awarded in Blasphemy case (in Faisalabad)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 19, 2022

- Over 150 'assaults' booked in Christian boy's death case (in Lahore)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 15, 2022

- According to the World Justice Project, Pakistan ranks 130 out of 139 countries on rule of law
- Tariq Khosa in Dawn op-ed on February 10, 2022
- SC rejects plea to increase minority seats in Parliament

The News International; Lahore, February 8, 2022

- IB suspends five officials for torturing TV host (Iqbal Hassan)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 16, 2022

- Ravi 'most polluted' river in the world: (Study by University of York)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 16, 2022

- Criticize judgments, not judges, says (Chief) Justice Bandial

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 2, 2022

- Justice (R) Shaukat urges SC to resume hearing of his appeal

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 8, 2022

- Justice (Umar Ata) Bandial sworn-in to top judicial office

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 3, 2022

- Acclaimed academic Dr. Mehdi Hassan passes away

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 9, 2022

Op-ed

Who will bell the cat?

Who is going to point out that, in a society riddled with sectarian and sub-sectarian tensions, the answer does not lie in the state presenting its own 'correct' variant of the faith?

... The remedy to this mess lies in accepting and allowing all sectarian, sub-sectarian and syncretic expressions of Islam (and of other religions) to exercise their right of worship in public — but without them misusing this right as a political ploy to grab state power, or to establish theological hegemony through propagating hatred towards the state or against another sect/sub-sect or religion; or to initiate campaigns of moral policing to play out their vigilantist fantasies.

This should not mean that the state alone should monopolize all these elements. What this means is that the state should remain impersonal towards religious matters, as long as these matters are not threatening the state, or the life and property of the polity. Even then, the state should act in the name of securing these, and not in the name of 'defending' a 'correct version of Islam' against an 'incorrect' one.

But who will bell the cat in a reality in which society is rife with sectarian and sub-sectarian tensions, and in which the Constitution and state are trying to address these with their own variant of the faith?

The solution should not be about why my variant is better than yours. Nor should Pakistan's *raison d'être* as a nation-state continue to be about the state and polity constantly trying to establish their religious credentials. The *raison d'être* for a Muslim-majority Pakistan is, ironically, being consolidated by the current Hindu nationalist regime in India. Let it do it. As India stumbles down the rabbit-hole that we fell into decades ago, Pakistan

FROM THE MEDIA

should move forward as a diverse civic-national society, attached to an integrated market of economic, creative and political activity that seeks to achieve individual goals.

The sum-achievement of these individual goals will lead to combined national progress. We really need to stop proving that we are some monolithic, homogeneous bastion of piety. We are not. We need to start becoming a normal nation-state. Not a self-injuring ideological indulgence.

Nadeem F Paracha in the Dawn of February 06, 2022

Op-ed: Laws, sans justice

...Pakistan is a country that, like Robert Bolt's Tudor England, is "planted thick with laws." Yet they provide us no shade of justice. To which system of laws then should the public turn? To the law of the jungle?

FS Aijazuddin in the Dawn of February 17, 2022

Op-ed: Spin cycle

... To imagine that this is just about school rules, (Harassment of Miss Muskaan in Karnataka) the hijab or women's rights is naïve and reductionist at best and deceitful at worst. It is in fact about the systematic erasure and ghettoization of Indian Muslims as part of a well-orchestrated strategy which clearly has the support of all branches of the state including, but not limited to, the supermen court of India.

Zarrar Khuhro in the daily Dawn of February 14, 2022



Footage that went viral on social media showed the fearless student Muskaan marching towards her college building chanting slogans.

Editorial: What have we become?

Is there really no end to our days of shame? The savagery that we witnessed just two months ago in Sialkot erupted once again, this time in Mian Channu, Khanewal district, where, on Saturday, a violent mob bludgeoned to death a mentally ill man accused of desecrating holy verses.

What more can strengthen the sense of impunity in the dark forces that are propelling this country towards collapse?

We all knew that the government would swing into 'action' after Khanewal. We've seen it before. Religious leaders condemned the incident. Police rounded up suspects. And while there were no state honours for Mushtaq Rajput who was buried in the local cemetery, the prime minister pledged to crack down with the full force of the law. On what though? The issue goes well beyond the misuse of the blasphemy law.

Certainly, parliamentarians and the ulema should discuss it and revisit it. But when there is anger and toxicity in a society that has been fed on flawed ideologies and regressive narratives fanned by the state, it is time to acknowledge that the damage done is more insidious and deep-rooted than we think. And it will be years before it can be reversed. Only when it realises the futility of resorting to quick fixes will the state be in a better position to fight extremism.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 15, 2022

Op-ed: A hard country

Pakistan is a country of resistance. On the face of it, that's somewhat surprising. After all, Pakistani politicians are famous for their inability to take a principled stand. Most of them show no loyalty to any leader or party and are strangers to deeply held convictions. As Pakistanis know all too well, most of their elected representatives can sell their votes and change their allegiances at a moment's notice.

In Pakistan's great ally China, there are countless millions who day after day comply with the diktats of the state. But not in Pakistan. It's country of resistance.

Owen Bennet Jones in the daily Dawn of February 1,

2022

Editorial: UN report on terrorism

... Afghanistan-based terror outfits have since decades cast a long shadow over this region, but at least earlier it was not smooth sailing for them. Certainly, Afghan and American forces were strategic in their targeting of terrorists — for instance, allowing TTP safe havens to exist largely unhindered despite their cross-border attacks in Pakistan. Nevertheless, tactical drone strikes, such as those that killed Mullah Fazlullah and other senior TTP commanders in Afghanistan, meant they had to be constantly on their guard. Now even that restraint has more or less evaporated. What makes matters even more complex and fluid is that despite some differences, all these terrorist outfits are on an ideological level cut from the same cloth, and they collaborate and enable each other. World powers must urgently formulate a unified strategy to deal with this threat that ultimately menaces all humanity.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 10, 2022

Op-ed: Misogyny unites PTI, JUI-F

..Obscurantist mullahs, long patronized by the state both as a foreign policy tool and a facilitator of their unending politico-social engineering projects, gain strength with every passing moment and dictate the agenda. And all of us, the state often included, watch in abject helplessness.

... Oh yes, I do support Aurat March. With all my heart. Have huge respect, admiration for women who take to the streets in an extremely volatile and hostile environment as they have the courage to stand up and be counted for what is right. Wish I was so fearless. As for their PTI, JUI-F detractors the less said the better.

Abbas Nasir in the daily Dawn of February 20, 2022

Social media: Hate speech by mulla in video

A mulla is seen addressing a big outdoor gathering in the daytime; he says regarding Ahmadis, "...None can sacrifice an animal here. No Qadiani may put on new clothing on Eid ul Fitr and Eid ul Azha (festivals)."

(Twitter)

Tweet:



Translation: Fawad Chaudhry is right that incidents like the ones in Sialkot and Mian Channu are the outcome of our education system. Fawad sir, please tell this to Imran Khan, Shafqat Mehmood and Pervaiz Elahi who are trying to make this education system worse.

Cartoon:



Corrigendum:
In Monthly Report for January 2022, in 'Highlights' 'ANOTHER AHMADI DIED IN POLICE CUSTODY', on page 3 in line 6 for 'PPC-293-C' read 'PPC 295-C'.

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMA'AT IS A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATION, INTERNATIONAL IN CHARACTER, WITH ESTABLISHED BRANCHES IN OVER 210 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES IN ASIA, AFRICA, THE AMERICAS, EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA. IT HAS TENS OF MILLIONS OF MEMBERS WORLDWIDE AND IS GROWING. THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY WAS FOUNDED IN 1889 BY HADRAT MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD OF QADIAN, ON TEACHINGS THAT HE SAW AS AN EMBODIMENT OF THE BENEVOLENT MESSAGE OF ISLAM: PEACE, UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD, AND SUBMISSION TO THE WILL OF GOD. HE CLAIMED TO BE THE LATTER-DAY MESSIAH AND REFORMER AWAITED IN LEADING WORLD RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD. HE OPPOSED VIOLENCE AS A MEANS OF ADVANCING RELIGION AND REJECTED TERRORISM IN ANY FORM OR FOR ANY REASON.

DECLARING AHMADIS AS NON-MUSLIMS

THE PAKISTANI RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT BRANDS THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY HERETICAL IN NATURE AND DOES NOT APPROVE OF ITS REFORMATORY NATURE. POLITICIANS HAVE ALSO FOUND IT EXPEDIENT TO SUPPORT THE RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT IN THEIR ANTI-AHMADIYYA STANCE. THE FIRST COUNTRYWIDE WAVE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE COMMUNITY ERUPTED IN 1953. FOLLOWING THE EXTENSIVE RIOTS, AN IN-DEPTH JUDICIAL INQUIRY BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND A JUDGE OF LAHORE HIGH COURT FOUND POLITICS TO BE THE MAIN CAUSE OF DISTURBANCES. MANY YEARS LATER, IN 1974, MR ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO, THE THEN PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN, FOUND IT POLITICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO HAVE AHMADIS DECLARED A NON-MUSLIM MINORITY, WHICH IN PAKISTAN IS A FORM OF SECOND RATE CITIZENSHIP. IT WAS A UNIQUE INNOVATION; WHILE OTHER NON-MUSLIM RELIGIOUS GROUPS, LIKE CHRISTIANS AND HINDUS, WERE NON-MUSLIM MINORITY BY THEIR PROFESSION, AHMADIS WERE FORCIBLY DECLARED A NON-MUSLIM MINORITY THROUGH LEGISLATION.


ORDINANCE XX

FOLLOWING BHUTTO'S LEAD, GENERAL ZIA UL HAQ, THE MILITARY DICTATOR OF PAKISTAN FROM 1977 TO 1988, TRIED TO COURT EXTREMISTS BY PROMULGATING THE NOTORIOUS ANTI-AHMADIYYA ORDINANCE XX IN 1984. THE ORDINANCE ADDED SECTIONS 298-B AND 298-C TO THE PAKISTAN PENAL CODE. THROUGH THIS ORDINANCE, THE RELIGIOUS RIGHTS OF AHMADIS WERE DIRECTLY VIOLATED. UNDER ITS PROVISIONS, AHMADIS COULD BE IMPRISONED FOR THREE YEARS AND FINED AN ARBITRARY AMOUNT FOR ORDINARY EXPRESSION OF THEIR FAITH. ADDITIONALLY, TO PROHIBIT AHMADIS FROM PROSELYTIZING, IT EXPRESSLY FORBADE THEM FROM CERTAIN RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AND THE USAGE OF ISLAMIC TERMINOLOGY. THIS ORDINANCE EFFECTIVELY MAKES A CRIMINAL OUT OF EVERY AHMADI BY INCLUDING THE BROAD PROVISION OF "POSING AS A MUSLIM" A COGNIZABLE OFFENCE, GIVING THE EXTREMISTS À CARTE BLANCHETO TERRORIZE AHMADIS WITH THE BACKING OF THE STATE.


HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION

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