

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

Monthly Report

January 2021

PTA attempts to prosecute Ahmadi US citizens

Pakistani authorities have asked leaders of the American Ahmadiyya community to take down its official website, alleging the U.S.-based site violates Pakistan's blasphemy laws and cybercrime regulations.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority stated in a legal notice issued on Dec. 24 to the Ahmadiyya Community USA's spokesmen, Amjad Mahmood Khan and Harris Zafar, that failure to remove the website *TruelIslam.com* would result in fines of up to \$3.14 million or criminal sanctions, including a possible 10-year-prison sentence.

The website is registered and hosted in the U.S. and is aimed at an American audience.

After issuing the takedown notice to *TruelIslam.com*, PTA also sent notices to Google and Wikipedia, threatening penalties and prosecution if the platforms failed to remove "sacrilegious content" associated with the Ahmadi community beliefs.

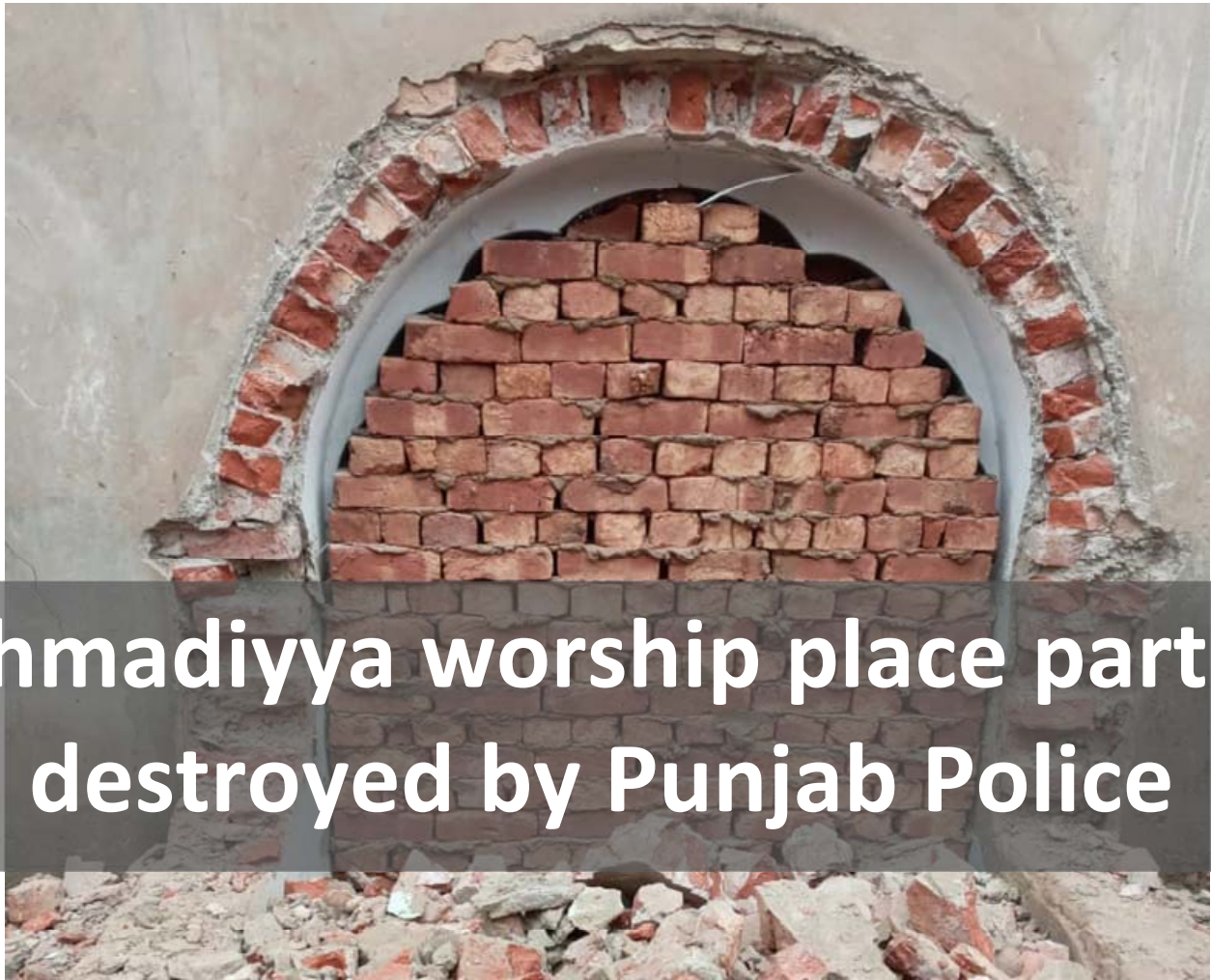
For details, see p 5

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Ahmadiyya worship place partly destroyed by Punjab Police

Kot Diyaldas, District Nankana Sahib; January 2021: A person named Muhammad Asghar submitted a petition to DSP Nankana against the niche and minaret of Ahmadiyya worship place. This move culminated in destruction of the niche, although the law does not forbid niche in Ahmadiyya worship places.

Subsequent to the hostile petition, Ahmadis were told to appear in the DSP's office on January 8, 2020 to clarify their stance.

Therefore, a delegation of eight local Ahmadis visited the DSP's office, where they met the SHO of the concerned area and four officers of the Special Branch. During the meeting, the DSP said that the minarets and niche of Kot Diyaldas worship place would be demolished, and told Ahmadis to cooperate. Ahmadis said that this place of worship was built before Ordinance XX was promulgated, and this law cannot be applied to it. The local Ahmadi community

president suggested to the police officers that a wall can be built outside the place of worship of Ahmadis to cover up the niche.

At first, the police officers agreed to the Ahmadis' proposal. However, then a special branch officer said that by doing so, the minarets would still be there, and someone would submit an application again, so these should be removed. At the time, Ahmadis told the police officers that they would inform them later after further consideration.

On January 15, the police raided the Ahmadiyya worship place and told Ahmadis to demolish the niche. Ahmadis said that they would not do that. Ahmadis urged the officials to go by the law, but they had their own considerations.

The police then tore down the niche with the help of some labour. The SHO of the area visited the premises and took pictures of the worship place's demolished parts.

Ahmadiyya place of worship and gravestones desecrated and damaged by the police



Dherokay, District Toba Tek Singh; January 26, 2021: A few miscreants put up anti-Ahmadi banners here and agitated the public over Ahmadis' tombstones issue. They also submitted an application to the police against Ahmadis accusing them of using Islamic expressions. The police took action accordingly and covered up the Arabic phrases on Ahmadis' gravestones with cement.

On December 5, the Assistant Commissioner and *Patwari* visited the village in order to make enquiry.

On January 26, the *Tehsildar, Patwari*, and SHO visited Ahmadiyya cemetery in the village and asked Ahmadis to break the tombstones cemented earlier. Ahmadis refused to do that. These government functionaries then hired a mason from the village and broke down the tombstones. An Ahmadi was making a video, the police detained him and released him later, but kept his mobile phone with them and forbade all to make a video.

After the operation in the cemetery, they went to the Ahmadiyya place of worship and asked Ahmadis to break the names of Allah Almighty, but Ahmadis refused to do so. They

broke down Allah Almighty's names in the place of worship with the help of a mason. They turned off the cameras there and took the DVR with them, saying they would return it later. The operation lasted till sunset. A large number of non-Ahmadis were present at the occasion.

The SHO told Ahmadis to break the sacred writings from their houses by themselves; Ahmadis refused to do so. The police then threatened to break down the sacred writings from Ahmadis' houses.

Ahmadi murdered in Gujranwala

Khewewala, District Gujranwala; January 25, 2021: Sufi Ghulam Ahmad, Ahmadi, was shot dead at about 9:30 a.m. by two unidentified killers near his business place. He was 70. He was a well-known, practising Ahmadi of good reputation. He had received threats in the recent past and was told to deliver a million rupees ransom money. The killers were perhaps proclaimed offenders. Mr. Ahmad left behind his wife, a son, and four married daughters.

One of his nephews Ghulam Sarwar was kidnapped a few years ago; he was released after paying a heavy ransom.

Magistrate suggests addition of sections 295-C and 295-B PPC to charge-sheet against Ahmadis

Nankana Sahib; January 4, 2021: This time, it is a magistrate who has ordered the addition of scary blasphemy clauses to the charges against three Ahmadis who had earlier been charged under anti-Ahmadi laws. The case background is given below briefly.

Sharafat Ahmad, Akbar Ali, and Tahir Naqash were booked under anti-Ahmadi laws PPC 298-B and 298-C on spurious grounds at police station Mangtanwala, District Nankana, on May 2, 2020. The Lahore High Court rejected their plea for bail before arrest on October 2, 2020 and they were arrested.

The accused thereafter applied for 'bail after arrest'. Magistrate Adil Riaz rejected their plea on October 23, 2020. So the accused approached the sessions court for redress. On December 8, 2020. ASJ Sohail Anjum rejected their plea. An appeal was made to the Lahore High Court. This case now lies before Justice Muhammad Waheed Khan. A fresh date of hearing after 31 December 2020 is awaited.

In the meantime, mullas, in order to further worsen the plight of these three Ahmadis put up a fresh application to Magistrate M Adil Riaz of Nankana Sahib to add other sections to the case. The magistrate heard the case on January 4, 2021, and seeking support from the highly controversial judgment of the Supreme Court "Zaheer-ud-din versus the State and LHC decisions of 1987 and 1992" observed that the Blasphemy clauses PPC 295-C and 295-B be added to the charges. The penalties under these two clauses are Death and Imprisonment for Life respectively.

We reproduce below two extracts from the magistrate's Order of 4.1.2021:

"That according to recovery memo, copies of the Holy Quran has been recovered from the Unholy place of occurrence under the administration of accused persons who are declared infidels which tantamount the conduct of the accused persons that is in a derogatory manner and for unlawful purpose and fall within the ambit of 295-B PPC Defiling of Holy Quran."

"295-B PPC Defiling, etc of Holy Quran:

"Whoever willfully defiles damages or desecrates a copy of the Holy Quran or for any unlawful purpose shall be punishable with imprisonment for life.

"It is pertinent to mention here that in many verses of the Holy Quran the name of Holy Prophet is mentioned thereof the recitation of Holy Quran by Qadianis falls within the ambit of 295-C PPC".

The magistrate thus decided to add to the initial charges, sections of PPC that are punishable with Death and Imprisonment for life. He called Ahmadiyya locations where they keep their holy scriptures as 'Unholy place of occurrence'. The magistrate first accused the three Ahmadis of Defiling the Holy Quran for

simply possessing a copy of the Holy Quran and then added: "**The recitation of Holy Quran by Qadianis falls within the ambit of 295-C PPC.**"

In short, this magistrate has indicted the three Ahmadis to defend themselves against Imprisonment for life and even Death for possessing a copy of the Holy Quran.

Kalima removed from Ahmadiyya place of worship

Prem Kot, District Hafizabad; January 6, 2021: Opponents across Pakistan have, on different occasions, filed petitions against the Jamaat for exhibiting *Kalima* (the Islamic creed) and other Arabic words, and the administration is seen mostly ready to act.

TLP is very active against Ahmadis. On the night of January 6, 2021, the police visited Prem Kot, District Hafizabad. They told an Ahmadi, Mr. Talat, that they had received an application that the *Kalima* was written in the courtyard of the Ahmadiyya place of worship; it should be erased. The police were told that Ahmadis would not erase the *Kalima* and would not allow any civilian to do so.

On January 7, at ten o'clock in the morning, a police contingent visited Prem Kot and erased the *Kalima* written in the courtyard of the Ahmadiyya worship place.

Ahmadis' gravestones destroyed by the police

Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura; January 8, 2021: A contrived case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Mr. Ghulam Ahmad, Mr. Ihsan Ahmad, and Mr. 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, on May 16, 2014 Mr. Khalil Ahmad was murdered by a madrassah student, while in police custody. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. A year later the deadly clause PPC 295-C was added to the charges at the suggestion of a

high court judge. A sessions judge sentenced them to death on October 11, 2017.

One of the plaintiffs and a witness visited the cemetery along with the police and broke the gravestones of three Ahmadis.

Holy inscriptions removed from Ahmadi's house by police

Rahwali District Gujranlawa; January 26, 2021: Idrees Ahmad is a resident of the Gujranwala district. A plate with holy inscriptions was placed outside his house.

On January 15, 2021, at about eight o'clock in the morning, some non-Ahmadis visited his house and told him to remove the "Mashallah" plate from his house because it is illegal. They alleged that cases could be registered against him due to this. They told him to take it off immediately. Mr. Ahmad told them that he would not do it, nor would he allow them to do so. Mr. Ahmad asked them that if it is illegal, they should go to the police station and lodge a complaint. The next day, opponents submitted a written complaint in the police station with the help of Advocate Aftab, one of Mr. Ahmad's neighbors. The security in-charge visited his house and asked him to take down these words. "I can't do that, you can contact the local Ahmadiyya president", said Mr. Ahmad. The security in-charge called the president and told him that the police had received a complaint. He should take it off.

On 18 January 2021, Ahmadis met DSP Cantt Circle Zaigham Sana Warraich. During the meeting, the DSP said that he would refer this matter to the peace committee and take action according to their recommendation. Then he said, "You should take it off yourself to avoid riots." Ahmadis replied, "We have used these words to praise Allah Almighty and not for desecration of His name, so we will not do it ourselves nor allow anyone else to do it. You are a law enforcement officer. If you think that the law has been violated, then police in uniform can take it off."

On January 26, Mr. Ahmad got a call from the security in-charge that he had come to the place with an employee and was breaking the plate. Mr. Ahmad informed the Ahmadiyya officials, and everyone rushed to the spot, but by then, it was too late, and the two officers had broken the plate, some parts of which had fallen below into the drain.

Ahmadis booked under false charges

Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura; January 8, 2021: A case has been registered against 11 local Ahmadis under PPC 298-C on a complaint by Asadullah, out of which two Ahmadis had died and two had moved abroad a long time ago.

Ahmadis were accused of using Islamic expressions i.e. بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، يَا مُحَمَّد، يَا اللّٰهُ on the gravestones of three Ahmadis named Mr. Munawwar Ahmad, Mr. Naseer Ahmad, and Chaudhry Ghulam Ahmad. Surprisingly, the case also includes Naseer Ahmad's name, on whose tombstone sacred words were written.

Later, Zakaullah, the plaintiff's brother, filed a complaint under Section 365, of FIR No. 51 dated January 19, 2021, alleging that the Qadianis had abducted his brother Asadullah for filing the aforesaid case. Police later recovered the plaintiff Asadullah and took him into custody. The general impression is that Asadullah and others carried out the fake abduction to increase pressure on Ahmadis. Police are investigating the matter.

Ahmadi father and son murdered over personal dispute

Chak Chishtian, District Bahawalnagar; January 9, 2021: Mr. Irshad Mohi-ud-Din and his son Mr. Mehran Ahmad were shot by their neighbor over a personal dispute on January 9. As a result, Mr. Irshad died on the spot. Mr. Ahmad was shot twice. One bullet hit his arm and the other in the chest.

Mr. Ahmad was shifted from Bahawalpur to Lahore Jinnah Hospital, but due to fog and a

long journey, he lost a lot of blood on the way. In Lahore, he was transfused seven units of blood. His kidneys were also affected, and he underwent dialysis. The arm that was shot had to be amputated due to its deteriorating condition. He remained on a ventilator thereafter.

Mr. Ahmad also died on January 13. Mr. Irshad Mohi-ud-Din and his son Mehran were the only Ahmadis in their entire family.

PTA attempts to prosecute Ahmadi US citizens

Washington DC; January 13, 2021: The Religion News Service issued the following article:

Pakistan attempts to prosecute Ahmadi US citizens for digital blasphemy

By Aysa Khan, January 13, 2021

Pakistani authorities have asked leaders of the American Ahmadiyya community to take down its official website, alleging the U.S.-based site violates Pakistan's blasphemy laws and cybercrime regulations.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority said in a legal notice issued on Dec. 24 to the Ahmadiyya Community USA's spokesmen, Amjad Mahmood Khan and Harris Zafar, that failure to remove the website *TrueIslam.com* would result in fines of up to \$3.14 million or criminal sanctions, including possible 10-year-prison sentences.



Ahmadiyya Community USA spokesmen Amjad Mahmood Khan, left, and Harris Zafar. Photos via Twitter

Brad Adams, who heads Human Rights Watch's Asia Division, said "censoring Ahmadis and using blasphemy laws to airbrush them from Pakistani society" is part of the "widespread and rampant discrimination and social exclusion" Ahmadis face in Pakistan.

The website is registered and hosted in the U.S. and is aimed at an American audience. Zafar and Khan are both U.S. citizens, but both have relatives in Pakistan and say penalties would make it impossible to travel there.

Law professor Arturo Carrillo, who directs George Washington University Law School's Global Internet Freedom Project, said this case shows that the Pakistan government is now using its controversial cybercrime laws in an effort "to repress online expression and content emanating from outside the country's borders because the government has deemed it to be undesirable and unlawful."

(religionnews.com/2021/01/13/Pakistan-attempts-to-prosecute-ahmadi-us-citizens-for-digital-blasphemy)

Ahmadi forced to vacate his house

Abdullah Goth, Steel Town Karachi; January 2021: Sharafat Hussain Baloch, Ahmadi, was forced to vacate his house by the opponents.

No one in the area knew that Mr. Hussain is an Ahmadi. A few days ago, Mr. Hussain's brother Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad visited his house. One day Muzaffar stood at his gate; some non-Ahmadis invited him for prayers in the mosque, upon which he told them about his Ahmadi belief and said he prefers to pray at home. After that, the opposition started in Mr. Hussain's area. He was threatened and was told to give an affidavit that he was not an Ahmadi; otherwise, they will burn down his house and kill him. When his wife went out of the house, opponents yelled at her. Stones were also hurled at the door of his house. Under this situation, Mr. Hussain had to vacate his house and leave the area.

Anti-Ahmadi hate campaign causes social boycott

Khairpur, Sindh; January 15, 2021: Three Ahmadi families are living in Khairpur city. On January 15, Asadullah Sheikh, *Imam* of the city's Jamia Masjid, incited people in his Friday sermon against Ahmadis. During his sermon, he mentioned Dr. Zaheeruddin, district president of the Ahmadiyya community, and Abdul Rashid

Khan and said that they should be boycotted, and must be killed.

After that, representatives of two medical companies visited Dr. Zaheeruddin's clinic. They belong to the *Ahle Hadith* sect. They told him that their mulla had delivered a sermon about him so they would not meet him again.

Follow-up of Rawalpindi incident

Chakra, District Rawalpindi; January 2021: President of the local Ahmadi women association dispatched her monthly report to her district senior through courier. For some reason, this could not be delivered to her and was returned to her husband's (Mr. Abdul Qadir Chauhan) shop. As it was closed, the courier guy handed over the envelope to the nearby shop for delivery to Mr. Qadir. This fellow opened the envelope and found the monthly report therein. He made photo-copies of this report and forwarded it to different people. After that, opponents made life and business of Mr. Qadir problematic.

Later, the police summoned the parties who gave in writing that there would be no problem again, but the opponents misbehaved even after that. Given this situation, the DSP called the parties again and inquired from the opposing party. Imran Muawiyah, a representative of the *Deobandi* sect, said that they did not say anything threatening him. Abdul Qadir replied that if they did not threaten him, why his business was closed. The DSP told him that if he has no problem with Qadir then let him do his business, and that he would tell this to other groups. The DSP ordered the SHO to follow the orders.

On January 2, a seminar on the end of prophethood was held here. Mufti Qasim Khan Popalzai from Peshawar came specially to attend. He used foul language against Ahmadis and called for their boycott. A group called Chakra was formed on WhatsApp and Facebook in which pictures of some Ahmadis have been shared and people incited against them.

After the seminar on January 4 2021, some people visited Mr. Naseer Ahmad Kayani, an Ahmadi, who runs a clinic in the area, and asked him to vacate his house and shop.

Ahmadi beaten; police case registered against seven Ahmadis

Khana Mianwali, District Narowal; January 2, 2021: Ahmadis face opposition here from members of a banned group called Jamaat-ud-Dawa. In this village, an Ahmadi family named Mahar has a house. Shahid Mahar, a member of the same family, left Ahmadiyyat and joined Jamaat-ud-Dawa. He decides to seize the family property and started harassing Ahmadis. They took their cattle to the Ahmadiyya cemetery, which damaged the plants. They were restrained many a time, but they did not stop.

On January 2, Shahid Mahar and his companions went to the Ahmadiyya cemetery with their cattle; an Ahmadi present stopped them. At this, one of them hit the Ahmadi on his head with a brick. Opponents then obtained a fake medical certificate and filed an application with police against seven Ahmadis, named Ziaullah Mahar, Najibullah Mahar, Habibullah Mahar, Darman Ahmad, Masroor Ahmad, Shiraz Ahmad, and Hamad Ahmad, alleging that they had beaten Shahid Mahar and his accomplice Abdul Rehman for being Muslim.

In view of this situation, influential people of the area were contacted, and efforts were made to resolve the issue. At the opposing party's request, the influential people demanded that the Mahar's house be handed over to Shahid Mahar in order to settle the matter.

Shahid Mahar and his associates are inciting people against Ziaullah and Najibullah. They are saying that if they want to end the *fitna* (mischief) in Khana Mianwali, kill the two Ahmadis.

On January 7, some masked men tried to attack Najibullah's house, but luckily his family

saw the attackers climbing over the wall, at which they fled away. The police were informed.

Ahmadis have been advised to take safety precautions.

Ahmadi families harassed by a local cleric

Faisal Colony, Bahawalpur; January 2021: Three Ahmadi families live in the area. Some time ago, Maulvi Syed Kazim Ali of Bilal Mosque in the neighborhood sent a message to these Ahmadi families that either they come to the mosque, recite the *Kalima* and declare themselves to be Muslims or they would have to leave the neighborhood. The man who brought the message from this cleric refused to give statement to the police.

However, the mulla sent the message again. The police were contacted and informed. The SHO Civil Lines Police Station summoned the mulla to the police station and warned him to refrain from such harassment and asked Ahmadis to report to the police if it happened again.

67 Ahmadis' graves desecrated — follow-up

Trigri, District Gujranwala; December 18, 2020: There was significant opposition to Ahmadis here in July 2020 and the police, acting on the demand of the opponents, desecrated the gravestones of 67 Ahmadis in the cemetery. Later a peace agreement was signed between the parties, and Ahmadis were allowed to re-build gravestones.

On December 18, deputy *Tehsildar* Abdul Rehman and *patwari* Riaz Bhatti visited the village and informed Ahmadis about the Assistant Commissioner's decision regarding the cemetery. Announcing the verdict, he said that the graveyard had been sealed. Neither party will be able to bury their dead here. Non-Ahmadi already have a separate cemetery where they would bury their dead, while a proposal to allot one acre of land for Ahmadis was sent to higher authorities. In the meantime, Ahmadis will be able to use their space in the cemetery until the

new allotment. *Numburdar* (the village chief) was also present on this occasion. He opposes Ahmadis and supports the opponents.

When they announced the AC's decision, Ahmadi officials talked to the *Numburdar* about re-building the Ahmadiyya gravestones. He said that he would accompany them whenever they want to rebuild the gravestones.

The next day, on December 19, reconstruction of the gravestones was undertaken. Meanwhile, the *Numburdar*, along with some miscreants, came to the cemetery, stopped Ahmadis from work, and used harsh words. Ahmadis contacted the police, but they also ordered Ahmadis to stop work.

Later, opponents filed a petition with the police against the local Ahmadiyya president, alleging that he was making murder threats. The Ahmadiyya delegation met the DSP on December 21. The DSP told them they should not start repairing by themselves. He was told that the repairing of the gravestones was started with the consent of the opposing party. At this the DSP said that they should apply to the AC or him so that officials may supervise the repairs.

Meanwhile, a non-Ahmadi died and was buried in the same controversial cemetery that had been sealed. When the police were contacted, they said that the police had consulted the deputy *Tehsildar*, and he reported that only Ahmadis had been barred from burying their dead, not others. Ahmadis contacted the SHO and the DSP. The police didn't honour their earlier verdict.

Ahmadi threatened with murder is ousted from village by the police

Chak 565 GB, District Faisalabad; January 7, 2021: Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Mr. Ijaz Ahmad, and Mr. Rehan Ahmad, Ahmadis, have been doing masonry work for ten years in Namdar, a village adjacent to their village.

A few days ago, a mulla from the village incited the locals that infidels had come to their

village and were building their houses, so they should be evicted from the village. When Ahmadis learnt this, they abandoned their jobs and left. Later, a local called Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad and restarted the work. When the villagers found this, they informed the mulla who visited the site, and asked Imtiaz if he was an Ahmadi. He answered yes. Mulla announced that an infidel had come to their village and said that he was an Ahmadi. The whole village gathered around him and bad-mouthed Imtiaz. At this, the man who called Imtiaz told the villagers he would shoot if anyone touched him.

The police then took notice. After the hearing, the SHO said this was a matter concerning the End of Prophethood. He ordered Imtiaz out of the village.

The village boys threatened to kill Imtiaz Ahmad if he was seen again working around the village.

Hate campaign against Ahmadis on social media

Karianwala, District Gujrat; January 2021: A non-Ahmadi posted a picture of the Ahmadiyya Community founder on Facebook and used foul language. He exchanged harsh words with a local Ahmadi.

After that, the non-Ahmadi filed a complaint against the Ahmadi in the police station, accusing him of blasphemy.

Hostility against Ahmadis in Faisalabad

Chak No. 565 GB District Faisalabad; January 2021: There were three *numburdars* in Chak No. 565 GB, District Faisalabad. One of the *numburdars* was Ahmadi who passed away in 2018. On behalf of the second *numburdar*, the local police officer requested the DC that the *numburdar* seat was vacant, and his son should be posted there. Locals contacted the DC that this matter is related to our village, not theirs; this case is still pending. Since the opposing party is against Ahmadis, they use foul language

against Ahmadis. The opponents filed a police case against Mr. Humayun Rafiq at Police Station Saddar Nankana Sahib, saying that he greeted in Islamic way two non-Ahmadi boys. The police inspector asked Mr. Rafiq to appear in the police station and clarify his position; otherwise, a police case could be registered against him for saying "*Assalam Alaikum*".

Meanwhile, the opposing party requested the Sessions Judge to order the police officer to file a case. Mr. Rafiq met the police officer and told him that these people are against us, and their case is with DC Faisalabad. That is why they have filed a petition against us. The police officer made a similar report and presented it to the Sessions Judge. Initially, no lawyer was available to appear in the case. Then a lawyer appeared, and the petition of the opponents was rejected. This village is located in district Nankana Sahib.

Kot diyalda is located at a distance of five kilometers from this village. The situation there is worse for Ahmadis. The residents arranged a self-security system due to certain reasons. In routine, names of volunteers are announced from the village mosque. Earlier, Ahmadis' names were also called from the local mosque, now they have refused to announce the names of Ahmadis from the mosque. Ahmadis' lives are at risk here; they feel insecure.

Ahmadis behind bars

1. A contrived case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Mr. Ghulam Ahmad, Mr. Ihsan Ahmad and Mr. 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, on May 16, 2014. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. A year later the deadly clause PPC 295-C was added to their charge-sheet at the suggestion of a high court judge. A sessions judge sentenced them to death on October 11, 2017. An

appeal against this decision was then made to the Lahore High Court. The Court has not found time to hear their case for three years. These three Ahmadis are in prison for 6 ½ years.

2. Mr. Saeed Ahmad Waraich was charged on a false complaint of blasphemy under PPC 295-C with FIR Nr. 645 in Tandlianwala police station, District Faisalabad on January 20, 2018. He was arrested a day earlier. He is under trial for more than three years.
3. Mr. Waqar Ahmad student of Jamia Ahmadiyya, Syed Mubashir Ahmad Ayaz Principal of Jamia Ahmadiyya and Mr. Muhammad Azhar Mangla lecturer in Jamia Ahmadiyya were booked for allegedly sharing Quranic material on social media, under cyber crime law on 12th November 2019, with FIR No 152/2019 of Police Station FIA Cyber Crimes Wing, Lahore under anti-Ahmadiyya law PPC 298-C, blasphemy laws 295-B and 295-A, PECA-11 and PPCs 120-B, 109 and 34. Mr. Waqar Ahmad was arrested.
4. A fabricated police case was registered against Ms. Ramzan Bibi of Chak no. 120 RB Cheleki, District Nankana under blasphemy clause PPC 295-C. She was booked on April 30, 2020 in police station Sadr Sangla Hill with FIR Nr. 275/20, arrested and sent to Central Jail Sheikhpura.
5. Mr. Rohan Ahmad, Malik Usman Ahmad, Hafiz Tariq Shehzad and unknown persons composer, proofreader, writer, computer operator, and owners of phone no. 0333-6708729, 0322-4374750, 0333-6678820 were booked for allegedly sharing a WhatsApp message regarding essay writing and a general knowledge quiz competition 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 that works under

Federal Investigation Agency conducted a raid on the house of Mr. Rohan Ahmad of Wapda Town, Lahore, arrested and allegedly tortured him. He is currently at Camp Jail, Lahore. If declared guilty, he could be imprisoned for life.

On September 29, 2020 Malik Usman Ahmad, Hafiz Tariq Shehzad, Malik Zahir Ahmad, Imran Ahmad Virk and Mudassir Ahmad were also arrested in this case. Mr. Imran Ahmad Virk and Mudassir Ahmad were released.

Malik Zahir Ahmad was booked under PPCs 295-B, 298-C, 109, PECA-11 with FIR Nr. 77 at Police Station FIA Cyber Crimes Wing, Lahore on September 30, 2020.

6. 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.
7. Mr. Sharafat Ahmad, Mr. Akbar Ali and Mr. Tahir Naqash were booked under PPCs 298-B and 298-C at police station Mangatanwala, District Nankana on May 2, 2020. The Lahore High Court rejected their application for pre-arrest bail on October 2, 2020. They were arrested in the courtroom and sent to Sheikhpura Jail. On January 4, 2021 Magistrate M Adil Riaz of Nankana Sahib referred to the sessions judge for adding the Blasphemy clauses PPCs 295-C and 295-B.
8. Mr Tariq A. Tahir and Mr. Safwan Ahmad were booked in FIR 83/2020 under blasphemy clause PPC 295-B at P.S. Nagar Parker, Sindh on November 25, 2020. Mr. Tahir was arrested.

From the media

- **Tahir Ashrafi (Special Rep to PM) meets Sheikh Rashid (Fed Interior Minister) to discuss the national and international situation**

The daily Jang; Lahore, January 12, 2021

- **LeT leader (Mulla Zaki ur Rehman Lakhvi) jailed for five years for terror financing**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 9, 2021

- **JUI-F leaders among 31 held in Karak over Hindu Shrine attack**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 1, 2021

- **Myanmar military seizes power, detains elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 01, 2021

- **'Disgraceful scenes': World leaders condemn 'assault on democracy' at US Capitol**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 7, 2021

- **Joe Biden sworn in as 46th US president, takes helm of deeply divided nation**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 20, 2021

- **Senate rejects PEMRA Amendment Bill 2020**

The Express Tribune; Lahore, January 25, 2021

- **Policeman killed in attack on polio team (in KPK)**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 13, 2021

- **Make all those who burnt the temple, including Maulvi Sharif pay the damages: Supreme Court. Rebuild the Smadhi within a fortnight. Pakistan got a bad name over this incident. How did it happen, when the Police Post was nearby. What were the (security) agencies doing? So long as these people do not have to pay damages from their pocket, they'll do it again. It is not sapient to suspend police officials: Chief Justice**

The daily Jang; Lahore, January 6, 2021

- **PDM drive against govt termed 'jihad' (by Maulvi Fazlur Rehman)**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 12, 2021

- **History made as US House impeaches Trumps for second time**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 14, 2021

- **British MP makes impassioned plea for Kashmir**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 15, 2021

- **Mandviwala (Deputy Chair Senate) vows to move EU against NAB**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 17, 2021

- **Trumps signs Malala education act into law**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 17, 2021

- **Kremlin critic Navalny detained after landing in Moscow**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 18, 2021

- **Gunmen slaughter 11 coal miners in Balochistan**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 4, 2021

- **(My) Ministry's real function is to promote (tarveej) Islam: Nural Haq Qadri (Fed. Minister of Religious Affairs)**

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, January 6, 2021

- **One who is loyal to Imran, I call him a traitor: Fazlur Rehman**

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 7, 2021

- **I kissed Fazlur Rahman's hand for promoting Khatme Nabuwat: Capt (R) Safdar**

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, January 9, 2021

- **Kamal (PSP) threatens to shut down Karachi, if the fair census is not held**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 18, 2021

- **ECP suspends 151 legislators for not submitting asset details**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 19, 2021

- **Maryam alleges Imran received funds from India, Israel**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 20, 2021

- **Driver-guard dispute keeps train halted**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 2, 2021

- **IHC fines govt officials Rs 10M in missing persons case**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 2, 2021

- **Five police officials (CTD) held for killing youth in Islamabad**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 3, 2021

- **Rs 487b ill-gotten money recovered in three years: NAB**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 4, 2021

- **US doctor (Atiq of Pak origin) forgives \$650,000 in medical bills for cancer patients**

BBC top stories December 5, 2020

- **SC orders rebuilding of vandalized Hindu shrine in Karak**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 6, 2021

- **KP prayer leaders to get monthly honorarium from next financial year**

The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 6, 2021

- **In a first, three get death for cyberspace blasphemy**

The daily Nation; Lahore, January 9, 2021

- **Massive power breakdown plunges Pakistan into darkness**

The daily Nation; Lahore, January 10, 2021

- **Rs 180bn corruption unearthed in AGP office: PM**

The daily Nation; Lahore, January 13, 2021

- **PIA plane seized in Malaysia over \$14m lease dispute**

The daily Nation; Lahore, January 16, 2021

- **Evidence effaced in Naqib case; all set to acquit Rao Anwar (SSP): Jibran Nasir**

Urdu.geo.tv/latest/241501

- **Stop the drama; bring back the missing persons otherwise Secretary Defence and Interior would be sent to prison: Sindh High Court**

The daily Jang; Lahore, January 21, 2021

Op-ed and note: The wounded Hazara

... The butchering of 10 human beings was more serious a matter than a natural calamity which obliges all heads of government to rush to the scene of disaster, without anybody inviting them.

The response of the present government to the horrible butchering of 10 coal miners raises questions about its capacity to comprehend the gravity of the matter. The culprits had challenged the law and the authority of the state. It was not

an issue between the Hazaras and some criminals; it was a matter that directly concerned the state. Regardless of the feelings of the victims, the state, which meant the provincial and federal governments both, was duty-bound to offer a befitting response.

I.A. Rahman in the daily Dawn of January 17, 2021

Note: The above op-ed reminds us of 2010 when 86 Ahmadis were killed by terrorists in two Ahmadiyya worship places in Lahore, and the Chief Minister Punjab Mr. Shahbaz Sharif decided not to make a condolence call 5 kilometers away from his office.

HRW Report: Pakistan: Worsening Crackdown on Dissent

(New York) Pakistan's government intensified its crackdown on the media, political opponents, and civil society in 2020, while failing to stem violence against women and minorities, Human Rights Watch said today in its World Report 2021....

Violence against Pakistan's Ahmadiyya religious community worsened in 2020, with at least four Ahmadis killed for alleged incidents of blasphemy. Among them was Tahir Naseem Ahmad, who was charged with blasphemy, imprisoned in 2018, and fatally shot in July by an assailant who had smuggled a gun inside a high-security courtroom in Peshawar. The Pakistani government also failed to amend or repeal blasphemy law provisions that have led to arbitrary arrests and prosecutions, and provide a pretext for violence against religious minorities.

hrw.org/news/2021/01/13/Pakistan-worsening-crackdown-dissent