



HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION
AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS

Persecution of Ahmadis IN PAKISTAN

Monthly Report
January 2022

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Highlights

ANOTHER AHMADI DIED IN POLICE CUSTODY

It was anti-Ahmadi elements who conspired to use Mr. Kalaar's mobile phone ID to framing him for blasphemy. He was arrested under blasphemy clause PPC-293-C. He developed serious health problems while incarcerated. After fifteen long weeks imprisoned in this condition, he passed away on January 10, 2022. A fraud and deceit that led to the loss of a genuine, kind individual.

SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON

'Do Ahmadis deserve to live in Pakistan', a ten year old op-ed seems to be exactly what the daunting story of these three Ahmadis was. On page 5, you'll learn about how tearing an anti-Ahmadi poster led to the death penalty for Ahmadis. Seven years later, the Judges changed their sentence to ten years. They were released because they had already overstayed their sentence. A similar ordeal on page 6.

DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING BAIL

As noted on page 5, different institutions, including the judiciary, impede the bail process in religiously motivated cases. They often add the PPC-295-C blasphemy clause to make things worse. The only recourse for the detained Ahmadis is to approach the honourable Supreme Court. In one instance where the bail was granted, an Ahmadi was re-arrested in another case despite not even being nominated.

TIMELINE OF THE DESECRATION OF AHMADIYYA MOSQUES IN 2021

14 mosques were forcibly desecrated in 2021, which can be called *'the year of the desecration of Ahmadiyya mosques.'* All incidents occurred in Punjab, which is surprising. Both the Punjab government and the Federal government are ruled by PTI and PML-Q. The law does not expressly prohibit Ahmadis from building minarets or niches. Time and again, law enforcement agencies misinterpret the law 'poses a Muslim' and 'outrages the religious feelings of Muslims' to appease the opponents. See pages 9-11.

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

DEATH DURING INCARCERATION

Bahawalpur; January 10, 2022:

Mr. Asghar Ali Kalaar, Ahmadi prisoner in a religion-based case died today. He was 70.

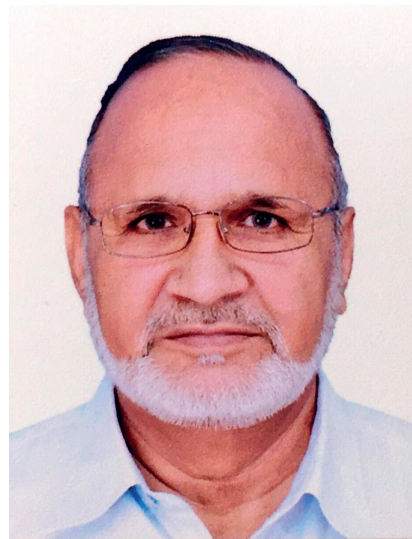
Mr. Kalaar accepted Ahmadiyyat in 1971. He was a very decent and genuinely pious person and developed well as a practicing Ahmadi.

In September last year, anti-Ahmadi elements conspired successfully to use his mobile phone ID to get him implicated in a blasphemy accusation. He, of course, could not even imagine insulting the Holy Prophet PBUH. Hafiz Javed Mustafa, a cleric of Jamia Saeedia, Bahawalpur had him booked by the police and arrested under PPC 295-C (penalty death). It is noteworthy that anti-Ahmadi mullas do not hesitate to indulge in fraud, lies and deceit to worsen Ahmadis.

While incarcerated, he developed serious health problems. They admitted him in Victoria Hospital, Bahawalpur. Doctors undertook his endoscopy and administered him five bottles of blood.

After the arrest, Mr. Kalaar had applied for bail that was pending before an ASJ. On January 8, the ASJ told the police to put up relevant records on next hearing, scheduled on January 11.

Mr. Kalaar health worsened and he vomited blood. He died in hospital on January 10, fifteen weeks after arrest in a fake and fabricated case.



Mr Asghar Ali Kalaar in Hospital

Anti-Ahmadi elements conspired successfully to use Mr. Kalaar's mobile phone ID to get him implicated in blasphemy accusation

- Mr Asghar Ali Kalar was the second Ahmadi prisoner of conscious who died while in police custody in the last 12 months.
- 272 Ahmadis have been murdered for their faith since the promulgation of Ordinance XX
- 7 Ahmadis have been killed for their faith since 2020
- 9 murder attempts have been made on Ahmadis in 2021 so far, 409 since 1984.

RELEASED AFTER SEVEN AND HALF YEARS IN PRISON

**Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura;
January 14, 2022:**

The three Ahmadis, Messrs. Ehsan Ahmad, Mubashir Ahmad and Ghulam Ahmad were released after completing their reduced sentence.

A contrived case was registered against four Ahmadis under PPC 295-A on May 13, 2014 at Police Station Sharqpur accusing them of tearing an anti-Ahmadi poster from the wall of a local shop in their village. Although the local Panchayat intervened and settled the issue, the mullas refused to make peace, held a demonstration and insisted that the police register a case against

the accused. The police did that under PPC 295-A etc, and arrested one, Mr. Khalil Ahmad.

Couple of days thereafter, one Saleem Ahmad entered the police station and shot dead Mr. Khalil Ahmad who was under detention. Mr. Ahmad left behind a widow, two sons and two daughters.

The remaining three were arrested two months later, on July 18, 2014. A year thereafter, Section 295-C was added to their charge sheet on judicial orders. They were sentenced to death on October 11, 2017. An appeal was then made before the Lahore High Court.

Recently a DB comprising of LHC judges Justice Abdul Aziz and M Amjad Rafiq heard the case, and gave verdict that PPC 295-C be vacated, and sentenced them to 10 years' imprisonment and fine of Rs 500,000/- each.

Allowing for relief provided on various occasions to all prisoners, these accused had overstayed their sentence, so they were released from prison.

Ten years ago the well-known weekly The Friday Times published an op-ed by dauntless Yassar Latif Hamdani, titled: *Do Ahmadis deserve to live in Pakistan?*

RELIGION-BASED CASES AND DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING BAIL

Lahore, January 2022:

Mr. M Iqbal Hashmi, Mr. Shiraz Ahmad, and others were booked by Cyber Crimes Police Station Lahore on June 20, 2019 under FIR 88 under PPCs 295-A, 298-C, PECA-11 for allegedly creating group 'Sindh Salamati' and sharing Ahmadiyya content in it.

Mr. Iqbal Hashmi was arrested but was released on bail on August 24, 2019.

Mr. Shiraz Ahmad was arrested from his home on February 25, 2021.

One, Mr. Zaheer Ahmad, Ahmadi from Lahore implicated in another religion-based case was released on bail on February 23, 2021, but was immediately re-arrested in this case, although he was not even named

in this case.

A sessions court rejected the plea for bail of both the accused mentioned above on March 30, 2021.

The opponents opposed Mr. Iqbal Hashmi's plea for bail, and an ASJ rejected the plea and ordered his arrest on August 9, 2021. Earlier, on request of the opponents, Judge Syed Ali Abbas ASJ Lahore ordered that the deadly section PPC 295-C be added to his charge sheet.

As a result, all these three are incarcerated in Camp Jail, Lahore.

Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh of LHC heard the plea for bail of the three detained Ahmadis and rejected their plea on January 12, 2022.

Mr. Iqbal Hashmi etc. case was initiated under PPC 295-A, however, with passage of time, it is blown big with PPCs 295-C and 295-B added to it that provides for the death penalty and imprisonment for life respectively. Bails have been denied even by the High Court.

The only recourse for the detained accused now is to approach the honorable Supreme Court.

*While there is life, there's hope', he cried:
'Then why such haste?' so groaned and died.*

(As did the detained Mr. Asghar Ali Kalaar, Ahmadi on January 10, 2022 after vomiting blood.)

FALSE COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST AHMADI ON JOB

**Sukheki, District Hafizabad;
January 2022:**

Mr. Rahat Jameel, an Ahmadi, is working as a clerk in the Canal Department. Zulfiqar Ali, a worker in his department, petitioned DC Hafizabad against him saying that Mr. Jamil had preached Ahmadiyyat to him and threatened serious consequences and dismissal in case of not converting to Ahmadiyyat.

The Deputy Commissioner forwarded the report to Assistant Commissioner Hafizabad who inquired from

the concerned persons. In this regard, the SDO Hafizabad subdivision reported that the petition is false and baseless; Mr. Jameel has never preached his faith. Similarly, other officials of his department also stated that they have never talked about Ahmadiyyat in the office. Therefore, the Assistant Commissioner filed the petition and warned the plaintiff that he could be arrested for making a false accusation. The Assistant Commissioner conducted a fair inquiry. The matter is resolved for now.

AN AHMADI MINOR KILLED IN KARACHI

**Gulshan-e-Sir Syed, Karachi;
January 12, 2022:**

Husban Ahmad, aged 4, an Ahmadi child who was missing from January 12 was found dead on January 20.

According to the details, Ahmad's family lives in an unpopulated area of Gulshan-e-Sir Syed and has set up a shop at home. On the day of the incident, the main door of

the house was left open for a customer expected at about 10 p.m. Around this time some unidentified person kidnapped Husban Ahmad. A search was mounted and an FIR was registered by the police. On January 20, Edhi Center informed that they found the child's dead body in a nearby drain. Details will be available in due course after the post mortem etc.

RELEASED — AFTER ALL

**District Faisalabad; January
8, 2022:**

A few months ago in July last year, a hostile and unruly mob attacked Ahmadi's homes in Chak 261 Udhwani, District Faisalabad. Ahmadi's defended themselves. The police booked five Ahmadi's thereafter and arrested Mr. Naveed Ahmad.

In the follow-up investigation, four of the accused were released, while Mr. Naveed Ahmad was kept detained. A court later removed the anti-terrorism clause 7-ATA against him. The other clauses are bailable.

Raja Shahid Tauqir ASJ Faisalabad heard Mr. Naveed Ahmad's plea for bail and rejected it on January 8, 2022.

Thereafter, Mr. Naveed filed a bail application in Lahore High Court.

On January 26, 2022 Magistrate Faisalabad Bushra Anwar ordered his release after the plaintiff's statement of case withdrawal. Mr. Naveed was released from prison after spending six months behind bars.

Did you know!

92 graves of Ahmadi's were desecrated in the year 2021

Sacred inscription from 16 houses and shops were removed

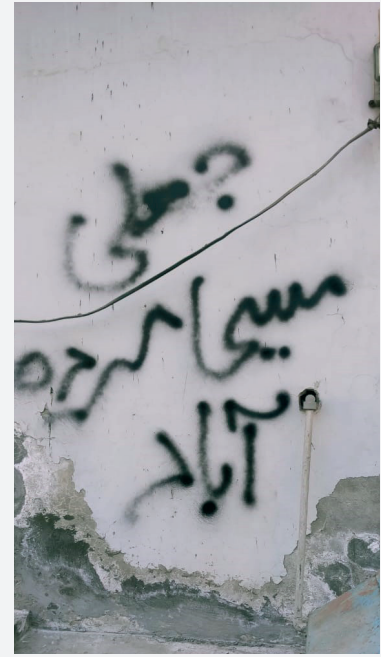
HATEFUL WALL-CHALKING



Pir Mahal, District Toba Tek Singh;
January 29, 2022:

On January 29, at 6 o'clock in the morning, some hate mongers wall-chalked on the local Ahmadiyya mosque: "Long live Tajdaare Khatme Nabuwwat: Hizb Allah — Death to the false Messiah". Ahmadis informed the city's security in-charge and requested the SHO police to follow up, on which the administration effaced this wall-chalking.

The anti-Ahmadiyya group has been very active here for some time and is busy in anti-Ahmadiyya activities.



BUSINESS PROBLEMS DUE TO FAITH

Islamabad; January 2022:

Mr. Nasim Ahmad, Ahmadi, was one of the accused in the police case concerning a school owned by an Ahmadi in Rajanpur. The police detained him for months in this case. He had an oil business in Islamabad, for which he had rented four shops and a flat. While incarcerated, he was told to vacate the rented building as the owner intimated excessive pressure from the religious lobby.

Accordingly, Mr. Ahmad vacated the building and acquired on rent a business location a few furlongs away. However, on January 21, the owner visited him and told him to vacate the shops and the flat as he was a Qadiani. He, however, offered a concession: "If you disassociate yourself from the Mirza, we'll treat you as a brother; otherwise vacate the building in February." Mr. Nasim Ahmad told him to rest assured that he would vacate the shops.

AHMADIS STOPPED FROM OFFERING FUNERAL PRAYERS OF AN AHMADI

Arukay, District Sheikhpura; January 16, 2022:

Mr. Munir Ahmad, an Ahmadi, died here. He was the only Ahmadi in the village, and had no children. Ahmadis arranged for his last rites, meanwhile his non-Ahmadi relatives gathered at

his residence. They stopped Ahmadis from offering Mr. Ahmad's funeral prayers and burial, and insisted that only they would undertake the final disposal of the deceased. Ahmadis had to concede to avoid any conflict.

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 January 31, 2022:

- 7 Ahmadis are behind bars solely on account of their faith.
- A 70 year old Ahmadi was arrested under blasphemy clause PPC 295-C in September 2021. He developed serious health conditions and died while in custody on Jan 10, 2022.
- PPC 295-C (carries death penalty) is added to the case of three imprisoned Ahmadis in June 2021.
- A 20-year-old Ahmadi student is in jail under PPC 295-C.
- 2 Ahmadi prisoner died while in police custody (Feb. 2021 & Jan 2022.)

AHMADIYYA MOSQUES DESECRATED IN THE YEAR 2021

The Ahmadiyya Community living in Pakistan has always been subjected to severe persecution since the creation of Pakistan. In the wake of the Second Amendment in Pakistan's Constitution in 1974 and Ordinance XX in 1984, paved way for a discriminatory treatment of the Ahmadiyya Community (the "Community") in Pakistan based on their faith. The Community's religious freedom and human rights are constantly violated.

As per the law, Ahmadis cannot pose themselves as Muslims; they cannot call their place of worship a Masjid and cannot say 'Azan' a call to prayer; they simply cannot do anything that outrages the religious feelings of Muslims. (PPC 295-B and 295-C).

However there is no law that specifically forbids Ahmadis from building minarets or niche in their places of worship. Time and again, law enforcement agencies misinterpreted the law regarding 'poses as a Muslim' and 'outrages the religious feelings of Muslims' to appease the opponents. According to the applications, the minarets of Ahmadiyya mosques bear a semblance to the Muslim mosques, the religious writings are trademarks of Muslims, and their display in Ahmadiyya places of worship hurt the religious feelings of Muslims, and that Ahmadis pose themselves as Muslims by displaying these writings. Opponents across Pakistan have, on different occasions, filed petitions against the Ahmadiyya community for exhibiting the *Kalima* (the Islamic creed) and other Arabic words on their mosques etc. and the state machinery is seems ready to act against Ahmadis.

These desecrations are not new but this recent spike is very worrisome. Since the partition of 1947 these desecrations is being carried out. A rise in these incidents was seen after the promulgation of Ordinance XX in 1984. To this day the incidents of desecration of Ahmadiyya places of worship is on the rise. It is worth noting here that most of these desecrations has taken place in the province of Punjab, Pakistan. Also noteworthy is the fact that the ruling parties, both in the Punjab and the Federation, are PTI and PML-Q.

The Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan in S.M.C. No. 1 of 2014 (PLD 2014 SC 6) gave a detail verdict on protecting rights of the minorities. The Supreme Court of Pakistan, inter alia, refers to preservation of places of worship. As such it was clearly laid down that a 'Special Police Force' be established with professional training to protect the places of worship of minorities. Further stating that "... in all cases of violation of any of the rights guaranteed under the law or desecration of the places of worship of minorities, the concerned Law Enforcing Agencies should promptly take action including the registration of criminal cases against the delinquents." Furthermore, this onslaught also contravenes Article 20 of Pakistan's Constitution and International Covenants such as International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Pakistan is a signatory to.

This continuous persecution testifies to the utter disregard of the Community's fundamental rights in Pakistan and creates a sense of deep insecurity within the Community. The Government must act in aid of Ahmadis who continue to suffer at the hands of extremists and abstain police officials from acting extra judicially. There are hundreds of Ahmadiyya mosques in Pakistan, and if the responsible authorities did not take any timely action, this would result in hundreds of mosques being desecrated. The year 2021 witnessed 14 such incidents, all from the province of Punjab. We include, very briefly all such incidents, the details were mentioned in our monthly reports throughout the year.

DESECRATION OF AHMADIYYA MOSQUES IN 2021



JANUARY 6, 2021

Prem Kot, District Hafizabad,
PUNJAB

On the night of January 6, 2021, the police visited the mosque and told an Ahmadi to erase Kalima (Islamic creed) from the mosque. The next day, 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.



JANUARY 15, 2021

Kot Diyaldas, District Nankana
Sahib, PUNJAB

On January 15, the police raided the Ahmadiyya mosque and told Ahmadis to demolish the niche. Ahmadis said that they would not do that. Ahmadis urged the officials to go by the law. The police then tore down the niche with the help of some labour.



JANUARY 26, 2021

Dherokay, District Toba Tek Singh,
PUNJAB

The Police broke down Allah Almighty's names from the mosque with the help of a mason. They turned off the CCTV cameras and took the DVR with them. The operation lasted till sunset. A large number of non-Ahmadis were present at the occasion.



JANUARY 28, 2021

Sukheki, District Hafizabad,
PUNJAB

The police visited Ahmadiyya mosque and told an Ahmadi to erase the Kalima (Islamic creed) written inside the mosque, who refused to do so. The policemen detained him. Two hours later, a police contingent revisited the mosque along with the detained Ahmadi, erased the Kalima and told him not to rewrite the same.



MARCH 17, 2021

Garmula Virkan, District Gujranwala,
PUNJAB

In an operation, the police destroyed the elegant minarets and undertook the enormity of effacing the Kalima on the mosque's front. The SHO stated that this was undertaken on orders of the Regional Police Officer after his meeting with mullas. The sacrilege was undertaken by a team of seven policemen and two municipal workers under the supervision of the SHO.



APRIL 11, 2021

Chak 604, District Muzaffargarh,
PUNJAB

The opponents destroyed the minarets and the niche of this mosque with the assistance of police. The DSP Allah Yar Saifi was present at the occasion and allowed extremists to tear down the niche and minarets. The police arrested five Ahmadis and removed the gravestone of Mr Faiz Ahmad, an Ahmadi.



JUNE 17, 2021

Udhuwali Chak 261 RB, District
Faisalabad, PUNJAB

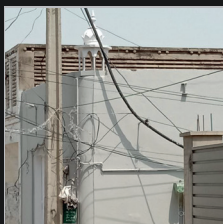
Well after the sunset, the SHO Dajkot along with several policemen and workers demolished the Minarets and sacred inscriptions. No one was allowed to approach or to take any picture etc. They also took away some debris from the area. They also raised a wall in front of the mihrab to screen it.



JUNE 24, 2021

Ghiyala Chak 57 GB, District
Faisalabad, PUNJAB

Around 30 policemen arrived at the village after the sunset, cordoned off all paths, switched off the lights, broke the lock and entered the site. The police then pulverized the plaques comprising the Islamic Creed, names of Allah, Quranic verse and wrecked its minarets. The police did not allow anyone to capture a photo or video and took away all debris after the incident.



JUNE, 2021

Ghari Awan, District Hafizabad,
PUNJAB

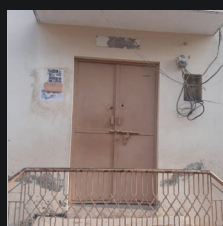
Ahmadis offer their prayers in a small mosque here built by a Ahmadi elders of a former Ahmadi Mr. Hayat. At an opponent's application, the police sent for him, detained him in the police station for a few hours and made him sign an undertaking that he would remove the minaret within 24 hours. On release, Mr. Hayat took down the minaret at night. Ahmadis felt gravely hurt.



JULY 29, 2021

Chak 84 GB, District Faisalabad,
PUNJAB

On July 29, a police contingent of 15 arrived; it broke open the lock of the Ahmadiyya mosque. They posted some policemen in plain clothes outside Ahmadiyya homes to not allow Ahmadis come out. Thereafter the police demolished all the four minarets of the mosque, effaced the Kalima written inside and took away the Kalima posted outside.



SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

Talwandi Musa Khan, District
Gujranwala, PUNJAB

The police visited Ahmadiyya mosque and told an Ahmadi to remove the prayer written at the entrance. The police was told that Ahmadis will not remove it. Later in the evening, at almost 9:30 p.m. two police vans arrived at the location and removed the prayer from the main door. The police also destroyed 40 gravestones.



SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Manawala, District Faisalabad,
PUNJAB

The police sent for the local Ahmadiyya president on September 13, 2021, and told him to erase the Kalima written on the mosque to avoid the problem. The president replied that the Kalima had been written there since 1960. The matter was still on the table. However, around one o'clock that night, a policeman came to the Ahmadiyya mosque, accompanied by a few others, and blackened the Kalima with paint.



DECEMBER 01, 2021

Bhera, District Sargodha,
PUNJAB

The committee formed by the Police in regards to the repair work of the mosque decided to inscribe 'Bait-ul-Zikr' in place of 'masjid' on the main wall. Ahmadis were also told that Muslims would not accept 'Kalima' written anywhere in the mosque. On October 30, 'Bait-ul-Zikr' was written on the main wall. Later on December 01, the police came to the mosque at night and destroyed the Kalima.



DECEMBER 16, 2021

Gajju Chak, District Gujranwala,
PUNJAB

Succumbed to the pressure from clerics, the police built walls around the small minarets, and locked the mosque. Ahmadis had to offer their Friday prayers in a private house. Later, the police covered the roof with a tent, demolished the tops of the two big minarets of the mosque, built a wall around the minarets, filled them with concrete and buried them.

- **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**

A FRESH REPORT BY BBC ON AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

BBC NEWS | اردو

January 27, 2022:

The BBC posted a report on Ahmadis' situation in Pakistan on BBC Urdu. Com, prepared by their journalist Riaz Sohail. As this source and the journalist are essentially a third party, their views and report carry weight and credibility. We produce below most of its extracts, doing away with the non-essential and disputed quantum of decline in Ahmadiyya population.

DECLINING POPULATION OF AHMADI COMMUNITY IN PAKISTAN 'NO ONE WANTS TO LEAVE HIS COUNTRY, BUT CHILDREN CANNOT BE LEFT AT THE MERCY OF OPPRESSORS'

BY RIAZ SOHAIL

BBCURDU.COM, KARACHI

JANUARY 7, 2022

<https://www.bbc.com/urdu/pakistan-59678778>

It was noon in Bazid Khel, on the outskirts of the provincial capital Peshawar. The routine of life was going on when a 16 or 17-year-old boy entered a private clinic and looked around curiously. When the staff asked the boy the purpose of his visit, he replied, "I am a patient. I want treatment from a senior doctor."

The 'senior doctor', was Dr. Abdul Qadir, who had just finished his worship and was sitting in his office at the clinic. The youth entered his room, pulled out a pistol and started firing. Drenched in his own blood, Dr. Qadir passed away on the spot.

The incident took place on February 11, last year.

According to Dr Qadir's son, his father was taken to a nearby hospital but could not survive. However, the attacker was caught by the clinic's guards.

In 2021, Dr. Qadir, Ahmadi was the fourth member of the community to be target killed. Following the wave of attacks on the Ahmadiyya community, many Ahmadi families have fled Peshawar, some to other cities of Pakistan and some abroad.

If the 2017 census in Pakistan is compared with the 1998 census, the population of the Ahmadi community in the country is clearly declining.

According to the census data released last year, the Ahmadi community constitutes about 0.09% of the total population of Pakistan. According to the 1998 census, the Ahmadi community had a population of 0.22%.

Jamaat Ahmadiyya spokesman disagrees with the official figures.

He says people are fleeing because of the persecution, but it has been going on since 1980. He said that this number is very low in view of the natural increase in population. According to him, the population of the Ahmadi community in Pakistan is currently around 0.4 – 0.5 million.

It should be noted that the Election Commission of Pakistan had stated that the number of Ahmadi voters in 2018 was 167,000, majority of whom were living in the Punjab and Sindh respectively.

IS THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY HIDING ITS IDENTITY?

Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Aide to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Religious Harmony and Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council said that he did not agree that the Ahmadiyya population had declined that much over time.

...

Fazlullah Qureshi, a former Federal Secretary for Planning and Census, Assistant to the Gov-

ernment of Pakistan says the Ahmadiyya community do not disclose their religion because of the restrictions.

...

On the other hand, Dr Ali Usman Qasmi, Associate Professor, Lahore University of Management Sciences, said that the provinces and religious minorities express disagreement on the census results. He said that many people belonging to the Ahmadi community do not disclose their identity for risk to their lives, especially those who live outside Rabwah, as they feel less secure.

He further added that the main reason for the population decline is migration which has increased in the last 15 years. This is a trend that did not exist before. Instead of the record of migration to Europe and America, we should look at the countries that are easy to enter for average poor Ahmadis.

Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya spokesman did not deny the displacement but said he did not have the data. However, he did not agree with the claims of concealment of identity. He says that this is possible only if the family tree has been running as Muslim since 1974, and no one has changed it.

He added that an affidavit has to be given for identification, and if it is not disclosed, it is considered a crime.

ATTACKS ON AHMADIS: KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA, A HOTSPOT

The attack on Dr Abdul Qadir in Bazid Khel, a suburb of Peshawar, was not the first.

His son said that in January 2009, the banned Lashkar-e-Islam Mangal Bagh group attacked his house and tried to drag away one of his doctor cousins. He said that Dr. Abdul Qadir and his bodyguards resisted on that occasion during which a bullet hit him in the thigh but they managed to save his cousin. However, one of his bodyguards was killed in the incident.

Dr. Abdul Qadir's son said that his cousin's clinic was inside the house which had been attacked once in the past in which a woman was killed, and due to this serious situation he had to move to a safe place. This affected his education and his father's medical practice.

During the rule of former Pakistani dictator General Zia-ul-Haq, the government of Pakistan enacted Ordinance XX on April 26, 1984, which made it a punishable offense for Ahmadis to adopt and practice Islamic rites, for they were declared non-Muslim in 1974. Members of the Ahmadi com-

munity were banned from calling themselves Muslim.

The Ahmadiyya Community claims that the killings of Ahmadis began on May 1, 1984. According to the Ahmadiyya Jamaat, 273 members of the Ahmadi community have been killed in the last 38 years, with the highest death toll in the Punjab where 69% of killings occurred.

Sindh ranks second with 23% of such deaths. This is followed by five percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and three percent in Balochistan. However, in recent times, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has seen more attacks and deaths.



Dr. Abdul Qadir killed in February last year

The local president of the Ahmadi community in Peshawar is a former retired colonel. Talking to BBC, he said that initially the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was much better than in Sindh and Punjab.

He said that in 1984, his community was attacked and crops were burnt in several areas, including his village, after which members of the community migrated to Peshawar, where, according to him, intolerance prevailed, but there were no murders.

"During the last one and a half years, planned operations have been carried out. An environment was first created for Ahmadi lawyers to leave their (legal) practice because of this campaign. The cases they had taken up, were given up," he said.

He further said that a pamphlet was published against Ahmadi doctors in which their names and details of hospitals in which they practiced were provided, and the people were asked not to consult them for treatment.

There were 20 to 25 Ahmadi doctors in Peshawar alone. In this situation, those who were government teachers and other employees, took

long leave, or were transferred to other areas.

“PARENTS ARE COMPLAINING THAT THEIR CHILDREN WILL NOT LEARN FROM AHMADI TEACHERS”

According to the son of the slain Dr Abdul Qadir, when the situation improved in Peshawar after the first attack on his father, he returned and shifted to another place.

“My father started practicing again but then processions would come out and slogans were chanted and abuses were shouted. Leaders of political parties and elected representatives stand with these elements because they need their votes, and if they do not stand with them they are told that they support ‘Qadianis’. They are afraid that they will not get votes next time,” he said.

He added that he was in the teaching profession but was fired several times for being a “Qadiani”.

“Some student would point me out. After that, the administration would say that I was teaching well, but the parents are complaining that their children will not learn from a Qadiani teacher,” he said.

He said that many a time he started a new job and settled down, but then all would end due to such complaints. “Then I would go to a remote area and start teaching again, and my father would also sit at home and start a small clinic. He would get there a notice to vacate the building. Financially, we were constantly going down,” according to him.

Dr. Abdul Qadir’s son said that his younger sister was maltreated by her teacher who said that “Ahmadis are worse than infidels”.

My father went to the tandoor in the morning to buy bread, the baker said, “Doctor, you have come today. It will not be good if you come here again.”

“TAKE HIM AWAY AND INJECT HIM WITH POISON”

Dr. Abdul Qadir’s widow said that due to the gravity of the situation, she had to shift her house eight times in the last one and half years. She said, “People don’t socialize with us. When we would go out, they would signal to each other that they are Ahmadis, do not talk to them, if you talk, your mouth will become befouled. If there was no water in the house, they would not even give wa-

ter. They used to say that we should give up our belief or else we should have no relations with them.”

Speaking to the BBC, she said that on several occasions her landlord would tell him: We are doing all this under duress.

Dr. Qadir’s widow says that her youngest son was well-educated but went completely silent after the trauma.

“He was taken to a psychiatric rehabilitation center,” she said. “He remained under treatment for a few days and we do not know how the staff got to know that he was an Ahmadi; at this the in-charge of the center, a retired brigadier told us to take him away and inject him with poison. Can anyone say that to a mother? ”

She said, “My son also went missing in May after my husband died in February last year. He told the (rehabilitation) center that he was going to his brother, but after that we did not know where he had gone. We also filed an application with the police. I don’t know if my son is alive or not. When I sit down to eat or drink, his picture begins to show in front of me.”

“SUBORDINATES REFUSED TO WORK WITH ME, SAYING HE IS AN AHMADI”

Ahmadiyya Jamaat local president in Peshawar is a retired colonel from the Army.

He asserted that once he was discriminated by fellow officers by asking him to separate his crockery. But other officers, who were in majority, resisted and said that they should separate their dishes, but they would eat with him in the same dishes.

“After retirement, there was a lot of discrimination,” he says. “In the company I work for, the subordinates refused to work with me, saying that I am an Ahmadi. After that, my boss from Islamabad came to Peshawar and told the employees about the advice given by a mufti that if, he is a professional and did not interfere in other matters then there is no harm to work with him. After this the subordinates agreed to work with me.”

A spokesman for the Ahmadiyya Community said that there were Ahmadi population in Kohat, DI Khan, Bannu, Para Chinar and Sarai Noring in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but these have reduced greatly — in Peshawar too.

“EVEN RABWAH IS NOT SAFE NOW”

The center of Jamaat Ahmadiyya is located in Rabwah, District Chiniot of the Punjab; it is now administratively called ‘Chenab Nagar’. According to a spokesman for the Ahmadiyya Jamaat, the center was set up in 1948 in deserted and abandoned lands; it now has a population of about 70,000, of which 90% are Ahmadis.



No unusual security arrangements are seen in Rabwah. A few blocks of cement have been placed in the town center, while only one police van can be seen standing in a corner. Unarmed Ahmadi volunteers perform security duties at the entrance.

On the other hand, Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, an Aide to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Religious Harmony claimed that no Muslim could enter the area belonging to the “Qadianis” without their permission and even the police have to ask them before entering.

Rabwah is a temporary refuge for members of the Ahmadi community affected by the killings and attacks in Pakistan, but the community spokesman said that Rabwah is no longer safe.

“There are no civic facilities here. Development work does not happen because we are not voters of political parties even though it might be the highest tax-paying town in the district. There is no industry. We have to go out for jobs and when they find out that we are Ahmadis, they don’t give us jobs,” he said.

The Ahmadi community in Rabwah has two hospitals of its own, while there are about eight schools, a college and a university. According

to the spokesperson, one has to go out (of the city) for professional education, where identity has to be declared. Hostel-like flats are built in Rabwah where temporary accommodation is arranged, while limited number of houses are available for rent in the city.

Ali Murad (pseudonym) used to do business in Lala Musa. He was attacked in August last year, after which he moved to Rabwah. He says

that after that his business closed down and his life came to a standstill.

“My house (there) is locked. Children cannot go to school. Looks like they’re at a dead end and it’s dark ahead. I don’t understand what to do. No matter where one was born and raised where, I cannot go back there now. Even here in Rabwah, there is no place for rent,” he commented.

“CITIZENS ALSO HAVE A DUTY TO ACCEPT SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE RULE OF LAW”

On the other hand, Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, an Aide to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Religious Harmony claims that no Ahmadi has been attacked in the last six months.

He said that the culprits of both the incidents in Peshawar and Nankana have been arrested and this is the first time that not only the government but also religious scholars have condemned it. He said that the state would continue to fulfill its responsibility to protect its citizens.

“The Constitution and the law of Pakistan

give all such rights to Qadianis which are available to other citizens. Citizens also have a duty to follow and recognize the supremacy of the Constitution. Qadianis openly conceal their identities. They do not believe in the constitution and the law concerning them and do not register themselves (accordingly)," he said.

The local president of the Ahmadi community in Peshawar says that it is difficult to pursue murder cases because the plaintiffs get scared which leads to adjournment of the hearings, thus benefiting the accused.

Dr. Ali Usman Qasmi, a professor at Lums University Lahore, says that the government machinery is not visible at all when it comes to Ahmadi.

"The law, its language and the court decisions in this regard are such that if any Ahmadi expresses his faith, he is considered a Salman Rushdie. If anyone wants to kill him, our law not only considers it a natural act but also praises it," he says.

He said that even if legal action is taken, the atmosphere in the media or courts becomes such that supporters of the accused gather there, clerics come in number and a group of lawyers crowd the premises.

"The whole justice system works in such a way that even if the government wanted to, it would not be able to stop this hatred," he said.

"THE FACT IS, IF I HADN'T BEEN IN THE ARMY, I WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY"

About two dozen close relatives of the local president (a retired colonel) of the Ahmadi community in Peshawar have migrated abroad.

He says he is worried about his children, what profession they could take up, how they will deal with the prevailing situation and whether they will be able to withstand this pressure or suffer breakdown.

"My daughter and son are in university. I want them to shift abroad; that's a better option. I don't want them to stay here. If my youngest son wants to stay in Pakistan, then joining the army is a better option, because of the fact that if I were not in the army, I would not survive here today," he said.

The widow of the slain Dr Abdul Qadir says that she is trying to send her children abroad. "No one wants to leave his country, but these children cannot be left at the mercy of oppressors. Where a person is born and raised, he leaves his country only under duress," she added.

Dr. Abdul Qadir's family of five is now waiting to go abroad for which they are making efforts. If they succeed in this, there will be a reduction of another Ahmadi family in Pakistan's minority population.

RELIGION AND EDUCATION

Lahore; January 25, 2022:

The daily Dawn published the following noteworthy news by its Staff Reporter in Lahore:

GOVT BENT UPON IMPOSING EXTREME RELIGIOSITY ON STUDENTS

Lahore: On the International Day of Education the civil society stakeholders in education reforms showed concerns about the recent measures introduced in school education in Punjab, terming it loaded with religious content and nomenclature, changing the very character of school education in the province.

The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) and Working Group for Inclusive Education (WGIE) released an update on Monday about the education policy confusions in the province.

According to the stakeholders, instead of

modernizing education and introducing creative and inquisitive learning, the government had relied on religion-centric reforms. The steps made public education next to seminary education, which would be a colossal loss to an already challenged education sector.

Comment: Extreme religiosity involves giving high priority and unprecedented gravity to only one aspect of the belief in the End of Prophethood and thereby emphasizing the sectarian difference between Ahmadi and other Muslims. Relevant to this is the Punjab Government's instruction to schools that 'Students should be imparted repeated lessons on End of Prophethood, in the light of Quran and Hadith during the Islamiat and Arabic periods' as per CEO DEA Sialkot Circular dated August 17, 2021. In our opinion, this Directive practically promotes sectarianism and religious hatred.

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

DURING THE LAST 13 MONTHS

- 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, he was imprisoned on the basis of his faith.
- 14 Ahmadiyya mosques have been desecrated
- 92 graves have been desecrated, 45 of these were in September 2021
- 20 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

- Three men blamed for sharing distorted version of Quran. LHC denies post-arrest bail to the accused belonging to Ahmadi community.
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 16, 2022
- Education CEOs told to get religion column filled (for students) for Quran teaching
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 12, 2022
- Khatme Nabuwwat has been made part of the syllabus for the first time: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaisar's address at the occasion of distribution of (monthly) donation to Ulama Karam (respected mullas)
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, January 15, 2022
- 89 citizens killed over blasphemy allegations since 1947: report
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 26, 2022
- We'll permit no changes in Islamic laws: Abdul Gha-fur Haidari (JUI) British govt sowed the seed of Qadi-ani mischief: Hanif Jalandhari (in Khatme Nabuwwat Conference, Lahore)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 17, 2022
- Bomb blast in Lahore market leaves three dead
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 21, 2022
- 40 IJT (Islami Jamiat Tulaba) activists held for 'ob-structing' PU exam (in Lahore)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 25, 2022
- Policeman guarding polio team martyred (in Kohat)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 26, 2022
- Priest gunned down after mass
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 31, 2022
- Governance not being handled in the right spirit: CJP
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 14, 2022
- KPK: Noon prayer (Zohr) declared compulsory in all public schools
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 22, 2022
- Islamophobia is unacceptable: Canadian PM Trudeau's statement, and Putin's, are like whiffs of fresh air: Shahbaz Gill (Special Assistant to PM)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 31, 2022
- The world should raise voice against persecution of minorities in India
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 3, 2022
- India: Hindu extremists take oath to boycott Mus-lims
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 8, 2022
- French far-right presidential contender convicted of hate speech
- Hindu man jailed after calling for genocide of Mus-lims
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 18, 2022
- Not possible to unite Afghanistan under one govt,
says Biden
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 21, 2022
- Yemen: Saudi groups bombing results in 70 prison-ers dead
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 22, 2022
- Nusrat Jahan appointed first-ever Muslim federal judge in the US
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 22, 2022
- India: The Hindu priest arrested for hate speech (against Muslims — Yati Saraswati)
In Top Stories on BBC, January 20, 2022.
- Imran slams West's 'double standards' on human rights
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 30, 2022
- PM talks of Tippu, but acts like Mir Jaafar : Siraj ul Haq
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 30, 2022
- Twin blasts in Sui claim lives of three Levies men, Senator Sarfaraz Bugti's cousin
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 29, 2022
- Chinese ambassador's call on Fazalur Rehman (JUI), discuss CPAC
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 8, 2022
- Decision on extension for COAS can wait, says PM
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 7, 2022
- Dread the day when I'll be back on streets, warns Imran
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 24, 2022
- Pakistan's Transparency ranking worse off under PTI
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 26, 2022
- PM's aid (Mr Shahzad Akbar) on anti-graft drive quits under a cloud
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 25, 2022
- Ten soldiers martyred in Kech (Balochistan) terrorist attack
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 29, 2022
- Man acquitted of blasphemy charge after 10 years
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 25, 2022
- Justice Ayesha sworn in as SC's first woman judge
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 25, 2022
- Education in Pakistan is in a state of acute crisis: CEO
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 24, 2022
- Influential defaulters attack FESCO team. Beat them up after detainment.
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, January 22, 2022
- Crime cases in Lahore post 57pc increase in 2021
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 2, 2022
- Initial purchase of (voting) machines to cost around Rs 58bn
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 14, 2022

FROM THE MEDIA

Op-ed: Inequality and the people

Amid the slogans and allegations, it is necessary to reflect on some hard realities...

No wonder then, the report says, the Human Development Index of the richest 20pc of Pakistanis is similar to the average in China and Egypt while the poorest 20pc have an HDI which is lower than Ethiopia and comparable to Chad.

Arifa Noor in the daily Dawn of January 18, 2022

Op-ed: Heal the nation

THERE is no way to sugarcoat the bitter fact that we are a society at war with itself.

As 2022 slumbers into its second week, there are no indications that this warring is about to give way to healing. The hate, yes it's still intensifying; the polarisation, yes it's still widening; and the venom, yes it's still spreading. In the process, we have witnessed the death of civility, the debasement of discourse and the dilution of values. This society is bleeding from a thousand self-inflicted cuts.

Today's Pakistan society is more divided than it has been in the last five decades.

Fahad Hussain in the Dawn of January 8, 2022

Op-ed: The other security threats

Pakistan faces an increasing number of non-traditional security (NTS) threats.

Pakistan faces many complex and multidimensional NTS threats — and the list is growing. Most such NTS threats arise primarily from non-military sources requiring political, economic and social responses. Several new factors have come to occupy centre stage including the debt burden and the threat of default or vigilantism nurtured by populist politics.

Ali Tauqueer Sheikh in the daily Dawn of January 20, 2022

Op-ed: Bridging the gap

As things stand, the quality of education has declined, institutional capacities have weakened and the state's writ has eroded to the point of becoming hostage at times to non-state actors. The rhetoric of confrontation and narratives of defiance are used by political parties to assert ultra-nationalism in their bid to prove their patriotic credentials to gain power. National politics has also been overtaken by sub-national politics, and ethnic bonds are creating new identity cohorts with exclusive priorities.

Recent examples of public behaviour also demonstrate a rise in intolerance and reduced social space for women. Presently the realities are at odds with NSP goals. The real challenge will be to match intent with action. This will require willingness to course correct and flex-

ibility to change. As a living document, the NSP will be reviewed periodically but for continuity and meaningful outcome the state will need to take in tandem measures that ensure that the policy goals resonate with the people and it has the mindset support of the majority.

Aisha Khan in the daily Dawn of January 28, 2022

Op-ed: Catch '22

The reality is that this society needs to heal. It needs to heal from the wounds of political hatemongering and toxic partisanship; it needs to heal from the gashes of religious intolerance and sectarian disharmony; and it needs to heal from the trauma of chronic underdevelopment spawned by decades of criminal neglect by those who have ruled with intense mediocrity, unadulterated selfishness and cold apathy. We are a nation in pain. And what are the surgeons doing?

Herein lies our Catch-22 for '22: how do you heal when the healer wields the sword that sliced through your flesh?

We bleed from bigotry and intolerance but those fanning it sit atop the citadels of power.

We bleed from political loathing and detestation but those inciting it lord over the system that breeds power.

...

... The disconnect is nauseating. Everyone knows the disease afflicting us, and everyone knows the cure we need. And yet, here we are, groping in the dark and stumbling upon our own ineptitude as the world passes us by without even a wave. Everything is hiding in plain sight. The changes in our neighbourhood, the transformations among our fellow-religionist countries and the steady rhythm of economic progress and prosperity picking up pace after a Covid-hiatus — it's all unfolding in vivid colours while we sink into the black, white and greys of our leadership failures.

Will this be the year we pinch ourselves awake? When we slap ourselves out of the charade that we call governance and statecraft? A tall ask. . . .

By Fahd Husain published in daily Dawn on January 1, 2022

Cartoon:



Published in daily Dawn on January 26, 2022

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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