

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

News Report April 2013

Foreword: *These news reports rarely carry a foreword – only in special circumstances. Ahmadis' present situation in Lahore is one such occasion that calls for a spotlight. Their situation is bad for almost three years; the worst happened in May 2010 when 86 Ahmadi worshippers were massacred here in two mosques while the police languished outside. Subsequently, rather than protecting this vulnerable community, the PML-N government gave free hand, even support to mullas and bigots to severely suppress the Ahmadis all over Lahore. Last year, in our annual report, an entire chapter had to be allocated to the numerous incidents in Lahore. Now that no Sharif sits in the CM Office and a caretaker government headed by Chief Minister Mr. Najam Sethi is in place, their legacy persists, and the Ahmadis remain in the cauldron. The initial few stories this month should convey some idea of the plight of the beleaguered and targeted Ahmadiyya community in this metropolis, otherwise known as the cultural centre of Pakistan.*

Ahmadi worship center raided and sealed – 7 arrested

Lahore; April 28, 2013: A group of miscreants led by the brother of a top mulla and police raided an Ahmadiyya prayer centre in Gulshan-e-Ravi, detained nine, including a woman and her son, and booked 8 men on charges of blasphemy and terrorism. The woman and the boy were released very late at night. The Ahmadiyya community issued the following press release:

“Raid on an Ahmadiyya prayer center in Lahore and then to book worshippers on terrorism charge is extreme tyranny. Anti-Ahmadi activists, under official patronage violate Ahmadis' human rights: Spokesperson *(translation from Urdu)*

Press release dated 30.4.2013

“In Lahore, Anti-Ahmadiyya hate campaign is still active and soaring even after the attack on two worship centers on 28th May 2010. Recently, an attack was conducted on a prayer center of Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya, and a case was registered against the Jamaat; this shows the recent level of extreme cruelty. Anti-Ahmadiyya elements with the help of government officials are violating human rights of Ahmadis.

“On 28th April, 2013 the enemies of Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya attacked a prayer center in Gulshan-e-Ravi, Lahore. Rather than helping (the victims), the police registered a terrorist report and arrested innocent Ahmadis. As per details, when an Ahmadi person reached the prayer center he noticed a mob of mullas standing outside. He entered the center and shut the door but they tried to open it by force. Meanwhile someone from the mob called the police and stated that an unknown person broke into his house, and later ran away and hid in the prayer center. In the meantime, the miscreants unlawfully barged to the center. Later they ransacked the whole place even in the presence of the police. The police bagged the library books and arrested seven persons, including a woman and a twelve year old child, and took them to Gulshan-e-Ravi Police Station. They set free the woman and the child at 3 a.m. However, they registered a report against the arrested persons on the basis of false accusations.

“The spokesperson of Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya Mr. Saleemuddin said that planned hostile activities have been conducted against the Jamaat in Lahore. At places, the *Kalima* has been effaced from Jamaat's prayer centers, while tombstones in graveyards have been destroyed. In this regard he also mentioned the seizure of Ahmadi-owned Black Arrow Printing press and the case against Pakistan's oldest newspaper “Al-Fazl”. He said that in all these incidents Hasan Muaviya and Badar Aalam are involved. He further added that aforementioned persons pressurize the local authorities to move unlawfully against Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya. He protested that while Ahmadis were targeted in the attack, it is they against whom the case is registered. When high officials were approached they assured us that justice will be done to Ahmadis, but now it seems that even the interim government feels helpless to confront anti-Ahmadiyya elements. He demanded that note be taken of the illegal and immoral conduct of the police; the authorities should ensure religious freedom of Ahmadis.”

Saleemuddin

Nazir Umor-e-Aama
Sadar Anjuman Ahmadiyya
Rabwah, District Chiniot

Following points of detail are relevant to this case:

The case was registered against the following 8 Ahmadis under section 295-B, and 11 WATA in P.S. Gulshan-e-Ravi in FIR 385/13 on April 29, 2013:

1. Mr. Naseer A. Qureshi
2. Khawja Muhammad Irshad
3. Mr. Naeem A. Khan
4. Mr. Abdul Rahim
5. Mr. Ata Muhammad
6. Mr. Ahmad Mehmood
7. Mr. Saqib Mahmood
8. Mr. Luqman Mehdi Virk

Of the above the first seven have been put behind bars. Mr. Naseer A. Qureshi is an old man; he will be 70 next year. Khawja Muhammad Irshad is the president of the local Ahmadi community. Mr. Ata Muhammad was performing security duty for the worshippers, as per general official instructions.

It is obvious that the entire event was pre-planned. It is a fabrication that some (Ahmadi) intruder entered the neighbor's house, and on being challenged ran outside with an Ahmadiyya book in hand which he dropped outside (for the complainant to grab) before taking refuge in the prayer center from where the worshippers facilitated his escape, according to the FIR. (It is strange that they let the intruder slip away, but stayed back to get themselves arrested). To what extent the police were involved in the conspiracy is not difficult to ascertain; but it is odd that on arrival of the police and their entry in the worship place, they allowed the crowd to enter as well. Thereafter, the police, the mullas, the miscreants (some of them armed with firearms) jointly explored the worship center for almost 1 ½ hours, bagged all the books from the library and detained 7 worshippers. It is noteworthy that the police took no action against the miscreants who indulged in a riot and obstructed Ahmadis' right to worship; on the other hand the police registered a criminal case against the victims of the outrage.

The leaders of the rioters were two men, Hasan Muaviya and Badr Alam. These two have been on the prowl for the last few months and are responsible for implicating Ahmadis in Lahore in a number of criminal cases under religious penal clauses and the anti-Ahmadi laws. They are linked to the Khatme Nabuwwat Lawyers Forum. A brief note on Hasan Muaviya is included in this report. The miscreants pressed home their demand that the worshippers be charged under Blasphemy laws and anti-terror laws. The police obliged them.

It is relevant to mention that a mulla, Abdul Aziz is the complainant in this case. In his complaint, at the outset he states, "I, the complainant, am a Muslim of correct belief (*Sahih ul Aqeedah*) who has unwavering faith in the End of Prophethood, came to know" This shows that the entire incident was motivated by sectarian prejudice. The story of an 'intruder etc.' was a plain fabrication.

Three days later, the daily The Express Tribune reported on May 1, that the complainant Abdul Aziz was Joint Secretary of the PML-(Nawaz) Ulema and Mashaikh Wing. Aziz said, he would pressure the police into arresting 15 other Ahmadis who had been present at the place of worship... . "We carried weapons in... Police took away two of our pistols even though we had licenses for them," said Muaviya.

The next day, May 2, 2013 The Express Tribune made an editorial comment, titled: **Putting an end to bigotry. Incidents of harassment against Ahmadis have increased manyfold, particularly in Punjab.**

The concluding remark of this editorial was:

“The Ahmadis have traditionally been a peaceful lot and have shown great restraint despite consistent persecution and targeted attacks. As citizens of Pakistan, we must not forget that the white portion in our national flag represents the minorities. Now, the very same white portion has been tainted with the blood of the minorities. We must end this dangerous trend before the entire flag turns red due to intolerance and bigotry.”

The arrested Ahmadi have not yet been granted bail, and remain in lock-up.

Who is M. Hasan Muaviya aka Tooti?

Lahore: Muhammad Hasan Muaviya *aka* Tooti is a leading anti-Ahmadi activist in Lahore for the last two years. He is a mulla, son of a mulla, brother of a leading mulla who is paid from public treasury, Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi member of the Council of Islamic Ideology and chairman of the All Pakistan Ulema Council. Tooti is member and spokesman of the Lahore-based Khatm-e-Nabuwat Lawyers Forum that succeeded last year in enforcing ban on juices and soft drinks produced by Shezan Ltd whose majority shares are owned by an Ahmadi family.

An outline of Tooti’s activities and achievements of the last two year will throw some light in how the anti-Ahmadiyya activists, extremist elements, some lawyers from the civil society, the police, the administration, politicians, mullas, the vernacular press etc indulge in highly objectionable and harmful activity against human rights and freedom of faith of marginalized sections of society. This gives some idea too of the plight of Ahmadi community in Lahore, the capital of the Punjab.

On August 31, 2011 Mr. Aziz ur Rehman, an Ahmadi was having a meal with his friends in a restaurant in Baghbanpura, Lahore. Tooti arrived there with a group of buddies and roughed up the Ahmadi. These rowdies noisily assembled a crowd and accused Ahmadis of blasphemy and declared them to be *Wajibul Qatl* (must be put to death). The Ahmadi could have lost his life that evening, but escaped fortunately.

In November 2012 the wife of Mr. Munawwar Ahmad Sindhi died in Baghbanpura. Her funeral prayer was scheduled at 10 p.m. Tooti arrived there at the head of a procession along with media reporters. As a result, the funeral prayer and its location had to be confidentially shifted to 5 a.m. to a site 10 kilometers away, out of town.

On January 1, 2013 Mr. Abid Chughtai, the president of a local Ahmadiyya community in Lahore, arrived home to find that the police had removed a marble plate from there. It carried attributive names of God. Tooti was the prime mover behind this sacrilege.

Tooti had a criminal case registered with police on September 6, 2012 under a blasphemy clause PPC 295-A against Mr. Chughtai (mentioned above). The complainant was none else than Hasan Muaviya. He accused the victim of wearing a ring with inscription: “Is Allah not sufficient for His servant” (tr).

Rana Tufail, an adversary of Ahmadis made a ‘complaint’ to the administration last year against the Ahmadi graveyard in Model Town, Lahore in that ‘Qadianis had written Islamic Sh‘air on tombstones; these should be effaced. Tooti presented himself repeatedly as a witness to the case before the police and in the court. In January 2013, ‘unknown’ miscreants entered the graveyard at night and defiled 120 graves by destroying or damaging their tombstones.

Tooti had a criminal case registered with the police in P.S. Samanabad, Lahore on January 16, 2013 against a 16-year old boy Atif Ahmad for being in possession of Ahmadiyya publications, and had him arrested. The entire family felt threatened and had to go into hiding. This reminds one of Taliban rule in Afghanistan where a few Australians faced arrest and prosecution for being in possession of the Bible.

On January 7, 2013 a police case was registered against the owner of Black Arrow Press in Lahore and three others under PPC 295-B, 298-C and 24-A in P.S. Islampura Lahore. The accused were arrested. PPC 295-B carries penalty of imprisonment for life. The accused were arrested and remain in prison to-date. The press has been sealed by the authorities. Tooti again was the prime mover behind this mischief.

More recently, on April 10, 2013, an Ahmadi boy Khalid Ashfaq was on his way to deliver the Ahmadiyya daily Al-Fazl to an Ahmadi's residence. Tooti, accompanied by his gang chased the lad and snatched the Al-Fazl from him; and subsequently had a criminal case registered with the police against 6 persons including the editor and publisher of the daily under PPC 295-B, 298-C and 11 WATA an anti-terrorism clause. This case was also sponsored by Hasan Muaviya. Four of the accused are still behind bars.

Tooti was a ring-leader in the latest case of raid against an Ahmadiyya place of worship in Gulshan-e-Ravi, Lahore. It resulted in arrest of 7 worshippers and sealing of the worship center.

Encouraged by his successes, Tooti is now expanding his area of operations and Ahmadi's outside Lahore are also targeted. The editor and publisher of the daily Al-Fazl that is published in a town 150 kilometers away is a case in point.

Tooti reminds one, in a way, of Boston Bombers, especially Tamerlan who was 'very religious', didn't smoke or drink; he went only for the innocent folk. But there is a big difference; Tamerlan kept away from most people, while Tooti enjoys the cooperation of the police, the mullas, the bigots – he leads a big gang in broad daylight.

It is for consideration, how half-wittedly the Pakistani society, whose majority claims to be traditionally moderate, has permitted itself to be high-jacked by religious thugs. They have none else but their political leaders, judiciary, administration, police and indeed themselves to blame. One wonders what Najam Sethi, the caretaker chief minister of the Punjab known for his moderate ideas is doing! Dancing to the tune of mullas?

Police register case under Blasphemy and Anti-Terrorism law against Ahmadiyya community's daily and arrest four

Lahore; April 10, 2013: Following press release was issued by the Ahmadiyya Jamaat:

"Police case under Anti-Terrorism Act against the editor and others of Pakistan's oldest daily Al-Fazl deeply condemned.

"Freedom of expression of patriotic Ahmadi's is being consistently denied in Pakistan.

Spokesman Jamaat Ahmadiyya

"Chenab Nagar (Rabwah): (PR) The spokesperson of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Pakistan has confirmed the news that on April 10, 2013, the police registered a case against the editor, Mr. Abdul Sami Khan, the printer Mr. Tahir Mehdi Imtiaz Ahmad of the oldest newspaper the daily Al-Fazl, and four others under the Anti-Terrorism Act and (anti-Ahmadi) Ordinance XX. The latter four accused were arrested by the Lahore Police of Police Station Islampura.

"The spokesperson elaborated that the daily Al-Fazl represents the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan and is distributed exclusively to members of this community, and this fact is boldly mentioned on the first page of every issue.

"On April 10, when Mr. Khalid Ashraf arrived at the residence of an Ahmadi, Mr. Tahir Ahmad Shah, two intruders detained him and beat him. As pre-planned, approximately 30 mullas who had already assembled nearby mounted an assault on the residence of Mr. Shah, detained his children and beat them. While departing they robbed the residents of two lap-tops and two mobile phones. The police had arrived by then, and rather than protecting the victims, registered a criminal case against them.

"The spokesperson Mr. Saleemuddin strongly condemned this incident and stated that this group of attackers who became the complainant in this case is the same who for some time have repeatedly harassed

Ahmadis on one excuse or another. It is regrettable that the administration, who should be protecting patriotic Ahmadis' legal rights, has become a tool in the hands of miscreants. This betrays lack of will of the state in the face of extremism.

"All the charges in the FIR are false," he said, "Every Ahmadi believes in all the prophets of God and sincerely loves them and their true followers". The spokesperson urged the caretaker chief minister of Punjab to stand by his claim of providing justice to all, and issue orders for legal action against miscreants, and withdrawal of the false and fabricated police case."

Subsequently, a statement of a police inspector was confirmed that the charges include one under the blasphemy clause PPC 295-B. The police however have not elaborated, exactly which content of the daily is even remotely blasphemous. FIR Nr. 510/13 was registered in police station Islampura, Lahore under PPCs 295-B, 298-C and 11 WATA on April 10, 2013.

According to a press report, Inspector Shaukat Ali told PTI that the Al-Fazl was a banned publication. That is not true. "We are conducting raids to arrest the editor and publisher of Al-Fazl," he said. That proves the highly discriminatory conduct of the police, as press, in general, enjoys great freedom in Pakistan; even dailies published by organizations, banned for terrorism, are issued every day – no questions asked. It is surprising that the government should expose itself to the charge of curbing press freedom, by collaborating with mullas against the most harmless daily of this country. Approximately a fortnight later maulvi Ilyas Chinioti (a PML-N candidate for the Punjab Assembly) joined the foray to draw his pound of political flesh, by sending an application to the Home Secretary Punjab for action against the daily Al-Fazl and the weekly 'Lahore'. This weekly is published in the capital of Punjab; its editor is an Ahmadi. This mulla has argued in his application that as per an amendment to Art 260 of the Constitution, 'Mirzais' are a non-Muslim minority; they injure Muslims' feelings by using Islamic terms in their periodicals; as such action should be taken against them. This mulla is a leader of the AMTKN, who had it published in the daily Din, Lahore: "Chiniot: Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat in session – demands immediate action to punish Aasia, the cursed." (December 24, 2010 issue)

The four arrested accused were denied bail and are still behind bars.

Extremism rampant in Green Town, Lahore

March 2013: Green Town is one of the neighbourhoods in Lahore where anti-Ahmadi activists openly spread hate and preach violence. Anti-Ahmadiyya activities and provocation against Ahmadis have become a routine here. Some incidents are reported below:

One Faisal, an opponent of the Ahmadiyya community organized a conference in this locality. He invited a few mullas on March 15, 2013. Approximately 40 men turned up. The mulla declared Ahmadis apostates, blasphemers and liable to be killed (allegedly according to Sharia). He also urged the audience to implement a total boycott of Ahmadis and not use the products produced by Ahmadi manufacturers. "Ahmadis were planning to build a place of worship (for *puja pat*) here, but we managed to deny them that," he claimed.

A mulla delivered an anti-Ahmadiyya Friday sermon in the mosque of Bagarian neighbourhood. People were instigated to implement a complete social boycott of Ahmadis. He urged owners of pharmacies and grocery shops not to sell to Ahmadis.

A sitting was arranged here to celebrate the birthday of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), on March 6, 2013. A mulla Azam Naeemi used foul language against the founder of the Ahmadiyya community at this occasion.

Two mullas who gave their names as Abdul Kabir and Ghazanfar Ali came to the residence of Khwaja Muhammad Siddique, an Ahmadi and demanded from him to arrange a donation from his community of land measuring 10 marlas or equivalent money for that, to build an Islamic preaching centre and a mosque. Mr. Siddique excused himself from doing that, but offered a personal donation which they refused and departed.

Another anti-Ahmadiyya conference was held on March 15 in I-D-E sector. The participants were provoked against the Ahmadiyya community and were urged to implement a complete social boycott of Ahmadis.

Mulla Samiul Haq organized an anti-Ahmadiyya rally in Military Accounts Housing Society on March 17. Ahle-Hadith mostly participated in it. They raised slogans there in support of Taliban. There is a JUI office close by that is very active against the Ahmadiyya community. Anti-Ahmadiyya pamphlets were thrown in the house of an Ahmadi on March 18. Similarly, anti-Ahmadiyya leaflets were distributed among children in a Taiba Foundation school.

Other persecution reports from Lahore

Rahmanpura; March 29, 2013: Opponents of Ahmadiyya community made a complaint against the worship of local Ahmadis and their activities. Ahmadis used to pray in the house of Mr. Mahmood, but had to change the location in the face of objection. Two policemen came to the house of Mr. Mahmood and delivered him a complaint letter. The next day the SHO visited Mr. Mahmood and asked him to see the newly posted superintendent of police. Mr. Mahmood went to see him. There the SP obtained from him a written statement that his house was not a place of worship nor was he planning to build any place of worship there, etc.

Dehli Gate; April 21, 2013: The police came to the house of Dr. Fazlur Rahman and told him to remove from his house the decorative plate on which *MashAllah* (What God wills) was written. Dr. Rahman refused to do that. The policemen stated that mullas were pressing them for action and they were unable to resist. Later at about 2:30 a.m. an ASI and three constables arrived and took away the plate, as desired by the clerics. It was an unlawful action by the police.

Wahdat Colony; March 2013: Mullas were active in reconnaissance of Ahmadis' houses and their place of worship. Four mullas were seen doing that near the Ahmadiyya place of worship on March 24, 2013. On being noticed they moved on, and entered a shop, Chiniot Chicken House. The owner of this shop is anti-Ahmadiyya.

A member of the local Ahmadiyya community received a phone call asking information about Darul Hamd (an Ahmadiyya centre). The unknown caller disconnected the call when his identity was asked. He called twice and asked the same question.

It is learnt from reliable sources that some banned organisations have plans of terrorist actions against Ahmadis in Lahore; Ahmadis at vulnerable locations have been advised to take special security precautions.

Sultanpura; April 5, 2013: An Ahmadi, Ch. Nadeem Ahmad S/O Ch. Tahir Nadeem encountered a youth, Kashif, while going home. Kashif was accompanied by approximately 15 youths. He accused Ahmad of denying the Khatme Nabuwat (end of prophethood) and started beating and abusing him. Mr. Ahmad maintained his calm and did not retaliate. He was injured but not badly. The assailants departed afterwards. Later, a complaint was made by Mr. Ahmad, not to the police but to Kashif's parents.

Rachna Town; April 5, 2013: Ahmadis are facing persistent harassment in this area of Lahore. An Ahmadi was killed here in 2010. Anti-Ahmadiyya stickers have been pasted in great numbers all around. A shopping-bag containing some pages of the Holy Quran was found outside the house of an Ahmadi. That could have been used for great mischief. A brother of an anti-Ahmadi mulla Muhammad Ahmad Faridi is very active on the anti-Ahmadiyya front. He and his accomplices do active recon of Ahmadis' businesses and their place of worship. All this is a cause of concern.

Update on the Black Aero Printers and Press case

Lahore: It would be recalled that in January 2013 the police, at the instigation of mullas, had sealed this press and arrested four Ahmadis. The accused plea for bail was rejected, later at the Sessions level, and they had put up a plea for bail with the Lahore High Court. Justice Khawja Imtiaz Ahmad was to hear the plea on April 4, 2013.

As usual for such occasions, religious bigots assembled in large numbers at the court's premises to intimidate the judge. A dozen lawyers also were present at the site apparently ready to indulge in, what is called in vernacular, *Wukala Gardi*. A big anti-Ahmadi banner was hung on the outer wall of the court.

The above setting conveyed effectively the desired message. The judge heard other cases, mostly of lower priority, and postponed the hearing of this plea for bail to a future occasion.

At the time of rendition of this report the accused are still in prison – for the last 17 weeks. No bail yet, at the High Court level.

Ahmadis to remain out of the electoral process

Lahore: Jamaat-i-Ahmadiya Pakistan spokesperson Saleemuddin spoke to the press on April 21, 2013, and The Express Tribune Lahore of April 22, 2013 reported the event as follows:

“Ahmadis still out of electoral process

“The registration form requires them to identify themselves

By Rana Tanveer

“LAHORE: The Ahmadiyya community will not cast votes in the May 11 election because of the “attitude of the State,” Jamaat-i-Ahmadiyya Pakistan Spokesperson Saleemuddin told The Express Tribune on Sunday.

“Ahmadis are unable to register as Muslim voters. The election commission used the NADRA data to register Ahmadis in a separate roll. However Ahmadis say they will not avail their right to vote.

“Saleemuddin said there were up to 200,000 members of the community in the country. Every government, he said, has pandered to anti-Ahmadiya elements which was why Ahmadis had been unable to cast their votes.

“The separate voter list for Ahmadis published by the election commission contains our latest addresses...this exposes us to great risk,” Saleemuddin said. Anyone can obtain these rolls, he said.

“Ahmadis have dissociated themselves from elections for nearly four decades. “We do not have voting rights to any assembly or district. We don’t even have representation in the town in the town council of Chenab Nagar where 95 percent of the population is Ahmadi,” Saleemuddin said.

“Ahmadis had participated in elections from 1947 to 1977 when there was a single electorate.

“Separate electorates were introduced in 1985 through the eighth amendment. Those who claimed to be Muslim now had to sign a certificate of faith denouncing the Ahmadi faith. “Because the form compelled us to call ourselves non-Muslims we were effectively excluded from the voting process,” said Saleemuddin.

“Hope was raised during former president Pervaiz Musharaf’s regime after he announced a return to the joint electorate, he said. However, anti-Ahmadi elements protested against that in May 2002, forcing Musharaf to rescind his decision. On June 17, 2002, the government issued a separate list of voters in which Ahmdis were listed as non-Muslims. “That order...remains in force,” he said.

“Saleemuddin said many people had asked him why Ahmadis did not simply fill out the form and get themselves registered. “I tell them we would never disassociate ourselves from the Holy Prophet (pbuh) to get registered as voters,” he said.

“In December 2007, several members of the Ahmadiyya community wrote letters to the acting prime minister, the chief election commissioner and the president protesting the laws discriminating against their community. Saleemuddin said no one had responded except the election commissioner’s office which said he was busy.

“Saleemuddin said a delegation of Ahmadis had met with Election Commissioner Fakhruddin G Ebrahim to convey their grievance, but the election would still be held under the same rules.

“Saleemuddin said the government should revise the rules and facilitate their participation through joint electorate that should bear no reference to religion. “We will continue boycotting the elections till our demand is met,” he said.

Touch stone

Form A for voter's registration states that if a voter claims to be a Muslim, he or she must not be associated with the Qaddiani or Lahore Group nor call him or herself an Ahmadi."

Published in The Express Tribune, April 22nd, 2013

The Express Tribune wrote an editorial on this issue on 23 April 2013; it is reproduced as Annex I to this report.

A few days later The News International printed an op-ed on this issue. As it faithfully describes the situation of Ahmadis' political rights in Pakistan, it is copied in Annex II.

Deadly attack on an Ahmadi

Nawab Shah, Sindh; April 2, 2013:

Mr. Asif Dawood Advocate S/O Mr. Saith Muhammad Yusuf was attacked by unknown assailants on April 2, 2013 at 3 p.m. when he was returning home.

He is 44, an advocate. His father was killed at the location of the attack five years ago, two days after TV's Islamist performer Dr. Aamar Liaquat had an edict of murder of Ahmadis announced on the mini-screen.

The shot injured Mr. Dawood's entrails. He was immediately shifted to Peoples Medical College Hospital where he was operated upon. Six bottles of blood were arranged to replenish his blood circulatory system. He was then shifted to the ICU ward. His condition remained perilous. He was shifted to the ventilator and transported to Ziaud Din Hospital, Karachi.

Luckily he survived and got stable a fortnight later.

The Express Tribune reported the incident in its issue of April 6, 2013. It reported:

"... the suspect was in his 30's with a beard and a scarf on his shoulder... the police have yet to take action besides demanding the victim's statement. They haven't arrested anyone or even seized the bullet casing from crime scene." Khan, a relative of the victim told The Express Tribune: "At least seven Ahmadis have been killed in over a decade in Nawab Shah alone. This is the constituency of the president of Pakistan and we have been living here in a constant state of fear."

Ahmadi escaped a deadly attack

Manzoor Colony, Karachi; April 14, 2013: Malik Muhammad Ateeq, an Ahmadi escaped a deadly attack on his life. He sat in his car to go somewhere when two assailants on a motorcycle arrived and fired at him. The shot luckily missed Mr. Ateeq. Mr. Ateeq fired back in self defense but the assailants escaped from the scene. A report was lodged with the local police station.

Manzoor Colony is a hot spot for Ahmadis. Six Ahmadis including a president of the local Ahmadi community have been killed here for their faith in the past.

Religion based violence in District Larkana

Qambar; April 2013: Mr. Aqeel Ahmad, an Ahmadi was attacked by an opponent of Ahmadiyyat, Muhammad Yusuf. Yusuf was also a prime witness in a fabricated case against local Ahmadis previously. He pelted stones on Mr. Ahmad which hit his friend, Shakeel who accompanied him. Shakeel was injured. Thereafter Yusuf went home and came back with a pistol and started shooting in the air.

Yusuf's brother, Qurban Dahri, armed with a pistol, came to the house of Mr. Ahmad on April 18. He threatened Ahmad of murder. Some neighbors intervened which saved him from further harm.

Ahmadi houses are under attack and the police are providing protection to the attackers (in District Kasur): Asian Human Rights Commission

Update of the Shamsabad incident

Kasur; April 2013: The AHRC issued an Urgent Appeal Case: AHRC-UAC-050-2013 on 26 March 2013 and wrote the following in the introductory statement:

"The Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) has received information regarding the attacks on the houses belonging to Ahmadis. The attackers were from two religious organizations, the Sipah-e-Sahaba (SP) and Khatme Nabuwat (KN) and were provided with protection by the police during the attack. The local

incharge of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat was seriously injured when he was beaten by the crowd and dumped on the street as if he was dead.

“The members of the Ahmadiyya Community are virtually under house arrest and the police have warned them to vacate the houses. The member of the national assembly (Mr. Rana Ishaque) from the ruling party of Punjab province (PML-N) and the highest police officer from the district (Syed Khurram Ali) have extended their support to the attackers in order to get votes in the coming elections.”

The press release issued by the Ahmadiyya Community on the incident was mentioned in the monthly report for March 2013. Here, the follow-up and up-date is given.

It is learnt that the Caretaker Chief Minister took notice of the incident and sent for DPO and the SHO. The outcome of this meeting was reported by The Express Tribune in its issue of April 6, 2013. Extracts:

**“Hostile neighbors: Ahmadis will be ‘always vulnerable’, says SHO
Police have asked the accused to be available if the CM sent an investigation team.**

By Rana Tanveer

“Lahore: “We cannot force people to live in peace with Ahmadis if they did not want to, “Chunnia Police SHO Tariq Khan told The Express Tribune on Tuesday.

“On March 23 a mob had vandalized the home of an Ahmadi citizen, Maqsood Anjum, in Shamsabad, a village of Kasur. They had also beaten his family and stolen valuables.

“Caretaker Chief Minister Najam Sethi has taken notice of the incident and summoned the district police officer on April 1 to be briefed on the incident and the progress in the investigation of the case.

“The Express Tribune has learnt that police have asked the nominated suspects to be available at the Chunnia police station if (and when) Sethi sends a special team.

“SHO Khan said that two Ahmadi families living among a hostile population of 10,000 would always be vulnerable. A contingent of 20 policemen had been deployed to guard their homes even though the families had left the area on March 26, he said.

“SHO said he had appeared in front of Sethi alongwith the DPO and had shared details of the case with him.

...

“Malik (a brother of the victim) said that the SHO had contacted him two days ago chiding him for not staying in contact with the police. “I told the SHO we had filed a complaint and submitted my brother’s medico-legal report and it was (now) his job to take action,” said Malik. The SHO had asked him to consider reconciliation, he said.

“My brother’s family has left the area for the time being as they felt insecure, Malik said.

“A non-Ahmadi neighbor said that the police had asked them to ensure that the nominated accused were available at the police station if the chief minister ever sent a special investigation team. He said they had agreed to do so.

“We would socially boycott the Ahmadis even if a settlement is reached,” he said, “It is best that they have left.” He said he was related to the Ahmadi families but wanted to have nothing to do with them.

“International Human Rights Commission Punjab Director General Munawar Ali Shahid visited Shamsabad on Tuesday. He said even though an FIR had been registered and police had been directed to take action, the suspects had not been arrested.

“Several people here have told me that the Ahmadis had been socially boycotted for long. Police have taken no action to stop violence against them,” he deplored.”

Published in The Express Tribune, April 6th, 2013

The above story betrays a great deal concerning the writ of the state, the legacy of PML-N in the Punjab administration, the attitude of the police, the power made available to the banned organizations and the vulnerability of the marginalized sections of the society. It is relevant that only a fortnight earlier the grisly incident of Josph Colony had occurred in Lahore. The provincial government apparently sent no warning to the mullas and its politicians on such condemnable attacks on minorities.

It is learnt that the police registered a 'counter complaint' against the victims, obviously to facilitate and enforce 'reconciliation'. None of the attackers was arrested. The victims have not been able to return to their homes. Mr. Maqsd Ahmad has survived and is recovering from his wounds at a far-off location in Pakistan.

Exhumation of an Ahmadi lady and the spineless authorities

Chak no. 133-P, District Rahim Yar Khan; April 16, 2013: Ms. Seema Bibi, an Ahmadi died on April 16, 2013. Her funeral prayer was performed by Ahmadis at 5 p.m. the same day. Some of her non-Ahmadi relatives performed her funeral prayers separately. After this, non-Ahmadi relatives and other residents of the village allowed burial in the joint cemetery, as there was no separate graveyard for Ahmadis. All went smoothly.

The next day the president of the local Ahmadiyya community received a phone call from some elders of the village who informed him that some outsider mullas tried to create mischief over the burial of an Ahmadi woman in the common cemetery, however they had told the mullas off as none of their business.

Mullas now love to challenge the writ of the state and society. They approached the police. The police came to the village the next day. They called the relatives of the deceased and told them to exhume the body to avoid a law and order situation. Ahmadis called the elders of the village who supported the burial. At this the police told Ahmadis to report to the police station in the evening.

The district authorities, DCO, DPO and SP etc. were present at the police station. They urged Ahmadis to undertake disinterment as they were the peaceful and law-abiding citizens while mullas had seriously threatened law and order situation in the city. The authorities showed their helplessness in controlling the mullas. They mentioned the Joseph Colony's incident in Lahore to intimidate Ahmadis. Ahmadis told the officials that it was the duty of the police to maintain law and order and provide shelter to the weak and not to oppress the weak further. The residents of the village told the authorities that the burial was undertaken with their consent, and if they had no problem with it, why the mullas' objection be entertained. At this the DPO got irritated and he used improper words against Ahmadis.

At last the police came to the village during the night of April 18/19, 2013, and it disinterred the Ahmadi deceased and handed over the coffin to the relatives of the deceased, who transported it to the city where she was reburied in the Ahmadiyya cemetery in Rahim Yar Khan at 4 a.m. in the morning on April 19, 2013.

P.S. If the mulla is now exercising freely the option of violence against the state and the society, the political leaders and officials have only themselves to blame.

Ahmadi deprived of livelihood

Kot Abdul Malik, District Sheikhpura: Mr. Javed Hameed lost his business in the face of mullas' campaign. He suffered for his faith – being an Ahmadi.

Kot Abdul Malik has been allowed to suffer sectarian conflict perpetuated by clerics with police support. This town has been mentioned in our dispatches off and on. The case of Mr. Hameed is another one in this series.

Mr. Hameed had a small outlet of Pakistani fast food and had built a good reputation for his items. The local mullas started a campaign against him through distribution of pamphlets and

personal contacts with customers telling them to stop visiting Hameed's stall. Employees of a nearby factory who were his regular customers were told to stop coming to him or face loss of job.

The above activity succeeded in consistent loss of business for Mr. Hameed. Eventually his sales reduced to a trickle and he had to close down his business. Consequently, Mr. Hameed had to shift even his residence to another town and try his luck afresh to earn a living.

Agitation in District Faisalabad

Chak 96 GB, District Faisalabad; March 2013: It was reported last month that anti-Ahmadiyya opponents had become very active in this village and in the nearby town of Jaranwala. Anti-Ahmadi elements again distributed blasphemous posters against the founder of the Ahmadiyya community in the village and also pasted them all over.

Mr. Dawood Nasir runs Roshan Medical Store in Jaranwala city. He was pursued by some suspects. The same suspects undertook reeve of the shop of another Ahmadi Dr. Ijaz Ullah in the city.

An opponent of Ahmadiyyat, Abdul Ghaffar lured an Ahmadi youth, Abbas, aged 16, to recant from Ahmadiyyat. When his parents intervened, Ghaffar gathered approximately 100 men and sought police support. The police arrived and arranged that the boy be given in the custody of a non-Ahmadi relative. The next day Abbas's 'conversion to Islam' was announced on the loudspeakers of the village mosque. Later, a ceremony of his recantation was held in Masjid Ghosia. A mulla in green turban was called from Jaranwala for this occasion. He spoke filth against the Ahmadiyya community, on amplifiers.

Threat to an Ahmadi lady teacher

Chenab Nagar: Ms. Sadaf Ashraf, a lecturer in Punjab College, received a threatening letter from Qari Zubair Khan Darwaish, the central secretary of information for Tahaffuze Khatme Nabuwwat Pakistan. He issued a threatening letter on the letterhead of Jamia Usmania Khatme Nabuwwat (Regd.), located in Chenab Nagar, Rabwah (Muslim Colony). It accused her of preaching Ahmadiyyat to her students. It conveyed:

"If you do not desist from it and do not leave the college ... you will be killed, as such people are apostates and infidels according to the religion of Islam, and Sharia punishment of an apostate is death. The one who kills such an apostate is given the glad tiding of paradise."

This mulla has not faced justice over this open threat to kill.

Ahmadis pressed hard in District Toba Tek Singh

Kathuwali; March 25, 2013: Mullas were putting pressure on the administration in this village to demolish the minarets of an Ahmadiyya mosque. A committee was formed by the DCO to find a solution. Ahmadis had to participate in the committee proceedings. They finally decided to build a room on the roof of the mosque; this would cover the minarets at the top of the mosque, thus avoiding their demolition.

Dhani Dev Chibba Sindhwa; April, 2013: The local mulla started an anti-Ahmadiyya campaign in this village. He started a campaign to remove the *Kalima* from the local Ahmadiyya mosque. He also started propaganda against a private school whose owner is Mr. Ahsan Mahmood, president of the local Ahmadiyya community. The village-head (Numberdar) and other non-Ahmadi residents firmly told the mulla to desist from sectarian activities. Ahmadis have been advised to exercise caution.

Release of USCIRF Annual Report 2013

Washington DC; January 2013: U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom released its annual report 2013. This commission is chaired by Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett. A chapter of 17 pages has been allocated for abuses of religious freedom in Pakistan. On the title page it is observed:

| |
|------------------------|
| “USCIRF STATUS: |
|------------------------|

Tier 1 Country of Particular Concern

BOTTOM LINE:

Religious freedom violations in Pakistan rose to unprecedented levels due to chronic sectarian violence particularly targeting Shi‘i Muslims. The government continues to fail to protect Christians, Ahmadis, and Hindus. Pakistan’s repressive blasphemy laws and anti-Ahmadi laws are widely used to violate religious freedoms and foster a climate of impunity.”

Some highlights of the report are given below:

The government of Pakistan continues to engage in and tolerate systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of freedom of religion or belief. *Page: 1*

Pakistan represents the worst situation in the world for religious freedom for countries not currently designated as “countries of particular concern” by the U.S. government. *Page: 1*

Despite a civilian government, the Pakistani military and intelligence services continue to be influential and independent of civilian oversight and are believed to maintain close contacts with terrorist organizations and other militant groups. *Page: 2*

Discriminatory laws promulgated in previous decades and persistently enforced have fostered an atmosphere of religious intolerance and eroded the social and legal status of members of religious minorities, including Shi‘a, Christians, Ahmadis, and Hindus. *Page: 2*

Overall, the U.S. Department of State has noted a five-fold increase in extremist violence since 2006. In this environment, armed extremists, some with ties to banned militant groups, continued their attacks on religious minorities, including bombings, against Shi‘a, Ahmadis, Christians, Hindus and others. *Page: 3*

During the reporting period, USCIRF received reports of 44 different attacks targeting Ahmadis, with 22 incidents resulting in the death of 23 individuals. *Page: 5*

The poor legal standing of Ahmadis under Pakistan’s constitution and criminal code (discussed below) fosters a climate of impunity, where perpetrators feel empowered to attack them with little or no fear of arrest or prosecution. *Page: 5*

In addition to attacks on individual Ahmadis, local police repeatedly forced Ahmadis to remove Quranic scripture from mosques and minarets. *Page: 5*

There were also at least seven instances of Ahmadi graves being desecrated, some by local police. *Page: 5*

Pakistan’s Ahmadi community is subjected to the most severe legal restrictions and officially-sanctioned discrimination. *Page: 9*

During the reporting period, USCIRF received reports of 10 Ahmadis being charged under Article 298. In many of these cases, police were pressured to act by local religious leaders who are opposed to the Ahmadi faith. *Page: 10*

In 2002, then President Musharraf issued an executive order that abolished Pakistan’s separate electorate system. However, he soon thereafter issued Chief Executive’s Order No. 15 mandating that Ahmadis register in a separate voter registry, therefore keeping a separate electoral system for this religious community alone. *Page: 10*

In addition, obtaining a Pakistani national identity card or passport requires the applicant to sign a religious affirmation denouncing the founder of the Ahmadi faith as a false prophet. *Page: 10*

In 2012, the government blocked the international website for the Ahmadi community. *Page: 10*

For instance, in public schools, all children, regardless of their faith, had to use textbooks that often had a strong Islamic orientation and frequently omitted mention of religious minorities or made derogatory references to them. *Page: 11*

Also, both public school and *madrassa* teachers lacked an understanding of religious minorities and a large portion of their pupils could not identify these minorities as citizens of Pakistan. *Page: 11*

Ahmadiyya Annual Press Report 2012

Rabwah; April 2013: The Press Section of Directorate of Public Affairs, Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan released here its annual press report for the year 2012. It is in Urdu.

Apart from presenting facts and figures regarding the ongoing anti-Ahmadi hate campaign carried on by the vernacular press in Pakistan, the report accuses the media of indulging in unethical practices of promoting hatred against a marginalized community through slander and fabrication. “This media that beats the drum of freedom of expression refuses to publish any rebuttal that is sent to them to explain the reality,” says this report. If these newspapers do not have the courage to publish the Ahmadiyya view, is it licit for them to carry on one-sided propaganda against the Jamaat Ahmadiyya,” questions the report.

A few highlights from the report:

- The daily Ausaf (Chief Editor: Mehtab Khan) was in the lead in printing anti-Ahmadi news – 193 as compared to 129 in the runner-up the Nawa-i-Waqt (Chief Editor: Majeed Nizami). The Nawa-i-Waqt however led by a mile in printing anti-Ahmadi op-eds – 56 as compared to the runner-up’s 37 in the daily Pakistan (Chief Editor: Mujeeb ur Rehman Shami). As for the news items only, the dailies Khabrain, Pakistan and Jang stood third, fourth and fifth respectively. In all, 1044 anti-Ahmadi news items were published by the vernacular dailies of Lahore. They published 215 op-eds, a big number by any standard.
- Entirely baseless and false conjectures of extremist mullas are reported in multiple column headlines by these newspapers. A few samples from this report are translated below:

Qadiani lobby is active behind the Rimsha case: Qari Zawar Bahadur (of JUP)

The Daily Express; Faisalabad, September 7, 2012

Qadianis are enemies of Pakistan. The government should fire them from high posts rather than patronize them: Tajdar Khatme Nabuwwat Conference

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, September 11, 2012

Chicha Watni: Qadianis torture a Muslim scholar. They chopped his beard with a dagger.

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, August 26, 2012

It is leniency that Qadianis have been declared a non-Muslim minority; in fact they are apostates, *Wajib ul Qatl* (must be put to death): Maulana Amir Hamza

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, July 2, 2012

The apostate *Wajib ul Qatl* (must be put to death) Qadianis should be expelled from the country: JUI

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, August 3, 2012

The government should forbid Qadianis to call and write themselves as ‘Ahmadi’: Ahmad Siraj

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, September 7, 2012

Sharia punishment of apostasy (allegedly death) should be imposed on Qadianis and the appearance of their places of worship should be altered: Khatme Nabuwwat Conference

The daily Jang; Lahore, May 5, 2012

Qadianism is cancer for the country and Islam: Mufti Munib ur Rehman

(Note: This Mufti is on state pay-roll)

The daily Din; Lahore, September 4, 2012

Qadianis are spreading revolt in Baluchistan: Abdulla Sialvi

The daily Pakistan; Lahore, April 1, 2012

The desecration of (120 Ahmadi) graves in Lahore is a Qadiani conspiracy to defame Pakistan.

The daily Insaf; Lahore, December 7, 2012

Those who have any dealings with Qadianis are not fit to be called Muslims: Ashraf Jalali

The daily Waqt; Lahore, September 8, 2012

Qadianis are conspiring against Pakistan and its nuclear program: Irfan Mahmud

The daily Insaaf; Lahore, March 29, 2012

Qadianis enrolled in Israeli forces are busy in attacks inside Islamic countries: Abdul Karim

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, December 13, 2012

Qadianis are agents of Jews and Christians: Maulana Munawwar Hasan (of JI)

The daily Din; Lahore, March 27, 2012

This Report carries photo-images of all the above news head-lines. It carries also photo-images of some anti-Ahmadi op-eds in the dailies Jang, Nawa-i-Waqt, Jinnah and Pakistan.

All this reminds one of the alert sounded by the International Humanist and Ethical Union to the United Nations HRC in 2010: "Need we remind the Council and the government of Pakistan that it was government and media support for expressions of hatred that led to the Nazi Holocaust and the genocide in Rwanda."

Anti-Ahmadiyya banner in Dunyapur

Dunyapur, District Lodhran; April 2013: Mullas of Aalami Tahaffuze Khatme Nabuwwat Pakistan put up anti-Ahmadiyya banner in Dunyapur. It states that:

General Information

All Ahle Islam (Muslims) are informed that **The Interactive Learning System, Model Town, Dunyapur** is the educational institute of Qadianis (Mirzais). Do not educate your children in this institute and save the faith and Hereafter of your children.

From: Aalami Tahaffuze Khatme Nabuwwat Pakistan (Dunyapur)



Anti-Ahmadiyya conferences and Friday sermons

Rahim Yar Khan; April 23, 2013: A *natiya* [to describe the merits of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in poetry] conference was held here by the Majlis Tahaffuze Khatme Nabuwwat. However, availing the opportunity, mulla Allah Wassaya indulged in anti-Ahmadiyya rhetoric. He also mentioned the disinterment which was undertaken a few days earlier in Chak 133-P of District Rahim Yar Khan by the district authorities under the pressure of the mullas. This rally was attended by approximately 400 participants, mostly madrassa students.

Chiniot; March 22, 2013: Mulla Amir Hamza (a leader of Tehrike Humate Rasul Pakistan) delivered Friday sermon in Markaz Madina, Faisalabad Road, Chiniot. He leveled scandalous allegations against the Ahmadiyya community and its founder. He left no stone unturned to provoke the audience against Ahmadis. "The Mujahideen will soon tear India to bits through God's help, and will raise the flag of Islam all over the world, including Qadian," he bragged.

'Special request for prayer'

Rabwah: The persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan is so perpetual, endless and unremitting that often the community newspaper the daily Al-Fazl has to publish an appeal to the readers for prayers for the victims. Translation of a recent appeal, made in the issue of April 16, 2013 is given below for the purpose of record and archives, as sample:

Special request for prayer

"Recently a baseless and fabricated criminal case has been registered against 6 persons including the editor and manager of the Al-Fazl, and four of these accused from Lahore have been arrested. Jamaat members are specifically requested to pray that Allah, in His mercy and support, cause acquittal of the accused from this charge, with honour. Moreover all Ahmadis who are either under prosecution or in prison, and those facing

hardships at the hand of miscreants may be saved through Divine support and may remain free of all complications (in their circumstances).”

The daily Al-Fazl is facing blasphemy charges under terrorism laws. One would be surprised to find any material in any issue of this daily that causes more hurt to the complainant bigots, than the entry quoted above. The Punjab administration and police should make public their definition of blasphemy and terrorism.

Aggressive discrimination

Lahore: Mr. I.A. Rehman, a renowned member of HRCP wrote an article in the daily Dawn of April 18, 2013. He minced no words. Excerpts:

“Aggressive discrimination

By I.A. Rehman

“In the mad race for power that has affected participants and spectators alike nobody seems to be bothered about the havoc being wrought by intolerance-driven violence.

“For several months, the 20 or so Ahmadi families living in village Shamsabad, in Chunian tehsil of Kasur district, not far from the Punjab capital, have been subjected to harassment and violence by the majority community because of their belief.

“A public meeting organized by a man who had just returned from Europe declared all Ahmadis living in the village liable to be killed. They were told to abandon their faith or leave the village. Mob rule followed. Ahmadis were persecuted in various ways. Some labourers were driven out of the village.

“After repeated complaints a police post was ordered to be set up the village but political influentials got this decision rescinded.

“On March 25, about 50-60 armed men attacked the Ahmadi community leader and subjected him and his family members to violence and after beating him mercilessly left him for dead. The district coordination officer and the district police officer arrived, an FIR was registered but no action was taken against the culprits. Instead, the Ahmadis are being advised by the administration to make up with their tormentors, obviously on the latter’s terms. Quite a few people have their eyes on their lands, prized booty certainly.

“In Lahore itself several Ahmadi were subjected to violence for distributing their newspaper, Al-Fazal, and then arrested on the charge of blasphemy.

“Meanwhile, the news from Islamabad is that there will be no peace for Rimsha, the Christian girl who was acquitted by the Islamabad High Court of the charge of desecrating the Holy Quran. The complainant has appealed to the Supreme Court against the high court decision but no date of hearing has been fixed. Earlier his petition had been dismissed by the Supreme Court for non-prosecution. The vengeful attitude of Rimsha’s persecutors is beyond reason and impossible to justify.”

Electoral partnership between Jamaat Islami and Dr Qadeer Khan

Islamabad: Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan and Jamaat Islami both have a certain role in the Pakistan state and society. Their past is well known. Dr. Khan has recently formed a political party Tehrik Tahaffuz Pakistan and is participating in national elections. The daily Jasaarat, Karachi of February 29, 2013 carried a report that is important enough to be placed on record (Translation):

Islamabad (correspondent): Syed Munawar Hasan, the Amir Jamaat Islami said that the JI and Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan will proceed in step and will lighten the lamps of hope. “They will impose Allah’s Shariah in Pakistan.’ We have decided that in league with Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, we shall persuade the people to rid the country of feudal, honchos and robbers. People will have to get ready to face all sorts of challenges. Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan has made this country invincible through his gift of the atom bomb. Pakistan, at this time, is

surrounded by enemies who appear to be friends, and friends who appear to be enemies. Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan has decided to appear in public in this environment. These views were expressed by him in his address according to a press release of the central Media Cell of the Jamaat Islami, in a reception in his honour by the Tehrik Tahaffuz Pakistan. The renowned nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, Mian Muhammad Aslam the deputy Amir Jamaat Islami Punjab, Zubair Farooq Khan and Chaudhry Khurshid-uz-Zaman the Secretary General Tehrik Tahaffuz Pakistan also addressed the participants in the reception. Syed Hasan said that by the day, American intervention in Pakistan's internal affairs is on the rise; we have always said that this war (on terror) is not our war. Dr Abdul Qadeer stated, "I was in the Islami Jamiat Talabah in my student days; there I read the literature on Islami Jamiat; since then I know that these are the youth who are men of character and piety."

Ahmadis behind bars

- I. Mr. Moeed Ayaz, Mr. Asmatullah, Mr. Razaullah and Mr. Ghulamullah are in detention in Lahore in the Black Arrow press case. They were arrested on January 7, 2013.
- II. On April 10, 2013, the police registered a case against the editor Mr. Abdul Sami Khan, the printer Mr. Tahir Mehdi Imtiaz Ahmad of the oldest newspaper the daily Al-Fazl and four others, under the Anti-Terrorism Act and (anti-Ahmadi) Ordinance XX. The latter four accused Mr. Khalid Ashfaq, Mr. Tahir Ahmad, Mr. Faisal Ahmad and Mr. Azhar Zareef were arrested by the Lahore Police of Police Station Islampura. They are still in prison.
- III. A group of miscreants led by the brother of a top mulla and police raided an Ahmadiyya prayer centre in Gulshan-e-Ravi on April 28, 2013, detained nine, including a woman and her son, and booked 8 men on charges of blasphemy and terrorism. The woman and the boy were released very late at night. Mr. Naseer A. Qureshi, Khawja Muhammad Irshad, Mr. Naeem A. Khan, Mr. Abdul Rahim, Mr. Ata Muhammad, Mr. Ahmad Mehmood, Mr. Saqib Mahmood are still behind bars.

From the media

Seven Ahmadis detained without FIR

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, April 30, 2013

Four (Ahmadis) held on blasphemy, terrorism charges

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, April 13, 2013

Four held for distributing banned daily (Note: Al-Fazl, the Ahmadiyya daily is not banned Ed.)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 13, 2013

Ahmadis will be 'always vulnerable' says SHO

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, April 6, 2013

1,25,000 Ahmadis declare boycott of elections

The daily Insaf; Lahore, April 26, 2013

19 Ahmadis killed last year

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 20, 2013

Ahmadis still out of electoral process

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, April 22, 2013

Chenab Nagar: No drinking water; residents deprived of even trickle.

The daily Din; Lahore, April 4, 2013

Elected representatives of Chenab Nagar (area) have failed in public expectations. People's complaint

Chenab Nagar: (Municipality) Water filter malfunctioning. Citizens have to drink polluted water. People demand authorities to ensure cleaning and supervision of the filtration plant.

The daily Insaf; Lahore, April 23, 2013

Qadianis and Jews are a team on enmity towards Muslim Ummah: Maulana Shabbir Ahmad Usmani

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, April 6, 2013

More than 1000 Pakistani Qadianis are enlisted in the Israeli army... . They enjoy equal rights as Jews – Report

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, April 4, 2013

Qadiani Jamaat Ahmadiyya should be declared illegal and banned: Qari Shabbir Ahmad Usmani

Unlawful publications of the Qadiani daily Al-Fazl, reluctance to seal the Zia ul Islam Press are criminal negligence of state agencies: Qari Shabbir Ahmad Usmani

Qadiani Zia ul Islam Press prints preaching literature, anti-Islam and anti-Pakistan periodicals in addition to Qadiani religious books.

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, April 16, 2013

Militants storm power station near Peshawar. Seven killed, four missing.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 3, 2013

Taliban kill 44 in attack on Afghan court

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 4, 2013

14 militants, four soldiers killed in Khyber

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 6, 2013

Nine killed in Peshawar blast

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, April 14, 2013

21 killed in terrorist attacks in Peshawar and Quetta. More than 70 injured.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, April 17, 2013

Seven soldiers die in North Waziristan explosion

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 17, 2013

Polio vaccination team tortured (in Rawalpindi)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 18, 2013

Four soldiers die in blast (near Miranshah)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 24, 2013

Four blasts kill 6 in Quetta; LJ claims responsibility.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 24, 2013

Spate of blast rock Quetta, KP

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, April 25, 2013

Eight die in militant attacks on MQM, PPP

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 26, 2013

11 die in blast at ANP meeting in Karachi

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 27, 2013

Three blasts target MQM, PPP (Election related sites) 3 killed, 43 injured

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 28, 2013

Nine killed, 56 injured in KP. Bomb attacks on candidates, election offices

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 29, 2013

2 Afghan officials among 9 die in suicide hit

The daily The News; Lahore, April 30, 2013

Democratic system is un-Islamic: Hakimullah

The daily Nation; Lahore, April 9, 2013

Election contest: May 11 a clash of secular, religious forces: Fazl

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, April 15, 2013

Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Syed Munawwar Hasan told DW nobody knows the Taliban better than Pakistan and that if his party succeeded in upcoming elections, it would make peace with the militants.

The daily Nation; Lahore, April 13, 2013

PTI and Taliban share understanding: Rehman Malik

The daily Abtak; Lahore, April 27, 2013

Minorities avail equal rights on every platform. No temple, church or Gurdwara has been shut down.

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, April 28, 2013

Sethi (CM Punjab) orders removal of provocative posters, banners

The daily The News; Lahore, March 31, 2013

Those who cast votes will commit Gunah Kabirah (a major sin): Tahirul Qadri

The daily Aman; Faisalabad, April 22, 2013

Ulema stress use of vote to bring about change.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 26, 2013

Myanmar: Madrassa set on fire. 13 students burnt to death.

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, April 3, 2013

Muslims worry about broader head scarf ban in France

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 2, 2013

Communal clashes claim five lives in Egypt

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 7, 2013

India: 4 years old girl rusticated from school for wearing scarf

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, April 23, 2013

Musharraf's papers in Kasur rejected, faces treason case

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 6, 2013

Musharraf told to appear before Supreme Court today. Proceedings begin in treason case.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 9, 2013

Musharraf flees after IHC orders his arrest

The daily The News; Lahore, April 19, 2013

Musharraf arrest, shifted to police HQ

The daily The News; Lahore, April 20, 2013

55 'terrorists' allowed to contest polls

The daily The News; Lahore, April 25, 2013

Tehrik Taliban decides not to attack PML-N, JUI(F) and JI

The daily Abtak; Lahore, April 29, 2013

Maulana Muhammad Ahmad Ludhianwi (of ASWJ, former banned JD) provides election support to Qari Shabbir Ahmad Usmani (of Khatme Nabuwat Movement)

The daily Jang; Lahore, April 30, 2013

Imran working for Ahmadi, Jewish lobbies, alleges Fazl (JUI)

The daily Nation; Lahore, April 28, 2013

Senator, 10 ex-law-makers punished for fake degrees

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 8, 2013

Lal Masjid tragedy: Musharraf, Shaukat Aziz and their cabinet responsible. 103 died: Inquiry Commissions Report

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, April 22, 2013

Effective action against sectarian wall-chalking: Sources

Action soon on recommendations of agencies: Interior Ministry

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 15, 2013

US (report) slams Pakistan's human rights record in 2012

The daily Nation; Lahore, April 24, 2013

Fake degree: Former federal minister Humayun Kurd and Khalifa Abdul Qayyum sent to prison

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, April 3, 2013

More than 21, 000 attend security duties for political and religious VIPs.

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, April 8, 2013

Cops gang rape women in Tharparker

The daily The News; Lahore, April 22, 2013

Musharraf on judicial remand for two weeks. (His) Farmhouse declared sub-jail.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 23, 2013

Op-ed: Pride of the Muslim Ummah

Ahmadis as far as I have understood their position, have long left the matter to God. What they want now is simply to live in peace as Pakistani citizens entitled to equal rights as Pakistanis, which includes the right to practice their faith, whether or not you and I consider them non-Muslims. This is a constitutional right under the Article 20. Those who rely on Zaheeruddin vs the State to suggest that the Article 20 of the constitution is not violated by the persecution of Ahmadis and wanton destruction of their property should remember that through the 18th Amendment, the word 'freely' was restored to the Objectives Resolution, which was not the case in 1993. Therefore, logically, a free, fair and impartial judiciary, unmoved by religious passion or pressure should be able to strike down the notorious and illogical Ordinance XX of 1984, which is violation of every known principle of natural justice and all principles of Islam vis-à-vis religious freedom.

Let us not persecute this community any further. Restore to them, as Pakistanis, their civil and political rights even if you disagree with their religious beliefs, so that they may live honourably and without fear as citizens of country. In the long run, we need them more than they need us.

Y.L. Hamdani in The Daily Times of April 01, 2013

Op-ed: Pakistan's precipitous decline

The West, as well as Pakistan's regional neighbours, should be thinking about the political and strategic implications of an accelerated decline toward state failure in this key, nuclear armed country.

Amb. Will Milam, on April 4, 2013

Op-ed: Pakistan: A vanishing state

Is a nuclear Pakistan, with its extremist image acceptable to the world? The answer to this question is simple: no. In the 21st century, an ideological nation in possession of nukes and facing extremism has no place. We have two options: a) start behaving like a nuclear power by modernizing our political and social institutions in order to become partners of global forces instead of becoming their rivals or b) keep insisting on the old course declaring extremism as a tactical weapon and wait to join the club of African nations like Guinea or Somalia. We have to choose between a modern, progressive, secular and stronger nuclear power or a conflict-ridden, tribal and conservative society with extremist leanings. Ideology is not more relevant in modern global politics. History tells us that nations or states collapse only when they refuse to change and insist on being foisted to the moorings of a decadent and eroded social and political order.

Shabbir Ahmad Khan in The Express Tribune of April 2, 2013

Report: Pakistan cleric tries hand at politics

JHANG, Pakistan (Reuters): When Maulana Ahmad Ludhianvi (head of ASWJ party) greets supporters on the Pakistan election trail, he opens his pitch with the kind of promises to the poor that any other politician might make....

Ludhianvi, a radical Sunni cleric, is a hate figure for Shi'ites who accuse him of devoting his decades-long career to fomenting an escalating campaign of gun attacks and suicide bombings targeting their community.

Aurangzeb Farooqi, head of the party in Karachi, told Reuters in January that Shiites should be barred from holding important public office and their public religious activities should be restricted. Farooqi is also running for a seat in the national assembly.

These suspicions (of a link between Nawaz League and extremists) were compounded when Rana Sanaullah, Punjab's law minister and a PML-N stalwart, campaigned along with Ludhianvi at a by-election rally in Jhang in 2010.

Some fear that a victory for Ludhianvi and other hardliners at the polls will provide a veneer of political cover for violent sectarian extremist. This would be very dangerous, said Amir Rana an expert on Pakistan militancy. This will give all of their activities political legitimacy.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/20/us-pakistan-election-sectarian-insight-idUSBRE93JOHE20130420>

Op-ed:

The general consensus is that had Rehman Malik been an interior minister of any true substance, he would have banned all sectarian outfits. Instead under his watch, even those that were banned by the Musharraf regime in 2001, have resurfaced under new names. Certainly, Malik could have ordered a strict implementation of the law against wall-chalking, loudspeakers and hate material. He banned Youtube, but seems unable to ban social media websites that preach sectarian hate.

Cover story: The monthly Newslines March 2013

Annexes:

- I. Editorial of the daily The Express Tribune of April 23, 2013
- II. The Status quo remains ..., Op-ed in the daily The News of April 28, 2013

Ahmadi exclusion

By [Editorial](#)

Published: April 23, 2013

As has been the case since 1985, the country's 200,000 Ahmadis will not be casting their ballots on May 11. They remain a community without representation and voice, marginalised within a society where they have been subjected to ceaseless discrimination, denied jobs and education, ostracised, beaten and sometimes subjected to brutal terrorist attacks. The Ahmadis, many of whom have fled the country in droves, were officially declared "non-Muslim" in the 1970s, the state determining their faith.

Since then, the state has adopted increasingly vicious policies. In 1985, under the late General Ziaul Haq, a new form was introduced in which voters who declared themselves Muslim had to denounce the Ahmadi faith. As the Ahmadis refused to do so, they were placed on separate rolls as "non-Muslims" under the separate electorate system. While the joint electorate was revived in 2002, as a result of extremist protests, a separate roll was created for Ahmadis. This policy has since been retained, with the Election Commission of Pakistan using NADRA data to create a separate list for Ahmadis. A community spokesman has made it clear they will not vote as non-Muslims. The group thus remains disenfranchised, while, as the spokesman has said, the appearance of their addresses on the NADRA list opens up new dangers for them.

The situation cannot be allowed to continue. The Ahmadis need to be mainstreamed; no organ or individual has the right to determine the faith of a citizen. Legislative measures are required to undo legal discrimination, backed by a programme to eradicate hate directed against them. The task will not be an easy one, but justice needs to be done without further delay, so the long suffering of a badly wronged community can be ended and their most basic rights — including that to vote — restored to them without further delay, so that all citizens can truly be equals in our society.

Published in The Express Tribune, April 24th, 2013.

The status quo remains

Once more, Pakistan's Ahmadiyya community sit back and watch while others vote

By Bilal Farooqi

For more than three decades, they have not dropped a vote down the slit of a ballot box — at least not until renouncing their faith. Ironically, even the man who had so diligently fought the case for their rights 20 years ago was unable to set the wrongs right for the General Elections 2013. But given the past disappointments, expecting anything else would have been overoptimistic.

It was the present Chief Election Commissioner, Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim, who was the counsel for the five appellants belonging to the Ahmadiyya community in the 1993 Zaheeruddin case. The five Ahmadis — Zaheeruddin, Abdur Rehman, Majid, Rafi Ahmad and Muhammad Hayat — had appealed before the apex court against the sentences handed down to them for wearing badges bearing the kalima and claiming to be Muslims.

They were convicted under the controversial Ordinance XX promulgated by the military ruler General Ziaul Haq in 1984, targeting the Ahmadiyya community.

Ebrahim had presented a strong argument before the court. He had submitted that Ordinance XX was “oppressively unjust, abominably vague, perverse, discriminatory, produce of biased mind, so mala fide and wholly unconstitutional being violative of Articles 19, 20 and 25 of the Constitution”. According to him, imposing restrictions on the Ahmadis’ “religious practices, utterances and beliefs” violated the right to speech, profess and practice one’s faith and amounted to serious discrimination.

However, the court had upheld the sentences and declared the ordinance in accordance with the Constitution. Two decades later, not even Ebrahim as the Chief Election Commissioner could turn things around.

A delegation of Ahmadis met with Ebrahim and other officials, but the system that makes the community members choose between their faith and the right to vote still remains in place. Disappointed, they boycotted the upcoming polls. “We wrote letters [for changing the system] to the authorities in 2007 too but to no avail,” said Saleemuddin, the spokesperson for the community, adding, “It is no different this time round. Our appeals have been ignored for years.”

Separate electoral list

Not only has the Election Commission continued to discriminate against Ahmadis, but also exposed them to more perils. It ordered that a separate electoral list be prepared only for Ahmadis. The nominal rolls it published contain the community members’ latest addresses, turning them into sitting ducks for the modern-day witch-hunters.

The brief reintroduction of the joint electorate system in the country in 2002 had led many to believe that there was hope after all. It had brought an end to the system imposed by General Ziaul Haq in 1985 under which separate electoral lists were prepared for different religious groups.

But that never happened. A few days after the joint electorate system was reintroduced, the then President General Pervez Musharraf caved in to the demands of hardline clerics and promulgated the Chief Executive Order 15 of 2002, inserting Articles 7B and 7C in the Conduct of General Elections Order, 2002. The first article enforced that the status of Ahmadis was to remain unchanged despite the Conduct of General Elections Order 2002. The second required the voters to sign a declaration that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the last of the prophets. Those who refused to sign it were to be deleted from the joint electoral rolls and added to a supplementary list of voters in the same electoral area as non-Muslims.

So the joint electorate system never made a comeback in the true sense.

No option

The Ahmadis cannot sign the declaration because of their religious beliefs. The other option for them — the one they are unwilling to take — is to list themselves as non-Muslims. For the 2002 elections, the Election Commission had introduced two separate forms for the registration of voters — Form 2 for Muslims and Form 8 for Non-Muslims. Ahmadis could only apply through Form 8. Now, there is no Form 8 and Form 2 has been redesigned for the registration of all voters.

But there is a catch. The applicants have to tick one of the boxes in the new form to indicate their religion. Those who tick themselves as Muslims have to sign a declaration on the form that they are not Ahmadis and do not share the religious beliefs of that community.

In a nutshell, the Ahmadiyya community has been strategically kept deprived of their right to vote. “The Form 8 has been kept unchanged for the upcoming elections,” said Saleemuddin. “Everything remains the same.”

Another dead end

A couple of month ago, the Supreme Court had started hearing of petition submitted in 2007 against the two articles inserted by Pervez Musharraf in the election law. Later, the court made it clear that the decision would be made in the light of the constitutional provisions and principles laid down in the Zaheeruddin case verdict — apparently another dead end for the Ahmadiyya community.

<http://jang.com.pk/thenews/Apr2013-weekly/nos-28-04-2013/dia.htm#5>