

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

News Report February 2013

Mounting hostility in Lahore

Samanabad; February 2, 2013: Some mullas accused Mr. Atif Ahmad S/O Mr. Muhammad Arif of distributing Ahmadiyya literature and subjected him to torture. They also reported him to the police. The family therefore had to migrate from the place.

The mullas demanded that the SHO register a criminal case against Mr. Ahmad. The SHO hesitated to register an FIR. The mullas then approached a court and complained against the SHO for not registering an FIR. The judge told the SHO to render a report on the incident. The latter succumbed to the pressure and registered an FIR against Mr. Ahmad under PPC 298-B on February 2, 2013 in Police Station Samanabad.

Lahore: It was reported in our January 2013 report that the police raided Black Arrow printing press, owned by an Ahmadi, arrested four Ahmadis and booked them under the blasphemy clause PPC 295-B, anti-Ahmadi clause PPC 298-C, and also 24-A. The press was sealed.

The accused applied for release on bail. After numerous postponements, eventually Mr. Nadeem Shaukat the Sessions Judge heard the plea. The two advocates pleaded their case in a very competent and convincing manner. The advocate for the prosecution provided by the mullas indulged mostly in slander and irrelevant accusations. The judge announced his verdict in the afternoon, whereby he rejected the accused's plea for release on bail.

Their plea for bail will now be moved with the High Court.

Mr. Nasir Maqbool, another Ahmadi, is also a printer. On February 14, 2013, when he left his laboratory to go home he was stopped by a few mullas who forced him out of his car and accused him of printing Ahmadiyya publications, committing blasphemy etc, and took him to the police. The policemen took him to the DSP (Investigation). Mr. Maqbool was interrogated and detained for almost five hours. Eventually he was allowed to go home with the notice that he would be recalled if needed.

Sabzazar Colony; February 19, 2013: Eight men in a police van visited various Ahmadi houses of the locality. Three of them were in police uniform while the rest were in plain clothes. They removed decorative plates that bore *Kalima* or Quranic verses on them. The SHO told Ahmadis that a committee is active in the locality which pinpoints the houses of Ahmadis where Islamic inscriptions are displayed. The police then remove them. The SHO did not disclose the names of the committee members. It is learnt that it comprises bigots of the local Khatme Nabuwat Mosque of the J Block.

It is noteworthy that the police in Lahore follows an S.O.P. drafted by Khatme Nabuwat mullas.

Lahore; February 2013: A systematic hate campaign is underway in two hostels (Zubair Hostel and Mumtaz Hostel) of University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore. Hate literature is distributed there against Ahmadis. Mr. Mubarak, an Ahmadi student resident of Zubair Hostel faced the brunt of this propaganda. A few mullas came to him and abused him after confirming his denomination. They contacted his room-mate later and provoked him against Mr. Mubarak. As a result he contacted the senior warden and told him that he would not share a room with a Qadiani (Ahmadi). So, the warden shifted Mr. Mubarak elsewhere.

Similarly another Ahmadi student, Mr. Usman Ahmad faced hostility for his faith. He is a student of 3rd year in Mining Engineering. A few students came to his room, abused him and threatened him with grave consequences.

Mughalpura; February 15, 2013: An Assistant Sub Inspector of Police came to the local Ahmadiyya mosque. He sought entry inside the building. When asked the reason, he said that he had received a letter from the CCPO (Capital City Police Officer) to check whether Ahmadiyya periodicals were published in the mosque? He was told that there was no printing press in there, and no Ahmadi periodical was published from there; it is a mosque and Ahmadis only worship there. The ASI wrote down his report and went away.

Lahore: Last month the lead story of our Newsreport was about “**A joint swoop on an Ahmadi printing press in Lahore by a team of mullas and the police.**” That senseless and barbarous act had a part II – even more senseless. It was enacted in February.

The police raided the workshop of a book-binder, Syed Altaf Hussain and arrested him, his son and his workers on February 22, 2013. The charge: he undertakes book-bindings of some Ahmadiyya publications. Syed Altaf Hussain is not an Ahmadi.

As evidence, the police took away from his workshop a book on homeopathy written by an Ahmadi homeopath and a copy of the Holy Quran, translated by Mir Muhammad Ishaque, an Ahmadi scholar.

Two days later, the police released four of the detainees but kept Syed Hussain in detention at P.S. Old Anarkali. The mullas insisted that a criminal case should be registered against him. No FIR was registered till the filing of this report.

This incident and the earlier raid on the Ahmadi-owned press appear to be triggered by some high-up in the provincial government. This is another one in the series of absurd actions taken by the Shahbaz Sharif government with forthcoming elections in view.

Litton Road; February 2013: Anti-Ahmadiyya propaganda remains rampant in Lahore these days. Hate-provoking posters are pasted at various locations in the city. Such a poster was also pasted at the place of ablution in the mosque at 4-Litton Road. It was unabashedly titled, “**Hate campaign against Ahmadis**”. It carried the following messages:

1. Qadianis are blasphemers.
2. Qadianis are *Wajibul Qatl* (must be killed).
3. When a Qadiani says *Salaam* to any Muslim or a Muslim says *Salaam* to any Qadiani, the spirit of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) shivers under the Green Dome. (**From: Khatme Nabuwwat, Hazuri Bagh, Multan.**)

Faisal Town; February 2013: Dr. Mansoor Ahmad of Faisal Town and Mrs. Tahira Samee W/O Sardar Abdul Samee of Model Town, both Ahmadis, received the following threatening sms message (translation from Urdu):

“O Infidels, come to Islam straight away, otherwise I shall destroy everything (of you). This is my last warning to all of you infidels. You will see your destruction yourselves.”

After overwhelming the civil administration, the mullas now find it easy to frighten the soldiers – in District Rawalpindi

Wah Cantt: Last year, the mullas in Rawalpindi managed to seize the administration’s support to deny Ahmadis the right of congregational worship in the Ahmadiyya Ewan-i-Tauheed in Rawalpindi. Encouraged by their success, they turned on the heat against the Ahmadiyya mosque in the nearby Wah Cantonment where the town is under the control of army authorities.

The mullas demanded that the niche in the Ahmadiyya worship place be demolished. They approached the local station commander (a brigadier) and found it easy to convince him of their position. It can be assumed that a copy of their written application was sent to even a higher local authority.

The station commander sent for the Ahmadiis to explain. The Ahmadi delegation informed him that their mosque including its niche was constructed in 1976, much before the promulgation of the anti-Ahmadi Ordinance. They showed him the official documents of the lease of the land, the construction plan etc. The official, however, refused to show any inclination to uphold their right to religious freedom and told them to demolish the niche or be responsible for the consequences.

The mullas turned to their routine tactics which are often successful. They indulged in hateful sectarian campaign and put up anti-Ahmadi banners in the town with the following exhortations:

- Qadianio: Do not injure Muslims' feelings by building niches in your worship places – Khatme Nabuwwat: Long live.
- Muslims are ready to sacrifice all on the altar of Khatme Nabuwwat of the Holy Prophet.
- Qadianis are enemies of both Islam and Pakistan.
- The Mirzais in Wah Cantt have constructed a niche in their worship place; it is violation of Pakistani law.

Etc.

In fact there is no law that forbids Ahmadiis building a niche in their place of worship. Also, there is no mention in the Quran or Hadith that a mosque must have a niche, nor is there a commandment for Muslims to deny others building a niche. The mullas' agitation over this issue is only a pressure tactic to assert their religious, social and political power. Having lost their battle in Swat, they are carrying out their campaign for supremacy by other means.



Anti-Ahmadiyya banner in Wah Cantt

The army authorities in Wah Cantt find it convenient to yield to the mulla on an issue that hurts only a small community. Khalid Ahmad of the daily the Express Tribune is perhaps right in concluding: "Only Muslims and men can live in this country." (*The Express Tribune, Lahore; February 13, 2012*) This also reminds one of the Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan who said last year, "Bells of justice to ring without discrimination." (*The daily Dawn, Lahore; April 26, 2012*)

Ahmadi woman survives attack on her life

Badin; February 5, 2013: Mrs. Inamul Haq walked to her father's house along with her younger son. A man pursued her. When she was entering her father's house, he stabbed her with a dagger. The attack injured her back. She was rushed to the hospital where she got stable.

The attack is under investigation.

Hostile conferences in violation of law

Rawalpindi; January 29, 2013: Anti-Ahmadi opponents succeeded last year in depriving the Ahmadiis of Rawalpindi of their right to worship in congregation. They had held a Khatme Nabuwwat conference on January 29, 2012 in a square next to Ahmadiis' place of worship, Ewan-i-Tauheed, and later named the square, "Khatme Nabuwwat Square". A

year later they again held a Khatme Nabuwwat conference at the same location. It was publicized through banners and posters throughout the city by Sharjeel Mir, the leading anti-Ahmadiyya figure.

This conference started at 7 p.m. Approximately 300 men attended it. A dozen mullas made venomous speeches there against the Ahmadiyya community. The local Amir of Khatme Nabuwwat faction, Maulvi Mushtaq was among them. They declared Ahmadis infidels and *Wajibul Qatl* (must be killed). One mulla called Ms. Aasma Jahangir a Qadiani and threatened agitation if she is appointed caretaker prime minister. Sharjeel Mir said, "According to law Qadianis cannot worship in congregation. According to Islam they are apostates and *Wajibul Qatl* (must be killed). (sic) I'll see to it that Qadianis are expelled from this location." He demanded from the administration to seal Ewan-i-Tauheed, the Ahmadiyya centre. This conference lasted till 01:00 a.m. past midnight.

This conference was in gross violation of the law of the land, PPC 153-A. The police were present, but seemed to be happy with this violation as it affected only a marginalized community. The events of Karachi and Quetta, caused by sectarian bigots were of little education to the Punjab government.

Faisalabad; February 14, 2013: Anti-Ahmadi mullas held a Khatme Nabuwwat conference in Mustafabad in Karim Nagar area of Faisalabad. They spoke venomous slander against the Ahmadiyya community. The conference was presided over by Mufti Muhammad Hussain. Qazi Kausar Hussain, Allah Wasaya and Muhammad Ilyas were the main speakers. One of them declared Ahmadis *Wajibul Qatl* (must be killed) and another urged the audience to implement a complete social boycott of Ahmadis. They announced holding of another Khatme Nabuwwat conference on April 18, 2013.

Kotri, District Hyderabad; February 12, 2013: An anti-Ahmadiyya conference was held in the mosque of Ahle Hadith in Labour Colony, Phase III, Kotri. It was organized by mulla Muhammad Khubaib. Mulla Rahmatullah was called from Karachi to address this crowd. He spoke venomously against Ahmadis and indulged in slander against the elders of their community. He urged the audience to implement a complete social boycott against Ahmadis. He declared Ahmadis *Wajibul Qatl* (must be killed).

Tense situation in Goleki, Gujrat

February 5, 2013: A man named Sarfraz was killed here sometimes ago. The opponents of Ahmadiyyat falsely implicated Ahmadis in it and succeeded in getting the local Ahmadiyya mosque sealed.

A son of Sarfraz is a madrassa student. He organised a procession comprising fellow students and madrassa teachers and came to the sealed Ahmadiyya mosque. There they indulged in rowdy behaviour and disturbed the peace of the neighbourhood. They shouted slander and abused Ahmadis. The police were informed but they did not intervene. These miscreants spent a night in the Jamia Masjid of Goleki and took rounds of the village the next day to pinpoint the houses of Ahmadi residents.

The incident was provocative and threatening. Ahmadis had to remain on guard.

A threatening message to a lady doctor

Quetta; February 2013: Dr. Sadiqa Sultana, Ahmadi received a letter from a banned organization, BK Group Balochistan. Its English translation is as follows:

"Dr. Sadiqa Sultana, listen carefully and then decide. If you care for your life and that of your children, you have to comply. You have to pay us two million rupees. We have all the information about you.

Your timings to and from the hospital, the members of your family and their schedules are known to us. You will be responsible for any harm to members of your family if you do not pay us the money. Call us on 0333-6233653. We'll wait for your phone call. The decision is yours."

Dr. Sultana has been advised to shift and remain on guard.

Mullas on the hunt

Faisalabad; February 14, 2013: Mr. Muhammad Abbas Shahid S/O Muhammad Almas resides in Gobindpura, Faisalabad. He owns a shop of cell phones. He was in his shop when two mullas visited him. They told him that they were from a Khatme Nabuwat organisation. They asked him if he was a Qadiani. He replied that he was a Muslim. The mullas told him to abuse the founder of the Ahmadiyya community. He refused and told them that it was not the practice of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The mullas then were harsh with him and threatened him with grave consequences. They said, "You have chosen to name your shop, "SubhanAllah Mobile". We'll get a police case registered against you." They shouted and attempted even to beat up Mr. Shahid.

They threatened Mr. Shahid of a repeat visit that would be more frightful.

A fabricated unrest

Ahmadpur Sharqia; District Bahawalpur; February 2013: Mr. Muhammad Aslam joined Ahmadiyyat a few years ago. Later he converted to Shia. Someone floated an SMS message on mobile phones that, "Muhammad Aslam belonged to Ahle-Sunnat, then he converted to Shiaism, and later he became a Qadiani." This was not true.

When Aslam came to know of this campaign against him, he put up a board asserting his faith in the 'end of prophethood' at the place of his business. He suspected that this SMS campaign was undertaken by mulla Muhammad Khalil, so he called him to his business place and beat him up with the help of his sons. The supporters of the mulla came to the scene and joined the scuffle. Someone floated this rumor that Qadianis had cut the beard of the mulla and tortured him. A crowd gathered outside the police station and made demands. The police registered an FIR against Aslam and his sons and arrested them. Ahmadi remained clear of this mischief, but remained on guard.

Threat to Ahmadi worshipers in the capital

I-9, Islamabad; February 2013: The residence of Mr. Mansur Ahmad Tahir has been used as a centre of worship by local Ahmadi since long. An Assistant Sub Inspector of Police visited this house along with a local shopkeeper. They made enquiries about Ahmadi's worship at the location. Later the ASI advised Mr. Tahir to tighten the security in view of the prevailing law and order situation.

Ahmadi stopped using this place for prayers after this warning.

A suspect visit to Ahmadiyya mosque

Kharian, District Gujrat; February 10, 2013: An unknown man came to the Ahmadiyya mosque here and asked to see the Imam. He said that one of his friends wanted to become an Ahmadi. He was told that no such conversion was undertaken there. He departed and went to the main bazaar where another man met him. Thereafter he boarded a car in which two mullas were seated, and they headed towards Gujrat.

The police were informed of this incident. The security has been beefed up in the mosque.

What the Prime Minister of Canada said

Vaughan, Ontario, Canada; February 19, 2013: Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the establishment of the Office of Religious Freedom. He spoke at the occasion to a large audience that included a number from the Ahmadiyya community. The Ahmadiyya community membership in Canada comprises, *inter alia*, a large percentage of Pakistani origin. The Prime Minister was considerate to mention them in his speech. Extract:

"This (Ahmadiyya) community has experienced, as Jason mentioned, the terrible cruelty of persecution - persecution on the basis of religion. In spite of that, your belief in tolerance and harmony endures. In this you make an inspiring contribution to our values. You strengthen Canada's commitment to diversity and pluralism. And you remind your fellow Canadians that the freedoms we enjoy are precious, and must never be taken for granted."

<http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=5310>

Ahmadis behind bars

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.

From the Press

Ahmadi literature: Printing press employees accused of blasphemy

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 5, 2013

Bail denied in Ahmadi literature case

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

Chenab Nagar: Police case registered against Ahmad Zafar for writing an article in Al-Musleh. This local intellectual wrote an article, Taqatwar Kaun, about violations of human rights of religious group.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 4, 2013

Burewala: Qadiani family accepts Islam

The daily Abtak; Lahore, February 7, 2013

First ever land sliding in Chenab Nagar. Severe damage to houses.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 14, 2013

Qadiani activities should be banned. They should be fired from key posts.

Aasma Jahangir should not be caretaker PM: Fatah Mubahila Conference

The daily Insaf; Lahore, February 27, 2013

Qadianis are traitors to Islam as well as the country: Qasim Awan (JUI-F)

The daily Din; Lahore, February 14, 2013

Death toll tops 84. Outrage across country at Quetta carnage (Hazaras targeted)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 18, 2013

Taliban bombers wreak havoc at military camp. 13 soldiers, 12 militants, 11 civilians killed.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 3, 2013

Suicide bomber slays 26 outside Hangu mosque

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 2, 2013

21 killed in suicide attack blasts

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 15, 2013

(Another) Navy officer injured in targeted attack

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 28, 2013

Two clerics, students shot dead in Karachi

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 1, 2013

Blast near DVD shop, mosque killed 10 in Orakzai
The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 9, 2013

Policeman escorting polio team shot dead
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 27, 2013

Hoti (CM of KP) survives assassination bid
The daily The Nation; Lahore, February 16, 2013

Taseer's son set free for Rs 250 million as ransom
The daily The News; Lahore, February 17, 2013

Gunmen kill journalist in Miranshah
The daily The Nation; Lahore, February 28, 2013

Three die in blast at shrine near Shikarpur
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 26, 2013

Grow a beard and put on Islamic clothes or face beheading. Taliban distribute pamphlets in Karachi.
The daily Waqt; Lahore, February 9, 2013

Blast damages Akhwan Salaq Shrine
The daily The Nation; Lahore, February 11, 2013

The US and India are scared of Jamaat Dawa: Hafiz Saeed
The daily Jinnah; Lahore, February 8, 2013

Deal suspected in Maulana Aziz's (of Lal Masjid) acquittals
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 4, 2013

LJ Malik Ishaq detained
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 23, 2013

50 ulama forbidden to enter District Chiniot
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 7, 2013

The government should open immediate and conclusive talks with Taliban: Nawaz Sharif
The daily Nawa-e-Waqt; Lahore, February 8, 2013

We shall hold talks if Nawaz Sharif (PML N), Fazl ur Rehman (JUI-F) and Munawwar Hasan (JI) stand as guarantors. Taliban
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 4, 2013

He said target killings in Quetta and Karachi would not happen if the Punjab government had taken action against their proscribed outfits.
Rehman (Fed Interior Minister) asks Punjab to arrest all sectarian militants.
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 25, 2013

Blasphemy case registered against Sherry Rehman
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 22, 2013

The government has perhaps decided not to arrest those who kill people: Supreme Court remark
The Daily Express; Faisalabad, February 7, 2013

We'll have to kill the Taliban hidden inside us: Malala
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 7, 2013

The state should provide security to minorities, otherwise we shall do that: Supreme Court
The daily Nawa-e-Waqt; Lahore, February 9, 2013

Malala was targeted because of her pioneer(ing) role in preaching secularism and so-called enlightened moderation. And whomsoever will do so in the future too will be targeted again by the TTP: TTP spokesman Ehsanullah
The Newslines, Lahore, January, 2013

Dhaka: Bangladeshi Ahmadis on Thursday shifted the site for their centenary celebrations after thousands of religious rivals torched the original venue.
Dawn.com/2103/02/07/Bangladesh-mob...

100,000 demand ban on Bangladesh religious party
The daily The Nation; Lahore, February 9, 2013

Bangladesh JI leader sentenced to life in prison
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 6, 2013

Bangladesh PM hints at ban on Jamaat Islami
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 18, 2013

Libya: Four foreigners arrested for preaching Christianity
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 18, 2013

Australia offers asylum to 2500 Hazaras
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 22, 2013

The reason of the massacre of Hazaras is the state's failure in curbing the militants
HRCP release on February 18, 2013

UK: Law enacted to facilitate homo-sexual marriage
The daily Abtak; Lahore, February 7, 2013

Pak-origin man named minister in Canada
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 12, 2013

200 Nikahs invalidated – Barelvi verdict (in U.P. India)
Irfan FL; February 5, 2013

Ukraine-Catholic tasked with leading new religious freedom office (in Canada)
CTV Kitchener News 19/02/2013

The Punjab Govt protects sectarian bigots: Information Minister)
Qamar ul Zaman Kaira (Federal
The daily Nawa-e-Waqt; Lahore, February 25, 2013

Electoral alliance between JI and Dr. Qadeer (Khan). Joint candidates will be launched.
The daily Nawa-e-Waqt; Lahore, February 17, 2013

Nawaz, Fazl agree on poll cooperation
PTI hits out at PML-N's 'nexus' with extremists
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 26, 2013

Six labourers gunned down near Pasni
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 25, 2013

Binoria clerics among 17 killed in Karachi
The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 1, 2013

Four MQM men among 14 killed in Karachi
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 12, 2013

Imran moves to join Qadri's anti-ECP front
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 7, 2013

Jl; Deputy Amir Siraj ul Haq arrested in Lower Dir
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 28, 2013

Police to intensify monitoring of religious elements
The daily The Nation; Lahore, February 9, 2013

1500 police officials suspended in Sindh for involvement in crimes
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 27, 2013

Pope Benedict quits formally
 (Note: First time in last 600 years, reportedly)
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 2, 2013

Military reject HRW report as 'pack of lies'
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 3, 2013

Op-ed: Questions for Hafiz Saeed of Pakistan

Instead of art, they (Hafiz Saeed and his ilk) possess vitriol, even as the violence they spawn turns Pakistan into a laboratory of chaos. They call themselves guardians of their nation, but they are in fact regressive theocrats who are shredding the Pakistan that Jinnah imagined.

There is an answer to the opening question. Extremists who reduce faith to a fortress do not understand a simple truth: faith cannot be partitioned. Islam was a revelation for mankind; it cannot be usurped by a minor tract of geography. Nations are created by and for men, within boundaries of language or culture or tribe. Religion comes from God; it is not a political tool for human ambition. Those who equate religion with nation distort the first and destroy the second. Pakistan has become a battlefield for dysfunctional forces because theocrats will not permit it to become a rational state.

Logic suggests a reciprocal offer: Pakistani Muslims would be safer in India. But that offer cannot extend to hafiz Saeed. His mission is to be India's adversary. What he does not understand is that he is really Pakistan's enemy.

By MJ Akbar (of India); <http://blogs/Timesofindia.indiatimes.com/TheSiegeWithin/entry/questions-for-hafiz-saeed>

Op-ed: KARBLA continues

The ASWJ vowed to make Pakistan a Sunni Muslim state through legislation. ASWJ Chief, Maulana Mohammad Ahmad Ludhianwi declared that he would nominate his party members for parliamentary seats and not allow any Shia Muslim to win the coming elections. Thus, he said, all the parliamentarians in the National Assembly would be Sunni Muslims, and a bill would be passed in the house with a majority that would declare Shias non-Muslims.

Muhammad Shehzad in The Newslite, January 2013

Op-ed: Dr Abdus Salam: Give back our History its Hero

These two individuals with their limited resources started work on the docufilm in 2002. The Documentary which took them to various countries to capture Dr. Salam's life on camera. Thus far it has not been funded by any Ahmadi institution but by individuals belonging to various sects and religions. They have dedicated the past 10 years in trying to research and develop the story, locate archives and film interviews pay a sincere homage to a man who to them was first and foremost a scientist, a teacher, a philanthropist, an innovator, a patriot and a first-rate mind who challenged the limits of what was defined 'humanly possible'; he challenged the status-quo.

I am not the only one. The whole world is as baffled on how Dr. Salam's motherland shunned him while this son continued to serve her. How many times had it been that foreign countries specially Western countries have advocated the appointment of a Pakistani to an international office. While the world endorsed Dr. Salam's candidacy for the post of Director General of UNESCO, the Zia regime refused to put his name forward.

Dr. Salam lived as a Muslim for the first 48 years of his life during which Pakistan loved him and decorated him. He was declared a Non-Muslim for the remaining 22 years during which he was shunned by liberals and conservatives alike. His faith did not change for the entire duration of 70 years nor did his services to the nation stop. What changed was the power dynamics in Pakistani politics; what changed was the ideology of Pakistan and what changes was Jinnah's vision that religion was not the business of the state.

<http://blogs.thenews.com.pk/blogs/2013/02/dr-abdus-salam...>