

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

News Report March 2016

Problem in education

Kot Lakhpat, Lahore; March, 2016: Mr. Mahir Ahmad, Ahmadi was studying in a local college in Lahore. He became victim of religious activism when some of his friends came to know of his religious identity. They invited him to a meeting but Mahir did not go. One of Mahir's friends informed him that they intended to harm him. Mahir also received threatening calls from an unknown caller. The caller was traced to be an acquaintance of his father's friend.

The situation was assessed to be worrisome, so Mahir had to leave his home and had to move elsewhere. His family has been advised to exercise great caution.

Brazen discrimination in the Punjab

Chiniot; March 2016: A housing authority in the Punjab, once again advertized auction of 'government land' in Rabwah (Chenab Nagar) on condition that Ahmadis in no way would make a bid for it or even buy the land at some future date from the successful bidder.

This 'government land' in Rabwah in fact belongs to the Ahmadiyya community but was wrongfully taken over by the Punjab government; later when the community took up its complaint with the High Court, the court issued a 'stay order' forbidding the authorities to proceed further with construction or transfer of plots etc. They have done that nevertheless.

The daily The Express Tribune reported the story on March 18, 2016. It is reproduced below, while the relevant ad of the auction is placed at the Annex.

Enshrined discrimination: No Ahmadis for Chenab Nagar plots

LAHORE: The Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency (PHTPA) on Tuesday auctioned residential and commercial plots in Chiniot district following the placement of an advert that excluded Jamaat-i-Ahmadiyya adherents from the proceedings.

Chenab Nagar, the headquarters of the JA, is situated in the district. The agency's regional office in Jhang had placed the advertisement in a leading Urdu daily newspaper on March 1. The advertisement for the auction of 25 commercial and residential plots across two low-income housing schemes across the district proscribed Ahmadis from participating in the process.

The auction went ahead as planned on Tuesday with the exception of plots in the Chenab Nagar Lower Income Residential Scheme.

PHTPA Deputy Director Muhammad Saeed, who presided over the auction and placed the advertisement, told The Express Tribune that the exception had been made due to the scheme's ownership having been contested at the Supreme Court.

The advertisement read: "anyone related to the Qadian/Ahmadi/Lahori/Mirzai sects cannot participate in the Area Development Scheme Muslim Colony, Chenab Nagar.

Every aspirant has to file a duly certified affidavit stating that he/she has no relation to Qadianis/Ahmadis/Lahoris."

It requires the participants to submit an undertaking that they will not sell the property or transfer its ownership to anyone belonging to the JA.

It says that the plot allotment of those found doing so will be cancelled and payment made by them confiscated.

The advertisement also stipulated that anyone interested in participating in the auction had to file another affidavit certifying their unqualified belief in the finality of prophethood.

It referred to a directive issued by the Department of Housing, Urban Development and Public Health Engineering Department (dated July 7, 1976) to justify the prohibition on members of the Ahmadiyya community.

Speaking to *The Express Tribune* JA spokesperson Saleemuddin said his organization was fighting a court case over the ownership of the land on which the plots were located. He said the land had originally been owned by the JA. Saleemuddin alleged that under pressure from clerics the government had taken possession of the land in 1976. Following that, he said, an order had been issued asking Ahmadis to stay away from the land.

Saleemuddin said they had moved Lahore High Court (LHC) against the government's action and obtained a stay order. In spite of the stay order, he claimed, the government had developed plots on a portion of the land and auctioned those. Overtime, Saleemuddin said, residential and commercial plots were developed on around 90 percent of the land and auctioned.

He said LHC had dismissed their petition last year after which the community took the matter to the SC.

The appeal was now pending a hearing at the apex court, Saleemuddin said. He said Ahmadis had the right to participate in the auction of any property under the Constitution.

"It is a violation of our fundamental rights to prevent us from participating in the auction," he said, Saleemuddin said the government was encouraging tolerance and co-existence under its National Action against Terrorism on the one hand, and discriminating against the JA on account of its religious beliefs, on the other.

Deputy Director Saeed said he was bound to prohibit the community from the auction under the 1976 directive. He said the government's policy was to not let Ahmadis participate in auction of plots in localities where land was owned by non-Ahmadis.

Human Rights and Minorities' Affairs Minister Khalil Tahir Sindhu told *The Express Tribune* that such advertisements should not be placed. He said the advertisement violated the fundamental rights of citizens that had constitutional sanction. Sindhu said no citizen could be deprived of the right to participate in an auction on the basis of a mere advertisement. The minister said he would strive to ensure that authorities took notice of the development and resolve the matter once and for all.

Published in The Express Tribune, March 18, 2016

Hostility at work places for Ahmadis

Barali, Kotli AJK; March 2016: A major hydro-power project is going on in Azad Kashmir. A few Ahmadis are employed therein. Mr. Bilal Ahmad, an Ahmadi from Jhelum is the finance manager and administrator of the project.

While the administration is satisfied with Ahmadis' work, the opponents of Ahmadiyya community have made it a practice to create service problems for them through fabricated and false complaints. Recently they lodged an application with the Deputy Commissioner Kotli. It alleges that Ahmadi officers are hostile to Muslim workers, as a result of which the administration lays them off, etc. "Due to this biased attitude, religious hatred and hostility is on the rise, so there is great apprehension that the entire project would come to a halt and law and order in the area would be disturbed", they threatened.

Seven sectarian attempts were made earlier as well, and were partly successful.

Hate propogation – A l'extrême

Lahore: The daily 'Ausaf' published an anti-Ahmadiyya article by a mulla Mushtaq Ahmad Qureshi in its issue of February 17, 2016. The article crosses all boundaries of decency and journalistic values.

The on-going National Action Plan aims at eliminating sectarianism and extremism from the Pakistani society. In this, it forbids dissemination of hate and slander through media and rallies etc. However, it appears that Ahmadis are an exception as targets.

In this article mulla Mushtaq Qureshi refers to a ‘video clip’ message doing the rounds on social media, prepared by an Ahrari mulla Matin Khalid who is known for his anti-Ahmadi foul language and insults. Even for his group Majlis Ahrar Islam, the prestigious high-level judicial committee, that inquired in depth in 1953 anti-Ahmadi riots in the Punjab placed on record: “The conduct of the Ahrar calls for strongest comment and is especially reprehensible. We can use no milder word for the reason that they debased a religious issue by pressing it into service for a temporal purpose and exploited religious susceptibilities and sentiments of the people for their personal ends.”

This video prepared by Matin Khalid is titled: “Qadiani Caliph Mirza Bashir ud Din Mahmood – an evil-doer (*Qadiani Khalifa Mirza Bashir ud Din Mahmood – ek badkar shakhsiyat*).” Qureshi himself describes the video as: “It is such a devastating clip that I tremble when I write this.” Here we mention only the outline and leave out the fabricated sordid details that were published in the daily.

The audio commentary by Matin Khalid of this clip has been reproduced by Qureshi verbatim in this op-ed, according to the latter. In this he refers to one Muhammad Hussain who is mentioned as an eye witness to ‘incest committed by the caliph’. Hussain is stated to have immediately lost all his body hair due to the shock suffered over this repugnant incident. Matin Khalid attributes having heard this from Dr. Asrar Ahmad. Dr. Asrar Ahmad and Muhammad Hussain are now both dead. All these individuals hold or held in great esteem clerics like Maulvi Rashid Gangohi who issued the edict: “To tell a lie for revival of Truth is permissible. One should desist from that as far as possible; however if unavoidable, one may tell a pure lie. Otherwise one should avoid. Signed: Rashid Ahmad”. *Fatawa Rashidia*

Qureshi quotes Matin Khalid: “Why have not Qadianis gone to court yet (over this accusation)?” These liars know that going to the court will provide them a greater opportunity to heap still more insults and garbage on the beleaguered community – by quoting witnesses, dead since long.

In the renowned 1953 Enquiry Report, the worthy judges referred to one of such numerous outbursts and observed: “If these words had been uttered in the presence of a member of the Ahmadiyya Community, we should not at all have been surprised if the result had been a broken skull.”

Sixty years later, the children of that generation continue with the same evil practices despite having suffered shattering consequences of tolerating and promoting the mulla. Against the Ahmadiyya community, marginalized more than ever before, the mulla, the bigoted vernacular press, the selfish politician, all take no notice of the ultimate form of hate propaganda and slanderous abuse. Although various clauses of the penal code, PPCs, 295-A, 298-A and 153-A amply and obviously apply, no high official feels motivated to invoke the National Action Plan formulated after the massacre of 134 school children in Peshawar.

Some people never learn their lesson and invite the wrath of destiny.

Three get bail in case of attacking Ahmadi’s worship place

Islamabad: The daily The Nation published the following story with the above-given headline, on March 9, 2016:

March 09, 2016

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to three persons allegedly involved in attacking and burning Ahmadi’s place of worship – Bait-uz-Zikar.

Justice Gulzar Ahmed, who headed a three-judge bench, hearing the appeals of accused namely Adnan Mushtaq, Imran Nazir and Muhammad Mansha, said that attack on a worship place should be considered a crime against the state.

According to police, an enraged mob of 400 to 500 persons in November 2015 had torched the worship place of Ahmadis in Kala Gujran, Jhelum district after the report that a few members of Ahmadiyya community in their chipboard factory had desecrated the Holy Quran. The police arrested around 20 persons for attacking and burning worship place and registered a case against them.

Justice Dost Muhammad another member of the bench, remarked the government's writ is not seen anywhere, adding the lawyers though talk about supremacy of law, yet incident showed how much respect the lawyers have for the Supreme Court judgments. The lawyers of Islamabad High Court on February 29 had condemned the hanging of Mumtaz Qadri in Adiala Jail. The IHC and the Supreme Court had maintained the death sentence of Qadri. The apex court had ruled that criticizing the blasphemy law is not blasphemy. The accused counsel Ansar Nawaz Mirza argued before the bench that the police had wrongly registered a case against his clients as they live in the same street where Qadiani's worship place exists, adding on that day they were going to pick up their children from schools but the police arrested them.

Ansar said his clients' names are not in the FIR but the police later included them in the case through 'zimni' (supplementary statement). He said the co-accused Hamza who had been named in the FIR was allowed bail and Qari Khalil Ahmed also named in the FIR was declared innocent during investigation. He said there is no cogent evidence available against his clients.

Anti-Terrorism Court and a division bench of Lahore High Court had dismissed the accused post-arrest bail. They have filed the appeal against the LHC order in the apex court. Justice Gulzar after hearing the arguments granted them bail.

One is reminded of the renowned Judge Scalia of the US Supreme Court, dead last month, who described some fellow judges as 'Mullahs of the West.'

Here we may mention another case, but that of an Ahmadi in Pakistan – Mr Mahdi Imtiaz, printer of Ahmadiyya periodicals and publications. He was booked in a fabricated case on complaint of a mulla and arrested last year. His plea for bail was not granted by the Supreme Court. He is in prison for the last one year while his trial drags on.

A grave threat

Faisal Town, Lahore; March 2016: Mr. Izhar Ahmad owns a software house. Five Ahmadi youth work there; the rest are non-Ahmadis. Mr. Ahmad received an e-mail from an ID, "Kill Ahmadis". It stated that the message was from Abdul Wali, the Amir of Taliban. It conveyed: "All employees in your company are Ahmadi. Your office will be attacked if you do not shut down the company in three days. The attack will take place on Friday." The e-mail ended with: "Kill Ahmadis to Get Jannat"; 'Jannat' means paradise.

Apparently the target is Ahmadis' jobs. The e-mail was perhaps sent by someone who was fired recently by the proprietor.

Assault on an Ahmadi for his faith

Hafizabad; March 2016: Mr. Muhammad Ashraf, Ahmadi was going to his farm when a mulla intercepted him and slapped him powerfully. In the second attempt Mr. Ashraf held his hand, and the attacker withdrew. Mr. Ashraf's eye got sore and his ear got hurt due to the impact of the slap. He suffered severe ear ache for days.

When Mr. Ashraf's uncle came to know of it, he went to the house of that mulla, whose relatives then hid him inside. Later at night the mulla's relatives came to see Mr. Ashraf's uncle and sought pardon. They were forgiven.

It was learnt later that the mulla was following Mr. Ashraf for some days to harm him.

Attempt to misappropriate an Ahmadiyya graveyard

Workshop 109RB, District Faisalabad; February 2016: Ahmadis were allocated a plot at this location in 1992 to bury their dead. The plot has been used as such for the last 24 years.

An Ahmadi woman died on February 1, 2016 and they dug a grave in this graveyard to bury her. Anti-Ahmadi elements resisted the burial and arranged for the local police to intervene. The police arrived and told Ahmadis to seek permission from higher police officials for the burial. The superintendent of police allowed the burial to be undertaken.

The next day the opposition was again noticed by the Ahmadis to be in the trespassing mode in the graveyard. Ahmadis informed the police, who sent for both the parties. The opposition did not turn up for the meeting, but sent an attorney instead.

Having failed in their attempts to win favour with police, the opposition is now looking for some legal excuse to misappropriate land of the Ahmadiyya graveyard.

The Salafi power

Raiwind, Lahore; March 2016: Mullas of a local Ahle-Hadith madrassa are on a hate campaign against Ahmadis in this area these days. They visit the Madina Market and provoke the locals against Ahmadis. They also paste anti-Ahmadiyya stickers at shops. They came to the shop of Mirza Mahmood Ahmad, an Ahmadi, and pasted anti-Ahmadiyya stickers.

Mr. Ahmad spoke to one of the councillor about it, and asked his advice about reporting the incident to the police. The councillor said that these mullas are of the Ahle-Hadith madrassa, and the police are unable to handle them; the situation would become worse, so leave them to their pranks.

Anti-Ahmadi conference in the neighbouring city of Rabwah

Chiniot; February 26, 2016: An anti-Ahmadiyya conference under the title of "Fateh Mubahila conference" was held in Chiniot. Chiniot is situated only ten kilometres east of the Ahmadiyya headquarters town, Rabwah. The conference started at 08:45 p.m. and ended at 02:45 a.m. Approximately 900 men participated in it. It was presided over by Maulvi Muhaiyuddin Makki (of Makka) an anti-Ahmadiyya mulla based in Saudi Arabia.

As usual, anti-Ahmadiyya rhetoric was prolific, and foul language was used extensively against the leaders of the Ahmadiyya community. Maulvi Faizur Rahman Razvi of Chakwal said, "The land of Chiniot is honoured that a warrior of Khatme Nabuwwat, Manzoor Ahmad Chinioti was born here, who hoisted the flags of Khatme Nabuwwat in the entire world. He did not rest until got them (Qadianis) declared a (non-Muslim) minority." Maulvi Shabbir Ahmad Usmani of Rabwah said, "Manzoor Ahmad Chinioti was the conqueror of Rabwah. He was an iron-man. He initiated the 'Rebuttal of Qadianiat' course. Qadianis would have prevailed if he had not stood up against them. I invite Qadianis to convert to Islam." Maulvi Muhammad Ilyas Farooqi of Sargodha said, "We will not let the foreign culture seep in through Qadiani conspiracies." Maulvi Tahir Masood of Sargodha said, "O Qadianis! Your refusal of Mubahila (prayer duel) shows that you are liars. The mischief of Qadianis will be cut short soon." Maulvi Abdul Wali from UK said, "I've brought a message of ulama from the UK; we are united at the platform of Khatme Nabuwwat." [This reminds one of the recent murder of an Ahmadi for his faith, in Glasgow.]

Other mullas who spoke at the conference were Shahnawaz Farooqi of Gujranwala, Fazlur Rahman of Rahim Yar Khan and Mufti Muhammad Hussain of Raiwind.

Mulla Ilyas Chinioti led a rally after the Friday prayers in connection with Fateh Mubahila conference. It started from Chiniot and ended at Aziz Shareef valley on the bank of river Chenab.

Threatening letter on Jamaat Islami's letter-head pad

Iqbal Town, Lahore; February 7, 2016: Two threat letters were dropped at the homes of two Ahmadis, Mr. Aqeel Ahmad and Mr. Irfan Masood (head of the local Ahmadi youth organisation) on the letter-head pad of Jamaat Islami. Its translation is produced below:
Jamaat Islami. Mr. Irfan Masood! You belong to Qadiani Jamaat and have been elected head of its youth organisation. Accordingly you are targeted. Abandon your house within two days and stop your on-going propaganda forthwith. You have no time after these two days. You were targeted last year as well, but this time we'll act (God willing), President Jamaat Islami."

Last year such a letter and a pack of coffin were dropped at the house of Mr. Irfan Masood and at the local worship place. The Police were informed. They contacted the office of Jamaat Islami, who did not own up the letter. The Police have been informed again but apparently they have taken no action.

Letter of U.S. Congressmen to the Secretary of State

Washington DC; February 26, 2016: At the end of last month, more than half a dozen U.S. members of the Ahmadiyya Caucus in the Congress wrote a letter to Secretary John Kerry on the situation of Ahmadis in Pakistan. It is reproduced below.

**Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515**

February 26, 2016

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

We, the members of the Ahmadiyya Caucus in the United States Congress, write to seek your urgent action in support of two Ahmadi Muslims – 80-year old optician Abdul Shakoor and newspaper editor Tahir Mehdi – who remain in a Pakistani prison after being convicted on baseless charges of terrorism and blasphemy. These cases demonstrate that Pakistan's current government, even as it is vowing to crack down on the Taliban and other militants, is in fact furthering the ideology of hatred through its persecution of Ahmadi Muslims and other minority groups.

Pakistan has a dismal record on religious freedom, and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in particular suffers some of the worst forms of persecution. Under the 1974 Constitution, Ahmadi Muslims are considered non-Muslim. In 1984, then-military ruler Zia ul Haq enacted the so-called "blasphemy laws," two of which are known as the anti-Ahmadi criminal codes because of their specific targeting of Ahmadi Muslims. Ahmadis account for almost 40% of all arrests under the blasphemy laws. By an Executive Order, Ahmadis are disenfranchised: in order to vote, they must either declare that they are non-Muslim or sign a statement denouncing Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the founder of the Community, as a false prophet. In Pakistan's most populous province, Punjab, the legislature banned Ahmadi books and newspapers (including the daily newspaper Al-Fazl, where Mr. Mehdi is the editor), banned Ahmadis from holding any public meetings (even as militant clerics are given free rein to preach hatred against Ahmadis) and changed the name of Rabwah, a town that is home to tens of thousands of Ahmadis.

Unsurprisingly, this regime of systematic legal discrimination against Ahmadi Muslims has fueled brutal attacks against the Ahmadi community. Just last November, after a worker in an Ahmadi-owned factory in Jhelum, Punjab, made a false allegation of blasphemy against the owners, a mob of militant religious extremists proceeded to set both the factory and a local Ahmadi mosque on fire. In 2010, after months of hateful propaganda against Ahmadi Muslims by the Punjab government (including billboards stating that friendship with Ahmadis amounted to treason against the Prophet Muhammad), the Pakistan Taliban carried out simultaneous attacks against two Ahmadi mosques, brutally murdering more than 80 Ahmadis and wounding scores more.

Even as Pakistan's government has amassed new powers purportedly in a bid to eradicate militancy, it is using that authority to further persecute Ahmadi Muslims. Pakistan's National Action Plan (NAP) was intended to crack down on hate speech and literature intended to provoke sectarian violence. Ironically, it is the literature of the victims of sectarian violence that Pakistan authorities are targeting, and instead of protecting the victims, they are prosecuting them for seditious and treasonous activities. It's hard to comprehend how an 80-year-old optician like Mr. Shakoor could be tried as a terrorist.

The trumped-up charges against Mr. Shakoor and Mr. Mehdi are cases in point. Shakoor was arrested last November on charges that he had sold Ahmadi publications. By selling these books (which reflect the peaceful teachings of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and denounce any form of violence in the name of religion) the government alleged he was guilty of stirring "religious hatred" and "sectarianism" from his optical store. Mr Shakoor was tried and convicted in an anti-terrorism court after a trial of less than three weeks. He was sentenced to five years of imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadi laws and anti-terrorism legislation. Similarly, blasphemy and terrorism charges have been brought against Tahir Mehdi, the editor of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's daily newspaper Al-Fazl, a 102-year old publication. Mr. Mehdi, charged on the basis that he was publishing and circulating a banned newspaper, has been denied bail and faces a three-year prison sentence.

As these tragic cases demonstrate, Pakistan commitment to eradicating terrorism is seriously in doubt. We urge you, Mr. Secretary, to use your office to place additional pressure on Pakistan to effectuate the National Action Plan in a manner that protects, not prosecutes, vulnerable religious minorities. Only when Pakistan ceases persecution of its citizens on account of their faith, and restores religious freedom for all Pakistanis, will it be able to effectively combat the ideology that fans the Taliban and other militants.

Signed by seven Congressmen:

Jackie Speier

Ted Poe

Gerald E. Connolly

Anna G. Eshoo

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Zoe Lofgren

Peter King

Media responsibility in fight against extremism

London; March 19, 2016: The World Head of the Ahmadiyya Community, the Fifth Khalifa (Caliph), His Holiness, Mirza Masroor Ahmad delivered the keynote address at the 13th National Peace Symposium hosted by the Ahmadiyya Community UK. He presented Ms Hadeel Qassim with the Ahmadiyya Prize for the Advancement of Peace in recognition of her outstanding personal efforts to alleviate the suffering of thousands of refugee children stranded in dangerous and inhospitable camps in the Middle East.

At this major event, according to the press-release (extracts):

"He called on the media to use its influence 'as a force for good and a force for peace' by publicizing the positive activities of the majority of Muslims across the world as opposed to the 'tiny

minority' who were perpetuating mass cruelties falsely in the name of Islam." His Holiness also stated that there was no punishment for apostasy in Islam and that the Holy Quran was the standard bearer for universal religious freedom. His Holiness reiterated the need to cut the supply lines and funding of all terrorists and extremist groups worldwide.

"There is no doubt that the media plays a great role influencing public opinion and so the media should use this power responsibly – as a force for good and as a force for peace.

"It should show the world what true Islam represents, rather than focusing on the merciless acts of the tiny minority."

Some MPs, a Minister and a Secretary of State also addressed the Symposium attended by 900 people from 26 countries.

Ahmadis behind bars

1. A baseless case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad and Mubashir Ahmad of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura under PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 on May 13, 2014 in police station Sharaqpur. Mr. Khalil Ahmad was then murdered by a madrassah student, while in police custody on May 16, 2014. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. They are in prison. Their bails were cancelled.
2. A fabricated case was registered against Mr. Tahir Mahdi Imtiaz, printer of the Ahmadiyya monthly Ansarullah, in Millat Town police station Lahore on April 16, 2014. He was arrested by the police on March 30, 2015 under the blasphemy clause PPC 295-A and anti-Ahmadiyya law PPC 298-C. A high court judge announced his bail, but refused to sign his decision later. Thereafter a 2-member bench of LHC refused him bail. He remains in prison. Supreme Court did not grant him the bail either. He is being prosecuted in an Anti-Terrorism court.
3. Mr. Qamar Ahmad was charged under PPC 295-B for alleged desecration of the Holy Quran in Jhelum, and was arrested on November 20, 2015. Bigots attacked the factory and Ahmadis' houses after his arrest and set them on fire after looting the valuables. Those who attacked the Ahmadiyya mosque have been granted bail, but not Mr. Ahmad.
4. Officials of Punjab's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) accompanied by a contingent of the Elite Force raided Shakoor Bhai's book shop, arrested him and Mr. Mazhar Abbas the shop assistant on December 2, 2015. A speedy trial in an Anti-terrorism court dispensed 5 years' imprisonment to each of the two accused, while Mr. Abdul Shakoor was sentenced in addition to three years' imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadiyya law.

From the media

Mosque released from Qadianis after 60 years. DCO heard the case on LHC orders and gave his decision.

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, March 18, 2016

Three get bail (from Supreme Court) in case of attacking Ahmadis' worship place

The daily Nation; Lahore, March 9, 2016

Reconsideration of the blasphemy law will be like playing with fire and blood: Maulana Abdul Hafeez Makki

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, March 13, 2016

Qadianis are more dangerous than even Jews and Hindus: Khatme Nabuwat Conference (in Lahore)

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, March 7, 2016

Media reports 72 dead and 370 injured in suicide attack in Lahore Park on 27 March (Easter day)

The daily Jang; Lahore, March 29, 2016

(Lahore) Blast aimed at targeting Christians; (claims NCJP)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 29, 2016

16 killed in suicide blast at courts in Shabqadar (KPK)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 8, 2016

Blast kills 14 as terror strikes Peshawar again

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 17, 2016

Peshawar: Lt Colonel martyred by terrorists' fire

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 12, 2016

Disclosure: 147 madrasas in the Punjab received foreign aid

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 5, 2016

Sindh identifies 53 seminaries with 'militant leanings'

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 13, 2016

Pro-Qadri protests fuel resurgence of Brelvi groups

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 30, 2016

Shahbaz Taseer (son of the slain Governor) reunites with family four years after abduction

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 15, 2016

Search operations extended to small towns of Punjab

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 31, 2016

The plant of terrorism was planted by General Zia ul; it has now become a huge tree: Khurshid Shah (PPP)

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 5, 2016

The government is using (National) Action Plan against its opposition: Bilawal

The daily Jang; Lahore, March 29, 2016

Why member of a minority community may not be appointed President? Bilawal

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 25, 2016

“If we go 60 or 70 years, we will find the orders of the Privy Council hardly consisted of 10 to 15 pages. But unfortunately, here a culture has developed to compete with each other by writing judgments that run into over 1,000 pages, merely for self-projection,” regretted the Chief Justice (Anwar Zaheer Jamali of the Supreme Court)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 10, 2016

Two Muslims, accused of stealing a cow, tortured and hanged by unknown persons in Jharkhand, India

The daily Jang; Lahore, March 20, 2016

India denies visa to US religious freedom monitors

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 5, 2016

35 killed – Brussels attacks claimed by militant IS group

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 23, 2016

PM, COAS in Saudi Arabia on 3-day visit

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 10, 2016

India illegally occupying Kashmir; says JNU (India) professor

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 10, 2016

Car bombing leaves 34 dead in Ankara

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 14, 2016

US strike kills 50 al Qaeda militants (in Yemen camp)

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, March 24, 2016

Turkish authorities seize control of newspaper

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 5, 2016

Cricket team allowed to leave for India

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 12, 2016

Pope washes Pakistani Muslim's feet

The daily The Nation; Lahore, March 26, 2016

Bosnian Serb leader Kradzic sentenced to 40 years in prison

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 25, 2016

Hanging of Mumtaz Qadri amounts to ideological corruption: Sirajul Haq (JI)

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, March 14, 2016

For the first time in the country's history the Sindh government had declared holiday on Holi in the Province: Bilawal Zardari

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 25, 2016

Under trial prisoner dies after being 'tortured'

The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 18, 2016

55 die in Tando Muhammad Khan after consuming poisonous liquor

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 24, 2016

Op-ed: Butcher, Baker and the Candle maker

... Sadly our butchers, bakers and the candle makers have left already. No smoke rises from the smithys' smelter and the potter does not thump his wet clay anymore. There are very few Nergis Malwalas, Malalas, Abdu Salams and Sattar Edhis around. Our Hakra is drying up and plains have become arid where rapacious Bramble bushes grow which are tossed up with other litter by flurries of dusty whirlwinds dancing insanely after one another, going nowhere. What guarantees that our bland towns and insensitive cities will not meet a Harappan fate or even worse?

By all intent and every evidence those who set up great Indus and Gangetic civilizations in the Sub continent and created magnificent empires of the yore, were men of far superior caliber, vision and enterprise. Their beginnings may be humble whose household could be loaded on a single camel's back but their foundations were solid and deeds noble. They were not stung by a lazy mind's nostalgia for a past glory or a distant land but driven by pioneering spirit and inclusive impulses. None of the illustrious emperors and their equally talented chiefs and craftsmen showed a predisposition for self immortalization. Ashoka's public service edicts, not his status, can still be seen inscribed on rock faces all over the Sub continent. Those grand ancient men were focused on empire building, providing security, peace and fair opportunities to their subjects. These are the fundamental elements for evolution of a peaceful, prosperous and just society, an enlightened nation and a constructively engaged country. Nowhere in this mosaic should there be any shade of religious persecution, subterfuge and racism.

Brig® Mehboob Qadir in his article

Op-ed: The Truth

While the madness in Islamabad and the blast in Lahore are two seemingly unconnected issues, the fact that both incidents happened at the same time should shock us all into seeing the tenuous balance between extremist ideology and a more moderate one that Pakistani society currently rests between. One false move could send us over the edge on the wrong side. The bombing raises the old questions of the efficacy of the operation and the government's attempts to de-radicalise the state. And one only has to look at the rhetoric being used at D-chowk to understand the severity of the other problem. Leaders of Tehreek-I-Labaik-Ya-Rasool Allah are openly advocating murder for anyone that supports changes in blasphemy law and yet the government prepares a team to negotiate. Leaders such as Sarwat

Ijaz Qadri and Allama Khadim Hussain Rizvi cannot be negotiated with, because they openly support sectarianism and spew hate speech on a daily basis. Is there a contingency plan in place?

The one thing that both the public and the government are complicit in is establishing this ideological battle as a religious war. This is not a religious war, but a political one. It is not a war between two opposing religious ideologies. After each attack like that one in Lahore, the first thing the public and the government collectively do, is denounce the terrorists as non-Muslims. Meanwhile, the terrorists are doing the exact same thing, calling all of us infidels, and hence making all civilians targets in this war.

...This war is strictly political, and when the government makes it religious, it automatically concedes ground to both the terrorists and the coalition of Barelvi groups sitting on the streets in front of Parliament. The government needs to admit that mistakes have been made by both the regime and the establishment, and that the terrorists and the extremists that are making a heedless stand in Islamabad to make Mumtaz Qadri a Martyr and obtain the release of known propagators of hate speech are a creation of the state. Looking to solve this problem can only come after.

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Annex: Stark Discrimination in Auction of Plots in State-owned Housing Scheme

