

## **Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan**

### **News Report May 2012**

#### **Ahmadi murdered in cold blood**

**Chak 93-TDA, Layyah:** Mr. Tariq Ahmad S/o Mr. Mubarak Ahmad was murdered by unknown assailants on May 17, 2012. Apart from his faith there is no apparent reason for this murder.

Tariq was returning home from Kroar, a nearby town, in the afternoon. When he did not arrive, his family tried to contact him on his mobile phone, but received no response. They looked for him all over town but could not trace him. The villagers joined the search, but there was no trace of the missing gentleman. At 0600, the victim's cousin went to the police station to report the matter. There the SHO told him that he had been informed of a corpse in the nearby canal. He asked the applicants to accompany him to the site to identify the dead body. There, they found a corpse which was so disfigured that it was difficult to say who it was. One of Mr. Ahmad's cousins recognized him by his clothes. It was Mr. Ahmad.

It was obvious from the wounds that Mr. Tariq Ahmad had been subjected to severe torture. One of his eyes had been destroyed with a blow. His nose bone was fractured. His left arm-bone, ribs, left ankle, left elbow and wrist-bone were fractured. The exterior of his right hand and fingers showed signs of violence. All this was shown to the village elders, Ahmadis as well as non-Ahmadis, prior to the burial. According to the post-mortem report Tariq Ahmad had been finally shot through the head between 3 and 4 a.m. Most of his brain had been smashed.

The police registered the FIR. The SHO was an Ahmadi, however it is incredible that the authorities transferred him elsewhere soon afterwards. After that the officials at the police station paid no attention to the visitors from the victim's family.

Subsequently, the police detained three men from the village as suspects, however they were treated with undue consideration.

The criminals involved in the murder had apparently used a vehicle whose tyre prints were noted at the site by the victim's family and an imprint was secured. It was discovered through a private source that a vehicle with such tyre-prints was in use by the local banned Jihadi SSP organization. It was confirmed by a professional detector (*khoji*) that these ground imprints and pattern on the tyres of the SSP vehicle match. It is astonishing that the *khoji* has gone missing. The police appear scared of the SSP and is reluctant to investigate their role in the incident. The investigators are under political pressure as well. All this has apparently put breaks on the police to follow up the available evidence.

It is relevant to mention that another Ahmadi of the same family, Mr. Mujeeb Ahmad was shot at three weeks earlier and critically injured.

Mr. Tariq Ahmad was a practicing Ahmadi. He is survived by his widow and eight children. All the children are in teens or below. The youngest is two years old.

Layyah is the same district in which Ahmadi school children were charged for blasphemy in 2009; the incident was followed up by a massive hate campaign against the Ahmadiyya Community.

#### **Ahmadi shot and injured**

**Chak 93/TDA, Distirct Layyah; April 28, 2012:** Mr. Mujeeb Ahmad S/O Mr. Hanif Ahmad, 25, was shot at by two unknown motor-cyclists, while he was returning home after duty in a local franchise company. The bullet hit his left shoulder.

Mr. Mujeeb was rushed to a hospital, from where after first-aid he was referred and shifted to Nishtar Hospital in Multan, where he is out of danger.

For years, Mr. Mujeeb and his family has had no vendetta against anyone. He is reputed to be a quiet and hardworking young man. Three weeks later, one of his cousins was tortured to death allegedly by members of a banned jihadi outfit also known for its anti-Ahmadiyya posture.

#### **A fabricated case of defiling the Quran against an Ahmadi woman**

***Khanpur, District Rahim Yar Khan; April/May 2012:*** Mrs. Tahira Siddique, an elderly housewife was unjustifiably charged under PPC 295-B applicable for defiling the Quran, on April 21, 2012. The charge if upheld carries a penalty of life imprisonment. Mullas managed to intimidate the police to book the lady. The essential facts of the case ought to be brought on record.

Mrs. Siddique, while clearing up on April 14, 2012, collected old papers and books and set them on fire outside her gate. Some miscreants saw this, pulled out some papers from the rubble and took them to a mulla.

The mulla, in consultation with others, made announcements on loud-speakers, and took out a procession on April 15. They took out a procession again the next day and made hateful speeches against the Ahmadiyya community. The police, thereafter held a meeting with mullas. The mullas could not produce a damaged book at the occasion; they produced only a half-burnt picture of the mausoleum of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). At this, the police formed a 5-member committee of mullas to determine if any defiling had actually occurred.

After the committee had submitted its report, the police sent for the lady and an Ahmadi delegation. The DSP heard the case. Mrs. Siddique told him that she was not literate but she could read and recite the Quran; so, prior to burning the waste, she took out some Quranic parts (*seeparey*) and gave them to a man to respectfully hand over to a nearby mosque. "If defiling was intended, why would I do that"? she said. At this the DSP sent for the man and he confirmed her statement and action. The DSP sent a constable to the mosque, and he physically located the Quranic parts that had been delivered there by the lady through the messenger.

The DSP also sent for the youth who had reportedly recovered the burnt paper. On presentation, he declined that he had personally done that, instead, according to him there were two small boys aged 8 or 10 who had handed him the burnt papers. The boys stated that they had taken out the papers and shown them to the auntie who suggested that those be placed respectfully at a higher location. Instead they took it to uncle Saqib (the youth) who took them to maulvis.

At this the DSP showed the half-burnt magazine to the lady. It was *Laulak*, a periodical published in 1996. The lady told the DSP that this magazine was not among the papers that she burnt. This magazine is published by a Wahabi organization. Reportedly the magazine was found to contain no Quranic material that was burnt. Maulana Mazhar Mukhtar is of the opinion that in the absence of any evidence the accusation should be withdrawn, however some mullas insist that charges be framed. The DSP also was not sure if there was *prima facie* evidence to register a case.

To Ahmadi's surprise, a case was registered on April 21, 2012 against Mrs. Siddique under the blasphemy clause PPC 295-B for defiling the Quran. However no arrest followed.

The accused obtained a Protective Bail order from the High Court who ordered that the regular bail be obtained from the Sessions Judge.

The mullas are now agitating against the non-arrest of the lady. The militant wing of Sunni Tehrik has taken the lead in this agitation and its president held a press conference to demand that the accused woman should be arrested. He also availed the occasion to slander

and bad-mouth the Ahmadiyya Community.

The police are following up the FIR. They have interrogated again the lady and the neighbors. The neighbors have attested that the lady is not the type who would defile the Quran.

## **Lahore leads in persecution of Ahmadis**

*Lahore is the provincial capital of the Punjab. It is home to one of the major Ahmadi communities in Pakistan. Perhaps that makes it a special target of Ahmadi-bashers. This city was the center of the 1953 anti-Ahmadi extensive riots in the Punjab that led to the first-ever imposition of martial law in Pakistan. More recently, terrorists chose this city in 2010 to indulge in a massacre of Ahmadi worshippers in two main mosques there. Events proved that their choice of the city was well-considered, because the law enforcing agencies waited for hours before mounting any response, giving the attackers plenty of time to achieve their object.*

*In recent weeks anti-Ahmadi mullas had a free hand to openly hold major rallies in Lahore. They planed, and are in the process of implementing their condemnable agenda – with help of authorities.*

*The Punjab is ruled these days by Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz). Mr. Shahbaz Sharif is the Chief Minister of this province. The PML (N)'s affinity for the politico-religious elements, those who have a history of extremism, even terrorism, has been talk of the town and mentioned in dispatches. Here we mention a few noteworthy reports for the month of May.*

### **Ahmadiyya mosque and sacred phrases defiled by the Punjab Police**

**Lahore; May 2, 2012:** The police, under orders from high officials, undertook gross violation of Ahmadi religious freedom by breaking up and removing sacred epithets and phrases from the Ahmadiyya mosque in Sultanpura, Lahore.

Two policemen visited an Ahmadi, Mr. Naeem Ahmad, on April 28, 2012 and told him that a complaint had been received about the Islamic activities of Ahmadis in their mosque, so the local Ahmadi notables should report to the police station at 7.30 p.m.

In the evening the SHO accompanied by a contingent of 10 constables came over himself to the Ahmadiyya mosque and pointed out to the Kalmia (Islamic creed) and the Divine attributes written on the wall, and told Ahmadis to remove them. Ahmadis told him that they would not undertake the defiling, however if the authorities were adamant, the police may do that themselves. The SHO said, "I am a Muslim, I shall never do that." Thereafter he went back.

It was learnt that two complainants, Mulla Tufail Ahmad and Advocate Badr Alam Sheikh, who live approximately 15 kilometers away, had jointly applied to the police that the Ahmadiyya place of worship be made to not look like a mosque, and the Kalima, etc should be removed from it as these hurt the sentiments of Muslims. It is relevant to mention that this mosque is more than half a century old, and people residing in the neighborhood had never raised any objection over its shape etc. It is also highly controversial as to what does a typical mosque look like. The Faisal Mosque in Islamabad looks very different from the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore; while both of these have no semblance whatsoever to the first mosque built by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in Madina.

The police sent for the Ahmadiyya representatives to report to the police station a number of times over the next three days. The senior Ahmadi leadership contacted high police officials in Lahore to be mindful of Ahmadis' fundamental rights and resist the

pressure of a few religious bigots. However, it appears that the authorities chose the path of least resistance.

At the police station, the SHO, surely receiving orders from his superiors, was harsh with Ahmadis and threatened them with registration of a criminal case under PPC 295-B and the anti-Ahmadiyya PPC 298-C. Under the former clause Ahmadis would be liable to imprisonment for life. Ahmadis, however, refused to undertake the desecration.

On May 2, 2012, the SHO came to the mosque to convey that the police would undertake removal of the *Kalmia* etc and demolish the minarets. Ahmadis told him that he would need a magistrate's order to demolish the minarets. The SHO did not like that.

A police contingent led by the SHO arrived at about 3 p.m. They used hammer and chisel and broke the tiles of the *Kalima* and Divine attributes. They also damaged the prayer text at the entrance that a worshipper is expected to recite on entering a mosque. The shameful operation continued for almost five hours.

The police were about to demolish the small minarets when the Ahmadis offered to cover them up, as otherwise the adjoining structure would have been damaged.

The mullas apparently are still not happy with what the authorities have done for them. (Their aim is to stoke the fires of hate and discord and not to stabilize the situation). They now want the dome of the mosque to be demolished. Ahmadis have received threat messages in this context.

#### **Kalima concealed by authorities**

**Lahore; May 14, 2012:** It was reported last month that the police visited the Ahmadiyya mosque in Garhi Shahu, Lahore to conceal the *Kalima*. However, they withdrew on orders, without accomplishing the profanity.

A senior police official, later told Ahmadis that the Khatme Nabuwat mullas had lodged an application to remove the *Kalima*, thus the police were under great pressure.

At last the police bowed to the will of the mullas, and nine policemen came over to the Ahmadiyya mosque on May 17, 2012. They nailed a steel sheet over the *Kalima* and painted it black.

Some people living in the front street of the mosque celebrated this event and distributed sweets. Some of them raised anti-Ahmadiyya slogans.

#### **Now a major onslaught on the main place of worship**

**Lahore; May 2012:** Encouraged by the pliant response of the police to the mullas' campaign against the Ahmadiyya mosque in Sultanpura, Lahore, the extremist lobby decided to bully the intimidated state into defiling the Ahmadiyya main mosque, Dar uz Zikr in Garhi Shahu. This is the same location where two years ago terrorists carried out a massacre of worshippers while the police waited for hours doing nothing.

On May 12, Badr Alam Sheikh, an advocate of the High Court, Lahore, sent an application to the SHO Garhi Shahu against five Ahmadis namely Munawwar Ahmad Sheikh, Sheikh Riaz Ahmad, the Qadiani missionary {name unknown (sic)}, Dr Nazir Ahmad and Waqar Butt for writing the *Kalima* (Islamic creed) on Dar-uz-Zikr and construction of dome and minarets. The applicant applied that these Ahmadis be booked in a criminal police case for violation of PPC 298-B and 298-C.

The applicant also wrote that he has been informed by his friend that Ahmadi women proselytize to Muslim families; the *Kalmia*, the dome and the minarets openly violate (sic) the provisions of PPC 298-B and 298-C; as such the *Kalima*, epithets, the mosque-like minarets and dome should be secured (*mahfuz kia jaey*). "This should be done to put a stop to extremism and uphold the law", the applicant added.

On receiving no compliance report from the SHO, the applicant wrote to the Addl. District and Session Judge, Lahore against the SHO for not registering the case. At this, the court required the SHO to reply, who replied that it was not the job of the police to undo minarets and domes - it was the domain of the Building Department. The *Kalima* had already been covered by steel plates on May 17 by the police.

At this Mr. Naeem Ahmad, the Addl. District and Session Judge issued an order on May 28 that the SHO should take action on the application, as per law.

While turning to prayers, Ahmadis are considering their response to this blatant attack on their freedom of faith and belief.

#### **An intensive hate campaign in a Lahore neighbourhood**

**Rahmanpura, Lahore; May 2012:** Opponents of the Ahmadiyya community distributed hateful posters and pamphlets in which they pointed out Ahmadi businessmen of Township and College Rd. with names and addresses, and urged the public to stop dealing with them. They attempted to leave no stone unturned in their provocative drive against Ahmadis.

In the pamphlet that listed Ahmadi businessmen, they asserted:

*“Mirzais (Ahmadis) are distributing their literature of apostasy and infidelity through-out the world. Every Mirzai individual and business donates a specific amount for this drive of infidelity and apostasy. This year Mirzais allocated a vast sum of 2.06 billion rupees for this loathsome mission. So, every Muslim who trades with Mirzais or uses their products supports them financially in their worldwide anti-Islam and anti-Muhammad campaign. O’ Muslim, ponder: if a Muslim is delinked from the Green Dome through your financial indiscretion, would your link continue with the Prophet of Medina (P.B.U.H.)? So, for God’s sake stop from this accursed practice, and stop the others too.”*

They also attached the following *fatwa* with this offensive poster:

*“All sections of the Muslim world (Deobandi, Barelvi, Ahle Hadith) have decreed that Qadianis are Zindique (heretics), infidels and apostates. So, having any social or economic relations with them like participating in their events of sorrow and happiness, exchange of greetings, friendship, cordial relationship, their company, trading with them, to be employed by them, and to buy their products are all *haram* (forbidden by the Sharia). The one who maintains a relationship with them is depraved, wrongdoer and liable to the punishment in hell. One who thinks Mirzais are Muslims or calls them better than Muslims is himself the worst infidel. (This decree contains signatures of 1500 renowned ulama of the time).”*

First such a list of Ahmadi businessmen was compiled and distributed in towns far from the capital. Having seen that the authorities have not reacted to this grossly unlawful and incriminating act, the mulla is emboldened to indulge now in that forbidding act inside the provincial capital itself.

Such is the protection to minorities offered by the government.

#### **The endless mischief and hurt - in the capital of the Punjab**

**Lahore, June 1, 2012:** The SHO Police Station Mughalpura sent for the secretary of the local Ahmadiyya community and told him that the Ahle Sunnat wal Jamaat (perhaps the banned SSP) have sent him an application against the *Kalima* written on the Ahmadiyya mosque. He told the secretary to remove the *Kalima*, but the secretary told him that Ahmadis would do no such thing.

In the evening the SHO telephoned the president of the Ahmadi community and told him that the police would arrive at the mosque at 02:30, and he should have men available to efface the *Kalima*. (The time given is noteworthy.) The president conveyed his inability to comply with the SHO’s orders. The SHO threatened him with registration of a criminal case. “Do what you like,” the president replied.

The SHO came over at night, but went back without taking any action.

This is the third Ahmadiyya mosque in Lahore within last few days where the police have moved in support of the anti-Ahmadi extremists' unlawful and monstrous demand.

#### **Mounting hostility all over in the provincial capital**

**Ravi Park, Lahore; April 28, 2012:** An anti-Ahmadiyya Khatme Nabuwwat conference was held in the Bhati Gate area. It began at 9 p.m. and lasted until 3 a.m. Maulvi Azizur Rahman Thani and Hamid Baloch spoke abuse against the Ahmadiyya community and agitated the audience. The participants numbered approximately 150 men, the majority of whom were madrassa students.

**Defense, Lahore; May 10, 2012:** Mr. Shahid Iqbal and Mr. Zahid Iqbal received threatening letters on their business addresses. Obnoxious language had been used therein against the Ahmadiyya community. These were posted from the post office of Iqbal Town, Lahore. A similar letter was received by Sheikh Basharat Ahmad who has already left Pakistan and settled abroad. Other such threats were sent through phone and mobile text messages.

**Rahmanpura, Lahore; May 27, 2012:** Mr. Ahmad Aziz, an Ahmadi youth is a member of the club, Dragon Charts learning martial arts there for the last two years. Five unknown men came to his club on May 27, 2012 and asked his instructor about him. They said, "A Qadiani youth comes here. His name is Ahmad. You are teaching him all this; tomorrow he will stand against us." On enquiry they told him that they had come from Johar Town. They also accused Mr. Ahmad of preaching Ahmadiyyat in the club, and threatened action.

Mr. Ahmad was on leave that day. The next day his instructor told him of the incident. Mr. Ahmad asked him to produce the boy to whom he had preached. The instructor said the visitors would return in a few days. At this Mr. Ahmad's family stopped him from going to the club, to avoid any harm.

**Wahdat Colony; May 13, 2012:** An Ahmadi was standing in front of his house when a man approached and asked him about the Ahmadiyya mosque. He mentioned that there was a ground beside it. The Ahmadi asked him the reason for his inquiry; he did not answer and departed.

The next day on May 14, 2012 a van was found parked in the southern street of the Ahmadiyya mosque. Five armed Pukhtuns were sitting in it. The windows of the van were black. One of them jumped down when an Ahmadi youth passed by. He asked him about the Ahmadiyya mosque. The youth avoided the question. The man then asked him about the ground (near the mosque), which was told to him. At this one of them proceeded to the ground, from there he went towards Iqbal Town.

The police have been informed of this incident.

### **Other incidents**

#### **Heightened sectarian activism in a Karachi neighbourhood**

**Gulzar Hijri, Karachi; April 2012:** The situation is tense here for Ahmadi. The local Khatme Nabuwwat faction is very active against them. Activists produced stickers of *Khatme Nabuwwat Zindabad* (Long-live Khatme Nabuwwat) and pasted them all over the area. The center of these activities is Bilal mosque which is situated beside the County Garden and the graveyard of Scout Colony. Fifty-two Ahmadi families reside here.

Khatme Nabuwwat faction distributed sets of five anti-Ahmadiyya books in all the non-Ahmadi homes of the area. The anti-Ahmadi *fatwa* has also been framed and displayed at a prominent place in County Garden. Banners were put up for the conference of May 7, 2012. It is an organized campaign.

An Ahmadi family in the area went out for the day. On their return they found that someone had poured a chemical through their door locks and they were unable to unlock them. They protested and made a complaint to the local union. The union took no action. It seems it is supporting anti-Ahmadiyya elements. A provocative Friday sermon was delivered in Bilal mosque in which the audience was made to take a pledge to boycott Ahmadis and not buy anything from Ahmadi shopkeepers. They also announced action against those who sympathized with Ahmadis.

**A disclosure – a Qadiani teaches Arabic!**

**Faisalabad; May 12, 2012:** The vernacular daily ‘Aman’ published from the industrial city of Faisalabad in the central Punjab disseminated the following noteworthy report on May 12, 2012, (Translation):

**A Qadiani teacher discovered teaching Arabic in Girls Middle School 77 GB**

**There is deep conspiracy in appointment of this teacher to teach Arabic by the headmistress despite knowing**

**People demand transfer of the said teacher from teaching Arabic**

*Sidhar (correspondent): There is tension all over the area after discovery that a female Qadiani teacher has been teaching Arabic for the last two years in Govt Girls Middle School Chak 77 GB, Mullan Pur. The Education Department was not aware that the said teacher was a Qadiani, but for the headmistress to appoint her to teach Arabic, despite knowing her Qadiani identity, smacks of a deep conspiracy. She should be removed from teaching Arabic and given some other job.*

*As per details the said teacher got herself enrolled as an SESE Arabic teacher in 2010, and was appointed in Govt Girls Middle School Mullan Pur. The said teacher was teaching Arabic all along while the headmistress and the entire staff knew her to be a Qadiani.*

*Now subsequent to this discovery there is hostility amidst the people all over the area. People have demanded that the said teacher be removed forthwith, otherwise they will act on their own.*

It will be appropriate to enumerate the upshot and ramification of this press report which is typical of numerous such stories that are regularly published by the Pakistani vernacular press:

1. The correspondent has essentially taken objection to an Ahmadi teaching Arabic, as Arabic happens to be the language of the Quran. His position is as absurd as some Italian journalist objecting to a local Adventist teaching Greek. Also noteworthy is the extent to which unscrupulous elements bend the law to suit their wild prejudices. By no stretch of the imagination, even the notorious Ordinance XX can be interpreted to imply that Ahmadis may not learn or teach Arabic.
2. The press report shows that Ahmadi individuals are put under great pressure and are victimized through baseless media reports. This report, partly fabricated, conveys a false impression that there is great tension *all over the area*. It mentions that ‘people’ have demanded the removal of the said teacher. These ‘people’ in fact are no more than the correspondent himself and two or three of his accomplices who wish that she lose her job for her belief.
3. What this press report mentions as news is in fact a suggestion to the people to make the reported demand. Also this vulgar report suggests to the people to take law in their own hand.
4. One can imagine the concern and worry of the targeted lady-teacher whose posting, job, even personal security has been threatened through the media.

5. This report has not spared even the non-Ahmadi headmistress and staff who are amicably working as a team to educate local children. It accuses them of involvement in the ‘conspiracy’. This attitude of the correspondent is in line with the campaign orchestrated by top clerics that even those people, including authorities, who are friendly or not-hostile to Ahmadis, should be targeted and intimidated to join the anti-Ahmadi chorus.
6. While a correspondent could be found wanting in journalistic ethics, one expects the editors and publishers of a major newspaper to scrutinize incoming reports for their fitness for print. This is lacking with not only the ‘Aman’, it is so with most other major Urdu dailies in Pakistan, where Ahmadis are concerned. Their correspondents are aware of the *laissez-faire* attitude of their superiors – some are perhaps encouraged to file such reports. Last year the daily Ausaf, Lahore, printed 218 anti-Ahmadiyya news, mostly fabricated. In the present report by the ‘Aman’ the statement of tension *all over the area* is a plain lie.
7. This report is indicative of the situation faced by Ahmadis in Pakistan where the clerics, the media, the state and a part of the society have joined hands, through acts of commission and omission, to persecute Ahmadis beyond limits.

**Asian Human Rights Commission’s Statement on  
Denial to Ahmadis their right to vote**

**May 8, 2012:** The AHRC issued a statement concerning Pakistan on the subject mentioned above. Some of its extracts are reproduced below:

**PAKISTAN: A maimed democracy that denies its citizens the right to vote**

May 8, 2012:

...

Internationally, a democracy is defined by a government elected by the people. However, in Pakistan there is an exception to this rule in that Ahmadis on account of their faith and belief are excluded from the electoral system....

...The separate electorate system has divided the Pakistan polity into numerous entities based on religion but the worst is the case of the Ahmadis who have been forced out of their proclaimed faith and denied a fundamental civic right damaging and maiming Pakistan’s claim to be a democracy.

Again in 2002, General Musharraf, instead of introducing a Joint Electoral System, required voters to sign a declaration concerning belief about the absolute and unqualified finality of the Prophethood of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and those who refused to sign the certificate were to be deleted from the joint electoral rolls and added to a supplementary list of voters as non-Muslims.

These devious and unacceptable procedures have usurped the fundamental civic rights of Ahmadis and for decades now they cannot stand as candidates for any assembly, national, provincial or even district. Ahmadis have no representation even in the town council of their own town Rabwah where they make up 95 per cent of the population.

To hoodwink the world community, Pakistan has now introduced a form for the registration of all voters but every applicant who ticks himself as a Muslim is made to sign a certificate printed on the back of the form declaring that he or she is not associated with the Qadiani or Lahori group, or calls himself an Ahmadi.

This form includes a warning that a violation will be punished with imprisonment.

The irony of the matter is that Article 20 of Pakistan’s Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and Pakistan is also a signatory to the UN Charter of Human Rights, which makes it obligatory upon the government to safeguard the fundamental rights, of all without any discrimination whatsoever, based on religion, faith or belief.



The UN, EU, human rights organizations and the world media urged the government of Pakistan, before the 2008 general elections, to establish a Joint Electorate Roll system free of discrimination against faith, belief, caste, race or colour.

Now that Pakistan is preparing for the next General Election, it is time to place serious pressure on the government of Pakistan to take immediate steps to demolish the inhumane discrimination against Ahmadis. For the credibility of Pakistan's claim to democracy, it is vitally important that all discrimination in the form of declarations and orders be withdrawn and Joint Election Lists prepared without any reference to religion.

The right of Ahmadis to vote must be restored and candid facilities provided for the members of this minority community to participate safely and without duress as voters and candidates in the following elections.

If Pakistan will not pay heed to this call it will continue to remain maimed democracy and an embarrassment to the respectable democracies of the world.

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### **A noteworthy sectarian/political conference in Chicha Watni**

***Chicha Watni, District Sahiwal, Punjab; May 4, 2012:*** Majlis Ahrar Islam, a politico-religious party that gained widespread notoriety in the 1953 anti-Ahmadiyya riots, has established a major office in Chicha Watni where it holds a conference every year in the memory of '10,000 martyrs of the Khatme Nabuwwat Movement'. A high-level judicial commission, however, counted no more than 37 rioters killed by law enforcement agencies in the entire Punjab.

At this occasion a special article on Chicha Watni was published in the daily Pakistan on May 6, 2012, while the news report of the conference was carried by the vernacular media, as usual.

According to the article in the daily Pakistan: "*Chicha Watni's history is loaded with its wholesome role in the field of safeguarding the End of Prophethood. Majlis Ahrar Islam is continuing the great campaign that precipitated the (anti-Ahmadiyya) events of 1953, 1974 and 1984.... Chicha Watni is considered as the source of anti-Qadiani news and reports.... The credit for this goes to the General Secretary of Majlis Ahrar, who is active on this front since his school days.... He is well-versed in the art of indoctrinating the youth through the media, briefing the high-ups and lobbying (for a campaign). ... He is the joint convener on the platform where Majlis Ahrar Islam, International Khatme Nabuwwat, Pakistan Shariat Council, JUI, JI, Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith, JUP co-operate.*"

The report in the Pakistan carried the following special mentions:

Syed Ata ul Mohaiman Bokhari, the Leader (Quaid) of Ahrar stated that the greatest terrorist (*dehshatgard*) and usurper (*ghasib*) in the whole world is the U.S.

The only purpose of the NATO supplies is to kill Muslims. These supplies and their supporters are murderers. We uphold and support the Defense of Pakistan Council in their campaign against American aggression and NATO supplies.

Madrassahs and mosques have produced *Maulvis* and *Hafiz* (those who learnt the Quran by heart) that are present all over the world; they can never be eliminated.

The Punjab Assembly has passed the resolution in favor of compulsory education of the Quran, it is now essential to move it in the form of a bill.

The least committed of Muslims in the world is also ever ready to sacrifice his life for the honour of the Prophet.

Qadiani agents have penetrated the ranks of PPP, PML (N) and PTI.

The US has ensured that Pakistan is economically paralyzed. Qadianis, the Jewish proxies, were promoted during the Musharraf era.

Syed Kafil Bokhari stated that as per Quran and Sunnah and the Consensus of Muslims (*Ijma'*) the punishment of blasphemy is death (sic).

Anyone who claims 'prophecy' like Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani is an apostate, and the Islamic punishment of apostasy is death (sic).

The Quran is establishment of the Rule of Allah (*Hukumat Ilahiyya*).

As recommended by Islamic Ideology Council, the Sharia punishment of apostasy should be implemented, and the anti-Qadiani ordinance should be effectively enforced all over Pakistan including Chenab Nagar.

We demand that NATO supplies must not be restored and the government should delink itself from the worldwide conflict waged in the name of American war on terror.

The sweet smell of the blood of Afghan martyrs is reaching here as well. (The daily Jang)

Only a benign fool will accept that these conferences are meant to promote only the dogma of the End of Prophethood.

#### **Ahmadiyya press report released for the year 2001**

**Rabwah:** The Ahmadiyya central office in Pakistan released its annual press report for the year 2011. It is an 18-page report in Urdu. Its summary and salient features were mentioned in a Press Release issued in English as well as in Urdu. The English version is produced below:

#### **Press Section**

#### **Nizarat Umooor E Aama**

Sadar Anjuman Ahmadiyya Rabwah (Pakistan)

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Ph: 047-6212459 Fax: 047-6215459 Email: [press.section@saapk.org](mailto:press.section@saapk.org)

#### **PRESS RELEASE**

**The open hate campaign against Ahmadis reached new heights. Even innocent children were not spared. 6 Ahmadis murdered because of their faith and 31 survived assassination attempts.**

**After the promulgation of 1984 anti Ahmadiyya Ordinance 210 Ahmadis have been murdered because of their faith. There are 1008 cases pending in various courts throughout Pakistan.**

**In 2011 the Pakistani Urdu press continued the publication of baseless news stories. During the year more than 1173 news stories were published against Ahmadis.**

**Jama'at Ahmadiyya has published the report on persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan and the press report for 2011 about Pakistani Urdu press propaganda against Ahmadis.**

Rabwah (Press Release): Jama'at Ahmadiyya Pakistan has released the persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan report for 2011. The spokesperson for Jama'at Ahmadiyya Pakistan Mr. Saleem ud Din said, "There was an open hate campaign against Ahmadis in Pakistan and young children studying in nursery grade classes were not even spared from this horrific discrimination and hatred". Six Ahmadis lost their lives because of the fact that they were Ahmadis and more than 20 were targets of assassination attempts. Mr. Saleem ud Din also informed that hate filled posters, stickers, fliers and calendars were openly distributed across Pakistan. He specifically mentioned the hate campaigns faced by the Ahmadis in Faisalabad where fliers and leaflets were openly distributed calling anyone to kill Ahmadis in open. The government and security agencies failed to take any concrete action against such actions. Punishing the culprits behind these leaflets and hate material is a far cry.

The extremists have increased efforts to isolate the community, and the campaign to encourage people to boycott Ahmadis and Ahmadi products was also a major issue. Expelling children from educational institutions also increased where young kids studying in nursery level classes were not spared. Ahmadi children faced expulsion from schools or outright refusal by the educational institutions to admit them. The government seemed to succumb under the pressure from extremists and decided to look other way while these acts of hate and terror

were carried out.

All the acts perpetrated after the 1984 anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinance are against the fundamentals of the constitution of Pakistan. The post-1984 era for Ahmadis is marked by an increasingly difficult period for Ahmadis. Mr. Saleem ud Din urged the government to consider these Ahmadiyya-specific laws and ensure that Ahmadis in Pakistan are given equal rights as any other citizen. Ahmadis are facing legal, social, cultural and political discrimination because of these laws and these are against the very base of our society where equal rights of individual are prime. Mr. Saleem ud Din said, "There have been 210 deaths after the imposition of these discriminatory laws in 1984, 254 assassination attempts on various Ahmadis. 23 Ahmadi places of worship were demolished and 28 were sealed by the administration. 16 places of worship were forcefully taken over, 29 graves of deceased Ahmadis were opened and desecrated and 57 Ahmadis were refused burial in common graveyard." Mr. Saleem ud Din further added that during 2011 Ahmadis were not allowed to build place of worship anywhere in Pakistan. At many places police forcefully stopped the construction of places of worship. As a matter of fact according to the constitution of Pakistan every citizen is free to practice their faith and build their place of worship. Just because of prejudice, Ahmadi businesses are targeted and Ahmadi officials in government and private sector are victimized.

According to Saleem ud Din, in 2011 as well, Ahmadis were not allowed to hold any convention in their centre Rabwah, where 95% population belongs to Ahmadiyya community. Sports events were not spared either and the community was not allowed to hold any type of sports events openly. On the other hand those against the Jama'at Ahmadiyya were given a free hand to hold rallies whenever, wherever and however they wanted. They were also given a free hand to abuse and slander revered Ahmadi figures.

**The spokesperson of Jama'at Ahmadiyya Pakistan called upon the moderate and conscientious circles of Pakistani community to urge the government to take effective measures to curtail the prejudice on the basis of faith so that Pakistan could be rid of sectarianism and prejudice and Pakistan could become a prosperous and peaceful country.###**

The contents of the press release were adequately reported by the English press generally. The Urdu press ignored it mostly; one of the dailies spared for it only one inch space in single column. The electronic media also opted not to mention it. The Express Tribune of May 7, 2012 printed the story with the appropriate headlines and highlighted a figure in a square as follows:

**State of the nation**

**Urdu press seen complicit in Ahmadi baiting**

**Report on Ahmadis reveals victimization and harassment**

LANGUAGE MATTERS

**1,173**

Anti-Ahmadi stories were published in the Urdu Press in 2011

PERSECUTION OF AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN DURING THE YEAR 2011

**Now the Sunni ulama!**

**Lahore:** It seems that the Sunni ulama (the Barelvi school) are no longer content with the general impression that they are relatively more tolerant and less violent. They have assessed that they are losing ground politically to the Deobandis and Salafis. A consensus has developed among the majority to ride the bandwagon of religious extremism and political adventurism. A few months ago the Sunni Tehrik decided to declare itself a political party. Last month the Ulama and Mashaikh conference in Lahore decided to gear up for the forthcoming election. Ahmadis have faced consistently active hostility from the activists of Sunni Tehrik for months in the Punjab and Sindh.

The daily Samaa, Lahore, of May 10 printed a report on a rally held in Shalimar Chowk, Lahore by the Sunni Ulama Federation on the theme of Khatme Nabuwwat (End of Prophethood) and Tahaffuz Namus Rasalat (Safeguarding the Honour of the Prophet). The

news carried the following headline.

**We shall tolerate no theft (*naqabzani*) in the (house) of Khatme Nabuwwat and Tahaffuz Namus Rasalat (Safeguarding the honour of the Prophet)**

The highlights:

*Qadianis occupying key posts should be removed forthwith.*

*The nation salutes Malik Mumtaz Hussain Qadiri for his sacrifices. The campaign for his (the Governor's murderer) release will go on until the end.*

*The blasphemer Terry Jones (of US) who defiled the Quran should be soon sentenced to death for hurting the feelings of billions of Muslims.*

*We shall spare no sacrifice over the Khatme Nabuwwat and Tahaffuz Namus Risalat.*

*The conference demanded pin pointing the assassins of Dr Sarfaraz Naeemi and the bomber of the Data Ganj Bux attack; Mumtaz Qadiri should be released forthwith, honourably.*

**Ahmadis under investigation**

**Chiniot; May 1, 2012:** An agent of an official secret agency approached Ch. Jameelur Rahman, the ex-president of the Ahmadiyya community in Chiniot and asked numerous questions about the Ahmadiyya mosque there: e.g. Since when has the Ahmadiyya mosque in Chiniot been in Ahmadi hands? Who built this mosque in Muhallah Rajewali? How many Ahmadi families reside in Chiniot? etc. These questions were answered appropriately. At the end Mr. Rahman asked him as to why he was asking these questions. The agent expressed his displeasure over the activities of mulla Muhammad Hussain Chinioti who was striving hard to take the place of mulla Manzoor Chinioti. He showed to Mr. Rahman the application of mulla Hussain Chinioti that demanded the closure of the Ahmadiyya mosque.

**An incident in District Vehari**

**Chak no. 491-EB, district Vehari; May 14, 2012:** A non-Ahmadi man, Abdul Latif burnt a copy of the Holy Quran and threw it away. At this a whispering campaign started that Ahmadis had done the defiling. It was baseless and vicious. Ahmadis felt disturbed over this. Fortunately, the culprit was later found effacing his foot prints from the location of the incident. He was caught, beaten up by the crowd and handed over to the police where he confessed the wrongdoing. On medical examination the police declared him retarded. Thus Ahmadis remained safe from a malign conspiracy.

**A hostile conference in District Hyderabad**

**Sanjarchang, district Hyderabad; May 4, 2012:** An anti-Ahmadiyya conference was held here in a local madrassa. It was attended by 500 participants, most of them outsiders. Maulvi Allah Wassaya, Saleem Ullah Jan and Azizur Rahman spoke to the audience. Allah Wassaya spoke venomously against the Ahmadiyya community, provoked the public against Ahmadis and took pledge from them to boycott Ahmadis completely.

**A Khatme Nabuwwat rally in Mirpur Khas**

**Mirpur Khas, Sindh; May 2, 2012:** Mullas of Khatme Nabuwwat held an anti-Ahmadiyya conference in the mosque of Shahi Bazaar. They narrated fabricated stories to amuse their audience. One of the mullas said that Ahmadis are now leaving Ahmadiyyat and accepting Islam. He told them that in Sialkot a Murabi (Ahmadi religious teacher) lived in the house of an Ahmadi. The landlord recanted and expelled the Murabi from his house. He further stated that there is an Ahmadiyya mosque in Quetta which is closed for the last 25 years. Another mulla told them that Ahmadis are now killing one another. Their numbers are increasing rapidly in America and Germany. He told them that Sahibzada Abdul Latif (the renowned

Ahmadi martyr in Afghanistan) had recanted and become a Muslim.

At the end they resolved that they could be friends to beasts of the deserts and jungles but could not make peace with Ahmadis. They took a pledge from the audience to implement a complete boycott of Ahmadis.

#### **Rancour in District Narowal**

***Malhoke, District Narowal; May 2012:*** The communal situation has been getting worse for Ahmadis in Malhoke, district Narowal for the last few months. Opponents filed an application in the local police station against five Ahmadis including one woman, alleging that Qadianis preached them. A non-Ahmadi Qari Afzal Bajwa is behind all this activity. He insisted that an FIR be registered based on their application.

The police had to intervene. The local MNA Mr. Ahsan Iqbal and the DPO were contacted by Ahmadis to secure the peace. They told the DSP to look into the matter. The DSP called both parties. He was harsh with those who favoured discord, and referred the matter to the Aman (peace) Committee.

Thereafter, Qari Afzal gathered a crowd of 150 and went to call on the District Police Officer, Narowal to push him to register a case against Ahmadis and reprimanded the SHO Badomalhi for not taking action against Ahmadis. The DPO is thinking it over.

#### **False propaganda in Golarchi**

***Golarchi, District Badin; May 4, 2012:*** A group of mullas gathered in a Deobandi mosque to celebrate the ‘conversion’ to Islam of an Ahmadi. They had invited Maulvi Allah Wasaya for the occasion. Wasaya, as always, spoke abuse and slander against the Ahmadiyya community and its elders. He told the audience that he had visited Mansehra on April 4, where all the 785 Qadianis, men, women and children switched to Islam.

#### **False allegation against Ahmadis**

***Toba Tek Singh; April 23, 2012:*** Someone burnt a few copies of the Holy Quran taken from the mosque situated near the railway station. A crowd gathered at the location, with the mullas in company.

The sons of Mr. Nazir Ahmad, Ahmadi had a car-wash business beside the mosque, but sometimes ago, they shifted to a far off location. Some miscreants spread the rumors that Qadianis (Ahmadis) had undertaken the burning of these Qurans.

The police remained active for some days, and eventually arrested a mentally disturbed man who confessed to the act. This put a stop to the blame game against Ahmadis.

As a few similar reports have been received from other locations, it is not far-fetched to deduce that these acts are results of deliberate conspiracy.

#### **Provocation in Pachnand**

***Pachnand, District Chakwal; May 2012:*** Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat has been very active against Ahmadis in this area for months. They pasted anti-Ahmadiyya provocative posters on walls in the town. Ahmadis have been advised by their elders to withhold their response, and not touch or tear away the hateful posters.

#### **A conference in Sialkot**

***Sialkot; May 19, 2012:*** An anti-Ahmadiyya Khatme Nabuwwat conference was held in the Wapda Ground. It was presided over by Prof. Sajid Mir, a Wahabi leader. He agitated the audience against the Ahmadiyya community and told them numerous ways to counter Ahmadiyyat. Some other mullas also addressed the crowd and indulged in hate-mongering and slander.

### **Rabwah citizens deprived of drinking water**

**Rabwah:** The daily Waqt printed the following report on May 12, 2012 (translation):

#### **Drinking water supply missing for the last seven days**

*Chenab Nagar (Waqt correspondent): The citizens of Rabwah face great hardships on account of the non-availability of drinking water for the past seven days. The water supply has become scarce due to severity of hot weather and unannounced power outages. The ground water is not potable. Therefore, citizens have to line up at water-filter plants with buckets and canisters in hand. In some areas water has remained interrupted for 15 days, therefore residents have to buy sub-standard polluted water for drinking. The water scarcity keeps on mounting due to unscheduled outages. As such water tankers on payment become available but after many days of waiting. Water supply staff stated that often electricity is available for only one hour at night, how can they meet the demand with only one hour's run of the motors. The water crisis is the outcome of outages. Residents have demanded the administration to prepare an effective plan to restore water supply to the town.*

### **Ahmadiyya voting rights issue raised in Swedish Parliament**

**Stockholm; May 30, 2012:** A question was raised in the Swedish Parliament on May 25, 2012 by MP Shadiye Heydari (S) on the issue of universal and equal suffrage in Pakistan. Foreign Minister Carl Bildt answered it on May 30. The official translation of both the Question and the Answer from the Internet is reproduced below:

#### **Allmän och lika rösträtt i Pakistan**

den 30 maj

Svar på fråga

2011/12:600 Allmän och lika rösträtt i Pakistan

Utrikesminister Carl Bildt

#### **Translation of the question**

Equality and absolute justice are the cornerstones of universal democracy. In Pakistan, this right is limited to certain groups with groups such as the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community excluded. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is an international religious organization established in over 190 countries. Members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community face many difficulties most notably they are denied the basic fundamental human right of vote. In previous elections this concern has been expressed by many, including NGOs such as the Asian Human Rights Commission.

Pakistan is now facing a new election and therefore it is important that Sweden and the international community trying to support Pakistan in efforts to ensure equal and universal voting right for all.

This issue also affects many Swedes as there are now five local chapters (Jamaats) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Sweden with the largest Ahmadiyya Mosque, Nasir Ahmadiyya Mosque being in Gothenburg. Sweden with its long democratic tradition has a special responsibility.

From the Swedish side, we support a democratic election in Pakistan, both on their own with the EU and the UN.

What action will the Minister take to ensure that all citizens (including members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community) in Pakistan have equal voting rights there and can freely take part in the elections?

#### **Translation of the answer from the Foreign Minister**

Foreign Minister Carl Bildt

Shadiye Heydari has asked me what steps I intend to take and ensure that all citizens, including members of religious minorities in Pakistan be given equal voting rights. To promote and strengthen respect for human rights it is a priority issue in Swedish foreign policy. Persecution on religious beliefs is unacceptable and repression of particular Ahmadiya Muslims in Pakistan is extremely serious. As Shadiye Heydari points out it is therefore extremely important that the international community is assisting Pakistan in efforts to ensure universal and equal suffrage in the country.

I visited Pakistan in March 2012 and complained in my bilateral talks the importance of strengthening the protection of human rights, especially for persons belonging to religious minorities. The importance of free and fair elections was pointed out specifically. Our Human Rights Ambassador, Hans Dahlgren, visited shortly after Pakistan and met, among others, Ahmadiyarörelsens President Tahir Ahmed Malik.

In order to work more actively for the rights of persons belonging to minorities, the EU Delegation in Pakistan this year has included religion as one of four priority areas of work relating to human rights. At the EU level also has an engagement plan with Pakistan drawn and the question of general and fair elections has there been a high priority. It is also hoped that the EU at the planned elections in 2013 to participate in an election observation mission.

The Government shares Shadiye Heydari's concern and will continue to act bilaterally and through EU and UN to the general elections in Pakistan to live up to international standards.

[http://www.riksdagen.se/sv/Dokument-Lagar/Fragor-och-anmalningar/Svar-pa-skriftliga-fragor/Allman-och-lika-rostratt-i-Pak\\_GZ12600/](http://www.riksdagen.se/sv/Dokument-Lagar/Fragor-och-anmalningar/Svar-pa-skriftliga-fragor/Allman-och-lika-rostratt-i-Pak_GZ12600/)

**From the Media**

**Anti Ahmadi laws**

**Police act as worship place 'looks like a mosque'**

**Quranic verses on walls removed, minarets to be covered**

*The daily Express Tribune, Lahore; May 4, 2012*

**Qadiani leadership in Pakistan under investigation in the murder of Chaudhry Ahmad Yusuf**

*The daily Khabrain, Lahore; May 21, 2012*

**Urdu press seen complicit in Ahmadi baiting**

**Report on Ahmadis reveals victimization and harassment**

**1,173 anti-Ahmadi stories were published in the Urdu press in 2011**

*The daily Express Tribune, Lahore; May 7, 2012*

**Supply of drinking water missing for seven days in Chenab Nagar**

*The daily Waqt, Lahore; May 12, 2012*

**Qadianis enemies of Islam and Pakistan, stop your conspiracies, or we shall encircle (gherao)**

**Rabwah: Khatme Nabuwat Conference (Sialkot)**

**This British-planted (community) remains busy hatching plans against Pakistan, in league with the US, India and Israel: Sagir Mir (JAH)**

**Qadianis posted in the armed service, bureaucracy and other important posts should be fired: Ibtisam Ilahi, Abdus Sattar Hamid**

*The daily Khabrain, Lahore; May 21, 2012*

**The U.S. is destroying Pakistan through Qadianis – Majlis Ahrar (Ata ul Mohaiman Bokhari and Khalid Cheema)**

*The daily Jang, Lahore; May 18, 2012*

**Qadianis are enemies of Islam and agents of Jews. Abdus Sittar Hamid (of Jamiat Ahle Hadith)**

*The daily Express, Lahore; May 1, 2012*

***Nine soldiers die in militant ambush***

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 7, 2012*

**Bajaur market massacre leave 26 dead. Taliban claim responsibility.**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 5, 2012*

***Men freed by courts involved in terrorist activities: reports***

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 7, 2012*

**Lal Masjid operation**

**SC moved for registering cases against 22 persons (including Gen Musharraf)**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 8, 2012*

***Forced marriage threat made to NGO women (by mulla Abdul Haleem of Kohistan)***

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 6, 2012*

**IJT activists vandalize VC office**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 17, 2012*

***Fresh list of 40 banned organizations issued; Sunni placed on Watch List.***

*The daily Express, Lahore; May 22, 2012*

**Babar Awan sacked from PPP post**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 2, 2012*

***South (Punjab) a militant breeding ground: Shahbaz***

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 19, 2012*

**Fazl (JUI) justifies support for Afghan Taliban**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 29, 2012*

**Ahmadi massacre: HRW urges Govt to bring culprits to justice. Human Rights Watch outlines intensified campaign against the minority.**

***Govt not to allow misuse of blasphemy laws: Zardari***

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 17, 2012*

**Chicha Watni: a town that has played leading role in guarding the End of Prophethood in all eras.**

**Rabwah is the center of Qadianiat, while this region is the centre of anti-Qadiani news. Majlis Ahrar Islam is ever busy in countering it.**

*The daily Pakistan, Lahore; May 7, 2012*

***Terrorism and declaring any sect Kafir is un-Sharia: 17 point Rules of Conduct issued by Milli Yakjehti Council.***

*The daily Jinnah, Lahore; May 22, 2012*

**The US, he (President Obama) said did not want Pakistan to be consumed by its own extremism.**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 22, 2012*

***Nuclear war could result on attack on Syria and Iran. Russian PM***

*The daily Mashriq, Lahore; May 19, 2012*

**Bangladesh political leader indicted over 1971 war**

Ghulam Azam, 89 the former head of the Jamaat-i-Islami party is accused of creating and leading pro-Pakistan military which carried out many killings and rapes during the nine-month war.

The International Crimes Tribunal charged him with crimes against humanity, genocide, murder, rape, abduction, arson and other crimes under international law. ...

*The daily Express Tribune, Lahore; May 14, 2012*

***US denounces burning of Quran copies by US pastor***

*The daily Nation, Lahore; May 1, 2012*



**(US) Law makers approve use of force as Iran option**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 19, 2012*

**NATO supply must not be restored. (Mullas) Syed Ataul Mohaiman, Zahid ur Rashidi, Kafil Bokhari and others address conference in Chicha Watni.**

*The daily Jang, Lahore; May 5, 2012*

**Sarkozy out as France swings to left Socialist. Hollande elected president.**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 7, 2012*

**Nawaz Sharif's policies are incomprehensible; we could get closer to Imran Khan. Ahmad Ludhianwi (of Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat, former SSP)**

*The daily Jinnah, Lahore; May 22, 2012*

**PML (N) contacts JUI, JI and some nationalists for seat adjustment plan**

*The daily Mashriq, Lahore; May 16, 2012*

**Nawaz and Mumtaz Bhutto join hands**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 10, 2012*

**Sharif brothers get notices in SC storming case (of 1997)**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 19, 2012*

**MYC revived to promote sectarian harmony ... former Amir of Jamaat-i-Islami Qazi Hussain Ahmad has been elected its chairman.**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 22, 2012*

**Security not an issue in Balochistan, says CM**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 19, 2012*

**HRW urges probe into rights violations by agencies**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 19, 2012*

**Kohat bound coach stopped and 7 shot dead, 20 injured**

*The daily Nawa-e-Waqt, Lahore; May 26, 2012*

**Richest MNA (PPP) is worth Rs. 32 bn, fears for his safety**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 8, 2012*

**SP among 7 shot dead in Karachi**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 8, 2012*

**Wukalaa Gardi: Police officer beaten up blood stained in session court.**

Police inspector subjected to torture (by lawyers) was admitted to a nearby hospital for medical treatment; case registered against 15 lawyers by police.

*The daily Mashriq, Lahore; May 11, 2012*

**Countrywide protest and demonstrations against defiling of the Quran and Blasphemy against the honour of the Prophet. Curses on American priest. Condemning resolutions passed.**

*The daily Ausaf, Lahore; May 5, 2012*

**Call to hire professionals from abroad to run PIA**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 5, 2012*

**Friends pay tribute to Zubeida Mustafa (for wining IWMF Life time Achievement Award)**

*The daily Dawn, Lahore; May 19, 2012*

**Op-ed: Legal victimization**

...Interestingly, the Chamra Mandi incident (defiling the Ahmadiyya mosque in Sultanpura, Lahore) occurred some days after anti-Ahmadi protests and public processions held in and around the locality in the past couple of weeks where Muslim clerics delivered hate speeches. Another anti-Ahmadi public meeting was also called after this incident. According to some locals, a Sunni Ulama federation, in its May 5 procession, also distributed membership forms among the youth urging them to stop and expose the Ahmadi activities.

(Hina) Jilani maintains that the problem would remain while there is change in the basic structure of the state. “It is not the mindset of the people. This structure provides a playground to the mullas to use their tool of religion to grab control and power.”

*Vaqar Gillani in The News International Sunday Magazine, May 20, 2012*

**Op-ed: While the state looks the other way....**

One thing that everyone seems to remember about the chaos of Partition was the lack of state. There was no one to turn to, no institution to take responsibility. Is this not, what is happening in Sultanpura, in Lahore? (to the Ahmadiyya mosque)

*Ayesha Haroon in The News, May 5, 2012*

**Op-ed: Prosecute Ahmadi massacre suspects: HRW**

**New York:** Pakistani’s federal and provincial governments should bring to justice those responsible for the May 2012 attacks on Ahmadiyya places of worship that killed 94 people, Human Rights Watch said today.

...  
“The Punjab provincial government should be providing extra security to Ahmadiyya mosques instead of siding with those terrorizing worshipers and attacking their places of worship,” Adams said. “Pakistan’s anti-Ahmadi laws need to be repealed, not enforced.”

Human Rights Watch urged the government of Punjab province, controlled by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) party, to investigate and prosecute those responsible for intimidation, threats, and violence against the Ahmadiyya community. Militant groups that have publicly been involved in such efforts include the Sunni Tehrik, Tehrik-e-Tahafaz-e-Naomoos-e-Risalat, Khatm-e-Nabuwat, Difa-e-Pakistan Council, and others acting under the Pakistani Taliban’s umbrella. Leaders of these groups have frequently threatened to kill Ahmadis and attack the mosques where killings have taken place as well as other Ahmadi mosques.

...  
“The government’s continued use of discriminatory criminal laws against Ahmadis and other religious minorities is indefensible,” Adams said. “As long as such laws remain on the books, the Pakistani state will be seen as a persecutor of minorities and an enabler of abuses.”

...  
However, the government seldom brings charges against perpetrators of anti-Ahmadi violence and discrimination. Research by Human Rights Watch indicates that the police have failed to apprehend anyone implicated in such activity in the last several years.

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/05/27/pakistan-prosecute-ahmadi-massacre-suspects>

**Op-ed: Religious freedom violations in South Asia**

... Research strongly suggests that the protection of religious freedom is correlated with less conflict and is central to the lessening of violent religious extremism, the maintenance of security, the consolidation of democracy, and the advancement of socioeconomic progress.

....Religious extremism also threatens Pakistan’s security and stability.

Among Pakistani’s religious communities, Ahmadis face this most severe legal restrictions and officially sanctioned discrimination. Ahmadis are prevented by law from engaging in the full practice of their faith and may face criminal charges for a host of basic religious practices, including the use of religious terminology. Egregious acts of violence have been perpetrated against Ahmadis. For instance, recently a well-known Ahmadi school teacher, Master Abdul Qudoos Ahmad, was reportedly tortured to death while in police custody in Punjab province. In addition, anti-Ahmadi laws have created a climate for vigilante violence against the members of this community.

**Op-ed:                   The basic problem**

Equality between all men is a concept over which it is a waste of time to debate in 2012. But the situation is different in Pakistan. Here discrimination between citizens is supported by law and constitution. There are articles in Pakistani constitution that are contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The most conspicuous is the constitutional amendment regarding Ahmadis. Article 41(2) bars non-Muslims from becoming a President, while Article 91(3) bars them to become Prime Minister. Art. 227 poses an ever present threat to the stability of the state as through it any law can be declared unlawful for being un-Islamic.

*Akar Patel in Nia-Zamana, p.14 April 2012*

**Annex:                   While the state looks the other way ... by Ayesha Haroon**

An op-ed from the daily News International, Lahore of May 23, 2012



## **While the state looks the other way...**

In Sultanpura in Lahore, a local cleric has taken the state hostage. He is insisting – and the local police is doing his bidding – that an old Ahmedi place of worship in the area should not have a dome.

Why should it not have a dome? Why should the police confiscate pieces of tiles with names of Allah and Quranic words from the place of worship? And according to the news report, the powerful cleric is sending messages to the local Ahmedi community that if they did not listen to him, he will make it difficult for them to live there. Islam abhors persecution and yet it continues to flourish in Sultanpura of Lahore.

The Ahmedis are a distinct group – they say they are distinct – and the norms that they want to follow should be decided by them, not by us. We should not tell them how their places of worship should be like – just the way we should not tell Christians and Hindus, and Buddhists and Jains how their places of worship should be like. Just the way they shouldn't be telling us how our places of worship should look like. A lot of residential houses have domes to them, the entire city of St Petersburg is famous for its dome architecture. In this confederacy of dunces do we need to get permission from an individual to build domes now?

I have a pottery plate hanging in my house that says "Ya Allah." Another has Surah Fatiha inscribed on it. So should I now expect that someone, with the local policeman, can enter the premises of my home and take them away? Many words come to mind here.

A ten-year-old resident of Sultanpura whose life was made up of the streets and the vendors and houses and electricity poles that would be hanging with political banners, is suddenly made to feel like an "alien" in his own house, his own mohallah. He cannot go out to play cricket because everyone will look at him. This is what one hears of Nazi Germany, or pre-Partition villages of Punjab, or Serbia. And now, of course, we are seeing this unfold across Pakistan – like Sultanpura. One day we are part of each other, the second, we are aliens.

A few days before Partition, a house in my grandfather's neighbourhood was attacked. My mother remembers her aunts and uncles and best friends killed as they sat to dinner. A macabre scene. Many, many decades later she still misses them, thinks of her best friend and the smile of her aunt. Why were they killed? Because they were Sikhs? Because they were different? That cannot be reason to kill anyone, can it? Apparently it was.

One thing that everyone seems to remember about the chaos of Partition was the lack of state. There was no one to turn to, no state to take the side of the oppressed, no institution to take responsibility.

Is this not what is happening in Sultanpura? No state institution is telling the over-enthusiastic cleric that he cannot take the law in his own hands. In fact, why does the state not apprehend the persecutors? Those who are threatening the peaceful lives of its citizens? Why are no political leaders speaking about this? The PML-N? The PTI? The ANP? The MQM? The PPP of Rehman Malik?

More importantly, why is the state ready to be held hostage to any criminal militant group? And these are groups. The majority of the people in Pakistan, or in any country of the world, just want to lead decent, free, productive lives. But the state uses the bullying power of small groups to justify its action or inaction.

Look at the ISI and the missing people of Balochistan. Is it even conceivable in any civilised state that the prime minister or the chief justice asks rendered people to be presented, and they are not? Can we imagine that happening in Britain or India or Sweden?

But it happens in Pakistan. The Hazaras in Balochistan, the Shias in Kohistan, the ordinary workers toiling the lands of the Legharis and the Mazaris – no one is protected by the state.

And now an ordinary young man, with an ordinary dispute over snooker, has been accused of blasphemy. Should not those who chose to use our blasphemy law to win a snooker game be held accountable? It has been the poor and weak behaviour of the state in the past, over such cases, that people feel they can get away with levelling false charges of blasphemy on anyone who is a non-Muslim or weak. Lives of another group of people, mothers, fathers, daughters, brothers, sisters have been held hostage by wanton misuse of the blasphemy law. How upset they must be.

This whimsical gandas-carrying state of ours is quick to show its muscles where it should not and runs away when it should take a stand. Cases in point: imposing needless bans and disappearing when minorities are persecuted. By clicking his fingers some small-wig in officialdom decided to ban Twitter in Pakistan. Is there a magistrate or a judge that gave permission to curtail people's state of freedom? Was there a trial? Were people represented? Who was authorised to take the decision, and why? The ban was as automatically lifted as it was imposed. But the crime or illegality of its imposition stays. Someone has to be held responsible for it. It was a grave attempt on the sanctity of freedom of information and should be punished.

Like many such blunders, the state and its weak representatives believe that by un-banning the Twitter, they have been nice enough and now we should be beholden to them. The irony of their action and belief, it seems, utterly alludes them. For long the state has used confusion and lack of transparency to strengthen itself – today the same tools that it used to strengthen itself have weakened it. Even bad ideas have an end – and this idea of controlling people through lack of transparency and ambiguity has run its course. We cannot let fellow-Pakistanis be hunted down and persecuted by zealots while the state looks the other way. The state has a duty to protect its people – otherwise it has no meaning or existence.

The writer is a former editor of The News Lahore