**Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan**

**News Report December 2016**

**A hideous, unwarranted and unlawful raid on Ahmadiyya central Offices in Rabwah**

**First ever such action; indicative of still more persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan**

***Rabwah; December 2016***: Government of Punjab apparently deployed terrorism as an instrument of provincial policy against Ahmadis, in the garb of counter terrorism. Initial proceedings of this raid are best described in Ahmadiyya office’s Flash message issued some hours after the raid on 5December, so that is reproduced below verbatim:

**A hideous and unwarranted raid on Ahmadiyya central office in Rabwah**

**First ever such action: indicative of still more persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan**

An armed police contingent of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) carried out a raid on a Central Office (Publications Department of Tehrik Jadid) and Zia-ul-Islam Press here at mid-day. They acted brutally, severely beat up individuals unnecessarily, made unjustified arrests and took away office equipment and personal belongings. This sort of raid and attack had never been mounted in the past 42 years since the state adopted the agenda of acting hostile towards its Ahmadi citizens.

They came in three vehicles, approximately 25 of them, some in uniforms, and others in civvies. The armed personnel were wearing masks. They made forced entry in the office compound. Some of them proceeded directly to the first floor where Publications Directorate is located, while 5 or 6 men took up positions near the boundary wall. The latter made people lie down in the lawn. Those who entered the office ordered the staff to make no move. They told the octogenarian Director to stand up and accompany them. He asked them to show him the warrant, to which the intruders did not reply, but took possession of his lap-top and two mobile phones.

The raiders beat up some of the office staff, checked their CNIC cards and arrested three officials, apparently only for their Rabwah addresses, as they took no action against one whose ID card was from District Gujranwala.

Apparently they were in search of the editorial staff of monthly Tehrik Jadid, who were not present at that time. The three arrested personnel are harmless,*Waqif Zindagi*, a cadre dedicated to the service of humanity in the field of religion. Why they arrested them and hand-cuffed them is not known. The raiders took away five office computers, a lap-top, a printer and a bag full of various books – this was more like loot, otherwise taking away a printer makes no sense.

At the time they came across a visiting peon in a corridor carrying some mail. They snatched the mail bag from him.

Thereafter they forced their way to the roof where the office security office is located. They severely beat up the security guard, Rana Irfan Ahmad on duty, took the key of the locked almirah from him and took in custody arms found in the almirah, three guns and a pack of shots, all licensed and authorized. Acting as marauders rather than officials, they did not issue any receipt for the spoils.

The badly injured security guard Irfan Ahmad was driven immediately to the hospital by the Ahmadi administration. He was provided emergency aid followed by treatment; he is out of danger.

The visitors went to the Audit Office as well. They took their mobile phones and checked their CNICs. Later, they left behind the phones at the gate.

This phase of the raid lasted 25 minutes. After that they proceeded directly to the Zia ul Islam Press. Itwas about 1P.M. They did not ring the bell but preferred to jump over the wall to enter the premises. They told the press operators to stop the press; they also beat them up for no reason. They asked them to hand them over the monthly ‘Tehrik Jadid’ and its plates. The pressmen told them that they had none at the moment, as they were busy printing the Ahmadiyya daily. The intruders asked them as to who was incharge after Mr. Tahir Mahdi Imtiaz (the squeaky clean printer who is in prison for almost two years in a case fabricated jointly by the police and mullas). Mr. Idrees Ahmad told them that he is the foreman. They handcuffed him and beat him up. They also took in possession 8 coloured plates, 4 black plates and printed sheets of the daily (it is published by permission, and for years now the authorities have found nothing objectionable in its texts).

This part of the brutish raid lasted half hour.

It is learnt that a police case has been registered against 9 Ahmadis; 4 of those were arrested and others whose names are found in the monthly. It is learnt that anti-Ahmadi sections PPC 298-B and 298-C have been applied, as also some sections of the Anti-terrorism Act. We have not yet been provided a copy of the FIR; the details will be available on its receipt.

It is learnt the CTD is the same department that raided the only bookshop in Rabwah last year and succeeded in securing (5+3) eight years’ imprisonment for its octogenarian proprietor, Mr. Abdul Shakoor. It seems that the CTD Punjab is very meticulous and successful – in operations against very soft targets, decent individuals and peaceful communities.

The way they conducted the raid, it would be correct to assume that the raid was well planned over plenty of time and the prime-movers behind this are the leaders of politico-religious lobby in the Punjab.

Note: It would be interesting for any research scholar to obtain one-year’s issues of the ‘Tehrik Jadid’, the monthly in question and pinpoint even a hint that calls for the notice of the CTD and the anti-terrorism laws. END

Four days thereafter Ahmadiyya office issued an Urgent message on December 9, 2016 giving an update of facts, offering some comments alongwith two recommendations. This message in reproduced below:

**Update on the unlawful horrific CTD raid on Ahmadiyya Office and Zia ul Islam Press**

As the circumstances of the raid have become clearer, we find that the raid was unlawful and unwarranted. However, first we report the gruesome development.

We have learnt from reliable sources that those arrested were severely tortured by the police after they were whisked away from Rabwah. Why did they do that, we have no idea. As a peaceful and law-abiding community, there is little to gain from Ahmadis by the Counter Terrorism Department. Torture of innocent people by police can be monstrous. Sometimes back, the Punjab Police arrested an Ahmadi teacher who was president of a neighborhood community in Rabwah, and tortured him to death. The victim was innocent of any wrongdoing.

As for remand, custody and FIR, the raid on Ahmadiyya central offices is not even mentioned in the FIR. Three Ahmadi personnel arrested from Ahmadiyya central offices were shown to be arrested from other places, in the FIR. This FIR is fabrication. Such falsehood does not suit the CTD.

The police have obtained physical remand of the 4 detained individuals, from the court. Their names are: Mr. Amir Faheem; Mr. Sabah ul Zafar; Mr. Zahid Majeed Mahmud and Mr. Idrees Ahmad. The police could seek an extension on remand; that would expose the innocent accused to risk of further torture and malicious treatment. Five other Ahmadis have also been named in the FIR.

The registered FIR of this case states that the monthly Tehrik-e-Jadid and the daily Alfazl were under an official ban. However facts are different. These two Ahmadiyya periodicals were banned by the Home Department of the Punjab Government in 2014 on recommendation of the Mutahida Ulama Board. It was a wrongful order, so the Lahore High Court was approached against it through Writ Petitions No 16660-15 and 16634-15 and the Court provided relief in its Order on June 02, 2015: **“Notice. Subject to notice, until the next date of hearing, no coercive measures shall be adopted against the petitioner.”** As such, the raid was unlawful and was made in a complete mockery of the LHC order.

As the three community officials arrested at the Ahmadiyya Office were at random and on no cognizable grounds, it is a precedent that puts the entire Ahmadi population at risk, as obviously, the police will think of the charges after the arrest. No one is safe under this *modus operandi*. The torture of the accused gives it a more horrendous dimension. Feeling of terror and fear prevails among Rabwah’s law-abiding Ahmadi population, ironically not of terrorists but of the Counter Terrorism Department.

It is opined that Punjab CTD is inadequately active against Islamist terrorists reputed to infest in southern Punjab and those who hide behind the screen of Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat, ASWJ and numerous other organizations with ‘pious’ names and fronts, so the careerist CTD seniors train and fill in the log book by operations against very soft targets among peace-loving, harmless, unpopular sections of society.

Unless the Punjab Government is firmly advised in its own interest to withdraw this spurious case, the innocent accused would remain incarcerated for years, like Mr. Abdul Shakoor the octogenarian book-seller of Rabwah and Mr. Tahir Mahdi Imtiaz, the printer of the Ahmadiyya publications. The Punjab Government brings no credit to itself and Pakistan by violating Pakistan’s commitments to international covenants on Human Rights, Freedom of Religion, and Torture.

It is not out of place to assert that Ahmadi community is, in fact, an ally of the state in its counter-terrorism campaign. Ideologically, Ahmadis have pursued the policy of **“No violence and coercion in matters of religion”** for the last 125 years. Its publications have reached over 206 countries in the world and no other country, noteven the other three provinces in Pakistan,have found them to be objectionable to deserve a ban.

Finally:

1. We attach a copy of the Press Release issued by the Ahmadiyya head office in Rabwah on 7 December. (*Not attached here. Ed.*)
2. NGOs and Embassies may consider asking the authorities’ permission to visit the four Ahmadis in custody of police, and/or the high officials of the Punjab government.
3. Authorities, particularly those of Punjab Government may be urged to withdraw these unjustified charges and release the arrested at the earliest.

Other than the four arrested in the raid, five other Ahmadis were named in the FIR; these include Mr. Ehsanullah Danish, Mr. Shahid Mahmud Ahmad, Mr. Rashid Mahmud Minhas, Mr. Nafees Ahmad Atiq and Mr. Abdus Sami Khan. These are all journalists and pressmen. It is noteworthy that while the rest of the country enjoys ‘freedom of press’ adequately, Ahmadi pressmen are deliberately discriminated and are subjected to tyranny and hardships for literally no reason.

The nine Ahmadis were charged under PPC 298-C, 298-B, 298-B(A) and 9-11W/ATA1997 in FIR Nr. 70/16 on December 5, 2016 in Police Station: CTD, Faisalabad. The fact that the counter-terrorism police charged them under all sections of the anti-Ahmadiyya laws is indicative that the raid was primarily based on religious grounds – the anti-terrorism clause was added for facility of procedure, use of force and causing further hardship to the targeted individuals and the community.

Those arrested were Mr. Amir Faheem, Mr. Sabah-al-Zafar, Mr. Zahid Mahmud and Mr. Idrees Ahmad the pressman.

As per the latest report on the booked individuals, the four arrested are behind bars on judicial remand while the other five have been granted temporary bails by a court. The situation will become clearer after the expiry of the dates of remand and the temporary bail.

Here we make a few comments on this raid in addition to those made above.

* It is certain that the raid was authorized at the highest level in the provincial capital. According to a press report (The Express Tribune of December 7) the CTD Punjab’s Inspector General himself stated that he had acted after consultations with his legal team. As for above him, everyone knows who is the boss of this I.G. This situation makes one wonder why the day was chosen to be the same as that of naming the National Centre of Physics in an Islamabad University after Dr Salaam, the Ahmadi Nobel-prize winner.
* The accused individuals have been booked under Anti-terrorism Act. Have the members of the Ahmadiyya community ever been found involved in terrorist activities? The Ulama Board and mullas of Khatme Nabuwwat faction maliciously and most wrongfully accuse Ahmadis of such activities.
* The Home Secretary should show just one line from the 12 previous issues of monthly Tehrik Jadid or the 365 issues of the daily Alfazl, that is even remotely ‘seditious’ or ‘treasonable’.
* The Punjab Government has also banned a book “Tazkarah” comprising dreams, visions, and revelations of the Ahmadiyya founder on the grounds that its contents are ‘seditious’ and ‘treasonable’; surely visions of 120 years ago could not be so, towards a state that was not even envisaged at that time.
* The Ulama Board has banned religious books of other denominations too. Yes – but they were written by ordinary mullas. Banning of Ahmadi Founder’s works and Ahmadiyya translations of the Quran is altogether a different dimension and level. And it is *malafide*.
* Punjab Government, on the recommendations of the Ulama Board, has banned all Ahmadiyya periodicals, even their children’s and women’s monthlies – that makes little sense. Two of such Government letters issued this year banning Ahmadiyya publications and periodicals are reproduced in Annexes to this report, as sample.
* The Ulama Board makes recommendations to the Punjab Government that clearly violate international covenants on Religious Freedom, which bring a bad name to both the Punjab and to Pakistan and their governments.

**Following information is also relevant to this case:**

* The Khatme Nabuwwat (KN) leadership claimed that the raid was in consequence of their ‘complaint’ to the authorities. It is well-known that the KN is a sectarian organization and as such should be shunned by the authorities, under National Action Plan, rather than encouraged and supported.
* The raids at Ahmadiyya offices and the printing press lasted less than 30 minutes at each location. It was more like an armed robbery than an intervention by the state in the affairs of a community committed to and reputed for its peaceful character.
* The English language press gave fair coverage to this noteworthy event, while the Urdu press reported the raid in one column in inside pages, in space enough for a postage stamp. The daily Nation published an article by Mr. Usman Ahmad on December 9, 2016. It is reproduced as Annex. It is recommended reading.
* Opposition political parties decided to make no comment on this occasion. They are otherwise most outspoken and clamorous over the slightest disregard of their own rights.
* Numerouswestern foreign governments and NGOs took due notice of this act of tyranny.

The US State Department criticized this crackdown on the Ahmadiyya Community. The Asian Human Rights Community issued an Urgent Appeal case Nr. 150-2016 giving all the essential details of the case narrative;also, the Commission indicated that a separate letter was being written to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Question of Freedom of Religion and Faith.

The US Commission on International Religion Freedom deserves compliments on reacting fast and adequately to express its concern forthrightly on December 9, 2016 in its Immediate Release.

We produce below its text.

**PAKISTAN: USCIRF Condemns Egregious Treatment of Ahmadis**

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

December 9, 2016

WASHINGTON D.C. – The U.S. Commission on International religious Freedom (USCIRF) condemns the raid by Pakistan’s Counter Terrorism department (CTD) on the publications and audit offices of the Ahmadiyya community in Punjab province. During this raid, which took place on December 5, police beat and arrested several Ahmadis who later were charged under provisions in Pakistan’s penal code and Anti-Terrorism Act.

“USCIRF condemns the brutal raid on the Ahmadiyya offices, the first such raid since Pakistan amended its constitution 42 years ago, declaring that Ahmadis are ‘non-Muslims’, said USCIRF Chair Rev. Thomas J. Reese, S.J. “These actions flow out of Pakistan’s constitution and penal code, both of which impede religious freedom as they prevent Ahmadis from exercising their faith and even calling themselves Muslim. Pakistan’s anti-terrorism law should not be applied to the peaceful Ahmadiyya community simply because they are Ahmadis.”

Pakistan’s constitution declares Ahmadis to be ‘non-Muslims’. Its penal code subjects Ahmadis to severe legal restrictions and officially-sanctioned discrimination, making it criminal for Ahmadis to call themselves Muslims, preach, propagate, or disseminate materials on their faith, or refer to their houses of worship as mosques. The government applies the anti-terrorism law as an unwarranted pretext to arrest members of the Ahmadiyya community. Ahmadis also continue to be murdered in religiously motivated attacks that take place with impunity.

Punjab province, the site of the raid and home to the greatest number of religious minorities, has a deeply troubling religious freedom record. Two-third of all blasphemy cases originate there, including that of Abdul Shakoor, an optician and book store owner. The CTD raided his book store and arrested him. In January 2016, Mr. Shakoor was sentenced to five years in prison on blasphemy charges and three years on terrorism charges, to be served concurrently, for propagating the Ahmadiyya faith by selling copies of the Qur’an and Ahmadiyya publications.

Since 2002, USCIRF has recommended to the State Department that Pakistan be named a ‘country of particular concern’ under the U.S. International Religious Freedom Act for its ‘systematic, ongoing and egregious’ violations of religious freedom. For more information on religious freedom conditions in Pakistan and for recommendations for U.S. Policy, please see the Pakistan chapter in USCIRF’s 2016 Annual Report (in English and Urdu).

The ‘deeply troubling religious freedom record’ of the Punjab province deserves immediate attention of its rulers. The provincial government cannot go on running the province on the ‘writ’ of the Ulama Board, as eventually the mullas will be inclined to claim the throne itself rather than act as its mere vizirs. It is not too late for Lahore’s authorities to withdraw the bogus charges against the nine accused and cancel all the absurd and senseless banning letters issued by the Home Department on recommendations of the Ulama Board.

Sealing of still another Ahmadiyya mosque after an attack by a hostile mob

Riot took place due ineffective official intervention. Led to flight of the entire Ahmadi community from their village. 2 deaths in the incident.

A massacre averted through firm official action *after* the miscreants’ occupation and arson in the mosque

***Dulmial, District Chakwal, Punjab; December 2016***: A hostile procession taken out on the felicitous occasion of the birthday of the Holy Prophet on 12 December 2016 altered its authorized route and went for the Ahmadiyya mosque in the village with declared intention to occupy it. A major clash at the site was avoided through police intervention however the miscreants succeeded in occupying the mosque and then setting its furnishings etc. on fire in police presence. Eventually Rangers and army units had to be deployed to restore peace. The authorities decided to seal the Ahmadiyya mosque. Two persons, one Ahmadi and one non-Ahmadi died in the event. Essential details follow.

This mosque was originally built in 1860. In those days there were no Ahmadis and no Non-Ahmadis, as Ahmadiyya Movement did not come into being till near the end of the 19th century. When Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad declare his divine mission, a number of influential, literate and land-owing elders of this village accepted his claim and became member of the Ahmadiyya denomination. They maintained their ownership, control and care of this mosque. There was no objection to non-Ahmadis praying there as communal tolerance prevailed in plenty. Later Non-Ahmadis built their own mosques; there are now ten of these. Land for some of these was provided *gratis* by Ahmadis as a sign of good-will and service to God.

The control of the Ahmadiyya mosque was not exercised by non-Ahmadis ever. Even after 1974, when Ahmadis were declared Not-Muslims in the constitution, the other Muslims raised no objection to Ahmadis’ mosque – it was their place of worship. Decades later, in 1997, Non-Ahmadis approached the courts to claim its ownership; however, having no case, they could make no headway with their demand in the Lahore High Court. So they stopped pursuing the case.It was revived among the public only a few weeks agoby local mullas and by a mulla based in Canada, Malik Rashid Ahmad who had enough time, money and motivation to make big mischief,as Pakistan is amply susceptible to religious extremism and sectarianism. Assistance of Islamist organizations like Khatme Nabuwwat, Tehrik-i-Labaik Ya Rasool ul Alllah, Tajdar Khatme Nabuwwat etc was readily available.

In a Friday congregation, the leading visiting mulla at the local mosque Lal Shah incited the worshippers to violence and their commitment to forcibly take over the Ahmadiyya mosque on the birthday of the Holy Prophet. He asked them to respond to his call by standing up. Ahmadis learnt of their plans and informed the district administration of this, requesting security measures to protect the life and properties and worship places of Ahmadiyya Community. This letter was written on December 5, 2016, one week before the happening. Its copy was sent to the chief minister of Punjab.

Ahmadi-bashers made no effort to hide their intentions. They too sent a letter to the DCO, with copies to 10 authorities from the President of Pakistan down to the Punjab Home Minister. The letter spread over 27 pages, carried endorsement of 580 individuals (as claimed) but primarily of Sibt ul Hasan, Muhammad Hussain, Tauqir ul Hasan, Malik Rashid Ahmad and Mueed Shah. The letter plainly demanded help in “freeing the mosque, safeguarding the joint interest of Muslims, from the grip of *Kufr*; otherwise we might be forced into taking the most extreme action to restore the great sanctity of this mosque.”

It appears that the district authorities did little in response to this serious threat except calling some mullas and accepting their assurance that the intended procession will go by the authorized route and will not turn to the Ahmadiyya mosque. On December 12, the police presence was augmented slightly to approximately 2 dozen – entirely inadequate to handle an extremist mob of more than a thousand. The police later told the press that the participants numbered 2800 to 3000.

On 12 December the procession made a forced alteration to its authorized route and headed for the Ahmadiyya mosque, in violation of the commitment given by their leaders to the district administration. Arguably the commitment given was meant to be broken. Ahmadis had foreseen this possibility and a few dozen of them had assembled in their mosque to defend it against the threatened occupation. The processionists were armed.On arrival at the gate of the mosque they indulged in extensive firing, stone throwing and slogan raising. Ahmadis resisted the entry of the mob.

The small contingent of police was present and in contact with the two parties. The siege went on for hours. One Ahmadi defender, a senior citizen, died of cardiac arrest on account of the stress of the happening. Senior police and district administration officials had arrived by then at the scene. The police eventually persuaded Ahmadis to depart from a back door, and guaranteed safety of the mosque and made the promise that the rioters would not be allowed to take its possession. However, immediately after the Ahmadis left, the mob stormed inside and the police did little to stop them. Once inside, they defiled the mosque, piled up its sacred scripts, furniture, carpets etc. and set them on fire.

Then came the Rangers, even the Army. The miscreants fled. The mosque was sealed by the authorities.

During the siege, one of the processionists was hit by a shot, he died subsequently. In a previous report we mentioned that Ahmadis insist they did not kill him; now we know better that the senior Ahmadis did not have the time and opportunity to interview all the Ahmadi defenders, so who shot at him will have to be assessed through professional investigation.

The police registered one (not two) FIR against the rioters as also against Ahmadis; it was entered in the name of local SHO. Its wording is not far from what happened. It is registered as Nr. 214/16 in P.S. Choa Saidan Shah on December 12, 2016 under PPCs 302/324, 153A/186, 353/295, 295-A/436, 148/149, 147 and 7ATA. It names 36 non-Ahmadis and 36 Ahmadis. The numbers seem to imply a balanced approach. However, how a few defenders of their own property, a place of worship, could be treated at par with a violent mob assembled at the targeted site, with commitment to occupy the place. A simple mathematical calculation will show that while 60% of the defenders have been named in the FIR, while the aggressors a little more than 1 percent.

After the riot, the situation was very tense in the village. Ahmadis felt very unsafe. They left with their families for safe locations, to wait for the situation to become clearer. However, such flight is a very severe hardship in village life.

The ‘tweet’ made by the provincial government during the riot is worth quoting. “Punjab Home Department is following up Chakwal incident. The local admin and police are at the spot and handling the situation. As per details, a misunderstanding developed between the two groups. The police and administration are making all out efforts to resolve the issue amicably,” they wrote. To call the pre-planned assault undertaken by a mob comprising thousands ‘a misunderstanding’ is indeed cool – to a low degree. The tweeted amicable resolution resulted in sealing the Ahmadiyya mosque and flight of the entire Ahmadiyya community from the village – tyranny of the majority!

A day after the mob stoned the Ahmadiyya mosque, Rana Sanaullah, the provincial minister appeared on program Newswise on Dawn TV and made some quotable remarks:

* At present, everything is under control there (in Dulmial). Majority of people there are peaceful. There was no sectarian tension there, however… .
* Responsible officials had got the issue resolved through mutual consultation; they (mullas) had assured (us) that they will not undertake any such action at the time of the rally… .
* (Ahmadi) guards at the scene should not have hurried to react; the police were there. ... Had the guards not opened fire, the police would have negotiated an understanding and the procession would have passed, as it always did in the past (sic).
* See how we defend them (Ahmadis). We saved these people in Jhelum too. I am sorry to notice Ahmadis’ campaign in the social media. If you do that, you are fanning the fire that we want to curb. You expose it further…..Don’t do that….I reassure them that they should entertain no fear.

(Note: Ahmadis’ experience in Lahore, Jhelum, Gujranwala, Chak Sikandar, Jhando Sahi, Tando Allah Yar, etc was quite different to what Rana suggested.)

At present four Ahmadis are under arrest. They are Malik Riaz Ahmad, Mr. Muhammad Anwar, Mr. Naveed Ahmad and Mr. Khurram Akbar. By the end of the month 68 Ahmadis including women and children had gone back to home.

In a recent report in the daily Dawn, Chairman National Commission of Human Rights (NCHR) Justice (r) Ali Nawaz Chohan informed the Senate Committee that the key culprit behind the incident was Abdul Rasheed (sic); accused (Rasheed) had a history of propagating extremism and creating troubles in the name of religion; the chairman NCHR said Rasheed had absconded from the scene and was still at large; We (NCHR) blame the police and the administration for failing to stop the act of violence; the senators blamed the police and the administration for the failure to prevent the act of arson,…Senator Nisar Khan said there had been reports on social media that the police did not act to prevent the violence which continued for around five hours; the (Senate) Committee decided to write to the Punjab government to pay compensation to the victims. (Dawn, January 3, 2017)

The Punjab government has reportedly asked the federal government to put Rasheed and Hafeez ur Rehman, the leaders of miscreants on the Exit Control List.

It is also relevant to mention that an overwhelming majority of the miscreants in the procession came from adjoining villages. The one who died that day was also not a local resident.

The Punjab government has formed aJoint Investigation Team (JIT) to investigate and report on the incident. It is headed by an I.G. Police and its members are officials from police and other security agencies.

Meanwhile, some religious leaders like Dr Ashraf Asif Jalali and Pir Afzal Qadri of Tehrik-i-Labaik Ya Rasoolullah, Mulla Khadim Hussain Rizvi of Tajdar Khatme Nabuwwat and the leaderships of Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat issued a call for observing the next Friday, 16 December as a ‘Day of Protests’, deliver sermons in mosques on the issue, take out processions etc. In fact it was recipe for countrywide unrest. It was announced that ‘two Muslims had been killed by Qadianis, while not a single Qadiani got a bruise.’ The government did not wish the agitation to grow, and issued orders to the administration and police to restrict the mullas effectively. This was done and there were no mentionable incidents, proving that the authorities can be effective if they decide to be so.

The news of this vicious assault on a house of worship spread fast worldwide. The UN Country Team expressed its shock at the brutality of this mob attack on Ahmadi place of worship in Chakwal. The New York Times gave it the headline: **Pakistanis attack mosque of religious minority.** Lantos Foundation in Washington and England-based International Human Rights Committee jointly condemned the attack on Chakwal mosque as also the police raid on Ahmadiyya headquarters in Pakistan. Human Rights Commission of Pakistan issued a wholesome staff report on December 15 expressing grave concern over the treatment being meted out to Ahmadi citizens both at the hands of those tasked with security as well as the zealots. The commission said that it was hugely distressing that the police were not able to protect the worship place. ‘Both incidents constitute a failure on part of the authorities to ensure protection of citizens’ rights enshrined in the Constitution and under international human rights law,’ it said. The Commission demanded a probe to determine “what could have led to a conclusion that would not have deprived the Ahmadis of one more of their place of worship.”

The local, national and international press reported the loathsome attack, and made editorial comments. The Associated Press reported, “The mob hurled stones and bricks at the mosque before storming the building, said Mahmood Javed Bhatti, Deputy Commissioners of the Chakwal district outside Islamabad, adding that gunmen opened fire on Ahmadis during the melee.” The weekly Newsweek Pakistan issued its report under the forthright headline **‘Islamabad has a shameful habit of forgetting its past’**. The weekly concluded its report by comment that, Ahmadis –‘manufactured’ as a minority in 1974 – are not Pakistan’s only embattled minority community. Christians too are attacked routinely, resulting in deaths and loss of property, as in 2009 at Gojra and in 2013 and 2014 across Pakistan while the state concocted ways of forgetting that it was moving towards its terminal crises.’

The dailies The Express Tribune, The Nation, The News made apt editorial comments on this monstrous and unsupportable assault on a place of worship. The daily Dawn undertook detailed credible reporting of the incident, prepared by its local correspondent in Chakwal.

The local weekly Asaar, published from Chakwal, Chief Editor Yunus Awan, candidly, truthfully and boldly reported the incident in the following bold headlines on December 15, 2016:

**Assault on Qadianis’ place of worship in Dulmial. 2 dead, …**

**Some participants of the 12 Rabi ul Awal procession deviated from the authorized route and headed for Qadianis’ worship place.**

**They shouted slogans vigorously; broke open the gate and entered; threw out the furnishings and books and set them on fire.**

**Those inside the worship place saved their lives by escaping from back door. The furious mob persisted in rioting and kept shouting loud slogans.**

**During the rioting, Khalid son of Ayub died of cardiac arrest in the worship place while NaeemShafiq was shot dead.**

**The administration called the Rangers and the Army. The angry mob was driven out of worship place which was then sealed. Funeral rites of Naeem Shafiq were performed on Tuesday.**

*Weekly Asar, Chakwal, December 15, 2016*

The weekly offered the following opinionstoo in bold headlines:

**The DCO and DPO are responsible for the tragedy in Dulmial**

**The state is duty bound to protect lives and properties of its citizens. The DCO and the DPO failed to take action on the two parties’ representations.**

**The DCO and the DPO displayed routine lethargy and took no effective action despite the prevailing tension.**

**The DCO and DPO are also accountable to someone. Those responsible should be punished after due inquiry.**

Kunwar Khuldun Shahid, a renowned op-ed writer wrote on December 15 a hard hitting readable article for the blog ‘The diplomat’ and gave it the title of his concluding recommendation: **To win its war on terror, Pakistan must accept Ahmadis as Muslims.**

Shan Taseer, worthy son of a worthy father, martyred Governor Salman Taseer, wrote, fit for archives, an article in Urdu, for [www.humsub](http://www.humsub); extracts:

“…Tomorrow, if India’s parliament, through a unanimous act, declares, 250 million Indian Muslims to be Non-Muslims, and then persecutes them, and the world raises the issue, would it be disregarded declaring it to be India’s internal problem.”…

 “Through this (Second Amendment) that is unconstitutional, non-political and inhuman, Pakistan has become the only country in the world, to use the democratic tool to deliver its people from the bondage of imperialism and dictators and passed them to the bloody claws of Mullaism. This bondage is more disappointing and dangerous as it derives the justification for its tyranny and brutality from religion. Through such legislation we have handed over a gun to a monkey, while we seem satisfied that he will shoot only Ahmadi or Shia citizens.

Fellows… he’ll shoot anyone. For God’s sake, take the gun back from this monkey, otherwise even your future generations are not safe.

 *http:www.humsuh.com.pk/36737/shan-taseer*

In the meantime the mulla did not rest on his oars. He availed of the vernacular press and the electronic media to justify his excesses and consolidate his success. In this effort, he, as always, distorted the truth and indulged in vicious rhetoric. He conveyed to the common man, *inter alia*;

* Ahmadis posted their men; this incited the processionists.
* Qadianis took away a Muslim, killed him and threw away his dead body.
* Two Muslims were killed.
* Qadianis are committed to spread disorder and provocation in Pakistan.
* Qadiani bureaucrats are playing a dangerous game to derail CPEC.

*Issued by Action Committee Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat (Pakistan)*

From an op-ed in a vernacular daily:

* It was the Qadianis who attacked the Holy Birthday procession.
* In Dulmial Qadianis abducted a Muslim youth and killed him.
* There are many mosques in the Punjab that are under the Qadiani grip (*Qabza*) and their aggressive posture can lead to a massacre.
* The Dulmial mosque, Qadianis had converted it into a Dur uz Zikr, and they even switched on Qadiani TV transmissions therein.
* Muslims appealed to the president and the prime Minister to hand over this mosque to Muslims, or it should be sealed in the first instance, but none took any notice.
* Muslims did not set fire to mosque, they only took out Qadianis’ apostatical literature, dish antenna, TV, and other furnishings and set these on fire. They took possession of the mosque and thereafter offered *Asr* prayers therein. Etc.

*(Mulla) NaveedMasood Hashmi in the daily Ausaf; Lahore, December 16, 2016*

The mullas have demanded that the original FIR registered by the police should be discarded and a fresh one be entered. Obviously they would like to fabricate the new one to absolve themselves and add hostile and incorrect information in the amended document.

According to a press report the DCO visited the family of the deceased Muslim to offer condolences. He paid them a sum of Rs. 100,000 at the occasion.

In our opinion, while it is courteous to offer condolences to a bereaved family, it is highly improper for the state to send its functionary to a family whose member was involved in a criminal activity which could have blown up intoa massacre. This visit conveys the message:*“Do what you like in the name of Islam; if you come to grief, the state will be sympathetic to your family and will support them financially.”* If this is not terrorism in the name of religion, what else is?

It is almost three weeks that this worship place is locked, and Ahmadis have no place to worship. This is what the mulla wanted. The authorities have delivered that. Mulla is the winner – thanks to his supporters.

‘Ahmadi place of worship may see court case following mob attack’ reported the Dawn on December 19. This is ominous. The mosque should be unsealed first and Ahmadis should be facilitated to pray there as they have been doing since Pakistan came into being. If the mulla wants to go to the court, he may do so; he attempted that in 1997 and quit finding it a hopeless exercise. He may try again.

The government of Punjab might object to being blamed of lethargy, inaction and indirect complicity; after all ‘we succeeded in averting a massacre, with only two dead and the mosque still intact.’ But it ignores that it had to seal the only place of worship with Ahmadis; it remains sealed weeks later to-date. Where should Ahmadis go to offer their obligatory prayers? Is it not its duty and *raisond’etre* according to the Constitution to facilitate citizens’ right to freedom of worship? The government has a huge store of tear gas shells and water cannons to deter a mob from taking an unauthorized route. Why were the police not directed to take these items to Dulmial on 12th morning? Why the worship place has not been unsealed yet, even if a judicial decision is to be sought eventually? Was sealing not the option the mulla demanded in the first place? The charge of indirect complicity of the government will stick as long as the Ahmadiyya mosque remains sealed.

Last but not least, some statistics concerning Ahmadiyya mosques, from the day a dictator promulgated anti-Ahmadi ordinance in 1984, till now:

Number of Ahmadiyya mosques demolished : 27

Number of Ahmadiyya mosque set on fire or damaged : 22

Number of Ahmadiyya mosques forcibly occupied : 17

Number of Ahmadiyya mosques construction of which was

barred by authorities : 52

Number of Ahmadiyya mosques sealed by authorities : 33

***Unbelievable – but true***

Sir, no state that treats some its citizens in this manner treads a path of bliss, felicity and peace. History has its own way of retribution and the consequences of past policies and actions are fairly visible even to the dense.

MPAs assured Ahmadis will not teach Arabic

***Lahore; December 1, 2016***: The daily The Express Tribune reported at some length Punjab Assembly proceedings in which a Parliamentary Secretary assured MPAs that Ahmadi teachers will not teach Arabic and Islamic Studies to the students. Extracts:

“She assured the provincial assembly’s opposition and treasury on Wednesday that no Ahmadi teacher would be appointed to teach the subjects of Islamic studies or Arabic language.

“The assurance was given by Parliamentary Secretary for School Education Joice Rufan Julius after PTI leader Mehmoodur Rasheed got up from the proceedings and left the housein protest.

“…Jamaat-e-Islami parliamentary leader Dr Syed Waseem Akhtar stood up and pointed out that there was no legal provision to stop Ahmadis from being appointed as teachers for Arabic or Islamic Studies. (He wanted a law to enforce that. Ed.)… .

“PTI leader MehmoodurRasheed stood up and said the government must give assurances that no Ahmadi would teach Islamiat or Arabic. Julius assured that only Muslims taught Arabic and Islamiat… .

“Arif Abbasi, another opposition member, told the speaker that this important matter could not be “bulldozed”. He announced a boycott of proceedings and left the hall.

“Iqbal sent ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Sheikh Alaudin to convince the protesting members to come back to the house.”

**Another sectarian conference facilitated in state-owned complex**

***Lahore; November 27, 2016***: Evan-i-Iqbal is owned and managed by the government. It is becoming a routine that this venue is given to extremist Khatme Nabuwwat mullas to hold anti-Ahmadi conference every year. This year again one such conference was held there on November 27. It was widely advertized; approximately 800 attended.

A list of Special Guests included Mufti Munib(Chairman official Moon-sighting Committee), Saqib Iqbal, Tayyab Naqshbandi, Mustafa Hashmi and Azam Naeemi.

Mulla Pir Irfan could not attend for reason of arrest by police; however his son Ghani Qadiri, addressed the conference on-line from London.

As usual the speakers spoke ill of Jamaat Ahmadiyya. “Ahmadis have brought disrepute to Jihad worldwide”, one of them said. They used insolent language for the founder of the Ahmadiyya community.

It is relevant to mention thatthe ‘chief guest’ Mufti Munib is on public pay roll for his official post. A number of participants had come from far-away Karachi. Who paid for their travel and stay, is a moot question.

A mulla on state pay-role indulges in open anti-Ahmadiyya slander

***Faisalabad***: The daily Dunya published the following report in its issue of December 10, 2016 (extract):

**Dr Abdus Salam was an enemy of Pakistan and Islam: Zahid Qasmi**

Faisalabad (city reporter): Sahibzadah Zahid Mahmud Qasmi, the Central Secretary General of Pakistan Ulama Council and member of the Islamic Ideology Council, while addressing a Friday gathering in the central Jame Mosque Gol, stated that Dr Abdul Salam spent his entire life in enmity to Pakistan and Islam…. Mr. Nawaz Sharif the Prime Minister has approved naming the National Center of the Quaid-i-Azam University after Dr Abdus Salam; this is not correct per lawnor is it Sharia-wise. The government should revise its decision….

It is very relevant to mention that in his capacity as Memebr of CII he is paid from public funds; also the Pakistan Ulama Council enjoys official support in many ways. In the above-mentioned statement he has directly opposed the evaluation of the Prime Minister on the role and position of Dr. Salam on the issue of his services to Pakistan. As Qasimi has openly indulged in lying and slander, he is not fit to hold the above-mentioned high positions. He should resign; otherwise he should be fired by competent authority for bringing discredit to the two Councils.

NAP not visible in Baluchistan in Ahmadiyya context

***Liaquat Rd, Sibi; November 2016***: Sheikh Mahmud Ahmad, an Ahmadi resident had to close down his business and flee from his town along with his family due to brazen and flagrant opposition mounted by the local Khatme Nabuwwat faction – despite the official National Action Plan.

Sheikh Mahmud had a sizable Shoes Store in the Liaquat Bazar. Six months ago, someone opened a small shop close by to sell religious items like prayer mats, rosaries etc. Mulla Ataulla of a Khatme Nabuwwat organization took to sitting there often and indulge in anti-Ahmadi propaganda. He would meet shop-keepers and local influentials to incite them against Ahmadis in general, and Sh. Mahmud in particular. He put up hateful stickers on most shops including the one owned by Mahmud. On November 18, he organized an anti-Ahmadi rally and presided over it. He invited tribal leaders to his conference which started at about 7p.m. and lasted till 11 p.m. The speakers spoke slander and hateful bad-mouthing against the founder of Ahmadiyyat, that could incite a common man to violent action.

Three days after the conference, Sheikh Mahmood left his shop to buy a household item from another shop a few yards away. He was keeping an eye on his own shop as well. He saw a man, with covered face, come to his store and take a secret look. He was there for a few minutes, when a motor-cycle rider appeared from the next street, took him up and sped away. Mahmud hurried to close his shop and went home.

Under the circumstances, Sh. Mahmud felt it unacceptably unsafe for him and his family to stay on there, and he quit the town.

Ostracisation in bazaar

***Lahore; November 29, 2016***: Earlier, there were a number of reports from Lahore whereby Ahmadi clients, especially women, were maltreated by shop-keepers in small and local markets. However, now it seems that the disease has spread further to larger shopping areas.

Mr. Muhammad Siddique of UK accompanied by his wife and daughter was visiting Lahore. There, he went to Rega Market. The ladies stopped at a fabrics shop. The shopkeepers recognized them as Ahmadis, from the veil they were wearing. He was impolite with them, accused them of being Mirzai, Qadiani, refused to sell them cloth and raised a row at which these visitors put an end to their shopping agenda and quit the Market.

Ahmadi retailers from Rabwah are facing similar problems with some wholesalers in Lahore.

Most unwelcome visitors

***Shahkot, District Nankana; November 8, 2016***: Two unidentified riders on a motor cycle came over to the house of Mr. Muhammad Afzal, Ahmadi and knocked at his door. Mr. Afzal was operated upon recently so he was unable to go to the door. Immediately afterwards he received a call on his mobile phone. The caller said that he was working for State Life (insurance company) and wanted to meet him. Mr. Afzal conveyed his inability to receive him. At this the caller lost his temper, called him a *kafir*, used obscene language, and conveyed that they had come to invite him to Islam.

Later, this phone call was traced to one Rana Adeel of 7 Chak Suny Bar. This Chak (village) is known as an anti-Ahmadi centre. As a result, a number of Ahmadi households had to quit the village and seek refuge elsewhere, which is an extreme form of hardship for land-based village-folk.

Mr. Afzal informed the police of the visit. He is exercizing caution. What level of caution will suffice, is however both unclear and out of reach for him.

**A candid opinion**

Newsweek Pakistan published a brief but pointed article in its issue of 17 December 2016. It is harsh in tone but the message is vital, pertinent and sincere. It is relevant to the Ahmadiyya situation in Pakistan too. We print the text below, but omit the photo.

**Islamabad has a shameful habit of forgetting its past**

This is how an editorial in Pakistan’s oldest English-language daily Dawn summarized on Saturday, Dec. 17, the findings of Supreme Court Justice Qazi Faez Isa’s single-judge inquiry commission into the Aug. 8 Quetta bombing targeting Balochistan’s lawyers’ community:

*“A meaningful policy-change can only be built on an explicit rejection of past policy from the Afghan jihad in the 1980s to the state redirecting militant energies towards India-held Kashmir in the 1990s. Pakistan’s problem with militancy is rooted in deliberate choices that became self-inflicted wounds, but the state has never acknowledged this.”*

There is also reference to the “armed jihad” of non-state actors and the false incrimination of former allies such as the United States with whom Pakistan fought its Afghan jihad and took a lot of dollars. Dollars also rolled in from “un-incriminated” Saudi Arabia, but there is a lack of conscience about the official mouthing of such “honest confessions” as “the war on terror was not our war” and the belief that the U.S. was in cahoots with India to harm Pakistan by using Taliban proxies hiding in Afghanistan. The unforgivable factor in the Aug. 8 killing of Quetta’s lawyers is the official “forgiving” of the Islamic State as the self-confessed perpetrator because India had to be blamed.

If the state acts in the manner noted by Justice Isa in his report, there must be deeper unexamined parts of the national psyche embedded in the Constitution that even the courts can’t question. Last week, in Chakwal, an armed gang attacked an Ahmadi place of worship – under law it can’t be identified as a “mosque” – but the police in their report described it as a quarrel between two parties and included the Ahmadis as offenders. Ahmadis –manufactured as a minority in 1974 – are not Pakistan’s only embattled minority community. Christians too are attacked routinely, resulting in deaths and loss of property, as in 2009 at Gojra and in 2013 and 2014 across Pakistan while the state concocted ways of forgetting that it was moving towards its terminal crisis.

Anti-Ahmadi hate-mongering in the name of celebration of the Prophet’s birthday(PBUH) and its relevance to Pak-sponsored UN Resolution 16/18 in year 2011

***Lahore, Rabwah; December 12, 2016:*** Mullas of the Khatme Nabuwwat (KN) factions and many others to whatever organizations they cling to, avail of the slightest excuse to promote animosity and hatred against Ahmadis. They do not spare even the felicitous occasion of the birthday of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). Here we mention briefly reports from only three locations: Lahore, Rabwah and Dulmial.

Following happened at various locations in the city of Lahore:

1. A number of processions come out in Mughalpura area. One of these was routed through Karol Bazar of Naseerabad. A number of youth joined in this mulla-led rally. Those in the procession raised anti-Ahmadi slogans and used foul language.
2. Another procession was organized in Darogonwala Chowk. In this one also, they raised anti-Ahmadi hateful slogans and used filthy language against the Ahmadiyya community.
3. Aashiqan e Rasool, i.e. Lovers of the Holy Prophet led a procession in Sik Canal. It marched up to Shalamar Garden. When the crowd arrived at the G.T.Road they indulged in extensive slogan-raising against Ahmadis and the speakers incited the participants against Ahmadis.
4. Another procession came forth from Bilal Masjid in Singhpura. When this horde reached Crown Marriage Hall they changed their posture to an anti-Ahmadi rally and did what they normally do at such occasion.
5. A big procession came forth from the Main Bazaar in Ganjpura. Bullock-carts, camels and motor cycle riders accompanied this procession. This procession intended to pass in front of the Ahmadi mosque but the police presence deterred them from this route. However they raised anti-Ahmadi shouts.
6. Anti-Ahmadi elements celebrated the occasion on December 13, in Mustafa Abad in Street Nr. 42B. The organizers had placed Ahmadiyya Founder’s sketch on the ground and they told the participants to walk over it. They spoke intense hate and nonsense against the Ahmadiyya Founder.

It is amazing that this and a lot more happened in the provincial capital. It is obvious that the provincial authorities take the National Action Plan lightly and make Ahmadis a visible exception to the Plan. How can it succeed with such attitude to its implementation? The Supreme Court remarked, sometimes back: There is hardly any progress in implementation of the National Action Plan (*Takay ka bhi kam nahin ho raha*) the daily *Mashriq, Lahore, July 4, 2015*. As a consequence, it was not surprising that the Army voiced its concern over NAP’s poor enforcement. (The daily Dawn; November 11, 2015). And the COAS issued the statement: Laxity on NAP affecting Zarb-e-Azab (The daily The News; Lahore, August 13, 2016). Whither ‘War on Terror’!

**Rabwah:** As every year, this time also the Ahmadiyya central office wrote well in advance to all the concerned authorities over the intended program of Khatme Nabuwwat organizations to come to Rabwah and take out processions. Under the extant circumstances when political and religious conditions are sensitive countrywide and the law and order situation is unsatisfactory, a little incitement can ignite a major event, warned the letter.

Despite the above, the authorities allowed the processions, and the mullas indulged in what they do every year. We shall, this year, not report the proceedings. Any report of previous years will give a fair idea of the hateful sectarian nature of this event.

**Dulmial:** Last but not least, the mullas of District Chakwal planned major mischief on this occasion to take over or have the Ahmadiyya mosque sealed in Dulmial. They wrote a letter candidly, to the district authorities threatening ‘extreme action’ if the mosque was not handed over to them. This is another story and is reported earlier in this document. Two persons died in the riot; and the Ahmadiyya mosque was sealed. Ahmadis of Dulmial now have no place of worship. The mulla succeeded as planned. To… with the NAP.

Here, one is reminded of a resolution moved in year 2011 in the UN Human Rights Council, Nr 16/18 by Pakistan in consultation with OIC and other member states. It was on the subject of Freedom of Religion or Belief. The resolution was adopted. Pakistan worked hard to achieve the unanimity. Here are extracts of this Resolution and its passage from the Wikipedia:

“Among its many specific points, Resolution 16/18 on Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief, highlights barriers to religiously tolerant societies and provides recommendations on how these barriers can be overcome. The resolution calls upon all member states to foster religious freedom and pluralism, to ensure religious minorities are properly represented, and to consider adopting measures to criminalize incitement to imminent violence based on religion or belief. Other recommendations include creating government programs to promote inter-religious tolerance and dialogue, training government employees to be sensitive towards religious sensitivities, and engaging in outreach initiatives.

“At a meeting on July 15, 2011, hosted by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at the OIC/IRCICA premises in the historic Yildiz Palace in Istanbul and co-chaired by the OIC Secretary-General H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu and U.S. Secretary of State H.E. Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton. The Secretary of State of the United States, the Secretary General of the organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, together with foreign ministers and officials from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Sudan, United Kingdom, the Vatican (Holy See), UN OHCHR, Arab League, African Union, gave a united impetus to the implementation of UN Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 with the release of a Joint Statement. The text includes the following:

“They called upon all relevant stakeholders throughout the world to take seriously the call for action set forth in resolution 16/18, which contributes to strengthening the foundations of tolerance and respect for religious diversity as well as enhancing the promotion and protection ofhuman rights and fundamental freedoms around the world.

“Participants, resolved to go beyond mere rhetoric, and to reaffirm their commitment to freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression by urging States to take effective measures, as set forth in Resolution 16/18, consistent with their obligations under international human rights law, to address and combat intolerance, discrimination, and violence based on religion or belief. The co-chairs of the meeting committed to working together with other interested countries and actors on follow up and implementation of resolution 16/18 and to conduct further events and activities to discuss and assess implementation of the resolution.

“In July, 2011, the UN Human Rights Committee adopted a 52-paragraph statement, General Comment 34 on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) 1976, concerning freedoms of opinion and expression. Paragraph 48 states:

“Prohibitions of displays of lack of respect for a religion or other belief system, including blasphemy laws, are incompatible with the covenant, except in the specific circumstances envisaged in article 20, paragraph 2, of the Covenant. Such prohibitions must also comply with the strict requirements of article 19, paragraph 3, as well as such articles as 2, 5, 17, 18 and 26. Thus, for instance, it would be impermissible for any such laws to discriminate in favor of or against one or certain religions or belief systems, or their adherents over another or religious believers over non-believers. Nor would it be permissible for such prohibitions to be used to prevent or punish criticism of religious leaders or commentary on religious doctrine and tenets of faith.

“Article 20, paragraph 2 of the Covenant states: Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law.

“The ICCPR (51) binds all signatory countries. Consequently, countries with blasphemy laws in any form that have signed the ICCPR are in breach of their obligations under the ICCPR.

“On 19 December 2011, the UN General Assembly endorsed Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 with the adoption of Resolution 66/167. The resolution was sponsored by the OIC after consultations with the United States and the European Union and co-sponsored by Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Uruguay, Thailand and the Dominican Republic. With longer preamble statements, resolution 66/167 repeats the language and substantive paragraphs of resolution 16/18.”

In the light of above, one wonders if it is the same country that sponsored Resolution 16/18 and where all is happening that is reported in this story and in this entire monthly report. The Joint Statement mentioned specifically that ‘Participants, resolved to go beyond mere rhetoric, and… committed to work together with other interested countries and actors to follow up and implementation of resolution 16/18. Apparently the pitfall and shortcomings for the signatory countries were well-known. It seems that in the Ahmadiyya context, Pak governments and officials are perhaps not even aware of Resolution 16/18 which the state of Pakistan had the honour of sponsoring in the UN.

Recently, Mr. Trump the president-elect of the United States expressed his opinion in a tweet that UN is:*just a club where people meet, entertain and enjoy themselves.* It’s so unfortunate. It seems that he may not be far-out in his assessment.

**Ahmadis behind bars**

1. A contrived case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad and Mubashir Ahmad of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhupura 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 acceptance of his bail, but subsequently shirked from signing his decision. Thereafter a 2-member bench of LHC refused the bail, and ordered that clause 8-W ATA be added to his charge sheet and the case be tried in an Anti-terrorism court. He remains in prison. Supreme Court did not grant him the bail either. He is being prosecuted in an Anti-terrorism court whose judge has approved that more serious clauses of the Blasphemy law, PPC 295-C and 295-B be added to his charge sheet. These respectively prescribe penalties of death and imprisonment for life.
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. Religious bigots attacked the Ahmadi-owned 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, a Shia, on December 2, 2015. A speedy trial in an Anti-terrorism court dispensed 5 years’ imprisonment to each of the two accused, while octogenarian Mr. Shakoor was sentenced in addition to three years’ imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadiyya law.
5. An armed police contingent of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) carried out a raid on Ahmadiyya central offices and Zia-ul-Islam Press on December 5, 2016 and arrested four Ahmadiyya officials; Mr. Amir Faheem; Mr. Sabah ul Zafar; Mr. Zahid Majeed Mahmud and Mr. Idrees Ahmad. They are still behind bars awaiting their release on bail.
6. A violent mob deviated from the authorized route, to attack on Ahmadiyya mosque in Dulmial on December 12, 2016. Forewarned Ahmadis assembled inside their mosque to defend it. In the ensuing riot two persons died. The police made arrests from both sides, attackers as also defenders. Among the latter, they arrested 4 Ahmadis namely Malik Riaz Ahmad, Mr. Muhammad Ansar, Malik Khurram Abrar and Mr. Naveed Ahmad. The FIR applies numerous clauses of PPC including 302 (for murder) and 7-ATA from the Anti-terrorism Act.

From the media

**CTD raids headquarters of Ahmadis in Rabwah**

**Arrests four people for printing banned magazine**

 *The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, December 7, 2016*

***Electronic media downplay mob attack on Ahmadi centre***

 *The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 14, 2016*

Meanwhile the Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat on its Face book page claimed that the CTD conducted the raid on its complaint and recovered hate material and illegal weapons (sic) from their custody. However nothing like weapons and hate material is mentioned in the FIR

 *The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, December 7, 2016*

***Assault on Qadianis’ place of worship in Dulmial. 2 dead,…***

***Participants of the 12 Rabi ul Awal procession deviated from the authorized route and headed for Qadianis’ worship place.***

**They shouted slogans vigorously; opened the gate and entered; threw out the furnishings and books and set them on fire.**

**Those inside the worship place saved their lives by escaping from back door. The furious mob persisted in rioting and kept shouting loud slogans.**

**During the rioting, Khalid son of Ayub died of cardiac arrest in the worship place while Naeem Shafiq was shot head.**

**The administration called the rangers and the Army. The angry mob was driven out of worship place which was then sealed. Funeral rites of Naeem Shafiq were performed on Tuesday.**

 *Weekly Asar, Chakwal; December 15, 2016*

**Pakistanis attack mosque of religious minority (Ahmadiyya)**

*The Associated Press December 12, 2016*

***Fear stalks Chakwal after attack on Ahmadi place of worship***

 *The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 14, 2016*

**Ahmadi families leaving Dulmial village after mob violence**

 *The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 15, 2016*

***Sheikhupura: Religious parties strong protest against missing out the affirmation of Khatme Nabuwwat in affidavits for local government members***

 *The daily Khabrain; Lahore, December 8, 2016*

**The most shameful action was taken in the university named after the founder of Pakistan (by naming the Physics Centre after Dr Salaam): Maulana Mohammad Ishaque (the prayer leader of Mubeen Mosque in G6-1 in Islamabad**

 *The daily Ausaf; Lahore, December 10, 2016*

***University Centre should be named after Dr Abdul Qadeer rather than a Qadiani: Zahid M. Qasmi (of CII)***

 *The daily Islam; Lahore, December 22, 2016*

**Dr Salam was an enemy of Pakistan and Islam: (Mulla) Zahid Qasimi (Secretary General of Pakistan Ulama Council and Member CII)**

 *The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 10, 2016*

***We’ll have to strive to pound the head of Qadiani evil: Shabbir Usmani***

 *The daily Ausaf; Lahore, December 10, 2016*

**Qadianis visiting India (for the annual Jalsa) should not be given clearance. These people are agents of world powers against our nuclear assets.**

 *The daily Pakistan; Lahore, December 3, 2016*

***Govt praised over action against Qadiani centres***

***I congratulate Qari Rafiq Wajhwi and Hasan Muaviya for initiating the action: Maulana Ilyas (of PML-N)***

 *The daily Islam; Lahore, December 10, 2016*

**Qadiani teachers should be restrained (to teach Arabic) in schools: Qari M. Rafi**

 *The daily Pakistan; Lahore, December 3, 2016*

***62 banned groups active in Sindh, says official report***

 *The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 8, 2016*

**Religious parties reject US demand to amend school syllabus**

 *The daily Ausaf; Lahore, December 1, 2016*

***CII oppose naming the Physics Centre after Dr Salaam***

 *The daily Jang; Lahore, December 8, 2016*

**Those who are fighting the US and NATO armies in Afghanistan are our children: Maulana Sami ul Haq (JUI-S)**

 *The daily Insaf; Lahore, December 26, 2016*

***I see the country divided in 5 bits: Maulana Shirani (Former Chairman of CII)***

 *The daily Express; Faisalabad, December 19, 2016*

**N-League has an NRO with terrorists: Bilawal Bhutto**

 *The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 6, 2016*

***Social media being used as tool against minorities: Report***

 *The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, December 23, 2016*

**We promise not to submit to special interest, deals (*masalehat*) or fear: Saqib Nisar (CJ designate)**

 *The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 25, 2016*

***The greatest obstacle to Muslims’ progress is Maulvi: Hasan Nisar***

 *The daily Jang; Lahore, December 19, 2016*

**“Instead of targeting the terrorists against whom the National Action Plan had been devised, the interior minister abused the law for political victimization by focusing more on opponents…” he (Bilawal Bhutto) said speaking at the party’s Gilgit Baltistan (GB) workers’ convention at the Bilawal House….**

 *The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 6, 2016*

***USCIRF condemns egregious treatment of Ahmadis***

***USCIRF condemns the brutal raid on the Ahmadiyya offices….***

*Immediate Release on http:www.uscirf.gov/news…of December 9, 2016*

**US ask Pakistan to protect religious freedom and basic rights of minorities**

The US has expressed its serious concern over reports that Punjab counter terrorism police have raided the headquarters of minority Ahmadi Community in Rabwah and arrested four individuals for publishing literature.

*Nation.com.pk/international/10-Dec-2016/us asks*

***HRCP express concern over Qadianis’ unsavory situation in Pakistan***

 *The daily Jang; Lahore, December 15, 2016*

**Pakistan: IHRC and the Lantos Foundation (US) condemn treatment of Ahmadi Muslims**

*(IHRC Press release on 16 December 2016)*

***American Commission’s (USCIRF) demand is stupid. Laws concerning Qadianis will not be undone…We’ll not tolerate American interference: Aalami Majlis Khatme Nabuwwat (Lahore)***

 *The daily Ausaf; Lahore, December 26, 2016*

**Candidate backed by banned party (ASWJ) wins by-poll (in Punjab)**

 *The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 2, 2016*

***‘Missing’ Baloch activist returns home (after more than 4 months)***

 *The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 6, 2016*

**47 perish in PIA plane crash**

 *The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 8, 2016*

***Toba Tek Singh liquor tragedy toll rises to 34***

 *The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 28, 2016*

**Another death-row convict acquitted after 10 years**

 *The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 6, 2016*

***(PM) gave approval in principle to rename the National Centre for Physics at Quaid-i-Azam University the “Professor Abdus Salam Centre for Physics”.***

 *The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 6, 2016*

**Bureaucrat facing Rs. 40 Bn. corruption charges ‘cleared’. Mushtaq Raisani’s plea bargain request of over Rs. 2 Bn. accepted.**

 *The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 22, 2016*

***Loving country you live in is part of Muslim faith, says Ahmadi leader (Khalifa tul Masih V)***

 *Theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/06/loving*

Op-ed: Double standards in fighting terror

Two weeks ago, Masroor Nawaz Jhangvi, a known sectarian activist and possible terrorist with his name on the Fourth Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act, was allowed to campaign for, and eventually win, an election that saw him become the newest member of the Punjab Assembly.

Why, one might reasonably ask, does the state move so effectively against a small, non-violent Ahmadi organization, but refuses to take any action whatsoever against a malcontent like Masroor Jhangvi? There are several possible answers, perhaps the state fears a backlash from his supporters and lacks the stomach and/or capacity for a fight, or maybe this is simply reflective of how the state continues to play double-games with the people of Pakistan, nurturing and tolerating extremism for ideological and strategic reasons? Perhaps it deliberately targets the weak and marginalized as part of a systematic campaign to appease religious militants, hoping that doing so will prevent them from unleashing their murderous rage upon the rest of the country? Atlee believed the same about Hitler. Whatever the reason, it is clear that there are double-standards at work in Pakistan’s fight, against extremism, and that much more needs to be done to hold the state accountable for its lack of action against militant organizations operating in the country without compunction.

None of this is unexpected counting from someone who has made a career out of making the most insensitive, parochial, and frankly unhinged interventions in Pakistan’s political discourse. Obsessed with all things carnal, promoter of child marriage, defender of child abuse, enabler of religious persecution, abettor of rape, all of these are labels that could reasonably be applied to the CII chairman based on his pronouncements during his time in office. Even in Pakistan, a country beset with extremism and bigotry, it is rare to find a man as misogynistic, misopedic, and downright misanthropic as Maulana Sherani enjoying the power and privilege that he has. Given the ultimate pulpit from which to preach his vitriol, Sherani has never come across as anything other than someone utterly lacking in even the most basic human empathy and kindness towards those less fortunate than himself, and has amply demonstrated that he possesses a heart full of hatred fuelled by raging self-righteousness. When his term finally comes to an end on the 16th of December, we will all finally be able to see him for what he trulyis, shorn of the trappings of office; a small man of limited intellect and few gifts, impotently raging against a changing world that he both loathes and fears. He will not be missed.

*Hassan Javid in The Nation of December 12, 2016*

Op-ed: Talk of the town

On another very separate note, the nation continues to disappoint. Sajid Meer takes it upon himself to save the country from the worst of fates: An Ahmadi general, Later, he admits he was wrong in his claims. No one bats an eyelid on this mistake. No one condemns him for putting someone’s life in jeopardy. Much like Qari Khalid of the Rimsha case, no one would care to put the accusations and the accusers to check. Sajid Meer needs to be made an example of by having him recuse from his official and party position. A man who fails to understand the impact of such claims is not fit to have any voice whatsoever. However no one really cares in Pakistan about such things.

*Ahsan Kureshi in The Nation December 3, 2016*

Op-ed: Pakistan’s forced conversion

According to the Aurat Foundation, around 1,000 girls, primarily Hindus and Christians are forcibly converted to Islam each year. Many of these are under the age of 18 and are married off to Muslims, or forced into bonded labour.

In its annual report for 2016, the United States commission on Religious freedom has urged the American government to list Pakistan as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) in accordance with the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) of 1998, a CCP is a nation guilty of particularly severe violations of religious freedom.

This is why the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) a constitutionally sanctioned advisory body, has on record upheld nine years as the eligible marriage age, supported marital rape and abuse against women and now recently passed a resolution against Sindh government banning forced conversions.

Needless to mention Islamic scriptures were used to support all these verdicts.

In the civilized world, a group exhibiting such a wide array of violent bigotry would’ve been proscribed for inciting hate crimes. In Pakistan they issue verdicts over state legislations. But then again, where actually proscribed individuals are being elected to the Parliament, it perhaps doesn’t make much difference.

Last year, the CII mulled whether the Ahmadis were merely non-Muslims or apostates. The latter would mean that the entire community was ‘wajib-ul-qatl (liable to be murdered).

Right next to the parliament, and the Supreme Court of Pakistan, a group of government appointed officials discussed the genocide of an entire religious community.

 *Khuldun Shahid in The Nation of December 20, 2016*

**Annexes:**

1. Home Department Punjab letter banning Ahmadiyya Children’s monthly
2. Home Department’s letter banning all the written works of the founder of Ahmadiyyat
3. Article by Usman Ahmad from the daily The Nation’s blog nation.com.pk/blogs/09-Dec-2016to-be-an-ahmadi

Annex III

**To be an Ahmadi in Pakistan is to be hated and forgotten at the same time**

[**nation.com.pk**/blogs/09-Dec-2016/to-be-an-ahmadi-in-pakistan-is-to-be-hated-and-forgotten-at-the-same-time](http://nation.com.pk/blogs/09-Dec-2016/to-be-an-ahmadi-in-pakistan-is-to-be-hated-and-forgotten-at-the-same-time)

12/9/2016

It is hard to shake off the images of the past few days. On the one side there was an outpouring of joy at the announcement that the National Centre of Physics at Quaid-e-Azam University will be renamed after Pakistan’s long-neglected Nobel prize winner, Professor Abdus Salam. While on the other, just as this news was breaking, a photograph flashed across social media of a sprawl of men lying face down on an immaculately kept lawn during a police raid on an office complex in Rabwah under the derisory pretext of concerns about the publication of hate-material, as if any minority group in Pakistan could ever get away with such brazen insurrection. What Salam and these men have in common is their faith, they are Ahmadis, yet the country cannot find it within itself to honour one without humiliating the other.

These scenes were a reminder, if ever one was needed, that to be an Ahmadi in Pakistan is to be hated and forgotten at the same time. It is to deal with extremes of existence that swing from venom to faceless otherness before beginning the loop all over again and nothing in between. That is just how history has taken its course here, so you tend not to probe too deeply into your situation in case you cannot bear the answers. The answers end up coming anyway, making a part of you stronger while the other part of you ebbs away.

Eventually you learn to live with the divisions inside of you. It is, however, not enough. There are laws which say that you cannot be yourself, no matter how fractured that self is. You can practice your faith, but only if you call it by another name; you can greet people but only with alien words; you can vote, but only if you negate your own identity; and you can breathe, but only if you choke on the same air that is meant to sustain you.

These moments of erasure offer, at the very least, a kind of relief. For the forgotten, every layer of their world is accessible even as they are lost inside of it. You find that it is better to be a ghost than a perpetual foreigner in your homeland.

The problem though with being ignored is that you tend to disremember the swell of hatred that seethes underneath the surface of your life. In the midst of calm, there is turmoil; in the midst of happiness, there is pain and at its worst, in the midst of life there is death. The more you are forgotten the more you too forget that you are only human for small moments at a time.

In seeking to find a place for itself in the world the only country you have ever called your own has created an existential imperative to recognize itself through your hatred. The motives for loathing you have changed over time, but the animosity has remained constant. Without you Pakistan cannot survive and with you its very survival is at stake. Therefore you are everything and nothing but no real part of anything at all.

What everyday life is to you is unfathomable to them. They know nothing of what it means to live on the outer edges of acceptance, where the little space afforded to you is forever in a state of upheaval. The constant shifts are exhausting – hatred always is. You know this tiredness well because it moves you to persevere.

What is also true is that this ghastly bigotry has damaged them more than it has you. They have gained nothing from their hate, except a catalogue of cruelties which beat against their conscience. They may deny it to themselves but the unspeakable truths tend to holler the loudest through the passages of history. One day they will be forced to listen to the things they currently refuse to hear.

Until then these are the sounds you cannot escape for they go unheard by everyone else. They are your life, both past and present, and all that is in the storehouse of your memory. But this noise is not in the tenor of who you really are. You are certain that you will outlast it. After all I am still here you tell yourself. And sure enough you are still here.