

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan News Report February 2016

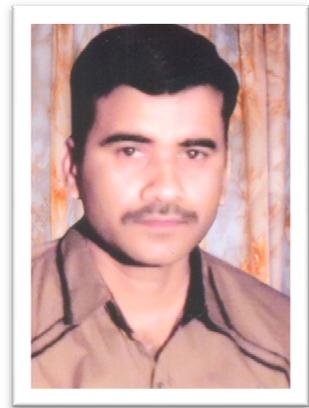
Another Ahmadi stabbed to death for his faith

Kot Abdul Malik, District Sheikhpura; March 1, 2016: An Ahmadi youth, Qamarul Zia was murdered outside his house in broad day light in a religiously motivated attack. The Ahmadiyya central office released a press statement; its English translation is given below:

Kot Abdul Malik: An Ahmadi youth, Qamar ul Zia, stabbed to death outside his home in a religiously motivated attack.

Anti-Ahmadi hate campaign is underway in the area for a long time: Spokesperson Ahmadiyya community

Chenab Nagar (PR): Today, 1 March 2016, an Ahmadi man, Qamar ul Zia, was stabbed to death outside his house in Kot Abdul Malik, Sheikhpura, in a religiously motivated attack. He was bringing his kids back home from school when two unknown assailants attacked him with knives in broad daylight. He received multiple wounds and died on the spot. The deceased is survived by his father, wife and three young children. The eldest son is 8 years old and youngest daughter is only 2 years old.



Qamar ul Zia owned a mobile phone shop adjacent to his home and had been facing religion-based hostility for being an Ahmadi. In 2012 he was harassed by opponents of the community, after which on August 2012, he lodged a complaint in the Factory Area police station and was forced to leave his home for a short while. Instead of protecting his rights, the police, under pressure from certain religious groups, removed the inscription 'Muhammad Ali' (the name of his father) from the gate of his house and other Islamic inscriptions like *Mash'Allah from his shop*. He was also beaten in 2014 for being an Ahmadi.

Expressing his grief at this tragic murder, the spokesperson of Jama'at Ahmadiyya, Mr. Salimuddin said that anti-Ahmadi hate literature, freely distributed throughout the country, gives rise to incidents like this. He said that according to the National Action Plan those responsible for inciting hatred were to be disciplined, but this does not happen when Ahmadis are targeted. He added that the murder of Qamar ul Zia was clear evidence of the failure of the authorities in protecting innocent Ahmadis in Pakistan. If those who had been agitating against the deceased had been dealt with firmly in the past then one precious human life could have been saved. He demanded that the assailants be pursued with the full force of the law and brought to justice.

Mr. Zia was a practicing Ahmadi and held important post in the Ahmadiyya youth organisation. Sometime ago he was subjected to grave manhandling by participants of an anti-Ahmadi procession.

According to a section of the media, this murder was in response to the state action of hanging of Mumtaz Qadri, the governor's killer.

Since promulgation of anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinance of 1984 two hundred and forty-nine Ahmadis have been killed for their faith by their opponents.

Gross violation of Ahmadiyya freedom of religion by the Government of Punjab

Fresh ban on Ahmadiyya publications and periodicals on recommendation of the Ulama Board

Lahore; January 20, 2016: Almost a year ago the Government of the Punjab banned various Ahmadiyya publications and some periodicals most unjustifiably. The community approached the high court for redress and it issue 'stay orders' concerning the daily and periodicals, so these continue to be published. A report on this was included in our annual report for year 2015; it is available in Chapter 3B on pages 13 to 17.

Undeterred by the court orders and disregarding national commitment to international instruments and covenants on human rights and freedom of religion and belief, the provincial government has issued fresh orders to ban numerous Ahmadiyya books and almost all the periodicals – this time quoting the recommendations of the Ulama Board as the authority for taking this action of which any decent democratic government will avoid being accused. A set of six such letters has been issued by the Home Department on January 20, 2016. As sample, two of these are reproduced at Annex I and II to this report.

These government letters of immense national and international gravity bear the signatures of only a section officer, the lowest official in the Punjab bureaucracy. These orders deserve some comments on their various aspects to highlight the enormity of this action.

While issuing orders on cancellation of declarations of various periodicals, the recommendation of the Mutahiddah Ulama Board Punjab has been quoted in original, in vernacular. We translate below the opening two lines of the recommendation concerning the Ahmadiyya children's monthly Tashkhez-ul-Zahan (*sic*) of May 2014:

"In this magazine extracts of the Quran and Hadith and *Sha'ire* Islam have been extensively used that is violation of the Constitution. Also in these there are texts that defile (*Tauheen*) the Quran, the Prophethood, the Companions and the (Prophet's) Family, which is highly provocative to common Muslims...."

The mullas are wrong on both counts, and the Punjab authorities know it. The Constitution of Pakistan does not forbid anybody quoting extensively the Quran or Hadith. Also it is plain falsehood that the texts blaspheme or defile as alleged. The Ulama Board could not quote a single line in support of their grave accusation.

It is noteworthy that while the ulama could cite only one issue of the monthly, that also spuriously, the authorities have issued orders to the DCO to cancel the declaration of the monthly, thereby to stop its publication altogether. Similar orders have been issued for all other periodicals, including Ahmadi women's magazine, the monthly Misbah.

One of the letters that bans Ahmadiyya publications gives the reason that the material therein "is treasonable and seditious in nature." The book at Sr. No.1 is a biography of the founder of the Ahmadiyya movement, written by a community elder Pir Siraj ul Haq. The holy founder died approximately 40 years before Pakistan came into being and the author also died before the birth of this new state. How could the book be remotely 'treasonable and seditious in nature' to the state that was not even proposed at the time? It is nothing of the kind; it is only that mullas object to it and the provincial authorities simply do what the mulla tells them about Ahmadis. The politicians should not complain if the mulla shows no respect to them.

The secretary has further written in the Notification that the government 'is pleased' to ban these books and declares 'every copy/version of said books to be forfeited.' That gives a license to petty officials of the administration and the police to harass each and every Ahmadi family and disturb Ahmadi places of worships in the Punjab.

The signing section officer dutifully sent a copy of this letter to the chairman of the Ulama Board, of course as a token of his compliance with their wishes. He accorded 'MOST IMMEDIATE' priority to this order unbecoming any modern democracy.

The Home Secretary sent a copy of this notification to various concerned ministries of the federation including the Army's ISI. We are not aware of any redemptive or critical notice taken by the federal superiors, who should know better about the importance of religious freedom, human rights and good governance. Whither National Action Plan!

One of these MOST IMMEDIATE notifications signed by the section officer (Internal Security-III) bans all the contents of Rohani Khazain – the entire 86 books and booklets written by the founder of the Ahmadiyya Community. It is for a fair assessor to determine who is terrorizing whom in the Punjab.

It is also noteworthy that such orders have been issued only in the Punjab, and in no other province. Mian Shahbaz Sharif the chief minister of the Punjab is younger brother of Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister.

It is relevant to mention that recent ban of a newspaper in Turkey made headlines all over the world; here they expect to get away with banning half a dozen Ahmadiyya periodicals, the community newspaper, and all the religious texts and still claim:

"PM vows to protect rights of all religious communities.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that all religious communities living in Pakistan enjoy equal rights and vowed to safeguard them."

The daily *Dawn*, Lahore November 12, 2015

Assault on an Ahmadi

Karachi; January 27, 2016: Mr. Javed Ahmad Khokhar an Ahmadi resident of the County Garden was returning home at night with a friend when some unknown assailants fired three shots at them. Mr. Khokhar was hit in his arm near the shoulder. He was immediately shifted to a hospital. He survived as a result of effective treatment.

Ahmadi missionary booked

Kotli, Azad Kashmir; January 2016: One, Muhammad Amin telephoned Mr. Zeeshan Hameed the local Ahmadi missionary, shouted at him and insulted him. Amin acquired the support of Pir Ateequr Rahman, an anti-Ahmadi influential cleric, and got an FIR registered with the police against Mr. Hameed.

Amin stated in the FIR that Mr. Hameed called his nephew Zahid Iqbal and persuaded him to re-join Ahmadiyyat. Mr. Hameed asked Iqbal to narrate the translation of the Quranic verses no. 17 and 18 of Surah Maida. Mr. Iqbal showed his ignorance and said that he would consult his uncle Amin.

At this Amin telephoned Mr. Hameed and used foul language. He got the FIR registered. Mr. Hameed had to move elsewhere to avoid police action and arrest over a non-issue.

An Ahmadi in trouble

Chak 68 JB, District Faisalabad; February 8, 2016: Mr. Habib came from Germany to visit his birth-place. He owns some property here. He built a *dera* (a place where locals gather, relax and discuss social issues) at his property. There was a box in front of his *dera* at an elevated location for disposal of old Quranic sheets. His servants emptied that box and put all the papers in a shopping bag and put these inside the *dera* for further disposal.

Mr. Habib had come back after a long time; he asked his servants to clean up the place. They put all the old papers and other disposables outside and set them on fire. Local mullas took notice and found therein an opportunity to precipitate mischief. They incited the people by announcements on loudspeakers of their two local mosques, gathered them and

blocked the Jhang By-pass road. The district administration and police approached the protestor's leaders, assured them arrests of the people concerned and got the traffic rolling. The police formed a committee consisting of the mullas of both the mosques and three others from the village. The follow-up continues.

Old Ahmadiyya mosque under threat

Daska Kalan, District Sialkot; February 2016: The Ahmadiyya mosque in this village was built by Ch. Sir Muhammad Zafarullah Khan, an internationally renowned Ahmadi who died decades ago. One, Muhammad Bilal S/O Mr. Muhammad Ashraf recently took photos of this mosque and lodged an application with the SHO Daska City. He demanded demolition of the minarets of the mosque because through these this worship place resembles an Islamic mosque and Ahmadis were not allowed by the constitution to use Islamic symbols, according to him.

When the SHO took no action on his application, he lodged the same application in the Sessions Court, Daska.

Ahmadiyya graveyard under threat

Peshawar; January 2016: The police came over to the local Ahmadiyya graveyard, inspected it and met the district president of the Ahmadiyya community. They informed him that some people wearing black turbans had come to the police station and told them that they intended to remove the Islamic inscriptions written on some gravestones in the Ahmadiyya graveyard. The police stopped them from doing that. At this they threatened to gather the locals to remove the inscriptions.

Also, anti-Ahmadiyya hateful literature has been distributed in the city. Its copies have been provided by local Ahmadis to the police, the administration and the Army office.

Threat to an Ahmadi educationist

Mong, District Mandi Bahauddin; January 20, 2016: Syed Sadiq Ahamd Sherazi owns here Sherazi Junior Model Middle School that enjoys very good reputation in the area. This school is serving the local people for the last 26 years. Syed Sherazi is also the president of the local Ahmadiyya community.

A woman in *burqa* (Islamic covering) came to his house and knocked at the door. When a boy opened the door she handed him a written note and went away. The note had the following message (translation):

"Salaamu Alaikum. Tomorrow there is a function in your school. Mr. Shah (Syed), come there well prepared to die. We warned you before, but you did not take it seriously. Tomorrow we will keep our word. You have forgotten the October incident; we will remind you of that tomorrow. See you tomorrow. (In the protection of Allah)

The punishment of a blasphemer – Chop his head off the body

Wassalam

A lover of the Prophet (PBUH)"

Pakistan: USCIRF Calls for the Immediate Release of Abdul Shakoor and the Dropping of all Charges

Washington; February 1, 2016: The American commission for international religious freedom issued the following statement with the headline given above. Its text is produced below:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2016

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) strongly condemns the arrest, detention and sentencing of Abdul Shakoor, an 80-year-old optician, for propagating the Ahmadiyya Muslim faith, which is banned in Pakistan.

On December 2, 2015, Mr. Shakoor was charged with propagating the Ahmadiyya Muslim faith, a crime under the Pakistani Penal Code, and stirring up “religious hatred” and “sectarianism”, a crime under the 1997 Anti-Terrorism Act. Mr. Shakoor was arrested in his optical store after he was falsely accused of selling an Ahmadiyya commentary on the Holy Quran, among other publications, to an undercover police officer. On January 2, 2016, he was sentenced to five years’ imprisonment under Penal Code Section 298C and three years under the Anti-Terrorism Act, with the sentences to run concurrently. His store manager Mazhar Sipra, a Shi’a, also was arrested and sentenced to five years under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

USCIRF Chairman Robert P George said, “USCIRF calls on the Pakistani government to immediately release Mr. Shakoor and drop all charges against him. His arrest and sentencing are outrageous enough, but more egregious is the fact that Pakistani constitutional and penal code provisions prevent Ahmadis from exercising their faith and even calling themselves Muslim, and that the country uses anti-terrorism laws as pretexts for denying peaceful citizens the fundamental human right to religious freedom.

Ahmadis in Pakistan are subject to severe legal restrictions, both in the constitution and criminal code, and suffer from officially-sanctioned discrimination. Ahmadis also continue to be murdered in religiously motivated attacks that take place with impunity. Pakistan’s constitution declares Ahmadis to be “non-Muslims,” and the penal code make it criminal for Ahmadis to refer to themselves as Muslims; preach, propagate, or disseminate materials on their faith; or refer to their houses of worship as mosques.

“The arrest and sentencing of Mr. Shakoor is another example of Pakistan’s systematic, on-going, and egregious violations of freedom of religion or belief”, said Chairman George. “Both Mr. Shakoor and Mr. Sipra should be released immediately and all charges dropped. Furthermore, it is the duty of the Pakistani government to ensure the safety of both men. Members of Pakistan’s Ahmadiyya community, as well as Shi’a Muslims, Christians, Hindus and others, deserve to have their basic human right to religious freedom both respected and protected by their government.”

Ahmadis behind bars

1. A baseless case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad and Mubashir Ahmad of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhpura under PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 on May 13, 2014 in police station Sharaqpur. Mr. Khalil Ahmad was then murdered by a madrassah student, while in police custody on May 16, 2014. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. They are in prison. Their bails were cancelled.
2. A fabricated case was registered against Mr. Tahir Mahdi Imtiaz, printer of the Ahmadiyya monthly Ansarullah, in Millat Town police station Lahore on April 16, 2014. He was arrested by the police on March 30, 2015 under the blasphemy clause PPC 295-A and anti-Ahmadiyya law PPC 298-C. A high court judge announced his bail but refused to sign the decision later. Thereafter a 2-member bench of LHC

refused him bail. He remains in prison. Supreme Court did not grant him the bail either.

3. Mr. Qamar Ahmad was charged under PPC 295-B for alleged desecration of the Holy Quran in Jhelum, and was arrested on November 20, 2015. Bigots attacked the factory and Ahmadis' houses after his arrest and set them on fire after looting the valuables.
4. Officials of Punjab's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) accompanied by a contingent of the Elite Force raided Shakoor Bhai's book shop, arrested Mr. Abdul Shakoor *aka* Shakoor Bhai and Mr. Mazhar Abbas shop assistant on December 2, 2015. A speedy trial in an Anti-terrorism court dispensed 5 years' imprisonment to each of the two accused, while Mr. Shakoor Bhai was sentenced in addition to three years' imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadiyya law.

From the media

Qadianis are a mischief that is in open war against Allah and His Prophet: Ulama Karam

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 2, 2016

The U.S. is the inventor of terrorism, it promotes greater terrorism in the name of fighting terror. Qadianism is offspring of Zionism: Maulana Muhammad Mughira and others

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 5, 2016

Quetta: Suicide attack on military vehicle – 10 killed; 30 injured

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 7, 2016

'Pakistan has taken lead in curbing minorities' rights'. Scholar says Second Amendment strengthened hand of communal elements.

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

Ulema declare Daesh Khawarij

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 11, 2016

Majlis Ahrar Gujrat condemn restrictions on Tablighi Jamaat

The daily Islam; Lahore, February 4, 2016

Ban on Tablighi (Jamaat) in educational institutions is condemnable. (Mulla) Abdul Hafeez Makki (of IKNM)

The daily Jang; Lahore, February 5, 2016

Tablighi Jamaat religious leaders should not be harassed: Mutahiddah Khatme Nabuwwat

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, February 4, 2016

Courts can shoot down anti-people laws: CJP

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 21, 2016

Daesh an emerging threat to Pakistan: IB Chief

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 11, 2016

Nisar calls madrassas bulwark against terror

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 14, 2016

Every single murder on sectarian basis will be considered terrorism

The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, February 16, 2016

Sahibzada Zahid Mahmud Qasmi, Secretary General of the International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement and Member CII met in Makka (Saudi Arabia) Al-sheikh Maulana Dr Saeed Ahmad Inayatullah the Deputy Amir of the International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement World. (Saudi) Alsheikh stated that serious notice should be taken of Qadianis' anti-Islam and anti-state activities.

The daily Aman; Lahore, February 23, 2016

Leaders agree on activation and organizing the International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement (Reference: Qasimi: Al-Sheikh Inayatullah meeting in Makka)

The daily Islam; Lahore, February 23, 2016

Attack on one faith is attack on all faiths, Obama tells Muslims

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 3, 2016

Shujaat rejects ban on Tablighi Jamaat

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 2, 2016

On February 28, the governor of the (Punjab) province signed the bill into law. *The Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act*

The weekly The Friday Times, March 4, 2014

Action plan for rights protection unveiled

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 26, 2016

PM warns NAB against barging into ‘innocent’ people’s houses.

The daily The News; Lahore, February 17, 2016

SC upholds life term of self-proclaimed Imam Mehdi

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 23, 2016

Prayer leader killed in Karak (by another in mosque over prayer-leading dispute)

The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 18, 2016

Uzair Baloch admits 400 murders including that of Shahinshah

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 1, 2016

(Zika virus) It is now spreading explosively: Dr Chan, DG WHO

The weekly Time; February 23, 2016

Annexes

- I. Govt: of Punjab letter No. SO(IS-III)6-15/2010 dated 20th January 2016
- II. Punjab Home Department Notification dated 20th January 2016

MOST IMMEDIATE
BY FAX



No. SO (IS-III) 6-15/2010/Pt.I
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
HOME DEPARTMENT

Dated Lahore, the 20th January, 2016

To

The District Coordination Officer,
Chiniot.

Subject: - **CANCELLATION OF DECLARATION AND LEGAL ACTION**

I am directed to refer to the subject noted above and to state that Muthida Ulama Board, Punjab, in its meeting held on 11.08.2015, has recommended following action against objectionable **Mahnama Tashkhez-ul-Zahan, May, 2014** edited by **Mudassar Ahmad Muzamal** and printed by **Tahir Mehdi & Imtiaz Ahmad Warraich**:-

"رسالہ ذریعہ میں قرآن و حدیث سے اقتباسات اور شعائر اسلام کا بے دریغ استعمال کیا گیا ہے جو آئین کی خلاف ورزی ہے۔ نیز ان میں توہین قرآن، توہین رسالت، توہین صحابہ و اہل بیت پر مبنی تحریریں پائی جاتی ہیں جو عامۃ المسلمین کے لیے نہایت اشتعال انگیز ہیں اس لیے ان رسالہ جات کے ڈکٹریشن منسوخ کرتے ہوئے طباعت، شاک، فروخت و تقسیم کا مکمل سدباب اور ان میں شامل افراد کے خلاف سخت قانونی کارروائی عمل میں لائی جائے۔"

2. It is, therefore, requested that declaration of "**Mahnama Tashkhez-ul-Zahan, May, 2014**" may be cancelled and legal action be taken against Publisher, Printers, sellers, Stockists and translators/interpreters, under intimation to this department.


SECTION OFFICER
(INTERNAL SECURITY-III)

CC.

- 1) The Chairman, Muthida Ulama Board, Punjab, Lahore.
- 2) The Section Officer (IMB), Auqaf & Religious Affairs Department.
- 3) PS to Home Secretary, Punjab.



GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
HOME DEPARTMENT

Dated Lahore, the 20th January, 2016

NOTIFICATION

No.SO(IS-III)6-15/2010/Pt-I. WHEREAS, the Government of the Punjab is satisfied that following publications contains material which is treasonable and seditious in nature. Besides, it promotes feeling of enmity or hatred among different classes of the citizens of Pakistan which is prejudicial to national integration:

| Sr. No. | Title | Author/Muqrrar/Zakir | Publisher | Printing Press/Shop |
|---------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Tazkira tul Mehdi | Pir Siraj ul Haq | Zia ul Islam Printing Press Rabwa | Zia ul Islam Printing Press Rabwa |
| 2. | Namoos-e-Risalat par Hamlon ka Difa (Tareekh-e-Ahmdiat ki Ainay main) | Hanif Mehmood | Majilis-e-ansar Ullah Pakistan | Majilis-e-ansar Ullah Pakistan |
| 3. | Tafseer-e-Sagheer | Mirza Bashir ud Din Mehmood Ahmed | Nil | Aoqam-e-Isha'at, Rabwa |
| 4. | Quran-e-Majeed (Saraiki Tarjamay nal) | Mirza Tahir Ahmed | Nil | Nil |
| 5. | Quran-e-Majeed mah (Tarjma-wa-Tafseer) | Mir Muhammad Saeed | Nil | Nil |

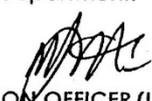
2. Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 99-A Cr. PC 1898, the Government of the Punjab is pleased to ban and declare every copy/version of said book to be forfeited, wherever found in the open market, stock and shops etc. with immediate effect.

SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
HOME DEPARTMENT

NO & DATE EVEN

A copy is forwarded to:

1. The PPO/IGP, Punjab, Lahore with the request to take penal action against Muqrrar/Zakir/Author publisher and owner/manager of Printing Press in accordance with the relevant provision of Pakistan Penal Code or any other law relating to Press and Publication for the time being in force under intimation to this department.
2. All the DCOs in Punjab.
3. All the DPOs in Punjab.


SECTION OFFICER (IS-III)

C.C:-

- > The Secretary to Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, Islamabad.
- > The Secretary to Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Islamabad.
- > The Director General, ISI, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad.
- > The Director General, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Government of Pakistan, Islamabad.
- > The DIG (Crimes), Punjab, Lahore.