[Law Minister Zahid Hamid resigns as govt caves in to protesters' demands](https://tribune.com.pk/story/1569364/1-law-minister-zahid-hamid-quits-tenders-resignation-pm/)

By [Our Correspondent](https://tribune.com.pk/author/303/our-correspondent/)

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The demands of protesters camped out at Faizabad Interchange were met with the resignation of Law Minister Zahid Hamid. The weeks-long protest had virtually paralysed the capital and later other parts of the country on Saturday.

The federal minister tendered his resignation to Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi voluntarily. Hamid’s resignation was the chief demand of the protesters.

“The decision to resign was taken in a bid to steer the country out of the prevailing critical situation,” said Hamid, adding that he would issue detailed statements later.

Hamid said the Election Act was formulated by a parliamentary committee comprising of members belonging to all political parties.

According to sources, the law minister, is concerned about his safety. His ancestral home in Pasrur also came under attack from protesters on Saturday. Among other matters of importance, Hamid discussed his safety concerns at length during his meeting with Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore on Sunday.

Hamid reportedly said he was ready to resign but wanted the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership to play an active role in clearing his name from the controversy.

The minister also released a video message on Youtube to assure the people that he believed in the finality of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).  He read out the oath from the existing law and said, “I believe in finality of Prophethood. I am not a follower of any claimant of prophethood, nor do I believe that any such claimant of prophethood is a Muslim. Neither do I belong to any Qadiani Group or Lahori group, nor do I call myself as Ahmadi.” He said the Constitution of Pakistan declared Qadianis, Ahmadi Group and Lahori Group as non-Muslims. “I love Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) from the core of my heart and am a true lover of the last Prophet (PBUH). I and my family are prepared to lay down our lives for the honour and sanctity of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).”

The message is yet another attempt from Hamid to clear his name from the controversy that may jeopardise not only his political career but also his life. Some reports suggest that two ministers, including Hamid, may tender resignation if the stand-off persists.

**Government, protesters reach an understanding**

The federal government on late Sunday night signed an agreement with Tehreek-e-Labaik Yah Rasool Allah Pakistan after the military stepped in to resolve issue through negotiations.

The document, signed by Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Interior Secretary Arshad Mirza, Khadim Hussein Rizvi, Pir Muhammad Afzal Qadri, Muhammad Waheed Noor and senior ISI official Major-General Faiz Hamid, stated that the government has agreed to the terms put forth by the religious staging sit-in for three weeks, paralysing twin cities.

In the agreement, a copy of which is available with *The Express Tribune*, TLYRAP said they were only expressing their opinion on the amendment in Khatm-e-nabuwwat clause and regretted government’s use of force on November 25. Upon affirmation of demands from the concerned authorities, the religious party will end the sit-in and urge their allies across the country to be peaceful.

The demands have been outlined here:

1. Law minister Zahid Hamid should be immediately suspended; TLYRAP will not issue any ‘fatwa’ against him.
2. The government has already reinstated amendments to the Election Act 2017 clauses 7A and 7B relating to Khatm-e-Nabuwwat (the finality of the prophethood). The government should release the Raja Zafarul Haq report within 30 days. TLYRAP demands prosecution of those responsible for the ‘clerical mistake’ under the law and constitution of Pakistan.
3. All the workers and participants of the sit-in who have been arrested by security officials since its start on November 6 should be released and all the charges against them be dropped.
4. Formation of an inquiry team to investigate the security action against TLYRAP sit-in on November 25. Those responsible should be prosecuted within 30 days.
5. The federal and provincial government should compensate for all personal and public damages caused in the entire duration of the sit-in.
6. The Punjab government should fulfill all the demands previously agreed upon.

According to the document, the demands were agreed upon after “efforts of Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and his team”. TLYRAP thanked the army chief, adding that “he saved the country from a crisis”.

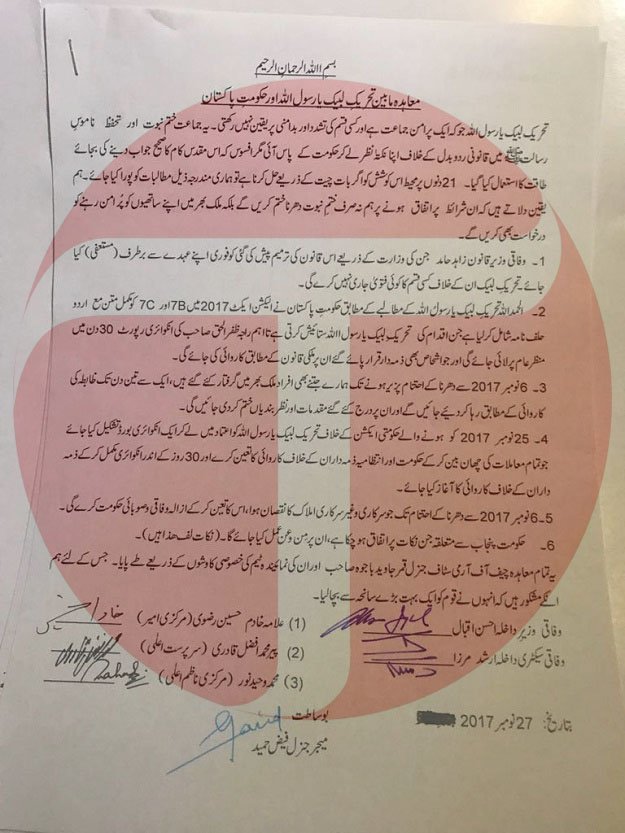


PHOTO: EXPRESS

**Containers removed**

Meanwhile, containers have been removed from Rawaldam side, Garden Avenue, Zero point and other places. People in the capital are slowly returning to their routine.

Read more: [Faizabad](https://tribune.com.pk/faizabad) , [Latest](https://tribune.com.pk/latest) , [Law minister](https://tribune.com.pk/law-minister)

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1569364/1-law-minister-zahid-hamid-quits-tenders-resignation-pm/>

**Reclaiming Pakistan and Islam**

*Reclaiming Pakistan as a modern and inclusive state is impossible without reclaiming Islam as a progressive theology, which is compatible with modernity and democracy*

[Yasser Latif Hamdani](https://dailytimes.com.pk/writer/yasser-latif-hamdani/) @theRealYLH

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At the time of the writing of this article, the police in Islamabad have already begun its operation against Faizabad protesters. There are reports of sporadic protests from all over the country but the government has taken the extraordinary step of taking off all news channels off line. Furthermore Facebook and Twitter have been blocked on several ISPs to ensure that there is a complete media blackout of the events unfolding around the country. Whether these methods will work or not, only time will tell. However Pakistan once again stands at a crossroads in its history as it has stood several times in its history.

Pakistan’s origin and genesis as a Muslim majority state carved out of British India have always been subjects of controversy. There are many in the subcontinent who do not quite agree with its creation and continue to curse it. Certainly the bloodshed that accompanied the partition of India lent credence to the view that the idea to create a Muslim homeland was a mistake. The continuing debate over identity and the role of religion in politics that has plagued most of the country’s seven decades in existence has further muddied the waters. However what is undeniable is that there was an original vision of Pakistan as an inclusive and modern democratic state, which would treat all its citizens regardless of their religion or sect equally and without distinction that was postulated by the founding father of the country, which is the only way out of the current mess. It is this vision we need to reclaim today more than ever before.

Commonsense dictates that if Pakistan has the system of joint electorate there is no need for separate lists for Muslims and Non-Muslims. Therefore the oath that has come under debate recently is not only discriminatory but rudimentary. Admittedly Ahmadis were declared Non-Muslims through the 2nd Constitutional Amendment but the real question is whether or not they were stripped off their rights as citizens as well? Are they to be considered non-citizens for the purposes of law and constitution because they refuse to accept the status imposed on them by the constitution? Starting with Captain Safdar’s hate filled speech in the National Assembly against notable Ahmadis like Zafrullah Khan and Dr Abdus Salam, we have witnessed growing hate speech against this community all over Pakistan. One fears for the safety and well being of members of this community who now live in the shadow and threat of violence and even genocide in the country.

*There will always be naysayers who will say that Pakistan was obviously going to be a theocracy and that Islam as a belief system is incompatible with a modern democratic and inclusive state. In Pakistan we have an opportunity yet again to prove them wrong and show that a Muslim majority can run a progressive and secular democratic state in the 21st century*

Time therefore has come to reclaim Pakistan as an inclusive democratic and liberal albeit Muslim majority state which does not discriminate on the basis of religion or sect. To do this, the state must firmly bring under its control the religious clerics and fanatics that have been let loose under one pretext or the other. These unwashed and rough edged Mullahs like Khadim Hussain Rizvi are doing no service to Islam or its cause in Pakistan. Indeed the kind of language used by the protesters at Faizabad is distasteful to say the least and is bringing Islam into disrepute. It is a great tragedy to think that the discourse in Islamic learning has deteriorated so badly that we have people like Khadim Hussain Rizvi and his followers passing off as Islamic scholars. What they have been saying at Faizabad is something that no sane person can even dare to repeat.

Reclaiming Pakistan as a modern and inclusive state is impossible without reclaiming Islam as a progressive theology, which is compatible with modernity and democracy. The powers that be in the country need to identify and promote Islamic modernists in the tradition of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and Chiragh Ali who can guide the Muslim community in face of challenges of the 21st century. We need jurists of the calibre of Syed Ameer Ali to preside over *Ijtehad* and modernization of Islamic jurisprudence and bring it in conformity with modern standards vis-à-vis human rights and individual rights. This is the Islam Jinnah invoked during the Pakistan Movement i.e. Islam which was ontologically emptied and a veritable shell for reason and progress. The only way you can have a secular democratic state in a Muslim majority country is if you can convince the Muslims that such an idea is not alien to Islam and its doctrine but is in fact in perfect harmony with it.

I know that Islamophobes do not like to hear it but Islam did light up the world at a time when it was in utter darkness. It was for its time a radically new idea, which promoted equality and brotherhood of man. That over time Muslims left the way of *Ijtehad* which was the method for this great system to rejuvenate itself and apprise it with challenges of changing times is a great tragedy. In the process Muslims got bogged down in traditions, customs and backwardness. As a result we have people like Khadim Hussain Rizvi making a mockery of the faith today.

Speaking at Aligarh on 5 February 1938 Jinnah told his listeners: “What the League has done is to set you free from the reactionary elements of Muslims and to create the opinion that those who play their selfish game are traitors. It has certainly freed you from that undesirable element of Maulvis and Maulanas.” Almost 80 years later, it seems that we need to free ourselves of the same undesirable element.

There will always be naysayers who will say that Pakistan was obviously going to be a theocracy and that Islam as a belief system is incompatible with a modern democratic and inclusive state. In Pakistan we have an opportunity yet again to prove them wrong and show that a Muslim majority can run a progressive and secular democratic state in the 21st century. To do this we must reclaim both Pakistan and Islam from the religious extremists and fanatics like Khadim Hussain Rizvi. This is the Islamic reformation. This is our renaissance. This is our age of enlightenment.

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<https://dailytimes.com.pk/147938/reclaiming-pakistan-islam/>

**Supporting attitude towards Qadianis will make Nawaz Sharif exemplary: AllaQasaya**

**Former Prime Minister wanted to waive off the debts by declaring Qadianis non- Muslims.**

Chiniot (District Reporter) Leader of Worldwide Khatm e Nabuwat Movement, AllaWasaya said in his interview to journalists that previous incidents have proved that Nawaz sharif said in his first address to the cabinet, “”If we remove the article related to Qadianiat from the constitution, all of our debts will be waived off”. He called Qadianis brothers and renamed Physics department of Quiad University after Dr Abdul Salam Qadiani. He appointed Qadiani as his personal secretary in the last tenure. Moreover, he instructed current Prime Minister to not dismiss personal secretary. Nawaz Sharid didn’t learn anything from the circumstances. **(Daily 92 News 26th November 2017)**

**'We will not sit back until the dismissal of agents of Qadianis' AlamaMumtaz Awan**

Lahore (PR) In charge of World PasbanKhatm e Nabuwat and the spokesperson of Worldwide Khatm e Nabuwat Movement, Mumtaz Awan strongly condemned the excessive use of sticks and tear gas on the participants of peaceful sit-ins. He said that instead of taking action against the criminals who amended the law of Khatm e Nabuwat, Government is worsening law and order situation by brutally torturing the devotees to Holy Prophet (PBUH). The faith of Khatm e Nabuwat is an extremely sensitive issue. He said that the movement of Khatm e Nabuwat will be spread all over the country. We will stage sit-ins in all parts of the country including Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Muslim with self-respect can sacrifice anything but cannot tolerate any conspiracy against the honor of Holy Prophet (PBUH). (Daily Din 26-11-17)

**Not just the one minister but government will have to go out: AlamaKhadim Rizvi**

**He urged scholars to not suggest anything related to dialogue and unveil the name of all the dacoits of Khatm e Nabuwat. We must have been informed about the leader of gang. We will fight till the end.**

Islamabad (Special Reporter/ News Agencies) AlamaKhadim Hussain Rizwi said that Ahsan Iqbal is telling a lie. Whenever our team goes to meet him, he tells them that he has a cloth of Madina and his mother is also buried at the same place.Rizwi urged if Zahid Hamid can’t resign, all minsters should tender resignations. Sit-ins will be continued till the dissolution of the government. Now, dialogue will take place after the burial of our martyrs. Our committee will decide all the matters. We didn’t come to Islamabad to ask the place of burial of the mother of Ahsan Iqbal. Pakistan has not established for hooligans but for the implementation of Islamic system. He declared security forces mad and urged them to go back. He asked them to tell their officers that it is not their duty. We do not have any fear of operation and are ready to sacrifice our lives. Police brutally tortured our peaceful protestors. They will be answerable on the day of judgement. God and His Prophet (PBUH) are with us. We will seek the reply from the administration of Islamabad and Rawalpindi for all the damages. We will celebrate midnight of Saturday and Sunday as MiladUlNabi(PBUH). Qadiani and American lobbies are behind the government and responsible for this operation. IjazAshrafi said that we will not run away and fight till the end.

**(Daily 92 News 26th November 2017)**

**Qadianis should be identified separately in the passports and the national identity cards. Qari Shabeer Usmani**

**As per the constitution, they are non-Muslims. Their “state within a state” view of Chenab Nagar should be challenged.**

Chiniot (Correspondent) Qadianis refuse to be part of the minorities and question Pakistan’s authorities which is an act of defiance against the Constitution of the country. They should be identified separately in their passports, national identity cards and voting lists. As per the 1974 Constitution they are minorities and have no connection with Islam and its followers. Chenab Nagar is the head of the Qadiani Community which is challenging government’s authority. Qadianis do not vote, neither on municipal level nor in general. Other minorities exercise their rights and vote, however, Qadianis refuse to partake in the process. It is because they do not accept their constitutional status. Although, they have been allotted seats on national and provincial levels. It is beyond comprehension as to why they refuse to partake. These views were expressed by the vice president of International Khatme Nabuwat Movement Maulana Qari Shabeer Ahmad Usmani before the media correspondents. They should either accept their constitutional status or accept Islam.

**Roznama Nawae Waqt Lahore(2) 24 November 2017**

**The resolution toinclude the belief of Khatme Nabuwat in the syllabus approved.**

**It should be made mandatory for Muslim students: governmentresolution, individuals responsible for presenting resolutions absent during the question answer session, proceeding delayed for 20 minutes.**

**Hoardings promoting Black Friday displayed at the highways; is the government asleep? Opposition leader protests, the whole party walks out.**

Lahore (Political Reporter): The Punjab Assembly has unanimously approved the resolution to include the Khatme Nabuwat clause in the syllabus. The opposition leader protested against celebrating Black Friday and walked out. The session started and hour and a half later than usual, under the supervision of the Speaker, Muhammad Iqbal. The participants continued to show no interest in the proceeding. The questions pertaining to two departments, anti-drug and water sanitation, were supposed to be answered. However, not a single individual was present at the House. Consequently, the Speaker delayed the proceedings for 20 minutes. Only Najma Afzal was present when the session resumed. Hence, the proceedings ended within a minute. Opposition leader Mian Mahmood ur Rasheed raised concern over the hoardings promoting Black Friday at the highways and asked if the government was asleep. Later, the whole party proceeded to walk out. The Speaker delayed the session for another fifteen minutes. The quorum did not complete when the proceedings resumed and hence had to be delayed again till two o’clock.

**Roznama Duniya, Faisalabad, Saturday, 25 november 2017**

**Lahore Bar Association will go on strike today over the amendment in the rules of Khatm e Nabuwat. Members of bar urged law minister to resign.**

**In order to scrutinize all culprits, members urged to publish the real report of a committee that was led by Raja Zafar UlHaq. Government hurt the religious feelings of the billions of Muslims by amending the law of Khatm e Nabuwat: MudassarCh, UmairJaved and others**

Lahore (Court Reporter) Former coordinators of Pakistan Bar Council: Muhammad Mudassar, Ghulam Mujtaba, UmairJaved, RanaNauman, HaseebUsama, ShahidNaeem and Rehman Nasir said that lawyers will boycott all the courts hearings today. They demanded immediate resignation of federal law minister by saying that government not only hurt the feelings of Muslim citizens of Pakistan but also the worldwide Muslim community. They said that they will foil the government’s bid of looting the honor of Holy Prophet (PBUH) in the country that was established on the name of La IlahaIllalah. **(Daily Ausaf 25th November 2017)**