

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

Monthly Report

April 2018

**Human Rights
Commission of
Pakistan observation
on IHC ruling of
March 9, 2018:**

“Forums for justice such as the honourable IHC should play their due role in safeguarding the fundamental rights of the most vulnerable sections of society. It is therefore unfortunate that Pakistan’s religious minorities should feel more unsafe as a result of a ruling by the honourable court,” said HRCP.

The commission called on the government to seek to reverse the ruling through appeal at the earliest.

“It is essential that the government act in aid of its minority citizens by appealing this ruling speedily and robustly,” said HRCP.

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A fresh agreement between the government and TLYR

Lahore; April 14, 2018: The daily The Nation reported the following story:

TLYR calls off protest after deal with govt

LAHORE- The government signed five-point agreement with Tehreek Labbaik Ya Rasoolallah (TLYR) in the wee hours of Friday that paved way for ending countrywide protests which practically brought the life to a standstill.

Addressing a press conference, TLYR leaders said that the government has provided a sealed copy of Raja Zafar-ul-Haq report which would be opened after the orders of Islamabad High Court hearing case of 21-day sit-in at Faizabad, Rawalpindi.

The government also provided copy of FIR registered with Sadiqabad Police Station Rawalpindi on deaths of protestors.

The government had already agreed to the demand of allowing four speakers at a mosque for Azaan and sermon.

The government has also constituted an Inquiry Board/JIT to probe the causes of Faizabad tragedy. Two members of TLYR would be part of the JIT.

The government has also agreed that Law Minister Rana Sanaullah would appear before a panel of seven Muftis of TLYR on an agreed time for explaining his controversial interview in which he allegedly violated the Constitutional status of Qadianis in the country.

According to the agreement, Rana Sanaullah would abide by whatever the Fatwa issued by the panel of Muftis on the matter.

After approval of the agreement by *shoora*, TLYR announced calling off protest that returned normalcy at inter and intra City roads across the country.

Nation.com.pk/14-Apr-2018/tlyr-calls-off-protest-after-deal-with-govt

Note: Earlier a similar agreement had been signed by the government with TLYR in November last year. On that the Dawn of November 15, 2017 made the following editorial comment: **The capital under siege**. It is apparent that the country's civil and military leadership has never taken counter-extremism policies seriously.

That may be either out of political expediency or a fear of backlash or both. It may be true that the situation is not yet completely out of control, but continuing with the current state of inaction could create a very dangerous situation and reverse the gains made in the battle against terrorism...It is a tragic commentary on our state policy which gives such leeway to a group that glorifies a murderer and exhorts its supporters to follow his example. The siege of Islamabad gives some insight into the shape of things to come.

However, the authorities surely took some steps to implement the agreement, including declaring the year 2018 as the 'Year of Awareness of the End of Prophethood.' Now this fresh agreement signals further the strangling of the state and society through bigotry.

New affidavits of faith and belief

It is reliably learnt that some authorities in the government are in the process of introducing affidavits of faith for their employees and recruits etc. A sample pair, one for Muslims and another for non-Muslims, is attached at the Annex. This step is fraught with serious, long lasting and damaging consequences. It deserves analysis and comment, even if brief in a report like this.

These affidavits are the outcome of a verdict given by Justice Siddiqui of Islamabad High Court on March 9, 2018 on the issue of *Khatme Nabuwwat* (finality of prophethood).

The fact that there is one affidavit for Muslims and another one for all non-Muslims shows that the human resources in the departments/organizations are being divided in two groups based on their commitment to Islam as understood officially. These divide one Pakistani identity into two distinct and divisive categories: Muslims and non-Muslims.

While holding hearings in this case, Justice Siddiqui was reported in the media to have remarked:

1. If they (Ahmadis) wish to stay on in Pakistan, they should do so as non-Muslim citizens, and not commit thievery against Islam (*naqb na lagain*). (bbc.com/urdu/pakistaan-43288413)
2. IHC restores all 8 laws concerning the end of prophethood. "If heavens fall, I don't care": Justice Siddiqui (*The daily Mashriq; November 15, 2017*)

The language of the affidavits is bizarre – particularly for ‘non-Muslims’. A negative statement is unnecessarily imposed on the deponent. He is told to state ‘that I am a non-Muslim.’ Why should he say what he is not? He could be simultaneously non-Jew, non-Sikh, non-Ahmadi, non-Bahai as well as non-White, non-European, non-Punjabi etc. Also, an Ahmadi is required to add, ‘and belong to Ahmadi’. This makes no sense, as ‘Ahmadi’ is not a religion. An Ahmadi is a person who considers himself a Muslim and believes Mirza Ghulam Ahmad to be the Messiah promised in Islam.

People with no religion have no place in either affidavit. Will they be disowned by Pak bureaucracy?

The mulla insists that Ahmadis must accept the ‘non-Muslim’ identity and status imposed on them, and distance themselves from Islam; this is not acceptable to Ahmadis, as it violates their fundamental belief. The mulla’s wish was granted and implemented by Justice Siddiqui. These affidavits not only serve as tools to open the door of discrimination against Ahmadis, but also would thereby facilitate all sorts of social, political, professional and financial hardships and deprivations against them. This judge, in order to worsen Ahmadis, has imposed a procedure on the administration that will make millions sign unnecessary and iniquitous affidavits. The entire exercise is in fact Ahmadi-specific, and the single-judge bench did not hide his motivation.

These affidavits will surely trigger still more criminal charges and litigations against Ahmadis, ranging from apostasy allegations to civil suits concerning marriage, inheritance, etc.

and deprivations from jobs, hardships in careers, difficulties in businesses etc. As per the mulla’s understanding of Sharia the penalties could range from stoning to death, lashings in public, loss of eligibility to inherit from even parents, etc. This is not mere speculation; this is demanded incessantly by the mulla in his rallies and open conferences. Justice Siddiqui has discretely, even unabashedly, hinted the need for such discrimination in Para 4 of his judgment, objecting against Ahmadis’ “*access to dignified and sensitive posts resulting in accumulation of all benefits*”, etc.

These divisive affidavits are being imposed through departmental rules; they are not a requirement of the Constitution, even if the definitions are derived from a controversial amendment to the Constitution.

It is not only the higher social and political values that are at risk, these affidavits will directly and effectively affect the lives of millions in offices, in the field – everywhere. These will affect their social relations, dining together, lodging, career development, job environment – everything. Religion and belief will become the top factor in formulating human resources policy and its implementation. Soon, the belief factor will discriminate among Muslims for being Deobandi, Barelvi, Shia, Ahle Hadith, Ahle Quran, Muqallid, non-Muqallid etc. This would make the state non-functional.

Pakistani state has not discovered, or not mustered the courage to state what Crown Prince Muhammad bin Suleman recently admitted: “We believe the practice today in a few countries, among them Saudi Arabia, is not the practice of Islam. It’s the practice of people who have hijacked Islam after 1979”, quoted the weekly *Time* of April 16, 2018.

Ahmadis beaten up severely for faith

Ban Bajwa, District Sialkot; April 23, 2018: Opponents have been trying their best to make life difficult for Ahmadis in Ban Bajwa. The local mulla participated in the Islamabad sit-in

(of Khadim Hussain Rizvi) and was arrested there. After his arrest, anti-Ahmadiyya sentiment increased in the village. The locals invited Qari Afzal Qadri, a leader of Tehrik Labbaik Ya Rasulullah. He announced a social boycott of Ahmadis.

Another mulla came to the village in February, gathered some youths and agitated them against Ahmadis. This hateful training went on for three days. The mulla also distributed a hateful book '*Radd e Qadianiat*' in the village.

These opponents were in search of an opportunity to implement their training. So, one day Mr. Abdul Sattar and Mr. Nazir Ahmad, Ahmadis were bringing fodder for their cattle, a non-Ahmadi youth, with a fodder cutter on bike, passed by them so close that they narrowly escaped hurt from the cutter. Ahmadis told him to change the side of the cutter, but the youth got angry and bad-mouthed them. Ahmadis did not respond in kind. After that the youth's father came to their farm to apologize for his son's conduct, but soon, his son also arrived there. He spoke harsh and insulted his own father.

The next day when Mr. Sattar and Mr. Ahmad were working in the fields, the offending youth arrived there in company of seven men and attacked them with rods. Ahmad fled to a nearby farm but the attackers overtook him and beat him up and rendered him unconscious. The local president of the Ahmadiyya community came to know of this and went to the site. On seeing him an attacker shouted, "Look, here is another *Mirzai*", and they attacked him as well. As a result his wrist bone was broken. Meanwhile the police arrived at the scene, but they said nothing to the attackers who sat in their car and drove away.

Freedom of worship denied

District Sargodha and District Khushab; April 22, 2018: We reported last month that mullas have been busy in mechanizations against Ahmadis in Ghoghiat, Sargodha. Mullas had

plans to demolish the niche and minarets of the Ahmadiyya mosque that was built in 1905, much before the promulgation of anti-Ahmadiyya ordinance in 1984. Ahmadis informed the DPO in writing, as this posed a serious threat to the sanctity and security of their mosque.

The SHO sent for the local president of the Ahmadiyya community and said that the mullas intended to create agitation by gathering their youth in Miani Square. He asked Ahmadis to raise the outer wall of the mosque so that the minarets and niche became invisible from outside. Ahmadis could not agree to this.

The police arrived at the Ahmadiyya mosque with a heavy contingent, and brought bricks and mortar to close the niche. When they learnt that the mullas would not be satisfied with this action, they left and called both the parties to the police station, the next day.

Similar problems are faced by Ahmadis in District Khushab where the police are visiting Ahmadiyya prayer centres. Previously they sealed the prayer centre in Peelovains. The police gave the reason that Ahmadis cannot pray at any place unless an NOC is obtained. The same excuse was reported from Quaidabad. Ahmadis pray in a house in Joharabad. The police arrived there too and told Ahmadis to close it down and get an NOC for praying there. The police also arrived at the main Ahmadiyya mosque in Khushab city and directed that it be closed down. They said that Ahmadis needed an NOC to pray somewhere. In reality no such NOC is issued to Ahmadis, nor were such NOCs demanded in the past.

It is learnt that the DC Khushab is behind all this activism and agitation against Ahmadis.

Faith-based hostility forced Ahmadi to shift household

Renala Khurd, Distt. Okara; April 2018:

Mr. Ehtisham Ahmad is an Ahmadi who works in Mitchell Fruit Company as Research and Development and Quality Assurance Manager.

Previously an activist of TLYR published a pamphlet against him that agitated the readers accusing him of proselytizing. This issue was resolved with the help of authorities.

Recently pamphlets against Mr. Ahmad were again distributed. The police took action and detained a worker of the company, but released him later on the demand of TLYR mullas. The mullas threatened to take out a procession against the SHO and the DSP, and revive the previous issue against Mr. Ahmad. Meanwhile the Imam of Masjid Faizan-e-Madina, Hameed Town, Renala Khurd got registered an FIR of theft in the police station. Some books of the Rebuttal of Qadianiat course, a USB and some memory cards were stolen, according to the FIR. It accused Ahmadis of doing that. The FIR mentioned the possibility of great harm to the local Imam in this incident. They tried to implicate Mr. Ahmad in this incident.

The management of the company told Mr. Ahmad to contact the local SHO. The SHO advised transfer of Mr. Ahmad elsewhere to avoid the agitation. The company transferred him to their head-office in Lahore. Mr. Ahmad joined the Lahore office on April 23, 2018. Mr. Ahmad has to shift his whole family to the new station, a great hardship for him indeed.

Agitation in Karachi – Ahmadis and their mosque under threat

Karachi; April 19, 2018: On April 19, 2018 some unknown person(s) wrote down the names of ‘Allah’ and ‘Muhammad (PBUH)’ with paint on the track of the main road of North Karachi. At about 11:00 a.m. people started gathering there from nearby areas – blocked the road, started protest and staged a sit-in. Most of them belonged to Tehrik Labbaik Ya Rasulullah. The police came to know of the incident, came to the spot, and stopped the sit-in participants from aggravating the situation. At first the participants were few but their numbers increased gradually. Most of them were young. They made speeches

and demanded from the administration to find the culprits, arrest them and register a case against them.

In their speeches some miscreants availed the occasion to accuse the Ahmadiyya Jamaat of this outrage. The nearby walls were chalked with anti-Ahmadiyya slogans and provocative language. The police and Rangers present at the spot tried to persuade the sit-in leaders to disperse, but all in vain. In the evening, some high rank police officers came and had talks with them – assured the protestors full support, and the sit-in was called off at the time.

Ten Ahmadi families who were living in the neighbourhood had to be shifted elsewhere for security reasons. The local Ahmadiyya mosque was also locked by the police. Ahmadi youths on duty stayed inside the mosque for its security.

Threat to Ahmadi’s fellows in profession

Mardan; April 2018: Mr. Khaleeq Ahmad is a technician expert in repairing transformers. He has trained many, and some of them are now running their own workshops. Mr. Khaleeq also acts as a contractor. Occasionally he helps his former students in their repair work. Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan took notice of his contacts and sent them the following threatening letter (translation):

“We’ve received complaint that you sit with Qadianis. You are requested by Pakistan Tehrik-e-Taliban not to trade with a Qadiani as it is forbidden in Islam. We’ll act if you would not desist. Neither your shop will survive nor you. Your house will be targeted by us. Commander Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan.”

Ahmadi’s job at risk

Rabwah; April 2018: Mr. Asad Ahmad Sufiyan from Rabwah has been serving in the prison department since August 2017. He was appointed in the district prison at Jhelum. Some

employees of the prison came to know of his visits to the Ahmadiyya mosque for Friday prayers; this aroused their hostility. Meanwhile Mr. Sufiyan was sent to Attock for training. On his return, all the staff had come to know of his belief. So, they boycotted him, stopped talking to him, would not eat with him and forbade him to say his prayers in the prison's mosque.

Someone complained to the DSP prison that Sufiyan was a *Mirzai*, a non-Muslim who got his job illegally and was a blasphemer. The DSP sent for Mr. Sufiyan and after preliminary inquiry, told him to report in DIG office, Rawalpindi. He did that, where the superintendent told him of DIG's order to proceed on one month's leave. Mr. Sufiyan had to obey the orders.

Gutless media and politicians

Geo TV; February 6, 2018: Hamid Mir of Geo TV interviewed the foreign minister Khawja Asif, and the session was broadcast. Kh. Asif, among other things, mentioned the great role a former foreign minister, Sir Zafrullah Khan (an Ahmadi) had played in the UN for the independence of Tunis. In support, Asif mentioned the admission of the 91-year old Tunisian president who was a witness to the great advocacy by Sir Zafrullah. Asif also referred to the role of Sir Zafrullah in the UN in securing the independence of Algeria. He mentioned Zafrullah's competent championship of Palestinians' rights, and of course, his success in obtaining a UN resolution in support of the right of self-determination for Kashmiris.

Geo announced that the interview would be aired again the next day at 11:30 to 12:00 a.m. It did that, but the part related to Sir Zafrullah had been effaced.

This was most probably done to please the bigot-brigade. The pusillanimity of the powerful media and the ruling elite defies description.

Persistent harassment through the cooperative Punjab government

Various Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat (Protection of End of Prophethood) organizations are active in the country to promote their sectarian and extremist anti-Ahmadi agenda. One such group calls itself Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat Forum. It is run by mulla Hasan Muaviya alias Tuti, who is a brother of Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, Chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council, a circle close to the officialdom in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the name of fighting extremism and sectarianism.

Mulla Tuti's Forum avails of Punjab government's consistent policy of supporting the mullas including doing their wish in every possible way. As such, recommendations of the Motahidda Ulama Board are implemented by the Home Department without question.

It was under this policy arrangement that the CTD and Elite Force of the Punjab raided the only book store in the main Bazaar of Rabwah two years ago, arrested its octogenarian proprietor Mr. Shakoor and his Shia salesman, and got both of them imprisoned for years through an anti-terrorism court. In 2016, the counter-terrorism department mounted unprecedented raid on Ahmadiyya central offices in Rabwah and made arrests.

This *modus operandi* goes on. Recently a member of Tuti's Forum sent an application to the Home Secretary Punjab that Ahmadi continue to violate the restrictions imposed upon them by the provincial government. In this he named Ahmadiyya theology schools, press, etc. and demanded that the authorities close down these facilities.

In fact, as a result of the government's unfair and wrongful bans, availability and sales of Ahmadiyya publications in the open market is completely forbidden. Even the central library of the town stocks no Ahmadiyya translation of the

Holy Quran. This imposed deprivation on Ahmadi population is dreadful and brazen.

Despite the above, the Forum's application is being followed up by the provincial agencies and departments. The officials have made visits to Rabwah and carried out investigations and inspections. This does no credit to the governance in Pakistan. Even the international community is now aware of this. Last year US Secretary of State stated: "Religious freedom is under attack in Pakistan". *The daily Dawn; August 17, 2017*

Bail granted – eventually

Lahore; March 29, 2018: Mr. Amjad Iqbal Salooni and Mr. Ikram Ilahi, Ahmadis' accused in a religion-based case were released on bail after more than a year in prison. They still have to face the trial. The long delay in granting bail in this case of highly doubtful validity deserves a mention on record.

On March 13, 2017 these two gentlemen of Lahore allegedly violated anti-Ahmadiyya law by defending the Ahmadiyya position to some non-Ahmadis. A mulla Hasan Muaviya who is a younger brother of Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, the well-known cleric close to the official circles in Islamabad, is a full time anti-Ahmadi activist; he made sure that the police registered a case against these two Ahmadis, although the former were reluctant to do that. In fact, Muaviya obtained the help of a court to get the FIR registered.

The police registered the case not only under a clause of the anti-Ahmadiyya law, PPC 298-C, but also under a blasphemy law PPC 295-A that could be tried in an anti-terrorism court, and is punishable with 10-year imprisonment.

The accused were arrested, and the case ended up in an anti-terrorism court. The ATA judge gave the opinion that anti-terrorism clauses were not applicable in the case and it should be taken to a normal court.

In the meantime, the accused applied to the Lahore High Court for release on bail. On July 11, LHC sent the case back to a magistrate for routine handling. The magistrate sent the case to the civil judge. After a few court appearances the civil judge sent the case to the Additional Sessions Judge. The ASJ Mr. Khizr Hayat Minhas heard the case on 19 August 2017, and refused the plea for bail in the first hearing.

The accused applied to the High Court for release on bail; it had to wait in a long line of cases, for its hearing.

On March 26, 2018, Mr. Justice Anwar ul Haq of LHC ordered the accused's release on bail. So, it was after more than a year that these two gentlemen joined their family, having committed the 'crime' of telling some people that Ahmadis are not 'the worst enemies of Islam and Pakistan' as alleged frequently in the vernacular media. The guilt of this tyranny can be shared by the Punjab government, the mulla and the lower judiciary.

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 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, two days later on May 16, 2014. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. A year later the deadly clause PPC 295-C was added to their charge-sheet by order of a high court judge. A sessions judge sentenced them to death on October 11, 2017. Appeal against this decision has been made to the Lahore High Court.
2. 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. He appealed against the verdict and has sought release on bail from the Lahore High Court which has not spared time for over a year to hear his plea.

3. Mr. Saeed Ahmad Waraich was charged on a false complaint of blasphemy under PPC 295-C with FIR no. 645 in Tandlianwala police station, District Faisalabad on January 20, 2018. He was arrested a day earlier.

From the media

- **NADRA data sharing worries Ahmadis**
- **A religious minority has expressed serious concerns over the release of identity of its roughly 10,205 citizens who changed their religion from Muslim to non-Muslim during the last 10 years.**

...

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, April 2, 2018

- **There is no clean water in Chenab Nagar, nor cleanliness. The area is ridden with problems.**
The daily Jinnah; Lahore, April 21, 2018
- **Authorities should exterminate Qadiani cancer from the Islamic Republic: AMTKN**
The daily Ausaf; Lahore, April 11, 2018
- **Hazara man gunned down in Quetta**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 2, 2018
- **Four members of Christian family shot dead in Quetta**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 3, 2018
- **6 cops martyred in Quetta attack**
The daily The News; Lahore, April 25, 2018

- **Three shot dead in Quetta**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 30, 2018
- **Two Christians shot dead in Quetta**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 16, 2018
- **Two Hazara men gunned down in Quetta**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 23, 2018
- **Two more Shia Hazara men gunned down in Quetta**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 29, 2018
- **TLP ends protest after govt accepts demands**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 14, 2018
- **Punjab promulgates ordinance allowing four loudspeakers at mosques: Appeasing religious circles**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 13, 2018
- **PTI will provide full protection to minorities: Imran Khan**
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, April 8, 2018
- **The present system be cursed; I declare rebellion: Sirajul Haq**
(Is nizam par laanat; baghawat ka elan karta hoon)
The daily Jang; Lahore, April 9, 2018
- **Great disorder in the country shortly, as a result of present happenings: Nawaz Sharif**
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, April 18, 2018
- **“We believe the practice today in a few countries, among them Saudi Arabia, is not the practice of Islam. It's the practice of people who have hijacked Islam after 1979.”**
Prince Mohammad bin Salman, quoted in the weekly Time, April 16, 2018
- **NAB orders inquiry against Musharraf for misuse of power**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 21, 2018
- **Islamabad police ‘quietly’ withdrew cases against TLYR leaders**
The daily The Nation; Lahore, April 28, 2018
- **Poet of the East (Shair e Mashriq) lost one eye at the age of two**
The Khabrain (Sunday Magazine) April 15, 2018

- **US, allies strike Syria to punish Assad over ‘poison gas use’**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 15, 2018
- **57 killed in bomb attack on Kabul voter centre**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 23, 2018
- **Saudi crown prince says Israelis have right to their own land**
The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, April 4, 2018
- **Modi says India shamed by rape and murder of Kashmiri girl**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 14, 2018
- **In my country (UK) two women die every week at the hands of their partners**
Glenda Jackson in the weekly Time of April 16, 2018
- **Indian troops kill 17 in held Kashmir**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 2, 2018
- **S. Korea ex-president jailed for 24 years**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 7, 2018
- **Brazil’s ex-president starts 12-year prison term**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 9, 2018
- **French police hold ex-President**
The weekly Time of April 2, 2018
- **SC rules disqualification (for NS and JT) under Article 62 (1) (F) is for life**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 14, 2018
- **Shahbaz’s son-in-law (Imran Yusuf) comes under NAB scrutiny**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 14, 2018
- **Nawaz wants NAB law on hold during caretaker set-up**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 7, 2018
- **Desperate Nawaz launches blistering attack on CJP**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 24, 2018
- **Shots fired twice at SC judge’s house in Lahore**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 16, 2018
- **SC slate ISI in TLYR sit-in case**
The daily The Nation; Lahore, April 26, 2018
- **Acid attack victim (a girl) dies in hospital**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 24, 2018

- **Over 13,600 police guards withdrawn on CJP order**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 22, 2018
- **23 NAB officers fired for misconduct, negligence**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 23, 2018
- **Three brothers among five killed on enmity**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 24, 2018

Op-ed: Pakistan High Court judge calls for ‘termination’ of Ahmadiyyas

... Pakistan’s minority Ahmadiyya community, who are shunned by staunch followers of Islam, face more persecution after a ruling on March 9 by a High Court Judge. ...

Throughout the hearings, Justice Siddiqui targeted the Ahmadiyya community through what were seen by many as discriminatory orders. The judge asked for data about the number of Ahmadis in Pakistan and also those who “converted from Islam” to the Ahmadiyya sect, along with their travel history.

However, for many the most troubling aspect of the judgment was its wording, with paragraph 6 of the verdict asking the parliament to “take measures which can completely terminate those who scar (the belief in *Khatm-e-Nabuwwat*).”

“This is clear hate speech,” lawyer and human rights activist Jibran Nasir told Asia Times. “What is the judge asking them to be terminated from? Their jobs? Doesn’t that take away their basic right to life and dignity? The Supreme Court should take suo moto action against the verdict.”

Legally the Islamabad High Court verdict, like the Second Amendment and Ordinance XX, contradicts Article 20 of the Constitution, which grants freedom of religion, and Article 27, which maintains there should be no discrimination during recruitment for public offices.

However, for the local Ahmadiyya community, the fears are much graver. ...

“The most shocking aspect of the case itself is the fact that while the court was actively campaigning against us, not a single Ahmadi was called to the court to listen to our side of things. Is this what you call justice?” Amir Mehmood, who is in charge of the community’s press office, said to *Asia Times*.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan said it was “appalled” by the ruling, saying its consequences “could be deadly for members of the Ahmadiyya community, given their already precarious personal safety situation in the country.”

Maintaining it was shameful for a court to order a declaration of faith for citizens wanting to join the public office, a lawyer from the Ahmadiyya community suggested the verdict went “beyond discrimination.”

“It’s unclear what the exact order is, because it doesn’t say ‘terminate from office’, or ask for rights to be terminated. The use of ‘completely terminate’ on its own is menacing and could easily be construed as a call for violence,” the lawyer, who requested anonymity, told *Asia Times*.

Legal experts believe the most tolerant view of the verdict calls for discrimination and can even be interpreted as denying jobs in the government, Army and judiciary altogether. More dangerous interpretations could lead to a violent marginalization of the community.

“The (High Court) judge is clearly suffering from insecurities in his faith. This is how you lay down foundations for apartheid,” said lawyer and human rights activist Jibran Nasir.

The legal way out is for the verdict to be challenged in a double bench High Court hearing, or by the Supreme Court.

But for the Ahmadiyya community, this is only the latest instigation of violence against them.

“This is nothing new for us. There’s constant call for violence against us and our extermination,” said Saleem Uddin. “However, they forget that Pakistan isn’t the only country in the world. The Ahmadiyya community is now present in over 200 countries worldwide.”

Kunwar Khuldune Shahid in

<http://www.atimes.com/article/pakistan-high-court-judge-calls-termination-ahmadiyas//>

Editorial: Minorities in danger

... Above all, we need to counter the hateful ideology of groups like the IS. The state has the responsibility to not just fight back against the murderous actions of the IS and its ilk but to show that every Pakistani, regardless of what their religion may be, is treated as an equal citizen. When the state demonstrates with its laws and actions that not every group is afforded the same rights, it creates space for the hateful rhetoric of militant groups. Our counterterrorism strategy enshrined under the National Action Plan, was meant to be comprehensive in dealing with both the sanctuaries of militants and the ideology of their sympathizers. The latter plank of the NAP has been notable only for its absence. When citizens of Pakistan feel insecure in their daily lives just because of their religious identities, we know that we have failed them as a nation.

The daily The News; Lahore, April 4, 2018

Annex: Set of Affidavits

For Muslims:

Affidavit

I Name, Designation CNIC No.
And ERP# do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath;

That I am a Muslim and believe in the unity and oneness of Almighty Allah in the absolute and unqualified finality of the Prophethood of Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) the last of the Prophets and do not believe in, or recognize as Prophet or religious reformer, any person who claimed or claims to be a Prophet, in any sense of the word or of any description whatsoever after Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him)

Deponent

Date:

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For non-Muslims:

Affidavit

I Name, Designation CNIC No.
And ERP# do hereby affirm and declare on oath;

That I am a non-Muslim and belong to (Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhist, Parsi, Qadiani Group, Lahori Group, Ahmadi, Bahai or belong to scheduled castes)

Deponent

Date: