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# Qazi Muhammad Isa and the reference against Justice Qazi Faez Isa

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THE DAILY TIMES

Since the government has faced considerable reverses in the frivolous presidential reference against Justice Qazi Faez Isa, it has now deputed its social media trolls and a retired civil servant of dubious credibility, Orya Maqbool Jan, to try and undermine the role of Justice Isa’s father Qazi Muhammad Isa (or as he spelt his name Essa) in the Pakistan Movement. All sorts of weird stories are made about him. None of the lies concocted by Orya Maqbool Jan and the government’s vicious social media team can undo the facts of history.

Qazi Isa and his wife Piari Rasheed Qazi were close personal friends of Mr. Jinnah, the Quaid-e-Azam. When Mr Jinnah visited Quetta in the 1940s, it was at their house that he stayed. Both of them were tasked with the consolidation of the Muslim League in Balochistan. Mr. Jinnah’s correspondence with Qazi Isa can be found in the Jinnah Papers. Countless references to Qazi Isa’s incredible efforts aimed at consolidating the Muslim League. On 31 July 1942, Mr Jinnah appointed Qazi Isa a member of the working committee of the Muslim League. This document can be found at item No. 180 F.809/503 of Volume XVIII of the Jinnah Papers III Series.

Similarly on the same date, i.e. 31 July 1942,Mr Jinnah wrote the following to Qazi Isa: “I was really pleased to hear of the great success of the Baluchistan Muslim Conference. Your account was most heartening and made me very happy. The result you are witnessing is no less due to your magnificent efforts, which you have made in Baluchistan. A new life has been put in our people in this remote part of India by the efforts of yourself and your co-workers.” Mr. Jinnah ended his letter with the uncharacteristic personal touch “Hoping to meet you very soon. With kind regards to Mrs Isa and yourself from Miss Jinnah and myself.” This is item No. 175 F. 302/111 of the aforesaid volume of Jinnah Papers.

Now compare this to the lie that government’s trolls are propagating on social media. They claim that Jinnah refused to accept Qazi Isa’s bouquet and told him to study for 20 years. It boggles the mind how these geniuses come up with these stories. Isa was Jinnah’s closest confidant in Balochistan province. Without his efforts the referendum in British Balochistan would never have gone in favour of the Muslim League.

**We are a strange country. We slandered and abused Jinnah’s right hand man Sir Zafrullah Khan who got us the Kashmir resolutions. In 1965 the government of the day left no stone unturned to prove that Fatima Jinnah, Quaid’s own sister, was a traitor to the country working against its integrity. Now in order to bring down a principled judge of the Supreme Court, the government is maligning the historic role of one of the founding fathers of Pakistan.**

***We are a strange country. We slandered and abused Jinnah’s right hand man Sir Zafrullah Khan who got us the Kashmir resolutions***

Meanwhile a most devious lot, including lawyers with questionable integrity, is prosecuting his son. The presidential reference against Justice QaziFaez Isa is utterly frivolous. There is no basis for it. Neither his spouse nor his children were dependents under Sections 116 and 182 of the Income Tax Ordinance. The reference does not establish any dependency and fails all legal tests. It does not establish misconduct. It was the President’s discretionary function to form an opinion about misconduct but he abdicated that responsibility by proceeding blindly on the advice of the Federal Government. It is a case of the mala fides in law. If on the other hand President proceeded on the basis of his own opinion, then in the absence of the aforementioned evidence, it becomes a case of mala fides of fact. This would establish that the President of Pakistan is neither sagacious nor Ameen, and therefore arguably subject to disqualification under Article 62(1)F of the Constitution.

It does not end with the President. Questions must also be raised about the unethical conduct of the lawyers pursuing this matter. So weak is their case and so unethical their conduct, that their licences ought to be suspended by their respective bar councils in Pakistan. Justice Isa is right in asking how Shahzad Akbar was appointed the head of the Asset Recovery Unit. There is no transparent process by which such a mediocre person with no special qualifications could be appointed head of the Asset Recovery Unit. All guidelines were bypassed.

This mala fide presidential reference hits at the very core of the principle of independence of judiciary. It would mean that every time an upright judge hands down a principled verdict that the government disagrees with, he would be threatened by a baseless mala fide reference. Therefore one hopes that the Supreme Court will make an example out of this reference by getting to the nub of the matter and holding those who prepared this presidential reference to account.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/626799/qazi-muhammad-isa-and-the-reference-against-justice-qazi-faez-isa/>

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Opinion

**Against Coronavirus, Pakistan Turns to a Traditional Remedy: Blame Ahmadis and Jews**

[**Kunwar Khuldune Shahid**](https://www.haaretz.com/misc/writers/WRITER-1.5692751)

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HAARETZ

Ahmadis, like Israel and Jews, are designated 'enemies of Islam,' and hence of Pakistan, accused of working in tandem to provoke crises across the Muslim world. Their latest plot? COVID-19

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Every few minutes for the past week, a [viral meme](https://twitter.com/search?q=allah%20ka%20china%20per%20azaab&src=typed_query&f=live) entitled "coronavirus timeline in Pakistan’ has been shared by social media users in Pakistan.

Written in Urdu transliterated into Latin script, the meme helpfully conveys the evolution of Pakistani conspiracy theories surrounding COVID-19 from January 2020 till May, as coronavirus has mutated from "Allah’s wrath on China" (January) to the globe-spanning claim that it’s a "hoax designed by Bill Gates to forcibly [implant microchips](https://www.bbc.com/news/52847648)" (May).

Tucked in for April is: "American and Israeli conspiracy." No anthology of conspiracy theories in Pakistan could be complete without superlatively imaginative [attributions to Israel](https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/in-pakistan-talk-about-zionist-hindu-conspiracy-spikes-1.5492051). In fact, had the meme been ranked by the degree of fixation of the conspiracists, and not a take on the evolution of the theories, Israel would’ve won first place in a walkover.

In meme terms, Israel would be best described by the [baton roué](https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/baton-roue), or bike fall, template in Pakistan: the country is riding along steadily, when the movement is arrested by an obstacle of its own making. The bike falls, and the rider blames Israel.

Almost every perceived, often self-inflicted, predicament in the country is cited as [a Jewish plot](https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-israelis-led-indian-airstrikes-in-pakistan-another-wild-hindu-zionist-conspiracy-1.7018676), not just by dedicated conspiracists, also by those [ruling the country](https://theconversation.com/imran-khan-jewish-agent-welcome-to-the-wonderful-world-of-pakistani-politics-13975).

As the perpetual imagined enemy of Pakistan, Israel is almost always hyphenated with its "partner in crime": the [Ahmadiyya](https://thediplomat.com/2018/09/a-new-pakistan-government-a-new-way-to-persecute-ahmadis/) Muslim community, a revivalist, messianic Muslim sect founded in the late 19th century Punjab, in then-British India, with a following of 10-20 million, of which four million adherents live, precariously, in Pakistan.

Excommunicated in the very text of [Pakistan’s constitution](https://www.thefridaytimes.com/addressing-constitutional-takfir/), forbidden by its Penal Code from "[posing as Muslims](https://www.thefridaytimes.com/pakistans-religious-apartheid/)," the Ahmadis, like Israel, are designated as "enemies of Islam" – and hence of Pakistan – with the two accused of working in tandem to provoke crises across the Muslim world.

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

On cue, conspiracy theories surrounding Pakistan’s two greatest imaginary enemies have been wildly reimagined during the pandemic, with allegations in the local Urdu press calling coronavirus everything from an "Israeli plot to [shut down mosques](https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/28-Apr-2020/1153095)" to a pretext to disguise and indeed propagate "[anti-Islam](http://https/dailyazadiquetta.com/2020/04/10/hafiz-ahmed/)" Ahmadiyya beliefs.

The clerics of Pakistan’s fifth largest political party, the Jamiat Ulema-e Islam, warned Pakistanis to be on their guard against the Ahmadiyya "conspiracy" to use the coronavirus crisis to undermine the true faith, and to consider them the "eternal enemies not only of Pakistan but also of Islam."

The words could have been lifted from a description of the Jewish conspiracies against Pakistan so beloved of many Pakistani politicians; indeed, the head of the Jamiat Ulema-e Islam, Fazlur ul-Rahman, has previously warned that "the Yahoodi (Jewish) lobby’s money is working [for Prime Minister] Imran [Khan]" and that Khan is "an agent of Americans, [Jews, Ahmadis](https://tribune.com.pk/story/544667/political-fatwa-voting-for-pti-is-haram-says-maulana-fazl/)."

The charge that "Qadianis" – the ubiquitous and derogatory term for Ahmadis – are a "[virus](https://www.roznama92news.com/%D9%86%DB%8C-%D8%B3-%DA%A9%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%86%D8%A7-%D8%B3-%D8%AE%D8%AA%D9%85-%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%86) worse than coronavirus" has been reiterated by multiple Urdu publications in recent months as part of the successful bid of Islamist groups to pressurize the government into [removing](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/08/pakistan-ahmadis-kept-minorities-commission) the Ahmadiyya community from a recently formed minority rights commission.

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" Whose agenda are they working on .... this is the agenda of Jews and Christians "

With COVID-19 offering a unique opportunity to pin a pandemic on the "Jewish-Qadiani" nexus, it was time to rehash the half-a-century old, regularly regurgitated "evidence" that "irrefutably" establishes the Ahmadi-Israel collaboration against Islam.

On April 28 and 29, two rabidly Islamist Urdu newspapers, [Daily Ausaf](https://dailyausaf.com/international/news-202004-60236.html) and [Daily Qudrat](https://www.dailyqudrat.pk/852664/), curated an article – which the former [posted again](https://dailyausaf.com/international/news-202005-60624.html) on May 3, under a different headline, in case someone missed it – first published in Nawa-e-Waqt on December 29, 1975, and [reproduced](https://weeklycorporateambassador.wordpress.com/2016/01/14/why-300-pakistani-women-serving-in-israels-army/) on [innumerable](https://twitter.com/WaqarAziz8824/status/1259535851417206786) occasions since The article claims that ‘Pakistani Qadianis are deployed in the Israeli Army."

The piece, which claims that 600 Pakistani Ahmadis serve in the IDF, quotes the 1972 book "[Israel: A Profile](https://www.amazon.com/Israel-Profile-T-Naamani/dp/B00132DH04)," written by political scientist Israel T. Naamani. The author’s name has been misspelt across publications throughout the 45 years since the Nawa-e-Waqt article cited the book; however, the number of "deployed Pakistani Ahmadis" has remained fixed at 600 for five decades, since the same passage from the book has been repeatedly – and incorrectly – quoted in Urdu publications.

Page 75 of the first edition of "Israel: A Profile" under the chapter ‘Religion in the Holy Land’ states that: "Two other small non-Arab Muslim groups, the Circassians, who came in the ninth century from Russia and now number about 2,000 souls, and the Ahmadi sect of some 600 people from Pakistan, can also serve in the army."

**Recent tweet reproducing the 'Qadiani [derogatory term for Ahmadis] serve in the Israeli army' conspiracy theory** Credit: Twitter

As is evident from the passage, and further elaborated by the preceding and following texts, Naamani merely underlines the freedom that persecuted sects from the Muslim world can enjoy in Israel, including the possibility of being conscripted into the army unlike Arab Muslims, who are exempted from the draft and can only volunteer.

With 1,700 Bedouin Muslim soldiers as of 2015, and a [growing number](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/arab-israelis-are-joining-idf-growing-numbers-officials-n724586) of Arab Muslims joining the IDF, Ahmadis would be one of many Islamic sects represented in the Israeli army. However, what none of them can be is a Pakistani.

[Pakistani passports](http://https/www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-is-pakistan-preparing-to-recognize-israel-1.7773360) are "valid for all countries of the World except Israel." The document unites Ahmadis and Israel in its bigotry by making it mandatory for anyone wishing to check the "Islam" box for their religion to formally [denounce](https://www.dawn.com/news/1261622) the sect as heresy, and to curse its founder, to obtain it.

**To obtain a Pakistani passport, if you check the "Islam" box then it is mandatory to formally denounce Ahmadi Muslims as heresy, and to curse its founder** Credit: Twitter

Ahmadis were legally sanctioned as "[heretics](https://thediplomat.com/2019/10/ahmadis-once-again-fear-the-fallout-from-pakistans-political-tussles/)" by the second amendment to the Pakistani constitution in 1974. Hence, the 1975 Nawa-e-Waqt article came at a time when the anti-Ahmadiyya sentiment was at its zenith. This might also explain why another Nawa-e-Waqt report, from May 1, 1976, isn’t quite as enthusiastically quoted.

In it, the then-Minister for Religious Affairs Kausar Niazi categorically said that "no Pakistani Ahmadi is in Israel," citing the restrictions imposed by Pakistani passports.

The Ahmadiyya presence in the area that has since become Israel predates the Jewish state’s creation – ironically, just like its existence in Pakistan predates the birth of the Muslim state. The Ahmadiyya community established its presence [in Haifa](https://www.haifatrail.com/haifa-trail-segment14-eng.htm#./images/sect-14/Haifa-Trail-Sect14-P1610817.jpg) in 1928, as part of its missionary work, when Palestine was under British Mandate rule.

Indeed, a month after the 1929 Palestinian riots, the community organized an event in Qadian – now in India, where the sect was founded – to formally [condemn British plans](https://balfourproject.org/the-1929-palestine-riots-a-conflicted-jewish-historiography/) to create a Jewish state in the territory.

After successfully founding a nation-state based on Muslim nationalism, Pakistan’s first foreign minister, Zafarullah Khan, passionately opposed the creation of its Jewish counterpart in the October 1947 United Nations General Assembly session, calling the move an ‘artificial’ result of "[immigration](https://www.amazon.com/Partition-Ireland-India-Palestine-Practice/dp/0312597525)" that damaged Palestinian rights.

Despite the Ahmadis’ wholehearted [participation](https://www.amazon.com/Creating-New-Medina-Venkat-Dhulipala/dp/1316615375) in what became an Islamist separatist movement for the creation of Pakistan, demands for the community’s excommunication were already echoing around the political and religious sphere in 1930s owing to the Ahmadiyya belief in the prophetic status of its founder Mirza Ghulam Ahmed, deemed by clerics of other sects an apostasy against the status of Muhammad as the final prophet of Islam.

But at that point there was still pushback from the highest political echelons,: the founding father of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, stated in 1944, "Who am I to declare a person non-Muslim who calls himself a Muslim?" and promised equal rights and sanctuary to Ahmadis who migrated from India.

But that period of official tolerance was short-lived. Following Pakistan’s creation, anti-Ahmadiyya riots grew into formal excommunication, and by 1984 it had been codified as a veritable [apartheid system](https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/islamophobia-blog) – the same system Pakistan vociferously accuses Israel of undertaking in Palestine. The Ahmadis are legally barred from self-identifying as Muslims in Pakistan, where anti-Ahmadiyya sentiment has been [weaponized](https://thediplomat.com/2018/05/how-pakistan-weaponized-love-for-prophet-muhammad/) over the decades.

In the meantime, efforts to conflate Ahmadis with Pakistan’s foes – actual and fabricated – have persisted. In addition to Israel, the Ahmadiyya community is also [falsely accused](https://thediplomat.com/2019/10/ahmadis-once-again-fear-the-fallout-from-pakistans-political-tussles/) of working in tandem with the India's radical Hindu organization, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Where "Zionist-Hindu conspiracies" were peddled by the Pakistani media during Narendra Modi’s visit to Israel in 2017, the Urdu press also had a [field day](https://ahrar.org.pk/ur/naqeeb-rasala/%D9%85%D9%88%D8%AF%DB%8C-%DB%8C%DB%81%D9%88%D8%AF%DB%8C-%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%AF%DB%8C%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C-%DA%AF%D9%B9%DA%BE-%D8%AC%D9%88%DA%91/) over the Indian premier’s [meeting](https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/narendra-modi-israel-visit-ahmadiyya-head-in-israel-thanks-pm-for-support-to-community/749179/) with the head of the Ahmadiyya community in Israel. Of course, column inches aren’t similarly filled with self-congratulatory bigotry over Modi’s bonding [with the Saudis](https://www.arabnews.com/node/1575756/saudi-arabia).

Meanwhile, a daily expose of "Jewish-Qadiani" conspiracies continue to be published without any consideration for ethics or facts. Sometimes the conflation goes as far as calling the [only Ahmadi majority city](http://https/tribune.com.pk/story/207776/ahmadis-under-attack-in-rabwah-every-house-has-a-story-to-tell/?amp=1) in Pakistan (a haven for the persecuted minority) a "[mini Israel](https://www.islamtimes.org/ur/news/859918/%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%AF%DB%8C%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C%D9%88%DA%BA-%D9%86%DB%92-%DA%86%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D9%86%DA%AF%D8%B1-%D9%85%DB%8C%DA%BA-%D9%85%D9%86%DB%8C-%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A6%DB%8C%D9%84-%D8%A8%D9%86%D8%A7%DB%8C%D8%A7-%DB%81%D9%88%D8%A7-%DB%81%DB%92-%D9%88%DB%81-%D9%85%DB%81%D9%86%DA%AF%DB%92-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%88%DA%BA-%D8%B2%D9%85%DB%8C%D9%86%DB%8C%DA%BA-%D8%AE%D8%B1%DB%8C%D8%AF-%D8%B1%DB%81%DB%92-%DB%81%DB%8C%DA%BA-%D8%B4%D9%81%DB%8C%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%DB%81-%D8%A8%D8%AF%D8%B1%DB%258)." The analogy suggests Ahmadis are behaving like Israeli settlers, "purchasing land" to crowd out the "real" Muslims.

Was at the opposition's protest in Islamabad earlier today, where the JUI-F messaging was very heavy on accusing Prime Minister Imran Khan being "friendly to Qadiani's [a pejorative term for Ahmadi's] and Jews".

Imran Khan has conscientiously addressed this persecution with full-scale appeasement. He allowed state television to air [fabricated stories](https://urdu.nayadaur.tv/21449/) on Ahmadiyya-RSS links, requested that an Ahmadi economist step down from a financial advisory body [owing to his faith](https://asiatimes.com/2018/09/pakistani-govt-backtracks-on-top-economist-after-islamist-backlash/) and most recently by [expelling](https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2020/05/05/govt-withdraws-decision-include-ahmadis-minorities-commission/) the community from a human rights commission that merely accepts the fact that they a minority living in Pakistan.

Khan, [long accused](https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/sex-drugs-and-a-zionist-conspiracy-in-a-political-scandal-in-pakistan-1.6266090) of being a "[Jewish agent](https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/.premium-pakistan-khan-george-soros-islamists-1.7950468)," seems to think his best strategy is to performatively display a hardline Muslim "authenticity." He  has now surrounded himself with ministers who vow the "[destruction](https://92newshd.tv/wont-accept-israel-its-pakistans-no-1-enemy-ali-muhammad-khan/#.XtZ6zDozZPY)" of ‘those accepting Israel’ and openly call for the [decapitation of heretics](https://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistan-minister-calls-for-beheading-of-blasphemers/87880) (which would include the Ahmadiyya.)

The cricketer-turned politician loves to boast about Pakistan’s protection of minorities, particularly when he speaks to [foreign audiences](https://youtu.be/LBLpyyxQQv8), and especially to contrast it with what he describes as India’s turn towards Nazi-style state-sponsored bigotry.

But as Pakistan experiences a [drastic surge](https://www.dw.com/en/pakistan-risking-disaster-with-its-contentious-coronavirus-strategy/a-53668805) in coronavirus cases and what medical workers have termed Khan’s complete "lack of strategy" for dealing with the pandemic, the prime minister (and his pet media outlets) knows that a hate campaign against Pakistan’s perpetual [domestic scapegoat](https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2019/nov/11/is-this-your-govts-view-paks-minority-ahmadiyya-asks-imran-khan-after-ministers-hate-campaign-2060263.html), the Ahmadis, with the added bonus of their automatic connections to puppetmaster Jews - is a politically priceless explanatory narrative for how Pakistan finds itself in crisis.

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