

## **Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan**

### **News Report    March 2015**

#### **Ahmadi murdered for faith**

***Malir, Karachi; March 21, 2015:***

An Ahmadi youth, Mr Nauman Najam was shot dead in Karachi at about 8 p.m. in his shop by unidentified killers. Earlier in 1974 anti-Ahmadi riots in Gujranwala, three of his elders, the grandfather and two uncles were killed on one day by the mob. The Ahmadiyya head office issued the following press release:

**A 30-year old Ahmadi, Nauman Najam, shot dead because of his faith**

**Faith based hate crimes against Ahmadis will not deter them from practicing their faith: Saleemuddin**

Rabwah (PR): A 30 year old Ahmadi Nauman Najam was shot dead by unknown assailants in Malir area of Karachi on the evening of 21 March 2015. Unknown gunmen entered the computer hardware store owned by Nauman Najam and opened fire at him. Najam received five gun shots and died on his way to hospital.

He was a decent and law-abiding citizen who was liked by everyone who knew him. His life stands in stark contrast to the cowardice of sectarian hate-mongers. His killers clearly came with one motive and that was to kill him because of his faith, as he had no animosity with anyone or had any political association.

The spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at in Pakistan Saleemuddin said, "This death because of a callous attack on an innocent man is saddening but not surprising as with discriminatory laws present in Pakistan every Ahmadi's life is in danger. It has been highlighted many times that the situation for Ahmadis in Pakistan is worsening with every passing day, and during last year 11 Ahmadis were killed because of their faith. Hate mongering and hate crimes against Ahmadis show no signs of abating. On the other hand the government has made tall claims to curb hate speech but on the ground hate material is openly published and distributed with impunity."

Mr Saleemuddin also said, "We will not be cowed by extremists and they will only strengthen the resolve of Ahmadis to practice their faith. Unfortunately, the authorities have never taken any measures to prevent the spread of hate. It is important to note that since the promulgation of Ahmadi-specific laws in Pakistan, 250 Ahmadis have been killed for their faith."

It is high time for the government to take action against the perpetrators of such hate crimes if it is serious to rid this country of this menace. All words are hollow if not backed up by strong action.

#### **Detention and torture by police of an innocent Ahmadi**

***Bhari Shah Rehman, Gujranwala; February/March 2015:***

Mr Luqman Shahzad, Ahmadi was murdered here for his faith on December 27, 2014. The likely killer, Gulfam was arrested by the police two months later on February 27, 2015. In his confessional statement he added that although he himself killed Mr Sahzad, he did so on advice of the victim's mother (a non-Ahmadi) and was provided the weapon by Mr Mukhtar Ahmad (an Ahmadi). This was a false input.

The SHO demanded that Mr Mukhtar Ahmad present himself to the police. As the police often inflict torture to extract information, Mr Ahmad being innocent had nothing to convey, so he avoided to voluntarily present himself. At this the SHO high-handedly detained three Ahmadis, Mr Muhammad Yusuf, Mr Mubarak Ahmad and Mr Abid Nawaz, took them

to the police station, handled them badly and conveyed that they would be released only if Mr Mukhtar Ahmad was produced before the police.

The SHO was contacted through a third party to whom the SHO conveyed that if Mr Ahmad was innocent, he would not be harmed, or detained. At this, Mr Ahmad reported to the police on March 9, 2015.

The SHO held Mr Ahmad in the police station for a day and then transported him to an unknown location. There was no news of him for the next five days and the police refused to divulge his whereabouts. This got his near and dear ones very worried about his safety and well-being.

Accordingly, Ahmadi elders called on the CPO, a very senior police officer, and informed him of the situation and innocence of Mr Ahmad. The CPO obtained a report on the results of the investigation and informed the delegation that Mr Ahmad could be contacted anytime.

The next day Mr Ahmad was released by the SHO. He told his relatives that he had been severely tortured by the police and had physical injuries as a result. He got himself medically examined and was admitted in a hospital. It is relevant to mention that in a similar incident in March 2012 a prominent Ahmadi teacher died of police torture in Rabwah.

On the day of Mr Ahmad's release, the police arrested the killer's brother and another accomplice for abetting the murder.

### **Arrest of an Ahmadi pressman**

**Lahore:** Mr Tahir Mehdi Imtiaz, printer of the Ahmadiyya monthly Ansarullah, was arrested by the police on March 30, 2015 in a Lahore court where he had appeared to seek confirmation of bail in another case.

Mr Imtiaz was wrongfully implicated in a fabricated case registered with Millat Town police station on April 16, 2014 under the blasphemy clause PPC 295-A and anti-Ahmadiyya 298-C.

The case was registered by the police on behest of mullas who had roughed up two Ahmadi brothers at their burger shop in Lahore, and had then reported to the police that they had preached Ahmadiyyat to them and had given them Ahmadiyya literature. As proof, they presented an old copy of the monthly Ansarullah which they had acquired from other sources, whereby the police named the editor, the publisher, the composer and the printer of the monthly in the FIR.

In fact these pressmen were not involved in the event in any way. If declared guilty, Mr Imtiaz could be imprisoned for 10 years.

The press and the media enjoy great freedom in Pakistan, but Ahmadiyya press – that is a different story.

### **Unjust detention**

**Quetta; March 15, 2015:** The police detained Mr Mahmud Ahmad at about 8:45 p.m. from a house near an Ahmadiyya mosque in Quetta. This mosque was sealed by the police almost 30 years ago in 1986. It has remained sealed ever since and Ahmadis have faced great difficulties in congregating for worship.

The police took Mr Ahmad to the police station. Ahmadis approached the police in the follow-up and got him released after submitting an 'undertaking'.

The detention was baseless and unlawful.

### **Ahmadiyya community land misappropriated**

**Qayampur Virkan, District Gujranwala; March 14, 2015:** Before 1974, father of Hafiz Jari Ahmad, an Ahmadi, allotted four acres of land for a mosque here. The mosque was

shared by Ahmadis and the Ahle-Sunnat. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the constitution in 1974, Ahmadis were told to build their own separate mosque. The four acre land was divided evenly by mutual consent.

Now a miscreant, Waqas Ahmad has started harassing members of the Ahmadiyya community. He invites mullas from elsewhere and holds open-air meetings against the Ahmadiyya community. He distributes hate literature and anti-Ahmadiyya pamphlets in the village. On the morning of March 14, 2015 Ahmad illegally occupied the 2 acre of the community's share of land.

The dispute is pending with the local Panchait.

### **Attempt to defy court's order**

***Gulshan Ravi, Lahore; March 2015:***

In our previous reports we have reported about the Ahmadiyya prayer centre here which was sealed by the police, and the case is sub-judice. A lawyer, Shehzad had obtained stay order from the court on this case. A few days ago Shehzad wrote a rental agreement for a person named Usman and tried to settle him in the centre, on rent. Shehzad broke into the centre and placed Usman's luggage therein. Ahmadis informed the police and the SHO called upon both the parties to the police station. The SHO warned both parties that they will not enter the premises of the property and no one will take any luggage inside or outside the house. He warned that whosoever tries to trespass will be prosecuted. SHO allowed Ahmadis to appoint a watchman at the property.

Continued denial of this prayer centre to Ahmadis is noteworthy. Where should Ahmadis go to worship?

### **Anti-Ahmadiyya conferences in Lahore**

Opponents of the Ahmadiyya Community held Khatme Nabuwwat conferences in Lahore during February/March 2015. These are reported below very briefly:

1. ***Gulistan Colony, Mustafaabad:*** On February 28, 2015, Aalmi Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat held a conference here in a mosque. Approximately 150 people participated in it. Numerous mullas addressed the audience. One, Qari Muneeb said in his speech, "We should keep a check on the heightened activities of Ahmadis. Although we participate in such conferences but we forget our mission thereafter."
2. ***Samanabad; February/March 2015:*** Anti-Ahmadiyya elements organized a three day Khatme Nabuwwat course here. At the closing ceremony certificates were awarded and anti-Ahmadiyya literature was distributed. Speakers included Maulvis Allah Wasaya, Naeem-ud-din and Aziz-u-Rehman Sani. They spoke on Importance of Faith in Khatme Nabuwwat; Life of Isa (a.s.); Legal and Constitutional status of Ahmadis and the Advent of Imam Mehdi. It was said in the course that working for the Khatme Nabuwwat was the easiest way to attain paradise. "First consensus of the Ummah was on the issue of Khatme Nabuwwat. Ahmadiyyat is not the name of a religion or credo but it is the name of malice and rancor against the Prophet (PBUH)" they said – (*God forbid*).
3. ***Muslim Town; March 1, 2015:*** A Khatme Nabuwwat conference was held here under the auspices of Majlis Ahrar Islam. Many mullas including Ilyas Chinioti and Khawaja Khalil participated. Approximately 100 attended the event. Those who died during Khatme Nabuwwat agitations were praised, and speeches promoted extremism. The speakers announced their commitment to protect Islamic articles of the constitution.
4. ***Faiz Bagh; March 2, 2015:*** A Namus-e-Risalat and Khatme Nabuwwat conference was held here under Deobandi management. Approximately 150 people

participated in it including Mian Maqsood of Jamaat Islami and Pir Saifullah Khalid. A local SP (CIA) and Advocate Malik Asif Javaid also participated in the conference. The venue was in close vicinity of the local Ahmadiyya mosque.

5. ***Mansoor; March 3/4, 2015:*** A meeting of Tahaffuz Namus-e-Risalat Committee was held here at the Jamaat Islami centre. Liaqat Baloch of Jamaat Islami presided over the meeting. It was also attended by the Federal Minister of Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq and Mahmood-ur-Rasheed of Pakistan Tahreek Insaf. An announcement was made to hold a Tahaffuz Namus-e-Risalat march on 5 April 2015 in Islamabad. The march will have a flag with the statement, “I am a Muslim and Muhammadi (PBUH)” ; legislation will be demanded for Namus-e-Risalat.

Also a major Khatme Nabuwwat conference was held in Evan-e-Iqbal on 26 February. A report on this event in a government controlled facility was made in the last monthly report.

In all these Khatme Nabuwwat conferences the speakers incited the participants against the Ahmadiyya community and used foul language. The fact that the government declares itself committed to fight sectarianism raises questions about making glaring exceptions in the anti-Ahmadi domain.

### **Police made to search Ahmadiyya prayer center**

***Wahdat Colony, Lahore; March 7, 2015:*** The police arrived at the local prayer center on March 7, 2015 and knocked at the door, at which the local missionary came out. The police told him that they had received a call that suspicious activities were underway in this prayer center and it should be searched. They wanted some information from him. Meanwhile a person came there on a motorbike and pressurized the police by saying; “Do it right now” (search the center). The police officer calmed him and took him away. Some women also met the policemen in the street. A few other men moved about suspiciously in the vicinity. Thereafter the police departed. It was learnt later that some neighbors were involved in the conspiracy and two men of the neighborhood had asked the police to raid the place.

Ahmadis later contacted the administration and conveyed them their concern.

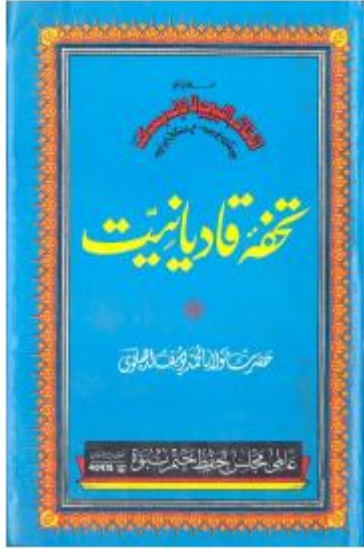
### **Distribution of hate literature**

***China Scheme, Lahore; March 2015:*** Activists of Khatme Nabuwwat are distributing anti-Ahmadiyya hate literature here these days. A few women activists visit homes in this neighborhood and invite females to join madrassas. Some of them also visited house of an Ahmadi and gave them a book to read about Khatme Nabuwwat. This book “Tohfa Qadianiat” is written by maulvi Muhammad Yousaf Ludhianvi (of Aalimi Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat). They gave the family a time frame to read and return the book.

This book has 720 pages. One paragraph reads:

میرا اور آپ کا فرض!!.....

... اب مسلمانوں کی غیرت کا تقاضا کیا ہونا چاہئے؟ ہماری غیرت کا اصل تقاضا تو یہ ہے کہ دنیا میں ایک قادیانی بھی زندہ نہ رہے۔ پکڑ پکڑ کر خبیثوں کو مار دیں۔ یہ میں جذباتی بات نہیں کر رہا بلکہ حقیقت یہی ہے۔ اسلام کا فتویٰ یہی ہے۔ مرتد اور زندیق کے بارے میں اسلام کا قانون یہی ہے۔ ...



(Translation) My and your duty  
...  
What does the sense of honour and shame (Ghairat) demand from Muslims? In fact, it demands that not a single Qadiani should be left alive on earth. Seize each one of these malignant individuals and kill them. I am not being emotional when I say this. This is the verity; this is the edict of Islam. This is the law of Islam concerning *Murtads* (apostates) and *Zindiques* (heretics). ...

Ahmadis have been advised by the community to exercise caution.

### A vicious mulla

**Shaukatabad, District Nankana; March 9, 2015:**

A local mulla has taken to persistently seeking scuffle with members of the Ahmadiyya community. At times he hit Ahmadi youth while passing on motor bike, on other occasions he spits at Ahmadis and uses foul language while passing by. On March 09, 2015 an Ahmadi youth Muhammad Irfan was sitting in a shop in the bazaar. The mulla came there and asked the shopkeeper, "Why have you allowed this Mirzai dog sit in your shop," and used bad words. Mr Irfan said, "I haven't said anything to you why are you misbehaving with me?" At this the mulla caught Mr Irfan by his mane and was about to hit him with a hammer when some people held him back. The mulla shouted, "If I were to kill you here, nothing would happen to me. You are blasphemer to the Prophet." Mr Irfan got up and left to avoid more trouble.

### An ad reveals a lot

**Lahore:** A huge ad (27cm x 16.5cm) in the daily Islam, that was repeated over many days, informed the public at large that a Khatme Nabuwat (End of Prophethood) conference would be held in Madrassa Abi Bin Ka'ab, Race Course Town, Lahore on Sunday March 22, 2015 after the evening congregation. The names of the advertiser, the sponsors, the patron, the presiding mulla and the numerous speakers were all given.

As the authorities have repeatedly stated their resolve after the Peshawar School massacre to uproot religious and sectarian terrorism and its sponsors and promoters, it is relevant to take note of this ad and the proceedings of this conference in the provincial capital of the largest province. Apparently there is an exception to the above mentioned resolve – the sectarian activism against Ahmadis. No wonder, an Ahmadi was target killed in Karachi for his faith this month.

The daily Islam which is an extreme rightwing Jihadist daily printed the following report in its issue of March 26 in press report on this conference, *inter alia*:

- The speakers at the conference expressed their resolve to offer the greatest sacrifices in defence of the ideological and geographical borders of the dear country. Also they will definitely continue to expose the manipulations of Qadianis who deny the end of prophethood and the (high status of) Respected Companions.
- Maulana Zahid ur Rashdi said that Qadianis are spreading violence in the country.
- Abdul Latif Khalid Cheema said that Qadianis are again being posted on important billets. Madrasahs, mosques and religious parties are playing their role fully to save the country. Aamir Rehman, a practicing Qadiani has been appointed deputy attorney general; this is most despicable favouritism to Qadianis.
- Maulana Muhammad Rafiq Jami, Orator of Islam, asserted that religious parties willfully support all steps taken to uproot the Qadiani mischief. He said that to associate terrorism with religion (as recently done by the state) is itself gross terrorism.
- Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad said that while they (the ulama) have continued to unite the Ummah, the worldwide imperialist forces are active in making the Muslims indulge in mutual fight.

Well, if the above is not promotion of religious and sectarian violence, what else is? It should be mentioned that the above statements are those that are printable; a great deal more venom was spit that was not included in the press report. Let's now briefly examine the individuals involved in holding this conference – *as mentioned in the ad*:

- *The conference was held under the patronage of Pirji Ataul Muhaiman Bokhari and under the chairmanship of Qari Muhammad Yusuf, both of Majlis Ahrar Islam.* This party came to disgrace in precipitating anti-Ahmadi riots in 1953 in the Punjab, which resulted in the first ever martial law in the country. A high-powered judicial commission in its Report (Munir-Kayani Report) condemned the Ahrar as 'they debased a religious issue by pressing it into service for a temporal purpose and exploited religious susceptibilities and sentiments of the people for their personal ends'. (p.259)
- *Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Khatib Royal Mosque Lahore addressed this conference.* This mulla is on government's pay roll.
- *Maulana Zahid-ur-Rashdi, general secretary of Pakistan Shariat Council addressed the conference.* This mulla travelled last year to South Africa and India in company of Saudi clerics and highlighted the need, in an article, steps in the Gulf region 'to confront the Shia aggression'.
- *Maulana Muhammad Ashraf Gujjar, general secretary JUI addressed the conference.* JUI is KPK centric religio-political party that did not vote for the recent anti-terrorism Amendment No. XXI to the Constitution.
- *Allama Mumtaz Awan, convener Tehrik Namus Risalat also addressed the conference.* He is also the Nazim Ala of Pasban Khatme Nabuwwat. As apparent from his two titles, his full time job is based on Blasphemy and End of Prophethood.
- *Last but not least, two of the speakers were Maulana Naeemuddin Shakir of Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat and Maulana Muhammad Rafiq of International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement.* Both these organizations are steered by Maulana Abdul Hafeez Makki (of Makka, Saudi Arabia) and Dr. Ahmad Ali Siraj (of Kuwait). These two clerics are regular visitors to Pakistan and participate and preside over such Khatme Nabuwwat conferences in the country, including those at Rabwah. That points to the sources of funds for such religious and sectarian activities.

The venue of the conference was the complex where Madrassa Abi Bin Ka'ab and the Main Mosque Khatme Nabuwwat is located. The big conference, the huge madrassah and the main mosque are obviously funded from the same source.

Faisal Bari, an op-ed writer wrote in the daily Dawn of January 2, 2015, mincing no words:

‘It is time to fight and take back at least some space that we have, over the last 30 odd years, ceded to self-proclaimed religious authorities, or interpretations of religion to oppress others. If this means taking some risk, so be it. After the Peshawar tragedy, we do not have many options left. Either we stand up and be counted or we remain on our knees – and still die. For most people, I hope the former is the path they choose’.

Would the government of Punjab take some risk, actually stand up and be counted? As for words, Mr Shahbaz Sharif, the chief minister said only a few weeks ago: “Action should be taken against provocative literature without exception,” *The daily Jang, Lahore December 28, 2014*. Surely provocative speeches are as harmful as the literature.

### **Update on incarceration of an innocent youth**

**Gujranwala:** It would be recalled that last year an anti-Ahmadi riot took place here on July 27, 2014 over a false report that Mr. Aqib Saleem, an Ahmadi had committed blasphemy by disfiguring a picture of the Sacred Mosque in Makka, on the Facebook. As a result of loot and arson, in addition to the extensive loss of property, three Ahmadi females died due to asphyxiation. No arrests were made by the police except Mr Saleem, the Ahmadi who was innocent of the crime attributed to him.

Mr Saleem has remained behind bars ever since, although subsequent investigations have shown that he committed no blasphemy.

Mr. Saleem had applied for release on bail. On completion of arguments by both sides on February 15, the judge conveyed that he will announce his verdict on February 19. Thereafter, the prosecution insisted to present still more witnesses. These witnesses were presented on March 5, and the judge gave the date of March 11. The prosecution failed to turn up on that date.

Thereafter, March 25 was given as the date. Nothing happened on that date either, and the judge gave the fresh date of March 31.

Mr. Saleem remains in prison for the seventh month, while those who were directly responsible for the death of three innocent women remain free.

### **Ahmadis behind bars**

1. The police registered a fabricated case under Anti-terrorism clause ATA 8/11 and PPC 295-A a blasphemy clause, against Mr. Aqib Saleem with FIR no. 553/14 in Police Station Peoples Colony, Gujranwala on July 28, 2014. Bail denied, he is still in prison.
2. A baseless case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad, 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 murdered by a madrassa 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.
3. A fabricated case was registered against Mr Tahir Mehdi 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 298-C.

### **From the media**

**Karachi: 30 years old Ahmadi murdered for his faith**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 23, 2015*

***Citizens in Chenab Nagar having rough time to register new births: Appeal to take notice***  
*The daily Jinnah; Lahore, March 17, 2015*

***Madrasahs are castles of Islam with no links to terrorism: (Mulla) Shabbir Usmani***  
*The daily Express; Faisalabad, March 14, 2015*

***As per the Constitution of Pakistan, Qadianis are the traitors to Islam and rebels of the country: Maulana Shabbir Usmani (IKNM)***

*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, March 11, 2015*

***We'll not allow American agenda's success against madrasahs: Maulana Shabbir Usmani (IKNM)***

*The daily Pakistan; Lahore, March 22, 2015*

***Qadianis are snakes up the sleeve and deadly poison against the Muslim Ummah: Qari Abdul Waheed Qasmi (of AMKN, Islamabad)***

*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, March 14, 2015*

***Madrasahs will remain open till the doomsday. How come the authorities fail to notice Qadianis' educational institutes where they are trained in using fire arms and modern weapons are provided?***

*The daily Jinnah; Lahore, March 14, 2015*

***Qadiani scheme to distribute revised versions of Quran fails in Malaysia***

*The daily Insaaf; Lahore, March 31, 2015*

***We shall continue to chase Qadianis to safeguard the End of Prophethood in the light of the Constitution: Syed Ataul Mohaiman Bokhari (Ahrar)***

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 16, 2015*

***Blasphemous sketches are Jewish and Qadiani conspiracy. Muslim states should protest: World Pasban Khatme Nabuwwat***

*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, March 30, 2015*

***17 die in bomb attacks on Youhannabad (Lahore) churches. Christians protest all over the country. Riots in Lahore. Rangers called. Citizen Naeem burnt alive. Two die in car crash. One policeman dies in mob custody***

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 17, 2015*

***7 Muslims also among killed in Youhannabad tragedy***

*The daily Jang; Lahore, March 17, 2015*

***We'll not sit idle till Naeem's accused (in Youhannabad) are hanged: (Mulla) Tahir Ashrafi***

*The daily Express; Faisalabad, March 19, 2015*

***Two die in blast outside Bohra mosque***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 21, 2015*

***Terror war killed 80,000 during 2005-13: Report***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 31, 2015*

***We were paid Rs 1500-2000 per murder: disclosure by a target killer in Karachi***

*The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, March 23, 2015*

***Qadri (Governor Taseer's assassin) acquitted of terror charge; murder conviction upheld (by IHC)***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 10, 2015*

***Religious parties (JUP, Jamaat Ahle Sunnat, Sunni Tehrik, Sunni Alliance) offer blood money to Taseer's family***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 11, 2015*

***Lal Masjid cleric submitted surety after 12 years***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 26, 2015*

***Maulana Zahid ur Rashdi awarded Tamgha-i-Imtiaz for excellent services in the field of education***

*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, March 25, 2015*



**It is of great satisfaction that Allama Shabbir Usmani has been elected general secretary of the Pakistan Ulama Council: Qari Ahmad Nadim**

*The daily Abtak; Lahore, March 17, 2015*

**We'll not allow terrorists to find protection in faith, sect or politics: Nawaz Sharif**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 25, 2015*

**Complete elimination of terrorists is the only way forward: General Raheel**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, March 8, 2015*

**Jamat-i-Islami doesn't 'believe in politics of religion': (Sirajul Haq, Amir Jamaat)**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 26, 2015*

**The word 'minority' for non-Muslims (in Pakistan) is not correct: Mufti Munib**

*The daily Din; Lahore, March 17, 2015*

**Death sentence for blasphemer (in Lahore)**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 21, 2015*

**Qadianis being declared Non-Muslims in Gambia is a great achievement: (Mulla) Allah Wasaya**

*The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, March 15, 2015*

**Gambia: (President) Jammeh holds talks with Dr Zakir Naik**

*Allafrica.com/stories/2014 10141271.html*

**German court overturns ban on headscarves for women teachers**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 14, 2015*

**Approved: By a vote of members of the largest US Presbyterian denomination, the inclusion of same sex unions in the church's definition of marriage**

*The weekly Time; March 30, 2015*

**Saudi Arabia: Divorce rate within first year of marriage 60 percent**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 26, 2015*

**Zakir Naik wins Saudi prize for service to Islam**

*Riyadh: An Indian television preacher who has called the 9/11 attacks an 'inside job' received one Saudi Arabia's most prestigious prizes on Sunday, for service to Islam*

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 5, 2015*

**All churches in the region should be demolished: Grand Mufti (Saudi)**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 22, 2015*

**Yemen: Death toll now 142 in suicide attacks on mosques**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 31, 2015*

**JuD praises govt and army for supporting Saudi Arabia**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, April 1, 2015*

**Pakistan should ensure Saudi Arabia's security. Maulana Tahir Ashrafi**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 28, 2015*

**Jamaat ud Dawa holds rallies, demonstrations in support of Saudi Arabia**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 28, 2015*

**Pakistan should play its part to end proxy wars and sectarian conflicts: Fazl ur Rehman (JUI)**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 28, 2015*

**Security of holy cities is the responsibility of the entire Ummah; Pakistan should first cool down the fire at home: Siraj ul Haq**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 28, 2015*

**Agreement on removing the qualifying term of sect (and religion) in 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment: Fazlur Rehman (JUI)**

*The daily Express; Faisalabad, March 24, 2015*

**Sindh Govt to include Jinnah's August 11 speech in curriculum**

*The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, March 24, 2015*

### ***Karachi in daze after Rangers' raid on MQM redoubt***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 12, 2015*

### **Forced closure of shops: four cases against SIC men (Sunni Ittehad Council – Hamid Raza)**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, March 26, 2015*

#### **Op-ed: The worm turns**

Another murderous attack on Christian worshippers. More expressions of shock and honor. And yet more crocodile tears.

...Over the year Pakistan's minorities have come to expect no justice from the state. Time and again imambargahs, churches and temples have been attacked; Hindu and Christian villages have been sacked by baying mobs incited by local clerics; Ahmadis have been gunned down; and Shias have been targeted across the country. Few, if any, of the perpetrators have been apprehended or tried.

...We cite holy texts to define on relationship with non-Muslim. But surely our dealings with those who follow different religions ought to be dictated by common decency, not by articles of faith. Under our constitution, we are all equal citizens. Except, of course, Muslims are more equal than others. And minorities are the least equal of all.

*Irfan Hussain in the daily Dawn; March 21, 2015*

#### **Op-ed: Extremism versus tolerance**

The objective resolution of 1949, for the first time, clearly highlighted the Islamic character of the Pakistani State. This resolution was passed against the opposition of the minority members in the legislative assembly at that time. Religious parties like Jamaat-e-Islami who initially opposed the creation of Pakistan, became very close to the army, and played an important role in dictating the Islamic agenda. The Jamaat spearheaded the anti-Ahmadi riots of 1950s, and the creation of Al-Shams and AL Badr in East Pakistan in 1971. The Jamaat-e-Islami was an important partner of Zia regime in its initial years.

These retrogressive religious forces forced even a secular and pro-socialist leader like Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, to do their bidding. The declaration of Ahmadis as non-Muslims was the most important of these decisions. Pakistan thus became the first and perhaps the only country in the world to declare Ahmadis non-Muslims.

The self-serving and opportunistic Islamic policies of general Zia gave a further fill up to overt religiosity leading to religious extremism. On the external front Zia involved Pakistan neck deep in the Afghan Jihad against the Soviet invasion.

*Akbar Jan Marwat in the daily The News of March 15, 2015*

#### **Extract: The Emblem of Terror**

Sirmed is equally cynical, "Countering extremism is not possible when favouritism is being shown so openly," she said. "The extremism conducted by the TTP we call extremism, but extremism by the Lej, ASWJ, Sipah-e-Sahaba, is acceptable. Extremist attacks against the state are not acceptable, but those against Aasia Bibi and the couple that was burnt alive is not a problem. Any group that raises concerns against and criticizes the wrong policies of establishment is not acceptable but xenophobia is. This is not how counter-extremism strategies are made or implemented."

*From an article by Kunwar Khaldune Shahid in the monthly Newslite, March 2015*

#### **Op-ed: Answer to the fear and worry of the minorities?**

Approximately one year before the attack on Army Public School, one hundred Christians were killed in a bomb blast on another church. Do you remember the reaction of ruling parties in the capital and the provinces? They proposed a committee to further consider a peace arrangement whereby if jihadists put down their arms, they will in turn avail full protection and the demanded money (ransom). Is that not extraordinary? Compare this with the reaction after the attack on school. You said: Kill them all; enough is enough. Why did

you not react that way when the first non-Muslim child was killed? Tell me, if you were a Hindu, Christian or Sikh, how would you have felt? Perhaps a useless limb, a pawn in the big game or a sacrificial goat!

*Syed Kamran Hashmi in the daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 20, 2015*

**Op-ed: Declining regard for Saudi Arabia in Pakistan**

... Saudi government also desires to change the religion of the masses. These two trends (sic) have decreased the popularity of the Saudi royal family in Pakistan where it is already considered as a discreet ally of the U.S. and Israel. Majority of Pakistani Muslims practice moderate Islam. There was never a riot over the slaughter of a cow or on Hindu festivals in this part of united India which is now called Pakistan. This was the result of the teaching of those Sufis who converted the locals to Islam. Saudi Arabia has introduced an extremist, sectarian and sensitive Salafi version of Islam and constructed hundreds of new mosques and madrassas for this purpose where Imams of mosques and administrators of madrassas receive big salaries and aggressively propagate this imported sect. Hatred against the Shia community has been promoted from these mosques and madrassas with help of donations from the Gulf, which has produced armed groups for the first time in the history of this country, that attacked Shia mosques and Imam Bargahs. Thereafter some of these produced sectarian killers like Lashkare Jhangvi, Sipah Sahaba and Jundullah. ...

*Aziz uz Din Ahmad in the daily Mashriq; Lahore, March 31, 2015*