

CONSPIRACY TO ABOLISH ANTI-AHMADIYYA LAWS

In a meeting held in Lahore, capital of the Punjab province, leaders of 13 political and religious parties have declared attacks on Ahmadiyya places of worship as a conspiracy through which, according to them, anti-Ahmadiyya laws are being tried to repeal.

After the meeting, held in Muslim Town area of Lahore, leaders of religious parties addressed a joint press conference, saying that the discussion in Pakistan about anti-Ahmadiyya laws has been initiated under a conspiracy.

Reading the joint communiqué, the founder member and secretary general of Pakistan Shariah Counsel, Maulana Zahid-ur-Rashdi, said that doubts and misgivings about the finality of prophet-hood are being spread under the guise of these attacks.

In this meeting, held under the auspices of United Movement of Finality of Prophet-hood Coordination Committee, leaders of 13 political and religious parties, including Jama`at-e-Islami; JUI Fazlur Rahman group; Defunct organization Jama`at Ad-D`awa; and Markazi Jama`at Ahl-e-Sunnat, participated.

Central leader of Jama`at-e-Islami, Farīd Piracah, said that after the cartoons on Facebook and other efforts about blasphemy laws, attacks on Ahmadis, according to him, is another well-thought move of the enemies of Islam.

Farīd Piracha linked these attacks with military operation and said that these attacks are made at such time when talks are going on about military operation in North and South Waziristan.

Our correspondent from Lahore, Ali Salman, says that almost all the participants of this meeting, including Maulana Ilyas Chanioti, a member of Punjab Assembly who belongs to Muslim League (N), condemned a statement of Nawaz Sharif in which he sympathized with Ahmadis and declared them his brothers. Maulana Ilyas Chanioti won the election as independent but later joined Muslim League (N).

Later, talking with BBC, he said that political affiliations aside he does not care anyone about this matter. That is why he is boldly issuing this statement.

It was demanded in this meeting that Nawaz Sharif should immediately withdraw this statement.

Central leader of defunct organization, Jama`at Ad-D`awa, Amir Hamza, said that Nawaz Sharif has issued this statement only to appease U.S. and he wish to also get vote from Ahmadis. He said that Ahmadis cannot be the brothers of Muslims.

Secretary General of Majlis Ahrar-e-Islam, Maulana Abdul Latīf Piracha, said that in view of Muslims, Ahmadis are worst than other non-Muslims, because they have continued their un-Islamic acts under the title of Islam.

He said that though Ahmadis are their countrymen but they do not accept the constitution and law of Pakistan. He said that if they wish to stay in Pakistan then they have to live within the constitutional parameters.

It should be noted that Ahmadis were considered a Muslim sect before 1974, but then, during the reign of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the parliament declared them not-Muslim. During the reign of President General Zia-ul-Haq, in 1984, anti-Ahmadiyya ordinance was issued.

Now, under sections 298 (C) and 298 (B) of Pakistan Penal Code, if any member of Ahmadiyya Jama`at portrays himself as Muslim, use any Islamic terminology for his places of worship, says 'Assalam-o-Alaikum' (Peace be on you) or recites 'Bismillah' (with the name of Allah), calls his place of worship as mosque or says azan (call for prayer), then he has to face 3 years imprisonment.

Members of Ahmadiyya Jama`at declare this law based on injustice. Some organizations of human rights have been demanding these laws to be repealed.

The leaders of United Movement of Finality of Prophet-hood Coordination Committee have said that no attempt shall be tolerated to amend the laws against Ahmadis and if Government does so, then a protest movement against Ahmadis stronger than 1974 shall be initiated.

The above is the translation of the news covered by BBC on Wednesday June 9, 2010 at:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/urdu/pakistan/2010/06/100608_ahmadi_religious_parties_reaction.shtml

'Attack on Ahmedis conspiracy to repeal laws against them'

LAHORE: A gathering of the leaders of 13 religious and political parties in Lahore claimed that the attack on Ahmedis on May 28 was part of a conspiracy to repeal the laws against them, BBCUrdu reported.

The meeting was held in an office of the Majlis Ahrar Islam in Lahore's Muslim Town. The parties concluded that a conspiracy was in place to debate the laws against Ahmedis, the report said.

Maulana Zahidul Rashdi, who is a founding member of the Muttahida Tehrik-i-Khatm-i-Nabuwat and also the Secretary-General of the Pakistan Shariat Council, read the joint statement at the meeting's conclusion: The attack on Ahmedis is being used as an excuse to generate suspicions regarding the concept of khatm-i-nabuwat.

The gathering was attended by leaders of the Jamaat-i-Islami, Jamiat-i-ulema-i-Islam Fazlur Rahman group, Jamaatud Dawa and Markazi Jamaat-i-Ahl-i-Sunnat among others.

During the meeting, Maulana Ilyas Chinioti, a member of the PML-N and the Punjab provincial assembly, condemned Nawaz Sharif's statement in which he had sympathised with the Ahmedis and called them his brothers.

The meeting's participants demanded that Nawaz Sharif immediately withdraw his statement.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/04-ahmedis-laws-religious-groups-qs-08>