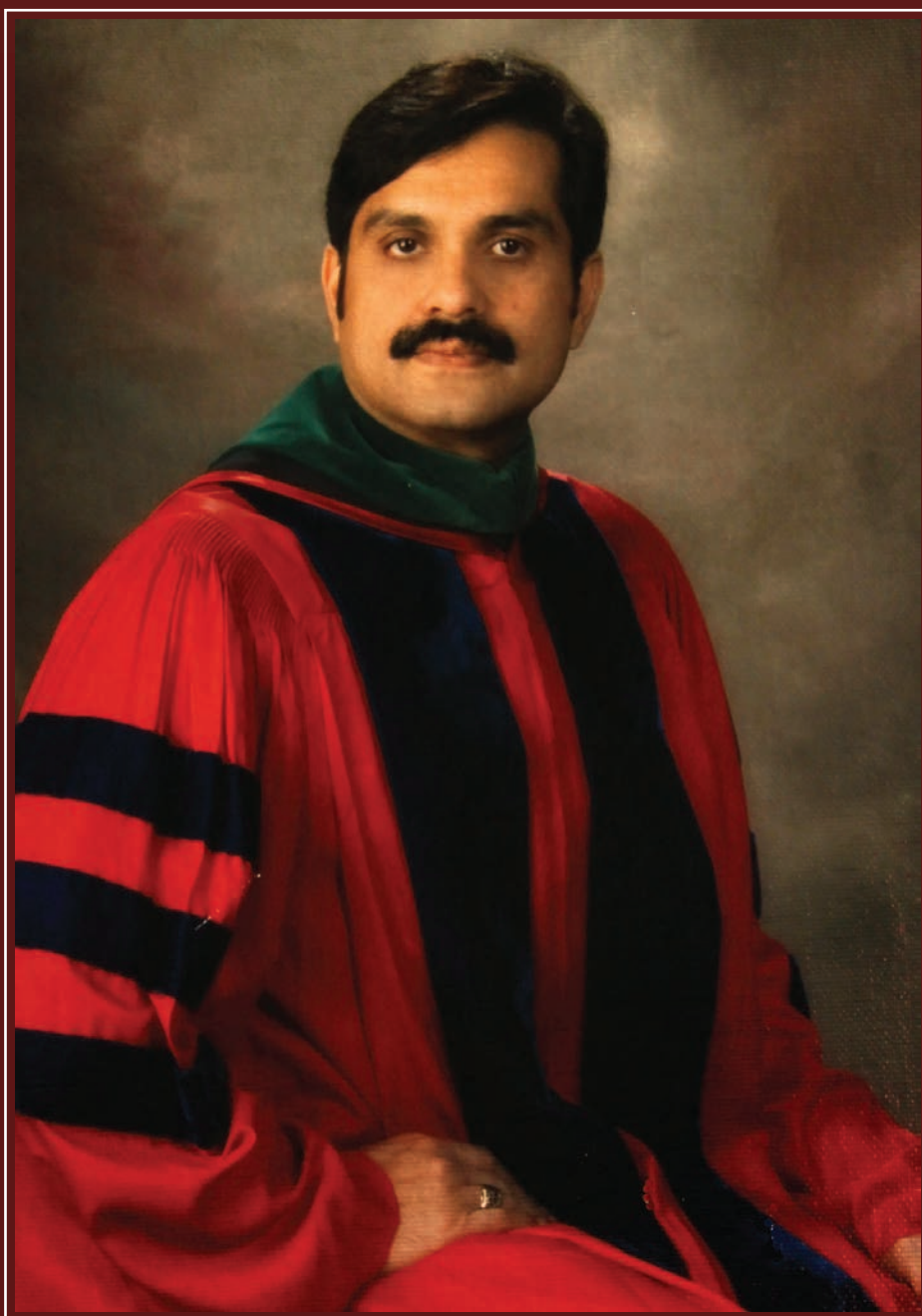


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July-August 2014

# The Ahmadiyya GAZETTE USA

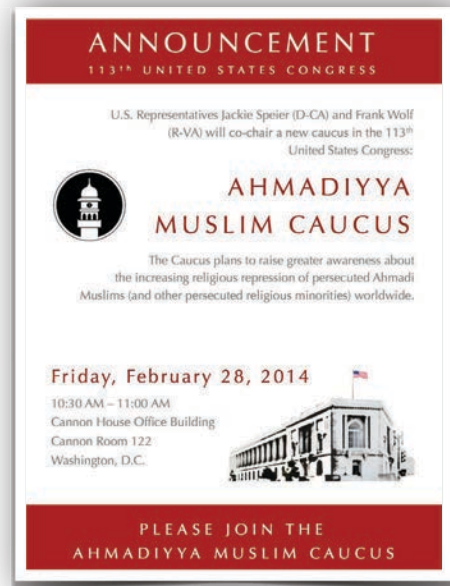
Dr Mehdi Ali Qamar Shaheed Edition



Dr Mehdi Ali Qamar Shaheed (1963-2014)



Historic Launch of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus at Capitol Hill



Day on the Hill Event



Trip to George Washington's Mount Vernon

National Public Affairs Seminar





An educational and spiritual monthly publication

# Ahmadiyya Gazette USA

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MOVEMENT IN ISLAM, USA

*July - August 2014*

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### Acronyms for salutations used in this publication

saw: sallallahu alaihi wasallam  
(Peace and Blessing of Allah be upon him)

as: alaihissalam  
(Peace be upon him)

ra: radhi allahu 'anhu  
(May Allah be pleased with him/her)

rh: rahimahullahu ta'ala  
(May Allah shower mercy on him/her)

aba: ayyada hullah ta'ala binasrihil aziz  
(May Allah strengthen him with His mighty help)

swt: subhana wa ta'ala  
(Holy and Exalted)

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# Al-Qur'an

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٥٣﴾ وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَنْ يُقْتَلُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتٌ ۚ بَلْ أَحْيَاءٌ وَلَكِنْ لَا تَشْعُرُونَ ﴿١٥٤﴾ وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ ۚ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٥٥﴾ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَ

إِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ ﴿١٥٦﴾

O ye who believe! Seek help with patience and Prayer; surely, Allah is with the steadfast. And say not to those who are killed in the cause of Allah that they are dead, nay, they are living; only you perceive not. And We will try you with something of fear and hunger, and loss of wealth and lives, and fruits; but give glad tidings to the patient. Who, when a misfortune overtakes them, say, 'Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return.' (2:154-157)

## COMMENTARY: (Short Commentary by Malik Ghulam Farid)

*Sabr* means, (1) to persevere in something; (2) to endure afflictions with fortitude and without complaint or murmur; (3) to hold fast to the Divine Law and the dictates of reason; (4) to refrain from doing what the Divine Law and reason forbid. (*Mufardat*). The verse contains a golden principle of success. First, a Muslim should patiently persevere in his endeavors, never relaxing his efforts to achieve his objective and never losing heart, at the same time avoiding what is harmful, and sticking fast to all that is good. Secondly, he should pray to God for success; for He alone is the Source of all good. The word *Sabr* (patient perseverance) precedes the word *Salat* (Prayer) in the verse in order to emphasize the importance of observing the laws of God which are sometimes flouted in ignorance. Ordinarily, Prayer can be effective only when it is accompanied by the use of all the necessary means created by God for the attainment of an object.

*Ahya'* is the plural of *Hayy* which, among other things, means: (1) One whose life-work does not go in vain; (2) one whose death is avenged. The verse comprises a great psychological truth which is calculated to exercise tremendous influence on the life and progress of a people. A people, who do not properly honor memory of their martyrs and do not take steps to remove the fear of death from their hearts, seal their own fate.

This verse constitutes fitting sequel to the preceding one. Muslims should be prepared not only to lay down their lives in the cause of Islam but should also be prepared to suffer all sort of afflictions which will be imposed on them as a trial.

God is the Master of all we possess including our own selves. If the Owner in His infinite wisdom deems fit to take away anything from us, we have no ground for complaint or demur. So every misfortune that befalls us should, instead of depressing us, spur us to make yet greater efforts to achieve still better results in life. Thus the formula contained in this verse is not a mere verbal incantation but a wise counsel and a timely warning.



## Al-Hadith

Whenever Allah's Messenger <sup>saw</sup> faced a difficult situation, he supplicated:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ جَهْدِ الْبَلَاءِ ، وَدَرَكِ الشَّقَاءِ ، وَسُوءِ الْقَضَاءِ ، وَشَمَاتَةِ الْأَعْدَاءِ -

O Allah! I seek refuge in Allah against the turmoil, attacks of misfortune, evil of Judgment, and from the mockery of the enemies. (Bukhari Kitābudda'wāt, Muslim Kitāb-Ta'awwudh)

Allah's Messenger <sup>saw</sup> used to say when he was in distress:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ الْحَلِيمُ ، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ ، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ رَبُّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَرَبُّ الْأَرْضِ ، وَرَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْكَرِيمِ -

There is none worthy of worship except Allāh the Greatest, the Compassionate. None is worthy of worship except Allāh, the Lord of the Magnificent Throne. There is none worthy of worship except Allāh, the Lord of the heavens, and the Lord of the earth, and the Lord of the Honored Throne. (Bukhari Kitāb-Tauhid, Muslim Kitābudh-Dhikr)

The Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup> said, "For anyone who faces a lot of worries and grief and supplicates the following prayer, God Almighty will alleviate his worries and grief."

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي عَبْدُكَ ، ابْنُ عَبْدِكَ ، ابْنُ أَمَتِكَ ، نَاصِيَتِي بِيَدِكَ ، مَاضٍ فِي حُكْمِكَ ، عَدُلٌ فِي قَضَائِكَ ، أَسْأَلُكَ بِكُلِّ اسْمٍ هُوَ لَكَ سَمَّيْتَ بِهِ نَفْسَكَ ، أَوْ أَنْزَلْتَهُ فِي كِتَابِكَ أَوْ عَلَّمْتَهُ أَحَدًا مِنْ خَلْقِكَ أَوْ اسْتَأْثَرْتَ بِهِ فِي عِلْمِ الْغَيْبِ عِنْدَكَ أَنْ تَجْعَلَ الْقُرْآنَ رَبِيعَ قَلْبِي ، وَتُورِثَ صَدْرِي ، وَتَجْلِيَ حُزْنِي ، وَتَهْلِكَ هَمِّي -

O Allah! I am Your servant and the son of Your male servant and the son of Your female servant. You have control over me. Your judgment upon me is assured and Your decree concerning me is just. I ask You by every Name that You have named Yourself with, revealed in Your Book, taught any one of Your creation or kept unto Yourself in the knowledge of the unseen that is with You, to make the Qur'ān the light of my heart, and the light of my chest, the banisher of my sadness and the reliever of my distress. (Abu Dawud Kitābul Jihad)

# SAYINGS OF

## THE PROMISED MESSIAH<sup>AS</sup>

### Power of God and Divine Determination

God Almighty operates in this world in three capacities: one, in the capacity of God; two, in the capacity of a friend; and three, in the capacity of an enemy. His treatment of His average creatures proceeds from His capacity as God. His treatment of those who love Him and whom He loves, also proceeds from His capacity as God, but it is coloured deeply by His capacity as a friend. The world feels that God is supporting the person concerned like a friend. His treatment of His enemies is characterised by painful chastisement and such signs as indicate clearly that God Almighty is the enemy of that nation or that person. Sometimes God tests a friend of His by making the whole world his enemy and for a time subjects him to their tongues and their hands, but He does not do this because He desires to destroy His friend, or to disgrace or humiliate him. He does this so that He might show His sign to the world and so that His impertinent opponents should realise that despite their utmost efforts they were not able to harm the person concerned.

*[Nuzoolul Masih, Ruhani Khazain, Vol. 18, pp. 517-518]*

In the Holy Qur'an, the attributes of God Almighty are mentioned in the subjective and not in the objective. For instance, He is Holy, but He has not been described as safeguarded, because then it would have to be supposed that there was someone to safeguard Him.

*[Malfoozat, Vol. IV, p. 119]*

Our God has power over everything. False are the people who say that He created neither souls nor the particles of the body. They are unaware of God. We witness His new creation every day and He ever breathes a new spirit of progress into us. Had He not the power to bring into being from nothing that would have been the death of us. Wonderful is He Who is our God. Who is there like unto Him? Wonderful are His works. Who is there whose works are like His? He is Absolute Power.

*[Naseem-e-Dawat, Ruhani Khazain, Vol. 19, p. 435]*

The real cause of worship of other deities and of the doctrine of transmigration of souls is the denial of Divine attributes and considering God Almighty as disabled from exercising complete control over the universe. This latter notion gave birth to the worship of other deities for seeking the fulfilment of man's needs. For the same reason, determined changes were described as the consequence of action in a previous existence. Thus, transmigration of souls and the worship of other deities resulted from one fundamental mistake.

*[Shahna Haqq, Ruhani Khazain, Volume 2, p. 407-408]*

# Translation of the Friday Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V<sup>aba</sup>, on May 30, 2014 at Baitul Futuh Mosque, Morden, UK

Shermeen Butt

**Hazoor paid tribute to a very dear, sincere, loyal, most useful individual who also had many other great qualities. He was Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar, son of Chaudhry Farzand Ali Sahib. He was martyred in Rabwah on 26 May 2014**

A great favor of God which has united the Ahmadiyya community as one and which has been prevalent since the passing of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> is the institution of *Khilafat*. The last 106 years of the history of the community bear witness to the fact that after the Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> passing, just as he stated in his booklet *Al-Wasiyyat* (The Will) members of the community have accepted *Khilafat* with perfect obedience. Every Ahmadi across the world no matter what his ethnic background or nationality understands very well that adherence to *Khilafat* on the precepts of prophethood which was to start after the advent of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) is his biggest duty.

Hazoor said here he did not refer to those who separated in the early years and now do not have any standing, rather the large majority of Ahmadiyya community which understands the status of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and has the insight that in adherence to *Khilafat* lies its unity, its progress and from it comes the strength to respond to the attacks of enemies of Ahmadiyyat, Islam. This is because Divine help and succor is now associated with the *Khilafat* of the second phase of Islam.

However, it needs to be understood that mere verbally professing one's faith does not garner God's grace. *Ayat-e-Istakhlaf* (verse 56 of *Surah Al-Nur*) promises *Khilafat* to the true believers and gives the glad-tiding of changing their fear to peace and promises to establish them. This is indeed promised to those who pray, worship God and make sacrifices to uphold the Unity of God. There are many who say *la ilaha illallah* (there is none worthy of worship save Allah) but in reality only those appreciate *la ilaha illallah* who only turn to God in every situation and who do not turn to anyone except God. Each *Khilafat* Day that we commemorate should draw us towards worship of God, prayer, staying firm on Unity of God as well as gauging our standard of disseminating Unity of God. If our standards in this regard are not rising, then holding conventions, giving speeches, academic discourses and other celebrations mean nothing. What is needed is to understand the spirit of it all. We will understand the reality of the Unity of God if we are drawn to prayers and will be made recipients of God's grace which was promised to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

God has drawn our attention to prayer and His worship to stay connected to *Khilafat*, to absorb Divine blessings, to get rid of our difficulties and to have inner peace and prayer and worship indeed are our real weapons on which we can rely constantly. Temporary ways and means do not bring success. We note that in the historical accounts of Prophets of God success only came through prayer, in particular in the history of Islam and



uniquely in the time of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and *Khulafa-e-Rashideen* (the Rightly Guided Caliphs) triumphs came through prayer and not through worldly strength. It should be remembered however, that in spite of all the Divine promises, the sacrifice of life was given and standards of worship were always raised.

Hazoor mentioned by the by that last Friday he had spoken with reference to an Ahmadi whose *Shia* friend had told him that Ahmadis do not respond to matters appropriately and Hazoor had said that it appeared the Ahmadi friend was also of the same view. Although Hazoor had not mentioned any name, it appears the person understood and wrote to Hazoor to say that it was only his Shia friend's view and he was not of the same opinion. Hazoor said he does get informed from various sources that people do hold such views. We should remember that all blessings are in prayers, as God has stated: 'So pray to thy Lord, and offer sacrifice.' (108:3). It is worship of God and sacrifices that make us recipients of God's grace. There is no doubt that it is in human nature to be perturbed when trials and tribulations get lengthy. As mentioned in the last Friday sermon, in such situations true believers raise the anxious voice of '...When will come the help of Allah?...' (2:215). They say so not out of despair but to draw God's mercy. They do so by completely submitting and surrendering themselves to God, taking their prayers to their highest point and abiding by high levels of sacrifice. And then, in response, comes the sound: '...Yea, surely the help of Allah is nigh.' (2:215).

God revealed this to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> on different occasions and also manifested this in practice and we too are witness to it and *Insha Allah* will continue to be witness to it. God's help comes in specific spheres and of course there is the ultimate magnificent triumph of Divine help and succor which we will witness! The enemy is scheming dangerous schemes. In worldly perspective the situation in the Muslim countries, especially in Pakistan is extremely perilous. However, God has power over everything and He is the Best of Planners and He will reduce the enemy's plans to dust! We need to turn to prayer and to *Istighfar* (seeking forgiveness of Allah) to remove our anxieties and also to be able to take care of our triumph. God states: 'Glorify thy Lord, with His praise, and seek forgiveness of Him...' (110:4) We all need to understand this subject and we need to take our prayers to their highest point. Hazoor said that he has mentioned it before that we have a very good appreciation of the spirit of sacrifice but we need to understand the reality of prayers. In order to enjoy the fruits of our sacrifices, we greatly need to elevate the level of our prayers and need to generate that condition in ourselves which God wants. God states: 'Or, Who answers the distressed person when he calls upon Him, and removes the evil, and makes you successors in the earth? Is there a God besides Allah? Little is it that you reflect.' (27:63)

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> wrote:

'Remember, God Almighty is without any care and unless prayer is made abundantly and with pathos, He does not care. A person whose wife or child is unwell or when someone faces intense grief, he becomes very distressed. Unless prayer is sincere and heart-felt and is made in a state of distress it remains ineffective and pointless. It is essential that prayer is made with an anguished heart for it to be accepted, as it is stated: 'Or, Who answers the distressed person when he calls upon Him...' (27:63). (*Tafseer: The Promised Messiah*, Vol. III, p. 574)

We need to focus on prayer and worship of God more than ever and we need to make them with heart-felt pathos and we need to draw God's mercy. Next Hazoor drew attention to some prayers which were first exhorted by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III<sup>rh</sup> at the time of the *Jama'at*'s centenary and Hazoor also reminded them later at the time of *Khilafat* centenary. These prayers should neither be forgotten nor decreased; rather they should be made part of our daily lives. In addition we need to adorn our *Salat*. These prayers are often cited on MTA but Hazoor also mentioned them by way of reminding.

Foremost is *Surah Al-Fatihah*; it should be recited abundantly. *Durood* (sending blessings and salutations on the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup>) should also be recited copiously. Then there is the prayer which was revealed to the

Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and should be recited a lot:

‘Holy is Allah and worthy of all praise, Holy is Allah, the Great. O Allah bestow Your blessings on Muhammad and on the people of Muhammad.’

Hadhrat Abu Huraira<sup>ra</sup> narrated that the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup> said: ‘There are two expressions which are very light on the tongue to utter but are very weighty in the balance and are very dear to the Gracious God. And they are: Holy is Allah and worthy of all praise, Holy is Allah, the Great.’ Hazoor said since these phrases are dear to the Gracious God, we need to recite them to attract His mercy.

Then there is the prayer: ‘Our Lord, let not our hearts get perverse after Thou hast guided us; and bestow on us mercy from Thyself; surely, Thou alone art the Bestower.’ (3:9) Hadhrat Nawab Mubarak Begum Sahiba<sup>ra</sup> had a dream after the passing away of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in which he advised her to say this prayer abundantly. When she related her dream to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih I<sup>ra</sup> he said he would never stop reciting this prayer and will recite it abundantly. He said that while the prayer beseeches for strength of faith, it was also a great prayer to stay connected to *Khilafat*.

Another prayer that needs to be focused on is: ‘O our Lord, pour forth steadfastness upon us, and make our steps firm, and help us against the disbelieving people.’ (2:251)

And the prayer: ‘O Allah, we make You a shield against enemies and we take refuge in You from their evils.’ A Tradition relates that when the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup> used to sense danger from a body of people, he used to say this prayer.

We should also engage in *Istighfar* a lot: ‘I beg pardon of Allah, my Lord from all my sins and turn to Him.’

A while ago Hazoor had exhorted to say this prayer in light of a dream: ‘O Lord everything is subservient to You. O Lord, protect us, help us and have mercy on us.’ The prayer cited in last Friday sermon should also be included in regular prayers: ‘Our Lord, forgive us our errors and our excesses in our conduct, and make firm our steps and help us against the disbelieving people.’ (3:148)

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> said: I was praying for the members of my *Jama'at* and then for Qadian when the revelation came to me: ‘They have drawn away from the fashion of life’ And ‘Then grind them down a fine grinding.’ The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> said: I wondered why the act of grinding has been attributed to me. Then I looked at the prayer which is written on the wall of the Chamber of Prayer which is as follows: ‘Lord, hear my prayer and crush Your enemies and my enemies and fulfill Your promise and help Your servant and show us Your days and sharpen for us Your sword and spare not a single mischief maker out of the disbelievers.’ (*Tadhkirah*, p. 664, 2009 edition)

Next Hazoor said he would pay tribute to a very dear, sincere, loyal, most useful individual who also had many other great qualities. He was Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar, son of Chaudhry Farzand Ali Sahib. He was martyred in Rabwah on 26 May 2014. He was going to visit the *Bahishti Maqbarah* (cemetery) in Rabwah with his wife, one son and a relative at 5 a.m. when two unknown assailants came on a motorbike and shot him. Dr. Mehdi Ali was a cardiologist from USA who was visiting Rabwah with his wife and two children for *Waqfe Arzi* (short-term voluntary service) at the Tahir Heart Institute. He was staying at the institute and on the day was about to visit the cemetery after *Fajr Salat*. As he approached the gate of the cemetery two men appeared on a motor bike and fired at him and fled on the main road. Dr. Mehdi was shot eleven times and was martyred on the spot. *Inna lillahe wa inna ilaihi raji'oon*.

The *Shaheed* doctor's family is from district Faisalabad. His father, Chaudhry Farzand Ali Sahib took *Bai'at* in his youth at the hand of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. Following this, his older brother also took *Bai'at*

and the family moved to Rabwah. Dr. Shaheed's maternal grandfather Master Ziaud Din Sahib *Shaheed* was the first martyr among the martyrs of Rabwah in 1974 during the firing at Sargodha station.

Dr Mehdi Ali was born on 23 December 1963. The day Mirza Bashir Ahmad Sahib, known as '*Qamarul Anbiya*' (moon of Prophets) passed away. In light of this his father added the name 'Qamar' to Dr. Mehdi's name and his maternal grandfather also added the name of Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ood<sup>ra</sup> to Dr. Mehdi's name. His full name was Mehdi Ali Bashirud Din Qamar. He received his early education in Rabwah. He was a very intelligent and promising student. When he joined medical school in Faisalabad he faced a lot of antagonism and had to leave. However, he went back to finish his studies. He served at Fazl-e-Umer Hospital, Rabwah from 1989 to 1991.

He immigrated to Canada with his mother where he passed the medical exams and started his internship. He went to Brooklyn University in New York to specialize in cardiology and started working in Columbus, Ohio and settled there. When Hazoor urged doctors to serve at Tahir Heart Institute Dr. Mehdi was one of the doctors who devoted voluntary service at the institute. This was his third such visit there. He had also served *Jama'at* on various other levels.

He was an extremely gentle, compassionate person who never had any disagreements with anyone. His wife says he was extremely gentle and loving with her and always overlooked any errors and took great care of his family. He was extremely affectionate to his children, and gave time for their education and training and had a most obliging temperament. His wife says if she got annoyed at something he would always say to her not to be angry. He was extremely humble. His deportment with his in-laws was very kind. His sister-in-law says that she once stayed with them for five years and she never heard him raise his voice and he always treated her like his mother. He was very hospitable and guests would stay at their place during *Jama'at* events. He would also fetch guests from the airport. He helped the disadvantaged a great deal.

Dr. Mehdi also had artistic flair and was a very good poet. His poetry collection entitled '*Barg-e-Khayal*' is in the stages of publication. He was also a skilled calligraphist. He had great love and devotion for *Khilafat* and always keenly complied when exhorted towards good causes. He gave most generously to financial schemes and donated a large sum towards the mosque in Columbus. Likewise, he donated generously towards the mosque in his ancestral neighborhood in Rabwah. He was also at the forefront of donating to Tahir Heart Institute. He was intensely keen on calling people to God and was very well read in terms of religious material. Dr. Mehdi used to give most effective responses to allegations and objections on YouTube.

Dr. Mehdi Ali leaves behind his widow, Wajeeha Mehdi Sahiba and three sons. Abdullah Ali, 15, Hashim Ali, 7 and Asher Ali, 3, who was with him at the time of shooting.

Hazoor quoted some verses from Dr. Mehdi Shaheed's poetry. He said in his last poem, written on 28 March 2014:

We shall exchange face to face with death, words on how life is attained  
No Yazid will be able to erase, for truthful are the words of son of Batool  
Everything will perish and only will remain the words of God and His Messenger

In an earlier poem, he wrote: This alone is my wish Allah in Your way. If only my blood would avail!  
He also wrote:

The grace of Truth has thus given me the drink of life  
That it has bonded my way of life with *Khilafat*  
While the sun and the moon admire the light of *Istakhlaf*  
Dismal gloom has fallen over disciples of Iblis (Satan)



Hadi Ali Sahib, who is our missionary and lived here (in the UK) for a long time is the older brother of Dr. Mehdi Ali Shaheed. He says his brother also loved calligraphy like himself. He writes our brother was an extraordinary human being and although his loss is immense for our entire family, with the grace of God alone, the family submits to the will of God and remains steadfast. Dr. Mehdi Ali's email signature was in Arabic meaning: 'Say to people what is good'.

His sister writes that Dr. Mehdi Ali had a wise and solemn personality from childhood and was not interested in idle things. From childhood he observed *Salat* keenly and was an active member of the auxiliary organization. As a child he used to be part of the group of children who awoke people for *Fajr Salat* in Rabwah by reciting out *Durood Sharif* aloud. He loved reading from an early age and was very well read in religious works. He used to seek advantage of keeping company of the elders in Rabwah. He had a very special love for Rabwah and ultimately gave his life on its soil. He became a doctor following his parents' wishes and indeed became a very accomplished doctor. He received many professional awards. He never wasted time and was ever seeking knowledge. In spite of his busy schedule he took time to spend with his wife and children and taught his children to read the Holy Qur'an. He had a very forgiving nature and would rather put himself in trouble than let others suffer.

His college roommate Dr. Mahmood writes that Dr. Mehdi Ali was regular in *Salat* and fasting since his college days. He was a little senior to Dr. Mahmood, so he would guide and help him most gently. He was part of the group of doctors who pioneered the Rabwah Blood Bank and his input was most significant in getting the Blood Bank started.

Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah Sahib writes that Dr. Mehdi Ali Shaheed was a very humble person who always had a smile on his face. Hazoor said Dr. Mehdi Shaheed met Hazoor a short while ago and since learning about his martyrdom, Hazoor sees his cheerful smiling face before his eyes. He had a very peaceful face. Some, who have seen photographs, have written to Hazoor that Dr. Mehdi Ali Shaheed looks as if peacefully asleep while his chest is drenched in blood.

The *Sadr* of Columbus *Jama'at*, Abdul Salam Sahib writes that Dr Mehdi Ali Shaheed arrived in Columbus ten years ago and had always been a very active member. He had a great sense of obedience to the *Jama'at* and always greeted others cheerfully. He never declined any task given to him and had a passionate love of *Khilafat*.

Hazoor said when he visited Columbus in 2012 Dr. Mehdi Ali Shaheed had stayed up all night to decorate the mosque and do calligraphy along with Hadi Ali Sahib and then he went to work in the morning. He always paid for whatever decoration work of the mosque he did from his own pocket. When he worked around the mosque no one could image that he was such a senior doctor. He worked with great simplicity.

A doctor friend writes that he had the opportunity to work with him. Sometimes people would get jealous of his professional success and created trouble for him. However, he always faced such situations cheerfully and was never seen to display anger and was always calm and smiling. He used to say why we should be perturbed, we have the prayers of the *Khalifa* of the time with us.

When he came here (UK) he met Hazoor and was very happy and on his return he told his friends that he had met Hazoor and talked about the meeting.

His email used to have a signature that one should bring those changes in oneself that one wishes to see in others and he was a living example of this.

Our Dr. Noori Sahib of Tahir Heart Institute writes that Dr. Mehdi Ali was extremely popular among the patients. The underprivileged came to him for treatment most eagerly. He treated each patient with personal care and interest. He had an extremely simple nature and would be dressed so simply that it would be difficult to point him out when among the patients. He volunteered services for Tahir Heart Institute most freely. His regular visits

to Tahir Heart Institute showed his sincere commitment to his profession. He had an extremely humble nature and an excellent memory. His interests included the Holy Qur'an, books of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, poetry and calligraphy.

Mubarak Siddiqui Sahib, who is here, was his classfellow. He writes that Mehdi Ali had the qualities of a true believer from an early age. He was very intelligent and a devoted servant of the *Jama'at* who adored *Khilafat*. In spite of being way ahead of us in his academic and financial standing he had an extremely humble and forbearing nature. Sometimes during school days I did not have some course books. He would say to me, I have read this book half of the day, now you read it for the rest of the day. So much so, that at times he would even lend me his book the day before the exam and yet most of the time he would attain first position in the class. When he recently came to London I said to him you are now a renowned surgeon in the USA, let us go to a very good restaurant. But he replied I am the same humble person. We can go to eat in any humble restaurant. I never heard him say a single uncivilized word and he had a great sense of honor for the *Jama'at*. No one could dare say anything negative in his presence about any small office-holder. He was an exemplary Ahmadi and would financially help his friends with extreme discretion..

Another friend of his writes that Dr. Mehdi Ali had a very melodious voice and participated in *Tilawat* and poem recitation competitions from an early age and used to achieve a good position. He often recited poetic verses of Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ood<sup>ra</sup> which his friend says resonate since his martyrdom:

Forever have they schemed to destroy the garden of Ahmad  
But the Lord's concealed design waits in their way  
Why would a true believer look for a killer!  
His eyes are lightening and his sighs are like swords!  
O' oppressor! Your sins will be your downfall  
They shall ensnare your feet like fetters!

Dr. Sultan Mubasher Sahib writes that Dr. Mehdi Ali was most compassionate about the poor. He opened a bank account on his last visit to Rabwah and asked Dr. Mubasher to help the needy with the funds that he had deposited. Once he rang to say that an ex-worker of the *Jama'at* was in need of funds as he was having a house built, and if he could be helped with 100,000 Rupees. He also said that he would pay for any medical student's college expenses.

Dr. Mehdi's friend Hafiz Abdul Qudoos says that when Dr. Mehdi was working in Fazl-e-Umer hospital he came to see him and told him that a homeless patient in the hospital was in need of blood. He said he had given one bottle of blood and wanted his friend to give another Unit..

Dr. Mehdi Ali Shaheed used to send material for Tahir Heart Institute including stents and used to say that he was proud to serve the hospital. He wanted to build a house in Rabwah so that he was not a burden on *Jama'at* accommodation. He was satisfied about the upbringing of his children in spite of living in the USA. This was because he personally made time for his children.

One of his friends says that they have a loving brotherly relationship. He says when he arrived in Rabwah this time on a Saturday he called me and asked to come over. It was 10 p.m. and I asked him to rest, but he insisted that I come to see him. We met. Most lovingly he gave an up-to-date stethoscope as a gift, asked me about the *Qibla* direction etc. He says we met at late evening and talked until a quarter past eleven when I left. A few hours later, in the early morning he went to *Bahishti Maqbara* (graveyard) and was martyred there.

The website of the newspaper Dawn commented on the martyrdom of Dr. Mehdi Ali by giving the background of the opposition against the *Jama'at* followed by the words:

'Dr. Qamar Ali Mehdi was no ordinary doctor. While he held the Young Investigator Award from the American College of Cardiology and was identified among America's Top Physicians for the year 2003-2004

and among America's Top Cardiologists for the years 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. He also held the Physician Recognition Award from the American Medical Association. His bespectacled bright face smiled next to his profile that read:

‘I believe in delivering the best possible patient care, maintaining the highest professional standards, contributing to the progress of the institutions I am affiliated with. My first priority is to deliver my professional responsibilities with competency, honesty and integrity.’ And with competence, honesty and integrity, he did.’ In conclusion, the writer observed: ‘I am sorry, Dr. Qamar Ali Mehdi, I failed to protect you but I raise my voice against this persecution. I forgo my safety just so that tomorrow I don’t die unheard.’ Many newspapers of USA, Canada and the UK around the world have condemned the barbaric and inhuman killing of Dr. Mehdi Ali. More than thirty newspapers have carried the news. These include, National Post Canada, The Star Canada, CBC News Canada, Global News, CNN, USA Today, the New York Times, Washington Post, Columbus Dispatch, Wall Street Journal, The Express Tribune, Washington Times, The Strategic Intelligence, Daily Mail, BBC Urdu, *Al-Jazeera*, Dawn etc. While all these newspapers have condemned the barbaric killing of Dr. Mehdi Ali, they have also introduced the *Jama’at* and given details of our persecution of the past few decades. By way of introduction these newspaper have mentioned the claim of Messiahship of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and given his name, they have also mentioned that Ahmadiyya *Jama’at* is a peaceable community and condemns the killing of innocent lives in the name of *Jihad*. Some papers have also praised the charitable work of the *Jama’at*. Dr. Mehdi Ali has opened new avenues of *Tabligh* by giving his life and has experienced *Jama’at*’s introduction.

The Wall Street Journal, which is a world famous newspaper published in the USA has covered the news of the martyrdom by introducing the *Jama’at* and citing its persecution and has then quoted the chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan: ‘Every religious minority in Pakistan is persecuted, but the Ahmadiyya community faces the worst treatment. Several local-language newspapers publish anti-Ahmadi material but there is no action against them. If the Christian community comes under attack, you’ll see the prime minister issuing a statement of condemnation, officials visiting the victims. But that is not the case with the Ahmadi community. There is no one standing by them.’ Hazoor remarked God stands by the Ahmadis and will continue to stand by us in future.

The newspaper also quoted a colleague of Dr. Mehdi Ali, Shantani Sinha: ‘He was one of the most honest, ethical and not-a-bad-bone-in-his-body kind of person’ said Dr. Sinha, adding that Dr. Qamar returned to Pakistan to provide free cardiac care. ‘He was very giving.’ Dr. Sinha also said: ‘There was possibility that this could have happened, and he knew it. I just hope that it will probably help raise awareness about a senseless killing of a very nice person who had gone to do a good thing.’

The newspaper also quotes a police official as saying: ‘We often see pamphlets and posters that say it is against Islam to be treated at this hospital because it is run by Ahmadis.’

Al-Jazeera reported a researcher as saying that regular reports are received about people attacking the Ahmadiyya community safe in the knowledge that the state will do practically nothing to bring them to justice.

The Washington Post also reported that these crimes are taking place because everyone knows no action will be taken.

Lancaster Gazette, a local newspaper of the area where Dr. Mehdi lived has covered his martyrdom in detail and with comments of his colleagues. ‘It’s sad,” cardiovascular business development manager Kelly Marion said. There’s lots of tears, and Dr. Qamar is missed greatly.’ Qamar was a founding physician member of the Gordon B. Snider Cardiovascular Institute at FMC in 2011 and was honored as a Legendary Philanthropist by the medical center in 2013.’ The paper also said that Dr Mehdi’s death has not only affected the Ahmadiyya community but has also been felt by the wider community.



In its coverage of the news, the Columbus Dispatch interviewed Dr Mehdi Ali's son and reported: 'What is a son to feel when his father is slain for the offense of providing free medical care to the poor in his native land? Abdullah Ali considered the question. 'I am disappointed,' the 16-year-old calmly said. Not anger or vengeance.'

Fox 28 Columbus also carried an interview of Dr. Mehdi Ali's son Abdullah Ali in which he said that his father was a great person and he is sure that had the murderers stopped to have a word with him, he would have brought some positive change in their lives. He said the killers only did this to harm a community about which he was sure they did not know anything.

Hazoor remarked that indeed, this is the fact. *Maulavis* have poisoned people against us, who are completely ignorant of things.

BBC Urdu has also covered the martyrdom and mentioned the Ahmadiyya persecution and also published an image of the pamphlet telling people that getting treatment from Tahir Heart Institute was forbidden and a grievous sin. It also says that anyone who has a connection with Ahmadis becomes an infidel. *Inna lillah!*

This martyr had a successful life and spent it serving humanity and met death that gave him eternal life with God. May God give this dear brother of ours a high station in Paradise and may his station be ever elevated, may he be granted a place in the feet of God's beloveds. May God keep his wife and children in His protection and may all the wishes and prayers of Dr Mehdi Ali for his children be fulfilled. As I mentioned earlier, the greatest weapon to attain progress and vanquish the enemy is prayer. However, God also draws attention to certain apparent ways and means which should also be used in conjunction as much as possible. Therefore, in light of this incident, the management in Rabwah needs to be vigilant more than ever. Utilize your sources and planning to the maximum and then leave the matter with God. Every citizen of Rabwah needs to be alert.

This dear martyr has spilled his blood on the soil of Rabwah and drawn our attention towards prayer and planning. Thus, there is a great need to pay attention. Ahmadis around the world should pray for Pakistani Ahmadis because they are now living in extremely intolerable conditions and the situation is worsening! May God also enable us to do so! The entire country has become an account of cruelty and oppression. A few days ago a woman was stoned to death outside the High Court. Murder and mayhem takes place there every day and we cannot even say that it is because they have martyred an Ahmadi. When this martyrdom, this oppression took place, certainly police officials would have been present and it would have happened in front of them.

This oppression in Pakistan is taking place in the name of God and His Messenger. In the name of that Messenger who was a benefactor of humanity, who was a mercy for all the worlds. Our hearts bleed at this. If they have to perpetrate oppression at least they should not do it in the name of God and His Messenger. They should not commit persecution in the name of that benefactor of humanity and mercy for all the worlds and bring Islam in disrepute! But they do not understand and they do not know where they are heading! When God's decree will come to pass and *Insha Allah* it will come to pass, these people will be eliminated. Neither the oppressors will remain nor the backers of oppression. Thus, we need to pray and pray a lot. May God take the public out of the ensnare of the religious clergy and may they understand the truth and accept the Imam of the age.

Hazoor said he would lead funeral Prayer in absentia of the *Shaheed* after Friday Prayer.

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## **The Martyrdom of Abdul Rahman: A Disciple of Maulvi Sahibzada Abdul Latif, Chief of Khost in the State of Afghanistan**

### **From “Tadhkaratush-shahadatain”: Book by The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>**

Approximately two years prior to the martyrdom of Sahibzada Maulvi Abdul Latif, his pious disciple Mian Abdul Rahman came to Qadian two or three times at his master's bidding. Each time he stayed with me for several months. Having stayed in my company and having listened to my discourses and my teachings, his faith developed tremendously and when he returned to Kabul he had fully grasped the fundamentals of my teachings. It was during the time of his stay with me that I had published some books in refutation of the common notion of JIHAD-the holy war. He was fully conversant with the fact that our Movement was opposed to the concept of holy wars as commonly understood. It so happened that after bidding farewell to me, he reached Peshawar where, by chance, he met Khwaja Kamaluddin, who is also one of my followers. Khwaja Kamaluddin had then published a booklet condemning holy wars. He was so much impressed by its reasoning that he openly discussed this notion when he reached Kabul. He strongly supported the view that it was not permissible to wage holy war against the British as they afforded peace and protection to millions of Muslims who live in their territories in perfect peace and harmony with their other subjects. This information eventually reached the ears of Amir Abdul Rahman through some mischievous Punjabis who served him in his court. They told him that Maulvi Abdul Rahman was a disciple of a Punjabi who claimed to be the Promised Messiah and one of his teachings was not only that it was unlawful to wage holy war against the British but that in the present age holy war was not lawful at all. At this the Amir flew into an outrage and commanded that the poor man be arrested so that more could be learnt in this connection after questioning him. In the end, it was proven that the man was undoubtedly a disciple of the Promised Messiah who strongly opposed the idea of a holy war. Therefore, this poor victim of oppression was strangled to death with a piece of cloth while he was in custody. It is reported that many heavenly Signs were manifested at his martyrdom.

This was how Mian Abdul Rahman was martyred. Now we shall relate the tragic story of the martyrdom of Sahibzada Maulvi Abdul Latif and exhort our followers to cultivate faith similar to his, because if a person is not wholly devoted to God and remains partly inclined towards mundane things, he cannot be reckoned to be a true believer in heaven.

## **The Account of Tragic Martyrdom of Maulvi Sahibzadah Abdul Latif, of Khost in the Territory of Kabul**

I have already stated that Maulvi Abdul Latif Sahib came to Qadian from Khost in the territory of Kabul and stayed with me for many months. The matter of his martyrdom had been decided in heaven. Events unfolded in the following way. He took leave of me for returning home. Later, I came to know from reliable sources and eye-witnesses that it so happened that when he reached near the border of Afghanistan, he stopped at a place within the British territory and wrote a letter to one of his disciples, asking him to obtain permission of entry from the Amir so that he could pay homage to him. He sought his special permission because when he had left the country he was granted permission to go on pilgrimage to Mecca and funds from the royal treasury were provided for that purpose. This design he was unable to accomplish as he had stayed at Qadian much longer than he had intended. This was because he had accepted me as the Promised Messiah and following the injunction of the Holy Qur'an: Obey Allah and His Messenger, he postponed his intention of going to the Hajj for another year in the future. Every sensible person will agree that if a person on his way happens to meet and recognize the Promised Messiah who had been awaited by the Muslims for the last 1,300 years, it becomes incumbent

upon him, according to the behest of the Holy Qur'an and the Traditions, that he should not proceed further without the permission of the Promised Messiah and may postpone the sacred journey until permission is granted to him.

As this exalted personage had been unable to proceed to the Hajj, owing to a valid reason, he thought it fit to explain the position to the Amir while he was still in the British territory before entering the State of Kabul. He thought it expedient to write to Brigadier Muhammad Hussain asking him to mention the matter to the king on some opportune occasion. In this letter, he wrote that though he had departed from his country with the intention of going to the Hajj, on his way he happened to meet the Promised Messiah and as it is the imperative command of the Qur'an and the Hadith for Muslims to do their best to accept and obey the Promised Messiah, he was obliged to stay at Qadian.

When this letter reached Brigadier Muhammad Hussain, he quietly pushed it under his knee in his office and did not promptly submit it to the king. But his assistant, who was an opponent and a mischief-monger, somehow came to learn that a letter had come from Sahibzada Abdul Latif who had stayed at Qadian. He stole the letter and took it to the Amir. The king immediately called the Brigadier and asked him whether he had received any letter from the Sahibzada. The Brigadier, seeing that the Amir was extremely angry, got terrified and denied having received the letter.

As the Maulvi Sahib had received no reply from the Brigadier, he grew anxious and a few days later wrote another letter by post to Muhammad Husain Kotwal. The Postmaster opened the letter and sent it to the Amir. Since the martyrdom of the venerable *Maulvi Sahib* had been ordained in heaven, the king made a cunning move so that he may have him in his grip. The king sent him a kind and encouraging letter asking him to come to the king without the least fear in his mind. He stated further that the king would himself follow his example if he would convince him of the truth of the claim of the Promised Messiah. Those who reported this to us were not sure whether the Amir sent this letter by post or by hand. However, on receiving this letter from the Amir, the Maulvi Sahib proceeded to Kabul. The wheels of destiny moved along.

Those who saw the deceased (*Maulvi Sahib*) passing through the streets of Kabul affirm that he was riding a horse and was followed by eight horsemen of the king. All the townsmen knew that the *Ameer* had played a trick on the *Akhwandzadah*. When the *Akhwandzadah* and the horsemen passed through the streets a number of onlookers also followed them. It was generally believed that the order of arrest had already been sent to the Governor of Khost on whose command he was escorted by horsemen to the presence of the king who was in an angry mood, because the jealous divines and opponents had already poisoned his ears. The Amir addressed him wrathfully and said: Make him stand away from me. He has an obnoxious smell. He ordered that he be sent to the prison of the castle where he resided himself. He further ordered that the prisoner be chained with the '*Ghargharaab*' which is a very heavy chain of iron weighing about 130 pounds. It is put round the neck and the waist and the prisoner is handcuffed. He also commanded that fetters weighing 17 pounds be put on his feet. For about four months the venerable divine was thus kept in vile captivity during which period he was constantly admonished as well as promised freedom if he would retract from his faith and proclaim that the one who resided in Qadian was not the true Promised Messiah. But he always refused and gave the same reply. He said: By the grace of Allah, I am a knowledgeable man of true understanding and I possess the sense of discriminating between right and wrong and can differentiate between truth and falsehood. I have found the truth after a careful search and I believe that he is indeed the true Promised Messiah. He added: I am fully aware that my faith would cost me my life and would endanger the safety of my wife and children; but I attach more importance to my faith than to my life and all worldly relationships. Every time the Amir's men approached him he gave them the same answer.

The prison to which he was sent was not at all like the British jails where due consideration is given to the limits of human endurance. It was a type of confinement in which everyone would prefer death to life. Men wondered at the steadfastness and tenacity of the Sahibzadah. Indeed it was a matter of great astonishment, particularly as he was a man who dearly loved his wife and children and was used to a life of comfort and ease. He



owned property worth millions and, on account of his great knowledge and learning, he was considered to be the most revered divine in the territory of Kabul. He was suddenly thrown into such a detestable and horrific place, the thought of which makes one shudder all over. How could such a delicate person, used to a life of ease and comfort, bear all that trial patiently, and sacrifice his life for his faith! It is even more surprising that all the time he was being offered favors and honors from the king provided he would retract from his faith in the Promised Messiah of Qadian. But he turned a deaf ear to all these enticing temptations, and each time the temptation was offered to him he gave the same answer that he could not forsake his faith for material gains. He said: 'That I have found the truth and cannot depart from it, even at the cost of my life. I shall die with the truth.' The land of Kabul can never forget the steadfastness of this venerable sage, nor had the people of that country ever witnessed such unwavering faith.

It must also be remembered here that the kings of Kabul were not reputed for making repeated offers of freedom and honour to everyone. But because Abdul Latif Sahib enjoyed a position of such great honour and respect that he was considered a pillar of the State and because he had many a thousand of disciples of his own, even the kings of Afghanistan, as we have already mentioned, paid him great respect and he was considered to be the sun among the stars of the divines of that country. The king might have had his own reasons for his personal attempts to induce the venerable Sahibzada to retract because he knew that if the matter once went before the opposing priests and divines, he, the king, would not be able to come to his aid. It is, therefore, quite plausible that the *Ameer*, on the one hand was afraid of the priests and on the other considered the Sahibzada to be completely innocent. That was the reason that during the whole period of his imprisonment he did his best to induce him to retreat from his faith in the Messiah of Qadian and repent of his error. On this ground he made the offer of freedom and great honour to him. That was the main reason that he had him kept in the prison of his own palace, where constant approach was easy and convenient.

There is another point which must be mentioned here and which is the real cause of this tragedy. Since the time Mian Abdul Rahman, the martyr, had been killed, the *Ameer* and all the divines had known that the Promised Messiah of Qadian was very strongly opposed to the current notion about Jihad-the holy war-and that this fact had been clearly elucidated in his writings. Incidentally, the father of the present Amir had also written and published a booklet advocating spread of the faith by the sword-a notion diametrically opposed to my exhortations. Some mischief-makers from the Punjab, who call themselves *Ahl-i-Hadeeth* and Unitarians, had gained access to the court of the *Ameer* Abdul Rahman, the father of the present Amir, and had misinterpreted my views on this subject. This probably was the real cause of the murder of Mian Abdul Rahman, the martyr whom the Amir thought to belong to the people who hold Jihad-by-sword unlawful. The wheels of destiny moved in a manner that Maulvi Abdul Latif inadvertently discussed while in prison, the notion of Jihad and proclaimed it to be impermissible in the present age, which is the age of reason. The use of force in the present age for the propagation of faith would be fruitless. The late martyr was exceedingly quick in expressing the truth and in doing so he did not care even for his life. He plainly told them all, that what he believed in, was the real truth.

We shall now relate the remaining part of the story of martyrdom. When four months had passed in the prison, the venerable sage was, by the order of the *Ameer*, brought to the court where the *Ameer* again urged him to retract from his new faith. He also added that if the Sahibzada did so, he would not only get his freedom back but great honors would be bestowed upon him. But the venerable divine replied that he could not possibly recant the truth. Tortures and trials from earthly rulers come to an end very soon, but the wrath of God is everlasting. He added that he was prepared to hold a dialogue on this very subject with the divines who accused him of apostasy and heresy. He further added that he would be prepared to accept any punishment if he was proved wrong in his beliefs. The eye-witnesses of this incident have stated that the king liked the suggestion very much. He commanded that the dialogue should take place in the Royal Mosque. For this purpose, the king nominated Khan Mulla Khan and eight other priests to support him. He nominated a Punjabi doctor from Lahore as the Arbiter for the debate. This was a man who was bitterly opposed to the Movement.

A great crowd gathered in the mosque. It was announced that the dialogue shall be in writing. It is a matter

of great surprise that none of these papers were published. Therefore, no one knows what arguments were produced in the debate which continued from seven o'clock in the morning till three o'clock in the afternoon. When the time for *Asr* Prayer was about to finish, the verdict of apostasy was announced. At the close of the debate he was asked: If this man from Qadian is the true Promised Messiah, what do you say about the Prophet Jesus-will he come back to this world? In a firm and dignified manner he replied that Prophet Jesus was dead and would never come back to this world. The Holy Qur'an bore witness to his death and he could not return. The *Maulvis*, after the fashion of the Jewish elders and the High Priest who had torn their clothes after hearing about Jesus, also made a great clamor and began to abuse him and said: What more proof do you want in support of his apostasy? Therefore, in a state of great rage they wrote down their verdict of apostasy against him. The venerable sage was then sent back in chains to the prison.

It must be borne in mind that while the *Sahibzadah* sat writing his answers, eight soldiers of the Amir stood behind him holding naked swords in their hands. The verdict was sent to the king in the evening and the *Maulvis* saw to it that the actual papers written during the contest were purposely withheld; nor were they published later for the information of the general public. This is a clear proof of the fact that the *Maulvis* were completely at a loss to answer the arguments advanced by the venerable sage. But the most astonishing fact in this affair was that the Amir confirmed the verdict without even seeing the arguments advanced by both parties; nor did he ask for the minutes of the proceedings to be recorded. He was duty bound that with fear of the true judge in his heart to whom he would soon return after leaving his throne and kingdom behind, he should have been present himself during the debate. He should have remembered that the life of a great saint and venerable scholar was at stake. It was his duty, at all costs, to be present there, to do true justice. It was incumbent upon him that he should not have tortured the venerable martyr in chains before his guilt was proved. It was most unfair to position him in the midst of eight soldiers wielding naked swords trying to intimidate him. Failing all these bounden duties, he should have, at the very least, asked for the documents written during the dialogue-nay, he ought to have issued his command beforehand for the documents to be submitted to him and should have duly published these papers for the benefit of the general public to show how terribly mistaken was the *Sahibzada*; and how he had been defeated by the *Maulvis* in an open and fair debate and could present no convincing argument of the truth of the Messiah of Qadian; nor could he put forward any evidence against spreading the faith by force or to establish that Jesus son of Mary was truly dead.

Alas, what a pity, that a noble and venerable saint was slaughtered like a goat before their eyes, although he had given them sound and convincing arguments, and he had, indeed, the truth in his support. But despite the truth and noble firmness, his sacred body was turned into mincemeat by (stoning). His unfortunate widow and dear children were arrested and removed from Khost and kept under guard in some unknown place.

O ye ignorant ones! Is this the teaching of Islam as regards those who differ in their views about faith? Is that the punishment laid down by the Qur'an and Islam? How did you dare shed this blood? Did the British government, which in the sight of this king, and his bigoted mullahs, is the government of the unbelievers and under which government live people of various creeds, ever hang a Muslim or a Hindu because their faith clashed with the faith of their *Padrees*? Alas! what a dire and doleful tragedy has been committed under the sky, that a perfectly innocent person, despite being true and perfectly justified and despite the testimony of thousands that he was adorned with piety and holiness and was God-fearing, was so cruelly killed, simply because of the difference in doctrine? That Governor, Pilate, who, as is mentioned in the Gospels, had arrested Jesus at the request of the Jewish priests, so that he may be crucified, said that he did not find any fault in Jesus, was a thousand times better than this king. Alas! what a sad thing! The king ought to have, at the very least, asked his divines for the grounds on which they had based their verdict of apostasy and stoning to death. Why did he not ask them the reason? Why did they announce the verdict simply on the basis of a difference in views? Why did he not tell them that such differences were so common even among their own various sects? Is it justified to stone to death someone from a sect which differs in views from theirs? Is this the way and method of this *Ameer*? I wonder how he will answer before God Almighty.

After the verdict of apostasy had been announced and the condemned saint had been sent back to the prison, the *Ameer* sent for him on the following Monday to the *Salam Khana*-the audience hall. On that occasion, a large number of people were present when the *Ameer* came out of the fort. He saw the condemned one sitting by the side of the road and said to him: Akhwandzada Sahib, how did the verdict go? But the deceased did not give him any reply because he knew that they were bent upon afflicting torture. One of the soldiers, however, said: He has been condemned; that is to say, the verdict of apostasy has been passed.

When the *Ameer* sat in his court, he immediately called the *Akhwandzadah* and said: The verdict of apostasy has been passed on you. Now say whether you will repent or face the penalty? He replied in a positive and unequivocal manner: I cannot retract from the truth; should I accept a falsity for fear of my life? No, that I will never do. The *Ameer* tried hard to persuade him to retract and gave him his personal promise of freedom and favors. But the *Sahibzada* persistently rejected the overture and said: You must never expect that I will ever retract from the truth.

All these reports have reached us through eye-witnesses and are not hearsay. We are told that a very large number of people were present in the court and every time the *Ameer* suggested repentance to the condemned sage, he turned down the offer in a loud, clear voice. It was on that occasion also that he declared in a loud voice that he would rise again six days after he was murdered. I, the writer, believe that this statement must have been based on revelation that he had received. As a matter of fact, the saint had already reached the stage where one's connection with the world is cut off and the angels were shaking hands with him in welcome. What he meant by this declaration was that the angels had given him the glad tidings that he would rise before the seventh day, the Day of Allah. It must also be borne in mind that the martyrs killed in the path of Allah are raised after a few days as is mentioned in the Holy Qur'an:

Think not of those who have been slain in the cause of Allah as dead. Nay, they are living, in the presence of their Lord, and are granted gifts from Him (3:170).

This was exactly what the saint had meant at that time. I saw in a vision that a large, green and flourishing branch of a cypress tree in our garden had been cut down and someone was holding it in his hand. Then I heard someone saying: Plant this branch in the land near my house in the place of that which has been cut. It will grow again. I also received the revelation: Severed from Kabul and came straight to Us. I, therefore, interpret that the blood of the martyred saint has been shed but like a seed it shall grow in time and prosper exceedingly. Our community shall increase there in large numbers.

On the one hand I saw the above dream and on the other hand the saint said that he would be raised after six days. Therefore, my vision and the utterance of the martyred saint point to one and the same thing.

With his martyrdom the deceased has, with his own blood, set an enviable precedent for all my followers. This is the precedent that they all needed. It is because there are some among them even now who, after rendering a little service, begin to think that they have rendered a very remarkable service and think in their minds that they have put me under a personal obligation. And they do not realize that it is they who are indebted to God Almighty who gave them the opportunity of doing that little service. There are some who have not joined us with genuine earnestness and whole-heartedness and do not furnish the proof of the sincerity which they claim to have, nor show true steadfastness. They ignore the faith for the love of small material gains, and are unable to stand up to the least trial. Although they profess to have joined the godly fold, they still cling to worldly gains. But we are a thousand times grateful to our God for those followers who have joined us for the most sincere motives and have accepted the faith with true sincerity and are fully prepared to face every trial for the faith. Yet the degree of loyalty demonstrated by this stout-hearted man is yet to be shown by our men. We pray that God may grant them all the same firmness and steadfastness which he has manifested. The mundane affairs of this life are always exposed to the devastating influence of Satan which crosses the way of those who desire to become spiritually perfect and righteous. There will be many who will join this Movement but, alas, there will be only a few who will set such an example.

Let us now revert to the tragic event. When the venerable saint refused to succumb to any temptation offered and spurned them all, the king was greatly disappointed and with his own hand wrote a lengthy document in which, after quoting the verdict of the hostile divines, he wrote that such a deviant one rightly deserved the punishment to be stoned to death. This document was then hung round the neck of the *Akhwandzadah*. The king then ordered that a hole be pierced through his nose and a string be passed through it with which the saint was to be led to the place of execution. This inhuman order of the king was carried out. A hole was mercilessly pierced through his nose and a string was passed through it and in this terrible state of torture he was, through the deriding crowds and the scornful jeers of the onlookers, led to the place of execution. The *Ameer*, himself accompanied by his courtiers, *muftis* and divines, rode alongside the crowd witnessing this terrible scene and arrived at the place of execution. A great multitude numbering many thousands also went along to witness this gruesome execution.

At the place of the execution the condemned prince was made to stand in a hole dug into the ground and was buried up to his waist. The Amir then went to him and said: Even at this stage if you denounce the person of Qadian who claims to be the Promised Messiah I shall save you. This is the last chance being offered to you. Take pity on yourself and on your family. The *Sahibzadah* replied: God forbid that I should deny the truth. This life is worth little and none of my kith and kin shall avail me in the least. It is not possible that I should renounce my faith for their sake. I shall die for my faith. Hearing this the divines and the jurists cried out in one voice that he was a *Kafir* and should be stoned to death at once. The *Ameer*, his brother Nasrullah Khan and Abdul Ahad, the Chief *Qazi*, and the Chief Constable were all riding on horses and the rest of the crowd was on foot. When the condemned saint persisted in his refusal to retract and for the last time said: I value my faith more than my life, the Amir commanded the Chief *Qazi* to cast the first stone, as he was the one who had been foremost in condemning the victim as an apostate. The *Qazi* rejoined that as he was the king it was his prerogative to cast the first stone. But the king insisted that as the chief of the *Sharia* (religious law) whose verdict had to be carried out, the *Qazi* must take the initiative.

The Chief *Qazi* then got down from his horse and threw the first stone on the helpless victim which inflicted a ghastly wound on his head, forcing it down. Thereafter the ill-starred king cast his stone with his own hand and the rest followed suit. There was hardly a single person left who did not throw a stone at the helpless saint and, within a few minutes, he was buried under a big heap of stones. When the *Ameer* was about to return to his palace, he said that as the deceased had claimed that he would rise after six days, he should be duly guarded for the next six days. It has been reported to us that this ghastly tragedy was enacted on July 14th.

A greater part of this tragic event has been reported to us by the bitter opponents of this Movement, who have confessed that they were among those who had thrown stones on that occasion. There are some others who were the disciples of the deceased martyr. They were afraid of the king and thought it expedient to keep quiet. What we have written here has been gathered together from a number of letters that we have received from different people. Generally, incidents like this are reported with exaggeration. But in this instance, on account of the fear of the *Ameer*, many of the details were held back. In any case, the martyrdom predestined for Sahibzada Abdul Latif did come to pass, and now remains its retribution.

*The truth is that the portion of him who comes to his Lord a sinner is hell; he shall neither die therein nor live (20:75).*

It is a pity that the *Ameer* has now become liable to punishment under the verse: *Whoso kills a believer deliberately, his reward shall be hell, wherein he shall abide, and Allah will be wroth with him and will cast him away and will prepare for him a great punishment (4:94).*

Alas, he did not fear Allah a whit and slaughtered a believer, the like of whom could not be found in the whole length and breadth of Kabul. Such persons who do not hesitate to lay down their lives in defense of truth and are not restrained from doing their duty even by the love of their wives and children are the cream of the nation.

# Gunmen on motorbikes kill American doctor in Pakistan

By **Sophia Saifi**, CNN May 28, 2014

**STORY HIGHLIGHTS:** The doctor is a Pakistan native but has Canadian and U.S. citizenship. Pictures of his bloodied body have gone viral on social media. The motive of the killing is unclear

**Islamabad, Pakistan (CNN)** -- An American doctor was killed when gunmen on motorcycles riddled his body with bullets while he was visiting a graveyard in Pakistan, authorities said. Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar was a cardiologist and resident of Fairfield, Ohio. He arrived in Rabwah town in Punjab three days ago to provide free medical care to heart patients. The doctor was visiting a local graveyard at sunrise Monday when two waiting gunmen shot him and took off, according to Azhar Abbas, a local police official. The motive of the killing is unclear. Qamar died instantly, and pictures of his bloodied body have gone viral on social media. The doctor, who's also a poet and an artist, was visiting the graveyard with his wife and 3-year-old son when the shooting took place. Qamar is a Pakistan native, but has Canadian and U.S. citizenship. He is the second member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community killed in Pakistan this year. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community members have been constantly persecuted in Pakistan since 1974, when a constitutional amendment declared them non-Muslim. A decade later, President Muhammad Zia ul Haq's military regime amended Pakistan's penal code. This barred Ahmadis from identifying as Muslims and led to a hate campaign against their community.

Khalil Ahmad, 61, was arrested on blasphemy charges and fatally shot this month while in police custody in the Punjab town of Sharqpur. He was shot dead by a man who came in to serve food to prison inmates, according to Saleem Uddin, a spokesman for the Ahmadi community.

Qamar's family will travel to Canada to bury his body in Toronto. "He had no enemies," the spokesman said. "He was a gentle man who enjoyed playing cricket." "Our community will continue to provide services to this country. It is this ongoing process of hate and discrimination that needs to be stopped in Pakistan."

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## The Star

News / World

### Canadian doctor killed by gunmen in Pakistan

**A member of Islam's controversial Ahmadi sect, cardiologist shot at local cemetery where his father and other family members are buried.**

The BBC reported that when Pakistani Muslims apply for a national identity card or passport, they must sign this oath: "I consider Mirza Ghulam Ahmad an imposter prophet. And also consider his followers, whether belonging to the Lahori or Qadiani group, to be non-Muslims."

In 2008, a television evangelist and clerics called for the murder of Ahmadis in Pakistan. Within two days of the program's broadcast, two Ahmadis were murdered. Two years later, in 2010, 93 Ahmadis were killed when two mosques in Lahore were attacked. In 2012, Lahore's bar association barred the sale of fruit juices by Ahmadi-owned companies, Pakistan's Tribune newspaper reported.

"The assassination of Dr. Qamar took place apparently because he belonged to the Ahmadi sect," said the police official adding that the doctor was in Pakistan to perform medical procedures as a volunteer.



**DAWN.com (May 27, 2014)**

## **MURDER IN RABWAH**

**Muhammad Hasan Miraj**

### **Rabwah is an Arabic word meaning "an elevated place".**

This is what Wikipedia says about Rabwah (also known as Chenab Nagar) but personal impressions are all the more relevant; and I know it be a different place.

During our trips to River Chenab, the only picnic spot in the vicinity of our college, we would hear the whispers about this sleeping town. On growing up, I would often visit the deserted streets of the town but hardly came across the hustle and bustle that was quite the signature of a Punjabi lifestyle.

The myth about this ghost city was finally broken when I had the chance to visit it on a Friday afternoon. Members of the Ahmadi community were out in the streets, filling them with life.

Despite living under the constant threat, the Ahmadis were still holding on to Jinnah's Sri Nagar speech in May 1944.

The debate here is not about the fate of Ahmadis in Pakistan, for the matters of faith are, thankfully, not to be decided by humans alone. Whosoever ends up on the right side of faith, is an occurrence that is subject to an unpredictable future, but what remains Abrahamic about this group is the persecution that ensues.

Not a single day goes by, when an Ahmadi is not discriminated on the basis of his religious belief, so how could this 26th day of May be an exception?

Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar is today's count for the self-righteous in Pakistan.

A graduate of Punjab Medical College, Mehdi did his residency from the 10th Avenue's famous Maimonides Hospital of New York and was currently teaching at the Ohio University. His half-a-century age had ignited in him, the flair of public service, for which he chose Pakistan, a land that he still considered his home. After lining up things for the three week medical mission at the Tahir Medical Centre of Chenab Nagar (Rabwah), he flew along with the family and started the camp.

On the second day of his mission, Dr Mehdi was exiting the Ahmadi graveyard after paying respects to his deceased relatives and community members, when unidentified men shot him dead.



All this, while his wife and two-year-old son watched in horror and his other two sons slept peacefully. A little later, the sun appeared on Rabwah and the day started in the Islamic Republic, quite routine.

Though no one has claimed responsibility, sooner or later, some *Lashkar* or *Jaish* will make a call and own the killing; after all, nothing unites us better than hatred.

Apparently, Mehdi's crime is the one of his faith, a matter in which most of us, from this part of the world, have little to opt.

It all started in March of 1953, when violence engulfed Punjab and claimed over a dozen lives. The disturbances were stirred when the Pakistani state, headed by Khwaja Nazim-ud-Din, refused to succumb to the clergy's demand for a systematic purge of Ahmadis. Loot and arson was contained after the military was called in but this left a question mark on the survival of minorities in the infant state. As things normalised, an inquiry commission was set up to find out the reasons behind the violence.

The committee, headed by Justice M R Kayani and Justice Munir, held over a hundred sessions and after an exhaustive five weeks, issued a detailed report. The content of the report is every bit, an incisive analysis, but its essence can rightly be summed up in the following paragraph:

"Keeping in view the several definitions given by the *ulema*, need we make any comment except that no two learned divines are agreed on this fundamental. If we attempt our own definition as each learned divine has done and that definition differs from that given by all others, we unanimously go out of the fold of Islam. And if we adopt the definition given by any one of the *ulema*, we remain Muslims according to the view of that *alim* but *kafirs* according to the definition of everyone else."

But we, as a nation, decided to look the other way and in 1974, the Ahmadis were declared non-Muslims. However, this, as a matter of interest and reference, must be kept in mind that immediately after the Ahmadis were declared non-Muslims, all the forces that rallied for getting them off Islam, instantly joined hands against the Shias.

Dr Qamar Ali Mehdi was no ordinary doctor. While he held the Young Investigator Award by the American College of Cardiology and was identified among America's Top Physicians for the year 2003-2004 and America's Top Cardiologists for years 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. He also held the Physician Recognition Award by the American Medical Association. His bespectacled bright face smiled next to his profile that read:

"I believe in delivering the best possible patient care, maintaining the highest professional standards, contributing to the progress of the institutions I am affiliated with. My first priority is to deliver my professional responsibilities with competency, honesty and integrity."

And with competence, honesty and integrity, he did.

I am sorry, Dr Qamar Ali Mehdi, I failed to protect you but I raise my voice against this persecution. I forgo my safety just so that tomorrow I don't die unheard.

All the notions of a right wing government next door may not be as dangerous as the silence at this rise of ultra-right indoors. The hours of choice are narrowing every second and there remains no option but a totalitarian Pakistan, rising up against extremism. If, today we decide to stay silent about an Ahmadi killing, tomorrow we will be forced to stay quiet on another persecution, setting up a vicious cycle in motion that will leave all our cities as silent as Chenab Nagar (Rabwah), the elevated place.

*Once you attempt legislation upon religious grounds, you open the way for every kind of intolerance and religious persecution.*

W.B. Yeats

## The New York Times

# U.S. Doctor Is Killed by Gunman in Pakistan

By WAQAR GILLANI

May 26, 2014

LAHORE, Pakistan — An American doctor volunteering at a hospital in eastern Pakistan was shot to death on Monday in front of his wife and 3-year-old son in the latest attack on a follower of the minority Ahmadi faith at a time of rising intolerance across the country.

One of two men on a motorbike opened fire on the doctor, Mehdi Ali Qamar, 50, a cardiologist based in Ohio, as he entered a cemetery in Rabwah, a town in central Punjab Province that is the main center of the Ahmadi community in Pakistan, the police said.

Dr. Qamar had arrived in Pakistan two days earlier as a volunteer at a hospital in Rabwah that has been a target of an extremist hate campaign in recent months. His wife, sister-in-law and son were with him when the shooting occurred.

The gunman shot Dr. Qamar at least 10 times, and he died immediately, Inspector Rana Anwar, the Rabwah police chief, said in a phone interview. The doctor's relatives were not injured, the authorities said, and the attackers fled.

"This is a faith-based target killing of a very precious man who was saving humanity," said Saleem-ud Din, an Ahmadi spokesman. "We want justice."

It was the second year that Dr. Qamar had volunteered at the Tahir Heart Institute, a hospital specializing in cardiac treatment that is run by the Ahmadi community and treats patients of all faiths. In recent months, religious extremists distributed pamphlets in the area warning Muslims against using the hospital.

"Visiting a doctor or receiving treatment in that hospital is forbidden in Islam and an unforgivable sin," said one such pamphlet. Mr. Din said the police and other law enforcement agencies had failed to act against those orchestrating the campaign.

The Ahmadi faith offends many orthodox Muslims for its veneration of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, a 19th-century Punjabi cleric who Ahmadis believe was a prophet sent by God — in contradiction to the mainstream belief that the Prophet Muhammad was the final prophet.

Bowing to pressure from religious hard-liners in 1974, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Pakistan's otherwise-secular prime minister, changed the Constitution to discriminate against Ahmadis, who are forbidden to describe themselves as Muslims. In recent years, extremist groups and lone vigilantes have violently attacked Ahmadis numerous times.

A report by the Ahmadi community published last week said that seven Ahmadis were killed in 2013 and that 16 survived attempts on their lives. The violence has increased in recent months as part of a broader increase in intolerance in Pakistan linked to abuses of the colonial-era blasphemy law.

On May 16, a teenage boy wearing a fake police uniform walked into a police station and fatally shot a 65-year-old Ahmadi man who had been accused of blasphemy in a small town east of Lahore.

*Declan Walsh contributed reporting from London.*

**For Immediate Release**

May 27, 2014

## **Ahmadiyya Caucus Co-Chairs Deplore Targeted Killing of American Doctor Visiting Pakistan on Humanitarian Mission**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-California) and Congressman Frank Wolf (R-Virginia) released the following statements following the brutal killing of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar in Pakistan this weekend. Qamar, an American cardiologist from Columbus, Ohio, was gunned down in front of his wife and toddler son. He was reportedly shot 10 times by one of two men on motorbike as he entered a cemetery to visit a family grave. He was an Ahmadiyya Muslim, a religious community that faces severe governmental and social discrimination in Pakistan. Dr. Qamar was in Pakistan on a humanitarian mission, providing free services to all those in need of medical care, regardless of religion. He leaves behind a wife and three sons, ages 16, 6 and 2.

“My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar who was brutally killed simply for his faith. Discrimination, hatred and violence toward the Ahmadiyya community has long been sanctioned by Pakistan and must be addressed by U.S. foreign policy,” said Congresswoman Speier. “We cannot tolerate the cold-blooded killings of American citizens traveling abroad. Qamar was a humanitarian silenced forever for selflessly caring for others regardless of religious differences. Peace, education, pluralism, racial and gender equality are the hallmarks of the Ahmadi people and true religious freedom is an absolute essential human right. I will continue to stand in solidarity with Ahmadiyya Muslims as they seek to live in a world free from hatred.”

“Dr. Qamar’s assassination is symptomatic of an environment in Pakistan that is hostile to religious freedom at both the governmental and societal level. Grievous violations routinely occur that especially impact religious minorities including Ahmadis, Christians and Hindus. I have called on the State Department to designate Pakistan a Country of Particular Concern for these very reasons. Dr. Qamar was an American citizen on a selfless humanitarian mission. His grieving family must be given every assurance that America’s first freedom, religious freedom, will be a cornerstone of U.S. engagement with Pakistan, which to date it has not been,” said Congressman Wolf.

Pakistan’s constitution explicitly declares that Ahmadis are non-Muslims and denies them equal rights with other Pakistani citizens, which can create a climate of impunity surrounding attacks against Ahmadis. The country’s draconian blasphemy laws further contribute to the problem.

U.S. Representatives Wolf and Speier co-chair the recently launched Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus in the House of Representatives

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## Wall Street Journal

### **American Doctor Killed in Central Pakistan Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar of Ohio Had Arrived in Pakistan on Saturday for a Week of Volunteer Work**

By QASIM NAUMAN  
Updated May 26, 2014 4:00 p.m. ET

Zohra Yusuf, chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, an independent campaigning group, said that every religious minority in Pakistan is persecuted, but the Ahmadiyya community faces the worst treatment. Several local-language newspapers publish anti-Ahmadi material but there is no action against them, she said.

"If the Christian community comes under attack, you'll see the prime minister issuing a statement of condemnation, officials visiting the victims. But that is not the case with the Ahmadi community," she said. "There is no one standing by them."

Shantanu Sinha, a cardiologist in Lancaster who worked with Dr. Qamar for the past 10 years, described him as a person who gave generously to his local community in Ohio. "He was one of the most honest, ethical and not-a-bad-bone-in-his-body kind of person," said Dr. Sinha, adding that Dr. Qamar returned to Pakistan to provide free cardiac care. "He was very giving." "There [was] a possibility that this could have happened, and he knew it," said Dr. Sinha. "I just hope that it will probably help raise awareness about a senseless killing of a very nice person who had gone to do a good thing."

However, another police official in Chenab Nagar, who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, said extremist organizations regularly distributed fliers against the hospital. "We often see pamphlets and posters that say it is against Islam to be treated at this hospital because it is run by Ahmadis," the police official said

## Al-Jazeera

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/05/us-doctor-killed-pakistan-sectarian-attack-201452783714275841.html>

### **US doctor killed in Pakistan sectarian attack Volunteer cardiologist Mehdi Ali Qamar becomes victim of latest at- tack on country's Ahmadiyya minority community.**

**Last updated: 27 May 2014 10:53**

Mustafa Qadri, the Pakistan researcher for Amnesty International, told Al Jazeera that his organisation regularly receives reports about people attacking the Ahmadiyya community "safe in the knowledge that the state will do practically nothing to bring them to justice".

He added that the Pakistani government's failure to act would "embolden" those who sought to persecute the country's minorities.



## Baird and Minister Yelich Condemn Violence Against Religious Communities in Pakistan

**May 27, 2014** - Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird and the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Foreign Affairs and Consular), today issued the following statement:

"Canada is deeply saddened by the death of a Canadian doctor, Mehdi Ali Qamar, who was murdered in Pakistan on May 26. His murder is believed to be due to his Ahmadi faith. Sadly, he is among dozens of Ahmadis killed for their faith in recent years.

"Canada condemns the pattern of violence against religious communities in Pakistan and the unacceptable disregard of the universal right to practise one's religion in peace and security.

"Such violence is a clear violation of the right to religious freedom and must not be tolerated. Canada calls on the Pakistani government to stop the persecution of Ahmadis and to ensure that all Pakistanis can practise their faith without fear.

"On behalf of all Canadians, we extend our prayers and deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Dr. Qamar.

"Canadian consular officials are in contact with local authorities and are providing assistance to the family during this difficult time."

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### PMA condemns Dr. Mehdi's killing

Posted about 2 weeks ago | Onepakistannews

Karachi : Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) Centre and PMA Karachi on Tuesday strongly condemned the brutal murder of Cardiac Surgeon Dr Mehdi Ali Qamar, who had come to Pakistan two days ago to serve his country.

An emergent meeting of PMA Centre and PMA Karachi was held at PMA House Karachi which was presided over by Immediate Past President of PMA Centre Prof S Tipu Sultan. The meeting was also attended by Dr Mirza Ali Azhar, Dr Qaisar Sajjad, Dr M Idrees Adhi, Dr Qazi M Wasiq, Dr Shaukat Malik, Dr Ahmed Bhimani, Dr Khalil Mukadam, Dr Serajudaula Syed, Dr Najum F Mahmudi, Dr Shoaib Sobani, Dr Hamid Manzoor, Dr Naseer Ahmed Baloch and others.

The meeting condemned the brutal murder of Dr Mehdi Ali Qamar, 50, stated to be an Ahmedi in Punjab on other day. The Dr Mehdi was settled in the US during 1990s, and returned Pakistan two days ago to serve his country.

It is very sad that a doctor who left his very attractive and highly paid job in America and decided to serve his own people in Pakistan has been killed ruthlessly, noted the meeting. A doctor always serves his patients without any discrimination.

PMA demanded from the government to provide security to all doctors of the country. Doctors are already leaving the country because of the fear to their life. When a well-trained qualified cardiac surgeon returns to his homeland to serve his own people is brutally killed, what will be the fate of health delivery system in this country, it asked.

PMA demanded fair compensation to the bereaved families of the slain doctors. It asked from the Interior Minister, Chief Minister of Punjab, Chief Secretary and IG Police to take an urgent notice and arrest the culprits.

## **Association of Physicians of Pakistani-descent of North America (APPNA) Condemns Murder of Dr. Mehdi Ali**

Dear APPNA family,

It is with a heavy heart that I must again address a most heinous act of violence that has perpetrated one of our own. I am referring to the murder of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar, a cardiologist from Columbus Ohio and member of the APPNA family, who was brutally murdered in Pakistan on Monday in front of his wife and child. Dr. Qamar was the casualty of targeted attacks on Ahmadi Muslims. He was killed while visiting his father's gravesite. Dr. Qamar was in Pakistan to volunteer at a local heart clinic and see relatives when his life was tragically cut short.

APPNA strongly condemns the horrible act of violence and cowardice shown by these murderers. They have taken away the life of a man who was a healer, someone trying to help people. They have murdered him for his beliefs; thus showing just how ignorant they can be.

APPNA will not stand for this type of continued violence to the people of Pakistan. APPNA condemns this barbaric act and has been proactive in trying to end this type of suffering. On March 19, 2014, APPNA issued a letter to the Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, condemning the killing of Dr. Shaukat Nyani in Karachi. We received a statement back from Ambassador Jilani's office. Both documents are available on the APPNA website ([Letter to Ambassador](#) and [Response from Ambassador](#)). Our next step for the betterment of our people will be taken on the annual APPNA Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C. being held June 10 and 11, 2014, where we will strongly address this tragedy and work with the embassy and the state department to bring these criminals to justice. I have also been interviewed recently regarding these terrible events and I stated these words of resolve; APPNA condemns these horrific acts of violence, will always stand against it and will always try anything and everything in its power to stop it.

We are striving for our voices to be heard; we are saying that we will not stand for this violence any longer. We are very hopeful that through the work of APPNA membership and our partnership with officials in Washington, D.C., that we can end the violence. I ask you to be a part of this change; a change for the betterment of our people!

Please join me in support of the APPNA Day on the Hill, let's work together to end the mayhem against minorities, against sectarian violence, against physicians killing. Together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Asif M. Rehman, M.D.

APPNA President, 2014

# Pickerington Cardiologist Murdered In Pakistan

Posted: May 26, 2014 6:10 PM EDT Updated: May 26, 2014 10:35 PM EDT

COLUMBUS, Ohio -Gunmen in Pakistan fatally shot a visiting American cardiologist from the minority Ahmadi sect in front of his wife and toddler son on Monday as they left a cemetery after visiting relatives' graves, police said.

The two gunmen riding a motorcycle shot Mehdi Ali Qamar 10 times at close range in the central town of Chanab Nagar, police officer Shaukat Ali said, adding that Qamar's wife and son were not harmed. He is survived by two other sons.

The officer said the family arrived two days ago from their home in Ohio, for a visit and that the cardiologist had planned to treat patients at the nearby Tahir Heart Institute. Ali said the killers' motive is not yet known.

Jason Elsea, from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Columbus, Ohio, said Qamar was from Pickerington and had a practice in Lancaster. Qamar had recently taken a sabbatical to volunteer at the heart hospital.

"Many doctors from the U.S. have visited this hospital to help those in need," Elsea said in a statement. He said Qamar's sons were ages 2, 6 and 16.

Dr. Abdus Malik, Qamar's friend and hospital colleague in Ohio, said he had made summertime trips over the past several years to do work at the institute.

"And this time they wouldn't let him come back," he said. "Just because the difference in our faith, they want to kill us."

Malik said Qamar is originally from Pakistan but has been an American citizen for at least 10 years after moving to the U.S. in the 1990s for medical training. He said the Qamar's eldest son remained in Ohio, and his 6-year-old son was in Pakistan but not with his parents at the time of the shooting.

Ahmadis follow the self-proclaimed prophet Ghulam Ahmad and consider themselves Muslims, but are forbidden from presenting themselves as such by Pakistani law. They have long been targeted by Islamic extremists, and earlier this month a member of the sect accused of blasphemy was shot dead by a gunman who walked into the police station where he was being held.

Saleem Uddin, a spokesman for Ahmadiyya Jama'at Pakistan, an organization representing Ahmadis, condemned the "brutal murder of this doctor who served fellow human beings without discrimination." He said the attack was part of campaign against Ahmadis and the heart institute, and came after leaflets appeared declaring that treatment there was forbidden by Islamic law.

"In order to put a stop to murders in the name of faith it is essential to put a ban on hate-promoting literature, and those who are legitimizing murder of innocent people should be brought to justice," he said.

## **Resolution on Martyrdom of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar Passed by MAALA (Mid-Atlantic Association for Literature Appreciation)**

An extraordinary meeting of MAALA (Mid-Atlantic Association for Literature Appreciation) was held in Fulton, Maryland at the residence of Dr. Mansoor Malik on May 26, 2014 at 6:00 PM to condemn the heinous act of religious terrorism in Pakistan against a long standing member of MAALA Dr. Mehdi Ali, a 51 year old heart surgeon and a poet from Columbus Ohio. Dr. Ali was gunned down in Rabwah, Pakistan, in front of his wife and a two years old son early in the morning on May 26.

Renowned literary and social personalities including Dr. Nisar Chaudhry, Dr. Mubarak Shah, Dr. Naeem Lughmani, Dr. Abdul Momin Tak, Sadiq Bajwa, Akram Saqib and many other prominent members of MAALA attended this meeting. They expressed their profound anguish over the law and order situation in Pakistan and the in particular the murder of Dr. Ali. A resolution of condolences and condemnation was moved by the MAALA's chief coordinator Nasir Jamil and was unanimously adopted by the participants.

### **RESOLUTION ON MARTYRDOM OF DR. MEHDI ALI QAMAR**

It is with deep sorrow that MAALA shares with its members and all concerned the news of Martyrdom of one of our members Dr. Mehdi Ali of Columbus, Ohio, who has been martyred in Rabwah, Pakistan today May 26, 2014 at the age of 51, *Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un* (Surely we belong to Allah and to Him shall we return').

He was an active member of MAALA and regularly participated in its annual events. He was a heart surgeon by profession. Dr. Ali was leaving the *Bahishti Maqbarah* (Ahmadiyya cemetery in Rabwah) with his wife and two-year old son around Fajr time when he was gunned down. Dr. Ali had arrived in Pakistan with his family a few days ago to start his volunteer task at Tahir Heart Institute in Rabwah.

MAALA very strongly condemns this barbaric act of target killing in the name of religion which is becoming a norm in Pakistan.

MAALA calls upon the Punjab Government, Government of Pakistan and the Supreme Court of Pakistan to take swift and decisive action against the terrorist organizations that are behind this and other senseless killings.

We the members of MAALA pray for the dear departed soul that Allah may elevate his status in the highest echelons of paradise (*Jannatul Firdaus*). We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family as well as the Supreme Head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad.

May Allah accepts the supreme sacrifice of our dear departed brother and may He grants patience and steadfastness to his family. Amin.

We are the members of MAALA (Mid-Atlantic Association for Literature Appreciation) USA.  
Fulton, Maryland, this twenty sixth of May two thousand fourteen.

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## U.S. doctor killed in Pakistan in front of family

AP 10:33 p.m. EDT May 26, 2014



Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar planned to treat patients at the Ahmadiyya Tahir Heart Institute, shown here, before gunmen killed him in Lahore, Pakistan. (Photo: Daniel Berehulak, Getty Images)

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Gunmen in Pakistan shot dead a visiting American cardiologist from the minority Ahmadi sect in front of his wife and toddler son on Monday as they left a cemetery after visiting relatives' graves, police said. The two gunmen riding a motorcycle shot Mehdi Ali Qamar 10 times at close range in the central town of Chanab Nagar, police officer Shaukat Ali said, adding that Qamar's wife and son were not harmed. He is survived by two other sons. The officer said the family arrived two days ago from their home in Ohio, for a visit and that the cardiologist had planned to treat patients at the nearby Tahir Heart Institute. Ali said the killers' motive is not yet known. Jason Elsea, from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Columbus, Ohio, said Qamar was from Pickerington and had a practice in Lancaster. Qamar had recently taken a sabbatical to volunteer at the heart hospital. "Many doctors from the U.S. have visited this hospital to help those in need," Elsea said in a statement. He said Qamar's sons were ages 2, 6 and 16.

Dr. Abdus Malik, Qamar's friend and hospital colleague in Ohio, said he had made summertime trips over the past several years to do work at the institute. "And this time they wouldn't let him come back," he said. "Just because the difference in our faith, they want to kill us."

Malik said Qamar is originally from Pakistan but has been an American citizen for at least 10 years after moving to the U.S. in the 1990s for medical training. He said the Qamar's eldest son remained in Ohio, and his 6-year-old son was in Pakistan but not with his parents at the time of the shooting. Ahmadis follow the self-proclaimed prophet Ghulam Ahmad and consider themselves Muslims, but are forbidden from presenting themselves as such by Pakistani law. They have long been targeted by Islamic extremists, and earlier this month a member of the sect accused of blasphemy was shot dead by a gunman who walked into the police station where he was being held.

Saleem Uddin, a spokesman for Ahmadiyya *Jama'at* Pakistan, an organization representing Ahmadis, condemned the "brutal murder of this doctor who served fellow human beings without discrimination."



He said the attack was part of campaign against Ahmadis and the heart institute, and came after leaflets appeared declaring that treatment there was forbidden by Islamic law.

"In order to put a stop to murders in the name of faith it is essential to put a ban on hate-promoting literature, and those who are legitimizing murder of innocent people should be brought to justice," he said.

## **Slain doctor Mehdi Ali Qamar was 'servant of humanity'**

The Canadian Press Posted: Jun 04, 2014 1:43 PM ET Last Updated: Jun 04, 2014 6:10 PM ET

### **Related stories**

## **Mehdi Ali Qamar, Canadian doctor, killed in Pakistan**



A Canadian cardiologist shot dead in Pakistan was remembered Wednesday as a selfless humanitarian who was "murdered because of his faith," with mourners making impassioned calls for Ottawa to better pressure the South Asian country on religious freedoms.

Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar, a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim sect, had just returned to his birth country to do volunteer work at a hospital when he was gunned down by assailants in front of his wife and two-year-old son on May 26. They were visiting his parents' graves.

Men carry the casket of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar, the Canadian-American cardiologist who was assassinated in Pakistan while on a humanitarian mission at his funeral service in Vaughan, Ont., on Wednesday, June 4, 2014. (The Canadian Press)

At a funeral service in Vaughan, outside Toronto, Qamar's nephew Nasir Chaudhary read a family statement that remembered the heart doctor as a "real servant of humanity" who cared for all, regardless of their beliefs.

"He possessed a strong sense of service to humanity. His compassion knew no bounds," Chaudhary said to a solemn crowd.

"The only comfort we find in his passing is that he gave his life doing something he loved: helping others."

A dual citizen who had lived in Ohio for the last decade, Qamar's open casket was draped in both Canadian and American flags as a ring of mourners wearing traditional black-and-white scarves stood silently around it.

Relatives spoke of Qamar as a positive, generous man who was always cracking jokes and penning poems. A niece recalled one such piece, written to honour her brother after his sudden death.

Speakers mourned Qamar, 51, not only for the loss of his life, but as what they see as another sectarian killing of members of their religious group, who in Pakistan have long been the target of Islamic extremists, accused of blasphemy and are not officially recognized as Muslims.

"Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar was murdered because of his faith," said Lal Khan Malik, president Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada, a group representing Ahmadis.

He said Qamar's death was the "direct result of the state-sponsored extremism that is practiced in Pakistan," and called on the Harper government to pressure the South Asian country to end what he called the persecution of Ahmadis.

"As loyal citizens of Canada, we ask the government of Canada to urge the Pakistan government to stand up to extremists and promote freedom of religion."

He noted that last year Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited the same Ahmadiyya mosque hall where Qamar was remembered to name the first ambassador to the Office of Religious Freedom, meant to spread religious tolerance abroad. Malik said Qamar's killing tragically underscores the importance of the initiative.

"I did not think I would be standing here a year from that day burying one of my community members to demonstrate the critical need and work of that office."

He said the Qamar's slaying was part of a "pattern" that has seen 137 other Ahmadis killed in Pakistan over the last four years.

Federal, provincial and local politicians were in attendance, as were officials from the U.S. consulate in Toronto along with friends and family stateside.

Local Liberal MP Judy Sgro said the Harper government must get tough with Pakistan to act against extremism targeting minorities, saying options such as trade sanctions should be on the table. "We must not let him die in vain," she said of Qamar.

Speaking next to her on a panel at the service, Conservative MP and government representative

Chungsen Leung called on Pakistan to "stop the persecution of Ahmadis."

© The Canadian Press, 2014

## **DR. MEHDI ALI QAMAR (1963-2014)**



### **The Answer to the Question “Why?”**

**Abdus S. Malik, M.D.**

Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar was an accomplished physician, a young and energetic 50 year old known by his family, colleagues and friends as kind, gentle and compassionate. He was born in a remote area of a third world country, spent decades in search of knowledge, became a successful professional, and was living a very comfortable and peaceful life in America. He not only had a thriving cardiology practice, but also enjoyed a well-rounded and fulfilling life with a beautiful family, a loving wife, 3 adoring, intelligent boys and was also involved in his religious Community and many humanitarian efforts.



**Mosque Baitul Nasir**

(Dr. Qamar was an active member and officer of this local Mosque in Groveport, Ohio)

Yet for some unfathomable reason, at least unfathomable for all of us living here in Lancaster, Ohio, this man, who by anyone's standards, “had it all”, returns to his place of birth to lay down his life. He was aware that this likely would be his last trip. At least that is what we came to know after he passed away. Having a strong

premonition that he may not come back, Dr. Qamar made arrangements for his family by providing detailed instructions regarding his affairs to a close family friend and his eldest 16 year old son before leaving on his last journey to meet his destiny. He then embarked on his journey to Rabwah, a small and underserved town in Pakistan, to provide free state-of-the-art cardiology care, with expertise he gained after years and years of hard work and dedication - expertise he desired so much to benefit the poor and the needy, those who were suffering and had no access to proper medical care.



Tahir Heart Institute, Rabwah, Pakistan  
(Dr. Qamar was volunteering at this hospital during his recent visit)

Ironically, just 2 days into his humanitarian mission, 11 bullets fired by a cowardly assailant into this unarmed man, in front of his wife and toddler son, would tear that loving and caring heart of one so tender and kind. All he wanted to do was heal the hearts of those who could not find or afford the level of expertise he offered.

Those of us who knew and loved Dr. Qamar find ourselves asking the question, “Why did he do it?” Why did this man, this humanitarian, who had already given back so much, seek to give more in the face of grave danger? Why was he willing to sacrifice his life? The answer lies in a very short as well as a long story. The story begins 2,000 years ago; no 4,000 years ago. Actually, it began with the inception of humanity.

It is a story of love and hatred, peace and war – it is a story of an ultimate struggle between good and evil. Throughout history, whenever these forces encountered each other, love and peace always prevailed and good would always triumph over evil, but it would often take many years and along the way immense sacrifices would have to be made by the brave and convicted.

Such were the sacrifices required in this instance, and Dr. Qamar had the faith, the conviction, and the bravery to make them. Dr. Qamar belonged to a community that has been in an ongoing struggle with evil ever since it was founded some 125 years ago. We live in an era in which we find war, injustice and terrorism all around us. Everywhere we turn, evil is out to destroy whatever good exists in humanity. It is no secret that in this day and age Muslims are known for evil, barbarism, terrorism and inhumanity. This reputation, which has become synonymous with the word “Muslim”, should not surprise Muslims of the world, at least those Muslims who are aware of their history.

About 1400 years ago, the Founder of Islam, the Holy Prophet Mohammad<sup>saw</sup> foretold the events of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries in detail. He prophesized that 1,400 years after him, Muslims will become the worst creation under the sky. They will forsake true Islamic teachings and they will have the treasured Book, the Holy Qur'an, but will not understand it. They will forsake the true teachings of their Book, just like the Israelites did 1,400 years after Moses<sup>as</sup>. Prophet Muhammad<sup>saw</sup> further prophesized that God would then send His Mercy to the Muslims. Just as He sent the first Messiah, Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) to the Israelites, God would send another Messiah to the Muslims who would follow the footsteps of the first Messiah. Just as Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) was rejected by the people to whom he came as a source of mercy, so would this 20<sup>th</sup> Century Messiah be rejected by the majority of the Muslims.

And so it was that 125 years ago in 1889, there was a person, His Holiness Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> who appeared in a small town named Qadian, India, and claimed that he was sent to bring peace, love and humanity back in the world. He founded a Community known as the Ahmadiyya Community in Islam. Those who join this Community are fully aware that their path is not a bed of roses; it will be full of sacrifices for the sake of humanity, love and peace. This path will not be unlike that which was taken by the followers of the first Messiah; the path of the earlier Christians who were called upon to lay down their lives for the sake of their faith, century after century.



His Holiness Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi<sup>as</sup>  
(1835-1908)

Dr. Qamar was a dedicated member of this Ahmadiyya Community in Islam, a Community of Muslims who sacrifice their wealth, honor, and even their lives to uphold the true values of Islam; the values of love, caring and peace, the values of true humanity. The Ahmadiyya Community in Islam has been locked in this struggle



for the last 125 years, but it is the struggle from a broader sense that has continued since eternity. It is nothing new.

Ahmadi Muslims have been serving humanity for those 125 years, since its inception, in more than 200 countries of the world, serving and promoting peace and love without any discrimination, irrespective of race, caste, creed or religion. This Community, now more than 100 million strong, is quietly going about its business and winning this war against evil slowly but surely. It is united behind one spiritual leader worldwide, the Caliph of Islam, His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup>, who keeps this Community focused on its goals, guiding it against anger, hatred, and revenge. There have been many, many martyrs like Dr. Qamar amongst the Ahmadiyya Community in Islam over the last 125 years, but not a single act of retaliation, revenge, or hatred has been committed by any of its members worldwide.



His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup>,  
(The Current Worldwide Head of the Ahmadiyya Community in Islam)

Dr. Qamar was a Prince of Peace who was following Muhammad<sup>saw</sup>, the Prophet of Peace. The answer to that question of "Why did he do it?" is now clear. Like others before him, he would not be deterred in carrying the torch of the Ahmadiyya Community in Islam, in continuing to promulgate the TRUE message of Islam – one of Peace and Love for Humanity. In the end, he would testify to his truthfulness and dedication to peace by the ultimate sacrifice, the sacrifice of his life. We will all deeply miss Dr. Qamar, but we should take comfort that in his final journey, he was fulfilling his mission in life just as he had done for so many years, and he would not have had it any other way.

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H.adhrrat 'Uqbah bin 'Amir<sup>ra</sup> relates that the Messenger<sup>saw</sup> of Allah went to the graves of the martyrs of the battle of Uhud eight years after the battle and prayed as if he was saying farewell to the living and the dead. Then he ascended the pulpit and said: "I am going ahead of you, and I am a witness over you and our meeting shall be at the *Haud.-e-Kauthar* (Reservoir in the Heaven). I am looking right now at the place where I will be standing. I am not worried that you will start associating partners with Alla<sup>h</sup>. However, with regards to the world, I am worried about you that you may try to compete with each other for gaining the world." Hadhrrat Uqbah<sup>ra</sup> says this was his last opportunity of looking at the Messenger<sup>saw</sup> of Allah.

(Bukhari Kitabul Maghazi)



# Statement by the Family of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar (Press Conference in Toronto, Canada)

## Harith Chaudhary, Toronto, Canada

We, the family of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar, are moved by the outpouring of support we have received as we mourn the loss of someone who was very near and dear to our hearts.

Dr. Qamar was a wonderful brother, a loving husband, a doting father, a kind friend, and a selfless humanitarian. He is survived by his wife and three sons.

Dr Qamar's wife extends her regrets for being unable to speak to the media at this time, as she and her sons cope with their immense loss. However, she extends her heartfelt thanks to all those who have offered their sincere condolences and much-needed emotional and moral support. Despite the emotional upheaval, the family would like to offer a few words in memory of the late Dr. Qamar. In the words of his wife: "...My husband was an understanding, caring, and loving husband, as well as a nurturing father to our three sons. He was a real servant of humanity who never discriminated against his patients on the basis of creed, language, colour, or race, let alone religious belief."

His eldest son says: "He has been and always will be my role model in terms of education, moral and family values, as well as an inspiration for how to live a life full of love and kindness. I will miss my father and I am sure that the world will miss him too."

Dr. Qamar was an intelligent and gifted cardiologist who often performed surgeries that were nothing short of miracles. He possessed a strong sense of service to humanity; his compassion knew no bounds. He spent a great amount of time and wealth tending to those who could not afford to look after their basic needs. And in whatever time he could spare, he would write poems, many of which center on the subject of life. In all, he was a remarkable human being.

Although he had settled in Columbus, Ohio, Dr. Qamar put his life on the line by returning to Pakistan to volunteer his services at Tahir Heart Institute in Rabwah. He had done this several times over the years, but he could not have known what would happen this time. As he returned again to the soil on which he was born, he would be made to make *the* ultimate sacrifice — his life.

Dr. Qamar was the youngest in his family. We will always remember him as the kind and gentle boy that he was, and the kind and gentle man he became. He was a humble, peace-loving human being who never made any enemies, yet he was taken away from us in such a brutal way. The only comfort we find in his passing is that he gave his life doing something he loved - helping others. Dr. Qamar is now in God's care, and God will tend to him. We have been bereaved but we are not weak; we are patient. Our hearts are weeping but our spirits are high. Our belief is in God and our strength is in prayer, as our spiritual leader, our *Khalifa*, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> said in his recent Friday Sermon: "This dear martyr has spilled his blood on the soil of Rabwah and drawn our attention towards prayer...we need to pray and pray a lot."

We believe that prayer will heal our wounds and God will bring us justice. Although we believe that absolute justice lies in the hands of God Almighty, we would like to call upon the Canadian government to take measures for the safety of all minorities across the world, particularly in Pakistan. The constitution of Pakistan deprives us of freedom of thought, freedom of conscience, and freedom of religion. Canada must pressure the government of Pakistan to bring about real change.

In the meantime, we remind ourselves of the verse of the Qur'an, that "To Allah we belong and to Him shall we return"

## **Presented at the Press Conference in Toronto, Canada**

**Duresameen Ashraf, Toronto, Canada**

I would like to thank the (government) dignitaries for their commitment to act, in unity.

My uncle, a stellar human being, Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar, was brutally killed for his religious beliefs. Unfortunately, hundreds of Ahmadis have been killed in the last few years. Four years ago, three other direct relatives of mine were also tragically killed for their religious beliefs. There is no shame in such attacks on religious minorities in Pakistan, evidenced even in the publicly distributed leaflets in the country.

The time to act has passed due. The time to act is not when more lives are lost; the time to act is now. This injustice speaks to the breach of fundamental rights every human being who has lived, lives and will live anywhere in the world.

My uncle's legacy and his love for humanity inspires an organization, redeemhumanity.com. As my emotions have been sparked by this tragedy, I am weary of other intolerance as well. Redeem Humanity is a humble but powerful movement in the interest of all people regardless of race, religion, economic limitations or orientation.

So far I am humbled and grateful by the commitment I have received from my friends who are human rights lawyers, investigators, educators, the media and government and political dignitaries.

It is humans who govern, write and enforce law.

The fact these crimes exist despite international laws is atrocious. Redeem Humanity intends to empower people through education, legal advocacy and investigations so we may embrace human diversity on this precious planet.

We believe without a shadow of doubt that we are capable of creating a better world through investing in the greatness of the human race and embracing its infinite potential for love and compassion.

To my uncle: the grief is too much for tears; my remembrance not enough for memories of you.

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# Murdered Central Ohio Cardiologist Remembered As Martyr

**By Jennifer Jarrell** Saturday June 21, 2014 10:22 PM  
UPDATED: Saturday June 21, 2014 11:35 PM



**GROVEPORT, Ohio** - His murder garnered national attention: a central Ohio doctor gunned down while on a humanitarian mission in Pakistan.

Saturday, Dr. Mehdi Qamar's friends, colleagues and family remembered his life of service at a memorial in Groveport.

Doctor Qamar was shot and killed in front of his family, while on a humanitarian mission last month in Pakistan.

Those who knew him said he was fully aware of the dangers of traveling to Pakistan, but he went year-after-year, all in the name of saving lives.

The people in the pews were all from different backgrounds, nationalities and religions, but the one thing they all had in common was Dr. Mehdi Qamar.

"Our community does not believe in violence and that is one of the major reasons why we are targeted," Dr. Anwar Din said.

The Pickerington cardiologist was visiting his parents' gravesites with his wife and young son, when family members said he was attacked by extremists. He was a member of the Ahmadi Muslim community and his family said he was killed for what he believed.

"He was willing to make any sacrifice to what he believed to be true following his faith and truly submitting to the will of God," fellow Ahmadiyya Muslim, Bashir Asad, said. Qamar's killing got the attention of lawmakers in other countries and here at home. Saturday, both U.S. senators from Ohio sent representatives to the tribute.

Representative from U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown's office, Michaela Hahn-Lawson, said, "Dr. Qamar's commitment to others created an impact that will carry beyond any one state or nation."

His religious brethren said he lived a devoted servant and died a martyr.

"He would say today, don't mourn my death, follow me in my life, and be ready to give your spirit, your service your humanity to save other lives," Azhar Haneef said.

Both U.S. Senators from Ohio, as well as congressman Steve Stivers say they have reached out to secretary of state John Kerry for more to be done to stop the violence against Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan.

May 26: [http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2014/05/26/Pickerington\\_Doctor\\_Killed.html](http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2014/05/26/Pickerington_Doctor_Killed.html)

May 27:

June 18, 2014  
APPNA

To: The Right Honorable Mian Nawaz Sharif  
Prime Minister of Pakistan

Sir

We the undersigned Pakistani-American doctors wish to protest the Pakistan government's inaction with regards to the increasingly frequent assassination of our colleagues in Pakistan -  
In the larger context we wish to register our strong condemnation of target killings of physicians,

Journalists, moderate liberal thinkers, professionals, intellectuals and the endangered minorities occurring in Pakistan to generate anarchy and create a climate of fear. The recent murder of Dr. Qarnar Mehdi is but a continuation of the repeated attacks on doctors in Pakistan. By failing to prosecute the Criminals involved, The State is implicitly condoning such massacres. We urge the authorities to fulfill Their obligations and establish rule of law and take swift action against the perpetrators

We wish to remind that murderous crimes have reached unthinkable levels. In most cases those culpable openly and proudly take responsibility for their actions, even while exhorting their followers to more senseless killing.

We demand that the government immediately take the following steps:

1. Investigate these reprehensible killings and prosecute the killers;
2. In the case of Dr. Mehdi the government of Pakistan and its authorities have yet to acknowledge that a murder took place. We demand an end to this apathy;
3. Provide protection of witnesses and security of judges so that the trials take place in a secure environment;
4. Arrest and try in court the leaders of defunct organizations such as Sipah-e-Sahaba, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and other militant outfits, which openly vilify Shias, Ahmadis and other minorities;
5. Ban and tackle the threats posed by these organizations in an effective manner so that they are not allowed to simply continue operations under different names;
6. Enforce legislation, which makes it illegal to encourage violence against any and all ethnic or religious groups and strictly instruct police to shut down any gathering where such hate-speech occurs,
7. Implement the existing laws on hate speech that justifies violence.

We hold that the current situation is headed for a catastrophic breakdown of society and God forbid a situation of possible civil war unless your government takes prompt action. As a professional group that cares for the country of our origin and association, we urge you to take immediate and effective action.

Enough blood has already been spilled.

Respectfully yours.

Muslim Jami, MD

Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Social Justice

Asif M Rehman, MD

President

# AHMADIYYA PERSICUTION

**Faizan Ahmed, Lexington, KY**

Ahmadiyyat was founded in 1889 by Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani<sup>as</sup>. Since then, it has flourished throughout many countries and has gained millions of followers. Ahmadis believe that Hadharat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani<sup>as</sup> was the Promised Messiah, the second advent of Jesus<sup>as</sup>, and the *Mahdi*. Despite its substantial success in attracting many adherents, the Ahmadiyya movement since its beginning has faced many obstacles, impediments and persecution. One of these obstacles was the recent atrocious murder of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar in Rabwah, Pakistan.

Dr. Qamar resided in Columbus, Ohio with his wife and three children. He practiced as a successful and trusted cardiologist.

Jason Elsea, from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Columbus, Ohio, said, "Dr. Qamar was from Pickerington and had a practice in Lancaster. Dr. Qamar had recently taken a sabbatical to volunteer at the Tahir heart hospital. Dr. Qamar decided to volunteer at the Tahir Heart Institute in Rabwah, Pakistan not only because of its focus on Ahmadiyyat, but also for the many Pakistani citizens in dire need of medical care. On May 26<sup>th</sup>, around sunrise after performing morning Prayers he decided to visit an Ahmadi cemetery to pay respect to some of his deceased family members. Before he was able to reach the cemetery, two men on a motorcycle approached him

and shot him 11 times in front of his wife and 4 years old son. It did not take long for the public to hear about this brutality.

News media around the world took an active role in publicizing this event to the global community. Within a week, the story reached news stations such as CNN, Washington Post, Fox News, and New York Times. These news stations illuminated the truth of the basic principles and goals of Ahmadiyyat.

According to cnsnews.com, "The Ahmadi (aka Ahmadiyya) sect, which venerates a 19th century messiah figure called Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and rejects all forms of violence, is considered heretical by mainstream Muslims.) It claims millions of adherents in 204 countries, mostly in South Asia and Africa." Furthermore, the same article describes Dr. Qamar's death as a form of discrimination and injustice against the Ahmadiyya denomination. With the extensive media coverage on Dr. Qamar's death, the impact that it will have on Ahmadiyyat will surely be positive and raise awareness.

Ahmadi leaders have expressed their sentiments with deep grief and anguish highlighting the opinions held by the Ahmadi *Jama'at*. A spokesman for the Ahmadi community, Mr. Salim ud Din, told *The Dawn* daily: "The murder of Dr. Qamar who served fellow human beings without discrimination is most painful," He

said, noting that Ali had come to Pakistan 'to serve his compatriots.'" Spokesman for the Ahmadi *Jama'at*, Qasim Rashid, says, "It's injustice upon injustice, and it's getting no attention from the government."

From these statements, it is evident that although the heinous crime of the murder of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar may have temporarily saddened the Ahmadiyya Community but Ahmadis around the world have unanimously spoken and protested against the inhumane justice and religious discrimination that they must endure from Islamic fundamentalists.

Ahmadiyyat continues to grow despite the pressure from fundamentalists. Ahmadis continue to and will forever remain to live by the moral code "**Love for all, hatred for None.**"

Dr. Qamar will be remembered as a prime example of this moral code, and he will *Insha Allah* rest peacefully in the Gardens of Paradise. It is crucial that Ahmadis remain united during these hard times and continue to exhibit the qualities of love and compassion for all of mankind.

*(The writer is an 11th grade student)*

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***Pay Zakat***

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## MURDER IN THE NAME OF FAITH

The fate of 65-year-old Khalil Ahmed was sealed on the day he was accused of blasphemy. It was his death warrant. He was killed while in police detention hours after he was arrested.

A schoolboy, who has not been identified by name, reportedly walked into the police station and shot Ahmed dead in full view of the officers. What motivated the teenager to commit this cold-blooded murder?

Perhaps he was inspired by the glorification of other murders committed for alleged blasphemy. Or perhaps he was incited by same zealot. The young boy had been growing up watching Mumtaz Qadri, the murderer of governor Salmaan Taseer, being garlanded. Qadri also had a mosque outside the capital named after him, and his larger-than-life portraits adorn certain public places. The young killer might have been told that the Same glory awaited him.

He is the product of a society that condones vigilantism and exalts murder committed in the name of religion; the guardians of the law are too afraid to act against the 'holy killers'. It is a country where a judge had to flee abroad after convicting Qadri. No wonder the Islamabad High Court is reluctant to validate the conviction.

It was the second murder involving the blasphemy issue in a span of a few days. The murderers of rights activist Rashid Rehman have not yet been apprehended despite his having named those who threatened him. Even if arrested, they may never be convicted, thus encouraging other potential 'holy murderers'.

In Ahmed's case, it was shocking that the murderer could walk into a police station, and not be stopped from, killing a detainee. The incident in a central Punjab village not far from Lahore was not a breaking story and was underplayed by most of the print media, maybe because the victim was an Ahmadi.

Ahmed along with three others was reportedly arrested on blasphemy charges after an altercation with a local shopkeeper. Being members of a persecuted religious minority makes Ahmadis more vulnerable to concocted charges, which gives bigots a license to kill. In this environment the young murderer is not an aberration.

All this started when the state took upon itself the responsibility of deciding who is Muslim and who is not and legalizing religious persecution. A corollary of this is that individuals too have now taken up the right to give verdicts on the religious beliefs of others. The mullahs have become custodians of the law as the state's authority is fast eroding.

In fact, the blasphemy law has become a weapon of persecution and even those defending the accused are deemed liable. Some time ago, a blasphemy case was filed against former information minister Sherry Rehman for suggesting some procedural changes in the law, in the National Assembly.

A glaring example of the gross misuse of the law was witnessed last week when 68 lawyers were booked on blasphemy charges for chanting slogans against a police officer whose name happened to be Oniar. The sword of Damocles hangs over every Pakistani citizen, much more so over religious minorities. It is a death warrant once you are accused of blasphemy.

It is despicable the way the blasphemy law is being used in the ongoing media war between rival channels who have filed cases of blasphemy against each other. There is no dearth of instances where clerics are 'rented' to get a fatwa to declare the other channel un-Islamic.

Mullahs are having a field day dominating the television screen. What the TV channels do not realize is that no one will come out unscathed in this dirty war. It is the hard-won media freedom that is now under threat. The fear now is that radical clerics will decide what should appear on TV programs. This war of fatwas presents a serious threat to the lives of some TV hosts and employees, forcing them to go into hiding or even to flee the



country. This fragmented, dysfunctional state cannot protect the lives of those coming in the crossfire.

The role of some security and intelligence agencies in fuelling the hate campaign for settling scores with critics is despicable. Use of religion for proxy wars by state institutions is an extremely dangerous game giving more space to the extremists. Resultantly, the radical clerics are once again taking center stage in the ongoing political Circus. One can see them leading pro-military rallies holding larger-than-life portraits of the ISI and army chiefs and spewing their toxic narratives on television screens.

Surely they are trying to seize this opportunity to raise the stakes and sell their services to the highest bidders. The tension between civilians and the military, and their proxy war through the media, has further empowered extremist religious groups and clerics. This situation will breed more violence in society.

This atmosphere not only produces more child suicide bombers but also teenage killers like the one who shot Khalil Ahmed. Religious extremism and growing intolerance has polarized and fragmented the country making it increasingly difficult to have rational discourse on religion and other important issues. Worse still is the failure of the state to deal with this highly dangerous situation. What we are witnessing today is the unravelling of the state. The use of religion and extremist mullahs as a proxy in the power game is a destructive trend that is threatening the unity of the country.

The writer is an author and journalist. zhussain1@yahoo.com  
Published in Dawn, May 21st, 2014

# Don't Weep for the Shaheed

**Sayyarah Chowdhry**

Pakistan has become "Mullastan"

On the road to self-annihilation,

A picture of hell, where evil forces have been let loose to play the dance of death!

Obsessive hatred, bloodshed slaughter seems to be the order of the day.

In the land of terror.

My heart is bleeding,

My soul in agony to watch the monstrous killing and bestiality,

The self-proclaimed Mullahs, a stigma on the name of Muhammed<sup>1saw</sup>,

The greatest benefactor of humanity,

Who preached love, mercy, pity harmony!

They have killed a Messiah,

The savior who embalmed the wounds of others

Has been stopped from carrying on his sacred duty.

The heart that pulsed in unison for the sick and sorrowing humanity was shut down by shots and bullets in utter brutality!

Weep no more for the young Shaheed!

For he sleeps in eternal peace.

While his body was given a blood bath

His life was glorious,

In death He is in the Arms of the Beloved in bliss.

For such heroes never die.

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## HADITH

Hadhrat 'Ali<sup>ra</sup> relates that I said: "O Messenger<sup>sa</sup> of Allah! What should we do if in your absence, we come across a matter that is neither explained in the Holy Qur'an nor found in your explanation?" He<sup>saw</sup> said: 'Gather the pious people from among my followers and let them carry out deliberations among themselves. Do not decide based on one (person's) opinion.' "

(Durre Manthur, p 10/6)

# Ahmadi leader brings message of peace at speech in Mississauga

**Thousands of members of a controversial Muslim minority sect gathered in Mississauga on Saturday to pledge their allegiance to a peaceful jihad.**

**By:** Laura Armstrong Staff Reporter, Published on Sat Jun 21 2014

Nearly a month after Canadian cardiologist and member of Islam's Ahmadi sect, Mehdi Ali Qamar was shot to death in Pakistan, thousands of members of the controversial Muslim minority gathered in Mississauga on Saturday to pledge their allegiance to a peaceful jihad.

"What is our response? Are we going to block roads? Are we going to start burning banks, or burning restaurants, or looting shops? That is not our reaction. Our reaction is if one doctor is slaughtered, if one doctor is murdered, our community will produce hundreds of other doctors," keynote speaker Maulana Mubarak Ahmad Nazir said at the 38th annual Jalsa Salana hosted by Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at (AMJ) Canada.

Nazir, a leader in the country's Ahmadi community, was a beacon of light as he stepped to the podium, his white suit a stark contrast to the heavy black curtains cornering off the main room.

He addressed two crowds simultaneously at the three-day convention, held at the International Centre in Mississauga. He spoke directly to the convention's male attendees from a stage set up in front of thousands of chairs and sheets that lay directly on the concrete floor, while the female convention-goers watched from a video feed in a separate women's auxiliary.

A rainbow of Hijabs and the pitter-patter of little feet livened up the women's auxiliary, but the message was the same: love for all, hatred for none.

Women made up the largest group at the convention, which hosted dozens of dignitaries Saturday including Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Chris Alexander and Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion, who was honoured with an award for public service.

The Ahmadi sect is the fastest growing in Islam, according to AMJ Canada. They estimate about 50,000 practicing Ahmadi Muslims live in the GTA, with about 10 million followers worldwide.

This contemporary mandate, known as the "jihad of the pen" because it promotes intellectual messaging over violence and categorically rejects terrorism in any form, is at odds with the ideas of other Islamic sects. In 1974, the sect suffered state-sponsored persecution when Pakistan's then-prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto passed a constitutional amendment pronouncing Ahmadi non-Muslim.

Amidst the unrest that continues today between sects, keynote speaker Nazir asked his fellow Ahmadi Muslims to continue delivering a message of peace

"You are our ambassadors. You should walk around in this land with peace, and project the true meaning of Islam," Nazir said. "Islam has been hijacked. Islam is in great trouble. People are attacking this land because Muslims themselves are killing Muslims. That is the struggle we face. This is the jihad; this is the fight that we are fighting. This is the jihad that we will continue to fight, because this is the jihad that's worth fighting."

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AHMADIYYA  
MUSLIM COMMUNITY  
United States of America



Muslims who believe in the Messiah,  
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani<sup>ra</sup>.

## Resolution on the Martyrdom of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar

We, the members of National Majlis-e-Amila Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya, USA, express our heartfelt condolences to Syedna Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V<sup>aba</sup>, and the family of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar Shaheed, who sacrificed his life in the cause of Islam-Ahmadiyyat and service to humanity on May 26, 2014. *Inna lillahe wa inna illahi raji'oon.*

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Qamar joined the blessed group of "Martyrs of Ahmadiyyat" on May 26, 2014, at the age of 50, on the second day of what was going to be a three-week humanitarian trip at Tahir Heart Institute in Rabwah, Pakistan.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Qamar was visiting Bahishti Maqbara (Ahmadi cemetery), along with his wife and his three-year old son, after Fajr prayers. As he approached the gate of Bahishti Maqbara, two men appeared on a motorbike, fired at him, and fled. Eleven bullets hit Dr. Qamar, and he was martyred instantly.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Qamar served the Columbus chapter of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA as Secretary Tehrik Jadid, and has continuously served the

Columbus Jama'at during the last decade, in various positions including the positions of Secretary Waqf Jadid and Secretary Ta'lim.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Qamar was in his personal life an exemplar and shining star of Ahmadiyyat, always treating his family, colleagues, patients, and others with the utmost in kindness, compassion and patience.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Qamar generously contributed in all financial campaigns, including the fund raising campaigns for Tahir Heart Institute, the Bait-un-Nasir Mosque in Columbus, Ohio, and the Mosque in his ancestral neighborhood in Rabwah, Pakistan.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Qamar was widely recognized for his outstanding professional contributions, including receiving the Young Investigator Award awarded by the American College of Cardiology in 2003; being identified among America's Top Physicians for two consecutive years, and as one of America's Top Cardiologists on no fewer than seven occasions; being a founding physician member of the Gordon B. Snider Cardiovascular Center at Fairfield Medical Center in 2011; and serving as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Cardiology at the Ohio University School of Osteopathic Medicine.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Qamar made tireless contributions to his local community in Columbus, Ohio, receiving the honor of a Legendary Philanthropist by Fairfield Medical Center in 2013.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Qamar was a skilled calligrapher, whose works remain preserved on the center dome of Bait-un-Nasir Mosque in Columbus, Ohio.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Qamar was a talented and adept Urdu poet, whose collection of poetry, *Barg e Khayal*, will soon be published.

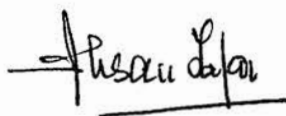
**WHEREAS**, following Dr. Qamar's martyrdom, his friends, colleagues and patients have universally expressed their profound sense of appreciation and loss to members of the news media: *"He will be greatly missed by his colleagues and friends here at Fairfield Medical Center as well as his patients,"* said FMC Chief Nursing Officer Cynthia Pearsall. *"He was one of the most honest, ethical and not-a-bad-bone-in-his-body kind of person,"* said Dr. Shantanu Sinha, a cardiologist who worked with Dr. Qamar for the past ten years. And Gary Burton, one of many patients who offered moving tributes to Dr. Qamar, had this to say: *"I was devastated. Two years ago that man saved my life, and two years later he is getting gunned down at point-blank range."*

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Qamar leaves behind his widow Wajeeha Mehdi Sahiba and three sons: Abdullah Ali, age 16, Hashim Ali, age 7, and Asher Ali, age 3. His wife and youngest son were with him at the time of his martyrdom.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the members of National Majlis-e-Amila Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya, USA, express our heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar Shaheed. *Inna lillahe wa inna illahi raji'oon*. May Allah grant him a high station in Paradise and grant patience and steadfastness to his family. *Ameen*.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we, the members of National Majlis-e-Amila Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya, USA, affirm and renew our pledge of allegiance to Syedna Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih Vaba and resolve to offer any sacrifice required of us by Islam-Ahmadiyyat, including our lives, and we pray for the safety of every Ahmadi Muslim.

Resolution passed in the National Majlis-e-Amila Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya, USA, on June 7th 2014, by unanimous vote.







**AHMADIYYA  
MUSLIM COMMUNITY**  
United States of America



*Muslims who believe in the Messiah,  
Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani*

## Resolution on the Demise of Maulana Mahmood Ahmad Shahid, the Amir of Jama't Ahmadiyya Australia

Today, on June 7, 2014, the National Amila USA Ahmadiyya Muslim Community resolves a condolence resolution on the sad and untimely demise of Maulana Mahmood Ahmad Shahid, the Amir of Jama't Ahmadiyya Australia. Originally from Bangladesh he moved to Rabwah, Pakistan at the age of 12, completed his religious studies and earned the prestigious degree of Shahid in 1974. He had dedicated his life to serve the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama't, and for almost half a century performed various duties assigned to him including the office of Sadr Khuddamul Ahmadiyya worldwide, and for 23 years as the Amir of Australian Jama't. His heart was filled with love, sincerity and obedience to Khilafat and he was ever ready to make sacrifices for the sake of his faith. He will be remembered as a diligent worker, compassionate friend and a visionary leader. May Allah the Exalted grant him high station in Jannatul Firdous! Ameen!

Humbly submitted by the Amir and National Amila USA  
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

*Ali Sami Safar*

## NATIONAL UMOOR-E-KHARIJA (PUBLIC AFFAIRS) DEPARTMENT

### Report of 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Day on the Hill” and 8<sup>th</sup> Annual National Public Affairs Seminar February 28 – March 1, 2014

**Amjad Mahmood Khan,  
National Secretary  
Umoor-e-Kharija (Public Affairs))**

On February 28 and March 1, 2014, the National *Umoor-e-Kharija* (Public Affairs) Department hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Day on the Hill” event and 8<sup>th</sup> Annual National Public Relations Seminar in Washington D.C. and Silver Spring, respectively. *Alhumdhulillah*, the two events drew an attendance of **87 delegates from 61 Chapters** across America, including Respected *Ameer Sahib*, 4 *Naib Umara* and 4 Regional Missionaries.

#### “Day on the Hill” Event (February 28, 2014)

For the fourth consecutive year, the Annual Seminar was preceded by a special “Day on the Hill” event. 75 delegates from 61 Chapters (most traveling together on a bus) participated in **300 total meetings with U.S. Congressional offices** (House/Senate), including over 30 direct meetings with members of Congress (not staff) at Capitol Hill in D.C. *Alhumdhulillah*. Delegates visited over 300 US Congressional Offices.

A special binder/dossier (with appendices) was prepared for each U.S. Congressional office. This year, in addition to the binder, the package included a copy of Hazoor’s<sup>aba</sup> book, “World Crisis and Pathway to Peace”. The “Day on the Hill” event was followed by the first ever *Jumu’ah* Prayers by our *Jama’at* on Capitol Hill, led by Dr. Irfan Alladin Sahib.

Following the Day on the Hill proceedings the group spent the afternoon at the historic site of Mt. Vernon, the birth place of George Washington. Delegates had the opportunity to enjoy a tour of more than a dozen original structures. Tour guides provided details about various locations on the estate. Overall, it was a great trip in a relaxed atmosphere and was enjoyed by all.

#### Historic Launch of Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus

*Alhumdhulillah*, as part of this event, the 113th Session of U.S. Congress launched the new “Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus,” co-chaired by U.S. Representatives Jackie Speier (D-CA) and Frank Wolf (R-VA). A special event for the press was held in the Cannon Building, attended by the delegates and other special guests. Almost two dozen media outlets covered the historic event, including the *Associated Foreign Press* and *Washington Times*.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Annual National Public Affairs Seminar (March 1, 2014)

##### First Session

The seminar began on Saturday, March 1, at 9:30 AM with the recitation of the Holy Qur’an by Khalid

Minhas Sahib. After welcome and introduction by National Secretary *Umoor-e-Kharija* USA, Amjad Mahmood Khan Sahib, Respected Ameer Sahib addressed the gathering. During his address, Ameer Sahib emphasized the high importance of the public affairs work that is being done in the U.S. Ameer Sahib reminded the department of the necessity of efforts being in line with the direction provided by Hazoor<sup>aba</sup>. Naib Ameer and Missionary in Charge, Respected *Maulana* Naseem Mahdi Sahib, then delivered an address on the next century of Ahmadiyyat in America. Mahdi Sahib elaborated on the physical creation of the universe and the evolution of mankind over the years. He provided an insight into the future of Ahmadiyyat in light of sayings of *Khulafa*. Following respected Mahdi Sahib, Zahir Ahmad Sahib, *Umoor e Kharija* Secretary from Potomac *Jama'at*, elaborated on preserving the core message of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in external outreach. He brought to light the importance of going to the basics of our creed and increasing our awareness of the teachings of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Next, Amjad Mahmood Khan Sahib delivered the annual report of his department, which included the following high level data for a 6-month period:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Total Number of Meetings</u>
Meetings with members of U.S. Congress (House) (or staff)	302
Meetings with members of U.S. Congress (Senate) (or staff)	41
Meetings with U.S. State Department officials in D.C.	36
Meetings with other government agencies in D.C.	12
Meetings with U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom	24
Meetings with United Nations officials	5
Meetings with U.S. embassy officials	31
Meetings with foreign embassy officials	15
Meetings with officials in China / Thailand / Indonesia / Egypt / Pakistan / Bangladesh / Kyrgyzstan/Kazakhstan	26
Meetings with mayors / governors / other state representatives	211
Meetings with intellectuals/professors	55
Meetings with NGOs/think tanks	37
Total # of meetings in all categories	795

## Second Session

The session began with a discussion on how to prepare local *Umoor-e-Kharija* Secretaries for meeting with contacts. Muhammad Chaudhry Sahib, local *Umoor-e-Kharija* secretary for Silicon Valley and Qasim Rashid Sahib, National Spokesperson, carefully walked all delegates through the process of interviewing with media outlets. The exercise comprised of a friendly competition in which regional delegates participated in bringing to light methods of conducting effective meetings. Young *Khadim* Harris Qureshi Sahib of Connecticut *Jama'at* stood first in the competition.

### Third Session

Respected *Naib Ameer*, Masoud Malik Sahib, presided the third session. The session began with a talk by *Naib Ameer*, Daud Hanif Sahib, in which he emphasized the importance of prayers before attending any meetings. Next, Umair Mirza, who works for Congressman Andre Carson's office at U.S. Capitol Hill, provided an account of how he ended up in this line of service. He further elaborated on some important points to consider when engaging in external outreach. Next, Mujeeb Ijaz Sahib, Asst. National Secretary *Umoor-e-Kharija*, USA and N. Mahmood Ahmad Sahib, member of National PA Team presented the details of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus. Following the caucus presentation, Qudus Malik Sahib, member of National PA Team elaborated upon the details of the process of asylum. Later on Mujeeb Ijaz Sahib presented a slide and details of the Day on the Hill event and Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus announcement. Many delegates shared their experiences on Day on the Hill. Muhammad Chaudhry Sahib from Silicon Valley discussed the role of the media team and the importance of using media outlets at all local events.

### Closing Session

Respected *Naib Ameer* and Missionary in Charge, Naseem Mahdi Sahib, also presided the fourth session. During this special 2-hour session, Haris Ahmad Sahib, *Umoor-e-Kharija* Secretary, Chicago West, conducted a special professional workshop entitled, "Effectively Developing and Leading a Local Outreach Team." The workshop engaged delegates in discussions regarding challenges they faced in the local chapters and encouraged sharing of ideas in an effort to overcome these challenges. The workshop further focused on the various stages of developing effective teams within local chapters and the importance of local leadership for these teams.

Towards the end, Amjad Mahmood Khan Sahib fielded a series of questions from delegates. These discussions brought out important operational details about setup and follow up of outreach meetings in the local chapters. At the end of this session, respected *Naib Ameer* and Missionary in Charge, *Maulana* Naseem Mahdi Sahib, led the group in silent prayer and concluded the seminar.

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## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

### Safeeullah Chaudhri

It is announced with great pleasure that Almighty Allah has blessed us with a grandson, on May 10, 2014. His parents have named him as Adam Raheem Chaudhri. He is the first baby born to Tariq son of Dr. Safeeullah Chaudhri (New Jersey - USA) and Bushra Safee Sahiba (New Jersey - USA). His mother is Maryem the daughter of late Raziullah Chaudhry who served as UBL manager at Rabwah branch for a number of years.

Tariq and Maryem both are the grandchildren of Ch. Ataullah Sahib Waraich of Rabwah. They are from the family of Hadhrat Hafiz Ghulam Rasool Wazirabadi<sup>ra</sup>, an earlier companion of Hadhrat Masih-e-Mau'ood<sup>as</sup>. They are also from the family of Hadhrat Hafiz Raheem Bakhsh Sahib Waraich<sup>ra</sup>, a companion of Hadhrat Masih Mau'ood<sup>as</sup>.

All readers of the Ahmadiyya Gazette are requested to keep Adam in their prayers that may almighty Allah grant him a happy, healthy and prosperous life and make him a source of delight for our eyes and many more blessings to follow. May he be a great servant of Ahmadiyyat and Islam. *Ameen*.

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# Business Standard

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## US lawmakers rally to protect Islamic world's Ahmadi

AFP | Washington March 01, 2014 Last Updated at 07:20 IST

US lawmakers announced a caucus to fight for the rights of the Ahmadi minority, which has faced attacks in Pakistan and elsewhere in the Islamic world.

The creation of a caucus yesterday, a group in the US Congress that shares an agenda -- is primarily symbolic in itself but lays the groundwork for lawmakers to be more active.

Republican Representative Frank Wolf, the co-chair with Democrat Jackie Speier, said the Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus would press for the rights of Ahmadis in trouble in Pakistan, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere.

"We have an obligation. America cannot be silent," Wolf told an event at Congress launching the caucus.

Imam Naseem Mahdi, national vice president and missionary in charge of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, said that the caucus would advocate not just for Ahmadis but "for the rights of all persecuted religious communities in the world."

"In time, we hope that foreign governments that persecute our community or otherwise permit militants to attack Ahmadi Muslims with impunity will take notice of the caucus," he said.

Pakistan declared in 1974 that Ahmadis were non-Muslims. The community has faced rising attacks, including a 2010 assault on Lahore mosques that killed nearly 100 people.

Indonesia's constitution guarantees freedom of religion, but Ahmadis there have also faced violence, including a deadly 2011 rampage in West Java by a mob trying to prevent Ahmadis from worshipping.

Ahmadis differ sharply with most Muslims by believing that their 19th-century founder, Ghulam Ahmad, was a messiah after the Prophet Mohammed. The Ahmadiyya community in the United States has stressed its peaceful nature and organizes annual blood donation drives to coincide with the September 11, 2001 attacks.

# MEMORIES OF A. WAHAB ADAM, THE AMEER OF GHANA

## Mubarik Ahmad, Ex-Principal of Ahmadiyya Secondary School, Salaga, Ghana

A very sad incident happened on June 22, 2014 with the demise of the *Ameer* of Ghana Abdul Wahab bin Adam, who possessed exemplary qualities. *Innalillahe wa innahilahe raje-hoon*. Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V<sup>atba</sup> described his numerous qualities in his sermon on June 27 and offered his funeral prayers.

This humble one had the honor to work with him for two years from 1975 – 1976 as a principal of the Ahmadiyya secondary school at Salaga in Ghana. Wahab Sahib was the *Ameer* of Ghana for several years and had numerous qualities. He was a sympathetic and popular *Ameer* who showed love, equality and benevolence to all of us. Everyone used to think that he had a personal relationship with the *Ameer Sahib*. As the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup> has said in one of the *Hadith*, ‘O Muslims you should remember those who passed away and describe their good qualities so that you too should emulate their qualities, I will describe some of the beautiful memories of Hadhrat *Ameer Sahib* which are still very fresh even after forty years.

### His belief in the acceptance of prayers and dominance of Islam and Ahmadiyya

Respected *Ameer Sahib* had a strong belief in the acceptance of prayers. I had the extra responsibility for constructing and supervising the new

Ahmadiyya secondary school building in addition to teaching and administration. Once I described my worry about a school matter and he immediately replied, ‘Mubarik Sahib don’t worry we will spread the praying mat’. This comment described his firm belief in prayers and became a source of comfort and strength of faith for me. Whenever I had a chance to sit in his company, I always had the feeling of his strong belief in the spread of Islam and Ahmadiyyat as if it will spread within a few days. Such is always the case in the company of the righteous people.

### His respect and encouragement for his colleagues

a) My eldest son was born in Ghana and Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III<sup>th</sup> gave him the name Ata-ul-Wahab. After hearing the name of my son, respected *Ameer Sahib* commented that he liked the name of my son very much. When I inquired about the reason, he said, ‘He has taken the name of both the *Ameers* of Ghana. He was referring to the previous *Ameer* (Ataullah Kalim) and the present *Ameer* (Wahab Adam). I had not

thought that he would find this coincidence to show his love and respect for his colleague and predecessor.

b) I was busy constructing the Salaga School building, when I realized that the asbestos sheets of the roof had cracked and had to be replaced. I was worried that the *Ameer Sahib* may be upset about this loss. But to my surprise, he replied with so much love and affection, “Mubarik Sahib, don’t worry, Salaga is the city of storms, and I thought that the whole roof of the building had blown away.” This was our beloved *Ameer* who knew how to win the hearts and make the people work with love. He immediately sent the money for the repair and helped us to complete the construction.

c) I held an annual function of prize distribution and parent’s day in the school. Wahab Sahib was invited as the chief guest and Mr. S. S. Fusani, an ex-minister in the cabinet of the first President of Ghana Mr. Nkrumah, as the guest speaker. Wahab Sahib was a bit late, as he had to travel a long distance from Accra to Salaga. First he rendered an apology for coming late and then gave a very moving speech about Islam, Ahmadiyyat, and its services to the community. He also praised the devotee teachers who had been serving the



*Jama'at*. He rendered thanks that God had blessed our efforts in constructing this building, the size of which could have taken double the cost that we have spent on it.

### Spiritual attachment to the Urdu language

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III<sup>rh</sup> gave the slogan, "Urdu is not only our national but also a religious language" during an Urdu conference at Talimul Islam College Rabwah. *Ameer Sahib* truly considered Urdu as his religious language and always communicated and talked with us in this language. Once I had the chance to attend the annual gathering in Wah, a city in North Ghana. I was very impressed when I saw that the *Ameer Sahib* read a number of quotations from the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>'s book and then directly translated it into the local language. This scene was so impressive that I still remember its sweetness.

### His love and sense of comfort for the devotees of the Jama'at

*Ameer Sahib* used to show a lot of love and care for the comfort of the *Jama'at* devotees. I had a personal kerosene fridge for our domestic use. When it was time for me to go to Pakistan after my *waqaf*, *Ameer Sahib* wrote in a letter: 'Do do not sell your fridge. Salaga is a hot place. Leave this for your replacement coming from Pakistan, so that the brother will not suffer because of the heat.' I did not know who would be coming but later it happened to be the present Khalifatul Masih who came here as the principal.

### Ameer Sahib always expressed thanks for Allah's bounties

- a) During my stay at Salaga, Wahab Sahib's uncle, Mr. Botting was a government welfare officer there. Unfortunately he died due to jaundice during the time when Wahab Sahib was still in London as a *Naib Imam Masjid*. On his arrival in Ghana, he rendered thanks to me saying: "Mubarik Sahib, thank you very much for taking care of my maternal uncle'.
- b) He used to speak highly of Chaudhry Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan<sup>ra</sup>. Wahab Sahib narrated that when he was the *Naib Imam* in London, Chaudhry Sahib asked him if he wanted to send some gifts to his wife, as Chaudhry Sahib was visiting Ghana. Wahab Sahib had a concern that while Chaudhry Sahib worked more than the devotees of the *Jama'at*, some of our devotees do not show such an example. Once, when Wahab Sahib was wearing a necktie he told me that this was a gift from Dr. Abdus Salam. The departed soul had many virtues. The deceased has left us with numerous unforgettable memories. May Allah, have mercy on his soul and enable us to emulate his examples. *Ameen*.

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**SUPPORT  
HUMANITY FIRST**

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## HADITH

Hadhrat Sahl bin Hunayf<sup>ra</sup> relates that the Messenger<sup>saw</sup> of Allah said: "He who supplicates to Allah sincerely for martyrdom, Allah will raise his rank to that of martyrs even if he dies on his bed."

(*Muslim kitabul jihad bab istihbab talbashshahadah fi sabilillah*)

Hadhrat Abu Darda<sup>ra</sup> relates that the Messenger<sup>saw</sup> of Allah said: "The one, who fearing that mischief will be done to him runs away for the sake of his Faith from one place to another, in the sight of Allah, is truthful. So when he dies, Allah will make him die in the rank of a martyr. Then he<sup>saw</sup> recited the following verse of the Holy Qur'an:

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ  
الصَّادِقُونَ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَ الشَّهَادَةُ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ ط

And those who believe in Alla-h and His Messengers *and* they are the Truthful and the Witnesses in the sight of their Lord. (57:20)

Then he said: 'Those who migrate from one country to another to protect their Faith, on the Day of Judgment, will be in the same rank with Jesus bin Maryam<sup>as</sup> in Heaven.'

(*Durri Manthur*, p 176/6)

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**PAY ZAKAT**

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## HADITH

Hadhrat Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri<sup>ra</sup> relates that the Messenger of Alla-h<sup>sa</sup> sent a platoon on an expedition under the command of 'Alqamah bin Mujazzir and he (the narrator) was among them. The platoon had reached its destination or was close to it when a group of people asked permission to go forward (to survey the situation). He ('Alqamah) gave them permission and appointed 'Abdullah bin Hudhafah bin Qais Al-Sahmi as their leader. The narrator says: "I was part of this group. We were on our way, when we lit up a fire either to warm up or to cook something. 'Abdullah asked us: 'Is it not (obligatory) for you to listen and obey me?' They replied, 'Certainly, it is.' He said: 'Whatever I order you to do, you would comply with it?' They said, 'Yes.' Then, 'Abdullah said: 'I make obligatory on you to jump into the fire.' So some people got up and prepared themselves to do so. When he felt that they were about to jump, he said, 'Hold yourselves up, because I was only joking with you.' When we returned, we mentioned it (the incident) to the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup>. The Messenger<sup>saw</sup> of Allah said: 'If someone gives you an order to commit a sin, do not obey him.' "

(Sunan Ibni Majah, Abwabul Jihad)

Hadhrat Sa'id bin Zaid<sup>ra</sup> relates that he heard the Messenger<sup>saw</sup> of Allah say: "He who dies in the defense of his property is a martyr, he who dies in his own defense is a martyr, he who dies in defense of his Faith is a martyr, he who dies in defense of his family is a martyr. "

(Tirmidhi abwabuddiya, Bukhari kitabul mazalim min qatl duna malahu)

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT

### Bashir Uddin Mehmud, Sadr, Fitchburg Jama'at

I always pray to *Allah Ta'ala* to guide me how to do *Tabligh*. Almost every month somebody contacts me that he or she wants to know about the religion of Islam. I received a phone call, at about 12 O'clock, from a young man of 19 years old that he wants to see me. I told him to come at 4:00PM. He insisted to see me right away. He was with me at about 1:45PM after half an hour drive. Conversation began and continued the Q/A session up to 4:45PM. His name is Sean Giorgi. During our conversation he told me his dream that he saw the name of Alia was written on a plaque. I told him that since he was a Prophet of God and all prophets are on the right path. Therefore your search for a true religion will be successful. I gave him some books including Holy Qur'an and the Prayers chart. I told him to wash himself and recite *Sura Fatihah* before going to bed. He told me that he already recited that last night before going to bed. I asked him how he found my name and phone. He said from the web site. I told him that is the result of your reciting the 1st chapter of the Holy Qur'an. God Almighty has guided you on the right path that is why you are with me today. He was impressed. It was Monday & he promised to come Friday in order to join us in *Jumu'ah* Prayer. He returned on Friday, had lunch with us in my home. I gave him a new *Shalwar and Kurta* to wear for *Jumu'ah* Prayer. He accepted the gift & put it on. After *Jumu'ah* he left with my son Furqan Mehmud (Sec. *Tabligh* Fitchburg Jama'at) to play basket ball and left with a *Bai'at* form. I told him to read the books, take some time and pray. He wants to move out of his parents home because they are not religious and do not want him to do any of the religious activities while living with them. I have already written to Hazoor<sup>aba</sup> for prayers. Sean Giorgi is reading our books and also doing some kind of computer course to be able to live on his own with a job. We call him to keep in touch. Kindly remember him in your prayers also. All other *Tabligh* activities are continued. Such as:

- Listening Hazoor's<sup>aba</sup> *Khutba*. Forwarding "Muslim Times" to my over 120 contacts. Our program "MTA VARIETIES" is running on local TV twice. General and *Aamla* meeting are as usual. I am still handing out Hazoor's<sup>aba</sup> book to the new contacts.
- I keep giving our *Tabligh* cards to everyone I meet when I go out.
- *Jama'at* members one on one contacts *Tabligh* is continued.
- Every Friday we have one or two non Ahmadi joining us for *Jumu'ah* Prayer.
- *Amoor-e-Kharija* instructions from Amjad Khan Sahib are being complied.
- *Tarbiyyat* issues are being discussed in our meetings.

Member are being reminded for 2 *Nawafil*s every morning & A monthly *Nafli Roza* and five times prayers, recitation of Holy Qur'an every morning and invoking *Durood* on the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup> abundantly & writing to Hazoor<sup>aba</sup> at least once a month.

# AHMADI MUSLIMS CELEBRATE KHILAFAT DAY

**Imam Shamshad A. Nasir**

Every year, near the end of May, Ahmadi Muslims (who believe Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was the Promised Messiah and *Imam Mahdi*) gather in the more than 200 countries where they reside in order to celebrate the rebirth in the Muslim world of divinely-guided *Khilafat* or Islamic spiritual leadership. Ahmad claimed under Divine direction to be the long-awaited Messiah and Mahdi, and founded the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in northern India on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1889.

Following the demise of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1908, and in fulfillment of prophecies in the Qur'an and the sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>saw</sup>, rightly-guided spiritual leadership – *Khilafat* – was reinstated on May 27<sup>th</sup> with the election of *Hakeem Nooruddin*<sup>ra</sup>. Since then, the Ahmadiyya Community has been blessed with an uninterrupted line of *Khalifas* -- the current one being Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup>, who governs the Community from London and is the 5<sup>th</sup> *Khalifa* and successor to the Promised Messiah and *Imam Mahdi*.

This year, the L.A East and Inland Empire chapters of the Community gathered on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Baitul Hameed Mosque in Chino to celebrate *Khilafat* Day with Qur'an recitation, Urdu poems and speeches on topics related to the *Khalifa* (Caliph) and the institution of *Khilafat* (Caliphate). But before the main event began at 11:30 am, there was a graduation ceremony for

the children and young teens who successfully completed their Islamic education curriculum for the Winter and Spring semesters. Dr. Hamidur Rahman and Imam Shamshad A. Nasir presided over the awarding of diplomas, congratulating each student as they came forward to receive their educational certificates and diplomas. A group photo of all students and teachers was taken at the end of the ceremony.

*Khilafat* Day started with recitation from the Holy Qur'an by Saeed Saud, with English translation by Zafrullah Nooruddin, a recent convert to Ahmadiyya Islam. This was followed by an Urdu poem recited by Waseem Janjua and with the English translation read by Israh Siddique.

L.A. East chapter president Dr. Ahsan M. Khan gave the opening remarks, welcoming everyone to the event. The first speech, by Jazib Ahmad, was titled "Allah makes the *Khalifa*" and focused on the idea that the selection of the *Khalifa* of Islam is not done by the mere hand of man, but by the Divine Will of God. The history of the *Khilafat* in Ahmadiyya bears this out with striking clarity when compared to attempts by other Muslim groups to either destroy the system of *Khilafat* in Ahmadiyya or set up a *Khalifa* of their own, on

their own, without the blessings and support of God.

The next speech, "Blessings of *Khilafat* in our homes," was delivered by Muizz Momen and covered the importance of making the *Khalifa* a central part of a family's life, especially inside one's home.

The next speaker was Anwer M. Khan, who spoke on the topic of: "Obedience to system of *Khilafat*." He explained how this system is a reflection of the *Khalifa* and is a critical element in keeping Ahmadi and their families connected to the *Khalifa* and the institution of *Khilafat*. Another key aspect was regularly watching the *Khalifa's* Friday sermons and other public addresses broadcast on the Community's 24-hour Islamic satellite & internet TV channel, Muslim Television Ahmadiyya.

The concluding speech was delivered by SW regional missionary and religious leader at the Baitul Hameed Mosque in Chino, Imam Shamshad A. Nasir. The *Imam* spoke about the necessity of prayer in congregation in the mosque and in private in the late hours of night. Both strengthen one's connection to the *Khalifa* and the institution of *Khilafat* – the first through sharing in the unifying strength one receives through praying together in the mosque with one's Muslim brothers and sisters, and the other through the connection one can strengthen through impassioned pleas before

God when one is all alone, begging before God in the solitude and privacy in the late hours before dawn.

The Imam also reminded the audience that devotion to *Khilafat* was not something that one could say and that was enough. As the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> exhorted his followers many, many times in his writings and sermons, a mere verbal pledge of belief in him as the messiah and *Mahdi* had no merit if there was no sincere change in one's heart and in one's actions. The same applies to the *Khalifa* and the institution of *Khilafat* – a mere verbal pledge of devotion and obedience meant nothing without corresponding actions that demonstrated one's true devotion and obedience to the *Khalifa* of the time.

In closing, *Imam* Shamshad said that every Ahmadi needed to assess themselves and their connection to *Khilafat*. Every Ahmadi should remember the sacrifices made by their fellow Ahmadis in Pakistan and elsewhere in Muslims countries where Ahmadis face terrible hardships and persecution, and where more and more, Ahmadis are being called on to make the high sacrifices of their very lives, and that we all can see how they do this willingly and without a second thought. We all need to be willing and able to do the same.

Ahmadis living in the Western countries are free to practice their faith and preach it and live it without fear of reprisal or even death, and they should never be forgetful of this freedom, which is denied to so many others.

## PERSECUTION OF AHMADIS

**Fatima D. Chowdhry**

The language you preach  
The language of hate and deceit  
Will consume you in its flames of hate!  
And not harm those who carry the word of God in their hearts.

You shoot us in cold blooded rage,  
For proclaiming our faith!  
In the name of the God  
Whose essence is Love not hate!  
Our "places of worship" our Mosques  
You target,  
Slaying those who heads bow down in worship!  
You killed us on the streets!  
You deemed us heretical in courts on Law.  
Jinnah's Pakistan is asleep,  
For the Mullah awakes.

Who Are YOU?  
The mongers' of hatred,  
Dispensers of lies,  
The cowards who cannot see,  
The lies of the mullahs; ..that preach slaughter and deceit  
Against God's creation!

The Divine does not live in your hearts!  
Your bullets , bombs , knives will not shatter or dispel our beliefs!  
You desecrate our graves,  
You exhume our dead...do you think you can harm us even in death?  
No.

For we are the believers of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> –  
Followers of Muhammad<sup>saw</sup>  
Our love for our Lord is not shaken nor shattered by your swords,  
shackles or myths of disbelief.

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# KHILAFAT DAY CELEBRATED AT MASJID MUBARAK, CHANTILLY, VA

**G H Qamar Baloch**

The *Khilāfat*, as Second Manifestation to Prophethood, is like an umbrella of physical parents for their children. As per Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ood<sup>ra</sup>, one of the qualities of a *Khalifa* is that at the time of the sorrows of his followers, he prays with great pain before Allah Almighty for removal of the sufferings of their followers. It is, therefore, incumbent upon each and every Ahmadi to must establish a strong relationship with *Khalifa-e-Waqat*, who is the successor to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. By establishing the strong relationship with the *Khalifa* of the time, we would have a personal connection with Institution of *Khilāfat*.

This was stated by Missionary, Virginia; Rizwan Khan; who was speaking at the *Khilāfat* Day Celebration function arranged by Ahmadiyyah Muslim Community USA at Masjid Mubarak, Chantilly, VA on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

The *Murabbi* said that following in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>saw</sup> Ahmadiyyah Muslim Community like Hadhrat Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup>, Hadhrat Hakeem Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> became the first *Khalifatul Masih*, a true successor to his loving master after his demise to establish a unity within the Community on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1908. He said that we should have personal rapport with the *Khalifa* of the time who would always support us with prayers before Almighty Allah. The *Khalifa* is the Spiritual Head of the Ah-

madiyyah Community who takes the great pain to pray before Allah Almighty for each and every Ahmadi for removal of their sufferings and hardships, Rizwan Khan remarked.

Tariq Amjed, the President of Central VA *Jama'at*; urged the need of developing a close attachment with the present Khalifatul Messiah V<sup>aba</sup>, just as our elders had staunch relationship with the *Khalifa* of the time. Obedience to the *Khalifa* is a precondition for continuation of the *Khilāfat* Institution. To achieve high level of obedience, elders and youngsters, men, women, boys and girls alike should develop personal relation by writing letters to the *Khalifa* of the time. They should watch Friday Sermons of Hadhrat Khalifatul Messih V<sup>aba</sup> on MTA that has proved to be the tool in "spreading the message of Ahmadiyyat, True Islam to reach every nook and corner of the world", he added.

As per our *Imam* Naseem Mahdi Sahib, it is pertinent to record here that late mother of Ghulam-Hussain Qamar Baloch saw in a dream in the late eighties that a *badli* (cloud) appeared in the sky with thunder, then a *Maulvi* with a white beard and *noorani chihra* (bright face) showed up and gave a lecture on True Islam by wireless (later it

is called MTA). The dream was passed on to Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul Messiah IV<sup>th</sup> in London. In response, his Holiness remarked that the dream was "*Barhaq*" meaning true and desired to convey *Assalamu Alaikum* from that *Maulvi* to the Baloch mother-*Alhamadolillah!*

The function commenced with recitation from Holy Qur'an by Ibrahim Chaudhry and its English translation was rendered by Wajahat. The poem titled: "The message of *Khilāfat* would continue" was read by Taimoor and its English translation rendered by Zain Pal.

Participating in the discussions, Mirza Sharif gave presentation on the importance of institution of *Khilāfat*. Among others, Basharat Ahmad Wadhan, Chaudhry Rashid Ahmad, Syed Abdul Majid Shah, Chaudhry Daud Ahmad, and Malik Mujeeb gave personal accounts of their interaction with the *Khalifa* of the time. *Nasirat* gave presentations to mark the occasion.

The event was conducted and concluded by the President Central Virginia *Jama'at*, Tariq Ahmad Amjad.

On the occasion, a luncheon was served to the attendees before prayers. The Missionary, Rizwan Khan led *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers.

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## MKA USA Talent Award

In 1979, Dr. Abdus Salam was the first Pakistani Muslim to ever win the Nobel Prize. His legacy in the Jama'at, and his contributions to field of physics continue to impact the world today. We Khuddam are the future leaders in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Economics, Medicine, and Mathematics (STEM). His legacy will never be forgotten, and we Khuddam will forge forward.

MKA USA will be hosting the first-ever talent competition for all Khuddam, on various topics. The best projects will receive a recognition award which will be presented at the 2014 MKA USA Ijtema.

*Key dates and information:*

**June 15, 2014: Submissions open**

**Friday, August 22, 2014: Submission due**

**Abstract and required details in PDF submitted to [students@mkausa.org](mailto:students@mkausa.org)**

**Both students and professionals may apply**

*Application criteria:*

**Applicants must be members of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya USA.**

**Applicants may enter the Competition as an Individual, two-member team, or three-member team.**

**Submit the application as per the guidelines.**

*First Prize:* Certificate and monetary award of \$200 to the Team or individual.

*Additional Prizes:* Depending on the number of applications, Second and Third Prizes may also be awarded to individuals or teams. These will carry certificates of recognition but no monetary award.

*What qualifies as a good idea and how to submit?*

Any outstanding published research paper, peer-reviewed idea, invention (patent), or novel web application may qualify for the talent award. You will submit a (i) standard background information, (ii) technical abstract of the idea, and (iii) describe the merit and societal benefits of your idea. The submission will be made through a PDF application to [students@mkausa.org](mailto:students@mkausa.org). Further information will be posted on [www.mkausa.org](http://www.mkausa.org). If presenting a web app as your idea, you must have a youtube/online video to advertise and demonstrate the application. Describing your work through Youtube/Vimeo videos is highly encouraged.

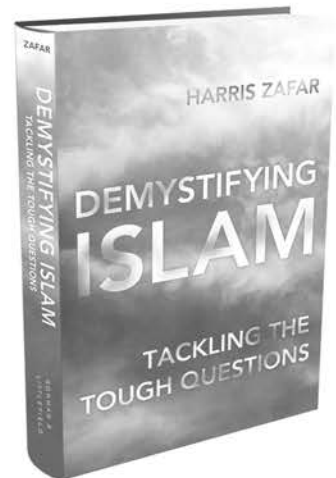
**PLEASE CONTACT     [students@mkausa.org](mailto:students@mkausa.org)     FOR FURTHER DETAILS.**



## 5 questions for Harris Zafar, Washington County author, speaker on Islam



Harris Zafar and his son, Rohan, then 2, participate in a Friday prayer service at the Portland Rizwan Mosque in Southwest Portland. (Michael Lloyd/The Oregonian/2010)



By George Rede | [grede@oregonian.com](mailto:grede@oregonian.com)

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on June 23, 2014 at 8:03 AM, updated June 23, 2014 at 10:43 AM

*This is one in an occasional series of brief interviews with newsmakers, experts and other people with interesting perspectives in western Washington County.*

Harris Zafar is a lecturer, writer, teacher and national spokesperson for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA. A Tigard resident, he is the author of a just-released book, "Demystifying Islam."

He answered a handful of questions by email. Responses have been edited for clarity and brevity.

**Q.** Let's start with the book title itself: *Demystifying Islam: Tackling the Tough Questions*. What do you think are the two or three most common misunderstandings among Americans about Islamic faith and culture?

**Zafar:** First, there seems to be a major misconception that Islam is a monolithic entity, bereft of true diversity (of both thought and practice). People are surprised to hear that only 15 percent of the Muslim world is of Arab descent. So this is not an Arab religion. Arabic is not the language of Muslims. Muslims come from every race, nationality and background. It has a growing population in every part of the world. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community alone is established in more than 200 countries around the world.

Secondly, there are common allegations made that Islam advocates or promotes violence or intimidation to spread or maintain its influence. This is simply not true. In this book, "Demystifying Islam," I closely inspect the life of the Prophet Muhammad and the comprehensive teachings in the Holy Qur'an to illustrate that there is no room for terrorism in Islam or even for violence as a means of spreading the faith.

Finally, there is a misplaced view that Islam inhibits freedoms and liberties. There are ongoing accusations that Islam does not allow for freedom of speech, freedom of religion or equal rights and freedoms to women. This is why I dedicate a chapter of this book to each of these areas in order to unearth the truth about whether or not Islam really prohibits such freedoms or, in fact, champions such freedoms.

**Q.** Are those misunderstandings more prevalent in the United States than other countries or regions of the world? If so, why?

**Zafar:** In general, misunderstandings about Islam are more prevalent among those people who do not interact with Muslims regularly. When people rely on third party sources of information about Islam, it is bound to introduce inaccuracies of understanding the philosophy and teachings of Islam.

The United States is fascinating in that there are indeed people with a very highly skewed and patently absurd view of Islam and Muslims, whereas there are also people with a great understanding of Islam and acceptance of Muslims. This is because people have sadly become increasingly polarized in this country, which widens the spectrum of understanding about a host of topics, including the Islamic faith.

Those who know a Muslim personally appear to have fewer misunderstandings. That is why I invite people to come to us and have their questions answered.

*Q. You've been speaking and writing on this topic since shortly after 9/11, when you were 22. How has the conversation changed, if any, from those initial days of fear and the dawning of awareness that a group like al-Qaida even existed?*

**Zafar:** Immediately after 9/11, the initial stage of fear and discord -- provoked by the reported physical attacks against American Muslims and even American Sikhs -- was followed by an amazing sense of unity. There was a prevailing sentiment of interfaith outreach and avoiding the tendency to prejudge.

But this changed a few years ago when more antagonism, misunderstanding and even vitriol has been witnessed in political and social discourse about Islam. The actions of lunatics in different parts of the world, mixed with the biased rhetoric of some political, religious and thought leaders here in the U.S., has proliferated misunderstandings, fear and ultimately intolerance of Islam and Muslims.

"Demystifying Islam" confronts each area of misunderstanding and politicization through an honest analysis of Islam's tenets.

*Q. What do you say to the person who accepts that most Muslims are peace-loving yet struggles to understand the militant extremists -- in the Middle East, Africa and Asia -- who are driven by their hatred for the West? How do peaceful practitioners of Islam reconcile intolerant ideology with their own?*

**Zafar:** It is indeed a genuine dilemma to reconcile the peaceful practice of Islam by most Muslims with the violent actions of militant extremists who espouse a barbaric interpretation of religion. For those struggling to reconcile these two conflicting views, I advise to look at what people on each side use as their inspiration.

Militant extremists are not inspired by their faith. They are inspired by a political ideology that is either focused on power or land, or otherwise focused on a hatred for Western nations and the growing influence and power such countries possess. The only mention of religion is a desperate attempt to rile the masses by infusing religion with their political agenda.

This book directly addresses the intolerant ideology of extremists. It cites their flimsy arguments in favor of their ideology and systematically destroys those arguments. It demonstrates how such intolerant ideology grew centuries ago from political movements and leaders within the Muslim empire decades after Muhammad's demise. Perhaps this is why Muhammad had warned about the perilous condition of Muslims to come in the future due to their failure to adhere to his teachings.

When Muslims like myself stand up for peace, liberty, pluralism and dialogue, we do so due to our loyal adherence to our faith. When we say that the Prophet Muhammad never behaved in the manner we see extremists behaving, it is due to our deep study of his life. When we condemn crimes against humanity such as stoning, honor killings and religious persecution, we do so in order to counter this militant perversion of Islam with the true, peaceful teachings of Islam.

So I ask my fellow Americans to see in us partners who want exactly what they want -- a peaceful, safe world that we can hand over to our children.

*Q. You are a national spokesperson for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA. What's a quick description of the group and how does it fit into the constellation of Islamic groups?*

**Zafar:** There is a wide diversity of interpretations of Islam within the Muslim world, which is why there is a multitude of Islamic groups globally. Although there are areas of disagreement, what unites Muslims are not only some basic beliefs like the unity of God and in all previous prophets but also matters such as the prophecy of the Prophet Muhammad about the appearance of a Messiah and Imam Mahdi (a rightly guided leader) who would reform Muslims from their irrational practice of Islam.

Whereas other Muslims are still awaiting the coming of this promised reformer and Messiah, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the sect or group of Muslims who believe that this prophecy was fulfilled in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, India.

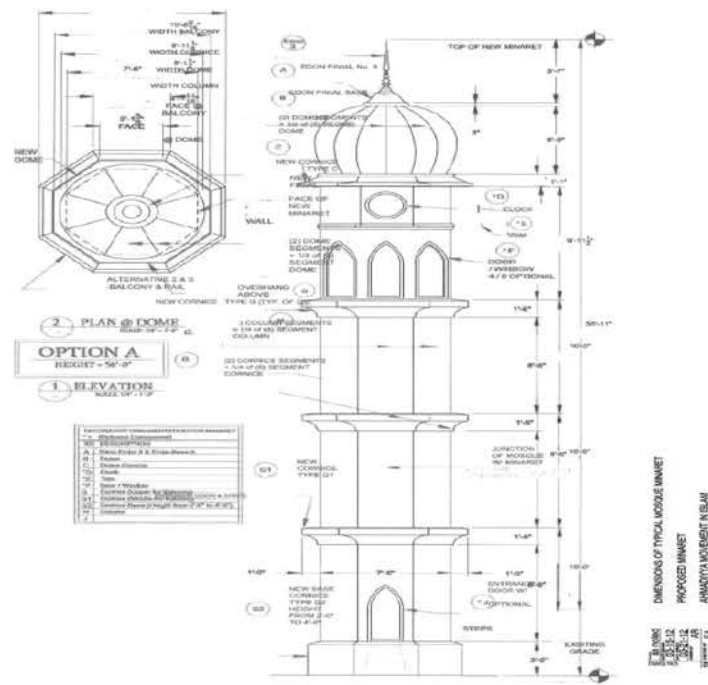
Due to Ahmad's teachings, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has a 125-year track record of existing as a peaceful movement that seeks to unite mankind through its motto of "Love for all, Hatred for none," its undying belief in God and its reliance on only rational discourse to eradicate ignorance and intolerance.

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International Association of Ahmadi Architects and Engineers (IAAAE)-USA

## How Can IAAAE Help?

- ◆ To meet Jama'at Architectural and Engineering needs
- ◆ To support planning efforts for new mosques
- ◆ To provide technical advise to the mosque committees
- ◆ To provide cost saving solutions to the projects
- ◆ To help conduct energy audits at the mosques
- ◆ To identify sustainable design elements at the mosques
- ◆ To advise local property secretary on mosque repair
- ◆ To advise Jama'at members on their homes repairs
- ◆ To provide guidance to the students in the field of Architectural and Engineering
- ◆ To help restore services in disaster hit areas
- ◆ To provide technical support to Humanity First

### 2014 Annual General Body Meeting

Date: August 16, 2013  
Time: To be announced at Jalsa  
Location: Visit Booth for more info

Meeting Coordinator  
Junaid Malik  
Phone: 210-748-2251  
Email: [aaausa@gmail.com](mailto:aaausa@gmail.com)

Meeting agenda includes:

- Tilawat
- Welcome Address
- Membership/Finance
- Presentations
- Dua



## MASQ HALF YEAR PUBLICATIONS REPORT (NOVEMBER 2013 - APRIL 2014)

**Sohaib Awan, Chairman, Muslim Writers Guild of America**

	Total estimated circulation: 22,925,000	
	Number of Pieces: 135	
	Unique Writers: 53	
	*Titles that appear as multiple times represent re-publication in different newspapers. May metrics are not included above.	
<b>Month</b>	<b>Writer</b>	<b>Title of Publication</b>
<b>November (2013)</b>		
1	Ahmed Khan	Muhammad Messenger of Peace
2	Ahmed Khan	A Way to Bridge the Muslim-Christian Gap
3	Faheem Younus	Boston bombings and a Muslim identity crisis
4	Faheem Younus	Another Ahmadi venture under fire: When will we learn?
5	Faheem Younus	A better alternative to boycotting the White House Iftar
6	Faheem Younus	Dear CNN: Lailat al-Qadr is not a 'security risk'
7	Ahmed Khan	Night of Destiny
8	Amer Aziz	Fasting teaches you much
9	Faheem Younus	Why the moral argument to attack Syria is a hard sell
10	Faheem Younus	DC Navy Yard Shooting: Let's Not Shirk Our Responsibility
11	Kashif Chaudry	Shooting Malala – again
12	Amaar Ahmad	The 'Peace' Monstrosity
13	Mahir Osman	Is an Israeli child more innocent than a Palestinian child?
14	Zakaria Malik	American Muslim honors vets
15	Salaam Bhatti	A Muslim Comic Book Hero
16	Hassan Mirza	Remembering Veterans
17	Mahir Osman	Thanks, veterans, for protecting our freedom
18	Mahir Osman	Thanks, veterans, for protecting our freedom
19	Mahir Osman	Thanks, veterans, for protecting our freedom
20	Rafé Tariq	Muslims honor veterans
21	Rafé Tariq	Freedom never free
22	Amer Aziz	A time for gratitude for All Americans
23	Khalid Minhas	Stop ripping pages and start reading

24	Aleem Uddin	Islam Advocates Peace
25	Yahya Tariq	A Muslim's thoughts on Veterans Day
26	Yameen Khalil	Guiding principles
27	Yameen Khalil	A tangible, deep reminder of veterans' sacrifices
28	Faheem Younus	How Prophet Muhammad's Humility Could Shape the US-Iranian Peace Deal
29	Faheem Younus	A Brown, Bearded Muslim American Gives Thanks to Gap on Thanksgiving
30	Umair Ahmed	Remember this is time to be thankful for blessings
31	Madeel Abdullah	Counting the ways
32	Osaama Saifi	Thanks Be to Women
<b>December (2013)</b>		
33	Muhammad Atif Khan	Thanks In Action
34	Ahsan Khan	Gratitude's Blessings
35	Shamshad Nasir	Why Muslims Should Celebrate Thanksgiving
36	Shamshad Nasir	Why Muslims Should Celebrate Thanksgiving
37	Shamshad Nasir	Pakistan's Blasphemy Laws
38	Kashif Chaudhry	How Angola Almost Broke Pakistan's Record
39	Zarar Hayee	Giving thanks leads to giving help
40	Faheem Younus	The half-truths of drone warfare
41	Yameen Khalil	Thankful
42	Imran Hayee	Freedom, cleanliness make US the world's most Islamic nation
43	Kashif Chaudhry	Will You be Pakistan's Mandela?
44	Saif Ahmad	Abducted nuns
45	Saif Ahmad	Abducted nuns
46	Yameen Khalil	Against Islam
47	Ahmed Khan	Mandela's legacy is freedom and tolerance
48	Labeeb Ahmad	Religious Protection
49	Saad Karamat	A Muslim's Christmas wish
50	Ahmed Khan	How to thwart a war on Christmas
51	Sohail Husain	What's in the name Messiah? Identity, meaning
52	Saif Ahmad	Christmas from a Muslim's perspective

53	Saif Ahmad	Speaking out against violence
54	Saif Ahmad	No place for vigilante justice
55	Madeel Abdullah	It's time to celebrate the life of Jesus
56	Saif Ahmad	Find common ground in different scriptures
57	Mirza Armaghan	Celebrate what connects our cousin faiths
58	Mohammad Ahmad	A Mother's Love Transcends Religions
59	Qasim Rashid	Meet the Muslim Mandela
60	Sohail Husain	Yusef Lateef Truly A Gentle Giant
61	Sohail Husain	Soft-spoken jazz 'Giant'
62	Hammad Ahmad	A good musician is lost
63	Osaama Saifi	Muslim Wishes for Happy Holidays
<b>January (2014)</b>		
64	Faheem Younus	BANGLADESH I am sorry
65	Ahmed Khan	Using free speech responsibly
66	Qasim Rashid	Suicide Bombing and Pakistan's Double Standard
67	Imam Shamsad Nasir	Columnist reaches out for some answers on Christianity
68	Harris Zafar	Muslim Leader Accused of Sexual Misconduct
69	Imam Noman Rana	Goal: To Serve!
70	Imam Salman Tariq	New Imam building bridges in community
71	Qasim Rashid	Why are Muslims criminalizing the Qur'an?
72	Imam Noman Rana	You all are equal!
<b>February (2014)</b>		
73	Qasim Rashid	Learning about Mandela changed his life
74	Osaama Saifi	Racism and Islam
75	Mirza Ghulam Haseeb	Growing up in post-9/11 America
76	Kashif Chaudry	I left the US because of their hatred towards Muslims... this is my story
77	Imam Adnan Ahmed	New Ahmadi Imam
78	Qasim Rashid	Blasphemy charges pervert Islam's teachings
79	Qasim Rashid	Blasphemy charges pervert Islam's teachings

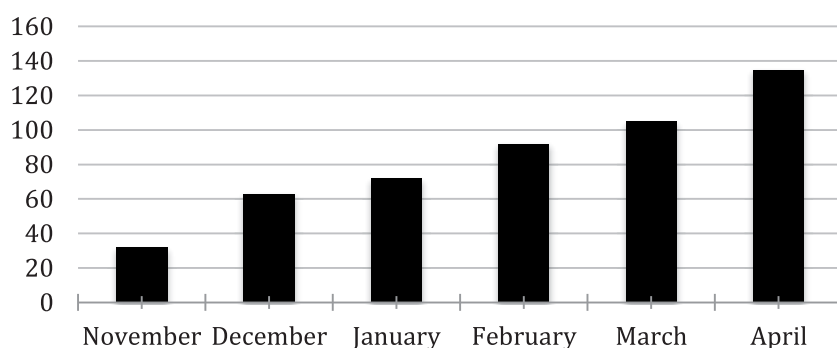


80	Qasim Rashid	Blasphmey charges pervert Islam's teachings
81	Ahmed Khan	Ending prejudices key to stopping racial inequality
82	Qasim Rashid	Blasphmey charges pervert Islam's teachings
83	Kashif Chaudry	I left the US because of their hatred towards Muslims... this is my story
84	Mirza Ghulam Haseeb	Faith And Self
85	Sheheryar Ahmad	Islam's mark on racial equality
86	Labeeb Ahmad	Religious duty to erase racism
87	Ibasha Siraj Khandakar	Don't judge all Muslims on actions of few
88	Adnan Ahmed	Black history event
89	Madeel Abdullah	Youth should look toward Mandela, not Miley Cyrus
90	Sohail Z. Husain	Muslim Americans Celebrate Black History Month
91	Imam Shamsad Nasir	God as presented in Islam
92	Sinaan Younus	Shock and supries over Rice arrest
<b>March (2014)</b>		
93	Christopher Cooksey	Syrian solution lies at negotiating table
94	Yameen Khalil	Sympathy
95	Yameen Khalil	Sympathy
96	Christopher Cooksey	Islam teaches that all races are equal
97	Qasim Rashid	FGM Is an Act of Terrorism Not an Act of Islam
98	Umair Ahmed	Muslim conference to discuss Prophet Muhammad
99	Qasim Rashid	Daniel Pipes and the anti-Islam crowd's cries for attention sounding increasingly desperate
100	Salaam Bhatti	"Only" 20,000 Ahmadi Muslims Make History
101	Qasim Rashid	Here's a Novel Idea: You Should Learn about Islam from Actual Muslims
102	Osaama Saifi	The Ahmadiyya Congressional Caucus
103	Salaam Bhatti	Islam does not have a monopoly on 'Allah'
104	Salaam Bhatti	Islam does not have a monopoly on 'Allah'
105	Christopher Cooksey	Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus will fight religious persecution
<b>April (2014)</b>		
106	Ahmed Khan	Peace must never be compromised

107	Sohail Husain	World War I — Drawing parallels from a century ago
108	Imran Hayee	Quran forbids men from hurting wives
109	Qasim Rashid	A Muslim's invitation to the new atheists: Dawkins, Ali, and Harris
110	Hassan Syed	Islam would never sanction bombings
111	Sultan Humayun	ACA will save lives
112	Basiyr Rodney	Harming people is not in the true teachings of Islam
113	Kashif Chaudhry	Local Muslim Community Bleeds With Boston
114	Zakaria Malik	Boston: A wish for a safe marathon this year
115	Nasir Ahmad	Boston Bombing a violation of Islam
116	Nasir Ahmad	Boston Terrorists acted against the faith
117	Kamran Khan	Peace on Passover
118	Ahsan Khan	Terror in the Midwest
119	Walid Khan	Boston bombers not following Islam
120	Yameen Khalil	Whosoever killed a person...'
121	Waqas Bin Khalid	Marathon bombings contradict teachings of Islam
122	Yahya Tariq	Bravery during Pennsylvania school stabbings
123	Nameer Bhatti	Muhammad wouldn't condone Boston bombing
124	Ahmad Bhatti	In step with Boston
125	Saiyed Kaashif Ahmad Qaderi	Cowardly Act
126	Kamran Khan	Heinous Act
127	Salaam Bhatti	The End of Surveillance for New York Muslims — For Now
128	Osaama Saifi	Muslims Fight Anti-Semitism Hatred: A Blunt Tool That Only Injures Oneself
129	Labeeb Ahmad	Boston Marathon bombings are opposite of teachings of Islam
130	Kamran Khan	Slayings in Kansas stem from lack of understanding
131	Nameer Bhatti	Remembering the Boston Marathon tragedy
132	Zarar Hayee	Tragedy and heroism at Pennsylvania high school
133	Umar Ahmad	Heavy Heart
134	Kashif N Chaudhry	Hirsi Ali: telling a critic from an Islamophobe
135	Qasim Rashid	Get the (Eternal) Hell Out of Islam

Month	Cumulative Publications
November	32
December	63
January	72
February	92
March	105
April	135

### Cumulative Half-Year MASQ Publications



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Hadhrat Imam Abu Hanifah<sup>ra</sup> relates that Hadhrat 'Ata'<sup>sa</sup> told him that he heard the following<sup>ra</sup> incident from several Companions of the Holy Prophet : "Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin Rawah' had a slave-girl who used to graze a flock of his goats. He had instructed her to take special care of one particular goat. She did that and it grew into a stout goat. The shepherdess became busy in taking care of some other animals. A wolf came and attacked the stout goat and devoured it. Hadhrat<sup>ra</sup> 'Abdullah' came and did not find the goat. The shepherdess told him the whole incident about the goat. Upon this, he slapped her. Later on, he felt remorse about it and related the incident to the Messenger<sup>sa</sup> of Allah. The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> took the matter very seriously and told him, 'You have slapped the face of a believer.' He replied: 'She is an ignorant black woman who knows nothing.' The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> sent for the shepherdess and asked her, 'Where is Allah?' She replied, 'In Heaven.' Then he<sup>sa</sup> asked her, 'Who am I?' She replied, 'The Messenger<sup>sa</sup> of Allah.' Upon this he<sup>sa</sup> said: 'She is a believer. Free her.' So, he freed her.' "

(Musnad Al-Imamul A'zam - al-im-n wal-islam)



Department of Taleemul Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardhi  
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA

## God can only be found through Holy Qur'an

God in whose meeting is man's salvation and eternal happiness cannot be found without Holy Qur'an. Would that people could see that which I have seen and they could hear that which I have heard and give up following stories and run towards reality. The means of obtaining perfect knowledge through which one can see God, the cleansing water which removes all doubts, and the mirror through which one can behold that High Being, is the converse with God which I have just mentioned. He whose soul seeks the truth should arise and search for it.

I say truly that if souls were inspired by true search and hearts felt true thirst, people would look for this way and would search for it. I assure the seekers that Islam alone is the good news for this way, for other people have since long sealed up the possibility of revelation. Be sure that this seal is not set by God, but as man has deprived himself of this favor, he seeks excuses for its absence. As it is not possible that we should be able to behold the countenance of sweet Beloved without the Holy Qur'an. I was young and am now old, but I've found no one who might have drunk of this clear understanding without this holy fountain.

[ Islami Usul ki philosophy (Philosophy of teachings of Islam), Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 10, pp. 442-443]

## Holy Qur'an is the straight path

The straight path and the principal means which is full of the light of certainty and constant experience, and is the perfect guide for our spiritual welfare and our intellectual progress, is the Holy Qur'an which is charged with the settlement of all the religious contests of the world. Each and every word of it consistently carries thousands of repeated confirmations and it contains a large quantity of the water of life for us and comprises many rare and priceless jewels which are hidden in it and are being displayed everyday. It is an excellent touchstone whereby we can distinguish between truth and falsehood. It is the one bright lamp which shows the way of truth. Without doubts the hearts of those who have a relationship the straight path are drawn to the Holy Qur'an. Gracious God has so fashioned their hearts that they are drawn towards this beloved like a lover and find no rest elsewhere, and hearing a plain and clear directive from it, they listen to nothing else. They accept joyfully and eagerly every verity contained in it. In the end, it becomes the means of illumination of the heart and lighting up the conscience and of wonderful disclosures. It leads everyone to the heights of progress according to their capacities. The righteous have always been in need of waling in the light of Holy Qur'an.

[ Izala-e-Auham, Ruhani Khaza'in Vol. 3 pp. 381]

**Inspire | Educate | Mobilize**

## Let's Learn Rules of Tajweed -- Lesson 01

Proper recitation of the Holy Quran requires knowledge of *tajweed* rules. This is first in a series of lessons aimed at teaching some basic rules of *tajweed*.

Urdu and Arabic have most letters in common, but unlike Urdu, each Arabic alphabet has its own distinct sound. For example, ذ, ظ, ض, all sound the same in Urdu, but not in Arabic.

### Point of Articulation or "*makhraj*" (Plural: "*makharij*")

Each letter has certain point of articulation, where its sound originates. There are five major points of articulation: The oral cavity (*al-jawf*), the throat (*al-halaq*), the tongue (*al-lisaan*), the lips (*ash-shafatain*), and the nasal cavity (*al-khayshoom*).

### Properties or "*sifaat*"

Letters also have certain properties ("*sifaat*").

To pronounce a letter correctly we need to know both, its point of articulation (*makhraj*) and its properties (*sifaat*).

Today we will look at two opposing properties: *Tafkheem* v.s. *Tarqeeq*

***Tafkheem*** is the "thickness" or heaviness of sound, as if the mouth is full. This produces a rounded sort of sound but one should NOT round the lips to produce it. The heaviness should come from elevating back of the tongue toward roof of the mouth.

There are seven letters which are always "thick-sounding": ص, ض, ط, ظ, غ, خ, ق

(Hint: ص, ض, ط, ظ share the same teardrop shape, which makes them easy to remember. We can also imagine this shape as a tongue that is raised at the back.)

***Tarqeeq*** (opposite of *tafkheem*) is the "thinness" of sound, as if the mouth is empty. This is produced by lowering or flattening the tongue, away from roof of the mouth. This is closer to the regular sound a non-native would produce. There are 19 letters that are always "thin-sounding."

### Letters with both properties:

Some letters can either be thin-sounding or thick-sounding depending on some rules which will be covered in later lessons. These letters are:

Letter 'raa' ر (rules to follow)

Letter 'laam' ل, in the glorious name of Allah (rules to follow)

**Tip:** It is easier to produce the "thin" sounds with ones lips in the smiling position, whereas "thick" sounds are helped by a serious and grave expression on the face.

*Note: English transliteration of letters below is only a rough approximation. Next lessons will inshallah try to explain pronunciation of individual letters with references to audio links.*

Letters that are always "thick-sounding" (i.e. read with tafkheem)						
ق	خ	غ	ظ	ط	ض	ص
qāf	khā	ghain	ẓā	ṭā	ḍād	ṣād
Letters that are always "thin-sounding" (i.e. read with tarqeeq)						
	ح	ج	ث	ت	ب	ء
	ḥā	jīm	thā	tā	bā	hamzah
				ذ	د	ز
				dhāl	dāl	zā
		ك	ف	ع	ش	س
		kāf	fā	'ain	shīn	sīn
		ي	ه	و	ن	م
		yā	hā	wāow	nūn	mīm



## *Stories of the Prophets*

### **Hazrat Lot<sup>as</sup>**

Allah sent Hazrat Lot<sup>as</sup> to uphold His laws and guide His creation. Hazrat Lot<sup>as</sup> was a contemporary and subordinate prophet to Hazrat Abraham<sup>as</sup>. He was also Hazrat Abraham's<sup>as</sup> nephew. Hazrat Lot<sup>as</sup> was a knowledgeable and pious man who welcomed weary travelers into his home and treated them hospitably.



He prayed for the reformation of his people and also went to them and admonished them against their wrongdoing. The crimes of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah are clearly stated in the Quran. In Sura Al-Ankabut verses 29, Allah states,

“And *We sent* Lot; he said to his people, ‘You commit an abomination which none among mankind has ever committed before you.’ But the only answer of his people was that they said, ‘Bring upon us the punishment of Allah if thou speakest the truth.’”

According to the Qura’n, the three main crimes that the people of Lot<sup>as</sup> indulged in were robbing travelers, and openly committing crimes. Hazrat Lot<sup>as</sup> warned them but they arrogantly retorted for him to ask Allah to bring upon them the punishment. When Hazrat Lot<sup>as</sup>’s people would not desist from their vulgarity, Allah decreed a punishment for these people. He sent saintly men to warn Hazrat Lot<sup>as</sup> of the impending doom and to take him and his righteous followers to a place of safety. These saintly men first stopped at the House of Abraham in order to convey the news of the destruction of Hazrat Lot<sup>as</sup>’s people. Hazrat Ibraheem<sup>as</sup> was very tender hearted and prayed to Allah for the mercy and forgiveness of these rebellious people. But these people had already exceeded all bounds of evil and so their destruction was imminent. After Hazrat Lot<sup>as</sup> and his followers were safely out of the city, Allah punished these wicked people at sunrise by turning their city upside down and raining stones upon them. May Allah have mercy on us and save us from such misguidance. Ameen.

## Hazrat Ishmael<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Issac<sup>as</sup>

“And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year. And he left off talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.” (Genesis 17:20-22)

In an era when it is the norm to abandon the rights due to kin, let me tell you the story of two special brothers. They not only possessed an intense love for Allah but also for each other. They were the chosen ones of Allah and their lives were filled with many special events. They were the forefathers of two great people: the Muslims and the Jews. The names of these two sons of Abraham are Hazrat Ishmael<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Issac<sup>as</sup>.

Hazrat Ishmael<sup>as</sup> was born to Hazrat Hajara<sup>ra</sup> who was a member of the Egyptian royal family at the time. His trials and tribulations started in the very beginning of his life when his father, Hazrat Ibraheem<sup>as</sup>, was commanded by Allah to set this small infant and his Mother in the barren vicinity of the Ka’aba. Hazrat Ibraheem<sup>as</sup> left them with small provision and soon Hazrat Hajara<sup>ra</sup> was running between Safa and Marwa looking for water for her thirsty child. This is the same symbolic running that we complete at the time of Hajj. It was the blessed crying of Hazrat Ishmael<sup>as</sup> that attracted the mercy of Allah and he sent an angel to place a spring in this barren valley to save the lives of these two. This spring became a well named Zam-zam. Hazrat Ishmael<sup>as</sup> grew up to be a strong, well-liked young man. He was to be the progenitor of the best people, the Muslims, so Allah continued to guide him in his spiritual progress. At one time, Allah commanded Hazrat Ibraheem<sup>as</sup> to rebuild the Ka’aba with his son Ishmael<sup>as</sup>. It says in the Qur’an,

“And *remember the time when Abraham and Ishmael raised the foundations of the House, praying, ‘Our Lord, accept this from us; for Thou art All-Hearing, All-Knowing.’*” (Sura Baqara, Verse 128)

The miraculous birth of Hazrat Isaac<sup>as</sup> is well recorded in the Qur’an. Hazrat Abraham<sup>as</sup> was 99 years of age and Hazrat Sarah<sup>ra</sup> was 90 years of age; they were both well-above their childbearing years and could have never imagined that they would be blessed with a child at such an extreme age. When angelic-like men came to deliver the blessed news of Hazrat Isaac<sup>as</sup>’s birth, Hazrat Sarah<sup>ra</sup> could barely hide her amazement. Hazrat Issac<sup>as</sup> grew up to be a strong leader and the father to Hazrat Jacob<sup>as</sup> and grandfather to Hazrat Yusuf<sup>as</sup>. He was the forefather to many a prophet and to the great nation of the Jews.

In the end, these two God-fearing brothers loved each other very much. Their tribes also intermarried and loved each other for a long time. After many years, these tribes grew apart and became enemies of each other. May Allah have mercy on us and guide us all. Ameen.

**Attia Tul Haq, Austin**



The Ameer and Missionary in charge of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission in Ghana, Maulvi Dr Wahab A. Adam died on Sunday, June 22 at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital after a long illness. Until his death, he was an executive member of the NPC.

Maulvi Abdul Wahab Bin Adam was born in December, 1944, at Brofeyedur – Adansi, Ashanti Region. After his secondary education at T.I. Ahmadiyya Secondary School (Kumasi), he proceeded to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Seminary and Ahmadiyya Theological University, Rabwah, Pakistan, where he received Diploma in Arabic and Honours Degree in Theology and Islamic Jurisprudence in 1960.

After serving as the Brong-Ahafo Regional Missionary of Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission from 1960 – 1969, he became the Principal of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Missionary Training College at Saltpond.

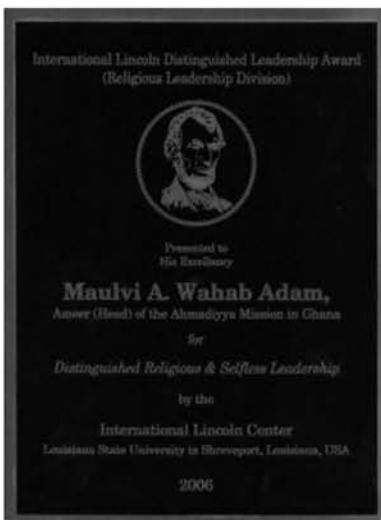


Former Members of the National Executive Council of the U.K Jama'at. 4th from right is Maulana Ata-ul-Mujeeb Rashid, 6th from right is Maulvi A. Wahab Adam (both Deputy Imams of the London Mosque).

In 1971, he was appointed to the high office of the Deputy Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission of the United Kingdom, an office he so creditably held until he was elevated to the prestigious position of Ameer (Head) and Missionary-in-Charge of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission in Ghana. He has steered the affairs of the Mission with distinction since 1975.

On Wednesday the mortal remains of the late Dr Adam, were laid at the forecourt of the State House for a four-hour burial service and the Muslim Janazah prayers.

Dignitaries, who paid their last respect to the late Ameer included, Vice President Paa Kwesi Amissah-Athur, local and foreign Missionaries, Religious leaders, Members of the various political parties, Speaker and Members of Parliament, Chiefs and Christian leaders.



International Lincoln Centre, of Louisiana State University Award to Maulvi A. Wahab Adam, Ameer and Missionary-In-Charge, Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission, Ghana, for Distinguished Religious and Selfless Leadership.

In a tribute read on behalf of President John Dramani Mahama and Vice President Amissah-Athur, Mr Mahama Ayariga, Minister of Information and Media Relation, noted that the late Ameer had paid his due to the Ghanaian society and what the country needed to do in honouring him was to continue upholding his passion for peace, patience and humility. He said the country had lost a son, a patriot and a pillar of socio-religious equilibrium.

On behalf of the National Chief Imam, Sheik Dr Osman Nuhu Sharubutu, Alhaji Mohammed Gado, in a tribute, described the late Maulvi Adam as a great man of wisdom, unifier, leader, teacher, disciplinarian and a man of many paths.

He said the late Ameer played a key role in the activities of the Ghana Conference of Religious Peace (GCRP) and was the first Muslim to occupy the seat as the President, which the GCRP had never regretted, adding, "His legacy shall inspire the Muslim Community in Ghana."

Rev. Dr Kwabena Opuni-Frimpong, General Secretary of the Christian Council, on behalf of the council, noted that late

Maulvi Adam had shown the world that people with religious divergence can live together for national developme



A Presidential hopeful of the NPP for the 2016 elections, Alan Kyerematen has also described the death of Maulvi Dr. Abdul Wahab Adam as shocking and a sad one.

Also the 2012 flagbearer of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Nana Akuffo Addo said he is deeply saddened by the news of the passing of the Ameer and Missionary-in-Charge of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission, Maulvi Dr. Wahab Adam.

Nana Addo expressed sincere condolences and sympathies to the family of the late Maulvi Dr. Wahab Adam and all Ahmadi Muslims across the country and the world.

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## A PIOUS MAN

### Dr. Anwar Ahmad, Southwest Chicago Jama'at

In April 2013, my son Dr. Iftekhhar Ahmad and I went to London, UK to meet Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V<sup>aba</sup>. We stayed in the guesthouse with another person whom I had never met. He was an African clad in the traditional African dress. What was so distinct about him was that a light emanated from his face. His persona was so formidable that I felt electric current pass through my body. We introduced ourselves to each other and departed. WThe next morning when we came down for breakfast, he had already set the table. For now I will call him AWA. He got up from his chair and started offering us different breakfast items. He would not allow us to offer him anything, not even standing at our seats. At the conclusion of breakfast, he would take the utensils to the kitchen and wash them. Here again he would not let us touch anything. This scenario re-played for lunch and dinner. More of the same occurred for the rest of our stay, which lasted another two to three days.

All this time we benefited from his conversation. Now I am going to disclose his name. He was most respected *Maulana* Abdul Wahab Adam, *Ameer* of Ghana. His kindness did not finish with our departure from London. A week after our return, my wife called me and told me that some Ahmadi named Hasan wanted our home address and she gave it to him. She said this person did not say why he wanted our address. I thought it must be some *Jama'at* business and forgot about it. After a few days, to our surprise, we received a package sent by Hasan, who is the son of *Maulana* Adam. There were two separate bags for Dr. Anwar and Dr. Ifthekhar. Each one had a green and golden muffler with the inscription "Welcome to Ghana" and a package of chocolate produced and made in Ghana. So this was my brief encounter with a saint. I have never been so humbled in my life. I will never forget it.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## 2014 JAMIA ORIENTATION COURSE

*for Waqfe Nau & Non-Waqfe Nau boys  
(14 years and older)*

**Aug 28<sup>th</sup> (Mon) – Aug 29<sup>th</sup> (Fri)**

**Baitul Hadi Mosque**

**27 South Street, Old Bridge, NJ 08857**

Participation is limited to 50 students only!

See further details and information about how to register online at:  
<http://www.waqfenau.us/jamia-orientation>

For further information, contact Syed Fazal sahib:

Mobile: 215-805-3610

Email: [fazalahmedsyed@gmail.com](mailto:fazalahmedsyed@gmail.com)

or contact your local Waqfe Nau secretary.

- ⇒ Classes taught by senior Jamia students
- ⇒ Daily sports activities
- ⇒ Highly rated by past year's students
- ⇒ Boarding and lodging is provided

*Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary*  
*National Secretary Waqfe Nau, USA*