

A GHAZNAVI-LOVING, GHAZWA-LAUDING CLERIC IS WELCOME IN INDIA. HOW SO?

Anita Rai

(Counterterrorism expert and consultant based in London, UK; contributor to Intelligence and Security Journals and organizations, author of “*Jihad and Terrorism*”)

Copyright: Research Institute for European and American Studies (www.rieas.gr)

Publication date: 27 January 2019.

Note: The article reflects the opinion of the author and not necessarily the views of the Research Institute for European and American Studies (RIEAS).

“India, Sindh, i.e. Pakistan, and then China will be conquered. Hind, Sindh, i.e. Pakistan and China too will be conquered. This whole region will be conquered by the army of Mahdi¹ (Peace is upon Him). Rulers of India will be tied up in chains. Bound in chains, they will be presented before the throne of Hazrat Mahdi (Peace is upon Him) in Jerusalem.”²

The above is uttered by Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri in Urdu³ when he is preaching the infamous tradition of “The Battle of India”, *hadith* of *Ghazwa-e-Hind* or *Ghazwatul Hind*. This apocalyptic battle will be waged by Muslims against the non-Muslims of India and the latter will be completely subdued and enslaved by the former. Qadri, a Hanafi Sunni cleric, is known for his open admiration of Mahmud Ghaznavi, the genocidal plunderer who was one of the many Muslim marauders that invaded the Indian Subcontinent. Of late, the *hadith* of *Ghazwa-e-Hind* is laying minefields in the minds of a sizeable number of susceptible Muslims of and from the Indian Subcontinent. Due to its alleged association with the Prophet of Islam it has attained the status of a *hadith*⁴. Preaching on Islamic eschatology, in this lecture, Qadri establishes the authenticity of this alleged prophecy from various notorious compilers of Prophetic traditions.⁵

These compilations have remained undisputed sources of humongous inspiration for terrorism down the centuries. Twenty-first century terror networks like Al Qaeda, ISIS, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) use the pernicious prophecy of *Ghazwa-e-Hind* for the recruitment and

¹In Shia Islam, the Mahdi is the Twelfth Imam. Descendant and Final successor of Prophet Muhammad who as per Imamia eschatology, upon arrival will take the Muslims to task and start his adjudication with the deviant Shia clerics like Khomeini that are wolves in sheep’s clothing and have corrupted the faith for the impressionable masses. In the Sunni school, of which Qadri is a cleric, the Mahdi is a leader who will come in the last days and lead the Muslims in bloody battles against all non-Muslims.

²YouTube Channel: Ghazwa-E-Hind

³Translation by Anita Rai

⁴A *hadith* is an Arabic word that means a saying of Prophet Muhammad

⁵*Kutub al-Sittah* or *Al-Sihah al-Sittah*, six compilations of Prophetic traditions according to Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawood, Tirmidhi, Nasai, Majah or Malik in the Sunni School

education of terrorists! One thing that every one of these *hadith* compilers has in common is glorification and zealous advocacy of *Jihad*, i.e. conquest of territories by aggressing against non-Muslims and converting them to Islam. A similarly virulent strain of eschatology is present in the Cult of Khomeini. Nothing could be further from the Shia Ethos or the *Imamia* School of Islam as exemplified and established by the ethos of the 12 Imams who succeeded the Prophet of Islam through Ali ibne Abi Talib, his one and only son-in-law.

Qadri, a Canadian passport holding Pakistani cleric, is all set to re-visit India in February 2019. He is the founder and head of Minhaj-ul-Quran International (MQI) based in Lahore, Pakistan with more than 300 centres all over the country. MQI has branches worldwide. India alone is host to scores of centres from Kashmir to Kerala, from West Bengal to Gujarat. During his visit from 8th to 20th February, as of now Qadri is scheduled to address large congregations of Muslims in Delhi, Lucknow, Kanpur, Ahmedabad and Kolkata.

Government of India has granted Visa to Qadri for his visits. He not only met Prime Minister Modi when the latter was the chief minister of Gujarat but has spread out his tentacles throughout India in the form of MQI centres. In 2012, he was in Gujarat to lay the foundation stone of MQI which is headquartered in Karjan. Times of India reported that Pakistani Islamic scholar Tahir-ul-Qadri thanked chief minister Narendra Modi for his special Z plus security arrangements. Of course, in keeping with his duplicitous character Qadri yelled in a rally at Rawalpindi, Pakistan:

“Sharif brothers’ sugar factories are hosting over 300 Indian citizens illegally. I have got passport numbers of those people. God knows how many of them are Indian spy agency, RAW, agents... I do not talk foul. Integrity of Pakistan is at stake. I have got documents of Indian citizens working in Sharifs’ sugar mills, if security agencies want to see the documents, I can show them...”⁶

The votaries of Qadri are acutely perceptive to every word that slides out of this spitty speaker and Qadri knows the power he wields over them. When he addresses a Muslim audience who for decades have been programmed by his preaching and are high on rabid religiosity, Qadri brags that he is the brain behind Pakistan’s Blasphemy Laws. In his words,

“I was taking this stance and I had this very Law made. My point of view was, whosoever is the perpetrator of Blasphemy of the Prophet, whether the person is Muslim or non-Muslim, is a man or a woman, whether the perpetrator is a Muslim, Jew, Christian, Hindu, whoever the person be, a man or a woman, whosoever is the perpetrator of Blasphemy of the Prophet, the punishment is death.”⁷

But in Denmark, at a Western setting, Qadri is seen saying:

“If I was for example in power in Pakistan, I can swear I would have changed this law.”⁸

⁶<https://arynews.tv/en/sharif-brothers-sugar-factories-hosting-over-300-indian-citizens-illegally-qadri>

⁷YouTube: Tahir ul Qadri founder of Blasphemy Law lives happily in Canada

⁸Minhaj TV [Official] video on YouTube called ‘Tackling Radicalism Tour 2012 Denmark’

As is always the case the dupable is duped and the duplicitous bags applauses and a lot more. Qadri goes on to say:

“Whatever the Law of Blasphemy is, is not applicable on non-Muslims, is not applicable on Jews and Christians and other non-Muslims minorities, it is just to be dealt with Muslims.”⁹

A man who has spent decades in building a bank of low IQ-high religiosity followers, a man who does their thinking for them, a man who methodically administers the opiate of fanaticism, a man who has made his audience believe that he has the contract of the highway to heaven – doesn't he know to what extent his words have immediate and long term effects, obvious and subliminal, upon the minds of hundreds of thousands across continents? Of course, he does.

When asked about the Israel-Palestine crisis, this is the message that Tahir ul Qadri, the megastar mullah, sends out to the Muslim world:

“... he doesn't possess any gun, he just possesses only his body (chuckles audibly) so whatever he would do, he would use his body in creating terrorism, in terroristic act. And the best weapon that he possesses is the Suicidal Bombing.”¹⁰

A man whom many in Intel & Law Enforcement know to be an agent of double+ agendas, Qadri, a seasoned agent provocateur effortlessly gives completely conflicting statements and opinions on any given subject. An old hand at jumping from one script to another, he caters to differing socio-ethnic audiences across different geo-political scenes somehow never losing the self-styled image of a “moderate” Shaykh. It has taken Qadri years to perfect his craft and now it takes him everywhere as he raises endless funds and builds numerous models of “moderate” Islam with his “moderate” self at the helm.

“Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri, the Pakistan Awami Tehrik's leader who has all of a sudden appeared on the political scene to rescue the state, was in 1990 declared by the Lahore High Court a person of such a mental health who could manipulate and exploit anything for his political gains. An LHC Commission... had written that Dr Qadri had engineered the so-called murder attempt on himself, which depicted his sick mental health... The Advocate General apprised the Commission that Dr Qadri had exploited the political difference between IJI and Pakistan People's Party... The Commission also mentioned that Dr Qadri was fond of dreaming and then explaining and exploiting those dreams specially mentioning the name of Holy Prophet (SAW). Exploiting dreams related to Holy Prophet (SAW) depicts the ailing mental condition of Dr Qadri, said the Commission, adding that anything can be expected from such a person.”¹¹ The News also reports: “One of the witnesses, Mufti Ghulam Sarwar Qadri had told the commission that Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri had delayed a Juma prayer for 45 minutes because General Zia-ul-Haq was expected to come in that mosque that day.”

⁹Minhaj TV [Official] video on YouTube called 'Tackling Radicalism Tour 2012 Denmark'

¹⁰<https://youtu.be/p43VmlWenhs>

¹¹<https://www.thenews.com.pk/archive/print/627381-what-a-high-court-commission-wrote-about-dr-qadri>

In Kashmir, as of now MQI has centres in Anantnag, Jammu and Srinagar. It has come to my knowledge that Qadri's next target is Ladakh. As far back as 1998, this was the situation in Ladakh:

... in the northernmost part of India... Khomeini presides over vegetable stalls, hardware shops, and roadside eateries. Portraits of the unsmiling one... are everywhere. "He's our boss," says Abdul Said, who hangs pictures of Khomeini... in his tea stall... The ayatollah's popularity in Kargil... is testament to the strength of the Shia strain of Islam in this... inaccessible tidbit of South Asia... it suggests why India faces a long struggle in bringing peace to Kashmir... Islamic institutions backed by other countries are winning the hearts and minds of the people... the gradual Islamicization of Kashmir - as evidenced by Khomeini's portraits in Kargil and Muslim schools in other parts of the province - jeopardizes the very idea of India... at a recent ceremony honoring the anniversary of Khomeini's death, Kargil residents of all ages sat under rain-soaked tents to hear preachers call for Islamic revolution. Asgar Karbilaie, secretary of the Imam Khomeini Memorial Trust, says in an interview that "we want to develop our culture in relation to Islam..." ...As for the Kashmiri separatists, Mr. Karbilaie adds, "We support them in every way," although he declines to say whether his group backs their militancy.¹²

Citing a new private Muslim school coming up in the suburbs of Srinagar, the Hindus fleeing the area and especially the presence of Khomeini devotees in large numbers in a traditionally Buddhist Ladakh, Professor Amitabh Mattoo told Mr. Cameron Barr, "The real tragedy of Kashmir is the change in the cultural heritage."

Tahir ul Qadri's modus operandi is not different from that of the Khomeinists in India. Asgar Ali Karbalai an activist and politician from Kargil, is admittedly a die-hard Khomeinist pushing the Iranian Revolution in Kashmir. He is the go-to-guy at the Imam Khomeini Memorial Trust in Ladakh. The Trust's website states, "Its ideology is based on the Shariah of Prophet Mohammed (SAW) and the Islamic Revolution of Iran initiated by the late Ayatullah Ruhullah Al-Mussavi Khomeini(RA)." In 2014, Qadri visited Iran. Informing about his visit MQI website has this to say:

"Ayatollah Hashem Hussein Bushehri... described him as 'hidden treasure of Islamic world.'... Ayatullah Fida Hussain Abidi was also present at the occasion who recently completed his PhD. His thesis was 'Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri and his concept of Wilayat'."

Mr. Kalbe Jawad, a leading Khomeinist cleric hailing from Lucknow who religiously follows the dictates of Tehran, is a keen ally of Mr. Qadri.

During Qadri's 2012 Gujarat visit, BJP leader Mr. Chudasama, was at the event. "He said Qadri advocated social and communal harmony and denounced Jihadi extremism. Chudasama had described him as "soft-spoken"."¹³ Fortunately for Mr. Chudasama, he has

¹²Cameron W. Barr, *To Highly Tense Kashmir, Add Iranian-Style Islam*, The Christian Science Monitor, June 26, 1998

¹³Qadri was Modi's state guest, admirer in 2012, <https://www.geo.tv/latest/112142>

not been exposed to the screeching avatar of Mr. Qadri where he rants for hours on end in lectures, press conferences and TV interviews. In one-on-one communications he tends to be “softer”. So is Hafiz Saeed, the terrorist. Saeed is an Islamist cleric. So is Qadri. Saeed is a known advocate of *Ghazwa-e-Hind*. So is Qadri. Saeed eulogizes Mahmud Ghaznavi. So does Qadri. Saeed takes his inspiration from Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman, the first 3 caliphs of Islam. So does Qadri. Saeed runs numerous religious organizations. So does Qadri. Saeed runs charitable trusts and health camps. So does Qadri. Saeed offers free education in his madrassas to the children of the poor. So does Qadri in his “schools”. Saeed insists on a “hard kill” strategy and is hence on a murderous rampage against India and all those who don’t conform to his ideology. Qadri, on the other hand specializes in “soft kill” and uses his “soft skills” to that end. Both have their eyes fixed on the end game. The end game is one and the same for both veteran Islamists. Hafiz Saeed is wanted by India and rightly so. Tahir ul Qadri is welcome in India. How so?

As the honourable Prime Minister of India pushes his strategy of “soft power”, how alert is his team to the Islamists’ strategy of decimating the cardinal civilizational and historical integrity of India “softly” with stony determination? It is not difficult for the farsighted to see the potential for real menace Qadri with his long arm game plan, rapport, immense resources and a worldwide web of religious centres portend for the security of India.