TANZEEM-E-ISLAMI



Striving for the Law of Allah, on the Land of Allah

PERSPECTIVE

The official online newsletter of Tanzeem-e-Islami

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PATRON: Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, Mohtaram Shujauddin Shaikh

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A blend that gives Muslims an insight into the events of the past, those happenings at present and the Signs of things to come...

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Patron: Shujauddin Shaikh Chief Editor: Dr. Ghulam Murtaza Editor: Raza ul Hag

From the Qur'an:

"O you who have believed, do not take the Jews and the Christians as allies. They are [in fact] allies of one another. And whoever is an ally to them among you - then indeed, he is [one] of them. Indeed, Allah guides not the wrongdoing people."

"So you see those in whose hearts disease is ſi.e.. hypocrisy] hastening into [association with] them, saying, "We are afraid a misfortune may strike us." But perhaps Allah will bring conquest or a decision from Him, and they will become, over what they have been concealing within themselves, regretful."

"And those who believe will say, "Are these the ones who swore by Allah their strongest oaths that indeed they were with you?" Their deeds have become have worthless, and they become losers "

(Surah Al-Ma'idah: Verses 51 - 53)

Selected Hadith:

Abu Sa'id al-Khudri (RA) reported:

The Messenger of Allah (SAAW) as saying: You would tread the same path as was trodden by those before you inch by inch and step by step so much so that if they had entered into the hole of the lizard, you would follow them in this also. We said: Allah's Messenger, do you mean Jews and Christians (by your words) "those before you"? He said: Who else (than those two religious groups)?"

All praise is due to Allah (SWT), and peace & blessing on his noble Messengers (AS), in particular, on the last of them all the blessed Prophet Muhammad (SAAW). The concerned citizens of Pakistan were still reeling from the shockwaves made by

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the public version of the National Security Policy of Pakistan (NSP) 2022-2026, the nascent premium security document of the state, on account of the glaringly meagre attention and discourse on the Islamic ideological basis of the country, when they have been hurled another fireball in the form of the new 'National Counter Violent Extremism (NCVE) Policy 2021', disclosed by the investigative journalist Asif Chaudhry in his piece, "New anti-extremism policy to keep tabs on law enforcement ranks" Published in Dawn, January 22nd, 2022.

The NSP appallingly imprisons itself while addressing the ideological foundation of Pakistan to less than one and a half sentence in the 62-page public version, which is reportedly just one-half of the entire document!

However, the National Counter Violent Extremism (NCVE) Policy 2021 clearly demonstrates a narrative that is essentially propositioned and predicated on Western liberal and secular ideals, with the blunt aim to promote pluralism, modernism, the 'enlightened and modern' version of Islam as well as painting a target on the fundamentalist and traditionalist Muslims of Pakistan without cause or definition by branding them as violent-extremist and radicals. The net outcome is a narrative and frankly a policy which shows a fundamental departure from our religious tradition and orthodoxy, which are the bedrocks of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It is a blatant attempt to dilute, if not revoke, the notion of 'a robust Islamic polity - Pakistan' as envisioned by Jinnah, Iqbal, our constitution and above all the Qur'an and Sunnah, by the stroke of a pen.

The use of so-called policies to 'Counter Violent Extremism' as a tool to develop anti-Islam plans of action is not new, either in Pakistan or the rest of the world. The post-911 world has seen a blanket ban by states on the notion of 'political Islam', without cause, as well as coining the grossly ambiguous phrases 'extremism', 'violent extremism' and 'radicalization', which are applied arbitrarily to target any and all that do not adhere to the ideology of secularism, liberalism, modernism and 'modernist Islam'. Pervez Musharraf tried it in the guise of 'Enlightened Moderation' (EM) (Ref: http://escholar.umt.edu.pk:8080/jspui/bitstream/123456789/2737/1/Summary.pdf), the UK is still perusing it under the label of 'Preventing Violent Extremism' (or simple the 'Prevent' program) since 2009, the US has failed after bombing half of the Muslim world in its so-called 'war on terror', yet the secular, liberal and modernist elements of the world are bent on falsely maligning and castigating the Muslims in general and the fundamentalist and traditionist ones in particular as a threat to the society, county or the entire world - as violent-extremists and radicals. Their narrative is fundamentally fallacious!

The five key objectives and as many target areas that have been mentioned in the National Counter Violent Extremism (NCVE) Policy 2021 proposed by the federal government, demonstrate, in all honesty, that the NCVE is but an extension of the EM agenda itself.

Even a cursory study of the 'key features' of the new national-level policy, geared towards 'winning hearts and minds', developed by the Interior Ministry and the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) (the agency responsible for putting the document together), the NCVE policy is framed in accordance with the dictates of the blemished National Action Plan (NAP), developed in August 2021, and indicates a remarkable resemblance to the conclusions drawn in the RAND report of 2004 titled: "Civil Democratic Islam: Partners, Resources, and Strategies" by Cheryl Benard (Ref: <u>https://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR1716.html</u>) and the "Prevent" program (Ref: https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/crime/prevent-strategy-overview-and-contact-details/) being exercised in the UK. Most of the vernacular jargon and modes of applications have clearly been borrowed from those two sources.

The concerned citizens of Pakistan have always condemned terrorist tendencies and acts such as the attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar and the lynching of a Sri Lankan national in Sialkot, (continued on page 2)

(Sahih Muslim)

and frankly they are becoming exhausted of apologizing for acts that they neither committed nor condoned. However, using such incidents as a pretext to invoke a police-state, that will fundamentally be regressive in nature and use every possible trick in the book to demonize and stigmatize practicing traditionist and orthodox Muslims is, surely, fiendish to say the least.

The NCVE policy clearly spells out roles, activities and even key performance indicators for each activity, meaning thereby that for all practical intents and purposes, despite the vernacular jiggery-pokery, educational institutions and law enforcement apparatus – two agencies at the opposite poles of the spectrum – would be united in means and outcomes, viz., using brute force without fear of reprisal, without cause against the 'target'.

Policies like the NCVE have the inevitable tendency to be abused. For instance, The Muslim Council of Britain in a report titled "Concerns on Prevent" lists a plethora of examples of excesses against Muslims in the UK (which in the case of Pakistan would be against traditionalist and orthodox Muslims): (Ref: <u>https://www.mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/20150803-Case-studies-about-Prevent.pdf</u>)

Similar conclusions regarding the dubious nature and stigmatizing outcomes of policies and strategies such as the NCVE Policy have been drawn by Therese O'Toole, Nasar Meer, Daniel Nilsson, DeHanas, Stephen H Jones and Tariq Modood in the paper, "Governing through Prevent? Regulation and Contested Practice in State-Muslim Engagement". (*Ref: https://research.birmingham.ac.uk/en/publications/governing-through-prevent-regulation-and-contested-practice-in-st*)

Finally, a more nuanced discourse on the key objectives and target areas of National Counter Violent Extremism (NCVE) Policy 2021 would inevitably lead to the following questions:

- 1. Is the NCVE Policy not essentially predicated on the Western philosophical ideology of liberalism, secularism and modernism, with no safeguards guaranteed regarding the Islamic rights of the citizens of Pakistan provided by the constitution under articles 2(A), 31 and 227 to name a few?
- 2. Is the NCVE Policy not meant to adopt a narrative and the ensuing policy that traditional religious education are nurseries of violence and terrorism? Does any empirical data back that rhetoric of stigmatizing certain Muslims, without cause?
- **3.** Does the NCVE Policy not propose that the education system (pedagogy) of all kinds of learning institutions be tuned to suit a modernist version of Islam on the one hand, while label all institutions, including traditional and orthodox madrasas that provide learning according to the universally accepted fundamentals of Islam agreed upon for more than fourteen centuries in the spheres of private life as well as public and collective life (political, economic and social spheres), as 'violent-extremists', 'radicals' and potentially even 'terrorists'?
- **4.** Does the NCVE Policy not fundamentally question the percept of the history and the important contemporary place of traditional madrasas in todays' world, without cause?
- 5. Is the NCVE Policy not aimed at completely repositioning the mission of the Single National Curriculum (SNC) from "One system of Education for all, in terms of curriculum, medium of instruction and a common platform of assessment so that all children have a fair and equal opportunity to receive high quality education." to inundating the misguided notion of 'winning the hearts and minds of the children and young people' with abject hatred towards traditional Islam, fundamentals of the Deen and orthodoxy?
- **6.** Is the NCVE Policy not aimed at demolishing important positions of Islam on matters such as objective morality, apostasy, blasphemy, shariah laws, hudud and taziraat, political, economic and social worldviews?
- 7. Is the NCVE Policy not founded on a departure from the central role of Qur'an, Sunnah, Seerah, Islaaf, Islamic tradition and shariah towards unqualified, yet unproven, superior rank of the modern western systems and philosophies of statecraft, national security and education.
- 8. Is the NCVE Policy not intended at introducing an Orwellian security apparatus that would look down at those related in any way or form to Madrasas, Mosques and other places of worship, and orthodox religious groups, communities and parties as enemies to be 'dealt with' at any cost, without cause?
- 9. Does the NCVE policy not highlight the need for a uniform CVE law on the pattern of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) 1997 by giving absolute powers to the Special Branch and prosecutorial responsibility to Counter Terrorism Departments (CTDs), inevitability leading to a Gestapo-syndrome in law enforcement?
- **10.** By establishing CVE units in the Special Branch and giving prosecutorial responsibility to Counter Terrorism Departments (CTDs) to maintain checks and balances within police ranks, does the NCVE policy not attempt to hijack the normal course taken by the criminal justice system in the country, to serve its own agenda?
- 11. According to sources, the National Counter Violent Extremism (NCVE) Policy 2021 has been finalized following consultations with federal and provincial authorities, law enforcement, lawyers and minority representatives... Do only the privileged liberals, seculars and modernists now have a monopoly over defining the direction of the country? Do other sections of the society, including religious leaders and parties, not have the entitlement to be included in consultations entailing matters of national interest and security? Are they not 'equals' to everyone else in terms of being socially-contracted members of the nation?
- **12.** Is this the Pakistan that we have become?

It has been reported that the federal government has dispatched the latest draft of the proposed NCVE policy to the provinces before submitting it to the PM Secretariat for final approval. It is high time for the PM to, for once, walk the talk on "Riyasat-e-Madinah' and stop the National Counter Violent Extremism (NCVE) Policy 2021 from coming into force.

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Press Releases issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami

Date: 28 January 2022

Lahore (PR): "Embracing martyrdom for the protection of the God-Gifted country of Pakistan is a prodigious honor."

The Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, **Shujauddin Shaikh**, gave this statement on the martyrdom of ten Jawans of the Pak Army in a terrorist attack in the Kech district of Balochistan. He remarked that this horrific incident of terrorism that occurred on a border check post situated near Iran has raised many questions. He remarked that the strategic position and stance taken by Pakistan in wake of the constantly occurring changes in our region has made our enemies active and they are pursuing the agenda to make Pakistan weak by targeting our security forces. He said that in order to ensure the protection of Pakistan our security institutions, media, intelligentsia and the masses must be on the page. He said that a thorough investigation must be done regarding the incident and all those responsible, including local terrorists and their foreign sponsors and patrons, must be dealt with an iron hand. The Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami said that he had cautioned the government in a statement a few days ago that the state needs to remain vigilant. He concluded by reiterating that in order to eradicate the menace of terrorism, it is imperative for the government to take the opposition and all other stakeholders on board so that the entire nation becomes united in thwarting the nefarious designs of the terrorists.

Date: 21 January 2022

Lahore (PR): "The latest wave of terrorism is a matter of grave concern for the entire nation."

This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, **Shujauddin Shaikh**, while condemning the bomb blast in New Anarkali, Lahore. The Ameer noted that the responsibility for this terrorist act has been claimed by the Balochistan Nationalist Army (BNA), which clearly indicates that our perennial enemy India is behind this bomb blast. There can be no two opinions about the fact that martyring innocent people is an extremely cowardly and outrageously heinous act. The Ameer said that despite an alert regarding the perpetration of a possible terrorist act being issued by our intelligence apparatus, the inability to prevent such a horrific act of terror clear demonstrates the failure of our security agencies. The Ameer said that our state must remain extremely vigilant in this regard, as tensions are continuously mounting in our region and our enemies would try their utmost to further sabotage the internal situation in Pakistan. The Ameer concluded by asserting that in order to eradicate the menace of terrorism, it is imperative for the government to take the opposition and all other stakeholders on board so that the entire nation becomes united in thwarting the nefarious designs of the terrorists.

Main News Headlines 16 – 31 January 2022

- India 'drops' plan to send wheat for Kabul thru Pakistan: Indian Foreign Ministry
- Afghan soil won't be used against Pakistan: Afghan deputy PM
- PTI govt wins Senate vote on SBP bill days before IMF meeting, amid opposition fail: News
- 10 soldiers martyred in terrorist attack on check post in Kech, Balochistan: News
- Kashmiris observe India's Republic Day as Black Day with protests: News
- Jamaat-i-Islami sit-in ends after negotiations with Sindh govt successful: News
- Pakistan descends 16 steps on Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International: News
- Justice Ayesha Malik sworn in as first female Supreme Court judge of Pakistan: News
- China resumes work on Dasu dam: News
- Indian troops martyr two more Kashmiri youth in IIOJK: News
- 2,680 km of fencing along Pak-Afghan border complete: Interior Minister
- At least three people martyred and over 20 injured in terrorist bomb blast in New Anarkali Lahore: News
- France, Russia hold talks to reduce Ukraine tensions: News
- Russia sends Su-35S fighter jets to Belarus for military drill: News
- Biden threatens Putin with personal sanctions over Ukraine: News
- Russia launches new military drills in south, Crimea: News
- NATO sends additional troops to Eastern Europe amid rising tension in Ukraine: News
- Taliban rebuff Biden's claim about divisions among Afghans: News
- Taliban, Western officials meet in Oslo to discuss Afghanistan: News
- Palestine condemns ongoing brutal Israeli actions in East Jerusalem: News
- Kashmir dispute should be resolved on basis of UN Charter, resolutions: UNSG
- Iran, Russia and China begin joint naval drill in Indian Ocean: News
- Taliban PM calls on Muslim nations to recognize Afghan govt: News
- Israel, Germany sign 3 bln euro submarine deal: News
- French lawmakers vote to ban wearing of veil at sporting events: News