**Now or never for Pakistan**

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Over the past two weeks, Pakistan, has had the misfortune of observing another TLP showdown, which has now become a “yearly spectacle”, where the most prestigious slogan of “Labbaik Ya Rasool Allah” (SAWW) is followed by the most undemocratic protest comprising of severe clashes between Police and stick-wielding mob, leading to chaos and bloodshed—something our Holy Prophet Mohammad (SAWW) neither in His entire life appreciated, nor preached. If we journey back to the pages of history on how Islam became the most popular religion of the world, we will lose count of the examples of how innumerable amount of people embraced Islam having been inspired by the extraordinarily impressive conduct of our Holy Prophet Mohammad (SAWW). Not a even single individual embraced Islam by the use of force, sticks or batons.

This is the Islam that we grew up reading and learning about. A religion that strictly forbids us to intentionally hurt an ant, a spider, or a crow, how on earth can it allow us to butcher our fellow humans, that too in the name of religion? Last two weeks have not only exposed our State’s inability to come up with effective, long-term solutions to restricting the aforementioned “yearly spectacle” under the garb of upholding the honour of our Holy Prophet Mohammad (SAWW), where the police death toll has shot up three times more this time around than that of last year, along with several injured on both sides, but also the fact that irrespective of how sincerely majority of the supporters of TLP marched out of their homes in the quest of their noble cause, the top tier leadership of TLP seemed to have some serious political objectives in the closet.

[Ex-AJK president Masood Khan to be appointed ambassador to US](https://nation.com.pk/04-Nov-2021/ex-ajk-president-masood-khan-to-be-appointed-ambassador-to-us)

On Sunday, October 31, Government of Pakistan entrusted a three-member steering committee with the goal of resolving the intense issue of TLP, owing to which the daily chores and businesses of many major cities of Punjab had been at halt for over a week now. This committee is being chaired by the State Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Ali Mohammad Khan. The accord signed by the Govt. and TLP, says to have ten points, which have been kept secret so far, but Prime Minister, Imran Khan briefed his Cabinet and the political allies of Government on the agreement yesterday, and on November 5, an upcoming Parliamentary session is expected to be held, where Opposition parties will also be taken into confidence on the matter.

So, here is the real question. If the expulsion of the French Ambassador was not even TLP’s demand anymore and as per the available information received by the credible sources on the accord reached between the Government and TLP, the key demands from the banned TLP comprise of releasing their Chief, Saad Rizvi and other leaders of the party, dumping the cases registered against their violent activists and allowing the banned party to participate in the electoral process yet again, why did they keep pitching their case as a “sacred religious cause”, when it was a purely political case hands down?

[94 more dengue patients surface in Islamabad](https://nation.com.pk/04-Nov-2021/94-more-dengue-patients-surface-in-islamabad)

On the other hand, the government needs to answer some serious questions here: Why did the Government strike an accord with the proscribed party that it knew it would not be able to live up to? Why did they not make any pre-emptive measures saner than “arresting” Saad Rizvi on April 12, 2021, when, as per their signed accord, they were supposed to present the issue of the expulsion of the French Ambassador before the Parliament on April 20, 2021? Why did the Government resort to yet another “short-term” strategy, while fully knowing that postponement of the protest was not going to work in the longer run?

Also, labelling TLP, a political party formally registered under Election Act, 2017, as “proscribed” outfit may sound like an achievement to those who wish to hush it away, but mere labelling it as such without going through the legal formality laden procedure, starting from Election Commission’s legal homework to Federal Cabinet’s approval to the legal formalities needed to be undertaken by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, will eventually fail to outlaw the party on legal grounds anyway. Interior Minister, Sheikh Rasheed, mentioned the banned party to be funded by Indian sources, in his press conference. So, we assume that the Government took that revelation also into account while striking the accord with TLP. Too much contradiction, no?

[Naval chief calls on PM Imran Khan](https://nation.com.pk/04-Nov-2021/naval-chief-calls-on-pm-imran-khan)

The strongly embedded sentiment of upholding the honour and prestige of our Holy Prophet Mohammad (SAWW) is so precious to us, that every Muslim would love to chip in their bit for the noble cause. Who knows as to how much love for Holy Prophet Mohammad (SAWW) those eleven policemen carried in their hearts, who got martyred in the line of duty, by the angry mob of the “lovers” of the same Prophet Mohammad (SAWW). A huge deal of introspection is needed in this regard and the State can’t afford to stand helplessly as a bystander every year, only to see the innocent citizens being shot and the country being held hostage. This yearly practice (in complete contradiction to the teachings of Islam) is not only destroying the image of Islam worldwide, but is also creating a false sense of understanding of the religion in the young, impressionable minds within the country.

Also, if we want to end the menace of “Islamophobia” on a global level, we will have to put our house in order first. Once we walk past this crucial stage, our State must reach out to all Muslim countries and mutually devise a permanent legally viable and effective solution. And last but not the least, our conduct should reflect the noble teachings of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (SAWW). The politics of using religious extremism for settling political scores must end now. It is now or never for the State of Pakistan. Let’s hope sense prevails over aggression today and always. Pakistan Zindabad!