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THE ROTTEN SYSTEM AND ENGINEER MUHAMMAD ALI MIRZA: AN ANALYTICAL REVIEW

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Introduction:

Pakistan's social and religious landscape presents a complex tragedy, where voices of truth are consistently suppressed. Any individual who challenges hypocrisy, seeks to break the chains of sectarianism, or raises questions that shake the foundations of a corrupt system faces conspiracies to silence them. In this context, Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza stands as a prominent example, advocating a unified Islamic vision based on the Quran and Sunnah while rejecting sectarian divisions. His teachings have inspired millions of young people, who access his lectures through social media platforms like YouTube and Facebook, seeking a reasoned understanding of religion. However, this voice has become a grave threat to those who exploit religion for personal gain and sectarian agendas.

The Arrest of Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza:

Recent events vividly illustrate this issue. On August 25, 2025, the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) raided Engineer Mirza's academy in Jhelum's Machine Mohalla and arrested him. The allegation was that his statements incited

ocietal discord, charged under Section 295-C (blasphemy) of the Pakistan Penal Code. Following his arrest, on September 18, Recent events vividly illustrate this issue. On August 25, 2025, the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) raided Engineer Mirza's academy in Jhelum's Machine Mohalla and arrested him. The allegation was that his statements incited societal discord, charged under Section 295-C (blasphemy) of the Pakistan Penal Code. Following his arrest, on September 18, 2025, he was transferred to Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, where he remains on judicial remand. This arrest is not merely about silencing an individual but reflects a broader societal trend where reasoned criticism is suppressed by labeling it as a conspiracy against religious extremism.

The Role of the Federal Islamic Ideological Council:
In this matter, the recent involvement and statement of the Federal Islamic Ideological Council (also known as the Federal Shariat Council) hold particular significance. On September 24, 2025, the Council issued an official notification from its headquarters in Islamabad, under the chairmanship of Dr. Qibla Ayaz, declaring Engineer Mirza guilty of blasphemy. The notification, based on certain videos of Mirza, accused him of causing religious discord. This statement not only supports state institutions but also appears to be a result of pressure from sectarian groups. However, the notification itself is under scrutiny, as the Council failed to present concrete evidence, a concern echoed by international human rights organizations like Human Rights Watch, which have highlighted the misuse of blasphemy laws in Pakistan.

Sectarianism: A Deep-Rooted Crisis:
To understand the rot within this system, a logical and evidence-based analysis is essential. First, sectarianism is a societal epidemic dividing Pakistan's population of over 220 million. According to a 2023 Pew Research Center report, more than 75% of Pakistanis view sectarian division as a barrier to national progress. Engineer Mirza, in his lectures held at the Islamic Academy in Jhelum, emphasized unity by referencing Quranic verses (e.g., Surah Al-Hujurat:13) and authentic hadiths from Sahih Bukhari, challenging the dominance of sectarian clerics. For instance, figures like Maulana Tariq Jameel and Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman, associated with the Deobandi school of thought, have criticized Mirza's teachings for conflicting with their traditional interpretations.

State Hypocrisy and Public Response:
Second, this arrest reflects the state's hypocrisy. While the government claims to combat religious extremism, as outlined in the 2024 National Action Plan, it targets individuals like Mirza who aim to uproot hatred. As evidence, the hashtag #ReleaseEngineerMirza garnered over 500,000 posts on social media following his arrest, highlighting the awakening of the younger generation. This trend aligns with social network theory (e.g., Granovetter's 1973 study), which suggests that weak ties (such as online communities) form the basis for societal change.

Suppression of Free Speech in Pakistan:
Third, this case underscores the lack of freedom of expression in Pakistan. According to the 2025 World Press Freedom Index, Pakistan ranks 150th out of 180 countries, where criticism of religious issues is often stifled by labeling it as blasphemy. Like Mirza, activists such as Jibran Nasir have faced similar allegations in the past, indicating a pattern.

Conclusion: A Candle in the Darkness:
This rotten system, steeped in corruption and duplicity, fears reason. Mirza's voice, which portrays Islam as a message of love and unity, is like a candle piercing the darkness. The Federal Islamic Ideological Council's recent notification is an admission of this fear, but it also presents an opportunity for society to reflect: will we remain shackled by blind imitation, or will we move forward in the light of knowledge and reason? Mirza's arrest may be a momentary sorrow, but it heralds social change, as his questions now echo in millions of minds.

A Symbol of Hope:
Mirza's tongue has landed him in confinement, but this was an inevitable phase. Like a skilled physician, he diagnoses society's ailments. In a society that idolizes the cinematic bravado of Sultan Rahi and the vitriolic speeches of Samar Abbas Qadri, Mirza wielded the Quran as his weapon and entered the arena of guidance. While everyone condemns sectarianism, venomous rhetoric prevails. Figures like Zahid Al-Rashdi and Saqib Raza Mustafai, known for their eloquent discourse, are needed, but the environment favors toxic orators. Individuals like Mirza are the hope of this system, advancing religious understanding in a scientific manner.

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