

PAKISTAN

The 2015 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom contains a list of prisoners¹ detained for activities allegedly blasphemous or religiously insulting. Contravening the blasphemy laws can result in death or life imprisonment as it is mentioned in Section 295-A, B, C and 298-A, B, C of the Penal Code provide the death penalty in Pakistan. Muslims, Christians, and others are victims of these laws.

The use of blasphemy laws has created an environment where some religious fanatics believe that they are entitled to take law into their own hands. There have been many instances where the local administration and police have either colluded with perpetrators or have stood by and done nothing to assist the accused, fearing the crowd. The use of the blasphemy laws has become a quick way of resolving disputes arising from business rivalry, honour disputes, disputes over money and property. The accused are often lynched or languish for years in jail without trial because lawyers are too afraid to defend them. Judges have previously been attacked in Pakistan for acquitting blasphemy defendants and two politicians who discussed reforming the law were shot dead.

The cases listed below have been documented from fragmentary information available from USCIRF and other sources.

- Christians
- Ahmadis
- Sunnis
- Shias
- Hindus

Death sentence (de facto life in prison)

In practice people sentenced to death are not executed but incarcerated indefinitely.

Christians

Mohammad Zulfiqar ALI

Charges: Writing blasphemous messages on walls in 2008

Last court decision: On 14th July 2014, he was sentenced to death and fined 1,000,000 rupees [approximately €9040].

Place of detention: Lahore

Other information: He was allegedly caught red-handed writing abusive sentences towards the Prophet Mohammad on the walls of Nehru Park, Islampura. He also allegedly uttered

¹ See the list at <http://www.uscirf.gov>

derogatory remarks on hearing the call for prayers. He was brought to court from the psychiatric ward of the jail, and his defense lawyer pleaded in the court that he was insane. The judge said he had checked Ali and found him mentally competent.

Source: <http://en.africatime.com/mauritanie/db/pakistan-man-sentenced-death-blasphemy>

Muhammad ASGHAR (British Protestant)

Age: 70 years

Date and place of arrest: In September 2010, in Rawalpindi

Charges: Blasphemy, he was accused of writing letters to several people claiming to be a prophet

Last court decision: In January 2014 he was sentenced to death by the Rawalpindi court.

Other information: He is from Edinburgh. His lawyers claimed that he had a history of mental illness in Scotland, but the court did not accept UK medical reports. In September 2014 a young inmate shot Asghar in the back with a pistol. Asghar survived, and British politicians made the claim that even on death row, he wasn't safe.

Source: https://nytimes.com/2014/09/26/world/asia/pakistan-blasphemy-laws-prison-shooting-rawalpindi.html?_r=0 , <http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/mohammed-asghar-still-on-death-row-in-pakistan-jail-1-4018846>

Malik Muhammad ASHRAF

Charges: Derogatory remarks against the prophet

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death) and 298-A (Use of derogatory remarks, etc. in respect of holy personages).

Last court decision: On 17th February 2010 he was sentenced to death.

Place of detention: Central Jail (Adiala)

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u94cVM>

Amoon AYUB

Date and place of arrest: On 17th November 2014, in Lahore

Charges: Blasphemy

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death)

Place of detention: District jail at Jhelum

Other information: He is the brother of Qaisar AYUB.

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Lahore:-Two-Christians-arrested-for-blasphemy-could-get-the-death-penalty-34822.html> , <https://www.jihadwatch.org/2015/07/two-pakistani-christian-brothers-arrested-on-blasphemy-allegations>

Qaisar AYUB

Age: In his 40s

Date and place of arrest: On 15th November 2014, in Lahore

Charges: Blasphemy, he was accused of posting blasphemous messages on a Christian website that he was moderating

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death).

Place of detention: District jail at Jhelum

Other information: He is the brother of Qaisar AYUB.

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Lahore:-Two-Christians-arrested-for-blasphemy-could-get-the-death-penalty-34822.html> , <https://www.jihadwatch.org/2015/07/two-pakistani-christian-brothers-arrested-on-blasphemy-allegations>

Asia BIBI (Protestant)

Age: 37 years

Place of residence: Ittanwali

Date and place of arrest: On 19th June 2009

Charges: Blasphemy, she allegedly insulted the prophet Muhammad during an argument with some Muslim neighbors when she drank water from a well with an allegedly “unclean” cup used by Muslim women

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death)

First court decision: In November 2010 she was sentenced to death.

Last court decision: The Lahore High Court upheld the death sentence.

Place of detention: Central Jail in Multan

Other information: When Bibi’s case came to prominence in 2010, three politicians – Salmaan Taseer, Shahbaz Bhatti and Sherry Rehman – all from the Pakistan People’s Party, which was currently in power, took up the case and called for reform. The consequences speak for themselves. Taseer was shot dead by his bodyguard in January 2011. In March the same year, Bhatti was killed by Taliban assassins. Rehman was forced into semi-hiding. In December 2010, a prominent Islamic cleric offered half a million Pakistani rupees [approximately €4,411] to anyone who would kill her. More recently, religious groups have demanded her execution.

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-38222680> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-37641354> , <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/apex-court-likely-to-hear-asia-bibis-appeal-before-the-end-of-march/>

Shafqat EMMANUEL (Anglican)

Age: 38 years

Place of residence: Gojra

Date and place of arrest: On 20th July 2013, in the city of Gojra

Charges: Blasphemy, allegedly sent a text message in English deemed insulting to the Prophet Mohammed from a mobile telephone to an Imam

Statement of the defendant: His wife told the police that the cell phone had been lost for a month and that they did not know who could have sent the messages. The couple are uneducated and unable to send messages in English.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an), 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death), and 25-D of the Telegraph Act of 1885 (Penalty for causing annoyance, etc. Any person, including a Telegraph Officer, who uses any telephone, public or private, for causing annoyance or intimidation to any person, whether a subscriber or not, or for obnoxious calls shall, without prejudice to any other action which the Telegraph Authority is competent to make under this Act, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both).

Last court decision: On 4th April 2014, he was sentenced to death by a trial court in Toba Tek Singh.

Place of detention: Toba Tek Singh District Jail

Other information: He was arrested alongside his wife, Shaguftah EMMANUEL. With the intention of forcing them to confess, the police tortured Shafqat in front of his wife and their four children. Their lawyer said that they would challenge the verdict in High Court. The legal team of the World Vision in Progress is defending the couple and taking care of their young children.

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3452587/Christian-couple-sentenced-death-sending-blasphemous-texts-Islamic-cleric-Pakistan-say-tortured-confessin-crime.html> , <http://www.farrukhsaif.com/international-appeal-for-justice-and-compassion-the-heartbreaking-case-of-shafqat-emmanuel-and-shagfuta-kausar/>

Shaguftah EMMANUEL (Anglican)

Age: 42 years

Place of residence: Gojra

Date and place of arrest: On 20th July 2013, in the city of Gojra

Charges: Blasphemy, allegedly sent a text message in English deemed insulting to the Prophet Mohammed from a mobile telephone to an Imam.

Statement of the defendant: She told the police that her cell phone had been lost for a month and that she did not know who could have sent the messages. She is uneducated and unable to send messages in English.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an), 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death), and 25-D of the Telegraph Act of 1885 (Penalty for causing annoyance, etc. Any person, including a Telegraph Officer, who uses any telephone, public or private, for causing annoyance or intimidation to any person, whether a subscriber or not, or for obnoxious calls shall, without prejudice to any other action which the Telegraph Authority is competent to make under this Act, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both).

Last court decision: On 4th April 2014, she was sentenced to death by a trial court in Toba Tek Singh.

Place of detention: Toba Tek Singh District Jail

Other information: She was arrested alongside her husband, Shafqat EMMANUEL. With an intention of forcing them to confess, the police tortured Shafqat in front of her and their four children. Their lawyer said that they would challenge the verdict in High Court. The legal team of the World Vision in Progress is defending the couple and taking care of their young children.

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3452587/Christian-couple-sentenced-death-sending-blasphemous-texts-Islamic-cleric-Pakistan-say-tortured-confessing-crime.html> , <http://www.farrukhsaif.com/international-appeal-for-justice-and-compassion-the-heartbreaking-case-of-shafqat-emmanuel-and-shagfuta-kausar/>

Abdul HAMEED

Age: 45 years

Date and place of arrest: On 3rd March 2006

Charges: Blasphemy, claiming to be a prophet, building a replica of the Kaaba

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an), and 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death).

Last court decision: He was sentenced to death and thirty-four years in prison, additionally he was fined 80,000 Rupees [approximately €1122] by the Kasur District Court.

Place of detention: District Jail Sahiwal

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/index.php?l=en&art=8881&theme=5> , <http://bit.ly/2u94cVM>

Soofi Mohammad ISHAQ

Charges: Claiming to be a prophet

Date and place of arrest: On 20th January 2012

Statement of the defendant: He claims that the accusations are purely motivated by his affiliation to Sufism.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), and 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death).

Last court decision: On 20th December 2012, he was sentenced to death and fined 200,000 Rupees [approximately €2800]

Place of detention: Talagang/Chakwal

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u94cVM>

Anwar KENNETH

Age: 60 years

Date of birth: 1941

Place of residence: Karachi

Date and place of arrest: On 25th September 2001

Charges: Blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: He claims he was distributing pamphlets containing bible verses.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death)

Last court decision: On 15th June 2002 he was sentenced to death and fined 500,000 Rupees [approximately €7000].

Place of detention: New Central Jail Multan (Multan Jail)

Other information: He was known to be suffering from mental health problems when the alleged offence occurred.

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?articleid=2199> ,

<https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2013%20Annual%20Report%20Prisoners%20List.pdf>

Muhammad Shafeeq LATIF

Charges: Blasphemy

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death) and 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an)

Last court decision: On 18th June 2008 he was sentenced to death for insulting Islam's Prophet Muhammad and also sentenced to life in prison and fined five million rupees [approximately €71,500] on a separate charge of desecrating pages of the Qur'an in 2006.

Place of detention: Sialkot, Punjab

Source: <http://www.jpost.com/International/Muslim-man-in-Pakistan-sentenced-to-death-for-blasphemy> , http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-06-18-3937899141_x.htm

LIAQAT

Date and place of arrest: On 21st March 2006

Charges: Blasphemy

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death)

Last court decision: On 7th March 2009, he was sentenced to death and life imprisonment.

Place of detention: District Jail Faisalabad

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u94cVM> , <http://bit.ly/2tyT7vI>

Ishfaq MASIH

Age: 23 years

Place of residence: Marian Colony in Green Town, Lahore

Date and place of arrest: On 15th June in Lahore

Charge: Blasphemy

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death)

Other Information: He was accused of insulting Muhammad during an argument about the price that a customer needed to pay him for a bike repair.

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-dad-arrested-for-blasphemy-after-demanding-pay-from-muslim-for-repaired-bike-188553/> , <http://bit.ly/2sUsJfa>

Mukhtar MASIH

Age: 70 years

Place of residence: Lambanwali village

Date and place of arrest: On 28th January 2017

Charges: Blasphemy

Last court decision: Unknown – no hearing yet

Other information: A blasphemy allegation was made against him by local Muslims who alleged that he had written blasphemous messages. Initially, his whole family was arrested, including his daughter, son, and grandchildren. The police eventually released the non-accused members of the family, but retained Mukhtar's son, Anjum, for further questioning and released him on 30th January 2017. Mukhtar Masih is currently waiting trial and sentencing.

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6292> ,
<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/02/christian-70-charged-with-blasphemy-in-pakistan-as-106-muslims-are-acquitted/>

Wajihul HASSAN (Murshid MASIH)

Charges: Blasphemy, publishing a letter to the editor which contained blasphemous content

Statement of the defendant: He claims he had published a letter he had received without checking its content.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death), 298 (Uttering words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings) and 298-A (Use of derogatory remarks, etc. in respect of holy personages).

Last court decision: On 3rd March 1999, he was sentenced to death.

Place of detention: District Jail Sheikhpura

Other information: In March 2001, a judicial inquiry into the *Frontier Post* case determined that the offending letter was published due to negligence and not to any malicious intent. Though, provincial authorities decided to proceed with the criminal prosecution against him.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2t4Pvhu>

Sawan MASIH

Age: 26 years

Place of residence: Karachi

Date and place of arrest: In March 2013, in Karachi

Charges: Blasphemy, when he engaged in a dialogue with his Muslim friend

Statement of the defendant: He claims the complainant only filed a case as part of a ploy by a businessman to drive Christians away from the Colony they live in Karachi.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death)

Last court decision: On 27th April 2014, he was sentenced to death and fined 200,000 rupees [approximately €1800].

Other information: At the time of the arrest, 180 Christian-owned homes and properties in Lahore's Joseph Colony were torched, but a court later freed 133 Muslim suspects.

Source: <http://www.churchinchains.ie/news-by-country/south-asia/pakistan/pakistan-three-christians-sentenced-to-death-for-blasphemy/> , <http://bit.ly/2uM5djF>

Javed NAZ

Date and place of arrest: On 15th May 2016

Charges: Blasphemy, insulting the Prophet Muhammad in an audio recording

Last court decision: On 29th June 2016, he was sentenced to death in addition to a thirty-five-year prison sentence.

Other information: He was arrested alongside Anjam Naz SINDHU and Jafar ALI. Upon their arrest, police found recordings of Sindhu making blasphemous remarks. It has been claimed that the other two were using this material to blackmail Sindhu.

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/pakistan-court-sentences-2-christians-muslim-death-blasphemy-1567976> , <http://bit.ly/2u3BK73> , <http://bit.ly/2tIRJVw>

Adnan PRINCE

Age: 26 years

Charges: Blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: He claims he did nothing wrong, but only wrote comments with Biblical references in places, while not abusive language was used

Last court decision: On 1st February 2017, he was granted bail by the Supreme Court in Lahore after spending more than three years in jail, with a bail bond worth Rs300,000 [approximately €4200]

Place of detention: Lahore District Jail

Other information: During a shift to fill in for his brother, Prince found a copy of a controversial book. He started to read and take notes inside it, but found the book "erroneous" and marked the book with Biblical passages to correct it. While reading the book, a Muslim colleague of his saw him and took offence. The next day, his friend went to the local police and alleged that Prince had "marked several pages "with abusive words against the Prophet of Islam." Hearing he'd been accused, Prince fled. After he fled, his brother, mother, aunt, and uncle were arrested and would not be released until he returned. On 6th November he returned. He was tortured by the police with threats, being beaten, and a gun barrel being shoved in his mouth.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2kRzmf1>

RAFIQ

Charges: Blasphemy

Last court decision: On 2nd February 2011 he was sentenced to death and fined 200,000 rupees [approximately €1800].

Place of detention: Jalalpur Peerwala

Other information: A police official said that Rafiq was caught by local residents with a wooden slab around his neck that was inscribed with blasphemous remarks. He was shifted from a police station to Bahawalpur prison as a mob wanted to lynch him.

Source: <http://archive.indianexpress.com/news/man-sentenced-to-death-under-blasphemy-law-i/745553/>

Abdul SATTAR

Age: 29 years

Place of residence: Larkana

Charges: Blasphemy, sending a blasphemous text message

Last court decision: On 22nd June 2011 he was sentenced to death and fined 50,000 rupees [approximately €441].

Place of detention: Jhelum

Source: <http://www.dawn.com/news/638420/man-sentenced-to-death-for-blasphemy> ,
<https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2013%20Annual%20Report%20Prisoners%20List.pdf>

Muhammad SHAFIQ

Charges: Passing derogatory remarks about Prophet and burning a Quran

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an), and 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death).

Last court decision: On 17th March 2006, he was sentenced to death, six months in prison, and fined.

Place of detention: District Jail Sahiwa

Hazrat Ali SHAH

Age: 28 years

Charges: Blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: He claims a disagreement with a neighbour is at the root of the accusation.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295 (Injuring or defiling place of worship, with intent to insult the religion of any class)

Last Court decision: In November 2012, he was sentenced to death and ten years imprisonment and fined 100,000 rupees [approximately €900].

Place of detention: Barenis Village, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Source: <http://archive.indianexpress.com/news/pakistan-man-sentenced-to-death-for-blasphemy/1031471/>

Babu SHAHBAZ

Age: 40 years

Date and place of arrest: On 30th December 2016

Charges: Blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: He denied having anything to do with the incident and said he was even willing to swear by the holy book to clear his name.

Place of detention: Unknown

Other information: Muslims in Pakistan filed a blasphemy charge against Mr. Shahbaz, a Christian, in retaliation for refusing their demand that he and others cede church land to them. He was accused of desecrating the pages of the Koran. Muslims were going to mosque to offer early morning prayers when they saw Koranic pages strewn on the road. One-hundred pages were completely desecrated while 150 pages were partially destroyed. The name of Babu Shahbaz was written on all the pages in blue ink. George Masih, Shahbaz's brother, said the allegations were baseless and that the Muslims used the blasphemy law against his brother in retaliation. He also said that his brother is illiterate and cannot write his own name.

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/01/christian-pakistan-jailed-vindictive-blasphemy-charge-sources-say/> , <http://www.christianpost.com/news/pakistani-evangelist-faces-life-in-prison-for-trumped-up-blasphemy-charge-172537/>

Anjam Naz SINDHU

Date and place of arrest: On 15th May 2016

Charges: Blasphemy. He was charged with insulting the Prophet Muhammad in an audio recording.

Last court decision: On 29th June 2016 he was sentenced to death in addition to a thirty-five year prison sentence.

Other information: He was arrested alongside Javed NAZ and Jafar ALI. Upon their arrest, police found recordings of Sindhu making blasphemous remarks. It has been claimed that the other two were using this material to blackmail Sindhu.

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/pakistan-court-sentences-2-christians-muslim-death-blasphemy-1567976> , <http://christiandaily.com/article/pakistans-blasphemy-law-hits-both-victim-and-accusers/53675.htm> , <http://www.gospelherald.com/articles/64998/20160629/two-christians-muslim-sentenced-death-pakistan-insulting-prophet-muhammad.htm#closepopup>

Muslims

Jafar ALI

Date and place of arrest: On 15th May 2016

Charges: Blasphemy, insulting the Prophet Muhammad in an audio recording

Last court decision: On 29th June 2016, he was sentenced to death in addition to a thirty-five-year prison sentence.

Other information: He was arrested alongside Anjam Naz SINDHU and Javed NAZ. Upon their arrest, police found recordings of Sindhu making blasphemous remarks. It has been claimed that the other two were using this material to blackmail Sindhu.

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/pakistan-court-sentences-2-christians-muslim-death-blasphemy-1567976> , <http://christiandaily.com/article/pakistans-blasphemy-law-hits-both-victim-and-accusers/53675.htm> , <http://www.gospelherald.com/articles/64998/20160629/two-christians-muslim-sentenced-death-pakistan-insulting-prophet-muhammad.htm#closepopup>

Life Imprisonment

Christians

Rehmat ALI

Age: 80 years

Place of residence: Mtala Colony

Date and place of arrest: In October 2008, in Mtala Colony

Charges: Blasphemy

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), and 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an).

Last court decision: He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Place of detention: District Jail, Faisalabad

Other information: He is a psychiatric patient.

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-Christian-man-and-his-daughter-arrested,-almost-lynched-for-blasphemy-13466.html> , <http://bit.ly/2u42sft>

Muhammad ASLAM

Charges: Vandalizing a poster with Quran verses

Statement of the defendant: He says he was only taking a poster down after a celebration of the Prophet's birthday.

Last court decision: On 8th April 2010, he was sentenced to life in prison and fined 100,000 rupees [approximately €1400].

Place of detention: New Central Jail Multan

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u42sft>

Malik Mohammad FAROOQ

Charges: Blasphemy, he was allegedly tearing up a banner inscribed with Muhammad's name.

Statement of the defendant: He claims he was framed in the case since he had a dispute with the management of a mosque adjacent to his shop.

Last court decision: On 8th May 2014, he was sentenced to life in prison.

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/shopkeeper-jailed-for-life-imprisonment-under-blasphemy-law/>

Imran GHAFOR

Age: 28 years

Place of residence: Hajavery Town, Faisalabad

Date and place of arrest: On 1st July 2009, in Faisalabad.

Charges: Burning the Holy Quran and holy papers in front of his shop

Statement of the defendant: He claims the blasphemy allegations arose after business jealousy and rivalry. Imran's business flourished whilst the accusers' businesses were not doing so well.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), and 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an).

Last court decision: On 1st July 2011, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Place of detention: Central Faisalabad prison

Source: <http://bit.ly/2t4Pvhu> , <http://bit.ly/2tyT7vI>

Muhammad ISHAQ

Place of residence: United States

Charges: Blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: He claims members of a rival faction brought false charges against him in an attempt to take control of the Pir Faisal Shah shrine.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death)

First court decision: A district court in Punjab province sentenced him to death.

Second court decision: On 5th January 2011, he was sentenced to life in prison.

Last court decision: On 24th February 2017, a judge in the city of Rawalpindi acquitted him after finding him "completely innocent" of insulting Islam.

Place of detention: Uch Sharif, Mohallah Qadirabad

Other information: Ishaq has been a U.S. resident for thirty years, and was visiting the Pir Faisal Shah shrine when an individual named Asadullah accused him of claiming to be a prophet and attempting to get people to worship him.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2t4Pvhu> , <http://bit.ly/2lSufuT>

Manzarul Haq Shah JAHAN

Charges: Blasphemy, uttering blasphemous remarks against the Holy Prophet

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death)

Last court decision: On 17th March 2012, he was sentenced to life in prison and fined 200,000 rupees [approximately €2800].

Place of detention: Kasur

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u40f3D> , <http://bit.ly/2t4Pvhu>

Abdul KAREEM

Age: 24 years

Place of residence: Saddar Farooqabad

Date and place of arrest: On 15th October 2006, in Saddar Farooqabad

Charges: Blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: He says the allegations of the complainant (Mushtaq) for blasphemy allegedly took place whilst he was in jail (false accusations). According to Abdul Kareem, Mushtaq was infuriated after being severely injured by Kareem, and he wanted to take revenge on him.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an).

Last court decision: On 21st June 2007, he was sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour.

Place of detention: District Jail Sahiwal

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u40f3D>

Arif MAHDI

Age: 32 years

Place of residence: District Multan

Date and place of arrest: On 8th April 2006, in Multan

Charges: Blasphemy, he found Islamic booklets on the ground while he was painting a wall of the mosque

Statement of the defendant: He claimed that the headman of the village (Malik Mehmood) took advantage of the situation and made a false accusation.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an)

Last court decision: On 20th October 2006, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Place of detention: New Central Jail Multan

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u40f3D>

Sajjad MASIH

Age: 30 years

Place of residence: The district of Pakpattan, in the province of Punjab

Charges: Blasphemy, sending blasphemous text messages

First court decision: He was sentenced to life imprisonment and fined 200,000 rupees [approximately €1,774] by a court of first instance in Gojra.

Last court decision: On 13th July 2013, he was sentenced to life in prison.

Place of detention: Station City Gojra

Other information: On 18th December 2011, Malik Muhammad Tariq Saleem, received some blasphemous text messages from an unknown phone. The next day, Tariq reported the incident to the police in Gojra who registered a complaint for blasphemy, then immediately indicting and arresting Sajjad Gill. His conviction came as a surprise as there was absolutely no evidence or accusations presented against him in court. This is the first case of blasphemy via SMS recorded by the police in Pakistan.

Source: <http://www.news.va/en/news/asiapakistan-christian-sentenced-to-life-imprisonm> , <http://morningstarnews.org/2013/07/christian-in-pakistan-sentenced-to-life-in-prison-for-blasphemy-in-spite-of-accusers-retraction/>

Liaquat USMAN

Place of residence: Nabipura Sheikhupura district, Punjab

Date and place of arrest: On 25th May 2016

Charges: Blasphemy, he was tagged in a Facebook post from over a year before the arrest that was deemed to be blasphemous.

Other information: Usman entered into an altercation with local Muslim boys who were teasing female Christian students. As a result, a complaint was lodged against him of blasphemy.

Source: <http://www.outlookindia.com/newswire/story/christian-man-arrested-for-posting-blasphemous-messages-in-pak/941376> , <https://www.jihadwatch.org/2016/05/pakistan-christian-stops-muslim-boys-from-teasing-christian-girls-gets-arrested-for-blasphemy>

Muslims

Maqsood AHMAD

Age: 52 years

Place of residence: District Narowal

Date and place of arrest: On 28th June 2005, in Sambrial

Charges: Blasphemy, by his wife and daughter for throwing the Holy Quran on the floor

Statement of the defendant: He claims he had prohibited his daughter from wearing makeup before reciting the Holy Quran and they took revenge on him.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death)

Last court decision: He was sentenced to life imprisonment and fined Rs. 20,000 [approximately €177].

Place of detention: Sahiwal Jail

Other information: He was also known for having disciplined his wife and daughter for alleged illicit relations with men residing in the same locality. Therefore, Masqood Ahmad's wife and daughter became annoyed and accused Masqood Ahmad of throwing the Holy Quran to the floor.

Source: [https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2013 Annual Report Prisoners List.pdf](https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2013%20Annual%20Report%20Prisoners%20List.pdf)

Asif

Age: 31 years

Place of residence: Village of Machikay in Gujranwala

Date and place of arrest: On 18th June 2006, in Ferozewala, Gujranwala

Charges: Burning the pages of Holy Quran

Statement of the defendant: He said he was burning waste papers and mistakenly burned a few pages of the Holy Quran

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an).

Last court decision: On 31st January 2008 he was sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour.

Place of detention: District Jail Sahiwal

Other information: He is mentally ill.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u40f3D>

Muhammad MUSHTAQ, alias MASTA

Age: 32 years

Place of residence: Multan

Date and place of arrest: In Makhdoom Rasheed

Charges: Disgracing the Holy Quran

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an), and Article 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (outlines the punishment for acts of terrorism, which lists the mandated punishments for terrorism acts depending on casualties, injuries, intent, kidnapping, intent, location [including attacks specifically on religious locations, or towards religious groups], tactic or weapon. The various sentences range from six months to a death sentence).

Last court decision: On 1st August 2011, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Place of detention: New Central Jail Multan

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u40f3D>

Inayat RASOOL

Age: 27 years

Place of residence: Zafarwal in Shakargarh Tehsil

Date and place of arrest: On 23th June 2006, in Zafarwal Narowal

Charges: Desecrating the Holy Quran by throwing it into a canal

Statement of the defendant: He said he was attending a carnival of Chanpeer, and on his way home while crossing a canal bridge, he saw some pages of the Holy Quran in dirty water.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an)

Last court decision: On 29th December 2008, he was sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour.

Place of detention: District Jail Sahiwal

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u40f3D>

Muhammad SAFDAR

Age: 51 years

Place of residence: Kabirwala, District Khanewal

Date and place of arrest: On 1st October 2010, in Kabirwala, Khanewal

Charges: Blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: He claims that his wife had a dispute with the wife of Muhammad Abdullah, a neighbour of Muhammad Safdar which led Muhammad Abdullah to falsely accuse him of blasphemy.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an)

Last court decision: On 17th January 2011, he was sentenced to life imprisonment with rigorous imprisonment.

Place of detention: New Central jail Multan

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u40f3D>

Muhammad SHAFI

Age: 58 years

Place of residence: Muzaffar Garh

Date and place of arrest: On 8th August 2010, in Dera Deer Panah

Charges: Blasphemy, he removed a poster with printed verses of the Holy Quran and of trampling it with his foot

Last court decision: He was sentenced to life imprisonment and fined 200,000 rupees [approximately €2800]

Place of detention: New Central Jail Multan

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u40f3D>

Muhammad SHAHZAD

Age: 32 years

Place of residence: College Road, Gujranwala

Date and place of arrest: On 24th March 2003, in Garjakh-Gujranwala

Charges: Blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: He said he was working at his mill shop when he saw Mouhammad Yousaf, a mentally ill individual, burning the Holy Quran. He rushed to stop him, but before he arrived too late. Shahzad took the burnt pages and tried to rescue others from the flames, but people who saw him mistakenly assumed that he was an accomplice.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an)

Last court decision: On 18th January 2011, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u40f3D>

Shamas UD DIN

Age: 35 years

Place of residence: Gondal Ghari, Sialkot

Date and place of arrest: In Marala

Charges: Blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: He says he was framed for blasphemy in an attempt to stop him from reporting an act of loan fraud.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), and 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death).

Last court decision: On 5th June 2010 he was sentenced to life imprisonment and fined.

Place of detention: District Jail Sahiwal

Other information: He is the father of three children. He has developed psychiatric problems.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u40f3D>

Shams ud DIN

Charges: Blasphemy, writing a blasphemous letter

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), and 295-C (Insulting the Prophet Muhammed).

Last court decision: On 1st July 2005 he was sentenced to life in prison and fined 150,000 rupees [approximately €2100].

Place of detention: District Jail Sahiwal

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u40f3D>

Muhammad YOUSAF

Age: 50 years

Place of residence: Gujranwala

Date and place of arrest: On 24th March 2003, in Garjakh-Gujranwala

Charges: Blasphemy, burning the Holy Quran

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an)

Last court decision: On 18th January 2011, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Place of detention: Sahiwal Jail

Other information: He is mentally ill.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2u40f3D>

Prison Terms

Christians

Hajaj BIN

Date and place of arrest: In August 2015, in Gujrat district

Charges: Blasphemy, he made posters that included a word that translated similar to “apostle”, and pamphlets to commemorate the death of one of their fathers that included the word “prophet”

Statement of the defendant: He claims: “We [Christians] have already apologized to our enraged Muslim brethren for this misunderstanding and asked for forgiveness, but they have rejected our apology and pressed the police to arrest the organizers”

Last court decision: On 20th June 2016, he was sentenced to six years in prison by the Gujranwala anti-terrorism court.

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/gujranwala-an-anti-terrorism-court-acquits-five-christians-of-blasphemy-charges-sentences-two-to-imprisonment/> , <http://bit.ly/2tFE2GQ> , <http://www.realcourage.org/2015/10/pakistan-christians-in-prison/>

Pastor Aftab GILL

Date and place of arrest: In August 2015, in Gujrat district

Charges: Blasphemy, he made posters that included a word that translated similar to “apostle”, and pamphlets to commemorate the death of one of their fathers that included the word “prophet”

Statement of the defendant: He claims: “We [Christians] have already apologized to our enraged Muslim brethren for this misunderstanding and asked for forgiveness, but they have rejected our apology and pressed the police to arrest the organizers,” they said.

Last court decision: On 20th June 2016, he was sentenced to six years in prison by the Gujranwala anti-terrorism court.

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/gujranwala-an-anti-terrorism-court-acquits-five-christians-of-blasphemy-charges-sentences-two-to-imprisonment/> , <http://bit.ly/2tFE2GQ> , <http://www.realcourage.org/2015/10/pakistan-christians-in-prison/>

Imran MASHI

Age: 27 years

Place of residence: Faisalabad suburb of Hajvairy

Charges: Burning the Quran

Statement of the defendant: He said he was burning an old Arabic textbook (not the Quran) with many other old or worn out texts from his bookshop.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), and 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death).

Last court decision: On 1st January 2010, he was sentenced to ten years hard labour, life in prison and fined 100,000 rupees [approximately €1400].

Place of detention: District Jail Faisalabad

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Faisalabad,-young-Christian-sentenced-to-life-imprisonment-for-blasphemy-17374.html> , <http://bit.ly/2u40f3D>

Nabeel MASIH

Age: 16 years

Place of residence: Chak 66, Bhai Pheru, District Kasur, Punjab Province

Date and place of arrest: On 20/21st September 2016, at Chak 66, Bhai Pheru, District Kasur, Punjab Province

Charges: Blasphemy

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Section 295 (Injuring or defiling place of worship, with intent to insult the religion of any class), 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious and feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Last court decision: On 7th February 2017, his bail was denied by a magistrate's court in Kasur.

Other information: He was accused of blasphemy for "liking" and "sharing" a Facebook post which "defamed and disrespected" the Kaaba in Mecca. His lawyers argued that he should be granted bail because he has no prior convictions and is a juvenile. In October 2016, his lawyers reported being intimidated by the complainant's supports as they made their Appeal Court appearance on 3rd October.

Source: <http://www.gospelherald.com/articles/66772/20160925/pakistan-christian-boy-could-be-put-to-death-for-blasphemous-facebook-post.htm> , <http://bit.ly/2u42nZb> , <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/02/christian-teenager-charged-blasphemy-pakistan-waits-jail/>

Ahmadis

Tahir Mahdi IMTIAZ

Place of residence: Lahore, Punjab

Date and place of arrest: On 30th March 2015

Charges: Propagating the Ahmadiyya Muslim faith

Article of criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion of religious beliefs), 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an), and 295-C (Use of derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet, punishable with life imprisonment or death), and 1997 Anti-Terrorism Act, Article 8-W (Prohibits acts intended or likely to stir up

sectarian hatred, including: using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, displaying, publishing, distributing, or possessing written material, visual images, or sounds, which are threatening, abusive or insulting).

Other information: He is the printer of the Ahmadiyya monthly Ansarullah. He was denied bail and due to the later terrorism charges he is being tried by an anti-terror court.

Source: <https://www.persecutionofahmadis.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/News-Report-April-2016.pdf>

Abdul SHAKOOR

Age: 80 years

Date and place of arrest: On 2nd December 2015, in his optical store

Charges: Propagating the Ahmadiyya Muslim faith

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Section 298-C (Person of Qadiani group, etc., calling himself a Muslim or preaching or propagating his faith), and for stirring up 'religious hatred' and 'sectarianism' under the 1997 Anti-Terrorism Act.

Last court decision: On 2nd January 2016, he was sentenced to five years imprisonment under Penal Code Section 298-C and three years under the Anti-Terrorism Act, with the sentences to run concurrently.

Other information: He was arrested after he was falsely accused of selling an Ahmadiyya commentary on the Holy Qur'an, among other publications, to an undercover police officer. His store manager Mazhar Sipra, a Shi'a, was also arrested and sentenced to five years under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Source: <http://www.uscifr.gov/news-room/press-releases/pakistan-uscifr-calls-the-immediate-release-abdul-shakoor-and-the-dropping>

Qamar Ahmed TAHIR

Place of residence: Jhelum, Punjab

Date and place of arrest: On 20th November 2015, in Jhelum Punjab

Charges: Desecrating the Holy Qur'an

Article of criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistan Penal Code Sections 295-B (Defiling, etc. of the Holy Qur'an)

Other information: Tahir was the head of security at a chipboard factory. A fellow worker at the factory accused him of throwing copies of the Qur'an into the boiler. Following his arrest, a mob burned the factory and Ahmadi places of worship.

Source: <https://www.persecutionofahmadis.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/News-Report-May-2016.pdf> , <http://www.dawn.com/news/1221273> , <http://bit.ly/2sZWZr2>

Sunni

Jahanzaib KHASKHELI

Place of residence: Tando Adam, Sindh Province

Date and place of arrest: On 20th June 2016, in Tando Adam

Charges: Blasphemy

Other information: Khaskheli, a shopkeeper, was selling shoes that featured the “Om” symbol, which local Hindu leaders claimed was insulting to their religion. Authorities are also investigating the supplier and manufacturer of the shoes.

Source: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/pakistan-arrests-muslim-man-blasphemy-laws-160620151633846.html>

Shias

Taimoor RAZA

Age: 30 years

Place of residence: Bunjab Province

Date and place of arrest: In April 2016, in Punjab Province

Charge: Blasphemy

Last court decision: A court in Bahawalpur, Punjab Province sentenced him to death.

Other Information: He was arrested following a complaint that he was showing onlookers objectionable material on his cell phone at a bus terminal.

Source: <http://n.pr/2rTnGva> , <http://ind.pn/2rjuZZm>

Mazhar SIPRA

Date and place of arrest: On 2nd December 2015, in his optical store

Charges: Propagating the Ahmadiyya Muslim faith

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Pakistani Anti-Terrorism Act, and the Pakistani Penal Code for stirring up ‘religious hatred’ and ‘sectarianism’. Specific articles unknown.

Last court decision: He was sentenced to five years’ imprisonment.

Other information: He is the manager of Abdul SHAKOOR’s optical store.

Source: <http://www.uscirf.gov/news-room/press-releases/pakistan-uscirf-calls-the-immediate-release-abdul-shakoor-and-the-dropping>

Hindu

Prakash KUMAR

Age: 35 years

Place of residence: Gaddani

Date and place of arrest: On 3rd May 2017, in Gaddani

Charges: Blasphemy

Last court decision: On 4th May 2017, he was put in pre-trial detention in Gaddani Jail for further interrogation by Gaddani Local Court.

Place of detention: Gaddani Jail, Gaddani

Other information: Kumar, a Hindu man, allegedly sent blasphemous content through WhatsApp and was, subsequently, attacked by a mob before police intervention.

Source: <http://www.firstpost.com/world/hindu-man-arrested-in-pakistan-for-sending-blasphemous-whatsapp-text-3424624.html> , <http://bit.ly/2tyPLsp>