

## PAKISTAN

In its annual report published in 2017, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) states that at least 40 individuals previously were sentenced to death or serving life sentences for blasphemy in Pakistan. This includes two Christians, **Anjum Naz Sindhu** and **Javed Naz**, and a Muslim, **Jaffar Ali**, all recently sentenced to death on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016, by an antiterrorism court in Gujranwala, Punjab Province; and **Asia Bibi**, a Christian woman convicted and sentenced to death in 2010 after a 2009 dispute with coworkers.

In December 2017, Pakistan's Supreme Court exonerated a man convicted of blasphemy after he served nine years of a life sentence in prison. A two-judge panel of the court ruled on Friday that **Mohammad Mansha** was falsely accused, citing lack of evidence. According to court records, Mansha, 58, was arrested in September 2008 after the imam of a mosque in the Bahawalnagar district in Punjab province told authorities that Mansha had desecrated a copy of the Quran.

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. Muslims (Sunnis and Shias), Christians, Ahmadis and Hindus 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, honor 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 various sources. They are shared between several categories:

- Death sentences (de facto life in prison)
- Life imprisonment
- Prison terms

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 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](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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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?!=en&art=8881&theme=5> , <http://bit.ly/2u94cVM>

## Soofi Mohammad ISHAQ

**Charges:** Claiming to be a prophet

**Date and place of arrest:** On 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012, he was sentenced to death and fined 200,000 Rupees [approximately €2800]

**Place of detention:** Talagang/Chakwal

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

## Nadeem JAMES

**Place of residence:** Gujrat District

**Date and place of arrest:** On July 2016, in the Gujrat District

**Charges:** Blasphemy

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims he is illiterate and uneducated and could not have sent a blasphemous poem.

**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-A (Acts intended to outrage religious feelings, punishable by up to 10 years of prison and a fine)

**Last court decision:** The court has sentenced him to death on Thursday, September 14, 2017 for blaspheming Islam's prophet in a phone text.

**Other information:** The decision will be challenged in the high court.

*Sources:* <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/09/christian-father-two-in-pakistan-sentenced-death-blaspheming-prophet-islam/>

## Anwar KENNETH

**Age:** 60 years

**Date of birth:** 1941

**Place of residence:** Karachi

**Date and place of arrest:** On 25<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-06-18-3937899141_x.htm)

### LIAQAT

**Date and place of arrest:** On 21<sup>st</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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>

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016

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

**Last court decision:** On 29<sup>th</sup> 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>



## **RAFIQ**

**Charges:** Blasphemy

**Last court decision:** On 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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/>

## **Anjam Naz SINDHU**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016

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

**Last court decision:** On 29<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016

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

**Article of the criminal/administrative/civil code:** Section 295-C and 386 of the Pakistani Penal Code

**Last court decision:** Jaffer ALI was sentenced to death plus 35 years in prison and a 8,000,000 rupee fine (About \$76,000 USD). The cases are under appeal with the Punjab Province High Court.

**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>

**Taimoor RAZA (Shia)**

**Age:** 30 years

**Place of residence:** Punjab 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>

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

**Place of detention:** Central Faisalabad prison

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

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013, he was sentenced to life in prison.

**Place of detention:** Station City Gojra

**Other information:** On 18<sup>th</sup> 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/>

## **Muslims**

### **Maqsood AHMAD**

**Age:** 52 years

**Place of residence:** District Narowal

**Date and place of arrest:** On 28<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 23<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011, he was sentenced to life 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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>

## **Muhammad YOUSAF**

**Age:** 50 years

**Place of residence:** Gujranwala

**Date and place of arrest:** On 24<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 MASIH

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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>

## Ishfaq MASIH

**Date and place of arrest:** June 2017 in Green Town, Lahore

**Charges:** He was charged with blasphemy after a Muslim man accused him of insulting the Muslim prophet when asking to be paid for a bicycle that he had repaired last week.

**Article of the criminal/administrative/civil code:** Section 295-C of Pakistan's Penal Code on blasphemy

**First court decision:** He is currently awaiting sentence.

*Source:* <http://bit.ly/2zUBjia>

## Nabeel MASIH

**Age:** 16 years

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

**Date and place of arrest:** On 20/21<sup>st</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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/>

## **Babu SHAHBAZ**

**Age:** 40 years

**Date and place of arrest:** On 30<sup>th</sup> 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 complete 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/>

## **Ahmadis**

## **Idrees AHMAD**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017

**Charges:** Distribution of banned religious material.

**Article of the criminal/administrative/civil code:** Penal Code 298-B and 298-C, and Section 9 and 11-W of Anti-Terrorism Act.

**First court decision:** On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 Punjab province's Counter Terrorism Department raided his offices on suspicions that he was producing Ahmaddiyya publications for distribution. In May 2017, he was sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of 50,000 rupees.

**Other information:** During the raid, police reportedly beat Ahmad and several others.

*Source:* <http://bit.ly/2zXgH8L>

## **Tahir Mahdi IMTIAZ**

**Place of residence:** Lahore, Punjab

**Date and place of arrest:** On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Charges:** Propagating the Ahmadiyya 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 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), 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 repeatedly denied release on 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 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015, in his optical store

**Charges:** Propagating the Ahmadiyya 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.uscirf.gov/news-room/press-releases/pakistan-uscirf-calls-the-immediate-release-abdul-shakoor-and-the-dropping>

### **Mazhar SIPRA**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015, in his optical store

**Charges:** Propagating the Ahmadiyya faith

**Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code:** Pakistani Anti-Terrorism Act, and the Pakistani Penal Code for stirring up 'religious hatred' and 'sectarianism'.

**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>

### **Qamar Ahmed TAHIR**

**Place of residence:** Jhelum, Punjab

**Date and place of arrest:** On 20<sup>th</sup> 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>

### **Muslims**

#### **Muhammad ALI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 14th October 2016 in the Kasur district, Punjab Province

**Charges:** He was charged with defiling the Qur'an, after neighbors reported that Ali was burning pages of the Qur'an.

**Statement of the defendant:** Ali claimed his teacher had taught him that burning the pages of the Qur'an and then burying them was an acceptable way to dispose of old Qur'ans.

**Article of the criminal/administrative/civil code:** 295-B of the Pakistani Penal Code

**First court decision:** Application to be released on bail until trial has been denied.

*Source:* <http://bit.ly/2zXgH8L>

### **Jahanzaib KHASKHELI**

**Place of residence:** Tando Adam, Sindh Province

**Date and place of arrest:** On 20<sup>th</sup> 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>

### **Hindu**

#### **Prakash KUMAR**

**Age:** 35 years

**Place of residence:** Gaddani

**Date and place of arrest:** On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017, in Gaddani

**Charges:** Blasphemy

**Last court decision:** On 4<sup>th</sup> 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>