By Fareed Khan

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Shahbaz Bhatti was in Washington at the invitation of the **US Commission on International Religious Freedom** , which gave him an award for championing the rights of minorities in Pakistan.

Last Saturday the Governor of Punjab Salman Taseer said that the law must be repealed to protect minorities, especially Christians, against violence and persecution, a position he had asserted already two days earlier.

Peter Jacob, executive secretary of the National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP), told AsiaNews that the “statement from the governor of Punjab’ was “important and welcome”, adding that he hoped the central government would take the same view.