



FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS

PAKISTAN

Introduction

These victim profiles are illustrative of those in the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief Victims List database. Mandated by the amended International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the Victims List documents individuals who are detained, imprisoned, tortured, disappeared, forced to renounce their faith, or subjected to house arrest due to their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy.

Religions of Individuals in Pakistan on the ForB Victims List

- Christian – Catholic
- Christian – Protestant
- Christian – Unspecified/Other
- Hindu
- Muslim – Ahmadiyya
- Muslim – Shi’a
- Muslim – Sunni
- Muslim - Unspecified/Other
- Unspecified



Junaid Hafeez

Religion or Belief: Muslim - Unspecified
Arrested: March 13, 2013
Sentence: Death
Charges: "Insulting the Prophet Muhammad" and "desecrating the Qur'an" (Sec. 295 PPC)



Shagufta Kiran

Religion or Belief: Christian - Unspecified
Arrested: July 29, 2021
Sentence: Death
Charges: "Insulting the Prophet Muhammad" and "Intending to outrage religious feelings" (Sec. 295 PPC)

BLASPHEMY CASES

Pakistan’s blasphemy laws criminalize acts deemed to insult Islam. These strict laws are often used to settle personal feuds among the Sunni Muslim majority population or target religious minorities, including Ahmadiyya Muslims, Shi’a Muslims, Christians, Hindus, and Atheists. Defendants frequently spend years in pre-trial detention, and courts often give death sentences to those accused of blasphemy.



Shiraz Ahmad

Religion or Belief: Muslim - Ahmadiyya
Arrested: February 25, 2021
Charges: "intending to outrage religious feelings" and "posing as Muslim" (Secs. 295 and 298 PPC)
Reason for Persecution: Creating an online Ahmadiyya group

AHMADIYYA MUSLIMS

Ahmadiyya Muslims face severe restrictions and imprisonment for their beliefs in Pakistan. The Pakistani government—which does not recognize Ahmadiyya Muslims as Muslim—frequently charge them with blasphemy or “posing as Muslim.” Ahmadiyya Muslims are also targeted for celebrating major Muslim holidays.



Maira Shabaz

Religion or Belief: Catholic
Abducted at gunpoint: April 2020 (age 14)
Forced conversion and marriage: Yes
Captivity upheld: August 2020 by Lahore High Court
Status: Unknown/In Hiding

FORCED RENUNCIATIONS OF FAITH

In Pakistan, forced renunciations of faith are pervasive and primarily impact non-Muslim women and underage girls. Christian and Hindu girls are often kidnapped and forced to convert to Islam and marry their abductors., Perpetrators face little to no legal consequences as some courts side with the abductors.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS: PAKISTAN

NOT RELEASED

Abdul Majeed
Abdul Waheed
Abdullah Fareed
Adil Babar
Amoon Ayub
Aneeqa Ateeq
Anwaar Ahmad
Anwar Masih
Arshad Pervaiz
Ashfaq Masih
Ashfaque Ali
Ashok Kumar
Asif Fareed
Asif Masih
Asif Pervaiz
Ayaz Hussain
David Masih
Fansan Shahid
Hafiz Tariq Shehzad
Huma Younus
Ibtisam Mustafa
Ijaz Hussain
Ishtiaq Saleem
Junaid Hafeez
Love Kumar
Maira Shahbaz
Malik Usman Ahmad
Malik Zaheer Ahmad
Mansoor Tahir Ahmad
Maruf Gul
Muhammad Akbar
Muhammad Hashmi
Muhammad Islam

Mukhtar Ahmad
Nadeem James
Nasir Ahmad
Noman Asghar
Qaisar Ayub
Qaiser Zada
Raja Waris
Rana Nouman RafaÂqat
Rana Usman
Raveena
Reena
Rohan Ahmad
Saeed Ahmad
Saeed Ahmad Wariach
Sajid Ali
Salma Tanveer
Salman Sajjad
Shagufta Kiran
Shakeel Ahmad
Shehzad Masih
Shiraz Ahmad
Simon Nadeem
Simran Kumari
Sohail Masih
Sunny Mushtaq
Taimoor Raza
Wajid Ali
Waseem Abbas
Yaqoob Bashir Masih
Zafar Ali
Zarvia Pervaiz

FORCED RENUNCIATION OF FAITH

Huma Younus
Maira Shahbaz
Raveena
Reena
Simran Kumari
Zarvia Pervaiz

DECEASED

Asghar Kalar
Nabeel Masih
Zafar Bhatti

RELEASED

Ali Ahmed Tariq
Anwar Kenneth
Asif Stephen
Danish Ali
Ehsan Ahmad
Ghulam Ahmad
Humayun Faisal
Imran Ghafur Masih
Mariyum Lal
Mubashar Ahmad
Muhammad Ishaq
Nadeem Samson
Newsh Arooj
Notan Lal
Patras Masih
Raja Amir
Ramesh Kumar
Ramzan Bibi



FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS: **PAKISTAN**

Sajjad Masih Gill
Salamat Mansha Masih
Saleem Masih
Sawan Masih
Shafqat Emmanuel
Shagufta Kausar
Shahbaz Masih
Stephen Masih