

# Pakistan



## Blasphemy Cases

Pakistan’s blasphemy laws criminalize acts deemed to insult Islam, the Qur’an, or the Prophet Muhammad. 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.

## 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.



### Junaid Hafeez

RELIGION OR BELIEF:  
Unspecified Muslim  
ARRESTED:  
March 13, 2013  
SENTENCE: Death, Life Imprisonment  
HEALTH CONCERNS: Yes  
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:  
Accused of insulting the Prophet Muhammad on social media



### Shiraz Ahmad

RELIGION OR BELIEF:  
Ahmadiyya Muslim  
ARRESTED:  
February 25, 2021  
NATURE OF CHARGES:  
Blasphemy, Conversion, Hate Speech  
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:  
Creating an online group to share Ahmadiyya religious content



### Notal Lal

RELIGION OR BELIEF:  
Hindu  
ARRESTED:  
September 15, 2019  
SENTENCE: Life Imprisonment  
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:  
Accused of insulting the Prophet Muhammad during class



### Malik Zaheer Ahmad

RELIGION OR BELIEF:  
Ahmadiyya Muslim  
ARRESTED:  
September 29, 2020  
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:  
Accused of blasphemy



### Zafar Bhatti

RELIGION OR BELIEF:  
Christian  
ARRESTED:  
July 22, 2012  
SENTENCE: Death  
REPORTS OF TORTURE: Yes  
RELIGIOUS LEADER: Yes  
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:  
Accused of sending messages insulting the Prophet Muhammad



### Muhammad Hashmi

RELIGION OR BELIEF:  
Ahmadiyya Muslim  
ARRESTED:  
August 9, 2021  
NATURE OF CHARGES:  
Blasphemy, Conversion, Hate Speech  
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:  
Creating an online group to share Ahmadiyya religious content

## FoRB Victims List Stats 90 out of 2,125

| Religion or Belief       | # of Victims |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Christian                | 42           |
| Ahmadiyya                | 20           |
| Unspecified/Other Muslim | 14           |
| Unspecified              | 8            |
| Hindu                    | 6            |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>90</b>    |

| Type of Abuse                | # of Victims |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Detained                     | 53           |
| Imprisoned                   | 31           |
| Forced Renunciation of Faith | 6            |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>90</b>    |

## Number of Death Sentences 19

| Reports of      | # of Victims |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Torture         | 5            |
| Medical Neglect | 5            |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>10</b>    |

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## Frank R. Wolf FoRB Victims List Background

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA), as amended by the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016, requires USCIRF to:

*make publicly available, to the extent practicable...lists of persons it determines are imprisoned or detained, have disappeared, been placed under house arrest, been tortured, or subjected to forced renunciation of faith for their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy by the government of a foreign country that the Commission recommends for designation as a country of particular concern [CPC]...or by a nonstate actor that the Commission recommends for designation as an entity of particular concern [EPC].*

USCIRF developed the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) Victims List—an online public database—to implement this provision for countries USCIRF recommends for Country of Particular Concern (CPC) or Special Watch List (SWL) status. The list also includes such victims located in the de facto territories of nonstate actors that USCIRF recommends for Entity of Particular Concern (EPC) status, according to the same criteria.

Due to limited resources, USCIRF is unable to identify and document all victims that meet the statutory requirement to be included on the FoRB Victims List and generally relies on receiving submissions from outside individuals and organizations. As such, the information contained in the database does not reflect country, regional, or global trends. Furthermore, percentages highlighted in this section should not be used for extrapolation purposes nor interpreted as a particular group experiencing greater violations than another or a particular country committing violations at a greater rate than others. To support this project, USCIRF invites those with credible information on victims to submit information using the Victims List Intake Form at [www.uscirtf.gov/form/uscirtf-victims-list-intake-form](http://www.uscirtf.gov/form/uscirtf-victims-list-intake-form).

## FoRB Victims List Stats Overall

| Perpetrator                                   | Victims Documented |
|---|--------------------|
| Algeria                                       | 5                  |
| Azerbaijan                                    | 11                 |
| Burma   | 5                  |
| China   | 770                |
| Cuba  | 11                 |
| Egypt   | 18                 |
| Eritrea                                       | 50                 |
| Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)                   | 2                  |
| Houthis                                       | 3                  |
| India   | 55                 |
| Indonesia                                     | 8                  |
| Iran  | 339                |
| Iraq  | 2                  |
| Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) | 1                  |
| Kazakhstan                                    | 15                 |
| Malaysia                                      | 4                  |
| Nicaragua                                     | 15                 |
| Nigeria                                       | 9                  |
| North Korea                                   | 9                  |
| Pakistan                                      | 90                 |
| Russia  | 449                |
| Saudi Arabia                                  | 46                 |
| Sri Lanka                                     | 1                  |
| Tajikistan                                    | 13                 |
| Turkmenistan                                  | 30                 |
| Uzbekistan                                    | 87                 |
| Vietnam                                       | 77                 |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>2,125</b>       |

| Religion or Belief                 | Victims Documented |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Adivasi                            | 1                  |
| Baha'i                             | 163                |
| Bon                                | 1                  |
| Buddhist – Hoa Hao                 | 6                  |
| Buddhist – Theravada               | 3                  |
| Buddhist – Tibetan                 | 76                 |
| Buddhist – Unspecified/Other       | 28                 |
| Christian – Catholic               | 46                 |
| Christian – Church of Almighty God | 236                |
| Christian – Jehovah's Witness      | 258                |
| Christian – Orthodox               | 17                 |
| Christian – Protestant             | 130                |
| Christian – Unspecified/Other      | 66                 |
| Duong Van Minh                     | 4                  |
| ECKist (Eckankar)                  | 1                  |
| Erfan-e Halgheh Practitioner       | 2                  |
| Falun Gong                         | 213                |
| Hindu                              | 10                 |
| Humanist                           | 1                  |
| Jewish                             | 1                  |
| Muslim – Ahmadiyya                 | 23                 |
| Muslim – Qur'anist                 | 1                  |
| Muslim – Shi'a                     | 39                 |
| Muslim – Sufi                      | 63                 |
| Muslim – Sunni                     | 385                |
| Muslim – Unspecified/Other         | 237                |
| Santeria                           | 5                  |
| Scientologist                      | 1                  |
| Shaman                             | 1                  |
| Sikh                               | 1                  |
| Yarsani                            | 37                 |
| Unknown/Unspecified                | 69                 |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>2,125</b>       |

# Pakistan



## Not Released

"Love Kumar"  
 Abdul Majeed  
 Abdullah Fareed  
 Adil Babar  
 Anwar Masih  
 Arshad Pervaiz  
 Ashok Kumar  
 Asif Fareed  
 Asif Masih  
 David Masih  
 Fansan Shahid  
 Hafiz Tariq Shehzad  
 Ishtiaq Saleem  
 Malik Usman Ahmad  
 Malik Zaheer Ahmad  
 Mansoor Tahir Ahmad  
 Maruf Gul  
 Muhammad Akbar  
 Muhammad Hashmi  
 Mukhtar Ahmad  
 Qaiser Zada  
 Raja Amir  
 Raja Waris  
 Rohan Ahmad  
 Saeed Ahmad  
 Saeed Ahmad Wariach  
 Shagufta Kiran  
 Shakeel Ahmad  
 Shiraz Ahmad  
 Simon Nadeem  
 Sohail Masih  
 Sunny Mushtaq  
 Zafar Ali  
 Abdul Waheed  
 Amoon Ayub  
 Aneeqa Ateeq  
 Anwaar Ahmad  
 Anwar Kenneth  
 Ashfaq Masih  
 Asif Pervaiz  
 Ibtisam Mustafa  
 Junaid Hafeez  
 Muhammad Islam  
 Nadeem James  
 Nasir Ahmad  
 Noman Asghar  
 Notan Lal  
 Qaisar Ayub  
 Rana Nouman Razaqat  
 Salma Tanveer  
 Shehzad Masih  
 Taimoor Raza  
 Waseem Abbas  
 Yaqoob Bashir Masih  
 Zafar Bhatti

## Released

Ali Ahmed Tariq  
 Asif Stephen  
 Danish Ali  
 Humayun Faisal  
 Mariyum Lal  
 Muhammad Ishaq  
 Nadeem Samson  
 Newsh Arooj  
 Patras Masih  
 Ramesh Kumar  
 Salamat Mansha Masih  
 Saleem Masih  
 Shahbaz Masih  
 Stephen Masih  
 Maira Shahbaz  
 Ehsan Ahmad  
 Ghulam Ahmad  
 Imran Ghafur Masih  
 Mubashar Ahmad  
 Nabeel Masih  
 Sajjad Masih Gill  
 Sawan Masih  
 Shafqat Emmanuel  
 Shagufta Kausar

## Died in Custody

Asghar Kalar

## Forced Renunciation of Faith

Huma Younus  
 Raveena  
 Reena  
 Simran Kumari  
 Zarvia Pervaiz