



## United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is Notified on How Pakistan Continues to Deny the Rights of Mentally Disabled Christian Man - Stephen Masih - and Delay Justice

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*Washington DC 13 September 2021 | [UN Special Rapporteur on rights of persons with disabilities](#) confirms receipt of Jubilee Campaign [letter](#), submitted with additional organizations, flagging the case of Christian man [Stephen Masih](#) who the Pakistani authorities have detained since 2019 on alleged blasphemy charges - a crime punishable by death in Pakistan.*

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Jubilee Campaign, together with [Voice for Justice](#) and additional NGOs, asked the Special Rapporteur to raise Mr. Masih's case with relevant Pakistani authorities and call for his immediate and unconditional release.

### **Background**

In March 2019 local Punjab police arrested Stephen Masih under Pakistan's Penal Code Section 295-C after an angry mob gathered around Masih's home, claimed he had committed blasphemy, and brutally assaulted him. The false accusations and the beatings were orchestrated by a local Muslim resident who made baseless allegations that Masih had insulted the Prophet.



Authorities only registered formal charges against Mr. Masih **three months after his arrest** in June 2019. There have been 42 court hearings regarding the case; jail authorities prevented Mr. Masih from attending seven of them. In addition, the judges have been on leave during six of the hearings, and Mr. Masih has still not received a final verdict.

**A Court hearing was scheduled for April 2020** but was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. **Authorities have not published any evidence against Mr. Masih** and the court **has not recorded the prosecution's witness testimonies during the hearings.**

In March 2020 a medical board was convened to review Stephen Masih's mental health, four months after the initial application request was sent in. **On July 30, 2021, the Punjab Institute of Mental Health finally released its medical health report to the court after pending for a year.** It should be noted that **the release of the report came only after Voice for Justice arranged a meeting for Masih's lawyers to visit the Institute** and pressure them to release the medical examination's results.

The board of medical professionals concluded that Stephen Masih suffers from Bipolar Affective Disorder and is "unfit to stand trial at the moment." Symptoms of the disorder include mood swings which can affect, "judgment, behaviour and the ability to think clearly."

Following the release of the medical examination, Mr. Masih's lawyer filed an application requesting bail or, if denied, that the custody of Mr. Masih be handed over to his brother because Mr. Masih is unfit for trial.

The court rejected the petition on 5 August 2021.

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## ***The Letter to the Special Rapporteur***

The letter to the Special Rapporteur reiterates that a charge under Pakistan's blasphemy laws is **[incompatible with international human rights norms](#)** and also highlights how the arrest and ongoing detention of Stephen Masih and the judicial process **violates several of Stephen's rights:**

1. **Pakistan authorities have denied Stephen Masih's right to a prompt medical examination.**
2. **Pakistan have denied Mr. Masih's right to "adequate facilities."**
3. **The court has discriminated against Mr. Masih** and has been inconsistent in its conclusions by upholding that Mr. Masih is "unfit for trial" according to the medical examination results, while simultaneously justifying the denial of Mr. Masih's bail on the non-authoritative decision that he cannot be mentally unfit as he has engaged with legal counsel.

A new date for Mr. Masih's court hearing was scheduled for the 15th September but at the time of writing it was postponed yet again, "justice delayed, justice denied."

**[Please pray for #justiceforStephenMasih](#)**

[pictured above: Stephen Masih]

[Download the Full Letter](#)

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***IN THE NEWS***





## Suspension of Pakistan's GSP+ status discussed...

Former EU Special Envoy on freedom of religion or belief, Jan Figel, discussed the recent European Parliament resolution that called for the repeal of the GSP+ status for Pakistan [a trade benefit granted by the EU] due to its blasphemy laws...

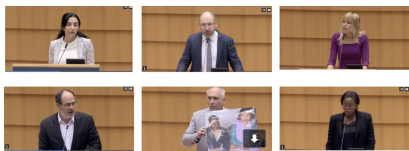
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eutoday.net



## One Step Forward, Two Steps Back in Pakistan

Only one month following the wonderful news regarding the acquittal of Shagufta and Shafqat, the world was shocked to hear of the arrest of an 8-year-old Hindu boy on blasphemy charges in Punjab Province...

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## European Parliament Passes Resolution in Support of...

Jubilee Campaign welcomes the European Parliament Resolution that passed today and echoes the call for the European Commission to "immediately review" the trade deal with Pakistan (GSP+) in light of the provision of the death penalty for...

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## Stephen Masih

Name : Stephen Masih Country/Area of Origin : Pakistan Background : Stephen Masih is a 40-year-old Pakistani Christian convert Imran Pura Badiana village, Sialkot District, Pakistan. Reason for Arrest : , Stephen Masih was engaging in an...

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# WHAT CAN I DO?

- Pray

- **Write/Tweet/ Email the Pakistan Embassy to the US**

*[click on the document image below  
to download a sample letter to use]*

**RAPID RESPONSE ACTION:**  
Jubilee Campaign  
1-703-503-2260  
[information@jubileecampaign.org](mailto:information@jubileecampaign.org)

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:  
13 November 2021**

Please check with [us](#) if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

**GRANT JUSTICE FOR STEPHEN MASIH  
- A CHRISTIAN MAN SUFFERING FROM A MENTAL  
DISABILITY -**

**TAKE ACTION:**

1. Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or [Tweet](#) them.
2. [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took. It's important to report because we share the total number of actions taken with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help – which can serve as an encouragement to them.

<b>Chief Minister, Punjab Usman Buzdar</b>	<b>Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan</b>
Chief Minister's Office 7 Club Road, GOR 1 Lahore, Pakistan Tel: +92 4299203226 Email: <a href="mailto:psostaff@gmail.com">psostaff@gmail.com</a> Twitter: <a href="#">@usmanakbuzdar</a>	Embassy of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan 3517 International Ct NW, Washington DC 20008 Phone: 202 243 6500   Fax: 202 686 1534 Email: <a href="mailto:ambassador@embassyofpakistanusa.org">ambassador@embassyofpakistanusa.org</a> Twitter: <a href="#">@PakEmbassyDC @asadmk17</a> Facebook: <a href="#">@PakistanEmbassyDC</a> Contact Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/2QlCMnl">https://bit.ly/2QlCMnl</a> Salutation: Dear Ambassador

Dear Chief Minister Buzdar,

I write to you to draw your attention to the case of Stephen Masih. Local Punjab police arrested Stephen Masih under Pakistan's Penal Code Section 295-C after an angry mob gathered around Masih's home claiming he had committed blasphemy and brutally assaulted him. The false accusations and the beatings were orchestrated by a local Muslim resident who made baseless allegations that Masih had insulted the Prophet.

Authorities only registered formal charges against Mr. Masih three months after his arrest in June 2019. There have been 42 court hearings regarding the case; jail authorities kept Mr. Masih from attending seven of them. In addition, the judges have

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***Jubilee Campaign is a non-profit organization which promotes the human rights and religious liberty of ethnic and religious minorities in the most oppressive countries. We assist individuals seeking asylum from religious persecution as well as promote the care and well-being of larger groups of refugees fleeing religious and ethnic persecution.***

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