



## **PAKISTAN: UN Human Rights Experts Call on Pakistan to Immediately Release Christian Blasphemy Law Victim - Stephen Masih**

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**WASHINGTON, D.C., 21 October 2021** – UN human rights experts urgently appeal to Pakistan to release Stephen Masih, a Pakistani Christian man, who the authorities have detained for over two years awaiting trial for alleged blasphemy. The experts also urge the Government of Pakistan to comply with its international obligations, recognising freedom of religion or belief and expression, rights of minorities and through the repeal all its anti-blasphemy and anti-apostasy legislation.

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***“We are seriously concerned by the persecution and ongoing detention of Mr. Masih on blasphemy grounds, and by his treatment at the hands of the judicial and prison authorities who are aware of his psychosocial disability and health condition,”*** the experts said.

***“We call on the authorities to urgently review Mr. Masih’s case, and to release and drop all charges against him, and to ensure protection for him and his family,”*** the UN experts said.



The experts said that they found it, “deeply alarming” that a mere argument with a neighbour could lead to, “the judicial harassment of an individual based on his religious or other beliefs, and by the use of anti-blasphemy laws which may carry the death penalty.”

Jubilee Campaign et. al sent a [letter](#) addressed to the UN Special Rapporteur on Disabilities in September outlining the case of Stephen Masih and asking the UN human rights experts to intervene.

The UN experts raised concern over the lack of medical care given to Mr. Masih in Sialkot District Jail and the delay of medical reviews and added that Mr. Masih’s reported detention in a cell with prisoners of the Muslim faith put him in danger and was a matter of concern.

***“We urge the Government of Pakistan to comply with its international human rights obligations, including with regard to freedom of expression, religion or belief, as well as with regard to the rights of persons who belong to minorities, to repeal all its anti-blasphemy and anti-apostasy legislation and to take measures to combat advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination and violence,”*** the experts said.

UN human rights experts’ statements carry weight as they are one of the main bodies that work independently to “examine, monitor, advise, and publicly report” on human rights issues.

**Jubilee Campaign welcomes the statement by the UN Special Procedures and calls on Pakistan to comply by dropping all charges and releasing Stephen Masih.** The persecution, injustice and discrimination Mr. Masih has suffered under the hands of the Pakistani authorities is heartbreaking. As Pakistan holds a seat at the Human Rights Council it has a responsibility to “uphold high human rights standards,” a commitment Pakistan itself agreed to when they adopted resolution 60/251.

[Voice for Justice](#) reported that following the news of the UN human rights experts’ public statement release Christians in Pakistan were encouraged to finally find someone raising their voice and seeing their plight.

**Read the UN human rights experts’ press release [here](#)**

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Pictured from top left clockwise, the experts: **Ahmed Shaheed**, Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; **Irene Khan**, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and

## IN THE NEWS



### ACNUDH | Pakistan: Christian on blasphemy charges must...

GENEVA (21 October 2021)- UN human rights experts\* today urgently appealed to Pakistan to release Stephen Masih, a Pakistani Christian from Sialkot District, who has been detained for over two years awaiting trial for allegedly committing blasphemy.

[Read more](#)  
[www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)



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[Read more](#)  
[jubileecampaign.org](http://jubileecampaign.org)



### 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...

[Read more](#)  
[jubileecampaign.org](http://jubileecampaign.org)

### 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...

[Read more](#)  
[jubileecampaign.org](http://jubileecampaign.org)

# WHAT CAN I DO?

- Pray for the upcoming hearing of Stephen Masih - for his release.
- 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>  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="https://twitter.com/usmanakbuzdar">@usmanakbuzdar</a>	<b>Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan</b>  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="https://twitter.com/PakEmbassyDC">@asadm17</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/PakistanEmbassyDC">@PakistanEmbassyDC</a> Contact Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/2QICMnI">https://bit.ly/2QICMnI</a> Salutation: Dear Ambassador
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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

***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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