

Chapter 1 : Blasphemy law in Pakistan - Wikipedia

She was arrested in and convicted in under section C of Pakistan's penal code that punishes blasphemy against Muhammad with the death penalty. She was sentenced to execution by.

Oct 31, 2: October 31 The case of Asia Bibi, who was sentenced to death for blasphemy in , sparked international support for the Pakistani Christian. She has been held at an undisclosed location for security reasons and is expected to leave the country. My children are very happy. We are grateful to God. We are grateful to the judges for giving us justice. A fatal issue The charges against Bibi date back to a hot day in when she went to get water for her and her fellow farm workers. Two Muslim women refused to drink from a container used by a Christian. A few days later, a mob accused her of blasphemy. She was convicted and sentenced to death. The mere rumour of blasphemy can ignite mob violence and lynchings in Pakistan, and combatting alleged blasphemy has become a central rallying cry for hardline Islamists. Salman Taseer, the governor of Punjab province, was shot and killed by one of his guards in for defending Bibi and criticizing the misuse of the blasphemy law. The assassin, Mumtaz Qadri, has been celebrated as a martyr by hardliners since he was hanged for the killing, with millions visiting a shrine set up for him near Islamabad. Activist Shaan Taseer faces death threat from religious hardliners in Pakistan Ahead of the verdict, Khadim Hussain Rizvi, a hardline cleric who has brought tens of thousands of people into the streets for past rallies, called on his supporters to gather in all major cities to express their love for the Prophet and to protest if Bibi is released. Authorities have stepped up security at churches around the country. Shortly after the ruling, hundreds of Islamists blocked a key road linking the city of Rawalpindi with the capital, Islamabad. Similar rallies were held elsewhere. Police urged demonstrators to disperse peacefully. In the eastern city of Multan, police arrested several demonstrators after clashes. Paramilitary troops deployed in Islamabad to prevent protesters from reaching the Supreme Court, where security for the judges was being beefed up. In previous hearings her attorney, Saiful Malook, pointed to contradictions in testimony from witnesses. The two Muslim women who pressed charges against Bibi denied they quarrelled with her, saying her outbursts against Islam were unprovoked. Chaudhry Ghulam Mustafa, a lawyer for one of the plaintiffs, rejected the verdict, saying Bibi had confessed to making derogatory remarks against the Prophet to seek pardon. But they said prosecutors had failed to prove that Bibi violated the law. With files from The Associated Press.

Chapter 2 : FACT CHECK: '22 Christian Missionaries Sentenced to Death' Prayer Request

Pakistani Christian woman who faced the death penalty for blasphemy is acquitted by high court after 8 years on death row minority Christians have come under attack in recent years for the.

He will have 10 years of his life stolen from him, just because he practiced his faith. What is important to note is that in countries, run by sharia law, the constitution becomes inferior to the Islamist laws of the land. When radical Islam gains power, every article in the constitution becomes contingent on compliance with sharia. The rights that are promised in the constitution therefore become null and void. It is not enough to hope that one day Christians will be able to practice their faith in Iran without fear of persecution or death; action must be taken by the global community to ensure that the Iranian regime stands by its own constitution and provides its Christian citizens with equal rights and protections. This assertion sounds as if Islam gives Christian and Jews the same level of status and respect as their Muslim counterparts. In speeches, and on paper, these words probably give the impression that Christians are not only welcome in Iran, but given equal rights and protections. However, the everyday experiences of Christians in Iran, tell a very different story. Violence and persecution against Christians have, under the sharia law of Iran, increased significantly. Each were sentenced by the Revolutionary Court in Tehran to a combined total of 45 years in prison. What terrible crime must they have committed to warrant such a harsh punishment? Surely it had to be more than simply being Christians? After all, the President of Iran had made it clear that Christians enjoy equal rights. The international community has recently taken note of the abuse of power wielded against Christians in Iran. They also assured Christians that they would be able freely to practice their faith. As a result, many Christians, trusting that they would enjoy the freedom that was promised to them, supported the Muslim leaders. Instead, after the Islamic revolution, anyone who did not believe in the Islamist and revolutionary ideals of the sharia theocracy became the enemy. He is a revolutionary and he must be respected. This group of Christian converts were arrested on April 7th, There does not yet exist any information about their release. The oppression does not end here. Even though the Christians have been told they have the right to practice their religion, they are being arrested and tormented for it. After significant pressure from legal and human rights groups, in a retrial, a court acquitted him of the charge of apostasy that carried the death sentence. This may seem confusing and contradictory to some; what is important to note is that in countries run by sharia law, the constitution becomes inferior to the Islamist laws of the land. The Christians in Iran who believed that by supporting the Islamic revolution they would be gaining protections and equal rights are now instead living in constant fear. Only increased pressure from the international community may create a change within Iran that might afford these innocent people some protections against the brutal acts that they face. Majid Rafizadeh is a Harvard-educated scholar and serves on the advisory board of Harvard International Review, an official publication of Harvard University.

Chapter 3 : Christian woman in Sudan sentenced to death for her faith - CNN

Violence and persecution against Christians have, under the sharia law of Iran, increased significantly. a court acquitted him of the charge of apostasy that carried the death sentence. The.

The Old Testament law commanded the death penalty for various acts: However, God often showed mercy when the death penalty was due. David committed adultery and murder, yet God did not demand his life be taken 2 Samuel Ultimately, every sin we commit should result in the death penalty because the wages of sin is death Romans 6: Thankfully, God demonstrates His love for us in not condemning us Romans 5: This should not be used to indicate that Jesus rejected capital punishment in all instances. Jesus was simply exposing the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. The Pharisees wanted to trick Jesus into breaking the Old Testament law; they did not truly care about the woman being stoned where was the man who was caught in adultery? God is the One who instituted capital punishment: Jesus would support capital punishment in some instances. Jesus also demonstrated grace when capital punishment was due John 8: The apostle Paul definitely recognized the power of the government to institute capital punishment where appropriate Romans How should a Christian view the death penalty? First, we must remember that God has instituted capital punishment in His Word; therefore, it would be presumptuous of us to think that we could institute a higher standard. God has the highest standard of any being; He is perfect. This standard applies not only to us but to Himself. Therefore, He loves to an infinite degree, and He has mercy to an infinite degree. We also see that He has wrath to an infinite degree, and it is all maintained in a perfect balance. Second, we must recognize that God has given government the authority to determine when capital punishment is due Genesis 9: It is unbiblical to claim that God opposes the death penalty in all instances.

Chapter 4 : The Death Penalty is Christian Because It's Biblical | The Stream

Christians should never rejoice when the death penalty is employed, but at the same time, Christians should not fight against the government's right to execute the perpetrators of the most evil of crimes.

In Oklahoma, 66 percent approved an amendment to the state constitution ensuring the use of capital punishment. Even in California – one of the most liberal states – 53 percent rejected a proposed statute abolishing executions. So did both Catholic bishops and a cross-section of mainline Protestant clergy in Oklahoma. Their opinions reflect the positions of their respective churches and a growing number of evangelicals. But they reject the divine standards for justice as revealed in Scripture. Those standards first appear in Genesis 9: Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for God made man in his own image. If God is the author of life, then God retains the prerogative to define the circumstances under which life may be taken. God demands that humanity create just societies to protect the innocent. Murder is such a heinous violation of the divine image in humanity that execution is the appropriate punishment. In Chapter 12 of his Letter to the Romans, Paul discourages his readers from avenging themselves by quoting Deuteronomy: Those who support abolishing capital punishment cite John 8: Yet not even Sister Helen Prejean, an ardent abolitionist, uses the passage to support her position. Nor does Prejean contend that the abolitionist position has biblical roots. It is not an ethical pronouncement about capital punishment. But such an equation results in a morally absurd proposition: An unborn child with no capacity to act is no different than an adult or adolescent who has moral responsibility. Catholics should know that much more authoritative thinkers have taught exactly the opposite. The same divine law which forbids the killing of a human being allows certain exceptions. If a man is a danger to the community – then his execution for the healing and preservation of the common good is to be commended. Only the public authority, not private persons, may licitly execute malefactors by public judgment. Men shall be sentenced to death for crimes of irreparable harm or which are particularly perverted. The fact that the evil, as long as they live, can be corrected from their errors does not prohibit the fact that they may be justly executed, for the danger which threatens from their way of life is greater and more certain than the good which may be expected from their improvement.

Chapter 5 : World #2: Pakistan death sentence for innocent Christian woman

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE – Pakistan's Supreme Court on Wednesday freed a Christian woman from a death sentence for blasphemy against Islam and overturned her conviction, sparking angry protests and.

Constitution[edit] By its constitution, the official name of Pakistan is the "Islamic Republic of Pakistan" as of The first purpose of those laws is to protect Islamic authority. By the constitution Article 2 , Islam is the state religion. Whoever, with the deliberate intention of wounding the religious feelings of any person, utters any word or makes any sound in the hearing of that person or makes any gesture in the sight of that person or places any object in the sight of that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. Between and , Pakistani authorities charged people with blasphemy offences. On 12 January , Prime Minister of Pakistan Yousuf Raza Gilani once again said that there would be no amendments to the blasphemy law. If a law is repugnant to Islam, "the President in the case of a law with respect to a matter in the Federal Legislative List or the Concurrent Legislative List, or the Governor in the case of a law with respect to a matter not enumerated in either of those Lists, shall take steps to amend the law so as to bring such law or provision into conformity with the Injunctions of Islam" Constitution, Article D. The Court said "the penalty for contempt of the Holy Prophet Deputy Attorney-General Agha Tariq Mehmood, who represented the federal government, said that the Shariat Appellate Bench dismissed the appeal because the appellant did not pursue it. The appellant did not present any argument on the appeal because the appellant, according to reports, was no longer alive. Police, lawyers, and judges may also be subject to harassment, threats, and attacks when blasphemy is an issue. Like those who have served a sentence for blasphemy, those who are acquitted of blasphemy usually go into hiding or leave Pakistan. In March , Pakistan presented a resolution to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva which calls upon the world to formulate laws against the defamation of religion. Pakistan lifted the block after Facebook prevented access to the page. In June , Pakistan blocked seventeen websites for hosting content that the authorities considered offensive to Muslims. Please improve the article by adding more descriptive text and removing less pertinent examples. September Arrests and death sentences issued for blasphemy laws in Pakistan go back to the late s and early 90s. Despite the implementation of these laws, no one has yet been executed by the order of the courts or governments as to date, only imprisoned to await a verdict or killed at the hands of felons who were convinced that the suspects were guilty. In December , a year-old man accused of blasphemy was freed after spending over nine years in jail. Bahawalnagar District court and Lahore High Court sentenced the man to life imprisonment which was overruled by Supreme Court of Pakistan as the evidence used was not in accordance with the Evidence Act [43] In March , Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif supported a crackdown on blasphemous material posted on social media and described blasphemy as an "unpardonable offence". Asghar had initially been arrested in after sending letters in which he declared himself a prophet, and had lived in Pakistan for several years prior to his arrest and trial. Javed Gul, a government prosecutor, disclosed to Agence France Presse that, "Asghar claimed to be a prophet even inside the court. He confessed it in front of the judge. Ajmal disappeared in July On 12 December , a teacher Shahid Nadeem in the missionary school of Faisalabad accused by Qari Muhammad Afzal who is a member of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi which is a banned organisation registered FIR on 28 December in the local police station and said that culprit had deliberately torn the pages of Quran and later burn these pages. She said the accusation was false and was simply revenge after an argument in a berry field over drinking water. The case has sparked international reactions, and as of is still being appealed. Salman Taseer had visited Bibi in Jail and had held a press conference with her. This triggered mass protests in Pakistan with many imams of local mosques claiming that Salman Taseer had defied Mohammed and should be sentenced to death for it. Taseer was later assassinated in early In July , a trader in Faisalabad complained that one of his employees had been handed a pamphlet which contained disrespectful remarks about Muhammad. According to the police, the pamphlet appeared to have the signatures and addresses of Pastor Rashid Emmanuel and his brother Sajid, who were Christians. The brothers were shot and killed while being escorted by the police from a district

court. Both had denied the charge of blasphemy. On 9 July , a FIR was registered against two teenager brothers, complainant falsely accusing them that they had spoke against Prophet Mohammad and this family had to leave the country for their safety. The professed reason for the violence was that a Christian had defiled and spoke against Prophet Mohammad. Hector Aleem was arrested because the sender had once contacted him. When Hector Aleem objected to the destruction of the church he was faced with several threats and lawsuits ranging from fraud to criminal charges. He fought all of them in the courts and proved his innocence. He also faced several assassination attempts. Hector Aleem was eventually arrested on the charge of blasphemy. They were arrested on 23 December in Wapda Town. The police confiscated posters on which Gohar Shahi was shown as "Imam Mehdi. Since 27 August , the seven men have been detained in Sahiwal Jail, Punjab, where they were forced to parade naked, and were suspended from the ceiling and beaten. For this reason, they were constantly threatened and intimidated by prison staff as well as by other detainees. On 3 June , Pakistan banned the film. Culture Minister Ghulam Jamal said: Shaitan Maulvi Satanic Cleric. The book said stoning to death Rajam as a punishment for adultery was not mentioned in the Quran. The book said also that four historical imams religious leaders were Jews. Younus Shaikh , a physician, with blasphemy on account of remarks that students claimed he made during a lecture. A judge ordered that Shaikh pay a fine of , rupees, and that he be hanged. Four assailants attacked Masih in jail. The authorities took no action against Akram or against the other assailants. Shortly thereafter, the judges affirmed the judgment of the trial court. The court also noted other breaches in the law of due process. Malik was accused of calling the Quran "an ordinary book, produced by Mohammad for economic and political purposes. Several applications were made to the authorities against Malik, demanding that he be sentenced to death. Authorities could not arrest Malik because he was not in Pakistan at the time. Sources claim that Malik is being framed for criticizing Tahreek-e-Labbaik and its chief.

Chapter 6 : Christians Sentenced to Death Under Sharia Law – Coptic Solidarity

Even though Christians make up a very small part of the population, they have always been viewed, under Iran's sharia law, as a threat to "national security". Iran's total population is roughly 80 million, with anywhere between , and 3 million of that total being Christians, according to various estimates.

A year later, Bibi was sentenced to death under the blasphemy laws despite strong opposition from national and international human rights groups. In , her death sentence was upheld by the Lahore High Court. Rights group Amnesty International dubbed the verdict a "grave injustice. After the October 8 hearing, Malook had told DW he believed if the appeal was heard on merit, Bibi would be released. The accused did not get the benefit of doubt. Legally, it is a weak case," Malook said, adding that witness statements were contradictory. The judges and lawyers have demonstrated great courage," Farzana Bari, an Islamabad-based rights activist, told DW. They are still in hiding as severe threats have been made against them. We hope the government will ensure their security," Joseph told DW. The Muslim women who were working with Bibi objected to her fetching water, saying that as a non-Muslim she was not allowed to touch the water bowl. The women then complained to a local cleric and leveled blasphemy charges against Bibi. Later, police took Bibi into custody and launched an investigation into the blasphemy accusations. Blasphemy is a sensitive issue in Pakistan, where 97 percent of the population is Muslim. Activists say they are often implemented in cases that have little to do with blasphemy and are used to settle petty disputes and personal vendettas. Christians, Hindus and Ahmadis – a minority Islamic sect – are often victimized as a result. Bibi In , a lower court convicted Bibi of blasphemy. Although the defense lawyer argued that the blasphemy allegations were made to settle personal scores, the court sentenced Bibi to death by hanging. In , Taseer was gunned down by his own bodyguard in Islamabad. The same year, Shahbaz Bhatti, the then minister for minorities and a prominent blasphemy law critic, was also assassinated by unidentified gunmen. Qadri was showered with rose petals by right-wing groups as he was taken to jail by the authorities. Qadri was sent to the gallows in In , the Lahore High Court upheld her death sentence. The law is often used to target religious minorities and secular Muslims. In the past few years, many Christians and Hindus have been brutally murdered over unproven blasphemy allegations. Mubashar Zaidi, a Karachi-based journalist, wrote on Twitter that Bibi could be flown out of the country soon. High Court upheld conviction. Earlier this month, the TLP said in a statement that "any attempt to hand her [Bibi] over to a foreign country" will have "terrible consequences. Blasphemy laws in Pakistan, where 97 percent of the population is Muslim, were introduced by the military dictator General Zia-ul-Haq in the s. But activists say they are often implemented in cases that have little to do with blasphemy and are used to settle petty disputes and personal vendettas. Qadri shot Taseer 28 times in broad daylight in Islamabad on January 4, , and was sentenced to death in October the same year. Subsequently, some mosques were named after him, and huge portraits of him were erected across the country. We receive death threats constantly and are moving from one place to another – and we try to support each other. I had many friends there. Masih is also scared. I am frightened that they know who I am. In one case, a young Christian girl with Down syndrome was accused in August of burning pages upon which verses of the Koran were inscribed. Rimsha Masih was taken into police custody and only released months later, when charges were dropped. The case caused an uproar in her hometown and beyond and sparked riots and violence against Christians in the region. In , she and her family relocated to Canada. In , a Christian couple was beaten to death for allegedly desecrating a copy of the Koran. Their bodies were subsequently burned in a brick kiln. In September last year, a Christian man in Pakistan was sentenced to death for sharing "blasphemous" material on WhatsApp.

Chapter 7 : Abdul Rahman (convert) - Wikipedia

Q. In English class, I chose opposing the death penalty as my stance for a persuasive speech. I believe killing other people is wrong. I thought that was the Christian belief as well.

German In response to the latest abuses against Christians, Amnesty International has initiated an "urgent action" appeal. It has called on the Iranian regime to "quash the convictions and sentences of Victor Bet-Tamraz, Shamiram Isavi, Amin Afshar-Naderi, and Hadi Asgari, as they have been targeted solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedoms of religion and belief, expression, and association, through their Christian faith. What is important to note is that in countries, run by sharia law, the constitution becomes inferior to the Islamist laws of the land. When radical Islam gains power, every article in the constitution becomes contingent on compliance with sharia. The rights that are promised in the constitution therefore become null and void. It is not enough to hope that one day Christians will be able to practice their faith in Iran without fear of persecution or death; action must be taken by the global community to ensure that the Iranian regime stands by its own constitution and provides its Christian citizens with equal rights and protections. This assertion sounds as if Islam gives Christian and Jews the same level of status and respect as their Muslim counterparts. That argument was recently confirmed when the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hassan Rouhani, claimed that "Christians have the same rights as others do. In speeches, and on paper, these words probably give the impression that Christians are not only welcome in Iran, but given equal rights and protections. However, the everyday experiences of Christians in Iran, tell a very different story. Violence and persecution against Christians have, under the sharia law of Iran, increased significantly. Each were sentenced by the Revolutionary Court in Tehran to a combined total of 45 years in prison. What terrible crime must they have committed to warrant such a harsh punishment? Surely it had to be more than simply being Christians? After all, the President of Iran had made it clear that Christians enjoy equal rights. The ambiguous charges they faced included vague terms such as conducting "illegal church activities" and threatening "national security. The international community has recently taken note of the abuse of power wielded against Christians in Iran. The latest report , from Amnesty International, pointed out that, "Christians in Iran have been a target of harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, unfair trials, and imprisonment on national security-related charges solely because of their faith. It is worth noting that, before the Islamic revolution, in order to gain support and power, fundamentalist Muslim leaders promised the Christians in Iran that they would have the same rights as Muslim citizens. They also assured Christians that they would be able freely to practice their faith. As a result, many Christians, trusting that they would enjoy the freedom that was promised to them, supported the Muslim leaders. Instead, after the Islamic revolution, anyone who did not believe in the Islamist and revolutionary ideals of the sharia theocracy became the enemy. Even recently, the Iranian president stated: All Iranian races, all Iranian religions, Shiites and Sunnis, Muslims, Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians -- whoever believes in the constitution, that is our criteria. He is a revolutionary and he must be respected. In response to the latest abuses against Christians, Amnesty International has initiated an "urgent action" appeal. Many other Christians are being jailed for baseless charges such as "Propagating against the Islamic Republic in favor of Christianity. This group of Christian converts were arrested on April 7th, There does not yet exist any information about their release. The oppression does not end here. Another Christian couple who converted from Islam, was also recently charged with "orientation toward the land of Christianity," according to Mohabat News. Even though the Christians have been told they have the right to practice their religion, they are being arrested and tormented for it. Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani was sentenced to death in for "apostasy," because he converted from Islam to Christianity. After significant pressure from legal and human rights groups, in a retrial, a court acquitted him of the charge of apostasy that carried the death sentence. The retrial ended with a guilty verdict on the charge of "evangelizing Muslims," but he was sentenced to the prison time he had already served, and released. He will have 10 years of his life stolen from him, just because he practiced his faith. As of October 2nd, more than , people has signed the petition. This may seem confusing and contradictory to some; what is important to note is that in countries run by sharia

law, the constitution becomes inferior to the Islamist laws of the land. The Christians in Iran who believed that by supporting the Islamic revolution they would be gaining protections and equal rights are now instead living in constant fear. Only increased pressure from the international community may create a change within Iran that might afford these innocent people some protections against the brutal acts that they face. Majid Rafizadeh is a Harvard-educated scholar and serves on the advisory board of Harvard International Review, an official publication of Harvard University. The articles printed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors or of Gatestone Institute. No part of the Gatestone website or any of its contents may be reproduced, copied or modified, without the prior written consent of Gatestone Institute. Get Free Exclusive Gatestone Content:

Chapter 8 : Christians Sentenced To Death Under Sharia Law

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Wednesday overturned the conviction of a Christian woman sentenced to death for blasphemy against Islam's Prophet, ordering her to be freed if she was not accused of.

Join over , people receiving email updates. Frequently, Shiite Islamic preachers and leaders can be heard stating that Islam recognized "People of the Book," which refers to Christians and Jews. This assertion sounds as if Islam gives Christian and Jews the same level of status and respect as their Muslim counterparts. That argument was recently confirmed when the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hassan Rouhani, claimed that "Christians have the same rights as others do. In speeches, and on paper, these words probably give the impression that Christians are not only welcome in Iran, but given equal rights and protections. However, the everyday experiences of Christians in Iran, tell a very different story. Violence and persecution against Christians have, under the sharia law of Iran, increased significantly. Each were sentenced by the Revolutionary Court in Tehran to a combined total of 45 years in prison. What terrible crime must they have committed to warrant such a harsh punishment? Surely it had to be more than simply being Christians? After all, the President of Iran had made it clear that Christians enjoy equal rights. The ambiguous charges they faced included vague terms such as conducting "illegal church activities" and threatening "national security. The international community has recently taken note of the abuse of power wielded against Christians in Iran. The latest report, from Amnesty International, pointed out that, "Christians in Iran have been a target of harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, unfair trials, and imprisonment on national security-related charges solely because of their faith. It is worth noting that, before the Islamic revolution, in order to gain support and power, fundamentalist Muslim leaders promised the Christians in Iran that they would have the same rights as Muslim citizens. They also assured Christians that they would be able freely to practice their faith. As a result, many Christians, trusting that they would enjoy the freedom that was promised to them, supported the Muslim leaders. Instead, after the Islamic revolution, anyone who did not believe in the Islamist and revolutionary ideals of the sharia theocracy became the enemy. Even recently, the Iranian president stated: All Iranian races, all Iranian religions, Shiites and Sunnis, Muslims, Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians -- whoever believes in the constitution, that is our criteria. He is a revolutionary and he must be respected. In response to the latest abuses against Christians, Amnesty International has initiated an "urgent action" appeal. It has called on the Iranian regime to "quash the convictions and sentences of Victor Bet-Tamraz, Shamiram Isavi, Amin Afshar-Naderi, and Hadi Asgari, as they have been targeted solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedoms of religion and belief, expression, and association, through their Christian faith. Many other Christians are being jailed for baseless charges such as "Propagating against the Islamic Republic in favor of Christianity. This group of Christian converts were arrested on April 7th, There does not yet exist any information about their release. The oppression does not end here. Another Christian couple who converted from Islam, was also recently charged with "orientation toward the land of Christianity," according to Mohabat News. Even though the Christians have been told they have the right to practice their religion, they are being arrested and tormented for it. Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani was sentenced to death in for "apostasy," because he converted from Islam to Christianity. After significant pressure from legal and human rights groups, in a retrial, a court acquitted him of the charge of apostasy that carried the death sentence. The retrial ended with a guilty verdict on the charge of "evangelizing Muslims," but he was sentenced to the prison time he had already served, and released. He will have 10 years of his life stolen from him, just because he practiced his faith. As of October 2nd, more than , people has signed the petition. This may seem confusing and contradictory to some; what is important to note is that in countries run by sharia law, the constitution becomes inferior to the Islamist laws of the land. When radical Islam gains power, every article in the constitution becomes contingent on compliance with sharia. The rights that are promised in the constitution therefore become null and void. The Christians in Iran who believed that by supporting the Islamic revolution they would be gaining protections and equal rights are now instead living in constant fear. Only increased pressure from the international community may create a change within Iran that might afford these innocent people some protections against

the brutal acts that they face. It is not enough to hope that one day Christians will be able to practice their faith in Iran without fear of persecution or death; action must be taken by the global community to ensure that the Iranian regime stands by its own constitution and provides its Christian citizens with equal rights and protections. Originally published at Gatestone Institute - reposted with permission.

Chapter 9 : Christian Woman Convicted of Blasphemy in Pakistan Awaits Ruling on Death Sentence | Faith

The charge is punishable by a maximum penalty of death under legislation that rights groups say is routinely abused by religious extremists as well as ordinary Pakistanis to settle personal scores. The law does not define what blasphemy constitutes, and evidence is often not reproduced in court for fear of committing a fresh offence.

All I can do is pray Ibrahim is Christian, her husband said. But the court considers her to be Muslim. The court also convicted her of adultery and sentenced her to lashes because her marriage to a Christian man is considered void under Sharia law. The court gave her until Thursday to recant her Christian faith -- something she refused to do, according to her lawyer. Ibrahim was born to a Sudanese Muslim father and an Ethiopian Orthodox mother. Her father left when she was 6 years old, and Ibrahim was raised by her mother as a Christian. However, because her father was Muslim, the courts considered her to be the same, which would mean her marriage to a non-Muslim man is void. Police blocked Wani from entering the courtroom on Thursday, Elnabi said. Lawyers appealed to the judge, but he refused, Elnabi said. Wani uses a wheelchair and "totally depends on her for all details of his life," Elnabi said. A request to send her to a private hospital was denied "due to security measures. In past cases involving pregnant or nursing women, the Sudanese government waited until the mother weaned her child before executing any sentence, said Christian Solidarity Worldwide spokeswoman Kiri Kankhwende. Rights groups, governments ask for compassion Amnesty International describes Ibrahim as a prisoner of conscience. It is a flagrant breach of international human rights law," the researcher said. Foreign embassies in Khartoum are urging the government there to reverse course. Sudan is one of the most difficult countries in the world to be a Christian, according to international religious freedom monitors. Under President Omar al-Bashir, the African nation "continues to engage in systematic, ongoing and egregious violations of freedom of religion or belief," the U. Commission on International Religious Freedom said in its report. The country imposes Sharia law on Muslims and non-Muslims alike and punishes acts of "indecency" and "immorality" by floggings and amputations, the commission said. Since , the U. State Department has called Sudan one of the worst offenders of religious rights, counting it among eight "countries of particular concern. Among all religious groups, Christians are the most likely to be persecuted worldwide, according to a report by the Pew Research Center. Between June and December , Christians were harassed by governments in countries , Pew reported. Islam was second, with countries. This is a matter of belief and principles," he said.