

# FAITH UNDER FIRE

*Documenting the Persecution of Christians in Pakistan*



REPORT : MARCH 2026



VOPM  
Voice of Pakistan Minority

# **Faith Under Fire: Documenting the Persecution of Christians in Pakistan**

## **Introduction**

Christians in Pakistan constitute one of the country's largest religious minority communities, yet they remain among its most vulnerable and marginalised groups. Recent census data and independent estimates suggest that Christians number just over 3.3 million people, accounting for roughly 1.4 per cent of Pakistan's population, with the majority residing in Punjab and, to a lesser extent, in urban centres of Sindh. Within this demographic, many Christians occupy the lowest rungs of the socio-economic hierarchy, employed disproportionately in sanitation work, domestic labour and other low-paid, insecure sectors. Their position at the intersection of minority religious status, entrenched class divisions and, in some cases, caste-based prejudice creates a structural environment in which discrimination and abuse are both more likely and less likely to be effectively remedied.

Despite constitutional guarantees of equality before the law and freedom of religion, the everyday reality for many Christians is marked by systematic exclusion and an elevated risk of targeted violence. Over the past several decades, human rights organisations and local monitoring groups have documented hundreds of incidents involving attacks on churches, Christian neighbourhoods and individual believers, alongside routine reports of discrimination in education, employment and access to justice. These incidents range from threats and social boycotts to large-scale mob violence that has devastated entire communities.

A central driver of this vulnerability is the misuse of Pakistan's blasphemy provisions, particularly sections 295-B and 295-C of the Penal Code, which prescribe severe penalties, including life imprisonment and mandatory death sentences, for certain forms of alleged sacrilege. Since the late 1980s, civil society monitoring has recorded at least 2,793 individuals of various faiths accused under blasphemy laws, with Christians constituting around 11 per cent of these cases despite their small share of the population. Over this period, at least 104 people have been killed in extra-judicial incidents linked to blasphemy allegations, including lynchings and mob attacks.

This report is situated within that broader context of structural vulnerability and escalating risk. It is intended to support efforts to ensure that Christians in Pakistan can live and worship as equal citizens, enjoying the full protection of the law and the fundamental rights guaranteed in the country's constitutional framework.

## March 2026

### **Abduction/Forced Conversion/Marriage**

<b>S No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Victim</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Culprit</b>	<b>Links</b>
1	17.03.26	Charlotte	Christian	Punjab		<a href="https://x.com/ayesha16g/status/2033779248696099295?s=20">https://x.com/ayesha16g/status/2033779248696099295?s=20</a>
2	09.03.26	Musrat	Chrstian	Sargodha		<a href="https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2030876131985916398?s=20">https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2030876131985916398?s=20</a>
3	02.03.26	Naeem Masih	Christian	Punjab		<a href="https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2028341455614324833?s=20">https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2028341455614324833?s=20</a>

### **Murder**

4	07.03.26	Darla	Christian	Karachi	Muslim Trust Hospital	<a href="https://x.com/FarazPervaiz3/status/2030010531822649727?s=20">https://x.com/FarazPervaiz3/status/2030010531822649727?s=20</a>
5	05.03.26	Marqas Masih	Christian	Sargodha	Muhammad Mohsin	<a href="https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2029425183153328223?s=20">https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2029425183153328223?s=20</a>
6	16.03.26	Salati Masih	Christian	Lahore		<a href="https://x.com/ayesha16g/status/2">https://x.com/ayesha16g/status/2</a>

						033468314 073108691 ?s=20
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### Torture/Attack

7	25.03.26	Christian community	Christian	Hyderabad		<a href="https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2036700549328818484?s=20">https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2036700549328818484?s=20</a>
8	17.03.26	A young boy	Christian	Kot Radha Kishan		<a href="https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2033775185233367107?s=20">https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2033775185233367107?s=20</a>

### Harassment

9	24.03.26	Christian community	Christian	Islamabad	CDA	<a href="https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2036376168845250630?s=20">https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2036376168845250630?s=20</a>
10	12.03.26	Christian community	Christian	Islamabad	CDA	<a href="https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2031997450584555991?s=20">https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2031997450584555991?s=20</a>

### Rape

11	09.03.26	10 yr old minor girl	Christian	Safdarabad	Muhammad Waseem Butt	<a href="https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2030895682341716452?s=20">https://x.com/voice_minority/status/2030895682341716452?s=20</a>
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### Blasphemy

12	28.03.26	Rimsha Masih	Christian	Lahore	Hamida	<a href="https://x.com/ayesha16g/status/2037794317037638143?s=20">https://x.com/ayesha16g/status/2037794317037638143?s=20</a>
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## Details of the Incident:

### 1. Abduction/Forced Conversion/Marriage

1. 17.03.26

A young Christian girl, Charlotte was abducted, raped & forcibly converted to Islam, her identity erased overnight to Zoya.



2. 09.03.26

Musrat, a Christian woman from Bashir Colony, Sargodha, has been forcibly converted to Islam and renamed “Ayesha.”





3. 02.03.26  
 Naem Masih from Sargodha was converted to Islam and given the Islamic name  
 Muhammad Naem.



## 2. Murder

4. 07.03.26

Christian Toddler Darla, 2.5, Dies After Muslim Trust Hospital in Karachi Refuses Treatment Over 3,000 Rupees The negligence and heartlessness of Jinnah Medical Saeed Trust Hospital have claimed the life of an innocent two-and-a-half-year-old girl.

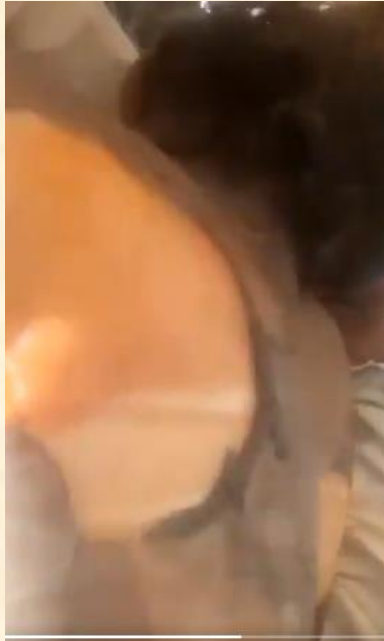
Huma Michael rushed her writhing, suffering daughter Darla to the hospital. The doctors advised ICU admission, expensive medicines were ordered, but when it came time to start the treatment, the administration's "stone-heartedness" came to the fore.

"I only had 800 rupees. I kept folding my hands in front of the doctors, begging and pleading: 'My husband is on his way with the money, please don't stop my daughter's treatment...' But they said, 'Until 3,000 rupees are arranged, no treatment will be given.'" By the time the father arrived with the money, the 3,000 rupees had come—but that little life had already been sacrificed to the hospital staff's callousness and breathed her last.



5. 05.03.26

A 20 yr old Christian youth, Marqus from Sargodha, was abducted by his landlord Muhammad Mohsin, who brutally tortured him and beat him to death. Later, he hanged the boy with a beam and attempted to stage the incident as a suicide.



6. 16.03.26

Lahore: Salati Masih, a young Christian, was mercilessly murdered with iron rods & a knife in Bao Wala. One suspect arrested, others still free.



### 3. Torture/Attack

7. 25.03.26

Some religious extremists brutally attacked and beat the members of the Christian community in Hyderabad, Sindh, just because of their faith. Christians were praying peacefully outside their homes when the attack happened.



8. 17.03.26

In Kot Radha Kishan, Pakistan, a young Christian boy working in a factory was subjected to brutal violence by a mob of extremists. He was beaten, humiliated, and forcibly had his head and eyebrows shaved at gunpoint.



#### **4. Harassment**

9. 24.03.26

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has once again announced action against Christian settlements in G-7 sector, Islamabad. Fresh concerns are rising as Christian communities fear eviction and displacement.



10. 12.03.26

Thousands of Christian residents of Rimsha Colony, H-9, Islamabad, have taken to the streets after the CDA ordered them to vacate their homes within 2 days.



## 5. Rape

11. A 10-year-old Christian girl, just a child, has been shattered by unimaginable cruelty. She was sexually assaulted by Muhammad Waseem Butt and his accomplices in Manawala, Safdarabad.



## **6. Blasphemy**

12. Rimsha Masih, a mother of two from Lahore, faces false blasphemy accusations and threats by Hamida, a Muslim woman.



## Conclusion

The evidence reviewed in this report shows that the persecution of Christians in Pakistan is rooted in a combination of discriminatory laws, deep-seated social prejudice and a persistent climate of impunity, rather than in isolated or exceptional incidents. Christians, who constitute a small minority of the population, experience a disproportionate exposure to blasphemy allegations, mob violence and systematic discrimination in education, employment and access to justice, leaving them structurally vulnerable in almost every sphere of public life. The data on blasphemy cases and extra-judicial killings, together with recent episodes of large-scale mob attacks on Christian neighbourhoods and churches, highlights how quickly hostility can escalate into collective punishment when inflammatory rhetoric and weak law-enforcement responses intersect. At the same time, the testimonies and case studies presented here demonstrate that this persecution is experienced not only in spectacular episodes of violence, but also in the quiet, daily erosion of dignity, opportunity and security.

Addressing this situation requires more than ad hoc relief or symbolic gestures; it demands sustained legal, institutional and social reforms that tackle the drivers of persecution at their source. Key priorities include revisiting and reforming blasphemy provisions and their procedures, strengthening accountability for officials who fail to prevent or respond to anti-Christian violence, and ensuring effective protection mechanisms for at-risk communities and individuals. Equally important are initiatives to challenge hateful narratives, promote interfaith solidarity and amplify Christian voices in local and national decision-making. If these steps are pursued with political will and broad-based support, they can begin to dismantle the structures that enable persecution and open the space for Christians in Pakistan to live and worship as equal citizens. In doing so, Pakistan would move closer to fulfilling its constitutional promises of freedom of religion and equality before the law, and to honouring the inherent **dignity** of all its people.