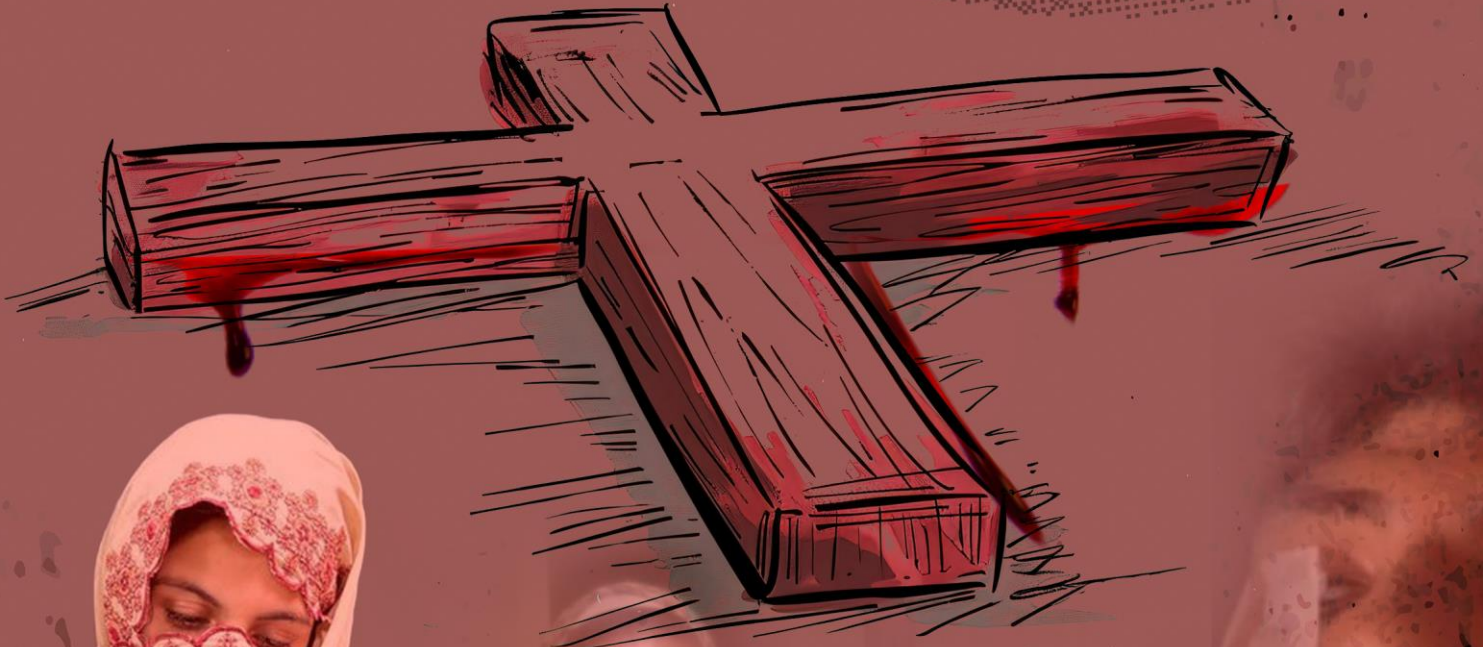


# FAITH UNDER FIRE

Documenting the Persecution of Christians in Pakistan



REPORT : APRIL 2026



# **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.

**April 2026**

**Abduction/Forced Conversion/Marriage**

S No.	Date	Victim	Religion	Place	Culprit
1	30.04.26	Sonia Javed	Christian	Punjab	
2	29.04.26	Manahil Nadeem	Christian	Punjab	
3	24.04.26	Sonia Masih	Christian	Lahore	
4	25.04.26	Kiran Shahbaz	Christian	Lahore	
5	23.04.26	Kainat Asher	Christian	Faisalabad	
6	17.04.26	Maria Gulzar	Christian	Lahore	
7	15.04.26	Jessica	Christian	Rahim Yar Khan	Muhammad Arshad
8	14.04.26	Sana	Christian	Sialkot	Markaz Ahl-e-Sunnat
9	13.04.26	Chand	Christian	Lahore	
10	13.04.26	Istisna	Christian	Sialkot	
11	08.04.26	Waziya Zahid	Christian	Toba Tek Singh	
12	09.04.26	15 yr old girl	Christian	Okara	
13	07.04.26	Iman Masih	Christian	Faisalabad	
14	06.04.26	Shahnaz	Christian	Sargodha	
15	03.04.26	A minor girl	Christian	Kot Radha Kishan	Muhammad Sajid

**Murder**

16	27.04.26	Salamat Masih	Christian	Raiwind	Muhammad Sajjad
17	28.04.26	Shahzad Masih	Christian	Faisalabad	
18	24.04.26	Inayat Masih	Christian	Clarkabad	
19	22.04.26	Fayyaz Masih	Christian	Lahore	
20	20.04.26	Muqaddas	Christian	Sadiqabad	
21	08.04.26	Dawood Masih	Christian	Sheikhupura	Muhammad Junaid

22	08.04.26	Irfan Masih	Christian	Wazirabad	Bilal Muhammad
23	03.04.26	Salamat Masih	Christian	Punjab	Muhammad Nabeel and Muhammad Asghar

### Torture

24	06.04.26	Imran Masih	Christian	Punjab	Muhammad Shafiq
25	03.04.26	15 yr old boy	Christian	Punjab	Muhammad Zubair

### Rape

26	20.04.26	Zarish	Christian	Sadiqabad	
27	16.04.26	Sweera	Christian	Nankana	
28	08.04.26	12 yr old girl	Christian	Punjab	Muhammad Shehbaz

### Harassment/Attack

29	19.04.26	Christian family	Christian	Lahore	
30	13.04.26	Christian family	Christian	Faisalabad	
31	08.04.26	Laiba Javed	Christian	Sahiwal	
32	05.04.26	Christian community	Christian	Wazirabad	Bilal Muhammad

### Abduction

33	29.04.26	Matthew Azeem	Christian	Punjab	
34	22.04.26	Sarwar John	Christian	Sialkot	
35	17.04.26	Arshad Samuel	Christian	Lahore	
36	12.04.26	Daud Masih	Christian	Gujranwala	

### Blasphemy

37	15.04.26	55 Christians	Christians	Faisalabad	
38	14.04.26	Jameela	Christian	Lahore	Asif Ali

## Details of the Incident:

### 1. Abduction/Forced Conversion/Marriage

1. 30.04.26

A 14-year-old Christian girl, Sonia Javed, has been missing since 30 April 2026. Her parents say that their daughter has been abducted with the intention of rape and forced conversion to Islam. The police refused to help.



2. 29.04.26

11-year-old Christian girl Manahil Nadeem has been missing since April 29, 2026. Her family is fearing that their daughter has been abducted with the intention of rape, forcibly converting her to Islam, and marrying her off to a much older Muslim man.



3. 24.04.26

A 30-year-old Christian woman Sonia has been abducted from Lahore with the intention of forced conversion.



4. 25.04.26

A 15-year-old minor Christian girl, Kiran Shahbaz, was abducted on 25 April 2026 from Mansha Market, RA Bazaar, Lahore.



5. 23.04.26

Kainat Asher—a brave 14-year-old Christian girl from Faisalabad, Pakistan, ripped from her family, raped, forcibly converted to Islam, and married to her abuser.



6. 17.04.26

An 11-year-old Christian girl, Maria Gulzar, was abducted in Lahore for forced conversion and exploitation.



7. 15.04.26

15yr old girl, Jessica in Rahim Yar Khan was abducted by 50yr old Muhammad Arshad, then forcibly converted to Islam & silenced.



8. 14.04.26

A Christian girl Sana from Sialkot was abducted from her home and taken to the Markaz Ahl-e-Sunnat in Sargodha. There, she was raped and then forcibly converted to Islam. She was given the Islamic name Sana Fatima.



9. 13.04.26

A 13-year-old Christian boy, Chand, taken from Lahore — another case of forced conversion in Pakistan.



10. 13.04.26

A 17-year-old Christian boy, Istisna, was abducted in Sialkot, another victim of Pakistan's shameful epidemic of forced conversions.



11. 08.04.26

14-year-old Waziya Zahid, a young Christian girl, was abducted from Gudda Khana Chowk, Toba Tek Singh, on April 8.



12. 09.04.26

In Okara, a 15yo Christian girl was abducted, raped, & forcibly converted to Islam. Parents get fake [Karachi](#) nikahnama—she's never been there!



13. 07.04.26

A 17-year-old minor Christian girl, Iman Masih, has been missing since 07-04-2026. Her family says she was kidnapped with the intention of forcibly conversion & marriage. She is a resident of Islamia College, Kotwali Road, Faisalabad.



14. 06.04.26

A Christian girl, Shahnaz from Sargodha 84 South was abducted, raped and then forcibly converted to Islam, after which she was given the Islamic name 'Noor'.





## 2. Murder

16. 27.04.26

On April 27, 2026, in Raiwind, Salamat Masih, a Christian man (father of six children), was murdered by his friend Muhammad Sajjad, who lured him to a garden and gave him poisoned water to drink.



17. 28.04.26

In Faisalabad's Ghulam Muhammad Abad area, a Christian man, Shahzad Masih, was brutally shot dead in the head by religious extremists for his faith. He was the father of two small children and the sole breadwinner of his family.



18. 24.04.26

Christian man, Inayat Masih, resident of Clarkabad, left his home on April 18 to collect firewood but never returned. Later, his dead body was recovered.



19. 22.04.26

In Lahore, a Christian man, Fayyaz Masih, was brutally murdered. His dead body was found later. Two months earlier, he had been abducted, but the police neither helped his family search for him nor registered a case.



20. 20.04.26

The tragic death of 14-year-old Muqaddas, one of two young Christian sisters abducted from Sadiqabad, Punjab. Muqaddas and her 8-year-old sister, Zarish, were later found in Karachi's Shirin Jinnah Colony, far from their home and loved ones. Medical examination confirmed that Muqaddas had been sexually abused, a crime that has left a family shattered and a community in mourning. Both girls recovered and were placed in the custody of Boat Basin Police, while Muqaddas fought for her life in the ICU in critical condition. Despite every effort, she could not survive. Her death is not just a statistic — it is the loss of a child, a daughter, a sister, and a life taken far too soon.



21. 08.04.26

Muhammad Junaid murdered innocent Christian boy Dawood Masih just because Dawood caught him raping his own maternal uncle's son!





22. 08.04.26

Young Christian boy Irfan Masih was brutally murdered as savage Bilal Muhammad rammed his vehicle into an Easter procession near Wazirabad, Pakistan.



23. 03.04.26

A Christian man, Salamat Masih, was brutally murdered by Muhammad Nabeel and his father, Muhammad Asghar, over a disgusting money dispute. After he demanded the payment that was already due to him, they attacked him with repeated brick blows and killed him in an act of pure brutality & shame.



### 3. Torture

24. 06.04.26

Imran Masih, a Christian worker in Pakistan, was brutally beaten and verbally abused after his buffalo accidentally wandered into the home of landlord Muhammad Shafiq.



25. 03.04.26

A 15-year-old Christian boy was reportedly beaten and threatened with death by Muhammad Zubair, his employer. After being sent home, he was warned that if any action is taken against Zubair, he will be killed.



#### 4. Rape

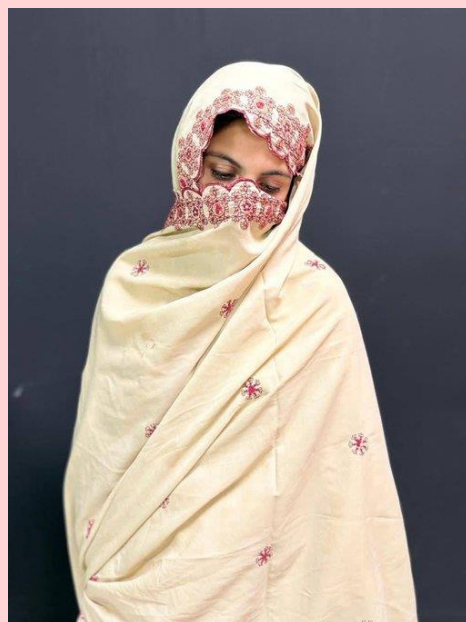
27. 16.04.26

A Christian girl, Sweera, left for work in the fields and never came home. She was held at gunpoint, brutally raped, and her lifeless body was thrown on the street like she didn't matter. Her family is shattered—and the rapist Muhammad Faizan is still not arrested.



28. 08.04.26

A 12-year-old Christian girl was raped 15 times by Muhammad Shehbaz. He remains free because the Pakistan judiciary has failed to act. Her family now faces death threats for seeking justice.



## 5. Harassment/Attack

29. 19.04.26

A Christian family in Lahore was brutally attacked by a group of Muslims who are attempting to illegally occupy the Christians' ancestral graveyard, & despite the severity of the incident, the police have not yet arrested the perpetrators.



30. 13.04.26

Faisalabad, Punjab: Muslim Neighbors Torch Christian Family's Home After Dispute, Injuring Disabled Son Blind. Hanook Masih said that in the evening, his children had an argument with the neighbors over some matter, in which his two sons were injured. One of them is my disabled son, whose arm is paralyzed. To take revenge for the fight, the neighbors set my house on fire and then fled.



31. 08.04.26

Laiba Javaid, just 20, a Christian girl from a Sahiwal village, lives in terror. A local Muslim man threatens to kill her unless she converts to Islam and marries him by April 15. Her family hides in fear.



32. 05.04.26

An Islamic extremist in Pakistan just rammed a truck into a crowd of Christian worshipers on Easter Sunday, killing innocents, injuring dozens.



## **6. Abduction**

33. 29.04.26

12-year-old Christian boy, Matthew Azeem, has been missing since 29 April 2026. His parents claim that Matthew was abducted with the intention of forcibly converting him to Islam. He is a resident of Yousafabad, Lahore.



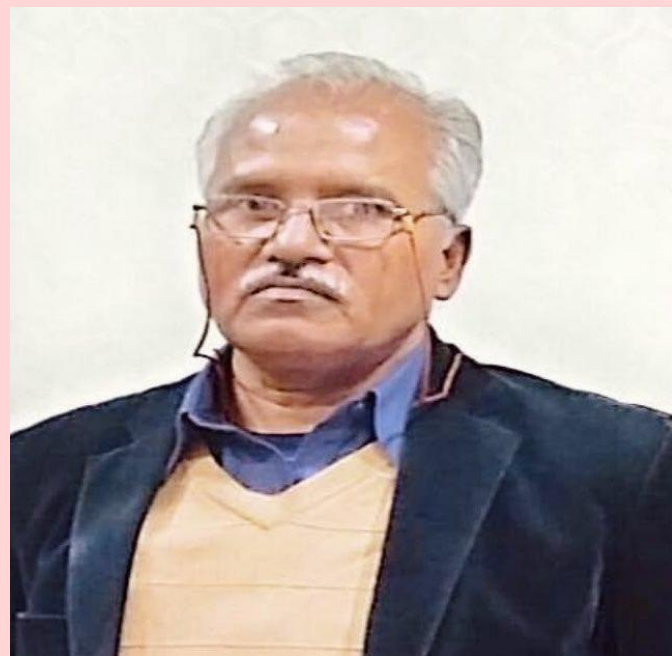
34. 22.04.26

A 65-year-old Christian man, Sarwar John, has been missing since April 22, 2026. He is a resident of Sindh Wala, Daska, Sialkot. According to his family, a few days before his disappearance, some Muslims pressured him to convert to Islam. However, he refused their offer and said, "I will die as a Christian."



35. 17.04.26

Arshad Samuel, a 65-year-old Christian from Mochi Gate, Lahore, has been missing since April 17, 2026.



36. 12.04.26

6yr old Christian boy, Daud, was abducted from Francisabad, Gujranwala on April 12— his family fears forced conversion to Islam



**7. Blasphemy**

37. 15.04.26

In Chak 206, Faisalabad, Punjab, Sunni Islamists have filed a Blasphemy case under Section 295-C—punishable by death—against 55 Christians after a graveyard dispute. Police raided homes at 4 a.m., broke down gates, and arrested 14 Christians. Locals report threats and attacks by a mob.

1	تاریخ وقت، پوسٹ	27/4 کوڑتھ	9 بجرات ہولارویں سٹی	6	قائد سے روایکی تاریخ وقت
2	نام و کنیت، الطاق و پتہ، پوسٹ	احمد علی صاحب	احمد علی صاحب	احمد علی صاحب	احمد علی صاحب
3	تھم گنیت جرم (مدفہ) کہاں کہا گیا ہے	149447 295C	148 306B	148 306B	148 306B
4	پانے ڈورہہ سالکان سے درست	کلی	کلی	کلی	کلی
5	کاروائی محتلفین کا اطلاق اور کرنے میں ہم	حکومت آ کر تھم گنیت	حکومت آ کر تھم گنیت	حکومت آ کر تھم گنیت	حکومت آ کر تھم گنیت

وقت: 12/4 کوڑتھ 9 بجرات ہولارویں سٹی

تاریخ: 12/4 کوڑتھ 9 بجرات ہولارویں سٹی

پتہ: 148 306B

تھم گنیت: 149447 295C

کلی: 148 306B

حکومت آ کر تھم گنیت

38. 14.04.26

A 50-year-old Christian woman, Jameela from Lahore Cantt, was jailed after a shopkeeper accused her of blasphemy just because of an argument over shampoo. FIR No. 2530/24 filed under Section 295-C at North Cantt Police Station by Islamist Asif Ali. She was thrown into judicial lockup the same day.



## 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