

FAITH UNDER FIRE

*Documenting the Persecution of
Christians in Pakistan*

REPORT : AUGUST 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

Abduction/Forced Conversion/Marriage

S No.	Date	Victim	Religion	Place	Culprit
1.	01.08.26	Suneel Siddique	Christian	Lahore	
2.	14.08.26	Kiran Ijaz	Christian	Lahore	
3.	06.08.26	Meerab Sadiq	Christian	Lahore	
4.	20.08.26	Sherry Abid	Christian	Gujranwala	
5.	13.08.26	Josam Bashir	Christian	Youhanabad	
6.	24.08.26	Andrew Adil	Christian	Sheikhupura	
7.	28.08.26	Ghazala Riasat	Christian	Rawalpindi	
8.	09.08.26	Faiqa Imran	Christian	Karachi	
9.	22.08.26	Zeeshan Patras	Christian	Lahore	
10.	21.08.26	Watson	Christian	Lahore	

Murder/Target Killing

11.	04.08.26	Shazib Masih	Christian	Islamabad	
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Harassment/ Torture/ Rape

12.	12.08.26	Noman Masih	Christian	Punjab	
13.	16.08.26	Ikhlaz Masih	Christian	Sheikhupura	Booba & Others
14.	21.08.26	Adnan	Christian	Sheikhupura	

Blasphemy

15.	11.08.26	Aamir Masih	Christian	Gujranwala	Jawad Mustafa, Rizwan Ali, Muhammad Ramzan
16.	28.08.26	Samuel Arif	Christian	Lahore	Muhammad Umair Alam Khan

Details of the Incidents:

1. Abduction/Forced Conversion/Marriage

1. 01.08.26

Suneel Siddique, a 14 year old Christian boy from Lahore, was kidnapped on 1 August. His parents says he was abducted with the intention of converting him to Islam.



2. 14.08.26

On 14 August 2026, 13-year-old Christian Kiran Ijaz of Lahore was abducted. Family says she was forcibly converted to Islam and married to her abductor.



3. 06.08.26

Meerab Sadiq, a 17-year-old Christian girl, was abducted in Lahore on 6 August. Her family says she was forcibly converted to Islam and married off.



4. 20.08.26

Sherry Abid, 13, of Saleem Colony, Gujranwala, was kidnapped on 20 August. Her parents fear she was taken for forced conversion to Islam.



5. 13.08.26

Twenty-five-year-old Christian Josam Bashir was kidnapped from Youhanabad on 13 August. Her family says she was converted to Islam against her will and married to her abductor.



6. 24.08.26

Andrew Adil, 13 year old Christian boy from Farooqabad, Sheikhpura, has been abducted on 24th August. His family says he was kidnapped for forced conversion to Islam.



7. 28.08.26

Ghazala Riasat, a 14-year-old Christian girl from Bahria Town, Rawalpindi, has been abducted on 28 August.



8. 09.08.26

Faiqa Imran, a 13-year-old Christian girl from Qayyumabad C Area, Karachi was abducted by Muslim men, then forcibly converted to Islam and forced married.



9. 22.08.26

16-year-old Christian Zeeshan Patras of Shad Bagh, Lahore, was abducted on 22nd August. His family says Muslim men abducted him in order to convert him to Islam.



10. 21.08.26

A five-year-old Christian boy, Watson, son of Shahbaz and a resident of Gujomata, Lahore, has been kidnapped on 21 August 2026.



2. Murder/Target Killing

11. 04.08.26

Shazib (Shahzaib) Masih, a Christian hairdresser in Islamabad, was shot dead on 4 August 2026 outside his salon near his home. Coworker Sajwal and another coworker approached him and opened fire, according to HRFP. He was taken to hospital and died of his injuries.



3. Harassment/ Torture/ Rape

12. 12.08.26

In Pasrur, Sialkot district, Christian worker Noman Masih says a group of men abused and beat him at work, called him “chura,” and pushed him into gutter water. A video of part of the incident circulated; he says he apologised but the attack continued.



13. 29.08.26

On 16 August 2026 in Ajnianwala, Sheikhpura, 18-year-old Christian Ikhlaq Masih was beaten after he stopped men from harassing Christian women on their way to church. His father, Saleem Masih, says Ali Shah and an associate known as Booba had been catcalling the women; Ikhlaq asked them to stop, an argument followed, and they left with threats. Later, outside the village, they returned with others carrying pistols, roller chains and clubs, Ikhlaq said. The assault left him unconscious, with injuries to his face, back, nose, shoulders, chest and arms.



14. 12.08.26

In Sheikhpura, Muslims forcibly raped and brutally assaulted 14-year-old Christian youth Adnan.



4. Blasphemy

15. 11.08.26

Amir Masih, a Christian bonded laborer from Dhala Sharif near Nowshera Virkan, Gujranwala, was arrested on a blasphemy charge. Complainants accused him of making offensive remarks and of sharing a Punjabi video that mixed Christian and Islamic imagery.



16. 28.08.26

Samuel Arif, 26, of Muslim Town, Lahore, was charged with blasphemy after a Muslim neighbour, Ali Hassan, accused him of insulting the Prophet Muhammad and Aisha and of harassing Hassan's minor daughters.



Mother of Christian man Samuel Arif