Persecution & Prayer Alert

Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, October 22, 2026

"Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body."
~ Hebrews 13:3 ESV

PAKISTAN: Blasphemy Allegation Sparks Mob Attack
Sources: CLAAS, Pakistan Christian Post, UCA News

An angered mob recently set fire to the home and medical clinic of a Pakistani Christian man the day after police arrested him on allegations that he had shared blasphemous content on social media. Kamran Gill, a father of three, operates a pharmacy and clinic in the village of Gharial Kalan, Punjab Province.

The targeted believer was arrested on October 8th for allegedly sharing a previously posted video (reportedly containing offensive material) that he received from another Facebook user. Due to the threat of possible violence following his arrest, Kamran's family and several other Christian residents were forced to flee the village. The next day, after Friday's Islamic prayers, a mob of enraged activists gathered outside his clinic and the family's adjoining residence. After breaking into the premises, frenzied members of the mob proceeded to damage the property and set fire to the building.

Although emergency personnel were able to extinguish the flames, those responsible for the attack fled the scene before they could be arrested. In the days that followed, police detained five suspects in connection with the incident. Prior to the apprehension of the suspected perpetrators, Kamran's family and neighbouring friends had thankfully found protection in a temporary shelter outside of their village community, and were able to return to their homes the next day. Despite this, Kamran's wife, children, mother and three brothers continue to face uncertainty and concerns for their security.

Vigilante violence is common in cases involving allegations of blasphemy. Speeches by opposing Islamic leaders regularly call for retribution, and anger over such accusations is often directed not only at the accused but also towards their family members and other innocent Christians within the community. For additional reports addressing the many challenges facing believers in this South Asian nation, go to www.vomcanada.com/pakistan.htm.

- ***Pray that the truth surrounding the blasphemy allegations against Kamran and other accused believers in Pakistan will be brought to light, so that justice can prevail in each of their cases.***
- ***In the process, may God's perfect peace and love for His beloved humankind take precedence in areas of the country where anger and hostility presently exist.***
- ***Ask the Lord to minister in tangible ways to Kamran's threatened family – and others facing similar challenges – ensuring they receive His divine strength, protection and daily provisions.***
- ***Pray that Pakistan's governing authorities and judicial officials will act courageously and impartially, providing effective advocacy and legal safeguards for all those who are at risk of injustice and life-threatening danger due to the country's blasphemy laws.***

REPORT UPDATES

IRAN: Wife of Jailed Pastor Summoned to Lengthy Prison Term

Sources: Article18, Middle East Concern

On October 21st, 2025, five Iranian Christians were sentenced to lengthy prison terms. Among those convicted was Pastor Joseph Shahbazian, who received a 16-year sentence for leading a house church; and his wife, Lida Alexani, who had been sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment. (To review a previously posted *Persecution & Prayer Alert* report on these Iranian believers' initial sentences, see www.vomcanada.com/ir-2025-12-18.htm.)

While Pastor Joseph and fellow believer Nasser Navard Gol-Tapeh have both been imprisoned since February of 2025 (prior to the official October 2025 sentencing), Lida and the other two convicted women were freed on bail. However, on October 9th of this year – almost 12 months after her initial conviction – Lida was summoned to report to the officials of Evin Prison where she has been ordered to begin serving her sentence. The charges against her include "deviant proselytizing" and "gathering and collusion."

Added Note: Some of the details pertaining to the prison sentences of these Iranian Christians have varied over the past year without clear explanations. The information included in this week's "Persecution & Prayer Alert" report indicates the latest numbers available.

- ***Pray that Lida would experience a keen awareness of God's abiding presence with her throughout this difficult season, along with the assurance that He will protect and***

sustain her physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually as she begins serving her prison sentence.

- ***In the meantime, please pray for the safe release of all five imprisoned Iranian believers, asking the Lord to intervene on their behalf by touching the hearts and minds of the country's national leaders and those administering in other levels of governance.***
- ***Overall, may the Holy Spirit continue moving powerfully throughout the nation of Iran, drawing many more people to faith in Christ while providing opportunities for believers to worship and serve Him freely without any restraint, risk of imprisonment, or threat of death.***

PAKISTAN: Differing Court Verdicts for Christian Brothers
Sources: International Christian Concern, Anglican Ink, CLAAS

In 2018, two brothers were sentenced to death on allegations of blasphemy. The charges brought against these Christian men stemmed from website material that had been posted back in 2009. (The content in question was deemed offensive to Islam.) After fleeing the country, and seeking asylum elsewhere, the brothers returned in 2014 to Pakistan where they were subsequently arrested. (For further information about each of their cases, visit www.vomcanada.com/pk-2018-12-20.htm.)

Although the convictions were later challenged, the Lahore High Court rejected the brothers' appeals in June of 2022. The case was then brought before Pakistan's Supreme Court. To the dismay of the accused brothers and their families – along with many others who have been rallying for the Christian men's acquittals – the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal that was presented on October 7th for Qaiser Ayub, thus upholding his initial death sentence. Qaiser presently remains imprisoned in Sahiwal Jail, separated from his devastated wife and three children. However, in the case of Qaiser's brother, Amoon, the court ruled to acquit him of all charges due to lack of sufficient evidence.

Throughout their lengthy legal ordeals, both brothers have been supported by the Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement (CLAAS). While welcoming Amoon's acquittal, the organization describes the ruling against his brother as "deeply distressing." Plans are now underway to pursue every remaining legal avenue to save the accused man's life.

Commenting on Pakistan's blasphemy laws, Nasir Saeed of CLAAS-UK stated: "We have repeatedly witnessed how blasphemy allegations can be misused to settle personal disputes, intimidate vulnerable people, or target individuals because of their religious identity. An accusation alone can destroy a person's reputation, livelihood and family life, even before any evidence has been tested in court." Additional reports concerning the persecution of Christians in Pakistan are available at www.vomcanada.com/pakistan.htm.

- ***While thanking God for Amoon's acquittal, please pray that Qaiser and his loved ones will be further strengthened, encouraged and protected as they continue to endure this***

prolonged ordeal – in hopes of obtaining increased prayer support and effective legal intervention.

- ***As representatives explore every remaining legal strategy, in order to secure Qaiser's release and reunification with his loved ones, may they receive God's sovereignly imparted wisdom, discernment and guidance.***
- ***In a broader sense, prayerfully ask the Lord to bring about lasting changes in Pakistan's judicial system so that the country's blasphemy laws can no longer be misused against innocent people.***
- ***Throughout the process, may God supernaturally sustain the persecuted members of our Christian family who are currently experiencing imprisonment or facing legal challenges because of such allegations, as they patiently await their hopeful vindication and freedom.***

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