





## **PERSECUTION**

OF CHRISTIANS & BLASPHEMY LAWS IN PAKISTAN AND NIGERIA

A UN Human Rights Council side event 11 July 2023, 3:00-4:00 PM Room XXV (Palais des Nations)



MODERATOR GRÉGOR PUPPINCK

Director of the European Centre for Law and Justice



HON. **NAZILA GHANEA\*** 

United Nations Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief



**FATIMA NJOKU** 

Advocacy Manager, Stefanos Foundation Nigerian Lawyer



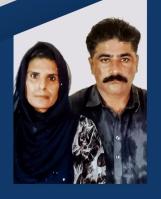
**KOLA ALAPINNI** 

Nigerian International **Human Rights** Lawyer



**CECE HEIL** 

Senior Counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice



**HINA & SHAFAQAT** MASIH\*

Mother & Father of Shahzad Masih

SPEAKERS



## OBJECTIVE

This event is being convened to highlight the ongoing abuse of blasphemy laws in Pakistan and Nigeria. The event will highlight the case of Shahzad Masih, only a 16-year-old boy when he was arrested, who has now languished in prison for over 5 years and has been sentenced to death over a false blasphemy accusation. The event will also urge the Human Rights Council to initiate an investigative mission to Nigeria to investigate and gather evidence of violence against Christians in Nigeria.

## REQUESTS

- Human Rights Council and the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN urge Pakistani authorities to expedite the hearing for appeal, overturn the conviction, release Shahzad Masih, and end the abuse of blasphemy laws.
- Human Rights Council initiate an investigative mission to Nigeria's northern and middle belt to investigate and gather evidence of violence against Christians, urge Nigeria to take steps to combat the violence against Christians by militant groups, and urge Nigeria to end the abuse of its blasphemy laws