



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Reference: fq247mws

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026

Type: Human rights violation

Original: English

Consent: I am/we are the representative(s) of the alleged victim(s),
and I/we have her/his/their consent

Related mandates

- arbitrary Detention
- freedom of opinion and expression
- religion or belief
- minority issues

Victims

Name: Qaiser Ayub

Type: Individual

Sex: Male

Victim is a child (under 18 years of age)? No

Nationality: Pakistan

Address:
Currently confined in Sahiwal jail in Pakistan

Ethnic, religious, social or other background: Christian

Occupation: Computer technician

Submitted by

Name: American Center for Law & Justice

Type: Group

Email: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Address:
American Center for Law & Justice
[REDACTED]

Describe the activities of the group/community, civil society or other entity:

The American Center for Law & Justice (ACLJ) is a non-profit law firm dedicated to defending rights to freedom of religion and speech.

Contact persons of the group/community, civil society or other entity:

Shaheryar Gill
Senior Counsel

Disclosure

Does the alleged victim(s) or group/community agree to have their name(s) disclosed in a letter that may be sent to the Government, or others, such as intergovernmental organisations including United Nations entities, businesses, military or security companies?
Yes

Does the alleged victim(s) agree to have their name(s) appear in a public report to the Human Rights Council?
Yes

Please confirm that the victim, or the victim's family, or the victim's legal representative is in agreement that the case can be dealt with through the regular procedure of the Working Group
Yes

The identity and the details of the victim's case can be communicated to the Government concerned
Yes

The identity of the victim can be published in the communications report to the UN Human Rights Council
Yes

Case details

Country where the incident allegedly occurred/is occurring/might occur: Pakistan

Please provide a short chronological summary of the incident: what happened; when (date/time); who was involved?

On June 9, 2011, charges under sections 295-C, 295-A, 295-B of the Pakistan Penal Code were filed at Police Station City Talagang. It was alleged that applicant had created a webpage containing blasphemous content.
On December 13, 2018, Additional Sessions Judge, Talagang, sentenced Qaiser Ayub to death.
On June 8, 2022, the Lahore High Court upheld the death sentence.
On October 7, 2026, the Supreme Court of Pakistan upheld the conviction and death sentence.

Are there witnesses to the incident? Don't know

Is there evidence or substantiating information concerning the incident? Don't know

Does the alleged victim believe she/he was targeted due to her/his Political or other opinion or beliefs, Religious background

Has the incident been reported to the relevant authorities? Yes

Please include details of any complaints filed or any other action taken by the alleged victim(s) or anyone else on their behalf?

The case was appealed to the Lahore High Court and then to the Supreme Court of Pakistan (Crl.P.L.A 1165/2022).

Has the Government taken action to prevent or investigate the incident, punish the perpetrators, or ensure compensation to the alleged victim(s)? No

Is this case under consideration by any other international or regional body? Don't know

arbitrary Detention

Date of arrest

11/11/2014

Approximate date?

No

What reasons were given for the arrest?

Blasphemy accusation

What was the legal basis for the arrest?

Charges under blasphemy laws

Date of detention arrest

11/11/2014

Duration of the detention

12 years

Not known / approximate

No

Place(s) of detention (indicate any transfer and the current place of detention)

Sahiwal Jail

Reasons given for the detention

Blasphemy charges

Legal basis for the detention

Blasphemy charges

What are the reasons why you believe the deprivation of liberty is arbitrary?

The courts have no direct evidence that the applicant created the alleged blasphemous website.

Are the reasons for the deprivation of liberty authorized by the law?

Yes

If yes, please elaborate

Sections 295-C, 295-A, 295-B of the Pakistan Penal Code

Are the reasons for the deprivation of liberty linked to the exercise by the victim of her/his human rights or fundamental freedoms?

Yes

If yes, please elaborate

Freedoms of speech and religion, due process, fair trial.

If applicable, do you know if the right to a fair trial has been respected? (for example : the right to defend yourself and the right to legal assistance; the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law; the right to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law; the right when charged with a criminal offence to be informed of the nature and cause of criminal charges brought against them; etc.)

No

If yes please elaborate

The right to fair trial was infringed because the investigative agencies did not have any direct evidence that the applicant created the alleged blasphemous website.

Can you indicate if complaints were made to the administrative or judicial authorities, or remedies sought with respect to this particular case ?

Yes

If yes please elaborate

The case was appealed to the Lahore High Court and then to the Supreme Court of Pakistan (Crl.P.L.A 1165/2022).

freedom of opinion and expression

If the incident involves arrest of an individual or individuals, the identity of the authority involved (individual and/or ministry and/or department), the legal statute invoked, location of detention if known, information on provision of access to legal counsel and family members, steps taken to seek domestic remedy or clarification of person's situation and status.

Stated above

religion or belief

Does domestic law require (re-)registration of religious associations and if yes, what is the current status of the group concerned by the submission?

N/A

Please indicate the denomination of the religion or belief of the alleged victim(s).

Christian

Perpetrators

Is the identity/occupation of the alleged perpetrator(s) known? Don't know

Were the alleged perpetrators State agents or believed to be State agents? Yes

State police and judicial authorities

If the alleged perpetrators were State agents, were they acting in their official capacity? Yes

State police and judicial authorities