

Absender:

His Excellency Mamnoon Hussain
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
via Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Schaperstraße 29

10719 Berlin

_____, den _____

Excellency,

the Christian family man and brickkiln worker Pervaiz Masih from the Pakistani village Gharry Wala, about fifty kilometres away from the city Kasur/ Punjab, is under arrest on account of the unjustified accusation of blasphemy since the 2nd of September. In mid-August competitors had reported him for violating paragraph 295 C of the Pakistan Penal Code after a disagreement on a bonus for a sand delivery. Before the credibility of the accusation could be proved, Pervaiz Masih had already been threatened and was hiding in fear of being lynched.

While searching for the accused, the local security forces made use of violence by insulting and abusing Masih's family members. Four relatives were taken into temporary custody. A pregnant sister-in-law reported how the policemen had mercilessly hit all of them. They had not even spared the sister of Masih's wife Zarina, who had had a Caesarean section only a week ago, and her new-born.

Pervaiz' family and his Christian neighbours are currently in highest danger. According to our information, people from the village, who had been incited by an Imam on September 3rd, have threatened to burn the Christians in the open street as they think that the Christians are all related to Pervaiz Masih and therefore share the blame.

Excellency, Since many years the International Society for Human Rights calls attention to this gap in the rule of law which is especially dangerous for Christians and other religious minorities. Pakistani human rights activists deplore that the blasphemy law has become a way of revenge in personal arguments. We urge you to immediately stand up for the release of Pervaiz Masih and for his safety, as well as for the safety of his family members and neighbours who had been living peacefully together with their Muslim neighbours for a long time and are now excluded and threatened.

Yours faithfully

