

His Excellency
Mr. Asif Ali Zardari
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
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via
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for taking the liberty of bringing the fate of the Pakistani citizen, Mr. Fanson Shahid, from Lahore to your attention. This Christian father of two was arrested in his apartment on the night of March 16, 2022 because he allegedly insulted the Islamic prophet, Mohammed.

The investigators accuse this railway employee of having hurt religious feelings with hate speech in a comment on a Facebook entry. There are, however, doubts about this account, as his family testifies that he had lost his cell phone, which he used to log into the Facebook network. The 56-year-old was nevertheless sentenced to life imprisonment on January 24, 2024, and his family feels threatened by violent fanatics.

There is reason to believe that the arrest of Mr. Fanson Shahid was only used as an excuse to demonstrate the enforcement of respect for Islam. It rather appears that this case was used to set an example. I therefore humbly beseech you, dear Mr. President, to do everything in your power to advocate the prisoner's release and to ensure his and his relatives' safety.

Most respectfully,