

His Excellency  
Mr. Arif Alvi  
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
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Pakistan  
via  
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for taking the liberty of bringing the fate of the student, Haroon Ayub (26) and his friend, Salamat Mansha (30), from Lahore to your attention.

These two Christians are accused to have violated Section 295 Clauses A through C of the Pakistani Penal Code. Salamat Mansha has been in prison since February 13, 2021. He and his friend were reported by representatives of the radical Islamic party "Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan" (TLP), following a dispute with students in the "Model Town Park." After he had been reported, Haroon Ayub was initially released on bail.

Because of these blasphemy allegations, both men will face trial in a court of law in the future. They had been discussing a Christian book in the park when Islamic students interfered uninvited and tried to forbid them from talking about Christian literature. They later accused them of hurting their feelings as Muslims and notified TLP officials, who filed charges against them.

There is reason to believe that the blasphemy allegations are only superficially a demand for respect for Islam. It appears that members of religious minorities are to be intimidated by setting a warning example.

I therefore respectfully beseech you, dear Mr. President, to do everything in your power to have these detainees released and to ensure the safety of both of them as well as that of their families. Please, your Excellency, make sure that they get a fair trial.

Most respectfully,