

His Excellency  
Mr. Arif Alvi  
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
Islamabad  
Pakistan  
via  
Botschaft der Islamischen Republik Pakistan  
Schaperstr. 29  
10719 Berlin

Fax: 030 - 212 44 210

Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for taking the liberty of bringing the fate of the Christian, Sunny Waqas, to your attention. He is accused to have violated Article 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code. He was arrested on June 29<sup>th</sup> last year during a game of cricket behind the house of a friend. His family learned only a few days later - in spite of repeated inquiries with the local police – that he had been arrested on charges of blasphemy.

A few days earlier, a dispute had erupted with other players during a game of cricket. Among them was the neighbor, Bilal Ahmad. As it later turned out, this neighbor subsequently reported Waqas for insulting the Islamic prophet Mohammed. The young Christian had allegedly carried leaflets with blasphemous content in his pocket, as Ahmad claimed to the investigators. In his environment, however, the student Sunny Waqas is considered to be highly considerate when dealing with people of different beliefs.

There are clear indications that this is less about the lack of respect for Islam and more about revenge due to perceived personal insult. I therefore respectfully beseech you, dear Mr. President, to do everything in your power to have a competent court deal with this case quickly and decisively, which would no doubt lead to the acquittal of Mr. Waqas. I think that immediate release and placement in a safe location is urgent, in order to protect the life and physical integrity of the Christian young man.

Most respectfully,