

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 approaching you on behalf of the 31-year-old Pakistani Christian, Sawan Masih, who is being held for allegedly violating section 295-C of the Pakistan Criminal Code. This street cleaner has been sitting on death row in the central prison of Faisalabad since March 27, 2014.

Mr. Sawan Masih had been in a debate about religion with a Muslim friend the year before. The man who reported him claimed that the Islamic prophet Mohammed had been insulted. On the basis of this complaint, Sawan was arrested on March 8, 2013.

The next day, loudspeakers of a neighboring mosque called for a protest against the alleged blasphemer. In response, around 3,000 enraged Muslims invaded Sawan's house in the Christian Joseph Colony of Lahore, setting fire to more than a hundred homes and businesses and two churches along the way. Hundreds of Christian families fled the threat of being burned alive in their own homes.

During the trial of Sawan Masih, the defense alleged that the case was only an excuse to drive Christians out of the settlement. An anti-terrorism court cleared all the suspects who had ravaged the Christian community on January 29, 2017. These events demonstrate that the blasphemy charge was used to kindle resentments against the Christian minority.

Therefore, dear Mr. President, I humbly beseech you to do everything in your power to assure that a competent court will handle this case as quickly as possible, and that the wrongfully accused will be acquitted. I believe that immediate release and placement in a safe place, along with therapeutic support, would be an appropriate measure

With expression of the highest esteem,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,