

Week 2: Pray for Asif Pervaiz (Pakistan)



Asif Pervaiz (37) is a Christian father of four from the Punjab capital Lahore who was sentenced to death in September 2020 under Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws. He has been in prison since October 2013, when a Muslim named Saeed Ahmed Khokhar accused him of sending blasphemous text messages.

Khokhar was Asif's supervisor in a clothes factory and Asif said he put him under constant pressure to renounce his Christian faith and convert to Islam and falsely accused him because of his resistance. Asif left his job due to the constant pressure but Khokhar continued to harass him at his new work place. Asif said that he had lost his SIM card but did not request the company to deactivate it, and that Khokhar used the SIM card to send blasphemous texts to himself and then accused Asif of having sent them.

As soon as Asif heard about the accusation he went into hiding and police began a week-long search. They arrested several members of his family and allegedly threatened them and beat his brother until the family confessed to where he was hiding. Police arrested Asif and registered blasphemy charges against him.

He was imprisoned in Lahore District Jail, where he waited almost seven years for his case to come to trial. In the jail, Asif shared a small cell with two hostile Muslims but he was permitted to have a Bible and read it nine times, including daily readings with a blind Christian prisoner who was also a victim of the blasphemy laws and who became Asif's "student".

On 8 September 2020, a Lahore court ruled that Asif would serve a three-year prison term for phone misuse, be fined 50,000 rupees (approximately €250) and be "hanged by his neck till his death". Asif's lawyer Saiful Malook, who also represented Asia Bibi, said there was no evidence to justify the charges and filed an appeal at the Lahore High Court.

Family

Asif and his wife Marilyn have three sons and a daughter. After Asif was sentenced to death Marilyn and the children had to go into hiding to avoid extremist attacks. They have now moved to a secure location.

Latest News

In October 2020, Asif was moved over 120 km to Faisalabad Jail, where he feels lonely and isolated. Marilyn travels once a month to visit him, which is very difficult, and she has applied to have him transferred back.

Prayer Diary

- Sunday** Pray for protection and good health for Asif.
- Monday** Ask God to encourage Asif and give him hope.
- Tuesday** Pray for him to be transferred back to Lahore.
- Wednesday** Pray for protection and provision for Marilyn and the children.
- Thursday** Pray for blessing and good education for the children.
- Friday** Pray that Asif would be acquitted and released soon.
- Saturday** Ask God for courage and protection for lawyers and judges.

