

Week 5: Pray for Ashfaq Masih (Pakistan)



Ashfaq Masih (39) has been in prison in Pakistan since 2017, when he was accused of blasphemy. He was sentenced to death in July 2022 and his appeal is pending in the Lahore High Court. Ashfaq is a Pentecostal Christian from Green Town in Lahore and worked as a bike mechanic before his arrest. In June 2017 he was involved in a dispute with a Muslim customer named Muhammad Irfan who brought his motorbike to be mended at Ashfaq's repair shop. When Ashfaq asked for payment Muhammad Irfan refused to pay the full amount, saying he was a poor sadhu (religious devotee) and that Ashfaq should honour him. Ashfaq refused to reduce the price, explaining that he believed only in Jesus Christ and was a poor man himself, but an argument developed and a crowd gathered. Ashfaq was accused of blasphemy for "disrespecting" the Prophet Muhammad by telling his customer that Christians believe Jesus was the final prophet.

Police arrested Ashfaq and brought him to Green Town police station, where complainant Muhammad Ashfaq (the landlord of his shop) lodged a First Information Report against Ashfaq under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code, a section that carries a mandatory death penalty, claiming that he had made derogatory remarks against the Prophet Mohammad.

Ashfaq was imprisoned in Lahore's Camp Jail, although he has since been transferred to Sahiwal Jail, 180 km from Lahore, which is a long journey for his wife Nabeela to make each time she visits.

Ashfaq testified in court that he had been framed by Muhammad Ashfaq and Muhammad Naveed, who ran a nearby bike repair shop, stating that Naveed was jealous of his success and held a grudge against him. Ashfaq's court hearings were cancelled repeatedly and he was eventually sentenced to death for blasphemy in July 2022.

Family

Ashfaq and Nabeela have a daughter aged eleven and he has a widowed father, Yaqoob, and an older brother named Mehmood. Ashfaq's mother Zeenat died in November 2019 and he was briefly released to attend her funeral. The family is very poor but is receiving support.

Latest News

Nabeela was very encouraged to receive Christmas cards from Church in Chains supporters in December 2025. She has asked whether Ashfaq could be transferred to Lahore Jail and this possibility is going to be explored as it would make visiting much easier.

Prayer Diary

Sunday	Ask God to protect Ashfaq in prison and give him hope.
Monday	Pray for Ashfaq's physical and mental health in prison.
Tuesday	Pray that Ashfaq would be transferred to Lahore Jail.
Wednesday	Ask God to bless and sustain Ashfaq's family.
Thursday	Pray that Ashfaq would be acquitted on appeal soon.
Friday	Pray for courage and protection for lawyers and judges.
Saturday	Pray for reform of Pakistan's blasphemy laws.

