

RAMZAN BIBI

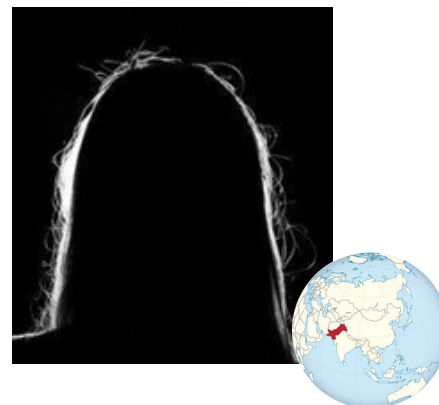
Pakistan

Christians across Pakistan are from diverse faith backgrounds and denominations, but all face persecution because of their faith in Christ. Witnessing to Muslims, gathering to worship, or sharing scripture are often dangerous activities that can lead to violence, imprisonment, or worse. With 98% of the country Muslim, Christian families and Christian converts from Islam face extreme persecution at the hands of the government and Islamic extremists. In particular, the country's harsh blasphemy laws (which are some of the worst blasphemy laws in the world) target non-Muslims. Blasphemy laws punish people for expressions or acts deemed defamatory of religions, religious symbols, figures, or even feelings. In Pakistan, that means speech or action deemed blasphemous against the traditional majority Sunni Islam.

Like Christians, Ahmadi Muslims face persecution which is often more extreme than that of Christians. Ahmadis are one of Pakistan's most persecuted religious minority groups as they are officially declared "non-Muslims" by the government, targeted mainly because they differ from the traditional Sunni Muslim majority traditions. Often, Ahmadis are treated as apostates, like Christians. Ramzan Bibi's story is the result of this view and just one of many.

Ramzan Bibi is a 59-year-old wife and mother of six and Ahmadi Muslim who, in 2020, was attacked for simply trying to make a charitable donation to one of her village's Ahmadi mosques. Shortly after making the donation, her money was returned, her non-Ahmadi family members became outraged, and she was accused of committing blasphemy by local village leaders. Reports indicate that despite there being no "evidence" against her, some local traditional Islamic leaders recruited a non-Ahmadi witness to testify against her. Her bail was rejected and she remains in prison today.

Punishments for blasphemy in Pakistan can lead to life imprisonment or even carry the death penalty. Over the last few decades in Pakistan, thousands of Ahmadis like Ramzan Bibi have faced criminal proceedings associated with their faith, with hundreds charged with blasphemy and many of their mosques desecrated. Mob violence is also common against various communities of faith.



Religion: Ahmadi Muslim

Charges: Blasphemy. Currently imprisoned, the section of the Pakistan Penal Code under which she was charged carries the death penalty.

Motive for arrest: Charitable donation to an Ahmadi mosque.

Read and share our CAAP Prayer Guide on Pakistan [here](#).

Read more about the persecution of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan [here](#) and [here](#) who suffer alongside [Christians](#).

See the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's Victims List [here](#) and pray with us for all who suffer for their beliefs.

