

## November 29, 2024

My name is Sadeeq Masih, son of Inayat Masih, I was born in Kotli Rai Abubakar, district of Kasur. I am a devoted Christian and suffered many hardships due to my faith in Jesus Christ.

Following are the details of my family:

- 1- Sadeeq Masih (Father) - 01st January 1971
- 2- Marium Sadiq (Mother) – 05th June 1975
- 3- Neha Sadeeq (Daughter) - 15th February 2000
- 4- Seneha Sadeeq (Daughter) - 18th February 2001
- 5- Alizah Sadeeq (Daughter) - 14th April 2005
- 6- Alesha Sadeeq (Son) - 23rd May 2007
- 7- Abishai Sadeeq (Son) - 15th November 2008

I studied in Kotli village in Punjab, Pakistan till Grade 3.

**April 14, 1982:** But unfortunately, my father passed away, due to his death my family was not able to financially afford my education. After my father's death, we moved to Lahore. I started working at an early age in Lahore, I have worked for 25 years in the housekeeping department at Smart Hotel Lahore Pakistan.

**November 4, 1998:** My mother arranged my marriage with Mariam and we got married. All my marriage solemnities were performed under the supervision of the Christian Fellowship Church of Pakistan. God blessed us with three daughters and two sons.

We were living in a house we bought which was located in Naseerabad Henry-K colony, Gulberg 3, street 5, H# 148, right next to my in-law's house in Lahore Pakistan. We were living a comfortable and happy life back in Pakistan but our happiness did not last long.

**October 20, 2013:** My brother-in-law Awais Masih was coming back home on his bicycle from Rehmat's house who was uncle of Awais on his way the road was shabby and damaged. There was a girl who was wearing a veil (Hijab/Burqa) the girl was crossing the road suddenly she came in front of Awais's bicycle and the girl fell on the ground. Awais tried to help her and picked up her quickly but the girl said "Don't try to touch me". The girl started to shout due to her shout people heard and gathered. She told them that "this Christian (Esai) hit me with his bicycle and tried to touch me intentionally". Awais Masih apologizes and explains, but nobody from the crowd is willing to listen to him. At this, people started beating Awais Masih. They were saying "How dare a Christian man touch a Muslim girl?" some people tried to save him and solve the situation but this situation was turned from an accident to a religious issue and disseminated in the area.

My brother-in-law Asif Sadiq was out for grocery shopping and on his way back home, he saw the crowd and heard the loud slogans 'Kill this infidel today'. He stopped to see the incident, there he saw that the people were beating his brother Awais Masih. He tried to save Awais Masih but the Muslim Mob started beating Asif Sadiq as well, During this a Muslim Cleric Al-Haj Muhammad Yasin who is the Father of the girl and he is the preacher (mulana) at Jamia Mosque Ghaziyan Bilal Nagar Gulberg 3 Lahore when he heard from the people that Awais tried to touch his daughter intentionally he started beating Asif and Awais too.

Awais Masih was so badly beaten that he lost his consciousness. People thought that he died and started fleeing from the scene, leaving them both there. Asif Sadiq sought help from the people around him and brought Awais back home. We were very worried after seeing both of them in this condition, I immediately took them to Doctor Nadeem's clinic nearby, and the doctor treated them.

We all got afraid and worried. We decided to report to the police and went to the police station to submit an application for protection but when we named the Muslim Cleric Al-Haj Muhammad Yasin to the police, the officer started to evade and tried to put it off. He said that he would investigate the incident personally, but he didn't register our complaint and suggested resolving the matter between both of the parties.

I informed Mr. Ishaq Mohabat son of Mohabat Masih who is a senior member of a welfare organization in Lahore Punjab Pakistan known as the Inter-Faith Harmony and Peace Committee about the whole incident. He assured us and said that he would try his best to help resolve this matter. After a while, Mr. Ishaq Mohabat told me that he contacted Muslim Cleric Al-Haj Muhammad Yasin and that he was very angry because we went to the police station to register a complaint against him.

But Mr. Ishaq Mohabat and Rev. Pastor Nahum-A-Khawar who is the in-charger Pastor of the Church Pray Fellowship of Pakistan. Because we were the members of this church for 14 years and this was a religious matter. Both tried to use their influence and call Muslim Cleric Al-Haj Muhammad Yasin at the Inter-Faith Harmony and Peace Committee's office to resolve the matter. The meeting was scheduled for 24th October 2013 at 11:00 am. Mr. Ishaq Mohabat suggested not to bring Asif Sadiq and Awais Masih with us to the meeting.

**October 24, 2013:** Thursday - Meeting at Inter-Faith Harmony and Peace Committee's office:

At around 11:00 am, I reached the office with some of the church members, Mr. Ishaq Mohabat, and Rev, Pastor Nahum-A-Khawar. Muslim Cleric Al-Haj Muhammad Yasin along with some of the Muslim preachers and some Muslim people came and we started the meeting.

Rev, Pastor Nahum-A-Khawar, and Mr. Ishaq Mohabat tried to explain that the incident was an accident and tried to resolve the matter and requested them to excuse Awais Masih and Asif Sadiq for this. I also apologized to them for this situation but Muslim Cleric Al-Haj Muhammad Yasin and his companions were not agreed with us. During the meeting all of our Christian people tried their best and begged for an apology, we told them that we were weak, poor, and minority in this country. But even after a long argument and discussion, they were still not willing to solve this matter.

Because we were not coming to a peaceful decision, I gave them an example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), who had many treaties with Christians and Jews in his time, I said that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) was a leader of all Muslims and he used to be very gentle and peaceful with minorities in his reign and forgave when he was asked to forgive. I said "What kind of followers of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) are you? Who doesn't even know how to forgive?" At this, all of the Muslims at the meeting got furious, harsh, and hot arguments started on religion and faith. Some of the Muslims immediately attacked me and started beating me. Muslim Cleric Al-Haj Muhammad Yasin and other Muslim preachers said that I insulted Islam by saying this. Some of them said that I was an infidel. But that was not true, I never said anything against Islam. I was brutally beaten and badly wounded, the Christians protected me and some of them took me out of meeting. Then Uncle Rehmat took me to the hospital known as Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Lahore and I

called my wife Mariam and told her that the situation was horrible and told her to lock the house and come to my uncle's house as soon as possible.

After this, Rev, Pastor Nahum-A-Khawar, Mr. Ishaq Mohabat, and the other Christians tried to calm them down. But they were demanding that the only way that Awais Masih, Asif Sadiq, and I will be forgiven is if we accepted Islam as our religion and faith otherwise, we all will be killed for insulting the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). All of the Christians including Mr. Ishaq Mohabat, and Rev, Pastor Nahum-A-Khawar requested all of the Muslim leaders and the others to forgive us again. The meeting ended and then they left the office.

The Pastor and Mr. Ishaq Mohabat contacted me and said that these Muslim people are not trustworthy and they can do anything at any moment. They suggested that we should leave our home and move to another location for a few days to let the situation and this incident cool down. They said that they would let us know when to return, we left our place and got a shelter at my uncle's house in Kotli, Rai Abubakar district of Kasur, Pakistan.

**October 25, 2013:** The next day, on Friday, Muslim Cleric Al-Haj Muhammad Yasin addressed on the loudspeakers at the mosque (khutba) he mentioned my family, and he announced that the entire family is full of infidels and blasphemers. This family insulted Islam, our Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) they should be killed. Immediately after the Friday prayer all of the Muslims at the Mosque surrounded our house and attacked it. They stoned our house, shattered the windows, and broke the gate, they were shouting the slogans that "We will never forgive the infidels and will burn all of you alive to death. How long will you hide from us?"

When we came to know about the message (khutba) and the attack on our home, through my close friend Patras Yousaf and some other neighbors, we were extremely terrified. I called Mr. Ishaq Mohabat and told him everything but he said that he was very sorry and that he couldn't help us anymore in this regard. He said that we should leave the country to save our lives, and the pastor and friends advised us the same. They said that this was the only way to save our lives, but now they cannot help us, this matter is out of their hands because the other militant groups and organizations are involved in this matter.

**February 16, 2014:** We got our passports and visas and fled from Pakistan with the help of Rev, Pastor Nahum-A-Khawar, and arrived in Thailand. Since then, I and my family have been seeking asylum in Bangkok Thailand UNHCR.