



PEOPLE OF CONCERN

PERSECUTED CHRISTIAN SURVIVORS IN THAILAND

The persecution of Pakistan's Christians has become one of the worst humanitarian challenges of our time causing a global refugee crisis that has been overlooked

In a population of over 245 million, Pakistan's Christians make up only about two percent. They are often disenfranchised, harassed, and persecuted, and many suffer from grinding poverty as a result. Discrimination in education and employment confines most to only the lowest-paying occupations.



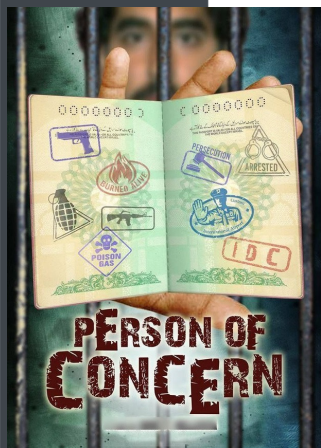
We endeavor to provide emergency aid and long-term solutions where they are most needed.

WALK LIKE A REFUGEE

Together we're building a network to help displaced people in Bangkok

Christians in Pakistan are an impoverished minority, part of the dalit or untouchable caste

In Pakistan, descendants of lower-caste Hindus who converted to Christianity centuries ago still find themselves marginalized, relegated to dirty jobs and grim fates



Pakistani Christians facing persecution in their hometown seek asylum in a seemingly welcoming country.

True stories of victims of religious persecution in Pakistan, who fled to Bangkok as refugees and sought asylum through the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

GLIMPSE IN THE LIFE OF REFUGEES.
INSIDE STORIES OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION.

Abid James - POC-1

Date of Arrival: May 26, 2014

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

When faith becomes a target, survival demands a new beginning

The narrative revolves around Abid and his family, who face escalating threats from Irfan, a member of the Sunni Tehreek, over religious tensions. The conflict begins on January 12, 2014, when Irfan warns Abid of retribution once he returns to Pakistan. Abid returns in April to celebrate Easter, and Irfan, upon spotting him at a clinic, threatens him again, calling him a "kafir."

The situation intensifies on April 25, when Irfan, accompanied by several religious figures, falsely accuses Abid of accepting Islam for monetary gain and then abandoning it. Despite Abid's denial, Irfan angrily labels him a "murtad" (apostate), prompting neighbors to intervene and defuse the situation. Fearful for their safety, Abid and his family temporarily relocate to Nazia's sister's house.

The threats escalate on April 26, when Abid is ambushed by Irfan and his accomplices, who beat him severely with baseball bats and attempt to justify killing him under religious pretexts. Strangers rescue Abid and take him to Ayesha Hospital for treatment. Fearing further attacks, Abid decides to move his family to Mariabad.

On May 8, Abid's father-in-law reports that Irfan, along with two Sunni Tehreek members, has threatened their family, trying to locate Abid. Realizing they are no longer safe, Abid and Nazia decide to leave Pakistan. By May 10, they begin the process of obtaining tourist visas for Thailand.

Finally, on May 26, 2014, Abid and his family flee to Bangkok, leaving behind the constant threats and violence in Pakistan.



Abner Afzal - POC-2

Date of Arrival: October 23, 2023

Initial Application with UNHCR: **Applied***

When faith is under attack, escape is the only refuge

Abner Afzal, a Christian from Pakistan, recounts a series of events that led to his family fleeing the country due to religious persecution. Born into a Christian family, Abner completed his education in Karachi, including a high school diploma and a 3-year IT program. In January 2023, he began assisting his father in running their family tailoring business, Salika Tailors and Drapers.



On August 16, 2023, Abner had a confrontation with Nasir, a neighboring shop owner and a fundamentalist Muslim, who criticized Christianity and questioned Abner's faith. The situation escalated, and Nasir's aggressive behavior, including insults and threats, terrified Abner. The intervention of Abner's father and an employee prevented the situation from turning into a blasphemy charge, which could have severe consequences in Pakistan.

The next day, August 17, 2023, Abner was attacked by six men near his shop. They physically assaulted him, confiscated his shop keys, and threatened him and his family, demanding that Christians leave the country. The attackers referenced the desecration of the Quran in Sweden as justification for their actions. Abner managed to escape and informed his father, after which the family went into hiding at their aunt's house.

Over the following weeks, the family faced continued threats. On August 22, 2023, a mob from a Sunni organization came to their house, accusing Abner of blasphemy and demanding the family's whereabouts. The family decided to leave Pakistan, they obtained Thai tourist visas and sold their shop to fund their escape.

On October 23, 2023, Abner and his parents finally flew out of Pakistan, seeking safety from the ongoing religious persecution they faced as a Christian minority in the country.

Aslam Shoukat Masih - POC-3

Date of Arrival: January 9, 2025

Initial Application with UNHCR: **Applied***

One man's fight to save his family from Pakistan's blasphemy laws

Aslam Shoukat Masih, a Christian from Lahore, Pakistan, recounts his family's life and the persecution they endured due to blasphemy accusations. Born into a Christian family, Aslam worked in various roles, including as a bread packer and later in tele-sales and customer support at Skillsets Online Corporation. His dedication earned him promotions, but his workplace became hostile after the hiring of two members of Tahreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), an extremist Islamic group.



The situation escalated in December 2023 when a Muslim coworker, Hafiz Sami, publicly accused Aslam of blasphemy during a religious debate about Jesus. Despite attempts to defuse the tension, Aslam faced increasing hostility from his colleagues, including Syed Obaid, the IT director. By August 2024, the threats turned violent when TLP members issued a fatwa against him, and a mob surrounded his home, forcing his family into hiding.

Fearing for their lives, Aslam and his family fled to a relative's home and began the process of securing visas for Thailand. After months in hiding, they obtained the necessary documents and left Pakistan on January 9, 2025. The ordeal highlights the dangers faced by religious minorities in Pakistan, where blasphemy accusations can lead to mob violence and state inaction.

Aslam's story underscores the impossible choice many Pakistani Christians face: abandon their homeland or live under constant threat. His family's escape reflects the broader struggle for survival and religious freedom in a country where extremist ideologies often override justice and humanity.

Azhar Qayum - POC-4

Date of Arrival: June 15, 2013

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

From the flames of persecution, a new beginning rises

Azhar Qayum, a Catholic from Lahore, Pakistan, details his life and the events that led to his family fleeing the country due to religious persecution. Born into a Christian family, Azhar completed his education and worked as a computer operator in the police force. He was actively involved in the Church Welfare Society, advocating for the rights of Pakistan's Christian community.



On March 8, 2013, Azhar witnessed the violent attack on Joseph Colony, a Christian neighborhood in Lahore, following false blasphemy accusations against Sawan Masih, a Christian man. The mob, incited by Islamic organizations, burned homes and vandalized property while the police, under orders from higher authorities, did nothing to stop the violence. Azhar, who was present during the attack, tried to intervene but was threatened by the police.

In the aftermath, Azhar and his sister Riffat filed a plea against the false accusations, but they faced severe threats from Islamist extremists, including Lashkar-e-Jhangvi. On March 26, 2013, Riffat was forced to convert to Islam and withdraw from the case after a near-death experience with extremists. The next day, Azhar and his wife, Shaheen, were violently assaulted by armed members of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, who demanded that Azhar withdraw his name from the case. Fearing for their lives, Azhar and his family went into hiding. Despite continued threats, Azhar pursued justice for Sawan Masih in court. However, after receiving a death threat.

On June 13, 2013, while preparing to leave, Azhar and Shaheen were attacked at their home by extremists who broke in and fired gunshots. The police refused to provide protection, leaving Azhar and his family to fend for themselves. With the help of a relative, Ilyas, Azhar and his family fled to Bangkok on June 15, 2013, seeking safety from the ongoing religious persecution in Pakistan.

Danish Daniel - POC-5

Date of Arrival: February 4, 2017

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

A Father's Plea for Safety After False Blasphemy Claim

Danish Daniel, a Christian sanitation worker in Karachi, fled Pakistan after being falsely accused of blasphemy by his supervisor, Wareesh Qadri—an activist with the extremist group Sunni Tehreek. When Danish declined repeated pressure to convert to Islam and requested a salary advance for Christmas, Qadri accused him of insulting the Prophet. A mob attacked Danish with pipes, and the company fired him, stating it was now "a religious matter."



The threats intensified as Qadri and his associates searched for Danish. His name was announced twice in the local mosque as "Daniel, the enemy of the Messenger." The Sunni Tehreek attacked his in-laws' home not once but twice, forcing the family to flee their residence. Danish was advised not to approach police or government authorities, as the blasphemy allegation made seeking legal protection impossible.

On February 6, 2014, Danish and his family—including his wife Zubaida and daughters Mariam and Silvia—escaped to Bangkok, where they submitted their application to UNHCR on February 10, 2014.

Their story exposes the devastating reality for Christians in Pakistan, where false blasphemy accusations are weaponized by extremist groups.

With no legal protection and the state unwilling to intervene, families like Danish's have no choice but to abandon their homes, livelihoods, and homeland for survival.

Dominic Joseph - POC-6

Date of Arrival: February 4, 2017

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

In a world where faith is a battleground, one family fights to survive

Dominic Joseph, a Christian from Jhang, Pakistan, recounts his life and the persistent religious persecution he and his family faced, ultimately leading them to flee the country. Born into a large Christian family, Dominic worked in agriculture and later in road construction before settling in Karachi with his wife, Ageela, and their three children. They built a life together, running a nursing care service and investing in property.



However, their lives were repeatedly disrupted by violence and threats from Sunni Tehreek, a radical Islamic group. In 2008, Dominic's brother-in-law, Mushtaq, was brutally attacked for evangelizing, and Mushtaq's son was killed. This marked the beginning of a series of threats and violent incidents targeting Dominic's family. In 2009, Sunni Tehreek stormed Dominic's home, threatening his family for sheltering Mushtaq, forcing them to flee and relocate multiple times.

In 2009, Dominic's brother-in-law, Patras, was shot and later kidnapped by Sunni Tehreek, who forced him to convert to Islam. Patras' conversion led to further threats against Dominic's family, including the kidnapping of Dominic's son, Gershon, in 2016. Gershon was held for ransom and released only after Dominic agreed to pay a large sum of money. Fearing for their safety, Dominic sent his wife and son to Thailand in 2017. He continued to face threats, including a direct warning from a Sunni Tehreek member on a bus, who demanded that Dominic convert to Islam or face death.

In 2018, during the nationwide protests following the acquittal of Asia Bibi, a Christian woman falsely accused of blasphemy, Dominic and his family hid in a mission compound in Multan to escape mob violence. Finally, in 2019, Dominic and his children fled to Thailand, joining his wife and son, seeking safety from the persecution in Pakistan.

Gulzar Masih - POC-7

Date of Arrival: December 7, 2015

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

In a world where faith divides, one man risks everything to protect the innocent

Gulzar Masih, a Christian from Faisalabad, Pakistan, recounts the events that forced him and his family to flee the country due to religious persecution. Born into a Christian family, Gulzar built a life for himself through hard work, running a scrap business and constructing a home for his family. However, his life took a drastic turn when he became entangled in the fallout of a blasphemy.



In 2011, Gulzar's sister Sajida's in-laws were affected by a violent attack in Gojra, where seven Christians were burned alive, and 60 houses were destroyed over blasphemy accusations. Later, in 2014, Gulzar sheltered Roma's mother and siblings after Roma was falsely accused of blasphemy and fled to Thailand.

In January 2015, Gulzar's childhood friend's father, Muhammad Gulab, discovered that Gulzar was hiding Roma's family and reported them to the police and a local Islamic leader, Haji Zafar. A mob, including members of Jamaat-e-Islami, stormed Gulzar's home, beating and threatening his family. The police warned Gulzar to hand over Roma's family or face further violence from the Muslim community.

Fearing for their lives, Gulzar and his family went into hiding, moving between cities to avoid detection. Despite attempts to reconcile with Gulab, Gulzar faced further threats, including a chilling call from Haji Zafar, who vowed to find and kill Gulzar and his family for sheltering "blasphemers."

In May 2015, after learning that his photo was being circulated by Jamaat-e-Islami members, Gulzar realized it was no longer safe to stay in Pakistan. He sold his house and, with the help of a travel agent, arranged for his family to flee to Thailand. On December 7, 2015, Gulzar, his wife, and daughter flew to Bangkok, seeking international protection.

Hina Ansar - POC-8

Date of Arrival: May 22, 2024

Initial Application with UNHCR: Applied*

Fled mob violence targeting their home in Lahore

Hina Ansar and her family fled Pakistan after facing violent persecution for their Christian faith. Hina, a beautician in Lahore, was harassed by Abu Bakar, a client's relative linked to the extremist group Tehreek-e-Labbaik. When she rejected his advances, he falsely accused her of apostasy - a crime punishable by death in Pakistan. The family's lives were immediately endangered by this baseless accusation.



The situation escalated dramatically when a mob attacked their home. In January 2024, about 20 extremists stormed their residence, shouting death threats while police stood by passively. Hina's landlord urgently warned them to flee as the mob beat down their door with iron rods. The family escaped with only essential documents and their infant son, Uriel, leaving everything else behind.

After months in hiding, they secured visas to Bangkok. The birth of their son in April 2024 underscored their need for permanent safety. They realized Pakistan could never offer protection from faith-based violence. In May 2024, they began their journey to Thailand, where they now seek formal refugee status.

Their story highlights the dangers Christians face in Pakistan. False blasphemy accusations are frequently weaponized against religious minorities. Without legal protection, families like Hina's have no recourse but to flee. Their case demonstrates the urgent need for international protection mechanisms for persecuted religious minorities.

Jahanzaib Ishaq - POC-9

Date of Arrival: December 18, 2013

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

A Child's Mistake, a Family's Exile: Fleeing Pakistan After a Quran Incident

Jahanzaib Ishaq, a Christian from Faisalabad, Pakistan, details his family's life and the persecution they faced. Born into a Christian family, he worked in hospitality and event management before moving to Lahore in 2013 for a job at the Garrison Golf and Country Club. He lived with his stepbrother, Babar Ishaq, and their families in a rented house, where the landlord was Muslim.



On November 2, 2013, their lives were upended when Babar's six-year-old son, Soham, who had a sensory impairment, accidentally tore pages from the Quran during tuition at his Muslim teachers' home. The teachers and their family reacted violently, beating Soham, his siblings, and Jahanzaib's wife, Humaira. A mob from the local Sunni Tehreek mosque soon gathered outside their home, assaulting Jahanzaib and Babar upon their return. The family narrowly escaped and sought refuge with relatives.

The threats continued, with mobs searching for them and neighbors issuing warnings not to return. With no police protection, they turned to their church for help. Pastor Sushil connected them to a travel agent, and on December 17, 2013, all ten family members fled Pakistan for Thailand on tourist visas.

The persecution stemmed from false accusations of blasphemy due to Soham's unintentional act, highlighting the dangers faced by religious minorities in Pakistan. The family's ordeal underscores the lack of legal safeguards and the constant threat of mob violence, forcing them to abandon their home and country for survival.

Kashif Younas - POC-10

Date of Arrival: November 19, 2022

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

When faith becomes a weapon, survival is the only prayer

Kashif Younas, a Christian businessman from Mianwali, Pakistan, recounts the events that forced him and his family to flee the country due to religious persecution and false blasphemy accusations. Kashif owned an electronics shop and had a successful business, but his life took a drastic turn after conflicts with two men, Qamar Zaman and Mohammad Asad, who were associated with Sunni Tehreek, a radical Islamic organization.



The trouble began when Qamar and Asad repeatedly borrowed goods on credit from Kashif's shop but failed to repay their debts. Despite Kashif's attempts to recover the money, the two men continued to delay payments, leveraging their affiliation with Sunni Tehreek to intimidate him. In August 2022, the situation escalated when Qamar and Asad staged a false blasphemy accusation against Kashif, claiming he had desecrated pages of the Quran. They attacked him in his shop, and Kashif narrowly escaped, fleeing to Faisalabad with his family.

After the attack, Kashif learned from his pastor that Sunni Tehreek members had ransacked his shop and accused him of blasphemy, a charge that carries severe consequences in Pakistan, including the risk of mob violence or death. The pastor advised Kashif to leave Pakistan immediately, as Sunni Tehreek's influence extended to government institutions, making it impossible for Kashif and his family to remain safe in the country.

Fearing for their lives, Kashif and his family went into hiding at his in-laws' house in Faisalabad. With the help of a travel agent, they applied for tourist visas to Thailand. On November 19, 2022, Kashif and his family arrived in Bangkok, seeking international protection from the ongoing threats and persecution in Pakistan.

Meelan Ishaq - POC-11

Date of Arrival: February 8, 2015

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

Under the same sky, they fought for freedom. Beneath the same sky, they found hope

Meelan Ishaq, a Christian from Gujranwala, Pakistan, recounts the events that forced him and his family to flee the country due to religious persecution and false blasphemy accusations. Meelan worked in a cardboard factory and later managed a hospital canteen in Lahore. His life took a drastic turn when his brother-in-law, Jamshed, was falsely accused of blasphemy by his Muslim coworkers at GEO News Channel, who were affiliated with Sunni Tehreek, a radical Islamic organization.



In July 2014, Jamshed discovered shredded Quran pages in his office drawer, which led to a violent attack by his coworkers. Despite being severely beaten, Jamshed was further threatened by Sunni Tehreek members, who demanded he convert to Islam. Fearing for his life, Jamshed went into hiding. However, the persecution extended to Meelan's family when Sunni Tehreek members attacked their home, assaulting Meelan's wife, Lubna, and Jamshed's mother. The attackers also fired gunshots and threatened the family, forcing them to flee Lahore.

Meelan and his family relocated multiple times, first to Qasoor and then to Gujranwala, but Sunni Tehreek members continued to track them down. In September 2014, Meelan received a threatening call from the police, accusing him and Jamshed of blasphemy. Realizing they were no longer safe in Pakistan, Meelan and his family joined Jamshed in Karachi.

With the help of a property dealer, Meelan and Jamshed sold their plots in Lahore to fund their escape. Jamshed and his wife fled to Thailand in November 2014, and Meelan, along with his wife and children, followed in February 2015, seeking international protection from the ongoing religious persecution in Pakistan.

Md. Tahir Adeel - POC-12

Date of Arrival: June 17, 2023

Initial Application with UNHCR: Applied

A Shia father's account of fleeing religious violence in Pakistan to save his family

Muhammad Tahir Adeel, a Shia Muslim from Toba Tek Singh, Pakistan, fled the country after decades of targeted persecution by Sunni extremist groups. Born into the Ahl-e-Tashiah faith, Tahir faced sectarian hatred from his youth—his village became unsafe, forcing him to hide his identity and relocate to Faisalabad in 1994. There, he built a life as an electrical engineer, married a Sunni woman who converted to Shia Islam, and kept his faith secret.



In February 2019, extremists led by Zahid Mahmood Qasmi of Sipah-e-Sahaba attacked a Shia religious procession, injuring many and vandalizing the Imambargah. A fabricated police case was registered against the victims—including Tahir. His employer fired him upon learning of his Shia identity, and he lost his engineering career. A business partner later exploited the same prejudice to steal his life savings. When Tahir beseeched the police for help, they turned him away, cursing his faith and threatening him further.

The violence escalated in October 2019. After Tahir's newborn son, Muhammad Anas, was diagnosed with a severe brain disease causing paralysis, Tahir returned to Faisalabad to save his child. Extremists spotted him and ambushed his family's car—four armed men opened fire while his wife and children screamed in terror. Tahir escaped by speeding through the gunfire.

On August 8, 2026, after years of relentless threats, economic ruin, and state abandonment, Tahir fled with his family to Thailand seeking international protection. His paralyzed son's medical needs, his children's education, and his family's survival depend on the safety they desperately seek.

Nadeem Alam - POC-13

Date of Arrival: June 17, 2023

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

A Man of God Hunted for Spreading Hope

Pastor Nadeem Alam, a Christian minister from Lahore, fled Pakistan after extremists targeted him for his ministry work. He founded Eternal Hope Ministry, traveling to remote villages to share the Gospel. During a crusade, he prayed for a paralyzed Muslim girl who was miraculously healed. The grateful family invited him to their home for continued prayer—but a madrasa student falsely accused Nadeem of trying to forcibly convert Muslim women.



In August 2024, a mob of ten extremists attacked Elder Khalid's home, brutally beating his wife with an iron rod. They then stormed Nadeem's house, hurling stones, shattering windows, and vowing to burn him and his family alive. His wife fainted from terror; his children wept in trauma. When Nadeem sought police protection, community leaders warned him that the extremists had political influence—filing a report would risk false blasphemy charges.

The family went into hiding, but extremists vandalized Nadeem's home and terrorized his ministry team. With no state protection, Nadeem, his wife Carel, children Ronald and Rechel, and brother-in-law Sunil fled to Bangkok in September 2024. They now live as undocumented asylum seekers, facing economic hardship, food insecurity, and fear of detention.

Returning to Pakistan means certain death. Nadeem pleads for protection—a place where his children can sleep without fear and he can practice his faith in peace. His story reveals how extremist groups weaponize false accusations against Christians, while the state offers no protection, forcing families to abandon everything for survival.

Naveed George - POC-14

Date of Arrival: June 17, 2023

Initial Application with UNHCR: Applied

When love defies tradition, survival becomes the ultimate act of defiance

Naveed George, a Christian from Sheikhpura, Pakistan, recounts the events that forced him to flee the country due to religious persecution and legal troubles stemming from his marriage to a Muslim woman, Arifa. Naveed worked as a chef and later set up his own food cart to support his family. His life took a drastic turn when he married Arifa in 2017, despite his mother's objections and the societal tensions surrounding interfaith marriages.



After the marriage, Arifa's behavior became increasingly influenced by her Muslim faith, leading to conflicts in their relationship. In June 2017, Arifa's father, with the help of the police, accused Naveed of kidnapping her. Naveed and his brother Zaheer were arrested, tortured, and detained for months. They were charged under Section 365-A (Kidnapping for Extortion) and faced a lengthy legal battle, during which their family sold properties to cover legal expenses.

In November 2018, Arifa's brothers kidnapped Naveed's younger brother, Yasir, demanding that Naveed confess to the kidnapping charges. Yasir was eventually rescued after 45 days, but the family continued to face harassment and threats. Naveed and his brother were acquitted of all charges in April 2021, but the stigma of his interfaith marriage and false accusations made life in Pakistan increasingly dangerous. In September 2022, Naveed was forcibly taken to a mosque by former classmates who assumed he had converted to Islam. They pressured him to perform Islamic prayers and threatened him to continue attending the mosque. Fearing for his safety, Naveed went into hiding in Lahore.

With the help of a travel agent, Naveed obtained a tourist visa for Thailand. On June 17, 2023, he flew to Bangkok, seeking safety and international protection from the ongoing persecution and threats in Pakistan.

Parveen Barkat - POC-15

Date of Arrival: June 29, 2018

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

In a house filled with secrets, one woman's courage will defy the darkness

Parveen Barkat, a Catholic woman from Sialkot, Pakistan, recounts the events that forced her to flee the country due to religious persecution and threats from a Muslim tenant, Muhammad Aslam, who was supported by members of Sunni Tehreek, a radical Islamic organization. Parveen, a retired schoolteacher, lived alone in her family home after her parents passed away and her siblings married.



In October 2016, Parveen's nephew, Daniel, arranged for Aslam to rent a room in her house. Over time, Aslam began making unwanted advances, pressuring Parveen to convert to Islam and marry him. When she refused, Aslam became increasingly aggressive, threatening to file a blasphemy case against her under Section 295C, which carries the death penalty in Pakistan. Despite Parveen's attempts to distance herself from Aslam, he continued to harass her, even bringing members of Sunni Tehreek to her home to intimidate her.

In May 2018, Aslam and two Sunni Tehreek imams attempted to forcibly drag Parveen out of her home while intoxicated. She managed to escape with the help of neighbors and fled to her sister Ruth's house in Lahore. However, Aslam and armed extremists tracked her down, storming Ruth's home and threatening the family. They accused Parveen of being a "Murtad" (apostate) and warned that anyone sheltering her would face death under Sharia law.

Fearing for their lives, Parveen, Ruth, and their family went into hiding. With the help of a travel agent, they arranged for tourist visas to Thailand. On June 29, 2018, Parveen and her family fled to Bangkok, seeking safety and international protection from the ongoing religious persecution in Pakistan.

Qasim Masih - POC-16

Date of Arrival: March 16, 2023

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

Faith tested. Family threatened. Freedom fought for

Qasim Masih, a Christian tailor from Lahore, Pakistan, recounts the events that forced him and his family to flee the country due to religious persecution and threats from his former business partner, Muhammad Ali, and members of Jamaat-e-Islami, a radical Islamic organization. Qasim had a successful garment business with Muhammad Ali, but their partnership deteriorated when Ali repeatedly pressured Qasim to convert to Islam and questioned his Christian beliefs.



In July 2022, after a heated argument about religion, Muhammad Ali physically attacked Qasim and refused to return his investment in their business. Ali also accused Qasim of blasphemy, a serious charge in Pakistan that carries the death penalty. Following the attack, a mob of 8-10 men stormed Qasim's home, assaulting his pregnant wife, Komal, and causing her to miscarry. The mob threatened to kill Qasim for blasphemy, forcing the family to flee their home and go into hiding.

Qasim and his family sought refuge with his uncle in Lahore, but the threats continued. Members of Jamaat-e-Islami searched for Qasim, spreading accusations of blasphemy and warning that he would be killed if found. Fearing for their safety, Qasim's uncle arranged for the family to apply for a visa to Thailand.

Despite financial difficulties, Qasim and his family eventually obtained a visa and flew to Bangkok on March 16, 2023, leaving behind their home and business in Pakistan. They sought international protection from the ongoing religious persecution and threats they faced in their home country.

Razia Anjum - POC-17

Date of Arrival: September 26, 2024

Initial Application with UNHCR: Applied

In the shadow of faith, survival is the ultimate act of courage

Razia Anjum Mudassar, a member of the Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya community in Rabwah, Pakistan, recounts the severe persecution and violence her family faced due to their religious beliefs, which ultimately forced them to flee the country. Razia's husband, Rai Mudassar Ahmad Khan, served in the Pakistan Army but faced discrimination and isolation from his fellow soldiers due to his Ahmadiyya faith, leading to severe mental distress.



The family's troubles began in 2013 when Razia's brother-in-law, Noman, married Rabia, a woman who had converted to Ahmadiyya. Rabia's family accused Noman of kidnapping her, leading to a court case. Although the court ruled in Noman's favor, Rabia's family continued to threaten and attack him.

Razia's husband, Mudassar, suffered a mental breakdown due to the ongoing persecution and was hospitalized for several months. He was eventually declared medically unfit for military service and discharged in 2017. Despite leaving the army, the family continued to face threats and violence from Rabia's family and other anti-Ahmadiyya groups. In 2019, Mudassar was brutally attacked by Rabia's brother, Javed, and his friends, leaving him severely injured. The family moved to Faisalabad to escape the violence, but Javed tracked them down and attacked Mudassar again in 2023, nearly killing him. This attack left Mudassar with severe physical and mental trauma.

Fearing for their lives, Razia and her family decided to leave Pakistan. They sold their house and applied for tourist visas to Thailand. On September 26, 2024, Razia, Mudassar, and their three children flew to Bangkok, seeking safety and international protection from the ongoing persecution they faced as members of the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan.

Robin Khokhar - POC-18

Date of Arrival: November 29, 2013

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

When faith is tested, survival becomes the ultimate act of defiance

Robin Khokhar and his Christian family faced relentless persecution in Karachi, Pakistan, forcing them to flee in 2013. As leather factory owners, they were targeted by extremist neighbors linked to Jamaat-e-Islami, who falsely accused Robin of blasphemy after a workplace accident involving an Islamic verse. A violent mob attacked their home, attempting to rape Robin's sister and shoot his brother, while police ignored their pleas for help.



The family endured years of harassment, kidnappings, and legal persecution under Pakistan's blasphemy laws. After a fabricated case was filed against them, they hid in a church before securing visas to Thailand. Their UNHCR refugee application was later denied, leaving them in precarious limbo. Robin's father died from stress-induced illness, compounding their trauma.

In Bangkok, the family of nine struggles with overcrowded housing and unstable work due to their undocumented status. They rely on church aid and informal jobs to survive, while Robin's mother and children remain vulnerable without legal protection. Their daughter, born in Thailand, faces statelessness.

Their story exposes the deadly risks for Christians accused of blasphemy in Pakistan. Without justice or safe return, they appeal for international protection to rebuild their lives. Their case underscores the urgent need for refugee sponsorship programs for persecuted religious minorities.

Sadeeq Masih - POC-19

Date of Arrival: February 16, 2014

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

Faith is free, but freedom comes at a price

Sadeeq Masih, a Christian from Kotli Rai Abubakar, Pakistan, recounts the severe persecution and violence his family faced due to their religious beliefs, which ultimately forced them to flee the country. Sadeeq worked in the housekeeping department of a hotel in Lahore for 25 years and lived with his wife and five children. Their lives took a drastic turn in October 2013 when his brother-in-law,



Awais Masih, was falsely accused of intentionally touching a Muslim girl after a bicycle accident. The incident escalated into a religious issue, and a mob, led by the girl's father, Al-Haj Muhammad Yasin, a Muslim cleric, brutally beat Awais and Sadeeq's other brother-in-law, Asif Sadiq.

Despite attempts to resolve the matter through the police and a meeting with the Inter-Faith Harmony and Peace Committee, the situation worsened. During the meeting, Sadeeq referenced the peaceful nature of the Prophet Muhammad, which angered the Muslim clerics, leading to a violent confrontation. Sadeeq was severely beaten, and the clerics demanded that his family convert to Islam or face death for allegedly insulting Islam and the Prophet.

The following day, Al-Haj Muhammad Yasin incited a mob through a mosque sermon, labeling Sadeeq's family as "infidels" and "blasphemers." The mob attacked their home, stoning it and threatening to kill the family. Fearing for their lives, Sadeeq and his family went into hiding at his uncle's house in Kotli.

With the help of a pastor and friends, Sadeeq and his family obtained passports and visas. On February 16, 2014, they fled to Thailand, seeking asylum and protection from the ongoing persecution they faced as Christians in Pakistan. They have since been living in Bangkok, awaiting international protection from the UNHCR.

Saleem Gill - POC-20

Date of Arrival: June 9, 2013

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

Faith, Fear, and Freedom: A Story of Survival Against All Odds



Saleem Gill, a Christian from Lahore, Pakistan, recounts the severe persecution and threats he and his family faced due to their religious beliefs, which ultimately forced them to flee the country. Saleem ran a cafeteria at the prestigious Lahore College of Art and Sciences (LACAS) for over nine years, providing meals to students and staff. However, his life took a drastic turn when Sana Ullah,

an Islamic studies teacher and member of Tehreek-e-Labbaik, began targeting him for being a Christian.

In 2013, Sana Ullah and his colleagues, Shoaib Mohammad and Anwar-ul-Haq, accused Saleem of causing illness among students and pressured him to convert to Islam. They discouraged students and staff from eating at his cafeteria, significantly reducing his income. Despite Saleem's complaints to the school's CEO, the harassment continued. In April 2013, Sana Ullah and his associates physically assaulted Saleem, falsely accusing him of blasphemy by claiming he had thrown the Quran on the ground. Saleem narrowly escaped the attack with the help of security personnel.

Fearing for his life, Saleem and his family went into hiding, first at his wife's aunt's house in Muridke and later with Pastor Zulfiqar in Gojra. In May 2013, Saleem learned that he had been formally charged with blasphemy, and Tehreek-e-Labbaik had organized protests against him, putting his life in grave danger.

With the help of Pastor Zulfiqar, Saleem fled to Thailand on June 9, 2013, seeking safety and international protection. His wife and children followed in February 2014, leaving behind their home and livelihood in Pakistan to escape the ongoing persecution and threats they faced as Christians.

Shahbaz Masih - POC-21

Date of Arrival: February 16, 2014

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

From Persecution to Refuge: A Journey of Courage and Survival



Shahbaz Masih, a Christian from Karachi, Pakistan, recounts the severe persecution and threats he and his family faced due to his religious activities, which ultimately forced them to flee the country. Shahbaz, a devout member of the United Pentecostal Church (UPC), served as a church elder and was actively involved in evangelism and church leadership. His life took a drastic turn when he began preaching to Muhammed Ramzan, a Muslim shopkeeper, who eventually converted to Christianity and was baptized in May 2015.

Following Ramzan's conversion, Shahbaz became a target of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a radical Islamic militant group. In May 2015, Shahbaz and his pastor, Ejaz Younas, were threatened by Lashkar-e-Jhangvi members, who warned them to stop preaching Christianity in Pakistan. Despite the threats, Shahbaz continued his church activities, but in June 2015, he and Pastor Ejaz were violently attacked by the same group. Shahbaz was severely beaten, and Pastor Ejaz was shot in the leg.

After the attack, Shahbaz and his family went into hiding, first at his brother's house and later at his in-laws' home in Tando Jam. In July 2015, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi members raided Shahbaz's neighborhood, searching for him and threatening his family. Realizing that their lives were in grave danger, Shahbaz and his family sold their home at a loss and arranged for tourist visas to Thailand.

On August 20, 2015, Shahbaz, his wife Asia, and their two sons fled to Bangkok, seeking safety and international protection from the ongoing persecution they faced as Christians in Pakistan.

Shahid Haroon - POC-22

Date of Arrival: May 16, 2024

Initial Application with UNHCR: Applied*

From Islam to Christianity: A Dangerous Path to Freedom

Shahid Haroon, originally named Ghulam Mustafa, was born into a devout Muslim family in Multan, Pakistan. After converting to Christianity in 2001, he faced severe persecution from his family and community, ultimately forcing him to flee his home. Shahid's conversion began after reading the Bible, which he received from a Christian friend, Akram Marhata. Despite initial resistance



from his family, Shahid left home and moved to Karachi, where he found work and continued his Christian faith. He was baptized in 2003 and later married Rubina Malik, a Christian woman, with whom he had four children.

Shahid's life in Pakistan was marked by constant fear and threats from his family, particularly his brother Ghulam Murtaza, who was a captain in the Pakistan Army and associated with Sunni Tehreek, a radical Islamic group. In December 2022, Murtaza discovered Shahid's whereabouts and began threatening him, declaring that apostasy (leaving Islam) is punishable by death under Islamic law. Fearing for his family's safety, Shahid and his wife initially fled to Thailand in April 2023 but returned to Pakistan due to financial difficulties.

However, the threats continued, and in February 2024, Murtaza tracked Shahid down again, leading to a violent attack on their home in Rawalpindi by over 100 members of Sunni Tehreek. Shahid's daughter, Marina, was beaten during the attack, and the family was forced to go into hiding. With the help of a pastor, Shahid and his family obtained new passports and fled to Thailand in May 2024.

Shahid's statement highlights the dangers faced by converts from Islam to Christianity in Pakistan, where apostasy is punishable by death under Islamic law, and radical groups actively hunt down and threaten those who leave Islam.

Suleman Rafiq - POC-23

Date of Arrival: December 28, 2013

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

Blasphemy and Betrayal: A Journey to Safety

Suleman Rafiq, a Christian from Karachi, Pakistan, recounts the severe persecution and violence he and his family faced due to his brother Elisha Rafiq's relationship with a Muslim woman, Safia Khan. Suleman worked as an X-ray technician at the 7th Day Adventist Hospital, but his life took a drastic turn when Elisha's relationship with Safia led to violent repercussions.



In July 2013, Safia's family discovered her relationship with Elisha and brutally attacked both brothers, leaving them severely injured. Safia's brother, Taimoor Khan, threatened to kill them if they continued to influence Safia to convert to Christianity. The situation worsened when Safia became pregnant, and her family vowed to kill Elisha and Suleman for allegedly insulting Islam and the Prophet Mohammed.

In November 2013, a mob stormed Suleman's home, accusing him and Elisha of blasphemy and threatening to burn them alive. The family went into hiding at their uncle's house, but the threats continued, with Taimoor Khan and his men returning to fire guns and damage their property. The Christian community was too frightened to intervene, and the family realized they were no longer safe in Pakistan.

With the help of Pastor Sohail Bashir, Suleman and his wife, Safira Sadiq, arranged to flee the country. On December 28, 2013, they escaped to Thailand, seeking refuge and safety from the ongoing persecution and threats they faced as Christians in Pakistan.

Suman Nasir - POC-24

Date of Arrival: January 25, 2014

Initial Application with UNHCR: Refused*

In the Shadow of Blasphemy, Hope Leads the Way

Suman Nasir, a Christian from Peshawar, Pakistan, recounts the severe persecution and violence she faced due to her faith, which ultimately forced her and her family to flee the country. Suman worked as a beautician at a salon in Karachi, where she was the only Christian employee. Her life took a drastic turn when her colleague, Sabah Ahmed, began harassing her for being a Christian and pressured her to convert to Islam. Sabah, whose brother was a member of the radical Islamic group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, accused Suman of blasphemy after a heated argument about religion.



In September 2012, Sabah physically attacked Suman at the salon, calling her a "blasphemer" and threatening her with death. The salon manager intervened and helped Suman escape. However, the threats continued, and a few days later, Suman and her sister-in-law were shot at by two men on motorcycles. Suman's sister-in-law was severely injured, and the family realized the attack was meant for Suman.

Fearing for their lives, Suman, her husband Nasir John, and their children fled to Peshawar. Despite changing their phone numbers and relocating, Suman continued to receive death threats from Lashkar-e-Jhangvi members, who vowed to find and kill her for allegedly insulting Islam and the Prophet Mohammed.

In October 2013, Suman and her family decided to leave Pakistan. They applied for tourist visas to Thailand and, on January 25, 2014, flew to Bangkok, seeking safety and international protection from the ongoing persecution they faced as Christians in Pakistan.

We are sponsored by people like you

*Such incidents are frequent across Pakistan,
reflecting that minorities in Sharif's so-called 'Pakistan' are **unsafe***

Christians continue to face Atrocities in Pakistan for decades now

*Please pray with us for our persecuted Christian brothers and
sisters in Pakistan*

We CAN Change!

We work with supporters to expand protection spaces for asylum seekers and refugees

Pakistan's Christians, like other religious minorities in the country, have been the target of escalating attacks in recent years.

The attacks, on individuals, their residential areas and places of worship, have mostly been motivated by the country's controversial blasphemy laws.

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Publisher	Title	Source
CNN	Pakistan's blasphemy laws persecute the weakest of the weak	https://edition.cnn.com/2018/03/01/opinions/pakistan-blasphemy-law-opinion-ispahani/index.html
Vatican News	Christian girls kidnapped and forcibly converted to Islam	https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2019-12/persecuted-christians-pakistani-kidnapped-girl-forced.html
BBC News	Why are Pakistan's Christians being targeted?	https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-35910331
The Guardian	Lahore bomb attack that targeted Christians and killed more than 70 people	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/28/pakistan-christian-leaders-express-horror-at-lahore-massacre
UCAN News	Thailand: The Bittersweet Haven for Pakistani Christians	https://www.ucanews.com/series/thailand-the-bittersweet-haven-for-pakistani-christians/36
BBC News	The Christians held in Thailand after fleeing Pakistan	https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35654804
NBC News	Why It Feels Like a 'Crime' to Be Christian in Pakistan	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/why-it-feels-crime-be-christian-pakistan-n179511

We HELP where the need is greatest

We get your funds to the people who need them most as quickly as possible

Since 1990s, scores of Christians have been convicted of "desecrating the Koran" or "blaspheming against the Prophet Muhammad."

Some of the violence is directly related to the American-led war in Afghanistan, so it has an expressly political motive.

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Publisher	Title	Source
Unreported World	Pakistan's Blasphemy Laws	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRdwVvXx_TM
i24 News	Pakistan's Persecution of Religious Minorities & Child Trafficking Continue	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZ1nKfp4Lk
BBC News	Do Christians Feel Safe In Pakistan?	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_kSx0k2HO84
Guardian News	Deadly suicide attack on Christian Church in Pakistan	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSn2vHtZwE
CBN News	Thai Police Arrest 400 Pakistani Christian Refugees	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDQG8NVfZGM
BBC Documentary	Pakistani Christian in Thailand	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMsHOT0NU-s
Voice of America	Pakistan Muslim Mob Attacks Christian Churches, Property Over Blasphemy Charges VOA News	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXJ5T5IPHaM

“We’ve managed to reach 24 persecuted Pakistani refugee families”

MONTHLY SUPPORT NEEDED

Particulars	QTY	UNIT COST	MONTH	Total	Sub Total	GRAND TOTALS
FOOD PACKAGE						
Food Package	24	2,500	1	60,000	60,000	60,000
ROOM RENT						
Room Rent	24	3,000	1	72,000	72,000	72,000
FACILITIES (Transportation, Medical & Stationary)						
Facilities	24	1,000	1	24,000	24,000	24,000
TOTAL IN THB					THB	156,000
TOTAL IN USD					CAD	6,543

Thailand, a country known for its hospitality to tourists, routinely arrests and detains asylum seekers. Many are Pakistani Christians who have fled religious persecution in their own country.

Some are children. And they are held despite being UN-registered asylum seekers, whom the UN is under a duty to protect.

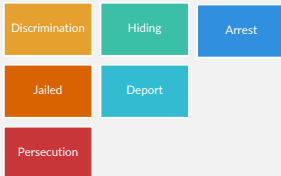
Read More: <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35654804>

CHRISTIANS HELD IN THAILAND AFTER FLEEING PAKISTAN

In Pakistan



In Thailand





My name is Rahief Afzal, but everyone calls me Sam. I am a refugee, a filmmaker, and the organizer for People of Concern (POC). My flight from religious persecution in Pakistan is the foundation upon which POC was built.

I see myself in every story we share—Abid, Hina, Razia, and so many others. They are not statistics. They are families stripped of everything because of their faith.

POC is a lifeline. When UNHCR applications are refused, we step in. We provide food, shelter, children's education, and emergency medical support. We ensure they are not forgotten.

Our vision is to build a sustainable network of support for displaced Pakistanis in Bangkok. We believe: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

Reach out. Let's go far, together.

*This is my life's mission. I invite you to join us—through monthly support, sponsorship, or simply sharing their stories.
Together, we can bring hope to the hopeless and light to the darkness.*

There's a saying: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.
"Together we're building a network to help displaced Pakistanis in Bangkok."

We Support the effort to build bridges

We can help through storytelling, monthly food packages, room rents, kids' stationery, and emergency medical & transportation, we aim to bring hope to the hopeless and light to the darkness.

Reach out and discover,

*'How nice it is to assist a good family in living their uncertain and
stateless lives while hiding.'*

“Thank You”