

## Religious Intolerance Impact of Blasphemy Allegations in Pakistan: Role of Social Media and Mainstream Media

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### Abstract

*In Pakistan, thousands of blasphemy cases have been reported. Although, blasphemy laws are most common, and most commonly enforced, in Muslim countries. However, there are many cases of extra-judicial killings and injuries. In this article, we have discussed in detail the various blasphemy cases with special reference to Pakistan. We explained the frequency of blasphemy cases across the decades, nature and, end results. This article could possibly help the government to understand the root cause, aware of the public and prevent or reduce the frequency of blasphemy cases in the future.*

**Key words:** Religious Intolerance; Blasphemy Allegations; Extra-Judicial killing; Media and Social Media.

### INTRODUCTION

Whether communication tries to evade any evils from society or trying to solve any issue, on the other hand, it's also generating some troubles, because of no appropriate and precise set of laws (Fiss,

2016). It means that the unavailability of law and policymaking the same communication is risky for society and religion as well. Religious intolerance, identity crisis, and ethnic discriminations are problems in modern Pakistan (Irsa, 2016). A massive portion of the population has access to the internet, social media and traditional media for their own needs and information in Pakistani society. Most of them are young undergraduate or school-going students in their teens. Moreover, a large number of ordinary folks, unaware of even their login details, are frequently using social media. Their primary focus is to watch, download, upload or stream something interesting; e.g., a political talk show, some movies or songs, dogs/ roaster fighting, kids videos, racing cars, etc. These users follow social media frequently but they are unaware of the context of most of the data uploaded online due to their lack of education and ability to analyze the data. Therefore, this misuse of communication has created a huge disturbance in society. Its impact has not only affected Pakistani society, but global society too; maybe in some other circumstances with other parameters, as every society has its own social derivatives. Whether they are Muslims, Hindus, and Christians, Singh if once anything comes across online on social media in Pakistani society, vis-à-vis blasphemy it's extremely anxious distractive (Haider, 2014).

This research is mainly focused on how social and mainstream media are helping to educate the people in religious intolerance, especially in the case of blasphemy issue in Pakistan. In addition, we have analyzed how cheap and easy access to communication is being utilized as a tool for inciting hatred and exploiting the emotions of illiterate masses for political and personal gains. In particular, we have focused on how the false accusations of blasphemy to settle personal revenge have unfolded in numerous recent cases in Pakistani society. Social media how the different stratum of the Pakistani society is commenting and communicating and counter comments on the issue of blasphemy.

And the most critical point that who are those forces (hidden or evident) in the social media and traditional media who are flaring up the religious emotions of the people of Pakistan by exploiting religious sentiment in the society. And why how communication (whether false or true) is delegitimizing (Pakistan is a country) (Islam is a religion) and the people of Pakistan nationally and internationally

with impacts and effects and how communication (can, cannot) reverse the phenomena. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century how Pakistani private media and governmental press reports analyze and devise public opinion on the case of blasphemy in Pakistan, and especially how English, Urdu, and Pashto media organization outlet have or had reported on the issue and with what effect and under what policy.

Pakistan is an Islamic Republic Country and the modern era of technology communication and development. According to the annual (WEF) meeting 2016, that internet in its future, digital technologies cannot help but disorder our many accessible models of business and administration. This statement reported that in the future it is predicted that more than a trillion sensors will be joined to the internet (World Economic Forum, 2016). Today, 43% of the global population is connected to the internet. To promote global trade and technological competition as well as social diversity, every country wants access to the internet. But there is an obstacle to this access too; peoples are struggling with issues like privacy, data security, relationship crisis, and misuse in terms of religious exploitation taking revenge on the name of fake allegations, etc. So the most vital point, that how to determine this very serious grievance of blasphemy through internet communication (which is through social media, Facebook, Instagram, WeChat, WhatsApp) and physically (face to face) communication and traditional media happening.

Does Islam allow communicating with the blasphemer to understand his or her point of view to serve the purpose of law for peace and security of every citizen who is Muslim or non-Muslim? And did any communication happen with blasphemer in Pakistan?

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **History of the blasphemy law**

The back history of blasphemy laws in South Asia can be traced back to British royally rule. The significant section of the British era Indian penal code of 1860 was also still and these days practiced today in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India.

According to the researcher that before the British regime to deal with blasphemy cases were neither trustworthy nor influential. The president of women wing Jamaat-e-Islami, Dr. Samia Raheel

Qazi, had written an article about blasphemy law in a newspaper in “daily Jang” on 28 November 2010. In which she wrote that in the period of Mughal ruling all court cases were passed judgment according to the Holy Quran and Sunnah but she unsuccessfully to authenticate her state with any reference or quotations.

Mughal royal leader Akbar was known and famous for open-mindedness and tolerance towards all religions. And with his efforts, he originates most excellent elements of religions which human being practiced in the subcontinent. But at that time some religious scholar’s judgment that this is a sort of blasphemy. Throughout the British government, India introduced four profanity laws. Three of which were the Indian criminal code (295, 296, and 298) in 1860 and the fourth one (IPC295A) IN 1927.

Religion was one of the mainly responsive problems of the communities living in the state or region. And numerous spiritual riots have occurred in the subcontinent, which must be communicated to apply these laws. For example in 1851 some insignificant riots were erupted in Bombay because of some objectionable publication (pamphlet) opposed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by a (Parsi) in Gujarat. In this disturbance reported approximately fifty mosques were destroyed and killed several of them. The phraseology of IPC295 and IPC296 showed that these laws were pertinent to protect society from these any kinds of religiosity performance riots. Actually, such kinds of law and rules helped British colonial rulers to preserve their order on society and their hold on supremacy.

## **HISTORY OF BLASPHEMY BEFORE AND AFTER 1947**

Throughout the British Raj in India even not only one single Muslim was ever punished for committing or perpetrating blasphemy in 200 years. According to the acknowledged report that from 1953 to July 2012 there were 434 criminals, sinner found of a blasphemer in Pakistan and among them 258 were Muslims. And non-Muslims mean, other believers like 114 Christians, 57 Ahmadis, and four (4) Hindus. So the very accepted wisdom will compel you to think about this crucial point that how and why the ratio of the blasphemer cases going more and extra higher even the Muslim culprit in a country that was shaped in the name of, especially religion they pursue or follow.

## **CATEGORIZATION OF ALLEGED BLASPHEMY VICTIMS**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century of a contemporary epoch of social actions and social justice, religious freedom, women's rights, and minorities are all together as an international fear alarm and critical issue. In Pakistani community intolerance among Muslims and non-Muslims, religious or non-religious, social or private, educational or non-educational, decision or judgment is a very brutal stage that how to squeeze them. In this perspective of intolerance in any aspect of life, any position of a person or any believers or not safe, including president of the state, a prime minister, governor judges, priest, maulanans, men, women, transgender, even teenagers 9 to 16 or not excluded.

## **HISTORY OF BLASPHEMY LAWS IN PAKISTAN & OTHER MUSLIMS COUNTRIES**

Profanity law is a law restrictive for a free will of communication and expression concerning blasphemy. Blasphemy laws are used to protect the religious historical past, present and future incidents of a majority. Even though blasphemy law also serves up to protect the spiritual beliefs of a minority. Most countries have various kinds of punishments for those that they regard as a libel or blasphemer of any defamation of religion. Some Muslim countries Blasphemy laws are following.

### **Pakistan**

The government of the Islamic republic Pakistan penal code has strictly prohibition against any religion; no one is free from punishment and death according to the blasphemy laws and penance decisions. According to the different sections slander should be punished (Ministry of Law, 2002).

**Table 1: Outline of Offences related religion**

PPC	Offense	Sentences	Year
295	<sup>1</sup> Hurt or demolish place of worship, with an intention to abuse the faith of any class	2 years custody, strict or straightforward, or fine, or both	1860
295-A	Intentional and Spiteful acts planned to anger religious thoughts of any group of religion by offensive its spiritual belief	Up to ten years imprisonment, rigorous or simple, fine, or both	1927
295-B	Impair (make worse) the Holy Quran	Required locking up for whole life	1982
295-C	<sup>2</sup> Use of defamatory comments, etc., in regard, an honor of the Holy Prophet(Hazrat Muhammad “PBUH”)	compulsory Death sentence or penalty of being with authorization legally killed or execute	1986
296	disquieting spiritual gathering or assembly	At least one-year imprisonment, fine or both is applicable	1860
297	Enter the owner’s territory without consent on burial(graveyard) places, etc.	Up to 1-year jail, fine, or both are valid in this regard	1860
298	Say utter words, etc., with on purpose aim to harm religious stance <sup>1</sup>	Fine and one-year custody in imprisonment or both is legal	1860
298-A	<sup>3</sup> Use of offensive interpretation in the esteem of holy personality	Three years imprisonment, fine, or both legally appropriate	1980
298-B	mistreatment of “dirty” imagery and titles, etc., kept for certain blessed personality or places	Up to three years penalty	1984
298-C	The group of Qadiani or the Lahore group (who describe “himself/herself” ‘Ahmadis’ or by any additional given name) who “directly or indirectly” posing as a Muslim	Fine and three years jail and both are legally pertinent	1984

Sources:

<sup>1</sup>Pakistan-On-Trial-Blasphemy-Laws-Publications-Thematic-Reports-2015-ENG.pdf

<sup>2</sup><https://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=454349&pls=1>

<sup>3</sup>International Commission of Jurists, Geneva Switzerland, November 2015

In the above table, these all offenses against religion are directly referred to as “blasphemy offenses” in Pakistan.

- (1) (PPC295): Under this section of penal code during British Raj the criminal was punished for two years or with some charges

but the fine figure is not particularly identified. And sometimes it was applicable both on a guilty person (Ministry of Law, 2002).

- (2) (*PPC295A*): It was made to order by General Zia that whoever found to hurt someone religious belief must be punished 10 years or also with fine and maybe both together according to the circumstances (Ministry of Law, 2002).
- (3) (*PPC295-B*) During Zia-UL-Haq administration according to this section against the law was got lifetime locking up. And again with a few improvements, it was changed again. And these adjustments furthermore altered with (*PPC295-C*), (*PPC296*), (*PPC298*), (*PPC298-A*), (*PPC298-B*), (*PPC 298-C*) it gives you an idea about that finally the punishment for finding someone culpable was three years, and legally responsible fine as well (Ministry of Law, 2002).

**Table 2: Approximate Filed or portfolio number of blasphemy Cases**

Cases	Charged	Years	Reports, Source
Serial no. 1	<sup>1</sup> 1,117 persons	1987 - 2011	(US 30 July 2012, 11)
Serial no. 2	1,060 individuals	1986- 2011	(HRF 2012, Para. 12)
Serial no. 3	<sup>2</sup> Above 1000 cases filed since	1980-1985	(The economist 8 September. 2012)
Serial no. 4	1200 to 4000 cases record between	1986 - 2012	(Al Jazeera on 28 August. 2012)
Serial no. 5	More than 4000 cases handled since	1985	(Express Tribune 5 Jan. 2011)

Source:

<sup>1</sup><https://www.ecoi.net/en/document/1243580.html>

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca:8080/RIR\\_RDI/RIR\\_RDI.aspx?id=454349&l=e](http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca:8080/RIR_RDI/RIR_RDI.aspx?id=454349&l=e)

### **Five Main religions review in the world**

There are 5 major religions in the world some of them are distinct in the past and some of these religions are spread all over the world. These major religions are Christianity Bahá'í Faith, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam.

### **Bangladesh**

Bangladesh is a Muslim country that has own punishment penal codes for the blasphemy law. According to (*295*) 2 (two) years charge

or also with fine and maybe both together. And (295A) was the same. And with a passage of time additional amendments made which were (296) and (298) with less penalty of the previous two sections (Ministry of Law, 2008).

### **Malaysia**

Malaysian government according to the (295) and (298-A) decided that criminals against Religion will be punished for approximately three years in jail and the fine charge should be (1000) US dollars. And Malaysian administration severely knowledgeable, that broadcasting media and print media if they go against and show disobedience of religion be supposed to severely punish with (Sharia) or through a set of laws of Malaysian penal codes (PENAL CODE, 2015).

### **Indonesia**

Research study shows that the constitution article of (27) “of Indonesian country based on the faith in the one highest God”. But the constitution did not mention clearly that which religion God is supreme then the ministry of religious affairs mention that citizen of Indonesia government should identify themselves with an ID number that which from which religion he belongs from six main religions in Indonesia. And then the article (156-A) of Indonesian state declares that if someone who publishes in form of a photograph, in words or through any way that who’s a broke system of law will be punished for five years in Indonesia (Directorate General of Law and Legislation, 1999).

### **Iran**

Iran according to the “state’s attorney” (prosecutor) office said that (“*Asemen*”) (Sky) newspaper was expelled for scattering rumors about religion “Islam”. And 513 section of penal code of Iran that anyone who is offensive religion should be a prison for one to five (1- 5) years.

### **Christianity**

Christianity is the religion which reflects the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth. The followers of the religion Christianity are known as Christians. Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God or Christ. Christians believe that Jesus is the savior of humanity who died,



suffered, and he will help them in the Day of Judgment. He is resurrected in order to bring about salvation from sin. In the early in 21<sup>st</sup> century Christianity as 1.5 billion and 2.1 billion believers which symbolize the fourth part of the world populations. Christianity is the major religion of at least 15 countries in the world. But it also happens in the minority countries in the world.

Besides that, Christianity has some disagreement among the Christianity religion which causes the multitude of Christianity

### **Bahá'í Faith**

The beliefs of the Bahá'í Faith are sub-part of Islam which arose from Islam in 1800. In Bahá'í Faith was based on Baha`u'llah and now is almost distinct from worldwide. They believed that God has sent 9 great prophets to mankind who were responsible to spread the Word of God. These religions have arisen from the teaching of Holy Prophets of one God. Bahá'í Faith believes the equality of the gender and race, freedom of expression, a government of the world, religious beliefs that one day it will be established in the world in the future at some point. They did not preserve the past but embarrassed by the science and its finding.

### **Buddhism**

The religion developed from the teaching of Siddhartha Gautama in 535BCE, the religion is also called Buddha. Gautama promoted the middle way rather than extremes of hedonism. Teachings of Buddha were written down and that is known is Tripitaka. They believe in cycles of birth, life, and death. Buddha religions do not believe in any god, the need for a savior, prayer, or eternal life after death. Religion has integrated with many regional religious, beliefs, customs and rituals into it. As it has to spread throughout the Asian countries of now, that this generalization is no longer true for all Buddhists. This has occurred with little conflict due to the philosophical nature of Buddhism

### **Hinduism**

The religion of Hinduism can be traced to the Indus Valley civilization between 4000 to 2500BC. Hinduism based on the belief in the unity of everything and it is called Brahman. The main purpose of life is that

we are part of God. Hinduism believes in the reborn after death by doings of the person whether good deeds or bad did. If the person did a good deed then God helps him to reborn at a higher level. If the person did bad deeds then God will make him a lower level or even an animal. Hindu follows a strict caste system and in Hinduism, CASTE discrimination is on the peak. Highest cast such as Brahman can only perform in Hindu religious rituals and hold positions authority within the temples.

### **Islam**

Islam was founded in 610 AD by Muhammad ﷺ in Makkah. Islam is the youngest religion among all religions. Muslims believe Islam as the religion of Adam, David, Moses, and Jesus. Muhammad ﷺ is the last Prophet of the religion Islam. The duty of Muhammad ﷺ was to remove all the errors added to the religion and formalize the religion, Islam. There are two sacred texts in Islam. The one Holy book Quran known as the Words of Allah which was given to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and others are the sayings of Muhammad ﷺ known as Hadith. Muslims follow the Holy book Quran and sayings of Muhammad ﷺ to live their life in a better way. Muslims believe in Satan who drives people to bad deeds (sins) Muslims believe that all the non-believers will send to Hell and will live their life after death which is a non-ending life. Islam has banned Alcohol, gambling and there is no place for racism in Islam. Islam believes in equality for all. Islam said, everyone has right on each other, man has right on a woman, non-Muslims have rights on Muslims, Islam respects all the prophets earlier, Abraham, David, Moses, and Jesus. But they do not accept the concept of Jesus was executed.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND PAKISTAN**

Oddbjorn Leirvik in the article “Religion in school, interreligious relations, and citizenship: the case of Pakistan” taking into consideration the “Madrassa” system and its invented role in promoting intolerance. The article highlighting mainly on the role of religion in the curricula of government-run schools by arguing that the “Madrassa” system or religious education system has become a catchword for international fears of resurgent Islam; assessments of

their actual effect on Pakistani society differ noticeably. Shortly after 9/11, P.W. Singer assessed that the “Madrassa” had ‘taken on a key role in Pakistan’s education system’ which they now ‘dominate’ as a consequence of the government’s failure to deliver free education for all (Singer, 2001). Singer quotes an estimate of 45,000 “Madrassa” in Pakistan, a number that matches more or less to figures stated for the broader category of ‘mosque schools’ in a government policy document from 1998 (Pitman and Chishtie, 2004). The involvement of the “Madrassa” system to the jihad culture, religious sectarianism, and general Islamization in Pakistan cannot be overlooked although the degree of its influence is still debatable. The emphasis of recent international discussions has been on the “Madrassas” so-called role for producing an intolerant jihad mentality, as in the case of Taliban militants trained in Pakistan. The more extreme examples of ‘hate speech’ can be found in textbooks created and dispensed free of charge by jihad-oriented groups and used in the “Madrassa” of Jamaat-ud-Dawa and the forbidden party Lashkar-e-Taiba (Liberal Forum Pakistan [LFP] 2003). Such are the motives that make it suspicious that “Madrassa” students ‘are consistently more likely to upkeep war with India and the usage of militants in Kashmir, and are less likely to care about equal rights for Pakistan’s minorities, tolerance and women’ (Fair 2006). A survey by Tariq Rahman recognized that students in Urdu- and English-medium schools were generally more accepting towards religious minorities than “Madrassa” students. When asked whether they would be prepared to give equal citizenship rights to Ahmadis, Hindus and Christians, each and every religion respectively, 47/47/66% of the Urdu-medium and 66/78/84% of the English-medium students replied in the positive, against only 13/17/18% of the “Madrassa” students. As for giving equal rights to women, only 17% of the Madrassa students braced the idea, against 75% and 91% of the Urdu- and English-medium students. (Rahman 2003, 2004).

## **TRADITIONAL MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE IN PAKISTAN**

Mainstream media and social media have an important role in our daily lives because social media allows people to connect them

globally. Especially the mainstream media of Pakistan is limited to a rural area of Pakistan, because of a slow internet connection and no facility of 3G or 4G and 2G is not valuable for using social media. In Pakistani elite class people using daily social media because they have access to the internet, wifi easily in urban cities of Pakistan. Traditional media is a source of information, education, entertainment, news and many more whatever users penetrating to know and need. In Pakistan mass media based on technological tools like Television, Radio, Newspaper etc. According to “freedom house” there are more than 95 TV channels, around 160 radio channels, and over two hundred newspapers. But Social media networks such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and traditional media have a close affiliation with each other. A report revealed that in Pakistan social media users are rising day by day. In 6 months it’s doubled from (“1.8 to 3.6”) million. Particularly nowadays the social media breaking news stories whether it is about, bomb blast, religious issues, political or political-religious, contradictory about someone private, etc in Pakistani society as most common. And this is a debatable point for the expert of communication for journalists and traditional media.

Stimulation for communication and why both media are interconnected to each other because sometimes mainstream media are incapable to cover the event or issue and when a common person he made a video and uploaded on social media it becomes viral on mass media as well. But the professional doesn’t know that who was this video making a personality? Are he was a journalist or citizen journalist? If he was an ordinary social media user how much he is credible and he knows about “journalistic ethics” and what will be the video or photos that he is sharing without any restrictions of law, finally what will be the conclusion of it? But the same most important issue and mistake that commons social media users are doing, unfortunately, professionals are repeating it in the same way because of competition that just to break news and try to be the first on traditional media (Kugelman, August 2012).

**Table 3: Detailed history of blasphemy-related selected cases**

Reported Cases/ Name	Years	Profession	Killed/verdict/prison	Religions
Ayub Masih	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 1996	Not mentioned	Killed in Sahiwal, Pakistan southern Punjab by villagers in the session's courtyard.	Christians
Dr. Muhammad Younus Shaikh	10 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 2000	Doctor, (Surgeon)	During a lecture, students allege that Sheikh said, that Muhammad (PUBH) parents were non-Muslims before Islam existing. Courts ordered that Younus Shaikh will be fine 100,000/psr and hanged. But Shaikh fled to Switzerland and left Pakistan.	Muslim
Younus Shaikh	11 <sup>th</sup> Aug.2005	The hotel manager, a writer in Kharadar	He wrote a book under the title of "Shaitan Maulvi" (Satanic cleric) on account of that book court fine; penalize him for life in prison. Because of spreading spiritual hatred among society.	Muslim
Ghulam Jamal	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jun. 2006	Culture Minister, Pakistan	A movie thriller released by American in 2006 on the name of "the Da Vinci Code" directed by Ron Howard. But Jamal said it was completely ruined of religious prophets. Its defamation of prophets which is called Blasphemy. The Christian community also protests against it.	Muslim
Raja Fiaz, Muhammad Bilal, Nazar Zakir Hussain, Qazi Farooq, Muhammad Rafique, Muhammad Saddique and Ghulam Hussain	Feb. 2008	Messiah Foundation International (MFI) Riaz, a Leader, and team to promote the Goharian "philosophy of divine love."	This foundation was affiliated to (UNHRC) Raja Fiaz and others six were running/ administrating from Pakistan. After allegations received that they revealed the common person as "Imam Mehdi". Lahore Court decided each accused five years imprisonment.	Muslim
Hector Aleem	22 Jan.2009	Human right activist, "Chairman of Peace worldwide "	Hector, arrested on accuse of blasphemy because someone sent blasphemy text messages to (Sunni Tahreek) Chairman. Because he contacted him once before. Finally, the court finds him announce.	Christian
Two teenage brothers	9 <sup>th</sup> Jul. 2009	Student's	The same complaint of blasphemy charges on both brothers received. Hundred of (Sipah-Sahaba) started to killed numerous Christians and burn their houses in Faisal Abad city Gojra. Cause they used blasphemous language against the prophet Muhammad.	Christian
Rashid Emmanuel Sajid	Jul. 2010	Company employees	A factory owner said, that these employees distributed pamphlet which carry rude comments about Muhammad. According to police, they find both person signatures on these papers. As a result, finally, both brothers were killed by peoples, while police moving them from court to jail.	Christian
Asia Bibi	Nov. 2010	House-wife	She is a Pakistani Christian woman because of fake allegations that she commits blasphemy. We were in jail for 8 years. In October 2018 Pakistani supreme court decided to release her because of	Christian

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			unsatisfactory evidence. But still, she has life threaten form religious mobs.	
Salman Taseer	2011	Punjab Governor from 2008- till his assassination	Salman just supported Asia Bibi and held the conference together that she didn't commit blasphemy it's just personal disputes on water. Local mosque leaders (Imam's) announced that he should kill now. He is supporting blasphemer. The security guard of a governor (Qadri) fired and killed Salman Taseer.	Muslim
Clement Shahbaz Bhatti	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar. 2011	Federal Minister Of Minorities	Bhatti was a national assembly minister for minorities' affairs. He was going to work on the way several gunmen stopped his vehicle and killed him. According to BBC News report, that on the spot some pamphlets founded, on the name of al-Qaeda and Tahrir-i- Taliban Punjab. The spokesman of the groups Ahsanullah Ahsan told to BBC News that this man was a blasphemer. We will target all those who will speak or do anything against the law or our Prophet Muhammad.	Christian
Shahid Nadeem	12 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011	A School Teacher	Shahid Nadeem was a teacher in Lahore. Qari M, Afzal FIR against him that he burns pages of Holy Book Quran. He was accused of erasing pages from the Quran.	Christian
Muhammad Ajmal	July. 2011	Not mentioned	Rawalpindi local religious groups speak out that, Ajmal was found having anti-Islamic and blasphemous material in his apartment. In print also on his laptop as well. After the Religious cleric's announcement soon Ajmal disappeared.	Muslim
Rimsha Masih	Aug.2012	14 years old girl	Rimsha was arrested by Islamabad police for burning the Quran. She could face the death penalty. Finally, the court discharges her case to not find her guilty. And not true evidence.	Christian
Arfa Iftikhar	Oct.2012	School Teacher	Arfa, was a teacher in Lahore city, by mistake she written something wrong to give a test to students. But local peoples announced in a mosque and blaze the public that the teacher did blasphemy. The school principal told the police that we don't have any concerns with her. Give her punishment according to the law. But one of the administrators said to daily "dawn news" paper that the case generally looks like had panned and preplanned even Arfa is still saying that it's by mistake not by choice.	Muslim
Salma Fatima	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep.2013	Schoolteacher	Salma was also a teacher in Lahore. She stated herself as a prophet and spread pamphlets around the city. Before killing someone else, the police took her to a female police station and the court throws her for life imprisonment.	Muslim
Muhammad Asghar	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan.2014	Pakistani, with British nationality	According to a BBC report, That Asghar said that he is a prophet. These derogatory comments are clearly related to blasphemy. His lawyer requested to judges that maybe he has mantel problems but in a medical report, he was clear. Inside courts again he said to judges that he is a prophet. On the basis of these, all pieces of evidence court	Muslim

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			punished him for a death sentence.	
Ayaz Nizami	Mar-17	Blogger	Nizami was updating his online website in groups for sharing illegal and blasphemous materials. Authority ordered to shut down his all online accounts. In his case review court founded him accountable. On such charges, the court punished him for a death sentence. Pakistani PM Nawaz Sharif supported this concentrated effort of courts.	Muslim
Mashal Khan	April.2017	University Student	Mashal, a university student was killed by his fellow and university administration because of fake allegations. That he commits blasphemy. All 58 men arrested by police and till now just one person received a death-sentenced who openly shoot him. Others approximately 57 persons facing individually trial of court.	Muslim

Sources:

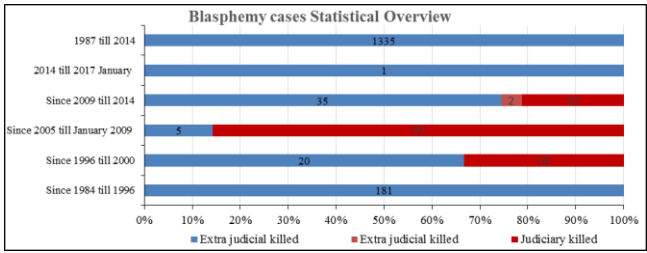
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8. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1380736>

**Table 4: Blasphemy Cases Statistical Overview**

Decade	Extra judicial killed	Judiciary killed
1984 till 1996	181 Peoples killed	Nobody found
1996 till 2000	Also killed 15 to 20	Courts verdicts cases 5 to 10
2005 till Jan 2009	3 to 5 peoples	25 to 30 verdicts
2009 till 2014	Around 30 to 35 killed two disappeared	5 to 10 cases decided
2014 till Jan 2017	Killed 1 person	Nobody found
1987 till 2014 now	633 Muslims, 494 Ahmadis, 187 Christian and 21 Hindus accused under various cases of blasphemy	Nobody found

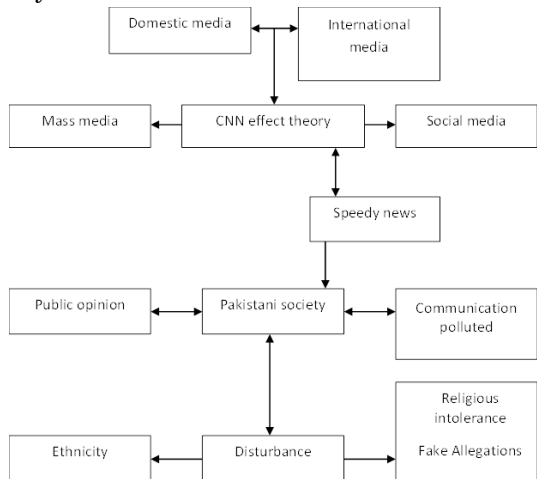
Source:

- 1: <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/blasphemy/index.php>
- 2: <https://www.dawn.com/news/750512>
- 3: <http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?article46971>



## CNN EFFECT THEORY & MODEL

This review article and the CNN effect theory constitute the fact that the CNN effect theory is related to Western intervention in local humanitarian violence, accusations, and war globally. And the relationship between media, and Pakistani society? How the media frame issues questions to the audience/viewers. This paper is exploring that, how the religious haters and civilians of Pakistan are framed. And how the media manipulated the government and policymakers. How viewers or readers have a dependency on media? How are media making a speedy context? Finally why its questionable discussion of a CNN effect, international and domestic media role. Does media social media educate us on how to think or what to think about any media related context? And how to overcome these allegations, violence, and communication polluted disorder in Pakistani society.



**Figure 1: CNN effect Theory and Model**



In 1962, the US only 29 percent of peoples rely on television as a source of information. In 1980 this figure reached 51 percent. After the 9/11 attacks which are firstly reported by the CNN group the United States viewers reached, 81 percent. The study indicates that television is a trusted news information source for them. National and international media directly targeting pressurizing Pakistani society state policies interruption elite, middle and in common society created huge disturbance. In a sense of spiritual clashes, your god and my God, allegations ethnicity, etc.

## **VARIOUS INSTANCES OF BLASPHEMY ALLEGATION IN PAKISTAN**

### **Mashal Khan Case**

Mashal was a student at Abdul Wali Khan University from Mardan KPK, Pakistan. Khan completed his preliminary schooling in his place of birth. For further education he got admission abroad in Russia "National Research University "Belgorod State University"(BelSU), Белгородский государственный национальный исследовательский университет (НИУ БелГУ"). He studied engineering one year and came back to Pakistan, because of limited financial assets for his family it was quite hard to afford these all expenses of his education. Upon regress to Pakistan with preparing for his civil services commission competitive exams, He decided to enroll in the school of journalism and mass communication for a master's degree at Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan.

But who knows what will happen next step, day in the life. So according to "Dawn news" In an interview with his father he told that Mashal was committed to his studies and spends 15 hours a day. He believes that education is vital to a complete life and encourages his siblings to get an education and learn more and more. Mashal was a "peaceful, tolerated, intellectual student." Khan was 23 years old when he was murdered.

The mainstream television channel "Geo News" reported that his professors called him "Mashar" means in his local language (Pashto) to understand all the situation and humanitarian personality, socialist and take responsibilities. The teachers added more that, Khan was a very positive and thoughtful, hard worker

student. "He was always, interested, to know about the political system of the country, and criticize it. But they said we had never found him off in any disputes about any religion. In short, he criticized university administration and teachers that they are not honest and regulars for their job, including vice-chancellor they are thieves. After posting this online on social media "Facebook" it becomes viral and university staff didn't tolerate it.

According to "Radio Mashaal" Storia Iqbal khan sister of Mashal Khan, she is a student of the pharmacy department. She said when my brother this catastrophe of fanaticism happened on 13 April 2017. I and my sister deprived of the education we haven't been to university and school. The main reason for this, that in our country narrative mind set up, extremism and intolerance are on the peak. Khan was different from other populace, he was trying to do something for humanity his level of mentality and others were dissimilar from each other. He gives an interview about university corruption. As a result in daylight among students and teachers, they killed my brother with cruelty. Further, she added that education is power and a very important role in our daily life. And I am appealing from Government, education minister or whom which is responsible for female education basic rights security and protections.

Saba Iqbal, second sister of Khan, a student of 9<sup>th</sup> class. She told "Mashaal Radio" that no one is helping us nationally and internationally like human rights etc. If they can kill our brother at day time how we go outside for further education. We have an example of our brother we sent him to university for getting a degree not his dead body. The journalist asked the last question that how where you want to start education? She said we have also a lot of treats of life if the government can give us a secure place for our education hope we will start our new journey of education life.

Geo news asked from khan father, Iqbal khan that did administration help your concern of your son issue? He said I lost my each and everything because my son was my asset, property, resource and not just mine but also of this country. That I lost him already now I am worried about my both daughter that they are hard worker intellectual the same as my young man. The actually provincial and central government didn't treat me is a victim father.

Zia Allah Hamdard, lecturer of Abdul Wali Khan University talked to “Geo News” his first words that Mashal was like a Candle because khan name meaning is Candle, if people who light up, live in darkness and fake accusation and charges of blasphemy to rusticate him. Today is the fourth day of Mashal killed by university management, I swear I didn’t sleep even I am using some medicine for having rest, but I can’t fall asleep I am shameful to my student his parents. The most significant point of how I will provide proof or respond to the prophet (PBUH), that why I didn’t put away my students from educated beasts that they inflict fake charges of blasphemy on him. After that they want to make it prove, they organize a team of professors and their mafia to make a fake account in social media with Mashal name and posted as much as they can. That seems to be he was really a religious blasphemer and public opinion and media will highlight it to mass.

Finally, I would like to give a message to Khan Parents and siblings that I am sorry that I couldn’t save Mashal I am responsible for him and our society as well, knowledgeable executive monster professors are answerable for his murder. Lecturer added that I know Khan was not a religious scholar (Mullah) but I know him personally very well. I am not having the same opinion as people propaganda against him. He was a humanist, socialist, and reading books a lot about philosophy Sufism, etc. I have also a threat to life but I don’t care and want to bring the truth to the world. He was like my brother, friend, son if I ever found that he posted anything objectionable I would stop and warn him. But he didn’t do that I am taking oath and responsibility of this.

### **Asia Bibi case and Supreme Court decision**

A Christian woman was charged for blasphemy by the Pakistani high court for death-sentenced in 2010. But finally, on 31 October 2018, the supreme court of Pakistan comes across her free of charge. And release based on the unsatisfactory evidence.

It’s an incredibly excellent step taken by the Supreme Court. However, justice will only be fully served when the people who abused the situation are brought to justice. A woman has lost 8 years of her life. The state has probably spent millions on the case - all because of a quarrel over fetching water. The Supreme Court should also make

an example of these people to show that the blasphemy law - or any other law- cannot be twisted to serve personal purposes. The researcher read the full judgment of the highest court in Urdu. The researcher impressed with the judge's knowledge and references made. People should educate those who are politicizing this issue.

The most important Media should also play a positive role in enlightening people. All accused criminals have rights. If someone is not proved guilty beyond any doubts how can be society punish him/her. It's important that she and her family are compensated, even though no amount can bring back neither the years nor the mental trauma and fear that she and her family will have for the rest of their lives. The accusers and those officials involved in the process need to be held accountable and punished.

Additionally, because of the verdict, political party Tahreek-e-Labbaik leader, Khadim Rizvi announced that he would "smash the country within hours". And then he and his followers did it. The party chief Afzal, addresses to the supporters of the party, that the three judges are now legally responsible to kill them and army chief as well. And he used very vulgar language for present Pakistani prime minister. As a result, a huge disturbance occurred in Pakistan in different cities. They Burned cars, Raksha, buses, destroyed bridges, and blocked highways (Barker, Oct 31, 2018).

### **1: Rimsha Masih**

Rimsha Masih, a 14-year-old Christian girl with explanation disorders, was charged with being held responsible after a Muslim associate of the clergy accused her of burning the pages of the Qur'an. The High Court's petition gives her punishment for three months in 2012. Finally, the judgment of the court declared that there was not have enough evidence as a reason for her discharge and that she was by mistake caught up in the case (International, "AS GOOD AS DEAD", 2016).

### **2: Four Ahmadiyya men**

It is the same case of disseminating because of religion, that they distributed some "offensive materials" in Lahore Pakistan. Which are both, media exaggerated without identified the reality and objectivity? The trial court decided that these men had been under fire because of

their “Ahmadiyya community-specific religion.” (International, “AS GOOD AS DEAD”, 2016).

### **3: Aqib Saleem**

He was a charge of blasphemy in 2014. And was exonerated by the trial court in 2015. He was punished for posting a photo on facebook of a nude woman sitting on “Kaaba”. A very holy place of worship, for Muslims around the World. These fake statements led to the death of 3 people killed by a crowd attack on members of the Ahmadiyya community (International, “AS GOOD AS DEAD”, 2016).

### **4: Akram Saeed**

In 2009 he was declared and sentenced to death in Punjab Pakistan. That he used to spoil and degrade words against our Holy Prophet (PBUH) that we Muslims can't tolerate and under section 295c he appeals to the court against him. In this case, judges are also clearly demonstrated how without any specific evidence they consider him guilty? (International, “AS GOOD AS DEAD”, 2016).

### **5: Fayaz Paracha**

Fayaz was convicted and sentenced to death in a court of the first occurrence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) in 2012. Because of the false claim that he blasphemed against, Hazrat Muhammad (PUBH) (International, “AS GOOD AS DEAD”, 2016).

According to “Dawn newspaper” 51 people murdered because of the insult of Hazrat Muhammad (PUBH) before the individual trials finished from the court. So no one has the patience to wait till court verdict and know the authenticity of a specific problem.

### **6: Chand Barkat**

Chand was 28 years old and he was selling bangle and toys in Karachi. Unbelievable that another guy seller killed Barkat. Because of professional envy. That's why how can we imagine that people's maturity level and Pakistani blasphemy laws violate the right to life so easy. Many more cases just in the circle of fake allegations, on each other's community, religion for their own personal, political advantages.

A movie name (Murder in GOD'S name) by Evan Williams, mentioned that a few months ago a man was burning papers to be warm in cold weather. Someone said, he burned pages of Quran a holy book of Muslims and did inactive blasphemy. It's unproven and looks like he has a psychological (mental) health problem. But the very

angry crowd gathered and killed him the men. And burn his dead body. Meanwhile, police arrested some of the killers, but the local religious (Mullah) defended killers in these words. Mullah said (the men blasphemed but now the police arresting peoples. If we don't speak for "Quran" now then when we will raise over voices. We are giving a time limit to the police if till this evening the police are not released ours under arrest persons. Then we have already contacted a lot of people they are coming to help us in this regard.

According to the Aljazeera reporter, in Pakistan blasphemy is a crime. Which can be punishable by the death penalty or life in prison. The reporter added that we discovered that many of the peoples accused blasphemy or in fact later found to be innocent. And instead of changing a law or appealing changing of law is being increasingly used the climate of growing extremism.

### **Police officer Basharat Khokhar**

He was responsible for the Rimsha case inquiry. He said when Rimsha's case was done after eight days some ridicule peoples attacked on me. That's why you handle this case? Why you would like to help her? She was a blasphemer. They went to Rimsha hometown and trying to find out how it's happened? They all believe that property developers used the blasphemy law against Rimsha to get hold of their rented land. Basharat said that the landlord misuses this law whenever there are any small disputes and peoples take this law and use it. And best live examples is like I am a Muslim and you're a Christian we have a business partnership or some other personal vendetta. Then simply I will blame him or her and have to announce in mosque or churches that he has blasphemed. No one will try to inspect whether it's accurate or bogus? And those peoples who misuse this law they have one thing in their minds; that if the person who has blasphemed or not, if we will kill him/her Muslims/Christian/Hindu/ Singh/ whatever belong from any religion we will go to paradise (heaven). And that's why they keep following this "blasphemfobia Culture".

### **Joseph Francis**

Director of "Class organization" which is working for peoples accused in blasphemy in central Lahore Punjab province Pakistan. He said

last year I visited 13 prisons. And found 96 people all victims of blasphemy. They all were in bad condition even their family members, wife or sons will not visit. It's very bad, because of the pressure.

Williams the journalist asked, Joseph, do you think those peoples, in fact, commit blasphemy? And how many cases of blasphemy have they been between since 1996 and till now? And every year it's ever-increasing or decreasing? No in those all 96 only two peoples did it, because of mental health problems. And round about 2000 and "CLASS" is handling 120 cases. Unfortunately, it's increasing every year.

### **Hafiz Ashrafi**

Chairman, Pakistan Ulema Council said that I am in favor of this law but I am not in favor of procedure. We need must be taken change the procedure before the FIR you must be investigated properly the men or women or anyone Muslim or non-Muslim he/she is a blasphemer or not. Because most cases are about (personal things) not blasphemy.

Some politician has tried to change it or even discuss the law have finally come out with a seriously terrible ending. Salmaan Taseer was a governor of a very famous province of Punjab. He visited a Christian woman in prison. Because of the allegation of blasphemy on her. And it has a constitutional duty to protect the women and other citizens as well. The spokes and the religious clerics become extremists and started a protest against Salmaan that he did blasphemy. And a local religious "Mullah" addresses and said that we don't have the patience for Taseer, he will be considered an infidel and must be killed.

### **Mumtaz Qadri**

Qadri was a security guard of Salmaan and he was close enough to him. After that religious pressure group protesting Salmaan was exiting a restaurant and he opened fire on him. And after killing governor Qadri shows a victory symbol before arresting. And a thousand religious peoples around Pakistan started protesting to show affiliation with Mumtaz and bring him guiltless and conqueror to the world. For the first appearance in High court when Mumtaz was in full security including religious folks black coats were throwing flowers on his vehicle.

### **Lawyer Abdur Raheem**

Raheem, a Chairman, blasphemy law forum. A journalist asked him would you like to give a good reason for that Qadri killed a provincial Governor and you are throwing a rose petal on him. Raheem said yes, I threw rose petal on Mumtaz Qadri. He killed an enemy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He killed a blasphemer. However the security guard action I don't care but he implements the law, nothing else by killing "Salmaan Taseer".

### **PM Imran Khan Address to the nation on Asia Bibi's concern**

Please stop commenting against the judgment of SC today. The public is not the one to decide whether she should be punished or not. It's Supreme Court who has decided and every Pakistani should accept it. So I would like to appeal to the few people's political groups that don't create instability in the country. On the name of Islam don't use vulgar language about judges, Army chief, and state. Stop aggressive with the government if still, you will do it then the state will fulfill their responsibility. Don't force the state for taking severe action against the few protesters (TV, 31 October 2018).

### **PM Imran Khan Speech at Rahmatul-Lil-Alameen (SAW) Conference**

The main initiative of the two-day international Islamic conference was held in Islamabad to enlighten the world and give the message that doesn't misuse freedom of speech for your own political, religiously advantages. The Prime Minister announced that the Higher Education Commission to set up special chairs on Seerat-Un-Nabi (S.A.W.W) at three different universities to do particular research on the life, character, and teachings of the last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PUBH). According to a national TV report that Khan said it would help out to inform, educate and make clear to our new generation as to how our Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) shaped out the first-ever Islamic welfare state of Madina and how Muhammad changed the characters of Arabs in a short period of time. And finally, he added that I decided that an international Law expert Ahmad Bilal Sufi can sign soon a convention from World different countries. The Convention is on the name of "International convention on preventing the defamation of religion" (PUBLIC, 20 November 2018).



## **SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSION**

Liberty of faith/religion is a basic human being right that protects the sense of right and wrong of all persons. It permits us to consider, communicate and act upon what we strongly accept as true. If we have some personal dilemma with different believers we shouldn't harass on his religion. For the reason that Pakistan belongs to everyone may he or she be a Muslim Christian Hindu or whatever the religion. The word minority should be used; every citizen of Pakistan should be equal under the law and civil rights. And social media used to give mistreatment to someone religion are very harsh subjects in our society. Of course, no one will tolerate it. Social media should be used for education, entertainment, news, funny video and especially for communication. In the way like you're talking to your parents' friends and teachers with courtesy and respect. The local news channel for YouTube, Facebook should be controlled very strictly by the government with strong laws and policies.

Mainstream media of Pakistani journalists should show professionalism, to do something for society, humanity. And show ethical performances and accurate journalism. And stop anymore to give priority to the political system nothing else. And I really don't know why news seems to focus on individuals rather than system and structure. And why do they are in competitions to break the news? Whether the news has objectivity or not? Why do they are gathering and spreading news from social media like Facebook, What's App? How they identify that it's authentic news, not propagation? Real Journalist is the modern era soldiers, Doctors, teachers, and engineers. Now it's up to them how to protect society's world, how to treat a human being. And How to teach a society, and in which way to build a society with attractive architect colors.

International and domestic media organizations need to be equally reporting whether it's burning of mosques, churches, temples and Blasphemy cases, any issues related to human beings. This will make the government decide to analyze own policies for a better future.

In Asia blasphemy case Pakistani prime minister addresses to the nation, that "there is no compromise on Supreme court judgment in Asia Bibi case". Pakistani constitution is according to Islam and

Supreme Court belongs to Pakistan. But still, these religious political parties threatened government and judges to withdraw decision in Asia case. And not just this even JUI-F, the leader had given anti-government comments, that PTI administration attempting to end blasphemy law. After these all Supreme Court orders, the prime minister addresses but still Asia is not safe. Asia and her family have threatened life. Finally, in Asia, their family compels requested political asylum. And Canadian Prime minister Warm welcomes her (By, 12, 2108).

It's annoying to know these all things. Most of these people are innocent, blameless and sacrificed their lives for someone else's political greediness, property or personal grudge. People are absolutely misusing and misinterpreting the law. Please stop killing in the name of Islam, on the name of religion, fake allegations loose tolerance. What makes the law policy dangerous in Pakistan is politics, are weather Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam political party, Pakistan people party, Awami national party, Pakistan Muslim League party and Pakistan movement of justice, they all just busy in their luxurious lifestyle making properties, etc. As a researcher/ student I have humbly appeal to the Pakistani Government, public and the entire globe as well. That show value to each other's religion, believe with love and peace. And carp or your bad attitude to others' religion will move toward you, Maybe today, tomorrow. But for sure it's a universal truth that we can't reject it.

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