

Prayer Diary: Pakistan

15-21 December 2024



Blasphemy accusations are increasing in Pakistan, and so is mob violence. Our hearts are heavy as we remember life after life which has been taken this year, in connection with the country's notorious blasphemy laws.

Lazar Masih (a 73-year-old Christian) was attacked by an extremist mob in Punjab Province on 25 May. He sadly died in hospital a week later.

Then on 20 June Muhammad Ismail, a Muslim man, was shot and killed in the Swat Valley after he was accused of desecrating the Qur'an. Mr Ismail was in police custody when a mob stormed the police station, set fire to it and seized him, after accusations were broadcast over mosque loudspeakers.

Learn more at csw.org.uk/Pakistan and pray for an end to this troubling pattern.

Sunday 15 December

Spend a moment in silence, remembering those who were killed following a deadly accusation of blasphemy, and their loved ones.

Monday 16 December

Pray that there would be justice for those who have been killed in connection with their religion or belief. Pray for a cultural shift in Pakistan – specifically for an end to the impunity which emboldens people to take blasphemy laws into their own hands.

Tuesday 17 December

Another case of blasphemy was reported in June – this time against a Christian boy who was overheard arguing with his siblings. He was later arrested, and tensions in the area prompted many Christian families to leave to avoid further escalation. Lift them up in prayer, asking God to keep them safe.

Wednesday 18 December

Pray for the family of Abdul Ali, who was fatally shot by a police officer on 12 September. He was in police custody in Quetta, Balochistan, having been arrested the day before. Local residents had accused him of making derogatory remarks towards the Prophet Muhammed.

Thursday 19 December

It was the duty of the police to protect Abdul Ali. Pray that all authorities in Pakistan would act with wisdom, justice, impartiality and integrity.

Friday 20 December

Pray for an end to the discrimination and harassment of Pakistan's Ahmadiyya community. Over 30 Ahmadis were arrested or detained around the period of Eid, including 13-year-old Faizan Ahmad. They were all later released.

Saturday 21 December

Lord, hear our prayers for Pakistan – that we would see an end to mob violence; urgent action to curb the misuse of blasphemy laws; and perpetrators brought to justice. Amen.