

An appeal to help a life in danger

LATEST REPORT ABOUT AYUB MASIH

With reference to all the newspapers of Pakistan dated the 26th July 2001, High Court bench Multan consisting of Justice Khawaja Mohammed Sharif and Justice Naeem Ullah Khan Sharwani has confirmed death sentence of Ayub Masih with penalty of Rupees one lac (1667 \$) under the case 295-C (blasphemy law). His appeal against this sentence has also been rejected.

Ayub Masih, the resident of village 353/E.B District Sahiwal was victimized under this case on the 14th October 1996. He was considered sinful on account of blasphemy against prophet Mohammed and praising Salman Rushdi.

On the request of the petitioner Mohamad Akram, FIR against Ayub Masih was registered in the police station Saddar Arifwala under the section 295-C. In the month of April 1998, District and Session Judge Rana Abdul Ghaffar announced death sentence to Ayub Masih and was kept in the central jail Sahiwal. Afterwards, he was shifted to Multan jail.

For the last three years, the case was in the court but proceedings were not carried out. Even then, High Court bench Multan confirmed his death sentence without hearing and investigation and without calling the attorney of Ayub and the witnesses. This is totally unfair and injustice with the innocent Ayub Masih.

We are sending one of our TRUST representatives to Multan who will meet the family of Ayub Masih and other concerned authorities for gathering complete details of this decision.

The emergency meeting of the board of the TRUST was held today to discuss on this matter. Moreover, meeting of the pastors was also called today in which 45 pastors were present. In this meeting, this decision against Ayub Masih was reviewed and appeal has been made to the pastors and the Christian community of Pakistan to pray and lent for Ayub Masih on the 1st August 2001. Because Ayub Masih used to have lent on the 1st of each month.

The Chairman of the TRUST has also held press conference with the journalists and has requested the Christian community to pray and lent on 1st August for sake of innocent Ayub Masih.

We also request VOM and whole of the American community and other people of the world to pray and lent for one day on 1st August 2001 for Ayub Masih so that he may get justice and live a peaceful and comfortable life.

The decision of the High Court Bench Multan will be challenged in the Supreme Court. There is a time limit of 30 days and we have to challenge the decision within 30 days. We are receiving some more details of this decision and will be in touch with you after few days.

Reported By:

BISHOP JOHN JOSEPH SHAHEED TRUST

~~I am a Catholic priest, George Martin Joseph. Multan is the city where Ayub Masih's death sentence is confirmed. Multan is my diocese. It is hurting and painful to hear such news when the law is misused against the innocent. If we keep quite the blood of the innocent will be on us as well. So this is an appeal to all the world to help to save the life of Ayub Masih.~~

~~For more information: gjoe7@hotmail.com~~

~~And martyr1998@yahoo.com~~

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Subject : Fwd: John Joseph Trust

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>From: JOHNSON MICHAEL
 >To: sabinashs@hotmail.com
 >Subject: John Joseph Trust
 >Date: Wed, 21 Feb 2001 10:14:29 -0800 (PST)
 >
 >DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT BISHOP DR. JOHN JOSEPH
 >SHAHEED TRUST PAKISTAN
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 >
 >GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION OF PAKISTAN:
 >Pakistan covers an area of 307,374 square miles. The
 >population is 132 million making it the seventh most
 >populous nation in the world. The climate varies as
 >much as the terrain. This country has the world's
 >largest contiguous irrigation system. Crops grown
 >include rice, wheat, cotton, maize and sugarcane.
 >Hydro-electricity and natural gas are its sources of
 >energy. The labor force is 46% agriculture, 18% mining
 >and manufacturing, and 17% services. The capital city
 >is Islamabad.
 >
 >POLITICAL SITUATION:
 >Pakistan gained independence from Britain in 1947, but
 >has been unstable ever since. Its people have suffered
 >through three wars and endured military regimes and
 >corrupt governments. For years the country existed in
 >two separate parts: East Pakistan, now Bangladesh; and
 >West Pakistan, now Pakistan. At present, the chief of
 >the state is President Muhammad Rafiq Tarar.
 >
 >RELIGIOUS SITUATION:
 >Islam was introduced into Pakistan during the 8th
 >century AD. Now over 96% of the population is Muslims
 >and less than 2% are Christians. Militant Islamic
 >forces in Pakistan have initiated much violence
 >against Christians. Many Pakistani Christians have
 >been falsely accused of breaking Law 295-C

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>Some have even been killed by mobs after being

>acquitted of such charges. In 1998 a proposal was made

>to officially adopt Muslim Sharia law as the law of

>the land, which would bring about even more

>persecution. Despite hardships, Christians continue in

>love and perseverance, boldly sharing Christ. Pray

>that the Sharia law proposal is defeated in Pakistan's

>parliament.

>

>Christian schoolteacher Katherine Shaheen was accused

>of blasphemy by a national newspaper in 1995. Although

>later found innocent, she has suffered death threats,

>continuing government harassment and is unable to find

>unemployment. Her father died two months after being

>falsely arrested and having his valuables confiscated

>as "stolen" property.

>

>We have quoted only one example of persecution. We

>have the list of many other Christian persons who had

>been falsely accused of blasphemy law.

>

>SOCIAL SERVICES RENDERED BY LATE BISHOP DR. JOHN JOSEPH

>

>Roman Catholic Bishop Dr. John Joseph was a great

>Christian leader, who sacrificed his life for the

>rights of the oppressed people. He remained Catholic

>Bishop of Faisalabad Diocese for about twenty years.

>Bishop John Joseph laid down his life in front of

>session court Sahiwal (Pakistan), the same court that

>announced death sentence to Ayub Masih, a victim of

>blasphemy law. He fulfilled his promise of giving the

>sacrifice, which he made in the funeral ceremony of

>Manzoor Masih, who was also a victim of blasphemy law

>and was shot dead in front of Lahore High Court.

>

>"Bishop John Joseph was a hero of religious freedom in

>Pakistan, and a great supporter and defender of

>victims of the blasphemy law. He was a founder and

>pioneer of Christian-Muslim dialogue in Pakistan.

>

>He worked day and night for the rights of the women,

>the poor and the youth. He was Ambassador of Peace and

>his special services for eliminating discriminatory

>laws from Pakistan have been recognized both at

>national and international level. He was a true hero

>and leader of the Christian community who taught

>people to struggle peacefully for their rights.

>

>On Wednesday (6th May 1998), an All-Pakistan Christian

>Corporate Prayer Assembly was held at Main Catholic

>Church, Sahiwal. Bishop Dr. John Joseph spoke at the

>assembly about the persecution faced by Christians in

>Pakistan and appealed to the government to repeal the

>blasphemy law.

>

>Following the service, Bishop Joseph went to Sahiwal

>Court and cried out for the freedom of Pakistani

>Christians. He then pulled out a pistol and shot

>himself in front of the court in protest of blasphemy

>law 295-C. Bishop John Joseph had said many times

>before that he would "lay down his life for

>Christians' freedom in Pakistan."

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>BACKDROP OF BISHOP DR. JOHN JOSEPH SHAHEED TRUST:

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>"Bishop Dr. John Joseph Shaheed Trust" has been
>established on the name of a great Christian leader
>and Catholic Bishop John Joseph, who sacrificed his
>life for the rights of the oppressed people.
>("Shaheed" is an Urdu language word. In English it
>means "Martyr")

>
>The Trust was established on 6th May 2000. The
>Government of Pakistan had registered it. The
>organization works without any distinction of
>religion, caste, creed or color etc. It is a
>non-government and non-profitable organization working
>for the development of the people suffering from
>injustice, poverty and other social evils. Our Trust
>is a welfare organization. Its financial resources
>depend on donations and grants received from different
>people.

>
>OUR FIELDS OF INTEREST

- >
>1. Work for the Kingdom of God.
>2. Human rights.
>3. Formal and Non-formal education
>4. Health and sanitation.
>5. Drug awareness, prevention and rehabilitation.
>6. AIDS awareness programs

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>A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN 2000

>
>- 8 medical camps were arranged each month for the
>poor and the needy. 800 patients benefited each month
>from these medical camps. Thus a total of 41 medical
>camps were arranged and 4100 patients benefited during
>the year 2000.

>
>- Provided legal aid to the 6 persons accused of
>discriminatory laws (persecution cases). Their
>families were also assisted both morally and
>financially.

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>- Quarterly financial help to the 40 pastors working
>with different churches.
>- Established two sewing centers for promoting skill
>among the unskilled girls.

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>ACTIVITIES PRESENTLY RUN BY THE TRUST

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>- Continuation of Free mobile medical clinics program.
>- Continuation of pastors support program.
>- Legal and Para-legal assistance to the victims of
>persecution.
>- Sewing centers for the unskilled girls/women.
>- Visiting jails for providing daily use
>commodities/articles to the prisoners.
>- Health and education awareness program with the
>women.

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 >Bishop Dr. John Joseph Shaheed Trust Bishop Dr.
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