

Prime Minister Imran Khan
Office of the Prime Minister
Constitution Ave
Red Zone
Islamabad
Pakistan

7 November 2018

Dear Prime Minister Khan,

We the undersigned parliamentarians write to you from nations including states that provide financial assistance to Pakistan. We are committed to the rule of law and the fundamental human rights to freedom of religion and expression. We have great respect for the Pakistani people and hope for a continuing and mutually enriching partnership between our nations.

Asia Bibi (Aasiya Noreen) was convicted of blasphemy eight years ago and sentenced to death by hanging. It was alleged that she made derogatory remarks about Islam after others objected to her drinking water from their glass because she was not a Muslim.

We celebrated the decision of the Supreme Court to acquit Asia Bibi and were pleased to see the government defend the judiciary in the days that followed. However, it has since been reported that because of the political deal struck with Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan, Asia Bibi is, once again, effectively on death row.

We are aware that a review of the Supreme Court verdict could take years, leaving Asia incarcerated for that time or vulnerable to mob violence if released.

We understand that the decision to review the ruling was made for political, rather than legal, reasons.

What happens next in this sad story will show the world whether Pakistan is a nation that respects the rule of law, or whether political interests will prevail.

We note that the economic and social prosperity of a country is closely related to the integrity of the rule of law. Investors and businesses need confidence in justice for the sake of contracts, employees, and reputation. Likewise, other nations will be less likely to invest in Pakistan if the rule of law is undermined.

Therefore, we urge in the strongest possible terms the Government of Pakistan to guarantee safe passage for Asia, her family, and any of those under threat due to their part in the decision to acquit her, to any country that accepts them.

We would like to reiterate that, for the benefit of your people, we desire to partner ever more closely with your government. We hope for the safe passage of Asia, alongside the deepening of the relationship between our nations.

Sincerely, the undersigned.

Ivonne Acuña Cabrera
Member of Congress, Costa Rica

Laura Agea
Member of the European Parliament (Italy)

Lord Alton of Liverpool
Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Jennifer Arias
Member of Congress, Colombia

Marie-Christine Arnautu
Member of the European Parliament (France)

Jonathan Arnott
Member of the European Parliament (United Kingdom)

Petras Austrevicius
Member of the European Parliament (Lithuania)

David Barguil
Member of the Senate, Colombia

Winfried Bausback
Member of Parliament of the Free State of Bavaria, Germany

Catherine Bearder
Member of the European Parliament (United Kingdom)

Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea
Member of the European Parliament (Spain)

Lord Beith
Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Bas Belder
Member of the European Parliament (The Netherlands)

Baroness Berridge
Member of the House of Lords, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Freedom of Religion and Belief, United Kingdom

Izaskun Bilbao Barandica
Member of the European Parliament (Spain)

Mara Bizzotto
Member of the European Parliament (Italy)

Lord Blunkett
Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Baroness Brown of Cambridge

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Simona Bonafè

Member of the European Parliament (Spain)

Klaus Buchner

Member of the European Parliament (Germany)

Ján Budaj

Member of Parliament, Slovakia

Wojciech Burczak

Member of Parliament, Poland

Reinhard Bütikofer

Member of the European Parliament (Germany)

Paul Roger Butler

The Lord Bishop of Durham, Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Ruth Cadbury

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Member of the European Parliament (Italy)

Emma Claudia Castellanos

Member of the Senate, Colombia

Lord Carlile of Berriew

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Alejandrina Castro

Member of Congress, El Salvador

Christopher Cocksworth

Lord Bishop of Coventry, Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Titus Corlăţean

Member of the Senate, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Romania

Alejandro Corrales

Member of the Senate, Colombia

Silvia Costa

Member of the European Parliament (Italy)

Pál Csáky

Member of the European Parliament (Slovakia)

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Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chairman of the European Parliament Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Religious Tolerance (The Netherlands)

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Member of the European Parliament (France)

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Member of the Congress, Colombia

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Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Baroness D'Souza

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

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Member of the European Parliament (Germany)

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Member of Congress, Argentina

José Inácio Faria

Member of the European Parliament (Portugal)

Martin Fecko

Member of Parliament, Slovakia

Ricardo Ferno

Member of Congress, Colombia

Santiago Fisas Aixelà

Member of the European Parliament (Spain)

Jim Fitzpatrick

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Peter Fitzpatrick

Member of Parliament, Ireland

Luke Ming Flanagan

Member of the European Parliament (Ireland)

Baroness Fookes

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

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Arne Gerike

Member of the European Parliament (Germany)

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Member of the European Parliament (Spain)

Karine Gloanec Maurin

Member of the European Parliament (France)

Nathalie Griesbeck

Member of the European Parliament (France)

John Grogan

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Bruno Gollnisch

Member of the European Parliament (France)

Lord Gordon of Strathblane

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Sylvie Guillaume

Member of the European Parliament (France)

Baroness Harris of Richmond

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Lord Haworth

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Eduard Heger

Member of Parliament, Slovakia

Frank Heinrich

Member of Parliament, Germany

Martijn van Helvert

Member of Parliament, Spokesman Foreign Affairs and Human Right of the CDA Group in the Dutch Parliament, The Netherlands

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Member of the Senate, Colombia

Luis Hernandez Azmitia

Member of the Senate, Guatemala

Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Paola Holguin

Member of the Senate, Colombia

Baroness Holly

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

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Member of the European Parliament (Poland)

Karol Karski

Quaestor of the European Parliament (Poland)

Laurynas Kasčiūnas

Member of Parliament, Lithuania

Tunne Kelam

Member of the European Parliament (Estonia)

Jude Kirton-Darling

Member of the European Parliament (United Kingdom)

Bernd Kölmel

Member of the European Parliament (Germany)

Ádám Kósa

Member of the European Parliament (Hungary)

Zdzisław Krasnodębski

Vice President of the European Parliament (Poland)

Urszula Krupa

Member of the European Parliament (Poland)

Gudrun Kugler

Member of Parliament, Austria

Merja Kyllönen

Member of the European Parliament (Finland)

Jeremy Lefroy

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Ryszard Legutko

Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chair of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (Poland)

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Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Andrew Lewer

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Lord Lipsey

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Lord Loomba

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Lord Lucas

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Bernd Lucke

Member of the European Parliament (Germany)

Jozef Lukáč

Member of Parliament, Slovakia

Lord Mackay of Clashfern

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Lord Mackenzie of Framwellgate
Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Jerzy Malecki
Member of Parliament, Poland

Ramona Nicole Mănescu
Member of the European Parliament (Romania)

Stefano Maullu
Member of the European Parliament (Italy)

Siobhain McDonagh
Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Mattie McGrath
Member of Parliament, Ireland

Ivana Maletić
Member of the European Parliament (Croatia)

António Marinho e Pinto
Member of the European Parliament (Portugal)

Dominique Martin
Member of the European Parliament (France)

Fulvio Martusciello
Member of the European Parliament (Italy)

Ján Marosz
Member of Parliament, Slovakia

Gabriela Masłowska
Member of Parliament, Poland

Barbara Matera
Member of the European Parliament (Italy)

Igor Matovič
Member of Parliament, Slovakia

Carlos Felipe Mejia
Member of the Senate, Colombia

Jörg Meuthen
Member of the European Parliament (Germany)

Miroslav Mikolášik
Member of the European Parliament (Slovakia)

Natália Milanová
Member of Parliament, Slovakia

Luigi Morgano
Member of the European Parliament (Italy)

Alessia Maria Mosca
Member of the European Parliament (Italy)

Rónán Mullen
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Javier Nart
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Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne
Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Pieter Omtzigt
Member of Parliament, The Netherlands

Eduardo Emilio Pacheco
Member of the Senate, Colombia

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Alojz Peterle
Member of the European Parliament (Slovenia)

Marijana Petir
Member of the European Parliament (Croatia)

Georgi Pirinski
Member of the European Parliament (Bulgaria)

Marek Plura
Member of the European Parliament (Poland)

Mark Prichard
Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Dennis Radtke
Member of the European Parliament (Germany)

Päivi Räsänen
Member of Parliament, Finland

Veronika Remišová
Member of Parliament, Slovakia

Lord Rennard

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Christine Revault d'Allonnes Bonnefoy

Member of the European Parliament (France)

Marie Rimmer

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Maria del Rosario Guerra

Member of the Senate, Colombia

Julio Rosas

Member of Congress, Peru

Amada Rocio Gonzalez

Member of the Senate, Colombia

John Milton Rodriguez

Member of the Senate, Colombia

Lord Russell of Liverpool

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Massimiliano Salini

Member of the European Parliament (Italy)

Gabriel Santos

Member of Congress, Colombia

Baroness Scott of Needham Market

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Patrick Sensburg

Member of Parliament, Germany

Jim Shannon

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Lord Shinkwin of Balham

Member of the House of Lords, former Equality and Human Rights Commissioner, United Kingdom

Claudia Schmidt

Member of the European Parliament (Austria)

Cornelia Schmidt Liermann

Member of Congress, Argentina

Annie Schreijer-Pierik

Member of the European Parliament (The Netherlands)

Branislav Škripek

Member of the European Parliament (Slovakia)

Alan Smith

The Lord Bishop of St Albans, Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Csaba Sögor

Member of the European Parliament (Romania)

Michaela Šojdrová

Member of the European Parliament (Czech Republic)

Miroslav Sopko

Member of Parliament, Slovakia

Joachim Starbatty

Member of the European Parliament (Italy)

Lord Steel of Aikwood

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Jaromir Štětina

Member of the European Parliament (Czech Republic)

Helga Stevens

Member of the European Parliament (Belgium)

Catherine Stihler

Member of the European Parliament (United Kingdom)

Lord Stoddart of Swinton

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Lord Storey

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

John Harold Suarez

Member of the Senate, Colombia

Petra de Sutter

Member of the Senate, Member of Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Belgium

Pavel Svoboda

Member of the European Parliament (Czech Republic)

Sir Demond Swayne

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Lord Swinfen

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Charles Tannock

Member of the European Parliament (United Kingdom)

Dominik Tarczyński

Member of Parliament, Poland

Lord Thurlow

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Attila Tilki

Member of Parliament, Hungary

László Tőkés

Member of the European Parliament (Hungary)

Ruža Tomašić

Member of the European Parliament, (Croatia)

Romana Tomc

Member of the European Parliament (Slovenia)

Sari Tanus

Member of Parliament, Finland

Lord Trevethin of Oaksey

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Lord Triesman

Member of the House of Lords, former Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister with responsibility for the Commonwealth, United Kingdom

Lord Truscott

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Lord Tyler

Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Pavlo Unguryan

Member of Parliament, Ukraine

Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski

Member of the European Parliament (Poland)

Piotr Uściński

Member of Parliament, Poland

Paloma Susana Valencia

Member of the Senate, Colombia

Richard Vašečka

Member of Parliament, Slovakia

Hilde Vautmans

Member of the European Parliament (Belgium)

Anna Verešová

Member of Parliament, Slovakia

Julie Ward

Member of the European Parliament (United Kingdom)

William Wragg

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Bartłomiej Wróblewski

Member of Parliament, Poland

Anna Záborská

Member of the European Parliament (Slovakia)

Tomáš Zdechovský

Member of the European Parliament (Czech Republic)

Joachim Zeller

Member of the European Parliament (Germany)

Jana Žitňanská

Member of the European Parliament (Slovakia)

Željana Zovko

Member of the European Parliament (Croatia)

Milan Zver

Member of the European Parliament (Slovenia)