

# Prisoner Profile



PRISONER NAME  
**Asia Bibi**

LOCATION  
**Pakistan**

ARRESTED  
**June 2009**

REVISED  
**May 17, 2012**

Asia Bibi, a 37-year-old Pakistani woman from the village of Ittanwali, was arrested by police on Friday, June 19, 2009. Asia (also called Asia Noreen) is the wife of 50-year-old Ashiq Masih, and their family is one of only three Christian families in a village of 1,500 families.



Many of the local women, including Asia, work on the farm of Muslim landowner Muhammad Idrees. During their work, many of the Muslim women have pressured Asia to renounce Christianity and accept Islam. In June, the pressure became especially strong.

On Friday, June 19, there was an intense discussion among the women about their faith. The Muslim women told Asia about Islam. Asia responded by telling them about her faith in Christ. Asia told the Muslim women Christ had died on the cross for sins, then asked them what Mohammad had done for them, according to VOM sources. She told them Jesus is alive, but Mohammad is dead. "Our Christ is the true prophet of God," she reportedly told them, "and yours is not true."

Upon hearing this, the Muslim women became angry and began to beat Asia. Then some men took her and locked her in a room. They announced from the mosque loudspeakers that she would be punished by having her face blackened and being paraded through the village on a donkey. Local Christians informed the police, who took Asia into custody before the Muslims could carry out their plan. She was held at the police station in Nankana city. Christians there urged the police not to file blasphemy charges, but police claimed they were under pressure from local Muslim leaders.

Seventeen months after Asia's arrest, she was convicted of violating subsection C of Pakistan's 295 blasphemy law - blasphemy against the prophet Muhammad - and was sentenced to death. No Christian in Pakistan has ever been executed under the blasphemy law, but in several cases, extremists have murdered Christians after their release from prison. Asia's conviction and death sentence have brought international attention to the country's blasphemy laws. Christians have called for Asia's release and for a repeal of the laws, while extremists in Pakistan continue to demand that she be executed.

The Voice of the Martyrs urges Christians around the world to pray for Asia Bibi and her family.

## **VOM Visits Asia in January 2012**

Asia's husband and a VOM worker had the opportunity to visit Asia in late January, and they brought back a positive report. Asia had a "smiley face, full of joy and thanksgiving," said our worker.

Asia told them, "I am very thankful for this visit. I am happy and fine.

"I am praying every day. I am strong in my faith. I know that this is the test of my faith and I know to make gold, it must be purified in the fire. I am strong in my faith, and I know that God will release me. I pray that God forgives the people who blamed me."

## **Monthly Visit With Family**

Imprisoned Christian Asia Bibi was visited by her husband, Ashiq, on March 6, 2012. When Asia inquired after her two young daughters, Ashiq told her that the children were healthy and doing well in school. She told him she was feeling discouraged about ever being released.

He said, "Yesterday when we had family prayer, I asked the children what they were praying for. They said, 'We are praying for those people who are helping us and who are trying to release our Mama.'

At that moment, Ashiq "felt God's presence, and he said to me, 'Don't be afraid, I am with you.'"

**What you can do**

Post this PrisonerAlert.com Prisoner Profile on the bulletin board in your church, Sunday School class or Christian school. Share a copy with your pastor, members of your Bible study group or other Christian friends.

**Address for Asia Bibi**

District Jail  
Sheikhupura  
Punjab  
Pakistan

**Circulation To Date for Asia Bibi**

**Prisoner Alerts Sent**



**Prisoner Alerts Viewed**



**Government Officials Emailed**



**Encouraging Letters Written**



**Please note**

When writing a letter, never mention the name of the source of your information or the name of any organization such as Voice of the Martyrs or Prisoner Alert. It is not dangerous for a prisoner to receive letters from individuals, but if an organization is mentioned they may be accused of links with 'foreign organizations' and receive harsher sentences. Also, please do not state anything negative about their government. For the latest information, including letter writing tools and helps, please visit PrisonerAlert.com.

**Excerpt from an actual letter created on PrisonerAlert.com**

I gave thanks for you when I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray the eyes, ears and hearts of those who persecute you may open to Jesus. Philippians 1:29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake. Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

听到你在基督耶稣里的信心, 我为你献上感恩.

我们祷告那些逼迫你的人的心眼能够向耶稣打开.

腓 1:29

因为你们蒙恩, 不但得以信服基督, 并要为他受苦。

罗 8:18

我想现在的苦楚, 若比起将来要显于我们的荣耀, 就不足介意了。

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