

History Extrajudicial Murders, Deaths in Jail, & Suicide by Blasphemy Suspects

(By Mohammad Nafees)

So far, I could find nearly 51 cases wherein blasphemy suspects were either extra judicially murdered or died in jail. The plea taken by the supporters of the blasphemy law at the time of its introduction and even to this date is that this law is to provide legal means for handling blasphemy cases. The history of events show an opposite result since the introduction of this law.

Profession	No. Of People
Businessman	1
Teacher	1
Governor & Minister	2
Judge	1
Labour & workers	3
Mentally challenged	2
Maulvi & Pesh Imam	5
Unknown	36
Total	51

Extra judicial murders	46
Death in jail	4
Suicide	1
Total	51

Extrajudicial murder of Blasphemy suspects					
Year	Source	Name	Accused of	Action	Total
5 Mar 11: Rawalpindi	Dawn	Mohammad Imran,	accused in a blasphemy case and released last year,	gunned down on the outskirts of the city on Friday.	1
2 Mar 11: Islamabad	Dawn	Shahbaz Bhati, Minister Minority Affairs	Involved in issues dealing with the misuse of the blasphemy cases. He and Salman Taseer were working on Aasia Bibi case as well.	Gunned down by unidentified assailants	1
7 feb 11: Rawalpindi	Dawn	Rival Muslim Sects blaming each other of committing blasphemy	Blasphemy - registration of a case against a Muslim sect under the blasphemy and anti-terrorism laws after a clash with their rival sect that resulted in death of two persons and injuring one.	Arrested	3
4 Jan 11: Islamabad	Dawn	Salman Taseer, Governor	Called the blasphemy law as black law.	His own security guard gunned him down in Islamabad	1
20 Jul 10: Failsalabad	Dawn	Rashid Emanuel & Sajid Emanuel	Blasphemy 295C	Murdered in the Session Court	2
2009 – July 31:Gojra	Dawn	7 Christians	Defiling the Holy Quran	7 persons killed and houses burnt	7
SHEIKHUPURA/LAHORE, Aug 4, 2009:	Dawn	Najeeb Zafar + worker	Defiling the verses of Holy Quran	Extra judicial murder	2
March 2008: Hyderabad	Herald	Anees Mallah; Tortured & shot dead in prison.	rammed his motorbike into the gate of a Milad event	a mob of 200 people in the Sanghar prison on April 3, 2009. He was reportedly tortured before being shot dead.	1
2008 – April 08: Karachi	Dawn	Jagdesb Kumar	Blasphemy charges from co-workers	Extra judicial murder	1
2008: Toba Tek Singh	Herald	Simon Emmanuel	Brother of	Shot dead	1

			blasphemy accused		
24 jun 07: Gujrat	The News	Muhammad Qasim	Blasphemy - published a blasphemous book	Killed by Policeman	1
28 Jun 05: Hasilpur, Punjab	Herald	Master Sadiq	Blasphemy 295A	Killed by mob	1
28-Jun-05	Herald	Abdul Sattar Gopang	Blasphemy (Desecrating the Holy Quran)	Stabbed to death	1
2005: Multan	Herald	Idrees Rabbani	Accused of blasphemy	Died in prison hospital	1
17 Apr 05: Nowshera	Herald	Ashiq Nabi	Blasphemy 295A - desecration of the Holy Quran	Shot dead on 20 April 2005	1
2003	Dawn	Samuel Masih	Spitting on the wall of a mosque	Police officer killed him in jail who using a hammer and later claiming that it was his duty as a Muslim to kill Masih	1
2003	Herald	Maulvi Sanaullah	Blasphemy	Murdered	1
2 Oct 03: Sheikhpura	Herald	Mushtaq Masih	No case was registered	Murdered	1
2002 – June 11: Lahore	Dawn	Mohamamed Yousaf Ali, 55 year old Muslim Cleric	Blasphemy	shot dead in prison by a co-prisoner	1
2002	Unk	Saeed Bhatti	Blasphemy	Murdered	1
24 Jun 02: Gujranwala	Herald	Mohammed Asghar Ali	Blasphemy - no case was registered	Murdered by police constable	1
2001	Herald	Pandu Khan	Accused of blasphemy	Allegedly committed suicide in jail	1
2000	Herald	Zafar Ahmad	Accused of blasphemy.	Murdered	1
1999	Unk	Munir Malang	Blasphemy	Murdered	1
10-Jan-99	Herald	Unidentified Woman, mentally sick	Blasphemy	Burnt alive	1
1997 – October 19: Lahore	Dawn	Judge Arif Iqbal Bhatti	Acquitted two blasphemy accused	Assassinated	1
17 Jun 95: Karachi	Unk	Zafar Iqbal	Blasphemy - no case was registered	Murdered	1
1995: Sargodha	Herald	Adnan Ahmad	Blasphemy	Murdered	1
1995	Unk	Mukhtar Masih & Sadiq Masih	Relative of Sadiq Masih, an accused of blasphemy	Murdered - Status of the accused Sadiq Masih unknown	2
21 April 1995, Gujranwala	Dawn	Dr. Sajjad Farooq	Defiling the Holy Quran	Beaten to death by mob	1
1993 – May: Gujranwala	Dawn	Salamat Masih, 12,	Writing blasphemous	Manzoor Masih	1

			remarks on a mosque	gunned down outside the court.	
1992 - Lahore	Dawn	Bantu Masih, 80 & Mukhtar Masih 50	Blasphemy	Bantu Masih,80, was stabbed eight times in the presence of policemen. Mukhtar Masih,50, was tortured to death in police custody.	2
1992 – January 06: Faisalabad	Dawn	Niamat Ahmad, Teacher	Blasphemy	Butchered by a young member of a militant religious group	1
1990 – December 07: Lahore	Dawn	Tahir Iqbal, a Christian convert	Blasphemy	Poisoned in police custody	1
				Total	46

Death and Suicide of Blasphemy suspects					
Year	Source	Name	Accused of	Action	Total
16-Mar-11	Dawn	David Qamar	Sending msgs thru mobile phone containing derogatory remarks against the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Sentenced for imprisonment of 25 years	Died of heart attack while serving his sentence. His family and lawyer suspected the cause of death.	1
September 15, 2009: Sialkot	Daily Times	Robert "Fanish Masih, 19 years old	Blasphemy 295B	Found dead in jail.	1
24 aug 03: Lahore	Herald	Naseem Bibi	a policeman accused her without any witness	Died after three months in Kot Lakhpat jail	1
06 May 98: Lahore	Dawn	John Joseph	Roman Catholic Bishop John Joseph of Pakistan shot himself in the Sahiwal courthouse to register his protest against blasphemy case of Ayub Masih	Committed Suicide	1
1994: Gujranwala	Not avail.	Maulana Zia Farooqi	Blasphemy - 295C	Died before commencement of trial	1
				Total	5