

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

[Date]

Dear Prime Minister Khan,

We the undersigned government representatives, state officials, and 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.