To Ambassador Saadia Altaf Qazi

Embassy of Pakistan in Norway P.O. Box 4051, AMB 0244 Oslo

Dear Ambassador Saadia Altaf Qazi,

I am writing to you with an urgent appeal to ensure justice and respect for human rights in the case of Asif Pervaiz, a Christian father of four who is currently imprisoned in Pakistan on charges of blasphemy.

Asif Pervaiz was arrested in October 2013 after being accused of sending blasphemous text messages to a colleague. This accusation came shortly after he refused to convert to Islam, which his colleague reportedly tried to pressure him to do. It has been reported that his mobile phone was stolen and used to send the alleged messages. Despite the lack of evidence and clear weaknesses in the investigation, Asif was sentenced to death for blasphemy in September 2020.

He has now been imprisoned for more than ten years, and his case has been marked by severe delays, partly due to threats from extremist groups against those involved in the legal process. In addition to the legal challenges.

This is not just a legal matter but also a case that touches on fundamental human rights. International human rights standards, including the right to a fair trial and freedom from discrimination based on religion or belief, must be upheld.

On behalf of all who care about justice and the protection of fundamental human rights, I urge you to convey this concern to the relevant authorities in Pakistan. I call for:

- 1. Asif Pervaiz's case to be heard swiftly and fairly in the Lahore High Court.
- 2. Access to necessary medical treatment for him while in prison.
- 3. Protection and support for all those involved in the legal process, including his lawyers and judges, to ensure an unhindered and fair resolution of the case.
- 4. The Pakistani government to implement reforms to prevent the misuse of blasphemy laws, which are often exploited as tools for discrimination and personal vendettas.

I urge Pakistan to take decisive steps to protect the rights of all its citizens, regardless of their faith, and to ensure that its laws and legal system are applied fairly and in accordance with international standards.

Thank you for your attention to this very serious matter and for your efforts in contributing to a resolution.

Sincerely,