



For more information on the situation of Religious Minorities, follow-up cases and other updates on religious intolerance in Pakistan, please

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Annual Report 2012



CLAAS PAKISTAN

Annual Report 2012

When we come together to play and be, we are truly ourselves. When we are truly ourselves it is wonderful and when we act collectively in that wonder we do transformative work for our community and our world.

Annual Report CLAAS 2012



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CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

**Annual Report 2012
CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT
(CLAAS)**

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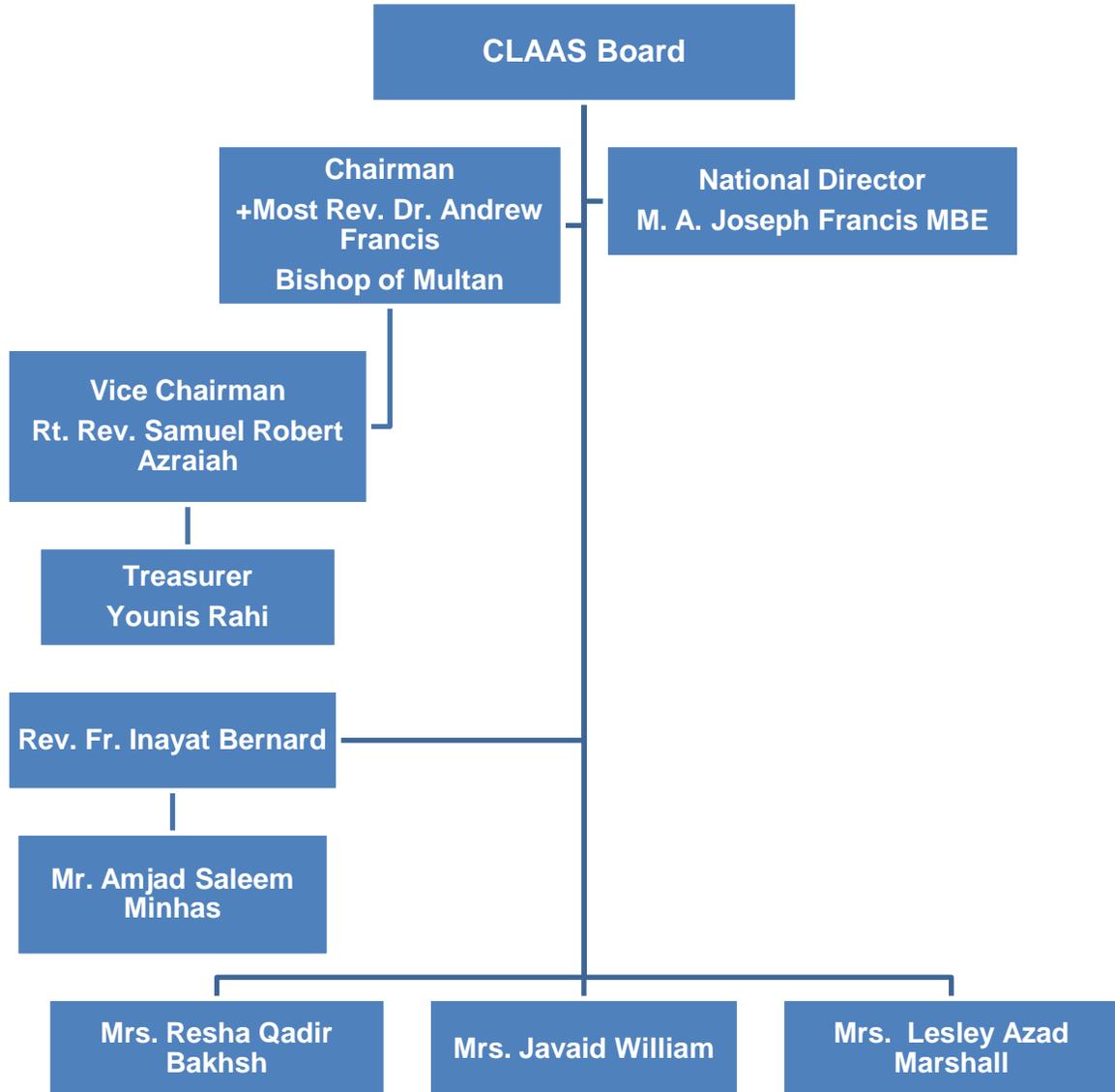
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CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

CLAAS BOARD in 2012

CLAAS has a Board consisting of 09 members from different walks of life but share similar concerns of the promotion of human rights.



CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

List of CLAAS Staff Members in the year 2012

1. Mr. M.A Joseph Francis MBE, National Director
2. Ms. Katherine Sapna, Deputy National Director/Program Officer
3. Mr. Sohail Habel, Finance Manager
4. Ms. Neelam Uzma, Assistant Finance Manager
5. Mr. Joel Samuel, Internal Auditor
6. Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate, Research officer (Left in December 2012)
7. Ms. Rama Rasheed, Assistant Program Officer
8. Ms. Huma Lucas, Office Assistant
9. Mr. Asher Sarfraz, Field Officer
10. Mr. Asif Raza, Assistant Field Officer
11. Ms. Rubina Ghazal, In-Charge Legal Department
12. Mr. Johnson Sohail, Receptionist
13. Mr. Yousaf Khokhar, Janitor
14. Mr. John Paul Bernard, Driver
15. Mrs. Nasreen Sajid, Kitchen In-charge (cook)
16. Mr. Atif Yousaf, Support Staff
17. Mr. Asif Khan, IT officer

Legal Advisors CLAAS & Court Clerks

- 1- Mr. Tahir Bashir (Advocate High Court)
- 2- Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba (Advocate High Court)
- 3- Mr. Tanvir Masih (Advocate High Court)
- 5- Mr. Ayaz Gill (Court Clerk)
- 6- Mr. Aqeel Naveed (Court Clerk)

Staff of Apna Ghar (Rehabilitation Centre for Women & Safe House)

1. Mrs. Maria Basharat, In-charge Apna Ghar
2. Mr. Basharat, Watchman Apna Ghar
3. Mr. Liaqat Bhatti, Tailor Master-Apna Ghar

CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge all efforts and hardworking of all the individuals especially CLAAS staff for compiling this report for the year 2012. My appreciations and gratitude for those who supported and at present supporting the struggle to defending and protecting the human rights as well as making this world of worries for peaceful. I am thankful to God Almighty for such a brilliant and devoted team especially, the administration, lawyers, Apna Ghar staff and other supporting staff.

Secondly, I am thankful to CLAAS-UK and appreciate its constant efforts for presenting our point of view against the all forms of discriminations/legislations in the name of religion and our demands for equal rights and equal status of the non-Muslim citizens in Pakistan. I also acknowledge the role of CLAAS-UK for lobbying and raising awareness of misuse of blasphemy laws.

I would like to have a high regard for all those who contribute professionally made this report available for you.

M.A Joseph Francis MBE
National Director

CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

FOREWORD



CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

Executive Summary

The present critical situation in Pakistan is that of increasing economic and political instability and destabilized government which resulting for losing its control. The biggest threat confronting Pakistan is the growing control of Taliban and allies of Al Qaeda. The increasing number of bomb blasts, suicide attacks resulting the killings of innocent citizens and law-enforcement personnel across the country, throughout the greatest threat to fundamental rights of the citizens as well as to the human rights defenders. The critical rising situation of inflation, unemployment, worst law and order situation, extra judicial killings, target killings, enforced disappearances, violence against women, religious intolerance, discriminatory practices against religious minorities such as misuse of blasphemy laws, Hudood Ordinances, injustices and sexual harassment at workplace against non-Muslims and attacks on places of worships are alarming for grave threats to peace and security of religious minorities in the country. The sad fact is that the parliament did not pay adequate attention to the vital issues, quite a few of which affected national security, except for an initiative it took to address the uprising militancy and law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhaw, Punjab, Sindh, Gilgit Baltistan and Baluchistan. Country's jails are over-crowded and poorly managed and victims of blasphemy are at high risks in the jails. The police are short of personnel which is also thoroughly corrupt and poorly trained. To check the crime rate, it relied on shortcuts like extra judicial killings of the accused in the so-called encounters. The failure of the criminal justice administration was also reflected in the increased incidents of crimes against women - the number of honor killings, rape, domestic torture and acid attacks/burning with other ways etc noticed throughout the year.

The outright disrespect for fundamental rights, both by the state and the communal elements, was also visible in the crimes and excesses perpetrated against religious minorities. While the gangsters went on rampage in desecration of Gosha-e-Aman, Young Muslim boys attacked on Christians in LDA Quarters Lahore after minor child dispute, Maltreatment & harassment against Christians in village Kaadi Wind district Kasur. Ijaz Masih was murdered by Muslim friends in Manawala, district Nankana Sahib, Christian family was brutally slaughtered in Okara and Latif John house was attacked, burnt and also forced to embrace Islam. LDA authority demolition a Christian place in Lahore and after that Police was violent against Christians in LDA Lahore. Three young Christian brothers were murdered suspiciously in Lahore and Sunil Yaqoob aged 12, a Christian boy was murdered in Faisalabad and Faisal Masih was murdered in Essa Nagri, Karachi by Muslim extremists. Pastor Kalvin John was kidnapped at Martinpur Nankana Sahib. Maqdas Kainaat, a minor Christian girl was raped and murdered in Sahiwal. A young intelligent Christian boy Rabeel Aftab was kidnapped and forcibly converted into Islam, maltreated and sexually harassed in Sahiwal. Police violence against Christians in Bahawalpur, Sister Birgitta Almeby, a Swedish charity worker attacked by Muslim extremists in Lahore. The registration of false blasphemy cases also noticed in the last year Khurram Masih, Saira Khokhar, Shamim Bibi, Sajid Masih Pastor Joshua & Saleem Masih, Two female Ahmadis Syeda Tasneem Kausar and Robina Jabeen, Rimsha Misrik, Principal of Farooqi Girls High School, Ghazal Khan and Zafar Bhatti allegedly blamed for Blasphemy. These incidents, and dozens of cases implicating Ahmedis, misuse of the blasphemy laws, which over the years have been

exploited by fanatics and vested interests to perpetuate a reign of terror against the non-Muslims citizens of the country. The government was again too timid to take on the obscurantist elements and make amendments in the law. It could not even enforce the law banning the misuse of loudspeakers that the miscreants employed with impunity to incite the people to violence in both the gory incidents. The media, despite all its shortcomings, played a major role in raising the issues of public interest and highlighted the lackadaisical performance of the government. CLAAS was able to get released Ruqqiya Bibi and her husband Munir Masih from false charges of blasphemy 295-B-C after an ordeal of 5 years and also another victim of blasphemy Dildar Masih after nine months.

Finally the Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) is trying hard to draw attention on the fair trial of all prisoners of blasphemy accused in accordance with the international standard for fair trial. CLAAS unconditionally opposed torture and other cruel, inhuman or all forms of degrading treatment or punishment of blasphemy prisoners and the prisoners under the row of death penalty and works for their abolition. CLAAS has expressed its shock and grave concerns on the state of prisoners imprisoned in the jails under false allegations of blasphemy laws.

The report will enable our readers to look into the situation of Christian's minority as they try to survive among other minorities but with greater power, i.e. Radical Muslims. Please take time and read this report as other than bad experiences we do have positive events where we have cherished our brothers and sisters in Christ. Through this report we want to encourage our readers to play a vital role in raising the voice of the voiceless and try to help build a just and tolerable society.

CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

A word from National Director

The brutal killing of innocent citizens in the name of war on terror, suicide attacks by the so called militants and the country facing political instability, critical law and order situation, judicial crisis or judicial activism, financial crisis, foreign DEBT, inflation & hunger, un-employment and religious intolerance crash the country throughout the year. The present and previous inhuman acts faced by the non-Muslim citizens of the country and the way they are suffering for their survival as non-Muslim citizens are not out of sight. The government totally failed to protect the non-Muslims especially Christians and also not even bothered to highlight the brutal attacks' findings in public at large. The government also failed to execute their policies to discourage extremists and radical elements and abortive to stop the propaganda against non-Muslim citizens in the country. The hard liner groups and the state spread hatred and religious intolerance among different communities and as a result many innocent people killed and injured.

Attacks on churches, Christian colonies, false blasphemy accusations and registration of false blasphemy cases by the religious zealots for the completion of their vested interests, forced marriages after forced conversions (where under age Christian girls were forcibly converted to Islam and later forced them for marriage), inequality (where Christians also suffered at their work places and faced discriminatory behaviors by the co-workers) especially with the bonded laborers at brick kilns' & social boycott by the fellow residents after false allegations of blasphemy, discriminatory legislation and various other forms biased and unfair attitudes are not new in Pakistan as whenever people provoked and misinterpreted by religious extremists from the Mosque's loudspeaker usually a mob without inquiring the matter enraged and attacked.

There are so many massacres witnessed that how the Christians attacked, maltreated, killed and tortured in last few years and remained continue in 2012. Government officials through land mafia occupied the Christian properties in Lahore. In January 2012 Gosh-e-Aman was demolished by LDA authority, Christians were attacked by Muslims in LDA Quarters Lahore after minor child dispute, Maltreatment & harassment against Christians in village Kaadi wind district Kasur. Pastor Calvin John was kidnapped by Muslim Militants and tortured at Martinpur Nankana Sahib in 2012. In 2012 a young intelligent Christian boy Rabeel Aftab was kidnapped, forced converted, maltreated and sexually harassed in Sahiwal. Police has violence against Christians in Bahawalpur and Sister Birgitta Almeby, a Swedish charity worker attacked by Muslim extremists in Lahore in the year 2012.

Since the violent attacks are going to be happened and till date 70 churches attacked where 58 people killed, 275 were injured and four innocent Christians lost their eyes. There are no effective bars on extremists from the majority Muslim community waging allegation against religious minorities for desecration of Holy Quran, derogatory remarks against the Prophet Mohammad, hurt of religious feelings, holy personages or places and forced occupation of churches and associated lands and graveyards.

CLAAS along with civil society organizations are forefront to save & protect the injured as well the affected Christians after attacks by extremists and was actively involved for their rehabilitation as well as their legal counseling. The civil society continuously played an important role in ensuring institutional guarantees for the protection and promotion of all civil, political, social and cultural rights for all citizens without cast and creed. They urged harmonious co-existence, regard for difference of opinion, respect for basic rights and democratic values and norms. CLAAS remained engaged in extensive advocacy at grass root, national and international level to drawing attention for addressing evils as poverty, ignorance, violence, coercion, injustices and victimizations.

CLAAS tried its level best to raise the core issues faced by the Christians in Pakistan and demonstrated continues struggle to protect religious minorities from hatred, discriminations, violent attacks and maltreatment in the name of religion by the extremists and other religious fundamentalists. And this report will tell its readers how in every walk of life Christians are beings discriminated against constitutionally, politically, religiously, socially, economically, educationally and culturally. Although the religious minorities living in Pakistan are deprived form their basic rights but still we will continue to struggle for the change.

Thank You

M. A. Joseph Francis MBE

CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

Special Thanks



CLAAS is grateful to MIVA Netherlands for providing vehicle/High Roof to CLAAS in 2012 for the use in the sensitive legal cases of the victims of blasphemy, forced conversion and abduction cases. This vehicle is used for victims/survivors who are given shelter at Rehabilitation center to take them to the court for case hearings. It is also used for the fact finding of the incident/attacked places in religious minority issues.



2- CLAAS is grateful to Friedrich Naumann Stiftung Islamabad (a German Organization) for providing four latest computers with LCD desktops and window 2007, and one projector with 1.83 x 2, 44M, screen for CLAAS office. These computers are used for documentations and national and international correspondences.

CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT



CLAAS is proud to share that Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) CLAAS was candidate for the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 2012 by the European Parliament Brussels, Belgium.

CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

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INTRODUCTION CLAAS

CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT (CLAAS) started in 1992, with the commitment to address the acute need of legal aid assistance, protection and settlement for the victims of religious intolerance (especially victims charged under blasphemy), human rights violations faced by vulnerable groups, such as religious minority's women and children. CLAAS is a Multi-religious Organization and helping victims of abuse and discrimination without cast and creed. Therefore, a group of concerned Christians along with few progressive Muslim colleagues encouraged Mr. M. A. Joseph Francis MBE to start working for the protection and promotion of human rights and formed CLAAS in Lahore. The CLAAS operates and works at secular & ecumenical level and this incorporation is visible in the CLAAS board.

MOTIVATION (Background reasons for setting up CLAAS)

Mr. M. A. Joseph Francis MBE started this initiative as human rights activist in 1965 when war broke out between India & Pakistan and the Christians were blamed as traitor and spy as Indian secret agent. Through these serious allegations under defense of Pakistan article 132-A & 132-B, thousands of Christians were arrested and hundreds of Christians were murdered. In that situation Mr. Joseph Francis MBE began talks with government officials for release of innocent Christians. Later Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto came in to power as Prime Minister of Pakistan he therefore released the innocent Christians arrested under the fake charges deserter. The hatred against Christians never ended till date and the period from 1977 to 1988, when the military dictator, General Zia ul Haq, got rid of his political & fundamentalist adversaries to enjoy economic, social and political freedom to obtain religious backing for his spread of fundamentalism and obscurantism of Islamization and forcedly introduced discriminatory legislation such as including, Hudood Ordinance relating to Zakat, Ushr, Qisas and Diyat, the Qanoon-e-Shahadat (Law of Evidence), Blasphemy Laws under sections Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) 295, 295-A, 295-B, 295-C (the most draconian of all laws offence punished with death or imprisonment for life), 298 A, 298-B and 298-C PPC added for Ahmadis.

The disparity of political strength encouraged the overzealous Islamists to persecute religious minorities through these laws of blasphemy. A separate electorate system was introduced which was based upon the religious identity of the citizens whereby persecution against them also increased in government services. Non-Muslim citizens could not contest as general candidates in the parliamentary elections. Under 167&168 Martial Law Order the Christian educational institutions nationalized and captured. A separate column introduce for obtaining national identity cards as well as in the passports. Article 2 of the Constitution of Pakistan declares that Islam is the state religion and Article 2-A makes the Objectives Resolution a substantive part of the Constitution. Non-Muslim citizens cannot hold two of the highest public offices (The President & The Prime Minister) of the land and Islamic provisions of the Constitution (Articles 227-230) are designed to ensure that all laws conform to the Holy Quran, Sunnah and enforcement of the Federal Shariat (Islamic Fiqh-Jurisprudence) Court. Resultantly the discriminatory legislation prompted an atmosphere of intolerance against religious minorities in the country, which not only encourages sentiments of religious prejudice and bigotry against non-Muslim citizens but also poses a serious threat to basic human rights.

The laws interpreted with chauvinism against non-Muslims and consequently the courts are biased also influenced by radical extremist elements. The citizens belonging to other faiths are systemically excluded and relegated to a secondary position. Religious discrimination, inequality and contemptible legislation institutionalized within the state structure which completely alienated religious minorities/non-Muslim citizens of the country.

ORIGIN OF CLAAS

Since the creation of the blasphemy laws the religious zealots have been exploited throughout for their ulterior gains. The blasphemy laws are disputed since its beginning. In early 1992, first ever fake case of blasphemy happened in the history of Pakistan in which Mr. Tahir Iqbal, a paralytic Christian convert from Islam to Christianity and resident of Lahore, was allegedly accused of abusing Prophet Mohammad and the charges were that he was teaching anti-Islamic education to children during tuitions. He was arrested and later was poisoned and brutally killed in Kot Lakhpat jail, Lahore. This brutality and inhuman act was never accepted by the human rights groups and individuals consequently they raise their voice and demanded repeal of all discriminatory Laws especially the Blasphemy and Hudood Laws but unable to rescue every victim of religious intolerance and intimidation. It has also been observed that the problems faced by victims belonging to the minority community multiply on account of a culture of suffering and silence which fears of further retaliation. The victim feels more comfortable if they are able to get in touch with human rights activists from religious minorities and lawyers to seek assistance. Violent circumstances against non-Muslim citizens of the country stimulated an initiative of motivation of help persecuted Christians for Mr. Francis to rescue of every victim of religious intolerance and oppression. The objectives and methodologies adopted as to provide legal aid assistance & representations in court trials, settlement, rehabilitation, shelter/protection, sexual abuses and domestic violence.

GOALS

The ultimate goal of CLAAS is to work for the protection and promotion of human rights and elimination of all forms of violations and help to build a just and peaceful society.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of CLAAS is to provide legal aid assistance, settlement, protection, rehabilitation for survivors of religious intolerance (especially men, women & children) and fortification of persecuted places of worships desecrated by Muslims fanatic and extremists.

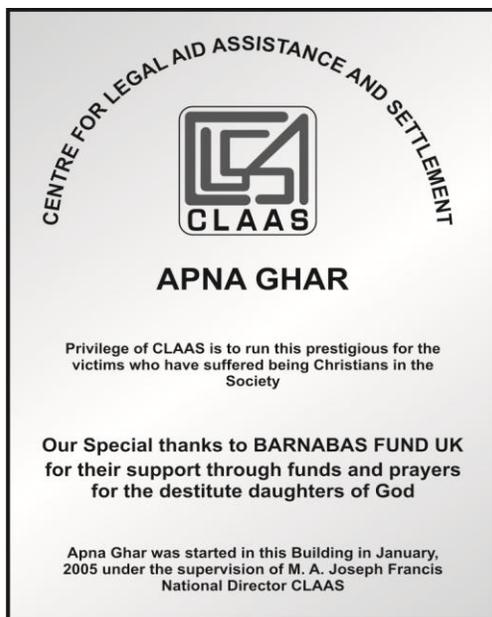
CLAAS PROJECTS

LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE



Legal aid assistance in particular all forms of violence, discriminations and human rights violations is a prime responsibility of the CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT (CLAAS). This enthusiasm is continue in CLAAS work by providing free legal aid assistance in all cases of blasphemy, cases of church profanations, forced conversions, forced marriages, murders, gang rape, rape, sodomy, kidnapping, abduction, habeas corpus, police torture, domestic violence, harassment, allegations of theft, job matter as well as cases of discriminations at work place, legal aid assistance to foreign nationals, family matters, extra judicial killing, child abuse, land disputes including illegal possessions on church properties and all others related to religious minorities. It has also been observed that the victim feels more comfortable to state their positions and innocence after getting the conveniences of legal aid assistance.

REHABILITATION CENTRE (APNA-GHAR)

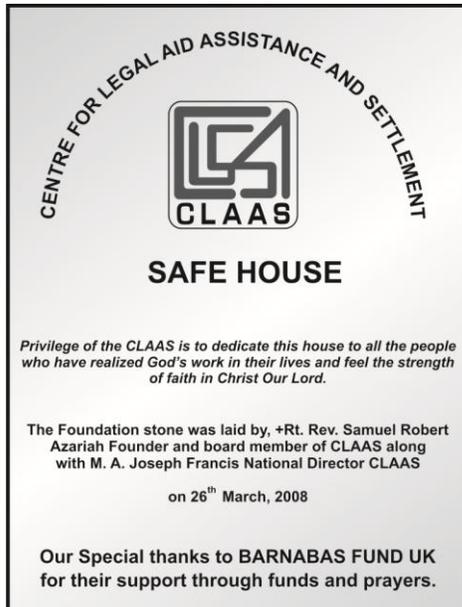


Apna-Ghar is a shelter as well as rehabilitation centre for the women victims of violence. The primary function of this shelter home is to offer protection against violence and to give appropriate legal counseling and assistance to the women victims of violence such as women implicated in blasphemy, rape, gang rape of minor girls, sexual abuse & sexual harassment and abduction etc. In many cases the victim women in need of protection because of litigation against the State, victims of domestic violence, women escaping sexual exploitation, women facing oppression at home, women who are denied the right of free choice in marriage or have been forced into marriage without consent, women who were abducted and is forced into marriage. Apna-Ghar providing free accommodation, food, clothing, medical care, education, counseling in cases, recreational activities, spiritual guidance, awareness talks on different basic rights issues and also empowering them to learn skills such as stitching cloths, training in beauty parlor etc.

Violence against women is a revolting reality in Pakistan and non-Muslim women are discriminating twice as first for her gender and second for her faith. The main objective of Apna-Ghar is to provide a reliable platform to the Christian women (who are

marginalized community in our society and have no voice) where they could come for help without any fear. In 2000, CLAAS started Apna-Ghar in a rented house, with the financial support provided by Dr. Sam Soloman from United Kingdom and Ms. Jo Nell from USA. Later in 2003, +Rev. Rev. Munormal Shah (Bishop of Peshawar Diocese-Church of Pakistan) supported for the purchase of land, Barnabas Funds UK, provided funds for construction and friends from HMK Germany provided some funds for the completion of registration of land documents and finally it has been completed in January 2005.

SAFE HOUSE



Right to Life is also a rule of Natural Justice as well as also the United States adopted this covenant in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. CLAAS Pakistan is fully agreed upon this fundamental right to life. CLAAS Safe House (protection home for survivors) is a home for the victims of faith, blasphemy and converts whose lives are in danger, and cannot survive in the society openly and with their free will. After enforcement of discriminatory laws it was very difficult for the Christians survivors if were implicated in blasphemy accusations in this country, but they are not only one who has to face such persecution because of their faith, their families also become the victim of cruelty and intimidation of Muslim extremists. The converted from Islam to Christianity have no right to live they are treated inhumanly by their own families as well as the fellow residents and does not have right to

report to the authorities when they are being harassed, threatened or beaten up by their families or extremist groups and the law does not provide protection to an apostate. The instigation of criminal cases against new converts to Christianity is on the increase and blamed on false accusations of insulting the Islamic faith and the Holy Prophet. The lower functionaries of the state do not even protect the victims of these nefarious acts against mob violence and there have been many extra judicial murders with the police just standing by. The police are usually prejudiced i.e. in favor of the fundamentalist and therefore do not fulfill the normal legal obligations. The motive for registering cases is evidently religious retaliation. In 2006 CLAAS took a rented a safe place for protection of the victims of religious intolerance and the same year purchased a piece of land with the financial support of HMK Germany while the Barnabas Funds UK, provided financial help for construction to build a sanctuary for the alleged victims. In this regard, we seek support from our friends and well wishers in order to help our brothers and sisters who give their live to our Savior Jesus Christ and thus become prime targets of religious intolerance at the hands of Muslim extremists. In 2007, the construction of the building started and till May 2009, ground floor, first floor including five rooms, one kitchen, one hall and a prayer room completed. In the growing situations religious intolerance and violence against Christians, obviously the number of victims of faith is increasing day by day while the present accommodation is not enough to accommodate them.

MOBILE MEDICAL HEALTH CARE UNIT (for bonded laborers)

CLAAS office received numerous complaints of health problems as well as forced labour from the marginalized community particularly the brick kilns (labourers working in brick making). CLAAS made survey and found that the brick kilns and their family member are working in the clay almost for twenty four hours and they obviously got different diseases mostly they are suffering with skin infections, scabies, respiratory tract infections, fever,



anemia, diabetes and liver diseases. The poor slave brick kilns have no accessible or affordable healthcare facilities available. CLAAS also observed that they are working on very low wages and surviving just hand to mouth usually made to work forcibly without payment. CLAAS also received many complaints of forced labour and illegal detention & chained as slave, following these complaints CLAAS rescued and freed 781 brick kiln labourers with the help of 11 bailiffs of the High Court at once. CLAAS started this project in October

2004, with support of Medic Assist International UK. The MAI-UK also provided a full equipped ambulance. The CLAAS appointed a team of certified doctors along with a staff-nurse, laboratory technician and a driver. The monthly plan was described as twelve visits in every month (six new and six follow-up visits) at different brick kilns situated in the area of province of the Punjab for providing free medical health facilities to the people working and living at Brick Kilns. The moment CLAAS is providing medical as well as legal assistance.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF VICTIM FAMILIES IN DAILY NEEDS & IN EDUCATION



CLAAS helping the families troubling by the false allegations of blasphemy and illegally implicate in other cases. CLAAS financially assisting the affected children in education from 2000 and the idea was to resume the studies of children victimized under the issues of religious intolerance. The project was focused on the children and families are not able to afford their expenses of education for the continuation of their studies after communal violence and therefore CLAAS bears all their financial expenses accordingly. Through this project the affected children are getting education in various

schools with the help JUBILEE CAMPAIGN USA & UK and all the way through hundreds of children had been completed their education.

JAIL VISITS (CLAAS OWN INITIATIVE)



Legal aid assistance to the victims of all sorts of human rights violations such as the survivors of religious intolerance (especially the victims implicated in blasphemy accusations) men, women and to the juveniles is a prime duty of CLAAS. In this thirist CLAAS conducted surveys, time to time visits and become conscious over the worst situation of Christian prisoners as well as confined since years without legal aid assistance in various jails situated in the province of Punjab.

The motive of the said visits was to be familiar with the problems faced by the innocent Christian women men and juveniles without committing any offence are imprisoned. After the excruciating situation of the Christian prisoners CLAAS decide and started jails visits in order to providing legal aid to those do not have access to lawyers to pursue their cases in the courts for release.

FEEDING PROJECT



The main objective of CLAAS is to provide legal aid assistance, protection rehabilitation to the survivors of religious intolerance, sexual abuse, domestic violence victims of blasphemy and their families and all sort of oppression. CLAAS work is a part of the human rights movement in Pakistan and its activities reinforce and strengthen the human rights issues. CLAAS ultimate goal is to end human rights violations, and always tries to provide practical help to the victims. In July 2011 with the help of Barnabas Funds UK CLAAS has started Feeding Project for the poor

needy and victims' families who are involved in different fake cases especially in blasphemy accusations. They live hide and cannot work openly therefore they are unable to fulfill the needs of their families. Looking towards their poverty CLAAS decided to provide them some food items and grocery on monthly basis.

Annual Review of CLAAS-UK 2012

ABOUT CLAAS UK



CLAAS UK is a sister organization of CLAAS Pakistan, it's a non-denominational human rights organization which is working since 1998 for the religious freedom of Christian in Pakistan who are suffering because of their faith. CLAAS UK raised awareness, lobbies and advocates at the international level as part of a campaign to repeal discriminatory laws which make Christians and other religious minorities vulnerable in the society, through letter writing, signature campaigns, awareness workshops, printing and documentary martial.

CLAAS UK's Patrons

The Rt. Rev. Michael Nazir Ali, the lord Bishop of Rochester.

CLAAS UK's Board of Management:

The Rev. Alwin Samuel (Chairperson)

Mr. Edger Money

Mr. Nasir Saeed (Executive Secretary; Coordinator CLAAS UK)

Mr. Saleem Mutto (Treasurer)

Mr. Joseph Francis (National Director, CLAAS Pakistan)

The Rev. Philip Simpson

CLAAS UK's Board of Reference:

The Rt. Rev. Pete Broadbent

Accountants,

The Rt. Rev. Patrick O' Donaghue
Parade,

The Rt. Rev. Robert Rominger

The Rt. Rev. Philip Wood

Accountant:

Hindco & Co Chartered

34 Queensbury Road, Station

Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 5NN

Work of CLAAS UK

1- Religious Freedom:

Christians, in particular, are the targets of religious extremist in Pakistan and continues to be arrested and face charges for allegedly contravening principles of Islam. Charges filed against Christians included preaching, distributing Christian literature, converting Muslims to Christianity and building Churches. Previous Pakistani President General Pervaiz Musharraf has called for changes to the discriminatory laws to give a good impression to the international community, as national and international observers have repeatedly condemned these laws as severely restricting religious freedom.

2- Discrimination & Persecution:

A lack of political will on the part of the Pakistani government to put an end to the destructive trends has encouraged the extremist groups to persecute and victimize individuals and groups with impunity. The government refrains from taking action against extremist for reasons of political expediency.

3- Shariah Law:

Islamic Shariah Law applied harsh punishments. Christians cannot preside in court or appear in the court to defend Christians. Non-Muslim witnesses are not admissible against Muslims. CLAAS UK is campaigning to exempt Christians from the discriminatory Shariah Law. Those arrested and imprisoned under Shariah law should be released or put on trial under the PPC.

4- Discrimination against Women:

Violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, rape, abduction, forced conversion, honor killings and trafficking are rampant in Pakistan. The existing legal code discriminates against women and girls and creates major obstacles to register or investigate cases and bring perpetrator to justice. Under Pakistan's existing Hudood Ordinance proof of rape generally requires the confession of the accused or the testimony of four adult Muslim men who witnessed the assault. If a woman cannot prove her rape allegation she runs a very high risk of being charged with fornication or adultery. The criminal penalty for which is either a long prisons sentence or public whipping, or though rare, death by stoning.

The testimony for women carries half the weight of man's testimony under this ordinance. The government has yet to repeal or reform the Hudood Ordinance, despite repeated calls for its repeal by the government run National Commission on the Status of Women, as well as women's rights and human rights group. Informed estimates suggest that over 2, 00,000 cases under Hudood laws are under process at various levels in Pakistan's legal system. Proposed legislation on honor killings drafted in consultation with NGOs and the HRCP were sidelined in favor of a far weaker bill.

5- The Blasphemy Law:

The Blasphemy law continues to promote religious intolerance and hatred against Christian and other religious minorities in Pakistan. Several Christians and people of other faiths are in prison, many were falsely accused by those bearing grudges.

6- Asylum Seekers/ Refugees:

CLAAS has provided assistance and advice to refugees who fled Pakistan to save their lives. CLAAS is also fighting for many Pakistanis who have genuine problems in Pakistan but who are struggling to find protection in the United Kingdom.

Cases registered with CLAAS in 2012

Sr.#	Title of the case, Complainant/ Defendant	Advocate	Nature of the case	Court & District	Up-dates
01	Nazia Bibi Vs Waris Masih Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Senior Civil Judge Family Court Lahore District Lahore	1- Decreed on 25-05-2012
02	Niamat Masih Vs Nusrat Bibi Defendant	Mr. Nasir Anjum	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Senior Civil Judge Family Court Lahore District Lahore	Case dismissed due to non-prosecution on 23-04-2012
03-A	Permeela Bibi VS SHO Khanqah Dogran Dist. Sheikhpura Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Registration of a Criminal Case	Sessions Judge District Sheikhpura	Case was filed on 17- 01-2012 in the court and decided same day with the direction to the SHO for the registration of the case against accused
03-B	1-Nadia Naira Vs SHO 2-Nadia VS Sheikh Maqsood (Apna Ghar) Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Forced Conversion & Forced Marriage 1-Harassment Petition 2-Dissolution of Marriage	1-Sessions Court Lahore 2- Senior Civil Judge Family Court Lahore District Lahore	1- Harassment Petition decided on 23-01-2012 2- The case was withdrawn on 05-03-2012 due to the compromise between parties.
04	Javaid Francis Vs The State Defendant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Fraud Case 1-Pre- Arrest Bail 2- Pre- Arrest Bail	1-Anti Corruption 2- High Court District Lahore	The bail petition was dismissed twice due to non-appearance.
05	Muhammad Sarfraz Vs	Mr. Akhtar Masih	Dispute and	Sessions Judge	Under court proceedings

	Sharif Masih etc CLAAS Monitoring Report on Maltreatment & harassment of Christian Community Complainant/Defendant	Sandhu	Criminal 1-Pre-arrest bails opposed 2- Application for re-examine 3- Cross Version	District Kasur	
06	Kenneth Shahzad Vs The State Defendant	Ms. Sumera Shafique	Theft Case 1-Post Arrest Bail	Judicial Magistrate Malik M. Awas District Lahore	1- Bailed out
07	Sonia Vs SHO Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum	Habeas Corpus Petition	Additional Sessions Judge District Lahore	Disposed off in Favor of Sonia on 13-02-2012.
08	The State VS Roselane Bibi Defendant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Fraud Case (Cheque Dishonor) 1-Trial	Judicial Magistrate District Lahore	Under court trial
09	Sana Vs Iqbal Masih Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum	Family Matter 1-Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1- Decreed on 30-07-2012
10	Anam Vs Ali Zohaib Haider Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum,	Family Matter 1-Dissolution of Marriage 2- Pre-Arrest Bail Contest	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1- Decreed on 21-05-2012 2- On 19 October 2012 power of attorney was submitted by CLAAS Lawyer to contest the pre- arrest bail of Ali Zohaib on

					behalf of Anam Bibi.
11	Iram Vs Alhanan Khokhar Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum,	Family Matter 1-Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court Lahore District Rawalpindi	Decreed on 18-05-2012
12	Nomi Karamat Vs Shahid Mehmood Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir,	Family Matter 1-Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Decreed on 16-07- 2012
13	Sonia Bibi VS Michael David (Apna Ghar) Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum	Family Matter 1-Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Decreed on 03-07-2012
14	Nazia Bibi Vs Babar Masih Complainant	Mr. Akhtar Sindhu	Family Matter 1-Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Kasur	Decreed on 23-04-2012
15	Uzma Bibi Vs SHO etc Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	1-Habeas Corpus Petition 2- Registration of Criminal Case	1- Sessions Court 2- District & Sessions Judge District Lahore	1-Habeas Petition Disposed off in favor of Uzma on 25-02-2012 2- On 05 March 2012 the Petition was disposed off with the direction to the SHO to register a criminal case against accused.
16	State Vs Rafique Masih Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Murder Trial	Additional Sessions Judge District Lahore	Under Trial
17	Muhammad Iqbal Vs Justice of Peace etc Complainant	Mr. Amin Javaid	Criminal Case 1-Writ Petition	High Court Lahore District Gujranwala	Pending for police evidence

18	1- The State Vs Bushra etc 2- Asif Masih & Anwar Masih Vs The State Defendant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Theft Case 1-Trial 2- Registration of FIR 3- Pre-Arrest Bail 4- Post-Arrest Bail	1-Judicial Magistrate 2- Sessions Court District Lahore	1- Under Trial 2- Under court Proceedings 3- Pre- arrest bail Dismissed on 30-05-2012 4- Post arrest bail withdrawn on 08-06-2012.
19	Saira Bano Vs Imran Shahzad Complainant	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Family Matter 1-Habeas Corpus 2-Recovery of Maintenance allowance 3- Execution Petition	1-Sessions Court Lahore 2- Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1- decided in Favor on 02-03-2012 2- Decided in Favor on 16-05-2012 3- Under Court Proceedings
20	Khuram Masih Vs The State Defendant	Mr. Amin Javaid	Blasphemy 1- Post-Arrest Bail 2- Jail Trial	1- High Court 2-Sessions Court Shahdara District Lahore	1-Dismissed 2-Party Changed the Counsel in August 2012
21	Najma Bibi Vs SHO etc Complainant	Mr. Kamran Yousaf Khan	Criminal Case 1- Registration of FIR	Sessions Court District Gujranwala	Decided on 15-03-2012, later compromise took place between the parties
22	The State Vs Younis etc Complainant	Mr. Malik Zaman Haider	Murder Trial	Sessions Court Ferozewala District Sheikhpura	Under Trial
23	The State Vs Shakeela Bibi (Murder of	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Murder Trial 1-Trail 2- Post –	1-Additional Sessions Judge	1-Under Trial 2-Bail was rejected by the Sessions Court, it was

	Shabana w/o Hanief) Complainant		Arrest Bail Contest 3- Post-Arrest Bail Contest	2- Sessions Court 3- High Court District Lahore	decided. 3- Bail was against rejected by the High Court Lahore on 30-08-2012 in the favor of the victim
24	State VS Arshad etc (Murder of Muhammad Ali) Complainant	Mr. Malik Zaman Haider	Murder Trial	Sessions Court District Sheikhpura	Counsel Changed CLAAS with drawn the case
25	Hira Vs SHO etc Complainant	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Habeas Corpus Petition	Sessions Court District Lahore	Decided in favor on 16-03-2012
26	Tahira Bibi Vs Bashir Masih (Apna Ghar) Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Withdrawn on 25-05-2012 because of compromise between the parties
27	Hameeda Bibi Vs Padri Samson Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Property Matter 1- Suit for declaration with Permanent injunction	Civil Court District Lahore	1-Decided in favor on 11-04-2012 Later party changed counsel
28	Nazia Bibi Vs Sabir Masih Complainant/Defendant	Mr. Akhtar Masih Sandhu	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage 2- Suit for Conjugal Right (Contest)	Civil Judge Family Court District Kasur	Both suits are Under court proceedings
29	1- Mumtaz Bibi Vs SHO etc 2- Sobia Bibi	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Abduction & Rape Case	1-High Court 2- Sessions	1-On 17-06-2012 Sobia was recovered through

	Vs SHO Police Station Chung, Lahore Complainant/ Defendant		1-Habeas 2- Pre- Arrest Bail of Muhammad Asif 3- Harassment Petition 4- Application for Medical Examine 5- Registration of a criminal case	Court District Lahore	court bailiff from the illegal custody. 2- Pre arrested bail of accused was rejected by the session court 3-Harrassment petition on behalf of Mumtaz was decided by the district court Lahore. 4- On 18-07-2012 Medico Legal Examination Report Confirmed Rape. 5- On 28-07-2012 the petition disposed off with the direction to the concerned SHO to registered case FIR against accused
30	Samuel Shaukat Vs Pakistan Railways through its Chairman etc Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Job Matter 1-Service Appeal	Federal Service Tribunal District Lahore	Under court proceedings
31	Bashir Masih etc Vs The State Complainant/ Defendant	Mr. Akhtar Masih Sandhu	Criminal Case 1-Pre-Arrest Bails	Additional Sessions Judge Patoki District Kasur	Pre-Arrest Bail Contested on 07- 05-2012. On the same day compromise took place between the parties

32	1-Hameeda Vs Padri Samsoon 2- Samson Vs Hameeda Bibi Complainant/ Defendant	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Church Property Matter 1- Suit for declaration with Permanent injunction (Two Suits Contested) 2- Petition under Section 22-A & 22-B 3- Application for Consolidation	Civil Court District Lahore	1-Under Court Proceedings 2- On 16-05-2012 Petition 22-A & 22-B (for registration of case against the accused) decided in the favor of Padri Samson 3- Under Court Proceeding
33	Sadia Vs Javad Masih Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage 2- Recovery of Dowry Articles	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Under court proceedings
34	State Vs Basharat etc Defendant	Mr. Akhtar Masih Sandhu	Criminal Trial	Judicial Magistrate District Kasur	Acquitted on 23-10-2012
35	Abraham Yousaf Vs The State Defendant	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Criminal Case 1-Post-Arrest Bail 2- Trial	Judicial Magistrate District Lahore	1-Bailed out 2-Under Trial

36	Tania Bibi Vs The State (Apna Ghar) Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Abduction, Forced Conversion & Forced Marriage 1- Statement under section 164 PPC 2- Application for Medical Examine	Magistrate city Police Station District Nankana Sahib	1- statement recorded on 13- 06-2012 2- Medico Legal Examination Report confirmed rape on 13- 06-2012
37	Nusrat Bibi Vs Haji Ashfaq Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Habeas Corpus Petition	High Court District Kasur	Decided in favor on 15-06-2012
38	Azra Barkat Vs Ashraf Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Decided on 15-11-2012
39	Latif John Vs CCPO etc Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	2-Criminal Case 1-Wirt Petition to arrest the accused and Provided Security	Sessions Court District Lahore	Writ Petition Filed on 14-06-2012 and decided on 25-06- 20 with the order to the SHO to arrest the accused and provide proper security to the applicants.
40	Rakhal Bibi Vs SHO etc Complainant	Malik Asif Tauffique	Habeas Corpus	Sessions Court District Islamabad	Decided in favor on 28-05-2012
41	Nazia alias Nazi Vs The sate Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Murder 1- Post-arrest Bail Contest	1-High Court 2- Sessions Court	Post-Arrest Bail of accused Nazia Bibi was contested in High Court which was allowed on 19- 07-2012 and

			2- Trial	District Lahore	decided against. Later party changed the counsel
42	Robeca Vs Haroon Masih Complainant	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Under court proceedings
43	Rubina Bibi Vs SHO Kot Lakhat Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Criminal Case 1-Registration of FIR	Sessions Court District Lahore	1- On 10-07-2012 the petition disposed off with the direction to the concerned SHO to registered Case FIR
44	Safia Bibi Vs SHO Gojra etc Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Habeas Corpus Petition	High Court District Lahore	On 04-07-2012 Habeas petition Disposed off in favor
45	Naira Ishaq Vs Sheraz Sabir Qureshi Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matte 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Decreed on 05-12-2012
46	Shamim Bibi Vs Munzooria Ram etc Complainant	Mr. Saleem Gill	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage 2- Criminal Case	1-Civil Court 2-Judicial Magistrate District Bahawalpur	Under Court proceedings
47	Razia Sama Vs Sarfraz Bhatti etc Complainant	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Family Matter 1-Registration of FIR 2- Dissolution	1- Session Court 2-Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1- On 13-07-2012 the petition disposed off with the direction to the concerned SHO to registered Case

			of Marriage		FIR 2- Under Court Proceedings
48	Sunita Bibi Vs SHO Police Station Hinjarwal (Apna Ghar) Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Family Matter 1- Registration of a Criminal Case 2-Petiiton for the Compliance of the order	Sessions court District Lahore	1-On 30-07-2012 the petition Disposed off with the direction to the concerned SHO to registered case FIR 2- On 11-09-2012 Compliance petition disposed off and FIR registered on 13- 10-2012
49	Alisha Bibi Vs SHO Police Station Factory Area, Lahore Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Abduction & Rape Case 1- Application for Medical Examine 2- Registriation of a Criminal Case 3- Petition for the compliance of the order	1-Judicial Magistrate 2- Sessions Court District Lahore	1-On 20-07-2012 Medico Legal Examination Report Confirmed Rape 2- On 30-07-2012 the petition disposed off with the direction to the concerned SHO to Registered a case FIR 3- Under Court Proceedings
50	Arshad Masih Vs The State Defendant	Mr. Kamran Yousaf Khan	Criminal Case 1- Post – Arrest Bail	1- Sessions Court District Gujranwala	1-On 21-07-2012 Arshad Masih Bailed out from the Sessions Court Later Compromise took place between the parties

51	Ruby Vs Sunny Patras Complainant/ Defendant	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Pre- Arrest Bails Contest 2- Dissolution of Marriage 3- Recovery of Dowry Articles	1- Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1-Pre-Arrest bails was contested and with drawn by the accused party on 24-07-2012- 2- Under Court Proceedings 3- Under Court Proceedings
52	Nazia Bibi Vs Ghulam Nabi Complainant	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Under Court Proceedings
53	Rahat Saleem Vs Amir Yousaf (Apna Ghar) Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Decided on 13-11-2012
54	Suman Bibi Vs Khurram Iqbal Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Forced Conversion 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Decided on 21-11-2012
55	Shahla alias Gogi etc Vs The State Defendant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Theft Case 1- Pre- Arrest Bail of Shahla and Rimsha	Sessions Court District Lahore	1-Bails confirmed 2-Pending for Trial
56	Sara Barkat Vs Saleem Naeem (Apna Ghar) Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Under Court Proceedings

57	Sabeen Iqbal Vs Sohail Younis Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage 2- Recovery of Dowry Articles	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Under Court Proceedings
58	State Vs Falak Share (Murder of Lazar) Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Murder Trial	Sessions Court District Lahore	Under Trial
59	Maria & Marriam Vs Abid Zafar Bhatti etc Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Harassment Petition	Sessions Court District Lahore	Disposed off in favor on 22-10-12
60	Vicky Jamshaid etc Vs The State Complainant	Mr. Saleem Gill	Police Torture For obtaining medical Examination	Magistrate Bahawalpur District Bahawalpur	Medical completed
61	Asia Bibi Vs The State Defendant	Mr. S.K Chaudhary & CLAAS' Lawyers	Blasphemy	Lahore High Court District Sheikhupura	Pending in High Court
62	Zafar Bhatti etc Vs The State Defendant	Mr. Malik Asif	Blasphemy 1-Post-Arrest Bail	Sessions Court Islamabad	Post-Arrest bail was withdrawn and case is under court proceedings
63	Sajida Bibi Vs SHO etc	Mr. Faisal Ilyas	Abduction, Forced Conversion & Forced	Sessions Court District	Disposed off in favor

	Complainant		Marriage 1- Registration of FIR	Faisalabad	
64	Hamayat Masih Vs The State Defendant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Criminal Case 1- Pre-Arrest Bail of Hamayat 2- Post-Arrest Bail of Kaila Masih 3-Pre-Arrest Bail of Hamayat	Sessions Court District Lahore	1- Pre-Arrest bail of Hamayat dismissed on 11- 12-2012 due to non-appearance 2- Kaila Masih Bailed out on 01- 12-2012 3- Bail withdrawn on 07-01-2013 because Hamayat Masih declared innocent by the court and the charges were dropped against him.
65	Sardar Masih Vs SHO etc Complainant	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Habeas Corpus Petition	High Court District Lahore	On 30-11-2012 dismissed due to non-appearance
66	Rehana Bibi Vs Munir Ahmed Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1-Dissolution of Marriage 2-Recovery of Dowry Articles	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Under Court Proceedings
67	Sania Vs Asam Waseem Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1-Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Under Court Proceedings

68	Ghulam Fatima Vs Muhammad Hafeez Complainant	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Maintenance Allowance	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Under Court Proceedings
69	Syeda Tasneem Kausar etc Vs The State	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Blasphemy 1- Pre- Arrest Bails	District & Sessions Judge Lahore Green Town District Lahore	On June 02, 2012 a Petition for the Grant of Pre- Arrest Bail was moved in the Sessions Court on the behalf of Syeda Tasneem and Rubina Jabeen. On July 07, 2012 bail petition dismissed by the Learned court due to non- prosecution. Pending for Trial

Fact Finding Report of 2012

File no	Title of the case	Advocate	Nature of the case	District & Court	Status
1-	Desecration of Gosha-e- Aman		Criminal Possession and Demolition of the Gosha-e- Aman	No legal proceeding District Lahore	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 10-01-2012
2-	Muslim attacked on LDA Quarters Lahore		Dispute between Children (Muslim attacked on the houses of the	No legal proceeding District Lahore	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 22-01-2012

			local Christians)		
3-	Saira Khokhar		Blasphemy	No legal proceeding District Lahore	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 23-02-2012
4-	Pastor Altaf Khan		Property Matter	No legal proceeding District Faisalabad	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 03-03-2012
5-	Shamim Bibi		Blasphemy Case	No legal proceeding District Bahawalnagar	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 06-03-2012
6-	CLAAS Report on forced conversion of a Christian girl Sonia Erum	Mr. Akhtar Masih Sindhu	Forced Conversion	Additional Sessions Judge Patoki District Kasur	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 17-04-2012
7-	Sajid Masih alias Saji		Blasphemy	City Police Station Farooqabad District Sheikhpura	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 23-05-2012
8-	Pastor Joshua & Saleem Masih		Blasphemy	Qila Kalar Wala Pasrur District Sialkot	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 24-05-2012
9-	A Christian family slaughtered in Okara		Murder	Police Station B- Division Okara	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 30-05-2012
10-	CLAAS Report on Tania Bibi	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Abduction, Forced Conversion & Forced	Magistrate city Police Station	Fact Finding By CLAAS on 05-06-2012

	(Apna Ghar)		Marriage	District Nanakana Sahib	
11-	Report on Attack on Latif John	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Forced Conversion (House Attack)	Ghazi Abad Police Station District Lahore	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 13-06-2012
12-	Demolition of a Christian Place of Settlement in Lahore by the Lahore Development Authority (LDA)		Demolition of a Christian Place	Chung police station District Lahore	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 19-07-2012
13-	Police Violence against Christian in Lahore		Torturer by Police	Nawaz Sharif Colony District Lahore	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 15-08-2012
14-	Rimshah Misrik		Blasphemy	District Islamabad	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 18-08-2012
15-	Shahzad Masih (Murder of three brothers)		Murder	Sanda District Lahore	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 23-08-2012
16-	Sunil Yaqoob		Murder	District Faisalabad	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 24-08-2012
17-	Pastor Calvin John		Kidnapping	District Faisalabad	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 24-08-2012
18-	Faisal Mughal		Murder	Karachi Sindh	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 29-08-2012

19-	Poison to Christian Nurses in a Hospital		Attempt to Murder	Karachi Sindh	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 30-08-2012
20	Maqdas Kainaat		Rape & Murder	District Sahiwal	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 13-09-2012
21	Rabeel Aftab		Forced Conversion, Sexual Violence, Maltreatment and Kidnapping	Okara	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 08-10-2012
22	Police violence against Christians		Torturer by Police	Bahawalpur	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 10-10-2012
23	Farooqi Girls High School		Blasphemy Case		Fact Finding by CLAAS on 01-11-2012
24	Sister Birgitta Almeby		Murder	Lahore	Fact Finding by CLAAS on 04-12-2012
Monitoring cases & special legal reports					
25	CLAAS Monitoring Report on Khuram Masih Blasphemy Case	Mr. Amin Javaid	Blasphemy Case 1- Post-Arrest Bail	1-High Court 2- Sessions Court Shahdara District Lahore	1- Bail Dismissed 2-Party Changed The counsel while case is under trial

26	CLAAS Monitoring Report on Maltreatment & harassment of Christian Community	Mr. Akhtar Masih Sandhu	Criminal & Dispute	Sessions Court Kasur village Kaadi Wind, District Kasur	Case is under court proceeding
27	Nadia Naira	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Forced Conversion & Forced Marriage	Civil Court Sheikhupura	Compromised and Closed
28	Ijaz Masih (late)		Murder	Police Station Manawala District Nankana Shaib	No Legal Proceedings
29	Syeda Tasneem Kausar etc Vs The State	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Blasphemy 1- Pre- Arrest bail	District & Sessions Judge Lahore Green Town District Lahore	On June 02, 2012 a Petition for the Grant of Pre- Arrest Bail was moved in the Sessions Court on the behalf of Syeda Tasneem and Rubina Jabeen. On July 07, 2012 bail petition dismissed by the Learned court due to non- prosecution.
30	Ghazala Khan etc	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Blasphemy Case 1- Pre-Arrest Bail	Lahore High Court District Lahore	Under Court Proceeding

Previous under Court Proceeding cases in 2012

Sr. #	File no	Title of the case	Advocate	Nature of the case	Court & District	Status
1.	83/03	The State Vs Saleem Masih	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Murder Appeal	High Court Lahore	Appeal pending in High Court Lahore
2.	76/ 04	Diwan Hashmat Vs State	Mr. Malik Asif Tauffique Awan	1-Blasphemy 2-Murder Appeal	Supreme Court Jhelum	1- Acquitted in Blasphemy 2-Murder Appeal admitted for hearing
3.	74/05	CLAAS Vs Ch. Pervaiz Aslam	Ch. Muhammad Amin Javaid	Civil Case 1-Suit for Damages	Civil Court District Lahore	Under Court Proceedings
4.	22./06	Shabir Masih Vs Younas etc	Mr. Akhtar Masih Sindhu	Land Dispute Appeal of consolidation of land	Deputy District officer Revenue Board Kasur District Kasur	Under Court Proceeding
5.	138/06	Pastor Baber Masih Vs Anwal-ul-	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Church Land Dispute 1- Reply	Civil Court District Lahore	Compromised between the parties and case is Withdrawn on 20-07-2012

		Haq				
6.	156/06	Malik Kamran etc Vs State	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Murder 1-Post- arrest Bails opposed 2- Under Trial	1- High Court 2-Additional Sessions Judge Lahore District Lahore	All accused bailed out from High Court and Case is decided against 2-Under Trial
7.	178/06	Nusrat Bibi Vs Shahzad Ali	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Maintenance 2- Execution Petition 3-Recovery of Dowry Articles	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1-Decided in favor 2- On 31-01-2012 Execution and Recovery of article Petition dismissed due to non-appearance
8.	25/07	Sumera Bibi Vs Riaz Masih	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Family Matter 1-Recovery of Maintenance 2- Dissolution of Marriage 3- Dowry Article	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Both Parties not pursued the case due to non-appearance file be consigned to the record room on 19-12-2012
9.	46/07	Mukhtar Masih etc Vs Rana	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Land Dispute 1-Suit for Specific Performance	Civil Court District	Suit for Specific Performance Decided on 04-12-2012,

		Akbar Ali etc			Lahore	on January 12, 2013 Party Changed the Counsel
10.	63/07	Gulnar Gill Vs Shanazar Dean	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Maintenance 2- Maintenance Appeal (contested) 3- Execution Petition	Additional Sessions Judge District Lahore	1- Decided in favor 2-Dismissed on 20-07-2012 3- Filed on 05- 10-12 and under court proceeding
11.	67/07 -A	The State Vs Bashiran Bibi etc	Syed Bakar Ali Naqvi & CLAAS' lawyers	Court Cheating 1-Post- Arrest Bail 2- Trial	1- District Court 2- Shiekh Rizwan Hanief JMC Lahore District Lahore	1-Bail Confirmed 2- Under Trial
12.	67/07 -B	The State Vs M.A Joseph Francis etc	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Criminal Case 1-Pre- Arrest Bail 2- Trial	1- Sessions Court 2- Ch. Muhammad Aneeq Anwar JMC Model Town Lahore District Lahore	1-Bail Confirmed 2- Under Trial
13.	67/07 -C	The State Vs	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Criminal Case 1- Pre-Arrest	1- Sessions Court 2- Ch.	1-Bail Confirmed

		Shamim etc		Bail 2-Trial	Muhammad Aneeqa Anwar JMC Lahore District Lahore	2- Under Trial
14.	77/07	Ellen Farah Vs Tariq Iqbal	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Divorce 2-Recovery of Dowry Article 3- Execution Petition	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1-Decreed on 20-11-2012 2- Decreed on 29-02-2012 3- under court proceedings
15.	145/0 7	Shazia Sabir Vs Bakhtiyar	Mr. Tahir Gul	Family Matter 1- Maintenance allowance	Civil Court District Lahore	Both parties did not pursue the case and due to non- appearance case is closed on 08-12-2012
16.	148/0 7	Assad Ullah Vs Raffique Masih	Mr. Akhtar Masih Sindhu	Land dispute 1-Registration of FIR 2- Under Trial 3- Appeal	Judicial Magistrate Chunian District Kasur	1-Decided 2-Under Trail 3- Appeal Under Court Proceedings
17.	186/0 7	Barkatay Bibi Vs Rauf Masih etc	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1-Recovery of Dowry Article	Civil Judge Family Court Lahore District Lahore	Under Court Proceedings

18.	04/08	Shagufta Martha Vs Public At Large	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Recovery of Amount/ Property 1-Civil Appeal 2- Execution Petition	Civil Court District Lahore	1-Civil Appeal Decreed on 25-02-2011 2- Withdrawn on 17-11-2012
19.	54/08	Mehar M. Yaqoob Vs Inayat Masih etc	Mr. Malik Zaman Haider	Civil Case 1- Suit for Damages	Civil Court Ferozewala District Sheikhupura	Dismissed on 22-05-2012
20.	83/08	Sumera Bibi Vs Nadeem Latif	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Family Matter 1-Appeal (Recovery of Dowry Articles) 2-Execution Petition	Civil Court Lahore District Lahore	1-Decreed on 24-07-2010 2-Execution Petition Under Court Proceedings
21.	86/08	1-Suba Masih Vs Kala Masih 2-Naziran Bibi Vs Kala Masih	Mr. Malik Zaman Haider	Land Dispute 1-Appeal 2- Application for Restoration of Appeal	District Courts Ferozewala District Sheikhupura	1-Dismissed due to non-prosecution on 23-09-2010 2-Application admitted and civil appeal is dismissed due to non-prosecution on 21-09-2012

22.	120/08	Bashiran Bibi Vs Yaqoob Masih	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Property Case	Civil Court District Lahore	On 12-12-2012 case is dismissed due to non-appearance of Yaqoob Masih and case is Decided in favor of Bashiran Bibi
23.	149/08	Ruqqiya Bibi Vs The state	Mr. Naeem Shakir	Blasphemy 1-Post- Arrest Bail of Ruqqiya & Munir Masih 2-Trial 3- Appeal Against Conviction and sentence 4-Post-Arrest Bail of Munir 5-Post-Arrest Bail of Ruqqiya	Sessions Court Kasur District Kasur	1-Munir Masih bailed out 2-Ruqqiya's bail is disposed off on 10-11-2011 3-Ruqqiya and Munir acquitted on 17-05-2012 from High Court Lahore.
24.	26/09	The State Vs Yousaf Masih etc	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Murder Trial 1- Trial 2- Post- Arrest Bail Opposed 3- Post-Arrest Bail Opposed (Yaqoob Masih)	Additional Sessions Judge Lahore Bata Pur District Lahore	1-Case is under Trial 2- Post-Arrest Bail of Yaqoob Masih Opposed on 06-08-2012 and dismissed on the same day 3- Post-arrest bail of Yoqoob contested by

						CLAAS on 4-10-12
25.	55/09	State Vs Shahzad Masih etc	Mr. Akhtar Masih Sindhu	Attempt to Murder and Theft (fake case) 1-Post Arrest Bail 2-Trial	Judicial Court District Kasur	1- Bail Allowed 2- Acquitted
26.	70/09	State Vs Ismail etc (Kaneez Fatima)	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Murder Trial	Sessions Court District Lahore	After three years court proceedings Compromised took place between the parties on 28-01-2012
27.	110/0 9	Bushra Bibi Vs Nadeem Niamat	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage 2- Recovery of Dowry Article	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1- Decreed 2- On 29-11- 2012 Dismissed due to non- appearance
28.	1/10	Uzma Bibi Vs Amjad Jaan	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Maintenance 2-Execution Petition	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1-Decided in favor on 23-09-2010 2- Due to non- appearance case is closed on 14-07-2012

29.	14/10	Samson Joseph Vs M.A. Joseph Francis	Mr. Naeem Shakir	Civil Case 1-Suit for Damages 2- Rendition of Account	Civil Court Lahore District Lahore	Under Court Proceedings
30.	19/10	Shaffi Masih Vs DPO Kasur	Mr. Akhtar Masih Sindhu	Accidental Case (murder due to accident) 1- Registration of Case 2- Bails Contest of two accused 3- Trial	Judicial Magistrate District Kasur	1- Decided in Favor 2- Bail Decided Against 3- Under Trial
31.	44/10	Munir Masih Vs D.P.O. Kasur etc	Mr. Akhtar Masih Sindhu	Fraud Case (Pro Note Case) 1- Registration of Case 2- Suit for Recovery of Amount (contest)	1-Sessions Court 2-Civil Court District Kasur	1-Decided against 2-Defendant evidence pending
32.	45/10	Faisal Masih Vs The State	Mr. Malik Zaman Haider	Murder 1-Post –arrest Bails 2-Trial 3- Registration of FIR	Additional Sessions Judge Ferozewala Narang Mindi District Sheikhpur	All accused has been bailed out and Case is under Trial

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33.	58/10	1-Mst. Sidra Vs SHO etc 2- Sidra Bibi alias Ghulam Fatima Vs Falak Share	Mr. Tahir Gul Sadiq	Abduction, Forced Conversion, Forced Marriage & Gang Rape 1- Writ Petition for Arrest the Accused 2- Dissolution of Marriage	1-Sessions Court 2-Civil Court Lahore District Sheikhpur a	1-FIR Dismissed 2- On 25-01-2012 suit for Dissolution of Marriage dismissed due to non-appearance
34.	71/10	Sharif Masih etc Vs The State	Mr. Akhtar Masih Sindhu	Criminal Case 1- Pre- Arrest Bails 2- Trial	Sessions Court Chunian District Kasur	1-Decided in favor on 09-06-2010 2- Acquitted
35.	83/10	Sameen Morris Vs Shahid Morris	Mr. Tahir Gul Sadiq	Family Matter 1- Recovery of Maintenance Allowance	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Due to non-evidence Suit of Maintenance Dismissed on 19-01-2012
36.	95/10	Mst. Allah Rakhi Vs SHO etc	Mr. Akhtar Masih Sindhu	1-Habeas Corpus Petition 2-Registraion of FIR 3- Recovery of House Hold	1-Sessions Court 2- Civil Court District Kasur	1-Disposed off in favor on 30-08-2010 2- Decided in favor on 18-09-2010 3- Dismissed due to the

				Articles		death of complainant
37.	97/10	1-Mona Vs The State etc 2- State Vs Shahid Anthony	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Criminal Case 1-Tranfer Application 2- Post-Arrest Bail contest 3-Trial	1-Sessions court 2-Judicial Magistrate District Lahore	1- Decided in favor on 08-09-2010 2- Decided against on 14-10-2010 3- Under Trial
38.	104 /10	Farhat Attique Vs Attique Javaid	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage 2-Suit for Restitution of Conjugal Rights Contest 3- (TA) Transfer Application of suit	Civil Court District Lahore	After two years court proceeding Farhat Attique got second marriage and due to non-appearance her suits (cases) were dismissed on 08-02-2012
39.	106/10	Samina Sumaria Vs Mushtaq Nazir	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Court District Lahore	Compromise took place between parties and due to non-evidence suit for dissolution of marriage dismissed on 25-02-2012
40.	109/1	Fareeha	Mr. Tahir	Family Matter	1-High	1- Decided in favor on 27-

	0	Bibi Vs SHO etc	Gul Sadiq	1- Habeas Corpus Petition 2- Maintenance Allowance	Court 2- Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	10-2010 2- Compromised between parties and case is withdrawn on 24-05-2012
41.	110/1 0	Mst. Shagufta Vs Shahzad Masih	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Maintenance 2- Execution Petition	Civil Judge Family Court Lahore District Lahore	1- Decreed on 19-03-2011 2- Under Court Proceedings
42.	118/1 0	Tahira Ijaz Vs Sajjad Ahmad	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Murder Appeal	High Court Lahore District Lahore	Appeal Pending in the High Court Lahore
43.	121/1 0	M.A. Joseph Francis etc Vs The State	CLAAS' lawyer	Kidnapping 1-Pre- Arrest Bails 2- Private Complainant 3- Revision Petition against Judgment 4- Trial	Additional District & Sessions Judge Lahore District Lahore	1-Bails withdrawn because police declared innocent 2- Under Court Proceedings 3- Dismissed on 24-07-2012 4- Under Trial

44.		Aneeqa Maria Akhtar Vs M.A Joseph Francis etc	1-Ch. Muhammad Amin Javaid & CLAAS'S Lawyer	Criminal Case 1- Pre-Arrest Bails 2- Privat Complainant	1- Supreme Court 2- Additional Sessions Judge Lahore District Lahore	1-Bails Confirm from Supreme Court 2- Under Court Proceedings
45.	02/11	Tariq Mehmood Vs Family Judge	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Family Matter 1- Maintenance Appeal contest 2- Maintenance Appeal contest	Lahore High Court District Faisalabad	1-Decided in favor of Yasmeen on 30-01-2012 but due to non-appearance of Tariq Mehmood the appeal is dismissed on 30-01-2012. 2-On 13-06-012 appeal again filed by Tariq Mehmood and the case is under proceedings
46.	05/11	Marriam Bibi Vs Malik Abas	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage 2- Suit for Maintenance	Senior Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1-Divorce decided on 27-04-2011 2- Maintenance petition was decided in favor on 19-

						01-2012
47.	06/11	Younis Masih Vs The State	Mr. Naeem Shakir	Blasphemy 1- Appeal	High Court Lahore District Lahore	Acquitted from all charges of blasphemy on April 03, 2013 by the High Court Lahore. He was released from Mian Wali Prison on April 09, 2013.
48.	10/11	Khazan Masih Vs SNGPL (Sui Northern Gas Pipe Line) MD Sui Gas	Mr. Kamran Yousaf Khan	Property Dispute 1-Permanent Injection 2- Consolidation Petition 3- Contempt of Court 4- Application for Demarcation	District & Session Judge Gujranwala District Gujranwala	Under Court Proceedings
49.	11/11	Atif Masih Vs Barkat Ali etc	Mr. Kamran Yousaf Khan	Property Dispute (Graveyard) 1- Suit for Declaration and Permanent Injection 2- Contempt of Court 3- Pre & Post-Arrest Bails	Civil Judge Gujranwala District Gujranwala	Pre and post-arrest bails confirmed and case is under court proceeding

50.	21/11	Asif Masih Vs Shazia Mushtaq	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage Contest 2- Application for cancellation of ex party proceedings	Senior Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Decreed on 11-12-2012
51.	23/11	Riffat Zulafqar Vs Sheikh Zulafqar	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family matter 1-Suit for Permanent Injunction 2-Suit for Maintenance Allowance	1- Civil Court 2- Senior Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1- Suit for Permanent Injunction Decided in favor on 25- 05-2011 2- Under Court Proceedings
52.	25/11	The State Vs Riaz Masih	Mr. Akhtar Masih Sindhu	Rape Case 1- Trial	Additional Sessions Judge Kasur District Kasur	Party Changed the Counsel in 2012
53.	30/11	1-Fozia Bibi Vs SHO & Iftikhar Masih 2- Iftikhar Masih Vs Fozia	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Family Matter 1-Habeas Corpus Petition 2- Custody of Minor (Contest) 3-Suit for Recovery of Gold etc	Sessions Court District Lahore	1-Habeas Decided in favor on 15- 06-2011 Parties has compromise in all cases in March 2012

		etc		(Contest)		
54.	33/11	Shamshad Bibi etc Vs Talib Masih	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Family Matter 1- Maintenance Allowance 2- Maintenance Allowance Appeal (Contest) 3- Execution Petition	Civil Judge Family Court Lahore District Nankana Sahib	1-Decided in Favor 2-Decided in Favor 3- Under Court Proceedings
55.	36/11	Natasha Vs Arshad Masih	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Senior Civil Judge Family Court Lahore District Lahore	Case is withdrawn by the Natasha on 28-04-2012 due to the death of respondent Arshad Masih
56.	38/11	Feteah Ali Vs CCPO Lahore etc	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Theft Case 1- Petition for Compliance of Order 2- Writ Petition	1-Sessions Court 2- High Court District Lahore	June 2011 to February 2012 CLAAS perused the case of Feteah Ali and on 03- 02-2012 he changed the counsel
57.	40/11	1-Sajida Bibi Vs SHO etc 2- Sajida Bibi VS	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Family Matter 1- Habeas Corpus Petition 2- Maintenance	Senior Civil Judge Family Court District	1- Habeas decided in favor 2- Maintenance Decided in favor on 05-

		Mohammad Nadeem		Allowance 3- Application for consolidation 4- Suit for restitution of Conjugal rights (Contest) 5- Execution Petition 6- Set a Side of order Petition Contested	Lahore	03-2012 3- Decided on 02-11-2011 4- Dismissed due to non-appearance of Nadeem on 05-03-2012 5&6- under court proceeding
58.	41/11	Gulzar Masih Vs The State	Mr. Malik Zaman Haider	Kidnapping 1-Post-Arrest Bail of Gulzar 2-Post-Arrest Bail of Nazar Masih etc 3- Trial	Additional Sessions Judge Ferozewala Court Shahdra District Lahore	Nazir Masih and others bailed out and Case is Under Trial
59.	42/11	Roopa Nazar Vs Waseem Masih	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Family Matter 1- Maintenance Suit (Contest)	Civil Judge Family Court Lahore District Lahore	On 02-04-2012 Dismissed as Withdrawn due to Compromised between the parties
60.	43/11	Anum Bibi Vs Shahbaz	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Habeas Corpus Petition	1-Sessions Court 2- Senior Civil Judge Family	1-Habeas Decided in favor on 11-07-2011 2- Dismissed

		Masih		2- Maintenance Allowance	Court District Lahore	on 09-04-2012 due to non- appearance
61.	44/11	Rahat Ivon Vs Morris Ivon Patras	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Senior Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Party Changed the counsel in October 2012
62.	45/11	Ruby Bibi Vs Asif Sohail	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Family Matter 1- Habeas Corpus 2- Dissolution of Marriage 3- Dissolution of Marriage Contest 4- Consolidation	1-Sessions Court 2- Senior Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1- Habeas decided on 19-07-2011 2- Compromised between the parties on 31- 01-2012 3- Dismissed due to non- appearance on 03-02-2012
63.	52/11	State Vs Dildar Masih	Mr. Javaid Raza Ramind	Blasphemy 1- Post Arrest Bail	Abdul Karim, Judicial Magistrate Sec. 30, Khanewal District Khanewal	1-Dildar Bailed out on 24-03- 2012 and released from jail on 28-03- 2012
64.	53/11	The State	Mr. Address	Murder 1-Post-Arrest	1-Judicial Magistrate	1-George bailed out from Multan

		Vs George Masih		Bail 2-Post-Arrest Bail 2- Murder Trial	Khanewal 2-High Court Multan Katcha Khoo District Khanewal	High Court on 13-03-2012 2- Under Trial
65.	58/11	Munir Aasi Vs The State etc	Mr. Rana Farman Ali Sabir	Murder 1- Criminal Revision against Judgment 2-Appeal against Conviction (Contested)	Lahore High Court Multan Bench Multan Mian Channu District Khanewal	1-Pending in the Court 2- Under Court Proceeding
66.	61/11	The state Vs Awais Khatak etc (John Lawrence)	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Hudood Case 1-Trial	Additional Sessions Judge District Lahore	On 21-06- 2012 John Lawrence Acquitted from Sessions Court
67.	62/11	Sarfraz Masih Vs Secretary Health of Punjab	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Job Matter 1-Service Appeal	Service Tribunal District Faisalabad	Service Appeal Dismissed on 04-06-2012
68.	64/11	Gulzar Masih Vs The State	Mr. Malik Asif Taffique Awan	Fraud case 1-Post-Arrest Bail	1-Session Court 2- High	1- Gulzar Masih Bailed out on

					Court Rawalpindi	03-02-2012
69.	66/11	Mona Younis Vs Khurram Akhter	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage 2- Application for set a side order Contest	Senior Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1-Decreed on 29-02-2012 2- Under Court Proceedings
70.	67/11	1-Sonia Vs SHO etc 2- Sonia VS Farooq Masih	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1-Habeas Corpus 2- Dissolution of Marriage	1-Sessions Court 2- Civil Court District Lahore	1-Habeas Decided in favor on 14- 10-2011 2-Decreed on 17-04-2012
71.	69/11	1-Ansar Hayat etc Vs The Sate 2- Nasir etc Vs The State	Mr. Shan Elahi Umair	Fact Finding Report Land Grab &Murder 1-Trial 2-Appeal, 3-Pre-Arrest Bails of 7 Accused 4-Post-Arrest Bails of 16 Accused	1-Sessions Court 2- High Court Multan Main Channu District Khanewal	1- Pre-Arrest Bails of accused are opposed and case is under Trial
72.	70/11	John Masih Vs	Mr. Akhtar Masih	Accidental Case	Judicial Magistrate	Under Trial

		Ghulam Rasool	Sindhu	1- Trial	Kasur District Kasur	
73.	71/11	Pastor Sharif etc Vs The State	Mr. Malik Asif Tauffique Awan	Criminal Appeal	Lahore High Court Rawalpindi Bench District Gujranwala	Pastor Sharif Acquitted on 16-02-2012 from High Court
74.	72/11	Shama Samuel Vs Imran John	Mr. Tanvir Masih	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Decreed on 09-03-2012
75.	75/11	Saba Kausar Vs Ahmad Hussain	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Recovery of Dowry Articles	Senior Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Due to compromised between the parties case is withdrawn on 01-03-2012
76.	79/11	The State Vs Adil alias Sonu	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Sodomy 1-Criminal Trail 2- Post Arrest Bail Contest 3- Post- Arrest Bail Contest	1- Judicial Magistrate 2- Additional Sessions Judge Lahore	1- Under Trial 2- Bail dismissed in favor from ASJ Lahore 3- Bail Dismissed in favor from

					District Lahore	Sessions Court
77.	80/11	Nadia Bibi Vs Raj Gull	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Forced Conversion & Forced Marriage 1- Suit for Dissolution of Marriage	Senior Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	Suit for Dissolution of Marriage filed on 14-12-2011 and Party left in June 2012
78.	81/11	Aster Vs Javaid Masih	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Senior Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1- Compromised took place between the parties and due to Compromise case is withdrawn on 22-05-2012
79.	82/11	Shamim Bibi Vs Muhamma d Ashfaq (Apna Ghar)	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Forced Conversion & Forced Marriage 1-Dissolution of Marriage 2- Quashment of FIR 3- Pre-arrest bails	Senior Civil Judge Family Court District Lahore	1- Decreed on 18-04-2012 2- Compromised on 02-02-2012

Cases dealt with CLAAS decided in 2012

Sr.#	Nature of Cases	Total/ Number of Cases
Detail of the Fact Finding & Monitoring Reports of the year 2012		
	Fact Findings Reports & Monitoring Reports	30
1.	Blasphemy Cases	09
2.	Forced Conversions	05
3.	Christian under attack reports	09
4.	Murder	06
5.	Property Matter	01
Legal Aid Provided in the Cases of 2012		
1.	Blasphemy	04
2.	Abduction, Forced Conversion & Forced Marriages	04
3.	Rape Case	02
4.	Dispute & Criminal Cases	11
5.	Murder Cases	06
6.	Habeas Corpus	07
7.	Family Matters	26
8.	Property Matters	02
9.	Harassment	01
10.	Theft cases	03
11.	Fraud cases	02
12.	Job Matter	01
13.	Police Torturer	01
Detail of the Decided and Pending Cases in 2012		
1	Cases registered with CLAAS in 2012	70

	Decided Cases	42
	Pending Cases	28
2	Previous Cases under Court Proceedings in 2012	79
	Previous Cases Decided in 2012	40
	Previous Cases Pending	39
	Total Case under court proceeding in 2012	149
	Total decided cases in 2012	82
	Total Pending cases of 2012	67

List of the person visited CLAAS in the year 2012

Sr. #	Month	Total
01.	January	217
02.	February	334
03.	March	266
04.	April	283
05.	May	253
06.	June	383
07.	July	293
08.	August	300
09.	September	214
10.	October	221
11.	November	235
12.	December	203
Total Visitors		3202

Activities, Net-working and development of CLAAS in the year 2012

On January 11th, 2012 CLAAS joined a protest demonstration and demanded the immediate release of illegal possession of (Gosha-e-Aman).



On January 19, 2012 Ms. Rubina Ghazal (In-charge Legal Department) and Mr. Aqeel Naveed (Court Clerk) attended the Seminar on “Violence against Women Introduction and Analysis” organized by South Asia Partnership.

On January 20th, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director), Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) and Mr. Nadeem Anthony (Research Officer) attended the conference on “NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC)” organized by Sach.

On January 23rd, 2012 Mr. Nadeem Anthony (Research Officer), Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer), and Ms. Huma Lucas (office Assistant) visited Ruqqiya Bibi and Younis Masih the blasphemy victims confined in Sahiwal jail.

On January 26th, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) attended the international Conference on “Challenges Faced by Christians and Solutions to Secure Equal Human Rights & Religious Freedom in Pakistan” organized by Overseas Pakistan Christians Canada, USA and UK, Europe.

On January 27th, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) met with Mr. Andrew Ng Head of Advocacy and Dialogue Unit from Canadian Embassy in Islamabad.

On February 09th, 2012 the Ambassador Muhammad Hussain Bani Asadi Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran invited CLAAS for the 33rd Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution & National Day of Iran. Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director), Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) attended the Program.

On February 18th, 2012 Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) and Ms. Rama Rasheed (Assistant Program Officer) attended the project meeting on **“The calling of the churches in Minority Context”** organized by NCCP, MIMC and CCMC.



On February 20th, 2012 Mr. Dick Kleinhesselink from ICCO-kerk in actie (Mission Department Netherlands) visited CLAAS (a group photo of the CLAAS staff with Mr. Dick).

On February 24, 2012 Aurat Foundation organized a debate program “Minority Women Rights” at Islamabad Ms. Rubina Ghazal attended the program as Speaker.

On March 04-26, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) went Europe to attend United Nations Human Rights Council 19th Session in Geneva-Switzerland, meeting with European Parliamentarians and different Government Officials in Brussels and IGFM Germany, AEMO France. The following group photos were taken during the meetings.



On March 07, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) met with Mr. Heyndrickx Isabelle and Mr. Hanssen from Human Rights Department of Foreign Affairs, Foreign trade and Development Cooperation in Brussels, Belgium.



On March 13, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) attended the United Nations Human Rights Council 19th Session interactive Dialogue on **“Violence against Women and Inequality Situation”** and **“The Right to Peace Education of Lebanese Children”** at Geneva Switzerland.



Mr. Joseph Francis MBE along with De Jong Jannes Herman and Van Stuijvenberg Maurits at EU Parliament Brussels Belgium. -



On March 30th, 2012 CLAAS partners from Barnabas Fund UK Mr. Wilson Saraj Project Manager and his colleague visited CLAAS and Apna Ghar shelter home for women and children CLAAS.



On April 01st, 2012 Benefactor Music Group invited Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) as a Chief Guest for Easter celebration among widows and distribution of gifts.

On April 02nd, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) were invited by Mr. Dr. Michael Koch Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany-Islamabad to attend the

reception party on the new appointment of the deputy Ambassador.

On April 16th, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director), Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer) and Ms. Huma Lucas (Office Assistant) went District Jail Sahiwal and met with Ruqqiya Bibi and Younis Masih Blasphemy victims and provided grocery and clothes and other items of basic needs.

On April 19, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) met with Dr. Stephen MUND First Secretary of Royal Embassy of Belgium in Islamabad.

On April 26th, 2012 Mr. Hugo Gajus Scheltema Ambassador invited CLAAS for the celebration of Queen Day of Netherlands Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) attended the program.



On May 01st, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director), Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) and Ms. Rama Rasheed (Assistant Program Officer) took participation on the rally of Labors on National Labor Day in Kasur

Also attended the Seminar on “**Amendment of Article A-2**” organized by Bright Future Society and Christian Concerns at NCCP Lahore.

On May 07th, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) and Ms. Rama Rasheed (Assistant Program Officer) visited the Vast Vision Ministry office and met with Mr. Shahzad Kamran Chief Coordinator of Vast Vision Ministry.

On May 18th, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) invited by Mr. Adam Thomas British High Commissioner for the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II and to mark the Diamond Jubilee for throne.



On May 21st, 2012 CLAAS team organized a Book Launching “**Haqqiya Qumai Hero**” (**My True Hero**) written by S.M Sabir in honor of Mr. Joseph Francis MBE National Director CLAAS.

On May 18th, 2012 Mr. Adam Thomas (British High Commissioner) invited Mr. Joseph Francis MBE National Director and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) to celebrate her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee in PC Hotel.

On May 23rd, 2012 Mr. Gajus Scheltema Ambassador Netherlands invited Mr. Joseph Francis MBE National Director and Ms. Katherine Sapna Program Officer for meeting in Netherlands Embassy Islamabad.

On May 23, 2012 Mr. Gajus Scheltema Ambassador Netherlands invited Mr. Joseph Francis MBE National Director and Ms. Katherine Sapna Program Officer for meeting at Netherlands embassy Islamabad.

On May 26, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE National Director, Ms. Katherine Sapna Program Officer and Mr. Tahir Bashir legal advisor CLAAS attended the Round Table conference with the special rapporteur on the independence of Judge and lawyers organized by Shirkat Gah.



On May 30, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE National Director, Mr. Tahir Bashir legal advisor CLAAS, Mr. Tanvir Masih legal advisor CLAAS, Ms. Katherine Sapna Program Officer and Ms. Rama Rasheed Assistant Program Officer attended the award distribution ceremony organized by Bright Future Society.



On May 31, 2012 Mr. Ansar Burney Chairman Ansar Burney Trust visited CLAAS
(A group photo with CLAAS Staff)



On June 04, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director), Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer), Mr. Sohail Habel (Finance Manager), Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer) and Ms. Huma Lucas (Office Assistant) went Central Jail Sahiwal for taking the custody of Ruqqiya Bibi victim of Blasphemy after her acquittal from the blasphemy case.

On June 05, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) attended meeting with UN representative organized by HRCP.

On June 08, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) attended the “**Annual General Meeting**” of Christian Study Centre Rawalpindi.

On June 09, 2012 Mr. Peter Chisholm U. S Consulate Lahore visited CLAAS.



On June 15, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director), Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) and Ms. Rama Rasheed (Assistant Program Officer) attended A Seminar “**Concerning Threats to Ms. Asma Jahangir**” organized by Joint Action Committee Lahore.



On June 25, 2012 Mr. Gajus Scheltema Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands invited CLAAS and Dutch Parliamentarian Mr. Joel Voordewind for meeting on the minrotiy issues specially Christians which was followed by lunch.



On June 28, 2012 CLAAS General Annual board meeting was held in CLAAS office Lahore.

On June 29, 2012 CLAAS held a Press Conference on “**Minorities Rights and Current Situation of Minorities in Pakistan**” at Ambassador Hotel Lahore.





On July 02, 2012 Mr. Sander Janssen, Deputy Ambassador from Netherlands Embassy visited CLAAS and Apna-Ghar Rehabilitation Centre.

On July 03, 2012 Mr. Sohail Habel Finance Manager and Ms. Huma Lucas Assistant In-charge Legal Department attended three days' **"Security Training"** arranged by Release International UK at Youhanabad Lahore.



On July 06, 2012 Mr. Tim (retire army officer UK) and Mr. Imtiaz Ashraf from Release International UK visited CLAAS.

On July 03, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director), Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) and Ms. Rubina Ghazal (In-Charge Legal Department) visited Mian Channu for follow up the Criminal Cases.

On July 10- 28, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) visited United State of America and met with CLAAS Partners ANM (Advance Native Mission), Mr. Joseph Pitts Congressman, Jubilee Campaign USA, ICC (International Christian Concern) and Amnesty International USA. The Following Group Photos were taken during the meetings.



Group photos at State Department



CLAAS Staff among Mr. Colin King and David Hill Release International UK



CLAAS visit to Brother Jay Temple's family



Brother John Bucchi ANM, Mr. Joseph Francis CLAAS, Ms. Suzanne F. Thomas USA and Ms. Katherine Sapna CLAAS



Mr. Francis along with colleagues from Amnesty International



Mr. Joseph Francis and Katherine Sapna among Congressman Joseph Pitt's during the visit to his office



Mr. Joseph Francis and Ms. Katherine Sapna along with Ms. ALLISON HOLLABAUGH at Ford office Building Washington DC after meeting.



Mr. Joseph Francis and Ms. Katherine with Mr. Jeff King and Mr. Darara at International Christian Concern (ICC) Office USA.



On August 11, 2012 CLAAS staff attended Press Conference on “Minorities Day” and also joined a protest demonstration concerning the equal rights of minorities in Pakistan and to stop the misuse of blasphemy laws at the front of Press Club Lahore organized by Christian NGO,s.



On September 08, 2012 CLAAS organized a Press Conference on “Rimsha Masih case and the misuse of blasphemy Law against religious minorities in Pakistan” at Islamabad Hotel in Islamabad. The speakers in the conference were Mr. Joseph Francis National Director CLAAS, Rt. Rev.

Samuel Azariah Bishop of Raiwind Diocese Lahore, Mr. Abdul Qadeer Khamoosh President Christian Muslim Federation, Ms. Katherine Sapna Program Officer CLAAS,

Ms. Tahira Abdullah human Rights Activist Islamabad and Ms. Romana Bashir Christian Study Centre Rawalpindi.



On September 08, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) met with delegation of Kingdom of the Netherlands at Serena Hotel Islamabad.



On September 09, 2012 CLAAS distributed uncooked food items (one month package) among 100 families at Meher Jaffar Islamabad in the reference of Rimsha Masih case.

On September 16, 2012 to September 05, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE National Director and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) attended an international Hearing on the **“misuse of the blasphemy law against the religious minorities in Pakistan”** organized by World Council of Churches in Geneva Switzerland.

On September 18-19, 2012 Ms. Rama Rasheed (Assistant Program Officer) and Ms. Neelam Uzma (Assistant Finance Manager) attended the two days training workshop on **“Finance Management”** organized by The Asia Foundation Islamabad in Islamabad.



On September 18, 2012 Mr. H. Gajus Scheltema Ambassador of the Netherlands kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy Islamabad visited CLAAS and met with S.K Chaudhry lawyer of Asia Bibi Blasphemy case.

On September 24, 2012 Ms. Rubina

Ghazal (In-Charge Legal Department) and Ms. Huma Lucas (Office Assistant) attended the workshop on **“Women Rights and Affirmative Action: In the time of Conflict time of Peace”** organized by ASR Research Centre in Lahore.

On September 26, 2012 Ms. Huma Lucas (Office Assistant) and Mr. Ayaz Gill (Court Clerk) attended the Seminar on **“Religious Extremism Impact on Inter and intra Peace”** organized by Centre for Human Rights Education.



On October 02, 2012 Ms. Sheena Lavery Head of Counselor Section and Mr. Albert David Head of Assistance Unit from British High Commission, Islamabad visited CLAAS.

On October 18, 2012 SPARC organize workshop on Focus Group Discussion on **“The Need for Reformation in Juvenile Systems in the status of Child Related legislation on the post of 18th Constitutional Amendment Scenario and Responsibilities of Provincial Government”** Ms. Huma Lucas (Office Assistant) attended the workshop.

On October 19th, 2012 Ms. Rama Rasheed (Assistant Program Officer) and Ms. Rubina Ghazal (In-Charge Legal Department) attended the follow-up workshop on **“Procedural Activism” and Citizen for Promoting Right to Information”** organized by CSOS Islamabad.

On October 26, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) met with Mr. Lars Gunnar WIGEMARK (Ambassador) Head of Delegation European Union Delegation to Pakistan at Islamabad regarding CLAAS Blasphemy Cases.

On October 28, 2012 Ms. Rubina Ghazal attended the workshop on “**Christian Marriage Act**” as Speaker organized by AGHS.

On November 02, 2012 CLAAS organize one day workshop on “Forced Marriages” for young women and school girls at Hamza Town Lahore.



On November 12, 2012 Ms. Emma Dipper Women's Programme Manager and Ms. Lynne from Release International UK visited CLAAS APNA-GHAR Rehabilitation Centre to meet survivors.

On November 14, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) attended the 25 Years Celebration of Unswerving and dedicated services of Rt. Rev. Samuel Azariah Moderator Church of Pakistan Raiwind Dioceses Lahore.

On November 14, 2012 Mr. Abdul Sattar (Journalist/ Producer) from National Public Radio visited CLAAS and take interview of Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director).



On November 19th -21th, 2012 Mr. Asher Sarfraz attended the training workshop on “**Human Rights Defenders**” organized by Globla Human Rights Defenders in Nepal.

On November 21st, 2012 Ms. Dionandrea Dee Shorts Political Officer U.S. Consulate Lahore visited CLAAS.



On November 27, 2012 Mr. Justin from International Christian Concern (ICC) USA visited CLAAS and Apna Ghar Rehabilitation centre CLAAS. **(A Group Photo with CLAAS Staff)**

On November 27, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) was invited by the European Parliament Brussels for the hearing on Pakistan to speak on the misuse of blasphemy law, the situation of minorities especially women and Children before the EU Human Rights committee in the Context of the UPR in association with the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with South Asia, in Brussels, Belgium.





On December 04, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) met with CLAAS Partners at IGF Germany.



On December 05, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) attended the European National Breakfast in Brussels, Belgium.

On December 09, 2012 Mr. Sohail Habel (Finance Manager) and Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer) attended the Human Rights Day Conference organized by HRFP Human Rights Focus Pakistan in Faisalabad.

On December 11, 2012 Mr. Adam Thomson (British High Commissioner) invited Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) for Annual Consular reception and Farewell of Sheena Lavery (Head of counselor Section) and welcome of Simon Minshull.

On December 12, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Rama Rasheed (Assistant Program Officer) attended the workshop on “A Social Political Dialogue on Religious Minorities in Pakistan Elections” organized by Church World Services Pakistan/ Afghanistan in PC Lahore.



CLAAS National Director Mr. Joseph Francis among Rt. Rev. Samuel Azariah Vice-Chairman CLAAS Board, Mr. Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo provisional president of Pakistan People’s Party, Mr. Akram Masih Gill Minister of State, Ministry of Interfaith Harmony & Minorities Affairs, Mr. Mehboob Ahmad Khan and Ms. Katherine Sapna cutting Christmas Cake on December 15, 2012



CLAAS distributed Christmas gifts among 115 children and victim families on December 15, 2012 during Christmas Program.

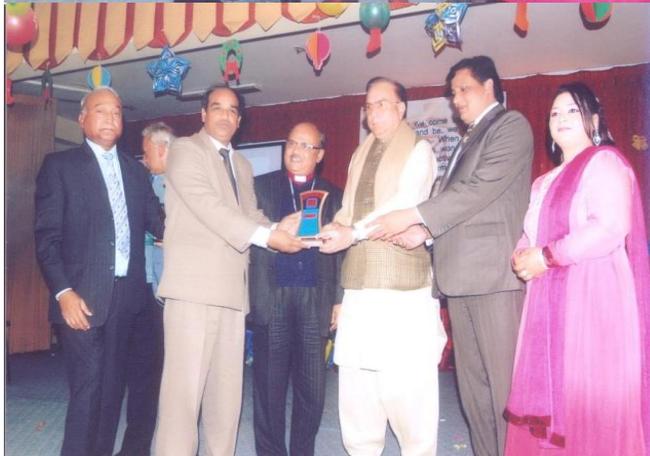
CLAAS presented appreciation award to the human rights activists in the recognition of their long time services towards Human Rights. Awards were presented by Rt. Rev. Samuel Robert Azariah Bishop of Raiwind Dioceses & Vice-Chairman CLAAS Board, Mr. Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo provisional president of Pakistan People's Party and Mr. Akram Masih Gill Minister of State, Ministry of Interfaith Harmony & Minorities Affairs on December 15, 2012.



Niamat Ahmer Shaheed Award was presented to Mr. Mehboob Ahmed Khan in the recognition of his volunteer services with CLAAS for protecting the victims of religious intolerance.



An appreciation Shield was presented to Mr. Emmanuel Asad in the recognition of his commitment and hard work for Peace and Harmony through games and other activities for the betterment of Christian Community and its bright future in Pakistan.



An appreciation Shield was presented to Mr. Javed Gill in the recognition of his commitment and hard work for Peace and Harmony through games and other activities for the betterment of Christian Community and its bright future in Pakistan.



Group Photo of the CLAAS Staff together with honorable guests of honor on Annual Christmas Dinner 2012

On December 16, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) attended the Annual Christmas program of “Vast Vision Ministry”.

On December 16, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director), Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) and Ms. Neelam Uzma (Assistant Finance Manager) attended the Annual Christmas Program of St. Francis (Tar Ghar) School Lahore.

On December 18, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) attended the Annual Christmas Dinner at Lucie Harrison School Lahore.

On December 19, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) attended the “**Interfaith Conference and Annual Christmas Program**” organized by US Consulate Lahore.

On December 20, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director), Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) and Ms. Rama Rasheed (Assistant Program Officer) attended the “**Annual Christmas Dinner**” of Rev. Dr. Majid Abel at Naulakha Presbyterian church.

On December 23, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) and Ms. Rama Rasheed (Assistant Program Officer) attended Christmas Program at Assembly of God Church Sheikhpura.

On December 24, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Ms. Katherine Sapna met with Mr. Lajos Arendas Deputy High Commissioner Canada, the Canadian Embassy Islamabad, to have up-date of on the blasphemy cases and the current situation of Christians in Pakistan.

Report on CLAAS' visit to European Parliament

Background:

During the martial law rule of eleven years, General Zia-ul-Haq allowed the orthodox fundamentalist religious leaders (Ullema/Mullah) to enjoy political, economic and social clout and gains in order to obtain religious legitimization for his illegitimate rule. The result of this cynical use of conservative religious leaders was the spread of fundamentalism and obscurantism at a very foundational level in the society. During this period oppressive and discriminatory pieces of so-called Islamic legislation were introduced. These include the Hudood Ordinance Laws relating to Zakat and Ushr, the Qissas and Diyat Ordinance, the Qanoon-e-Shahadat (Law of Evidence) and finally the most draconian of all laws, the "Blasphemy Law" sections 295B & C of the Pakistan Penal Code. All these pieces of sectarian legislation have promoted an atmosphere of intolerance in the country, which not only encourages sentiments of religious prejudice and bigotry against non-Muslim citizens but also poses a serious threat to basic human rights of citizen in general and thus jeopardize the whole process of democratization. The laws are interpreted with prejudice against non-Muslims and the courts are also influenced by sectarian intolerance.

Therefore CLAAS was started in 1992 to address human rights issues faced by the disadvantage groups, which includes religious minorities, women and children. The acute need was to make these services accessible to people. Since religious minorities are often victimized in this country by accusing them of blasphemy (under section 295 B&C of the Pakistan Penal Code), human rights groups and activists are agitating against these excesses, but it is not practical for them to come to the rescue of every victim of religious & political intolerance and oppression. Further, it has been observed that the victims of the minority, due to the culture of silence of which they have been victims for many years. They feel more comfortable if they are able to approach minority human rights activist, social workers and lawyers for help.

Effects of Blasphemy on survivors:

Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement is providing free legal aid to the minorities especially Christian women and children and providing shelter to the persecuted families at its rehabilitation centres Apna-Ghar and Safe House. Since 1992 CLAAS has been dealing legal cases and especially blasphemy cases registered against minority communities especially Christians in Pakistan. CLAAS has deal above 120 blasphemy cases in which the people has been proved innocent by the courts and acquitted from the false accusations of blasphemy but they have no future in Pakistan. They are free from the courts but they cannot live in the society at their home places. They have to live hide because in Pakistan once any one is involved in blasphemy he or she has no right to live, not only the alleged person but their families as well. They have to move towards some safe places where they are not known by the local people and they live hide. They cannot work freely and their children can't get education properly. Therefore they have to suffer and have to live poor lives.

There is another big issue of forced conversion in Pakistan and the people who are forced to embrace Islam are also on the same status. Christian girls are abducted and raped and after that they are forced to convert to Islam and forced to get married with

Muslim men, later they are tortured and confined in the house and do not allowed to meet with their families, friends and relatives of the Muslim husband as well. If they want to come back to their Christian parents because they do not accept their Muslim husband and Islam as religion, they are killed. There are many women and men who are forced to embrace Islam at their work places by their colleagues or co workers, their lives are in danger and they are not allowed to live a normal life till when they accept Islam as their religion.

Converts are facing the same problem in Pakistan, when they accept Jesus Christ in their lives and they want to live as believer or Christian they have to face hurdles. They are kicked out from the houses, attacked and killed by not only the extremists but also by their own families. Therefore they are suffering and also have to live hide.

Purpose of CLAAS visit at European Parliamentarians, Govt officials in Brussels, Belgium and in The Hague, Holland:

CLAAS is concerned about the safety of the oppressed and depressed families and want to settle/relocate them permanently at any country including Canada, Netherlands, Germany, France and Unites States of America as refugee to live safe and sound.

This is the reason that CLAAS intended to mobilise the opinion at international forum. Therefore CLAAS decided to meet with the governess of the European Union and some other countries who provides political asylum and protection to the people who are the victim of violation and they are not safe at their home countries. In this connection Mr. Joseph Francis MBE, National Director CLAAS and Ms. Katherine Sapna Program Officer CLAAS visited Belgium and Netherlands on 20th November to 4th December 2011 and met with government officials in Brussels, Belgium with the efforts and support of CLAAS friend Mr. Fernando Pauwels Senior Research Associate at HIVA Catholic University Leuven, Belgium and in The Hague, Holland with the help of CLAAS partner organization Jubilee Campaign Netherland and USA. To draw international intention towards the worse situation of minorities especially Christians in Pakistan, on 21st November CLAAS met in Brussels with the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Steven Van Ackere) and the president of commission of Foreign Affairs of the senate (Karl Van Louwe). On 28th November CLAAS attended an international academic seminar at HIVA Catholic University of Leuven in Brussels and speak on the misuse of blasphemy laws in Pakistan. On 29th CLAAS had meeting with a group of 12 people invited at the Flemish Parliament by Ward Kennes, a Flemish Parliament member and had lunch with them. On 30th November CLAAS was invited to attend Annual European Prayer Breakfast in Brussels and meeting with Mr. Peter Van Dalen European Parliamentarian and a group of European Parliamentarians in the afternoon. On 1st December CLAAS had a very pleasure meeting with Mr. Raymond de Roon Parliamentarian and Mr. Kees van der Staaij in the Parliament Building in Hague, Netherlands. On the same day CLAAS met with Joel Voordewind with the same request for the victim families who are suffering in Pakistan due to the false blasphemy accusations.

Several news papers (De Morgen, Standard, Campus Krant, VETO student newspaper, MO Magazine) interviewed CLAAS and asked about the situation of minorities of Pakistan. They also were interested to listen about the blasphemy laws in Pakistan how they are misused by people for their personal interests. CLAAS interviews were published in Belgium news papers on different dates in November 2011.

CLAAS explained about the situation of minority communities that how they are discriminated in Pakistan. Mr. Francis said CLAAS begun with the intent of addressing religious minority issues it has evolved to addressing wider and diverse issues as well.

CLAAS has responded to provide legal aid, protection and rehabilitative support to the innocent victims. CLAAS' efforts have resulted in acquittal of minority citizens and have saved their lives. CLAAS has also provided safe lodgings for the victims for extended periods in collaboration with other individuals and organizations. Similarly CLAAS has provided relief to women and children victims of violence in Blasphemy cases, forced conversion and converts by extending legal aid and protection.

There are a number of cases where the level of hostility and bigotry in a community reaches the points where even if the court decides in favor of the victim, he/she or entire family may not have the possibility of surviving in a given locality. In these cases CLAAS has, on a number of occasions helped these victims in resettling in other localities away from the places where they are known and could be victimized in the future. In a few cases this has meant even to relocate these victims outside the country because of the national level of the threat due to exposure these cases have received in the national media. CLAAS has been involved in relocating the several blasphemy victims outside the country. He said that Blasphemy law is used as a tool or weapon to take revenge in personal disputes, to garb the properties, for the business jealousy not only for Christians but also for the Muslims.

He mentioned that CLAAS has about 170 Christian families including the victims of blasphemy, people who were forced to convert and some converts they all are living hide. Some of them are from well established families who are supported by their own families. Some are helped by CLAAS monthly with some food items, financial support and rent of the buildings where they are hiding. CLAAS also provide them medicine and cloths on the occasions. Some families are living at CLAAS shelter houses where they are provided with every basic need. CLAAS is trying its best to manage the expenses of the survivors but it is very difficult for CLAAS to support these families for unlimited period with the limited funds. Till the date CLAAS has accommodated many Christian persecuted families at rehabilitation centers and some of them relocated outside Pakistan. Therefore CLAAS want to relocate these families outside Pakistan for the long-lasting settlement. Where they would be able to live independently and would be able to work safely. CLAAS also requested for the grant of special visa to the victims because they are poor and unable to fulfil the requirements of the visa process and they are always denied to give visa.

Conclusion:

The Ministers and Parliamentarians appreciated CLAAS credible work and showed their grieved concern upon the situation of Pakistani minorities especially Christians in Pakistan.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Belgium told CLAAS team that he is not the concerned person to deal with the asylum applications for refugee status but he showed his deep concern about the Pakistan situation and the worse condition of minorities (and is willing to sponsor a project, to be proposed by CLAAS)The president of commission of Foreign Affairs of the senate, Belgium said that they have a system of individual refugee whenever a person claim for the refugee status because he/she is not secure in the

home country. But he will push a bill in the assembly to make a law for a group to give political asylum.

Flemish Parliamentarians and European Parliamentarian were agreed that Pakistani minorities should be provided political asylum in a group and they were ready to discuss during the parliament sessions.

Mr. Raymond de Roon Parliamentarian and Mr. Kees van der Staaij told CLAAS that they have already system to provide protection/refuge to the individuals but have not a system to give status the groups. CLAAS team asked that there should be a system of special visa process for the victims through government or the civil organizations of the home country.

On the same day CLAAS met with Joel Voordewind with the same request for the victim families who are suffering in Pakistan due to the false blasphemy accusations. He showed his concern about Pakistan and persecution of the minorities in Pakistan. He was also very much concerned about Aasia Bibi convicted and confined in Sheikhpura prison. He showed solidarity for the murder of Shahbaz Bhatti the former Minister for Minority Affairs in Pakistan. Mr. Joel was interest in to CAAS work for Pakistani minorities and showed his concern for 170 families who are involved in different fake cases and suffering in Pakistan. He asked that in March 2012 he wants to visit CLAAS and the cases which CLAAS dealing in Pakistan and victim families as well. In the last Mr. Joel said grace for CLAAS and Pakistani people who are suffering due to their faith.

CLAAS team is satisfied with this successful visit to Europe and hope that God will definitely show a way to save his people through CLAAS and with the support of CLAAS international friends. We believe that God wants to use CLAAS like Moses.

CLAAS is grateful to ICCO/KiA for the fund for the travel expenses to go Europe for these meeting with the high officials to draw their intention on the situation of Christians in Pakistan after they become the victim of Blasphemy and ask for the refugee status for them who are involved in the fake cases and suffering in Pakistan along with their families to relocate them in the safe countries in abroad.

Reported by:

**Joseph Francis
National Director
CLAAS Pakistan**

Prepared by:

**Mr. Fernando Pauwels
Senior Research Associate at HIVA Catholic University Leuven, Belgium**

**Ms. Katherine Sapna
Program Officer CLAAS
Dated: 09-01-2012**

Report on CLAAS' visit to European Parliament and partners

A delegation from CLAAS headed by Mr. Joseph Francis, National Director met the Mr. Peter Van Dalen MEP and other Members of the European Parliament on November 30, 2011 and briefed about the situation of minorities in particular Christians in Pakistan. During his visit from November 20, 2011 to December 04, 2011 Mr. Francis also met different government officials from Belgium and Netherlands with the help of CLAAS' friend Mr. Fernando Pauwels Senior Research Associate at HIVA Catholic University Leuven, Belgium to draw the attention of western countries towards the plight of minorities in Pakistan.

Mr. Peter Van Dalen MEP called for a meeting of European Union Parliamentarians and different political parties in Brussels on March 6, 2012 and also invited Mr. Joseph Francis and other delegates from CLAAS and Mr. Fernando Pauwels. The main idea of this meeting was to provide firsthand information to the Members of the European Parliament and members of other political parties on the ongoing persecution and discrimination against the religious minorities in Pakistan, in particular the Christian minority.

Mr. Francis extended his gratitude towards Mr. Van Dalen on behalf of CLAAS and Mr. Fernando Pauwels for providing an international platform to raise the awareness about the situation of Christians in Pakistan. Providing a brief introduction about CLAAS Mr. Francis focused on the safety of Christian minority in Pakistan who are being persecuted under the blasphemy laws since 1986 when they were introduced military dictator General Zia-ul-Haq. Mr. Francis informed the Members of European Parliament and others how the persecution and discrimination went from worse to worst especially after 9/11 attacks when the USA retaliated the Al-Qaeeda and started the war against terrorism. For the extremists in Pakistan this war was a war against Islam and to avenge it they started attacking Christian institutes and individuals. This also resulted in many fake blasphemy cases registered against the Christians and young women and girls abducted, raped and forcibly converted to Islam. Mr. Francis said CLAAS begun with the intent of addressing religious minority issues and it has evolved to address wider and diverse issues as well.

Sine 1992 CLAAS has helped not only the Christians and other minority members but also Muslims who have been the victims of blasphemy law, mentioned Mr. Francis. He informed the MEPs and others that CLAAS is supporting 174 Christian families who are the victims of different injustices including blasphemy charges, forced conversion and newly converts Christians from Islam. These families get monthly financial allowance to pay for their daily needs and also to pay rent for the places they live. Some victims of persecution are provided shelter at CLAAS' safe house, only few families provide some support to these victims whenever possible by them.

It was informed to the MEPs and other respectable audience that CLAAS has tried its best to manage the expenses of the survivors but it is very difficult to support these families with limited resources. To date CLAAS has accommodated many Christian persecuted families at its rehabilitation centres and some of them relocated outside Pakistan. It was requested that the families who are still being supported by CLAAS should be relocated outside Pakistan and that the MEPs and other political and non profit organizations should make it possible by making such amendments for the visa

where processing can be made easier for such victims. This will help these victims to have a free life and also to work in a free environment resulting in not only helping themselves but also their families back home.

Mr. Francis shared that in Pakistan it is very hard to get visas for any European country or America and Canada. Therefore Mr. Francis requested for the grant of special visas to the victims because they are poor and unable to fulfil the requirements of the visa process and they are always denied to give visa by the foreign embassies in Islamabad.

Miss. Katherine Sapna of CLAAS spoke about the issues faced by Christian women and informed that CLAAS not only represent the victims of rape and force conversion to Islam in the courts but also provided them shelter at CLAAS' rehabilitation centre named "Apna Ghar (Our Home)." She also informed that CLAAS also represent the brick kiln workers who have been working at the kilns for generations. They are unable to pay the debt that their forefathers took from their employers and thus for generations end up to be bonded labourers. CLAAS also provide free medical facility to these workers at the brick kilns through medical camps under its Mobile Health Project.

The MEPs and other present were surprised to learn about the situation of minorities in Pakistan but also appreciated CLAAS' work for the victims and the survivors of such inhumane treatment. They also welcomed the idea of CLAAS to provide refugee status to Christian minority and were willing to raise the issue during the parliament sessions.

Also on March 14 CLAAS team visited Pakistani Christian families who have applied for refugee claim in France to know about their problems in getting asylum. CLAAS will have a meeting with the Minister of Immigration in France to address the problems of Christians in Pakistan and to request to grant asylum to them in European countries.

On March 17 CLAAS delegation met with Mr. Joel Voordewind with the same agenda at Netherlands Parliament and requested if he can raise the issues of Christian minority in Pakistan through his political party (Christian Union) for granting them political asylum in Netherlands and many of the Christians have been refused for asylum several times. CLAAS also requested for the grant of refugee status of the Pakistani Christians who are suffering in Pakistan due to the blasphemy law and other discriminatory laws of Pakistan.

Mr. Joel showed his concern about the persecution of the minorities in Pakistan. He was also very much concerned about Asia Bibi convicted of blasphemy law and confined in Sheikhpora prison and express his wish to visit her in person.

On March 22 CLAAS visited its Partners Mr. Kerl Hafen, Director IGFM and Mr. Walter Flick in Frankfurt Germany and briefed them about the meetings with Members of the European Parliament and Netherlands Parliament. They appreciated the idea and suggested if CLAAS can prepare an appeal to file in the immigration ministry of Germany with the same agenda.

Reported by:

**Katherine Sapna
Program Officer/Deputy National Director
CLAAS Pakistan**

Netherlands Parliamentarian Mr. Joel Voordewind visited CLAAS

A delegation from Netherlands headed by Mr. Joel Voordewind (from Christian Union a political Party in Netherlands), including Mr. Shamir his Colleagues and Mr. Peter Executive Director Jubilee Campaign National Director visited CLAAS-Pakistan to see the situation of minorities in particular Christians in Pakistan. During their visit from June 22 – June 25, 2012 Mr. Joel met with Government officials, Parliament Commission of Human Rights, Pakistan Parliamentarians, Human Rights Activities, Religious intolerance Victim Families, Christian Civil Society and also Christian lawyers and CLAAS legal advisors to find the plight of minorities in Pakistan.

These are few photos taken during the visits.



On June 22, 2012 Netherland delegation met Mr. Akram Gill Minister of State, at Ministry of Interfaith Harmony & Minority Affairs, Government of Pakistan in Islamabad.



The delegation met with Mr. Albert David (Head of Assistance Unit Consular Section) British High Commission Islamabad and other community members in Rawalpindi and had lunch with them.



Mr. Joel Voordewind NL Parliamentarian, Mr. Shamir Secretary and Mr. Peter Bronsveld Executive Director Jubilee Campaign visited CLAAS office and met with staff on June 23, 2012.



On June 23, 2012 NL delegation met with Christian Members of Provincial Assembly at CLAAS office.



A Group photo of NL delegation and CLAAS staff with Mr. I A Rehman Director HRCP and other civil society members after meeting at HRCP on June 23, 2012.



On June 23, 2012 Mr. Joel Voordewind, Parliamentarian NL had one to one meeting with Blasphemy victims and their families and had dinner with them.

On June 24, 2012 Mr. Joel had meet with the members of the Christian Civil Society organizations and Christian Lawyers at CLAAS office.



On June 25, 2012 Mr. Joel Voordewind along with CLAAS had a meeting with the Dutch Ambassador Mr. Gajus Scheltema and gave a brief on his visit to CLAAS Pakistan. He personally requested to the ambassador for the grant of immigration visas to the persecuted Christians/victim families. He also

requested to the Dutch Ambassador to support CLAAS financially in their legal work for the persecuted especially for the victims of Blasphemy. The meeting was followed by lunch.

Reported By:

CLAAS-Pakistan

Report on Conference of Human Rights in Pakistan in the context of the UPR



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN PARLAIMINT NA HEORPA PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EIROPAS PARLAMENTS
EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EURÓPAI PARLAMENT IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLEMENT
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN
EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROPAPARLAMENTET

Subcommittee on Human Rights

Exchange of views on **Human Rights in Pakistan in the context of the UPR**

in association with the European Parliament's
Delegation for relations with South Asia

Wednesday,
28 November 2012

17.45-18.30

Room: PHS P4B001
European Parliament, Brussels

Introductory remarks by **Ms Barbara Lochbihler**, Chair of DROI and **Ms Jean Lambert**,
Chair of D-SAS.

1. **Mr Peter Jacob**, National Commission for Justice and Peace of Pakistan (NGO), on the UPR process
2. **Mr. Joseph Francis**, founder and director of the Center for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement (NGO), Sakharov Prize candidate 2012, on religious rights issues
3. **Mr Jacob Harbo**, Save the Children EU office (NGO), on discrimination suffered by women and children
4. **Mr Charles-Michel Geurts**, Human Rights Unit, EEAS

Discussion with Members

Concluding remarks by **Ms Lochbihler** and **Ms Lambert**.

The hearing can be followed online:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=DROI>

On November 28, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE National Director and Ms. Katherine Sapna Program Officer/ Deputy National Director was invited as Speaker in the Conference of European Parliament Brussels, Belgium to speak on the misuse of blasphemy law in Pakistan and the situation of minorities especially women and children before the EU Human Rights committee, Committee of Foreign Affairs and European Parliament's Delegation in Brussels, Belgium.

Below are some few photos taken while speaking at E U Parliament.



Mr. Joseph Francis National Director CLAAS met with Jose Maria Sala, Socialist Party leader in Spain

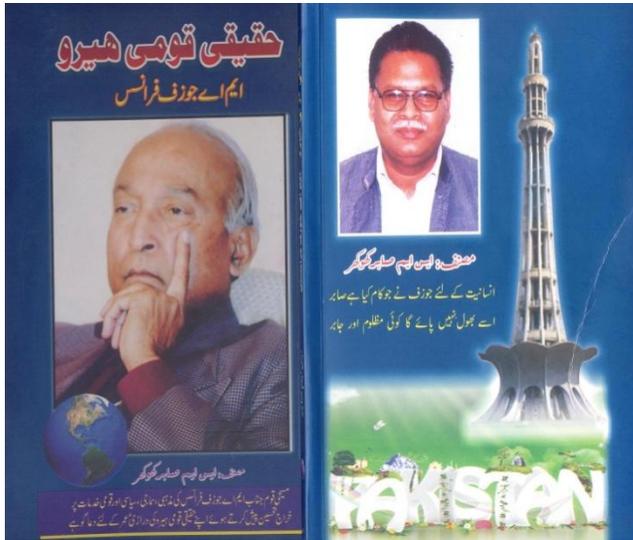
On September 25, 2012, Mr. M.A Joseph Francis National Director CLAAS, visited the Headquarter of Socialist Party of Catalonia (PSC) and meeting with the party's leadership. Mr. Francis was accompanied by a delegation which included Ms. Katherine Sapna Program Officer CLAAS, Javed Iqbal Gill and Hafiz Abdul-Razzaq Sadiq. Secretary during the meeting with Jose Maria Sala the President of the Socialist Party Spain.



بارسلونا (روبن کھوکھر) پاکستان کرچمن نیشنل پارٹی کے چیئرمین اور ادارہ کلاس ڈائریکٹر جوزف فرانسس نے مورخہ 25 ستمبر 2012 کو psc کے ہیڈ کوارٹریں بارسلونا میں سوشلسٹ پارٹی کے مرکزی راہنما خوش آمد سے ماریا سالاس سے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات کے دوران انہوں نے بتایا کہ وہ ہیومن رائٹس UNO کی انٹرنیشنل کانفرنس میں شرکت کے لیے پاکستان سے جینیوا سویٹزر لینڈ آئے تھے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہاں توہین رسالت کے ناجائز استعمال کے بارے میں سماعت ہوئی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم تمام مذاہب کا احترام کرتے ہیں اور ان مذاہب کی دینی کتابوں کا احترام بھی کرتے ہیں لیکن پاکستان میں مسیحیوں کو ذاتی بنا پر توہین رسالت کے جھوٹے مقدمات میں پھنسا دیا جاتا ہے۔ انہوں نے مثال دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ توہین رسالت کے 102 کیس میں نے اور میری جماعت نے دن رات محنت کر کے اصل حقائق سامنے لا کر ان افراد کو بری کروایا۔ مسٹر جوزف فرانسس نے خوش آمد سے ماریا سالاس کو ادارہ کلاس کی ایک سال کی کارکردگی کی رپورٹ ایک کتابچہ کی صورت میں دی۔ خوش آمد سے ماریا سالاس نے انکو اپنے تعاون کا یقین دلایا۔ مسٹر جوزف نے پاکستان کی موجودہ سیاسی صورت حال پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ ان کے ہمراہ حافظ عبدالرزاق صادق، جاویداقبال گل اور محترمہ کینتھریں بھی موجود تھے۔ 26-09-12



BOOK LAUNCHING CEREMONY “HAQIQI QOUMI HERO” WRITTEN BY S. M. SABAR KHOKHAR ON THE STRUGGLE AND EFFORTS OF MR. JOSEPH FRANCIS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS



On Monday 21, 2012 CLAAS team conducted a program of book launching ceremony of “Haqiqa Qoumi Hero” written by S. M Sabar Khokhar on the life, efforts and achievements of Mr. Joseph Francis MBE National Director CLAAS through out life for the betterment of the Christian Community in Pakistan. The Ceremony took place at the Auditorium Hall at Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. The Family members of Mr. Francis, the colleagues from different NGO, s,

people from Civil Society and CLAAS staff came to give tribute to Mr. Joseph Francis MBE on his out-standing services for defending the Human Rights.

The program was chaired by Mr. I.A Rehman General Secretary Human Right Commission of Pakistan. Mr. Peter Chisholm US Consulate Lahore was present as Chief Guest while Ms. Katherine Sapna Program officer and Ms. Rubina Ghazal In-charge Legal Department CLAAS hosted the program.

There were comments by the Rev. Fr. Inayat Bernard, Catholic priest at Anarkali Church Lahore and Board Member of CLAAS; he said that Mr. Joseph Francis is doing great work through CLAAS since 1992, where the victims directly benefited from legal support, protection services. CLAAS is operated on secular and ecumenical level and tries to help people without any distinction of caste, color, sex or creed. Mr. Emmanuel Asad President Pakistan Christian National Party said that Mr. Joseph Francis is the founder of Pakistan Christian National Party and it was the first Christian party in Pakistan which started work for the equal rights of Christians in Pakistan. Rev. Pastor Sharif Alam also expressed his views regarding the book and said that Mr. Joseph Francis had contributed much to the welfare of the minorities in the country. Mr. Manzoor Ali Gillani Advocate, President of Istaqlal Party said “Francis was always part of civil campaigns against military regimes.” He said that during Zia regime Mr. Francis faced great oppression and he has to go into hiding. But his great passion for his community never allowed him to step back from his services. Mr. Naveed Walter, President of Human Rights Focus Pakistan said that Mr. Joseph Francis is a role model for us. He said young generation should follow the rules of his life. He also acknowledged the services of Mr. Joseph Francis in the field of Human Rights.

Mr. Younis Rahi Treasure CLAAS also admired his services in the field of humanity and termed him a man of integrity in his profession. He said “I remember as a young boy had great passion for doing work for poor or helpless people. Now he achieved his goal by his hardworking and we are glad to see him on the peak. We cannot forget his great contribution in promotion of minority’s rights and to build just and peaceful society. Mr. Shahzad Kamran Director (Vast Vision Ministry) said that Mr. Francis is his hero as he is inspired by his struggles for the promotion of human rights. No doubt he is a legend Personality for Christian community. Mr. Aftab Javed Director Giyan said that Mr. Joseph Francis MBE work has also recognized and acclaimed throughout the world. We saw his eternal work on minorities Incidents like Shanti Nagar, Bhaminawala, Gojra and Korian where he did work devotionally. Mr. Peter Jacob Director National Commission for Justice and Peace said that Mr. Joseph’s has devoted the whole life for humanity. There must be a big celebration in the honor of Mr. Joseph Francis for his rights activism in the country.



Later Mr. Peter Chisholm, US Consulate Lahore, Mr. I.A Rehman General Secretary HRCP, Mr. Joseph Francis MBE and Mr. S. M. Sabar Khokhar performed the book launching ceremony of “Haqiqa Qomi Hero” (My Real Hero).

Mr. Joseph Francis said thanks to Mr. Sabar the writer of the book. He said thanks to all colleagues and friends and the people who help him in working and protecting the rights of minorities in Pakistan

and said that I am nothing alone and said gratitudes to all well wishers.

Mr. Peter Chisholm U.S Consulate Chief Guest said thanks for being invited in this great occasion and after hearing the views of all colleagues he repeated the Mr. Francis is the Real Hero of Christian community and his work in the field of Human Rights is admirable.

Mr. I. A Rehman General Secretary said that “the aim of Highlighting stories of people like M. A Joseph Francis is, to mobilise people that change is possible and that, dreams do come true”. Ms. Rubina Ghazal read the poem of book page 143. The program was closed with prayer for long life of Mr. Joseph Francis and continues services for the welfare of Christian community.

CLAAS AWARENESS SESSIONS

CLAAS facilitated the session on Forced Marriages on 2nd November by introducing a small book containing relevant provisions of the Constitution of Pakistan, Universal Declaration of Human rights and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. The booklet was further helpful to the participants to note some important laws concerning women and a commentary by Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) on the issue of forced marriages.

As the workshop was intended to be an interactive one, the sessions from the all three resource persons were followed by open discussion and participants fully participated in the discussions. The three resource persons for this session were Ms. Sidra Humayun, Coordinator WAR Against Rape (WAR), Ms. Bushra Khaliq, Executive Director Women in Struggle for Empowerment (WISE) and Mr. Tahir Bashir, Advocate who is a legal advisor of CLAAS.

Following are the main points and ensuring discussions that emerged out of three sessions on the forced marriages:



Ms. Katherine Sapna thanking Ms. Sidra Humayun after her session at the workshop

Ms. Sidra Humayun – Forced Marriage: an abuse of Human Rights

Ms. Sidra Humayun briefly introduced the concepts of human rights and the evolution of human rights law especially how it flourished after the 2nd World War. She explained that Pakistan is still very young a nation and the countries that had attained respect in world today for their adherence to the rights of the

individuals had to toil for centuries before their populace could enjoy the rights and freedoms to their fullest.



A keen participant engaging with Sidra on forced marriages

Ms. Sidra also explained the importance of UDHR, CEDAW and how women rights were mainstreamed and recognized to be fully at par with human rights. She gave four distinct forms of forced marriages in Pakistan. She said rape was the worst form of forced marriages where coercion and deceit is used to abuse women. She further stated that under age marriage was another evident and most

prevalent form of forced marriages in Pakistan. Thirdly she said, the marriages without asking

the consent of the girls especially when girls are given away in marriage to settle a dispute were also blatant violation of human rights. Lastly she mentioned the ever-growing trend of kidnapping of women belonging to different minority religious groups and marrying them off to the majority community's men.

Ms. Bushra Khaliq – Effects of forced marriages on individual and the society



Ms. Bushra Khaliq reads out an update on law

Ms. Bushra Khaliq started with the most confusing state for a child in Pakistan. She said that Pakistan did not have a law through which the welfare of the child could be ensured at a certain age because age of adulthood varies with each law.

She gave UNDP figure for childhood marriages which stated that 37 % marriages solemnized in Pakistan were under-aged children. She added that age of marriage determined the rate of progress for the countries like Pakistan. Not only a child is unable to give his or her consent in marriage but also a girl is totally unsuitable physically for bearing child at early age.

She told the participants that in countries where law has progressed, any decision made without informed consent of the children is liable to be called an abuse of power and any mobility of child without consent is deemed as trafficking.

She said that Pakistan may seem like a democratic country but in effect Pakistan was still run by and for the powerful feudal minds.

Mr. Tahir Bashir-Advocate & Legal Advisor CLAAS



Mr. Tahir Bashir addressing the workshop

Mr. Tahir Bashir enumerated the reasons that lead to forced marriages in Pakistan. he said 1- lack of knowledge, 2- Poor Parents, 3- Monetary benefit at the time of marriage, 4- Settlement of dispute, 5- kidnappings, 6- Wayward Youth, 7- lack of legal and even religious knowledge were all contributing factors to forced marriages in Pakistan.

Mr. Tahir Bashir specifically mentioned the law “Child Marriages Restraint Act 1921” under which marrying off or getting marrying to an underage child is a crime.

He gave a full presentation on age issue in marriage and how the law is being subverted to regularize the under-age marriages.

The workshop gave an opportunity to the participants to learn as well as share their own points of view in certain matters. They largely believed that their children needed to enter the reproduction arena as soon as possible but the discussions at the workshop proved to be an eye-opening event for many such women. The work shop ended with vote of thanks to the participants as well as to the resource persons.



Reported By:

CLAAS-Pakistan

2- Victims of Faith

The following victims approached CLAAS office for legal assistance and settlement

S. no	Name	Place	Details of Incident
14.	Mr. Akash William s/o William Naresh Rattan Chand	Sheikhpura	Mr. Akash William worked as an accountant at Sayid Paper Mills (Pvt.) Ltd. He also worked with CLAAS as volunteer in Sheikhpura during Aasia Bibi (accused of Blasphemy on death sentence) case. Some Muslims observed his activities to support blasphemy accused Aasia and become furious against him and followed him to his house along with the local Molana's. Luckily he was not at home but they beat severely to his father William Naresh and warned him to stop him otherwise they would have to face severe consequences and also threaten them that he should not come back to home. Therefore Akash managed flee from Pakistan with the help of relatives and agent but his wife, children and 2 sisters are still in the rehabilitation center of CLAAS.
15.	Mr. Tariq Victor s/o Iqbal Javed	Rawalpindi	Mr. Tariq Victor was the only Christian who doing work among the Muslims who forced him to embrace Islam as a true religion. He left the job but they followed him and warned him for severe consequences. He and his family have to face hurdles and severe life threats. Therefore they approached CLAAS for protection and rehabilitation. They are still living in CLAAS shelter.
16.	Ms. Shmaela Jaskin d/o Bashir Alam	Lahore	Ms. Shmaela Jaskin got married with Jaskin Anthony in December 2007 and went Dubai along with her husband. But soon she came to know that her husband want to use her as prostitute and forced her to had illicit relation with strangers who used to visit their home. Fortunately she got a chance to escape and came Pakistan. Later two weeks her husband, her father in-law along with two Molana's came and said that he has embraced Islam therefore his wife should also embrace Islam. She refused for doing so and they started to threaten her and her

			family. And also started to visit her parents place to pressurize them. CLAAS provided her shelter due to threats from her husband and Muslim extremists.
17.	Mr. Aleem Inayat s/o Inayat Masih	Gujranwala	Mr. Aleem Inayat was an active member of Presbyterian Church Gujranwala. By Profession he was projectionist and in Pakistan used to operate Christian movies in different church compounds in Gujranwala. These things made furious to Muslim extremists that he preaching Christianity and due to his movies one Muslim family embraced Christianity and started to come church. This family member started to search Aleem Inayat and wants to kill him. Aleem luckily in Lahore when they go to search him in his church. He contacted with CLAAS and CLAAS provide shelter home. He and his family have life threats from Muslim extremists.
18.	Mr. Saim Hummayon	Pakistan	Mr. Saim Hummayon Muslim by faith lived at Oman was engaged with his first cousin in his childhood but he came Pakistan and converted from Islam to Christianity. And he refused his mother to get married to his cousin and told his mother that he wants to get married with Christian lady because now he is Christian. He met with Sonia and his family and got married with Sonia. But his paternal uncle and relatives who lived in Pakistan started threatening to Saim to convert him and also wanted to kill him and Sonia. Presently the aggrieved family is under grave threats and living as hiding.
19.	Mr. Haroon Mehboob Bhatti	Lahore	Mr. Haroon Bhatti Christian by faith lived at Lahore along with two sons. The local Molvi Muhammad Latif alleged Haroon for passing derogatory remarks against the Prophet Muhammad and get registered a case FIR under section 295-C against Haroon and also gave fatwa that Haroon is a blasphemmer. Later Haroon managed to escape from the country for his life safety. His wife and two children are in CLAAS safe house because no one from the relatives were agreed to support them for safety due to the continue threats from the militants and religious groups.

20.	Dr. Pastor Noaman Serosh	Lahore	Dr. Pastor Noaman Serosh Christian by faith lived at Lahore and associate with Full Gospel Church Sultan Park Walton Cantt Lahore. One criminal Ashi came his church according to the hidden agenda of some militant unknown groups behind him. But luckily Church security checks him. He escaped and again came with sharp knife to kill Pastor Noaman Serosh. After the situation Pastor called the police but he again ran away before the police came. Senior Pastor Hizkiel Serosh registered criminal application at the S.P Lahore. Pastor Noaman Serosh and his family were put in shelter home under CLAAS protection because there was a great danger for them and still danger exists and their lives are not safe in Pakistan.
21.	Mr. Ishaque Rehmat	Khanewal	Mr. Ishaque Rehmat Christian by faith lived at Khanewal along with three children. He was working as cashier in the Textile Mill Khairpur. In Khairpur he started holding prayer meetings especially on Sunday the prayer meetings were sudden for the Muslim co-workers to tolerate such kind of gatherings of the Christians in their locality. Once they were in a prayer meeting they were attacked and were badly injured by the religious fanatics. They also blamed him for disrespecting Prophet Muhammad. Later he was shifted in Quetta, and completed his male nurse training from the nursing school of Christian Hospital. Afterward in 1980 he was selected and went to Kuwait for work. In 1990 he was departs from Kuwait to Pakistan. The members of the banned religious organizations followed him and made inquiries for whereabouts of Mr. Ishaque. The same year he again went Kuwait along with family and rejoined. In 2005 he retired for his job and came Pakistan along with his family and took charge of his bookshop namely "Rehmat Book Centre". On July 2005 a group of Muslim extremists came to his shop and started looking around and warned him to close this book store or sell it to Muslims because the store is against Islam. He and his family have severe life threats from Muslims extremists.

22.	Mr. Yousaf Nadeem	Gujranwala	Mr. Yousaf Nadeem Christian by faith lived at Gujranwala along with wife and three children. He is Bishop of an independent church named Grace Church Gujranwala. On December 09, 2012 he approached CLAAS along with family for legal help or protection due to threats from Muslim extremists.
23.	Mr. Kamran Ishaque	Faisalabad	Mr. Kamran Ishaque Christian by faith lived at Faisalabad along with his family. His father Ishaque Masih was a Pastor of the church of all Nations in Faisalabad where his young brother is also Pastor in the same Church. In 2001 Kamran also become a Pastor of all Church of all Nations in Faisalabad who was actively involved in holding prayers and holy crusade where Muslims also attend prayer meetings and holy crusade. He also started an organization named DEAN in Faisalabad for the welfare and help of the poor depressed Christians. Some local fanatics noticed that the number of Muslims started to come to the church secretly to attend prayer meetings and they started to threaten him to stop preaching Christianity. He was informed by the church elder that a blasphemy case registered under section 295-C against Pastor Kamran.
24.	Mr. Asif Gill	Sialkot	Mr. Asif Gill s/o Samuel Gill Christian by faith lived at Sialkot along with his wife and three children. Asif Gill was ordained by a Pastor Tariq Gill at Free Will Baptist Church as Deacon and evangelist to work with him missionary work in the district Sialkot. On March 29, 2012 Asif Gill arranged program during the lent Christian fasting season in Christian village Sialkot, entitled "Muslim & Christian faith" many Christian and Muslims attended the program. But later he was threatened by unknown Muslims that he disrespect Holy Prophet (PBUH) and passed derogatory remarks against him. They abused him and involved in blasphemy case under 295-C.
25.	Mr. Anwar Shahzad	Lahore	Mr. Anwar Shahzad Christian by faith lived at Lahore along with his wife and eight children. He is working as chairman of Human Care Trust who specially works for oppressed and marginalized minorities in

			<p>Pakistan. His office is situated in a market and he is only Christian in this area. While the all shops owners are Muslims who forced him to shift his office somewhere as they do not like Christian in the area and if he wants to remain in this locality he must embrace Islam. So many times unknown Muslim fanatics came to his office and threatened to embrace Islam otherwise it's not good for him and his family. After the case of Raymond Davis (an American agent), Anwar Shahzad was blamed that Raymond Davis was coming to meet him at his office is just 25 steps away from the place of occurrence. After this unpleasant incident Anwar Shahzad is receiving continues grave threats from Muslim extremists who threatening him for embrace Islam. Due to this circumstance CLAAS provided shelter his and his family.</p>
26.	Mr. Nayyer Javed s/o Javed Qadir	Lahore	<p>Mr. Nayyer Javed s/o Javed Qadir Christian by faith lived at Lahore. He felled in love with Muslim girl Atiya who is his class fellow. When her parents came to know that their daughter was interested with Christian boy they started to threaten him to embrace Islam. Her father also went Nayyer house along with Mollans who beat him severely and threatened him to embrace Islam otherwise ready to face the severe consequences. Nayyer went police station but police joined hands with Atiya's father and informed him. Therefore Nayyer contacted with CLAAS for legal assistance in this case.</p>
27.	Mr. Anwar Masih	Faisalabad	<p>Mr. Anwar Masih Christian by faith lived at Faisalabad along with his wife and five children. He was laborer by profession after the Korian/Gojra Incident Muslim owners were refused to give work to Christians. Anwar Masih also worked with a Muslim Land Lord who refused him to give job and openly threatened him for life.</p>
28.	Ms. Sitara Iqbal	Lahore	<p>Ms. Sitara Iqbal Christian by faith lived at Lahore along with her two children. Soon after marriage she came to know that her husband was already married so she came her parents home along with her children. Rani her husband fist wife cane to know about Sitara she started to create problem</p>

			<p>for her and forced Sitara to get divorce with Iqbal. Rani also joined some unknown persons and threatened Sitara for her and children's. She often visited her at her parent's place and forced her for divorce. She left her parents home and started living at her sister home. Meanwhile Rani came repeatedly and asked about her. Her brother Rizwan Gill stops Rani to come again their house along with unknown people. They killed him and prove the police that it was natural death. After the murder of her brother Sitara was mentally disturbed and scared about the life of her children. She came CLAAS for legal assistance regarding this case. CLAAS provide shelter and filed divorce matter which was decided in her favor.</p>
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3- Progress Report of Apna- Ghar (Rehabilitation Centre)

Introduction

Since 1998 CLAAS is providing shelter to the women victims of violence who were not accepted by their own family members merely because the survivors dare to speak up against the violence and in some cases the family were reluctant to take them back to home because of the severe life threats from the perpetrators. The primary function of this shelter home is to offer protection against violence and to give appropriate legal counseling and assistance. The institution runs strictly in accordance with rule and regulations; without exercising any unlawful custodial control over the movements of the inmates. Women and children are admitted at their own request and leave when it is safe for them to go back to their families. The organization provides full opportunity to “Apna Ghar” residents to have interaction with their family members but due to safety these visits are arranged in CLAAS office twice a month (on the 1st and 15th of every month). The period of stay of every resident varies depending on the nature of their case and keeping in view the level of threat they face in their home town.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

1- Legal Aid:



Most of the residents at Apna Ghar are allegedly involve in different cases, through CLAAS they are provided free legal assistance. The meetings with lawyers are arranged at CLAAS office and when they need to appear in the court they are accompanied by female CLAAS staff, these survivors and their families are updated on the legal proceedings of their cases. In family cases (divorce, child custody or maintenance) our first priority is to arrange dialogues (reconciliation) between the two parties

(husband and wife), however, all such meetings are arranged with the consent of the female survivor.

Legal Cases of Apna-Ghar Survivors registered with CLAAS in the year 2012

Sr. #	Title of the case	Advocate	Nature of the Case	Court and District	Status

01.	Shamim Bibi Vs Muhammad Ashfaq	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Forced Conversion and Forced Marriage 1-Dissolution of Marriage 2- Quashment of FIR 3- pre-arrest bails	Civil Judge Family Court Dist. Lahore	1- Decree on 18-04-2012 2- Compromised between the parties on 02-02-2012
2-	Nadia Naira alias Ayesha Vs SHO Nishtar Colony Lahore 2-Nadia VS Sheikh Maqsood	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Forced Conversion & Forced Marriage 1-Harassment Petition 2- Dissolution of marriage	Sessions Judge Dist. Lahore	1- Decided in favor on 23-01-2012 2- Compromised between the parties on 05-03-2012
3-	Sonia Bibi VS Michael David	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court Dist. Lahore	Decreed on 03-07-2012
4-	Tahira Bibi Vs Bashir	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court Dist. Lahore	Filed on 22-03-2012 and withdrawn on 25-05-2012
5-	Ruqqiya Bibi Vs the state	Mr. Naeem Shakir	Blasphemy 1-post arrest bail of Ruqqiya and Munir Masih 2-trial 3-Appeal against Conviction and sentence 4-Post arrest of Munir 5-Post arrest bail of Ruqqiya	1-Session Court Kasur 2- High Court Kasur	1-Munir has bail out 2-Ruqqia's bail is disposed off on 10-11-2011 3-Raqqia and Munir has been acquitted on 17-5-12 from High Court
6-	Tania Vs The State	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Abduction, Forced Conversion & Forced Marriage 1- Statement under section 164 PPC 2- Application	Magistrate city Police Station Nanakana Sahib District Nankana Sahib	1- statement recorded on 13-06-2012 2- Medico Legal Examination Report confirmed on 13-06-2012

			for Medical Examine		
7-	Mst. Sunita Bibi Vs SHO Police Station Hinjarwal	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Family Matter 1- Registration of Criminal Case 2- Petition for the Compliance of the order	Sessions Court Lahore	On 30-07-2012 the petition disposed off with the direction to the concerned SHO to registered case FIR 2- Disposed off on 11-09-2012
8-	Rahat Saleem Vs Amir Yousaf	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court Lahore	Decreed on 13-11-2012
9-	Sara Barkat Vs Saleem Naeem	Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba	Family Matter 1- Dissolution of Marriage	Civil Judge Family Court Lahore	Filed on 28-09-2012 and under court Proceeding
10	Maria & Marriam Vs Abid Zafar Bhatti etc	Mr. Tahir Bashir	Harassment Petition	Sessions Court Lahore	Filed on 22-10-12 and on the same day decided in favor

Total Cases	10
Decided Cases	09
Pending Cases	01

2. Record Keeping:

Documentation of admission and case histories of the survivors are properly maintained by the CLAAS staff. The information about the number of women taken into "Apna Ghar" is maintained in the following registers:

- Admission register
- Discharge register
- Visitor's book
- Separate case files

To keep transparency and accountability in the funds a separate account has been maintained for "Apna Ghar". Audit of this project is being conducted annually (ending period is 31st December) by authorized Chartered Accountants.

3. Awareness Rising



The first step towards getting rights is the knowledge of those rights. Keeping this in mind CLAAS conduct series of workshops every year to provide basic awareness on women rights and to familiarize the survivors on our legal system. CLAAS staff and Apna Ghar staff works in close association in organizing these workshops.

4. Physical Facilities:

Accommodation: The building consists of two floors. The ground floor has a conference hall, where workshops and informal gatherings are arranged. There are two guest rooms and stitching centre, where Apna Ghar residents learn to sew and stitch. The first floor has three bedrooms, a prayer room, TV lounge and a kitchen. All residents are provided separate beds, clothing, toiletries and other personal accessories for daily use. Each room has a ceiling fan and gas heater. The second floor has four rooms, TV lounge and a kitchen. Apna Ghar has a large terrace.



Food: The matron prepares a weekly menu, meat is served twice a week, vegetables thrice a week, lentils twice a week and rice twice a week. Seasonal fruits are served everyday with one meal. Children and sick residents are served special food, which include milk, eggs, porridge, biscuits, fresh juice and soup. To provide clean water a filter unit has been implanted. To make sure that labour is divided equally among the residents; Apna Ghar in-charge assign duties to

residents which include cooking breakfast and meal, cleaning their rooms and washing dishes. Each floor is equipped with a refrigerator to preserve the food and other eatables. Once a month CLAAS management takes them out for dinner or lunch. But this has not been possible right now due to non availability of a large vehicle.

Clothes: There is not enough provision in the budget to provide clothes to the survivors but on special occasions like Christmas and Easter all residents are provided two sets of clothes. In cases where women have no contact with their families or have no family of their own they are provided clothes by the management.

Medical Care: CLAAS has a qualified medical staff which includes a male nurse, a female staff nurse; they provide medical care for any minor sickness but in case of major sickness the residents are taken to hospital. Special dietary is provided to sick residents.

Education: It has been our priority to provide formal education to Apna Ghar residents



who wish to continue their schooling. Special arrangements are made to have them pick and drop from school. One of the office staff has monthly meeting with the teachers to obtain the progress report. The women who do not take formal education CLAAS has made arrangements for them to learn stitching and sewing in the centre. CLAAS intend to open a beauty school where they can learn cosmetology, nail treatment, hair cutting and skin care. This would help them to obtain skills to generate income for themselves.



Spiritual Guidance: It is our priority to make sure that the women who seek shelter in Apna Ghar become strong in their Christian faith because it is through our spiritual strength that we are able to overcome all hardships. Apna Ghar residents are encouraged to study Christian literature. If someone cannot read or write; a girl is deputed to give tuition to them so that they can learn to read Bible in Urdu. Apna Ghar residents begin their day with mutual prayer and end their day with a mutual prayer. Due to

non-availability of a large vehicle Apna Ghar administration was unable to take the residents to attend Sunday Mass.

Recreational Activities: Apna Ghar is equipped with a colored television, tape recorder and indoor games. Once a month CLAAS staff arrange get together dinner with Apna Ghar residents in a local restaurant or hotel.

Counseling: Working with women and children under stress because of abuse in their lives requires special training, skill and understanding. Therefore, CLAAS and “Apna Ghar” staff is sensitized on gender issues and are trained in stress and conflict management and family counseling. Regular counseling is being done by the In-Charge of Apna Ghar, who resides in the shelter home and project officer who regularly visit the centre. In case a survivor is mentally disturbed and need professional attention in such cases CLAAS make arrangements for a professional female therapist. So far we have not had any such case.

Number of women/children accommodated at Apna Ghar from January to December 2012

Sr. #	Months	Female	Children	Male	Permanent Staff to look after Apna Ghar & Safe House	Total
1.	January	14	02	03	03	19
2.	February	16	06	03		25
3.	March	09	03	00		12
4.	April	08	03	00		11
5.	May	06	03	00		09
6.	June	07	02	00		09
7.	July	04	03	00		07
8.	August	03	02	00		05
9.	September	04	03	00		07
10.	October	05	01	00		06
11.	November	05	01	00		06
12.	December	05	01	00		06
Total		86	30	06	03	125

Some activity pictures of APNA-GHAR survivors



Apna-Ghar residents celebrating birthday of a little girl Maliky (Shazia Bibi's daughter victim of domestic violence)



Children are watching Cartoon on TV



Apna-Ghar Survivors having Lunch



Apna Ghar girls are attending Sunday Mass in Church



Girls are watching TV



Girls are Involved in stitching and making handicrafts



Handmade few items prepared by Girls in Apna Ghar



Women involved in religious activities. They have two-time worship in a day



Survivor meets with their families/relatives on the first day of each month at CLAAS office



Women at Apna Ghar are learning the skills of beautician



Women at Apna Ghar are learning the skills of swing

4- Report on Safe House for victim families

a. Introduction:

Like other third world nations, Pakistan as an under developed country is struggling with the issues of democracy, human rights and good governance. Today in Pakistan minorities have become an embattled and isolated community. Religious and political minorities envisioned by the father of nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Pakistan came into being as a liberal, democratic and progressive welfare state with equal rights to its citizens, but what the Pakistani state has failed to give its minorities is the sense of belonging, which is defined by words such as home and nation, emerges from law. However, when the article 2 of Pakistani constitution declares Islam to be the state religion then the question for all religious minorities is the same. Have they been allowed to think of Pakistan as home? The sectarian legislation today have promoted an atmosphere of intolerance in the country, which not only encourage sentiments of religious prejudice and bigotry against non-Muslim citizens but also poses a serious threat to basic human rights of citizens in general and thus jeopardizes the whole process of democratization. The laws are interpreted with prejudice against non-Muslims and the courts are influenced by sectarian intolerance for example in the cases of forced conversions or blasphemy.

The girls are forced to embrace Islam and have marriages registered under Islamic laws. The families of the abducted girls face hardships in having cases registered for abduction and rape because it is said that since the girls gave embraced Islam, their non-Muslim parents are not entitled for their custody. The law on Blasphemy, which was amended in 1991 to provide mandatory capital punishment, is being widely abused for setting personal scores the prisoners who belong to minority groups whether innocent or guilty of any crime are mistreated in the prison both by the officials and by Muslim prisoners. They are forced to do minimal jobs such as cleaning toilets etc.

The instigation of criminal cases against new converts to Christianity is on the increase. Local fundamentalist and in some cases the local Molvis (prayer leader), get criminal cases registered against such converts on false accusations of insulting the Islamic faith and the Holy Prophet. The police are usually prejudiced i.e. in favor of the fundamentalist and therefore do not fulfill the normal legal obligations. The motive for registering cases is evidently religious retaliation. The lower functionaries of the state do not even protect the victims of these nefarious acts against mob violence and there have been many extra judicial murders with the police just standing by. Progressive and secular forces working to improve the situation of the ordinary people face a lot of hardship. They are suppressed politically, economically and socially.

Therefore, in 2006 CLAAS took a rented house in a local Christian Locality to provide safe and free accommodation to the victims of faith, blasphemy and converts whose lives are in danger, and cannot survive in the society openly and with their free will. The same year purchased a piece of a land with the financial support of HMK Germany while the Barnabas Funds UK, provided financial help for construction to build a sanctuary for the alleged victims. In 2007, the construction of the building started and till May 2009, ground floor, first floor including five rooms, one kitchen, one hall and a prayer room completed. In the growing situation of religious intolerance and violence against Christians, obviously the number of victims of faith is increasing day by day while the present accommodation is not enough to accommodate them. Due to the several

discriminatory laws found in Pakistan it has had become very difficult for the Christian minority to survive in this country, but they are not only one who has to face such persecution because of their faith, their families also become the victim of cruelty of Muslim extremists. These converts (from Islam to Christianity) have no right to live, they are treated very cruelty by their own families and does not have right to report to the authorities when they are being harassed, threatened or beaten up by their families or extremist groups because as the law also does not provide protection to an apostate.

**b. Number of victim families staying at Safe House from
January to December 2012**

Sr.#	Months	Families	Female	Men	Children	Total Members
01	January	05	05	05	09	19
02	February	05	05	05	09	19
03	March	05	05	05	09	19
04	April	05	05	05	09	19
05	May	05	05	05	09	19
06	June	05	05	05	09	19
07	July	04	04	04	07	15
08	August	04	04	04	07	15
09	September	04	04	04	07	15
10	October	05	05	05	09	19
11	November	05	05	05	09	19
12	December	05	05	05	09	19
	Total	05	57	57	102	216

5- Report on General Education & support program

CLAAS is helping school going children from the families involved in the legal cases that are troubled and alleged for the blasphemy accusations. Either they are living at Apna Ghar or in their own houses. CLAAS bears all the education expenses of the children, in various schools and have been supporting for last many years. The hundreds of children have been benefited by this act of generosity of CLAAS management.



Pictures of students who benefits the Project

Name: Raza Rasheed s/o Rasheed Masih (late)
Age: 11-year-old
Class: 5th Grade
School: Naunihal Public School Rawalpindi



Name: Rizwan s/o Rasheed Masih (late)
Age: 9-year-old
Class: 3rd Grade
School: Naunihal Public School Rawalpindi



Name: Sanam d/o Gulzar Masih
Age: 13-year-old
Class: 7th Grade
School: St. Joseph Girls High School, Lahore



Name: Komal Dawood
Age: 13-year-old
Class: 6th Grade
School: St. Joseph Girls High School, Lahore



Name: Nadeem s/o Shakeel David
Age: 14- year-old
Class: 8th Grade
School: St. John's High School Youhanabad, Lahore



Name: Nadir s/o Shakeel David
Age: 13-year-old
Class: 4th Grade
School: St. John's High School Youhanabad, Lahore



Name: Roma Raj d/o Rasheed
Age: 20-year-old
Class: i.Com part II
College: Quaid- e-Azam Postgraduate College Gojra



Name: Sara Paul
Age: 12-year-old
Class: 5th Grade
School: Taj-e-Haq School System Walton Road
Lahore



Name: Pameer s/o Yaqoob Bhatti
Age: 12-year-old
Class: 5th Grade
School: St. Mary's High School Gulberg II, Lahore



Name: Ria d/o Yaqoob Bhatti
Age: 10-year-old
Class: 5th Grade
School: St. Mary's High School Gulberg II, Lahore



Name: Fajar s/o Yaqoob Bhatti
Age: 8-year-old
Class: 2nd Grade
School: St. Mary's High School Gulberg II, Lahore



Name: Sheeba Cyril
Age: 8-year-old
Class: 2nd Grade
School: St. Teresa Girls High School



Name: Sheeba Cyril
Age: 8-year-old
Class: 2nd Grade
School: St. Teresa Girls High School



Name: Richard Solomon s/o Cyril Shahzad
Age: 12
Class: 5th
School: St. Mary's Cambridge School



Name: Joshua Cyril
Age: 10
School: St. Mary's Cambridge School



Name: Jennifer Cyril
Age: 17
School: St. Teresa Girl's High School

Name: Brine s/o Anwar
Age: 22-year-old
Class: I.Com part 1
College: St. Mary's College Lalazar Rawalpindi.

Name: Jashwa s/o Fawad
Age: 13-year-old
Class: 5th Grade
School: St. Mary's High School Kot Lakhpat, Lahore

Farah Younis d/o Younis
Age: 25-year-old
English Fluency Course



Name: Gulraiz Inderyas
Age: 23-year-old
Class: B.Sc physiotherapy
College: Ace institute of Health Sciences

Student's expenses per month and per year

Sr. #	Name of Students	Grade	Monthly fee	Per Year
1.	Raza s/o Rashid Masih	4 th Grade	800	96,00
2.	Rizwan s/o Rashid Masih	3 rd Grade	700	8400
3.	Sanam Gulzar	5 th Grade	1500	18000
4.	Komal Dawood	6 th Grade	1000	12000
5.	Nadeem s/o Shakeel David	8 th Grade	400	4800
6.	Nadir s/o Shakeel	4 th Grade	350	4200
7.	Roma Raj	B.Com Part II		21000
8.	Sara Paul	5 th Grade	500	6000
9.	Pammer Yaqoob Bhatti	5 th Grade	1050	12,600
10.	Ria Yaqoob Bhatti	5 th Grade	850	10,200
11.	Fajar Yaqoob Bhatti	2 nd Grade	850	10,200
12.	Sheeba Cyril	2 nd Grade	700	1400
13.	Richard Solomon s/o Cyril Shahzad	5 th Grade	2000	24000
14.	Joshua Cyril s/o Cyril Shahzad	3 rd Grade	1000	12000
15.	Jenifer Cyril d/o Cyril Shahzad	3 rd Grade	550	6600
16.	Brine Anwar	I.Com 1 st Year	1100	3300
17.	Jashwa Fawad	5 th Grade	500	6000
18.	Farah Younis	English Fluency Course	2500	2500
19.	Gulraiz Inderyas	B.Sc physiotherapy	8000	96000
Total expenses			24,350	259200 PKR

6- Feeding Project:



The main objective of CLAAS is to provide legal aid assistance, protection rehabilitation to the survivors of religious intolerance, sexual abuse, domestic violence, victims of blasphemy and their families and all sort of oppression. CLAAS work is a part of the human rights movement in Pakistan and its activities reinforce and strengthen the human rights issues. CLAAS ultimate goal is to end human rights violations, and always tries to provide

practical help to the victims. CLAAS is helping the victim families in their settlement and support them financially to meet their basic needs. In July 2011, with the help of Barnabas Fund UK CLAAS started Feeding Project for the poor needy and victim' families who are involved in different cases and especially in blasphemy. They live hide and cannot work openly therefore they are unable to fulfill the needs of their families. Looking towards their poverty CLAAS decided to provide the following food items and grocery on monthly basis.

Sr. #	Good	Quantity
1.	Flour	20-Kg
2.	Rice	5- Kg
3.	Sugar	2- Kg
4.	Tea	190-Gm
5.	Cooking Oil	3-liter
6.	Red beads (Dal Masur)	1-Kg
7.	Grains seeds (Dal Chana)	1- Kg
8.	Black grains (Kalay Chanay)	1- Kg
9.	Red Chili Powder	250-Gm
10.	Haldi (Turmeric) Powder	100-Gm
11.	Salt	1 Packet
12.	Safe Guard Soap	3-Piece
13.	Surf Excel	1 Kg packet

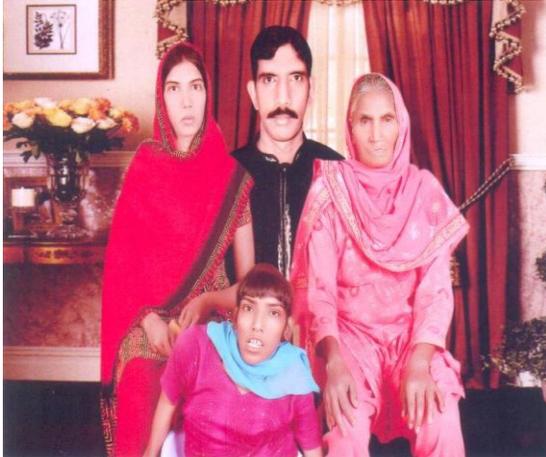
Some pictures of food distribution







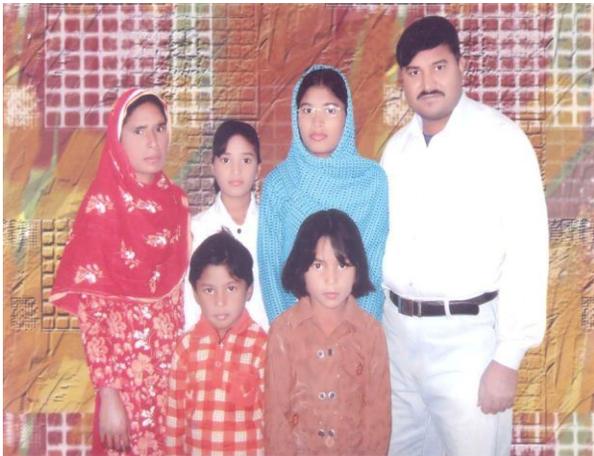
Testimonies of beneficiaries:



Marriam Bibi d/o Allah Ditta aged 29th lived along with her old mother Sardara Bibi aged 60 and paralyzed sister Martha Bibi aged 26 in Gujranwala. Her brother Salamat Masih was convicted in a Blasphemy case with death sentence in the year 1996. With the help of CLAAS he was released by the High Court of Lahore from the Blasphemy charges and relocated outside Pakistan in Germany, while they are living hide due to threats from the Muslim extremists and cannot do work properly. They lived hand to month. CLAAS helped the family by providing the food

package given by Barnabas Funds UK. The whole family is very much thankful to CLAAS for providing food in their miserable condition and prayed that May GOD blessed them richly.

Anwar Masih son of Sadique Masih a victim of Blasphemy, who was charged under



295-C. Through CLAAS he was bailed out after five months. After his bail he was accommodated in Apna Ghar till the date he was acquitted from his case. Due to severe threats he was forced to abandon his home and move to safe place with his family. CLAAS arranged a rented house for this family and this family shifted from their native place. They are in hiding and unable to do any earning. CLAAS started to help the family by providing the food package and the whole family is very much thankful to CLAAS and Barnabas

Funds for their help in their difficult time. They are always remember CLAAS and Barnabas Funds in their daily Prays. May GOD richly bless them!



Munir Masih a victim of Blasphemy was very much thankful to CLAAS for all support financially as well as legally, throughout the case. He said to CLAAS staff that after his bail in the blasphemy case in November 2010 he does not have any source of income and much worried about his children. He could not work due to the pressure and threats from the Muslim extremists. CLAAS was support him with a small amount monthly and later started to provide Food in June 2011to Munir for his children. He told to

CLAAS that “It was difficult for him to feed his children.” But with the help of CLAAS he is able to give food to his children.

He was thankful to CLAAS and said that Munir along with his children regularly praying for CLAAS and its sources who are working for persecuted Christians in Pakistan through CLAAS. God Bless you all, Munir said.



Robin Gosh aged 25 years resident of Faisalabad lived at CLAAS Safe House (for Blasphemy victims and converts) along with his wife Saniya (convert) and two children Rajeel Gosh 4 years and Raheel Gosh 2 years. After getting married with Saniya, her family files a legal case of kidnapping against Robin and threatened him for life. Robin was thankful to CLAAS for providing him shelter at CLAAS Safe House and fighting in the legal case. He was very much grateful to CLAAS for financial support monthly and for the

food package given by Barnabas Funds UK. Robin and his wife were very much thankful and said that they keep CLAAS and Barnabas Funds in their daily prays.



Walayat Masih, resident of Kasur has two children and wife. In March 2009 he was implicated in a false Blasphemy case offence under section 295 B&C registered in the local Police station district Kasur. On September 30, 2011 he was acquitted by the Judicial Magistrate from false blasphemy charges through the legal assistance of CLAAS.

He said that after he released from the case he has no job. He is living hide with his family therefore it was difficult for me to feed my family. But with the

help of CLAAS he is able to give food to his children. “I am very much grateful to Jesus for CLAAS in Pakistan who works for the persecuted people and help the needy and poor” he added. He was very much thankful to CLAAS and Barnabas Funds for help in their difficult time. Walayat Masih and his family always remember CLAAS and Barnabas Fund in daily prayers.

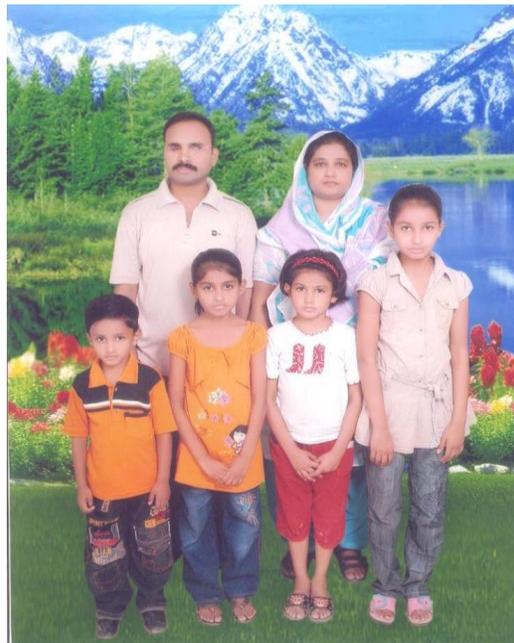
Asma Bibi Widow of Parveiz Masih lived in Sahiwal along with her three minors. She told CLAAS staff that since her husband was killed CLAAS has been supporting her financially on monthly bases. Otherwise I was unable to survive along with my little children “she added”.



She was very happy for food package and said that now she never worried about the food because she has a hope at least she can give food to her children monthly and use money for their other expenses. She was thankful to CLAAS and said that they are continuing in prayers for CLAAS and its supporters.

Afzal Masih (lost his eyes in Chian Wali Church attack by Muslim extremist). Afzal's wife said that she has four children. Her husband has lost eyes during the terrorist attack by through a hand grenade bomb on church by Muslim during the Christmas service in 2002.

This attack left Afzal Masih totally blind and he was unable to earn for his children. She also said that CLAAS is helping financially this family since 2002 and paying the education expenses of their children. Food package is very useful and we thank Jesus that CLAAS always keep them in mind. They are using this food for the whole month and money we can used for the other expenses of our children. We are very much thankful to CLAAS and the supporters who are working for oppressed and depressed Christian through CLAAS. May God richly bless CLAAS and its supporters!



7- Jail Visit

1-Younis Masih victim of blasphemy Mianwali jail

Younis Masih aged 37 resident of Lahore was arrested on September 10, 2005. In a blasphemy case FIR No. 723/12 registered offence under section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) against him at police station Walton, Cantonment-Lahore. On May 30, 2007 Mr. Muhammad Bukhsh Masood Hashmi, the Additional District & Sessions Judge, Lahore convicted Younis Masih under blasphemy allegations and sentenced him for death with fine of Pak Rs 100, 000/- and in default of payment of fine, he will further under go for simple imprisonment for further 6 months. His appeal No. 711/07 against the conviction was pending before the two judges (Double Bench) of the Lahore High Court and CLAAS provided Legal Aid Assistance. During his imprisonment he was sent to Central Jail Lahore, District Jail Sahiwal and Central Jail, Mianwali.

CLAAS monitoring/fact finding team consisting on Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) and Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Filed officer CLAAS) and John Paul have been visiting Younis Masih in the prisons and providing food items and other basic needs.

During visits CLAAS team found him up-set and also noticed that he was losing hope for his release and was worried about his wife, and children. Younis Masih said, on the day when I was shifted here in Mianwali, the jail authority tortured me severely and no clarification of torture was given to me. I am not taking proper food because the food quality is poor and is not sufficient for eat. No appropriate medical facilities are available in the jail. In Mianwali he was restrained in solitary confinement in Security Ward No. 05, Chakki No. 02 (Chakki means-solitary confinement) and suffering through different physical and substantial psychological problems.

CLAAS Findings

During the conversation CLAAS team felt Younis Masih became emotional because it was a long time of 8 years that he was far from his children and obviously missing his wife and children affectionately. When CLAAS team lastly visited him in Sahiwal Jail, he was good in health. That time he also shared about his habits of daily prayer for the country especially for those who falsely implicated him in false blasphemy case. He behaved not like a normal person. He looked disturb and worried about the life and future of his family.

The CLAAS team also noticed that he is also suffering with prejudice and unfair attitudes of the jail staff and was despondent. So far the CLAAS team was satisfied with the security arrangements which were provided by the jail authorities.

Additionally, CLAAS team assured him full support.

The CLAAS's specific intentions

CLAAS trying its level best to raise voice against religious hatred, discriminations and demonstrating continues struggle to protect religious minorities from violent attacks and maltreatment in the name of religion by the extremists and from other religious fundamentalists.

2- Khurram Masih victim of blasphemy Camp Jail Lahore

Khurram Masih aged 27 lived in a rented house at Shahdra town Lahore. He was alleged for burning the pages of Holy Quran by his owner Zulfiqar Ali who blamed him that he burnt the pages of the Holy Quran in stairs of his rented home. he registered a blasphemy case FIR # 1211/11 dated 05-12-2011 offence under section 295-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) against him in the police station, Shahdara Town, Lahore. Police arrested him and send him to camp Jail Lahore. CLAAS carried out a fact finding of the incident and also met with him in camp jail Lahore along with his father Rasheed Masih.his wife Bano Bibi and his sister Neelam Bibi and provide food items and other basic needs.

During visit Khurram Masih narrated the Torture and Ill-treatment of Police

Khurram Masih said that "I was informed in the police station about the blasphemy allegations and registration of a blasphemy case against me. I was also informed that Zulfiqar Ali, the owner of the rented house blamed me for burning the pages of the Holy Quran The police officer tortured me brutally and threatened for the dire consequences and forced to admit the offence. After two days of my arrest the police shifted me to the Police Station Lower Mall, Lahore." The Lower Mall, Police extended 14 days police remand from the court and gave sever torture & ill-treatment and enforced me to confess the crime. Later the police sent me in the judicial lock-up in the camp jail, Lahore. The moment, I am feeling pain in my whole body and also detained in solitary confinement.

He also told that he was worried for his family because he was the only soruce of the family. CLAAS assured him full support of his family as well as his legal case.

Successful Cases in 2012

1- Report on acquittal of Pastor Sharif Alam from false allegations

On March 28, 2012 Pastor Sharif Alam visited CLAAS office and narrated the following facts related the false charges of illegally transferring the lease hold rights of the property of the United Presbyterian Church of Pakistan.

Context of the Case



Pastor Sharif Alam, a renowned pastor based Gujranwala and is associated with the United Presbyterian Church of Pakistan since years. On 12.02.1984 Pastor Sharif Alam was transferred the Power of Attorney by Rev. M.V. John, the Moderator of Synod of United Presbyterian Church of Pakistan. Pastor Sharif Alam was authorized the hold of property No. 152, The Mall Rawalpindi. He was also assigned to look after the affairs of the property. In this

connection on 15.09.1992 Pastor Alam transfer the lease hold rights in favor of Chaudhary Muhammad Abbas. The rent of the property was collected by the U.P Church through its attorney Pastor Sharif Alam from the year 1984 and the same deposited in the account of church and was approved by the Synod of the Church of Pakistan. According to Pastor Sharif Alam, since the date of lease deed executed and no one challenged the lease deed till the date of litigation.

The Conviction

Pastor Sharif Alam was convicted on dated 30-09-2004 and the judgment was passed by Mr. Manzoor Hussain Malik, Judge-Accountability Court No. 01 Rawalpindi/Islamabad, under section 9-A (iv) (vi) (xii) section 10 and 15 of the National Accountability Ordinances 1999 and sentenced to Rigorous Imprisonment (R.I) for seven years with imposition of fine of Rs. 20,00,000/- (two million) or in default in payment of fine to further suffer R-I for one year each and was declared disqualified for a period of 10 years, to be reckoned from the date of his release after serving of the sentence, for seeking or from being elected, chosen, appointed or nominated as member or representative of any public body or any statutory or local authority or in service of Pakistan or of any Province. Benefit of section 382-B Cr.P.C was also extended to the convict.

Appeal against Conviction

In 2004 Pastor Sharif Alam filed Criminal Appeal No. 27-E against the conviction under section 32 of the National Accountability Ordinances 1999. He imprisoned for two and half year at Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi. Pastor was bailed out and approached CLAAS office for legal aid assistance. CLAAS assisted Pastor and on October 17, 2011 filed criminal

appeal against the conviction on his behalf in the Lahore High Court, Rawalpindi Bench, through Mr. Malik Asif Tauffique Awan, Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS).

Acquittal of Pastor Sharif Alam

On March 02, 2012 after hearing the prosecution and examination of the witnesses the double bench of the Lahore High Court, Rawalpindi Bench, double bench Mr. Justice Ijaz Ahmed and Mr. Justice Sagheer Ahmed Qadri observed that the Investigating Officer did not collect the evidence to bring on the record resulting miscarriage of justice. The prosecution did not brought on record any evidence in this respect. The conviction cannot be sustained mere on presumptions. Resultantly, while allowing these appeals, conviction and sentence passed against the appellant vide judgment dated 03-09-2004 is here by set aside. The appellant Pastor Sharif Alam and others are present in court on bail. Their sureties are discharged of their liabilities.

Testimony of Pastor Sharif Alam



After acquittal of Pastor Sharif Alam he came to CLAAS and thanked for the legal assistance in his case. He said that he was blamed for the illegally transfer of the right of the property of the United Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, to the Army officeres which was false and baseless and there were few retired Christians Army servants falsely who implicated him is a legal case.

He further said that this case damaged his repute. He was unlawfully imprisoned for two and half years in the jail. The imprisonment was painful and he became a heart patient and duing the period he got minor heart attacks. His family suffered a lot and glaringly depleted the affairs of the family without his presence. He was happy and thanked GOD that the honorable court set hm free from the illegitimate charges. As it was difficult for him to live with the stigma that he was involved in the illegally transfer of the rights of the property of the United Presbyterian Church of Pakistan.

2- George Masih released on bail in Murder Case

In November 2011 CLAAS filled bail application of George Masih in the court of Mr. Muhammad Zaid Ghaznavi, (Additional District & Sessions Judge-Khanewal) through Chaudhry Muhammad Idrees, Advocate (CLAAS' Attorney for George Masih). The bail application was dismissed on December 23, 2011 by the learned judge of the session's court. Later, on January 06, 2012 CLAAS filed bail application through Chaudhary Faqeer Muhammad (Advocate High Court) in Multan (Lahore High Court Multan Bench).

Finally, on March 13, 2012 Hon'ble Mr. Justice Altaf Ibrahim Qureshi, (Judge Lahore High Court Multan Bench) released George Masih alias Papu on bail after furnishing the bail bonds in the sum of Rs. 200.000/- (Pak rupees two hundred thousand only) with one surety for the satisfaction of the learned trial court. After completing the jail requirements, George Masih set freed from the Central Jail-Multan on March 19, 2012.

On March 29, 2012 George Masih and his younger brother Arif Masih visited CLAAS office and provided the further details related to the false allegations of murder against him

Testimony of George Masih



George Masih said that he admitted that on the day of the incident he met deceased Fateh Kahtoon and her daughter-in-law Samina Bibi (accused) but the allegations of murder of Mrs. Fateh Kahtoon were totally false and forged against him. The investigation officer namely Liaqat Ali completed one sided report and joined hands with the accused persons namely Waheed Khan and Muhammad Haleem. The investigation officer did not mention

the quarrel between deceased Fateh Kahtoon and the accused Samina Bibi, which was took place just one day before the occurrence while the quarrel was observed by the whole village and later the matter was resolved by the elders of the village. When the villagers heard the noise of murder of Fateh Kahtoon, they immediately reached the place of occurrence and noticed that only Samina Bibi (accused) was there at the place of occurrence. During investigation the accused Samina Bibi confessed the murder of her mother-in-law Fateh Kahtoon.

He was grateful to CLAAS for the legal assistance in his legal case as he was a poor and could not manage the expenses of a Murder case. He also said that if CLAAS do not help him he must be suffer for long time and may be he would have to face punishment for such offence which he did not committed.

3- Dildar Masih acquitted from the false blasphemy case



Dildar Masih was arrested on June 10, 2011 in a blasphemy case FIR No. 211/2011 offence under section 298 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and 16 MPO (Maintenance of Public Order) registered against Dildar Masih at Tulamba Police Station. On June 11, 2011 the police completed interrogation and sent him in the New Central Jail Multan. Dildar Masih falsely implicated in blasphemy allegations and was blamed for insulting "Kalma Tayyaba". Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) was specifically monitoring

this blasphemy case of Dildar Masih since August 2011 through Mr. Chaudhary Hanif Hameed, an activist and resident of Mian Channu.



Keeping in view the sensitivity of the blasphemy accusations, CLAAS took the permission of jail trial of the case of Dildar Masih. On March 23, 2012 Mr. Abdul Karim, Judicial Magistrate Sec. 30, Khanewal released Dildar Masih on bail, subject to furnishing surety bond in the sum of rupees one lac (one hundred thousand PAK rupees) and observed that the accused proved not guilty in the formal charge while the prosecution adopted coercive measures in the case and even failed to produce single witnesses to record statement. Accused Dildar Masih cannot be put

over the mercy of prosecution and stopped the court proceedings under section 249 Cr.P.C. After completing the jail requirements, Dildar Masih set freed from the New Central Jail-Multan on March 28, 2012.

On April 11, 2012 Dildar Masih along with his father Yousaf Masih, wife Naseem Bibi, Sister Afasana Bibi and Chaudhary Hanif Hameed visited CLAAS office and gave the further details related to the false allegations of Blasphemy against him for insulting “Kalma Tayyaba”:

Statement of Dildar Masih alias Papu:

Dildar Masih told to CLAAS team that he was a laborer and worked as white-wash and paint (interior painter). On June 10, 2011 around 11:00 am he was at work when he learned that some Madrresa Students (religious school or seminary) of the area mosque Fatima-Tul-Zauhra, enforced Sunny (Dildar’s nephew) to recite “Kalma Tayyaba” and forced him to repeat as they said but he refused to observe the Arabic verses of “Kalma Tayyaba” which infuriated the Muslim boys who later started beating and thrashing him cruelly”. Dildar immediately rushed towards them and shouted on the boys to stop beating his nephew. He went to Qari Muhammad Husain, the prayer leader & In-charge of the Islamic seminary and recorded his complaint against boys/students to force his nephew to rcite the Kalma.

After solving this dispute and informing to the prayer leader Dildar went back to his work. At about 03:30 pm a Muslim friend Noor Muhmmad alias Noori came to him and informed that there is blame on him for insulting “Kalma Tayyaba”. There were also broadcast announcements from the Mosques against Dildar Masih to instigate Muslims to kill him on the spot in the name of religion.

Noori also provided shelter to Dildar at his house, when the Muslim protesters came to know that he was at the residence of Noori, they all gathered around and demanded

Dildar's custody as they wanted to kill him. He was shocked over the violent stance of the Muslim protesters. When Noori saw that the Muslims aggression was becoming out of control he informed the local police for Dildar's protection.

Police arrested Dildar and took him to the police station Talumba but the Muslim mob gathered surrounding the police station building to kill Dildar Masih therefore police have to shift him to another police station immediately. The very next day on June 11, 2011 Dildar Masih was produced in the court of Magistrate Sec. 30, Mian Channu, district Khanewal and sent to the new Central Jail Multan.

He further said that it was painful for him to live in the prison without committing any offence. He felt isolation because due to fear his family was not coming to visit him for two months. He was searching the ways to commit sue side. But the CLAAS team including Mr. Joseph Francis, Ms. Rama Rasheed, Ms. Rubina Ghazal and other staff visited him in the prison and provided him some goods of daily need and cash and also promised to provide him legal assistance which gave me some courage. CLAAS also visited my family at home many times and provided monthly financial support to my family and they were able to visit me in the prison" he said.

Testimony of Dildar Masih:



I am very much thankful to CLAAS for every support (moral, financial and legal aid) and especially for prayer requests which they used to send to all Christian brothers and sisters for my release from the Prison. I fully trust that it is only Jesus who gave me release from the prison due to the continue prayers of my brothers and sisters in Christ. I thank God that CLAAS is there to support poor innocent and oppressed people in Pakistan like me to get relief from the fake

accusations.

Present Situation:

Dildar said, after my release from the prison I am very happy with my children and parents meanwhile I am afraid from Muslim extremists who has been warned me that they will never spare him. He also said that few of his relatives are still living in the same village but he cannot go to his home to live.

Dildar Masih further said "I am a poor and imprisoned in the jail for 10 months which resulted big economic loss for me. After this incident, it was difficult for my family to stay at our own home therefore they have to shift to some other safe place but still they are receiving threats by the Muslim extremists. My family suffered a lot especially my two little sons, for them I am a strange person, but they are innocent and do not know that I

am powerless which is also painful for me. He said special thanks to Mr. Joseph Francis and the entire team of CLAAS for all support during his imprisonment. Yousaf Masih (father) requested CLAAS for safe accommodation of Dildar Masih and his family at CLAAS Safe-House as they feel his life on risk in the village while living among the Muslim neighbors.

Case Up-dates: The learned judge stopped the blasphemy case trial after the nonappearance of the prosecution witnesses to record their witnesses. Therefore the judge postponed the blasphemy case trial till the attending of prosecution witnesses for recording of statement against Dildar Masih under the alleged incident of blasphemy for insulting “Kalma Tayyaba”. CLAAS will keep you inform with any up-dates.

4- Ruqqiya Bibi and Munir Masih acquitted from false blasphemy case



Munir Masih and his wife Ruqqiya Bibi lived at Karmawali Mustafabad Tehsil & District Kasur along with their children named Sonia 20-year-old, Amna 18-year-old, Ameer 10-year-old, Akash 09-year-old, Muqadass 5-year-old and Shabir only 2- year-old Munir worked as a laborer while Ruqqiya worked as a domestic worker to bring up their children.

On December 2008 Ilyas Khan their neighbor registered a fake blasphemy case with the help of a local man Mohammad Nawas s/o Mohammad Bashir FIR no. 607/08 offence under section 295-B in the police station Mustafabad District Kasur against Ruqqiya and her husband Munir Masih alleging them for the desertion of the

Holy Quran.

According to facts On October 11, 2008 Ruqqiya’s minor daughter Muqadass was coming from school along with her brother Ameer while passing by the house of a local Muslim Ilyas s/o Mohammad Yousaf Khan. Ilyas Khan’s son aged 10 gave a slap at Muqadass’s face, Ameer became aggressive and started to beat that boy, both they came back to home.

After some time Ilyas’s wife Razia Bibi came to Ruqqiya’s house and started quarreling to her and beat her severely. Ruqqiya’s daughters and sisters in-law’s tried to stop Razia Bibi and wanted to solve the matter but Razia Bibi took her husband, brother in-laws and sister in-laws along with her to fight with Ruqqiya Bibi in the absence of her husband and other males of her family. Razia Bibi and others have been beatings severely to Ruqqiya and other women of the house and also tore their cloths. Ruqqiya and other family members got severe injuries at different parts of their bodies. In the evening Ruqqiya went to the police station along with her husband and got registered a case FIR no.

529/8 offence under section 452, 354, 148, 149 PPC in the local police station against Illyas Khan, his wife and others who were with him during the fight. Police joined hands with the culprits and did not take any legal action against them. Meanwhile the accused applied for their pre-arrest bails in the sessions court Kasur, but Illyas could not get bail and was arrested by police and sent to the district jail Kasur.

In this aggression they registered a fake blasphemy case against Ruqqiya and her husband Munir Masih. Munir was arrested by the police and he was sent to district jail but Ruqqiya approached a pastor and who told her about CLAAS. Ruqqiya approached CLAAS immediately for legal assistance in this case. Through CLAAS legal Support Ruqqiya got the confirmed pre-arrest bail from the court of law and also shifted her along with her children to CLAAS rehabilitation center Apna-Ghar.

On January 22, 2009 Munir Masih and Ruqqiya Bibi got bails from the Session Judge Kasur. After the release of Munir Masih it was difficult for him to be with his family at Apna-Ghar because it is a women center, so CLAAS arranged a rented house for this family and have been providing monthly house rent as well as food and other necessities of life, Because it was difficult for this family to live at their own place as they were under threats by opponents. They were also under pressure by local police of Kasur.

Statement of Munir Masih:



After the bail of Munir Masih he came to CLAAS on 24th January 2009 along with his wife and a younger child, to say thanks for help and assistance in his case. He was happy and told CLAAS that he was worried about his children but when he heard from his wife that they are safe and living at Apna-Ghar then I was in peace. At the day when he was bailed out and released from the jail there were Mollans gathered in the court. They have been pressurizing the learned Session Judge and forbade him for the grant of bail of Munir Masih but by the Grace of God judge announced his decision in the favor of Munir Masih and his wife Ruqqiya Bibi. But after release he was still facing life threats from the opponents and miscreant Muslims.

He also told that the superintendent of the jail gave him favors due to the instructions of the Senior Superintendent of Police. He locked him in the separate barrack for his safety.

At present Ruqqiya and Munir was living hiding in a rented house provided by CLAAS because they cannot live at their house because he has still threats from the Muslim Community. He said that he was worried about the future of his children because he cannot send them to the School openly living at his locality. He also said that due to his case he cannot work openly and sometimes they did not have money for fare to attend court hearings. Munir said that they will never lose their hearts because they have strong believe on Jesus Christ who is the Savior of the world will keep them save from all difficulties and hurdles of their life and will help them to get rid from this trouble and false accusations as well.

Meanwhile Opponent filed the cancellation of bails of Ruqqiya Bibi and Munir Masih as they were been added in section 295-C in the FIR. On February 12th 2009 CLAAS lawyer Mr. Tahir Gull Sadique again filed a bail application in the session court on behalf of the victims. On May 14, 2009 during the court hearing, it was very critical situation in the court room. The Session Judge Shafaqat Ali was also Molvi on the other side about 50 Molvies were gathered in the court to pressurize the Judge; the opponent lawyer was also Molvi.

During the court proceedings he began to recite the verses of the Holy Quran when he was giving his arguments. There were about 25 supporting lawyers with the complainant lawyer during the court hearing. On the other side only one Christian advocate Mr. Tahir Gull Sadiq who was totally depended on Jesus Christ our savior, he said the prayer and started giving his argument to the Court as God Almighty has been empowering him. He also gave him courage and guided him to speak in the court. God showed his presence in the court and changed the heart of the Judge. The Judge Shafaqat Ali gave her decision in the favor and granted conformed bails to victims Ruqqiya Bibi and Munir Masih in section 295-C.

Then CLAAS filed a private complaint in the court for the cancellation of the FIR, which was rejected by court. Meanwhile police submitted Challan in the district court Kasur and case trail was started. On 18th February 2010 the final arguments of the case were presented before the court and decision was fixed for February 25, 2010 but due to some reasons hearing date was extended to 1st March 2010.

On 1st March 2010 Ruqqiya Bibi and Munir Masih was awarded with 25 years imprisonment by the learned judge Mr. Ajmal Hussain Additional Sessions Judge Kasur.

Because the judge was pressurized by the Mollans, according to the arguments Ruqqiya and Munir were clear and the decision of the court was unexpected. Ruqqiya and Munir were got arrested by police in the court after the judge announced punishment and sent to the district Jail Sahiwal (Sahiwal Prison).

CLAAS immediately filed an appeal in the High Court Lahore against the decision of the Session's court Kasur. On the other side CLAAS also filed bail applications on behalf of Ruqqiya and Munir in the High Court Lahore. On November 23, 2010 Munir Masih, was released on bail by Mr. Justice Ijaz Ahmad Chaudhry Chief Justice High Court Lahore on the surety bond of 100,000/- PKR rupees and he was released from the Sahiwal prison on December 09, 2010.

CLAAS's also filed appeal before the honorable Lahore High Court for Ruqqiya Bibi and against the conviction of life imprisonment under false charges of blasphemy. On April 24, 2012 the court proceedings were as follows: According to the court hearing Mr. Naeem Shakir Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan (Learned council for Ruqqiya Bibi) highlighted the biased investigation report before the honorable Mr. Justice Meher Ali Akbar Naqvi. Mr. Naeem Shakir Advocate drawn attention of the honorable court on the false blasphemy story narrated in the FIR which was totally different while the prosecution witnesses were contradictory from the contents of the blasphemy case FIR. Muhammad Nawaz s/o Muhammad Bashir, the complainant of the blasphemy case FIR submitted an **"AFFIDAVIT OF COMPROMISE"** before the honorable Mr. Justice Maher Ali Akbar Naqvi duly signed by the witnesses namely Muhammad Nawaz s/o Muhammad Bashir, Chaudhry Muhammad Arif s/o Anayat Ali, Haji Faiz Ali s/o Anayat Ali, Inam Ullaha s/o Muhammad Anwar and Saddique Masih s/o Deena Masih.

According to the affidavit of compromise the complainant admitted before the honorable court that he is the complainant of the blasphemy case FIR and secondly he has pardoned the accused in the name of Allah Almighty and thirdly he has no objection if the honorable court grant her bail or may acquittal her from the blasphemy charges.

After hearing the facts the honorable Mr. Justice Maher Ali Akbar Naqvi was astonished and said "The وضو Wazu, is the Islamic procedure for washing parts of the body using water often in preparation for formal prayers or reciting the Holy Quran. There is nothing to do the blasphemy, even if any non-Muslim touched or handling the Holy Quran without Wazu (washing hands etc). Only the Muslims are required to be clean with Wazu, when handling and reading the Holy Quran and the non-Muslims are exempted to perform Wazu before handling the Holy Quran. The honorable Judge was surprised on the conviction of Ruqqiya Bibi, under the false allegations of blasphemy as well as was surprised on the sentence of her life imprisonment.

Afterwards, the Learned Judge gave directions that whole witness of the compromise affidavit namely Muhammad Nawaz s/o Muhammad Bashir, Chaudhary Muhammad Arif s/o Anayat Ali, Hali Faiz Ali s/o Anayat Ali, Inam Ullaha s/o Muhammad Anwar and Saddique Masih s/o Deena Masih, should submit their individual affidavits before the honorable court and adjourned the case hearing and set the next court hearing for office in date (approximately the hearing will be in the first week of May 2012).

On May 17, 2012 Ruqqiya Bibi and her husband Munir Masih (victims of blasphemy) has been acquitted from the blasphemy case.



Mr. Joseph Francis National Director CLAAS was personally present in the court along with CLAAS staff Mr. Asher Sarfraz field officer, Mr. Sohail Habel accounts officer, Miss Rama Rasheed Assistant Program Officer, Miss. Rubina Ghazal In-charge legal Department, Miss Huma Lucas Office Assistant, Mr. Ayaz Gill Court Clerk and Mr. Aqeel Naveed Court Clerk whereas the advocates team consisting on Mr. Tahir Bashir, Mr. Nasir Anjum Subay and Mr. Tanvir Gill were assisting the leading lawyer Mr. Naeem Shakir advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan. Meanwhile we trust that there were lots of prayers of our partners; friends and colleagues that Judge could not change his mind even after listen the opposite views of state lawyer. We believe that you were not here in person but you were with us spiritually, through your continue prayers. We are very much grateful to you for your concern and prayers for the acquittal of Ruqqiya and Munir from the fake blasphemy accusations.

After attending court hearing, Munir Masih came to CLAAS office and extended his sincere gratitude's. He thanked God, with tears in his eyes and said "But the LORD is my defense; and my God is the rock of my refuge. And he shall bring upon them own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; yea, the LORD our God shall cut them. PSALM 94, 22-23"

He was very excited, and said to Mr. Francis that it is only because of CLAAS support that his wife Ruqqiya is free from the prison. He also thanked to CLAAS for the continue visits to Ruqqiya in prison and providing all basic needs. He was thankful to CLAAS for arranging the visit of his children with Ruqqiya in prison during imprisonment. Munir also requested CLAAS for the safe accommodation of Ruqqiya at CLAAS rehabilitation center.



Ruqqiya and Munir was convicted and awarded 25 years imprisonment by the trial court Kasur on March 01, 2010. It is about 3 years that Ruqqiya was in prison while Munir was bailed out from the prison in November 23, 2010 before Christmas. Due to life threats from the opponents and Muslim extremists she and her family were shifted to CLAAS Shelter home (Apna Ghar) and later CLAAS has arranged some hidden place for this family. CLAAS also financially help the family by providing monthly food package.

Law Open to Abuse

Blasphemy Law

The blasphemy law is a part of the PPC, which was introduced in 1860 by the British Government to protect religious feelings. It may be observed that Section 295 provides protection to worship places of all classes of religions living in the subcontinent. It does not contain element of discrimination or preference to any class. It maintains equality of all before the law. The law appears to maintain mutual harmony and peace as well as to promote sense of mutual tolerance, understanding and respect in the multifaceted society of the subcontinent. This section represents the typical example of a secular democratic law for benefit of all and loss to none. But it gradually was envenomed and the additions in it made this law a weapon of annihilation.

There have been instances of intolerance relating to the blasphemy laws, promulgated by General Zia in 1985. They state that whoever says anything disparaging about Holy Qur'an and Muslims can be punished by life imprisonment and that anyone who blaspheme against Prophet Muhammad [PBUH] is liable to the death penalty.

The blasphemy law continues to be abused because of its vague formulation, which allows arbitrary enforcement. In additional, it only takes the testimony of four Muslims to bring about a conviction. It is not worthy that in several cases complaints have been filed at the insistence of local clerics or members of the Islamic parties. The motives are varied and some seem to be purely because the accused is a member of minority faith. In other cases this fact is exacerbated by economic or profession rivalry.

Original Sections of 1860 Code: 295-298

Section 295

Injuring (or) Defiling Place of Worship, with intent to insult the Religion of any class 'Whoever destroys, damages, or defiles any place of worship, or any object held sacred by any class of persons with the intention of thereby insulting the religion of any class of persons or with the knowledge that any class of persons is likely to consider such destruction, damage or defilement as an insult to their religion, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.'

Section 296

Disturbing Religious assembly 'Whoever voluntarily causes disturbance to an assembly lawfully engaged in the performance of religious worship, or religious ceremonies shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.'

Section 297

Trespassing on burial places, etc 'Whoever, with the intention of wounding the feelings of any person, or of insulting the religion of any person, or with the knowledge that the feelings of any person are likely to be wounded, or that the religion of any person is likely of sepulture, or any place set apart for the remains of the dead, or offers any indignity to any human corpse, or cause disturbance to any person assembled for the performance of funeral ceremonies, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine or with both.'

Section 298

Uttering words etc with deliberate intention to wound Religious feelings 'Whoever with the deliberate intention of wounding the religious feelings of any person, utters any word or makes any sound in the hearing of that person, or make any gesture in the sight of that person, or places any object in the sight of that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.'

First Addition

In 1972 section 295-A was introduced as a result of the failure to convict one Rajpal who had written a scurrilous tract against the holy Prophet [PBUH]. Rajpal's acquitted led to serious Muslim-Hindus communal tension. To fill the lacunae in the laws that had enabled his acquitted 295-A was introduced by Act XXV of 1927. This was the second blasphemy law.

Section 295-A

Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage Religious feelings of any class by insulting its Religious (or) Religious believers 'Whoever, with deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class of His Majesty's subjects, by words either spoken or written, or by visible representations, insults or attempts to insult the religion or religious beliefs of that class, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.'

Additions by General Zia-ul-Haq

Thereafter the laws remained unchanged until 1980. Between 1918 and 1947 there are only 4 reported cases in India under sections 298 and 295-A i.e. the blasphemy laws. Between 1947 and 1986 there were only 5 reported cases in Pakistan.

All the above laws also continue to be part of the Indian and Bangladesh Penal Codes.

In 1980 section 298-A was introduced. This was the third blasphemy law.

Section 298-A

Use of derogatory remarks etc in respect of Holy personages ‘Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representations, or by any imputation, innuendo or insinuation, directly or indirectly, defiles the sacred name of any wife [Ummul Mumineen], or members of the family [Ahle-bait], of the Holy Prophet [PBUH] or any of the righteous Caliphs [Khulafa-e-Raashideen] or companions [Sahaaba] of the Holy Prophet [PBUH] shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine or with both.’

Section 295-B

Defiling etc of copy of Holy Qur’an ‘Whoever willfully defiles, damages or desecrates a copy of the Holy Qur’an or of an extract there from or uses it in any derogatory manner or for any unlawful purpose shall be punishable with imprisonment for life.’

Section 295-C

Use of derogatory remarks, etc, in respect of the Holy Prophet [PBUH] ‘Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representation, or by any imputation, innuendo, or insinuation, directly or indirectly defiles the sacred name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad [PBUH] shall be punished with death, or imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to fine.’

The two technical changes introduced with this law are that for the first time blasphemy becomes a capital offence. Further, in 1991 the Federal Shariat Court ruled that the option of life imprisonment was to be removed and the death penalty became the mandatory punishment for this offence. The second innovation is that this is the only law in the entire PC that requires the presiding judge be a Muslim. The other noteworthy aspect of this section is the absence of the expression willfully or intentionally in the text of the law. Disregard of the element of will or intention in the law makes the whole environment suspicious of the reason that “will” or “intention” is an essential part of human behavior in the context of identifying a criminal offence. Thus under section 295-C, a person committing offence without “will” or “intention” is awarded death sentence at par with one committing it “willfully” or “intentionally.” We can see that law is required to punish the “unintentional” offence on the same scale as in the case of “intentional” one, without any justification.

Blasphemy laws, like other discriminatory laws, have changed the fate of Pakistani Christians, the Ahmadi community and even the Muslims are not safe from this brutal and savage law.

Christians and Ahmadis are the main target of the fundamentalist and religious-political parties. The law is being used for forced conversions, forcibly taking the lands and businesses of non-Muslims and for settling personal scores, rivalries and vengeance. These laws have also hindered the preaching of any other faith except Islam. Nevertheless, these laws have proved to be the most injurious weapons for active religious persecution used by the extremists.

Once a person is held under blasphemy charges, the victim and his/her family are sore-pressed and are harassed with problems. As a matter of fact, none of the victims has ever availed relief from the lower courts and have to go in appeal in the higher or even if the person gets relief from the higher courts he/she can never go back to this place and have to live in danger for his/her entire life.

Hudood Ordinance (Rape and Adultery)

This law was promulgated on February 22nd 1997. It covers theft, drunkenness, adultery, rape and bearing false witness. Zina (adultery) is a part of this ordinance, which is divided into two sections, Zina (adultery and fornication), Zina-bil-jabar (rape). In this it is easy to accuse women, at times even falsely of adultery. Both sections are liable to hadd, and victim requires at least four Muslim adult male witnesses about whom the court is satisfied having regard to the requirements of "tazkyah-al-shuood" that they are truthful persons and abstain from major sins give evidence as eye-witness of the act of penetration necessary to the offence. Non-Muslim witness is not admissible, against Muslim, but if the accused is a non-Muslim, the eyewitness may be non-Muslim.

Moreover the presiding officer of the court by which a case is tried or an appeal is heard under this ordinance shall be Muslim. In the case of a non-Muslim accused the presiding officer may be non-Muslim.

If a victim is non-Muslim and perpetrator(s) Muslim, it becomes hard to prove rape, because non-Muslim witness is not admissible and four male-Muslims cannot be provided anyway. In such cases female victims cannot prove their case are subsequently charged with Zina or Qazaf (Islamic law) for making a false statement, and becomes liable to hadd. This is an effective deterrent against women complaining of rape or abuse. Many women are suffering in different jails in Pakistan charged under this law.

Qanoon-e-Shahadat (Law of Witness)

This law came into effect in 1984. It is discriminatory against women and the non-Muslims. In this law the evidence of two women equals to that of one man in the case of non-Muslim while four male witnesses are needed if they are non-Muslims. In the case of non-Muslim women there is much confusion as to how many witnesses are required testify. In fact non-Muslims cannot give evidence in Hadd (maximum) punishment if a Muslim is on trial. Moreover in the case of Hadd punishment, the Zina Ordinance does not take into account a woman's evidence even if she is the victim.

Qisas-o-Diyat (Blood Money)

Qisas literally means retribution, with the logic of an eye for an eye, while Diyat is blood money for murder, or financial compensation for physical injury in lieu of retribution. It provides for punishment for murder and injury but it is discriminatory towards women in terms of their number of witnesses in order to testify in the court of law. Only two male witnesses can testify for maximum punishment while women can only testify for

awarding lesser punishment. Evidence of non-Muslims is only acceptable if the accused is also a non-Muslim. Diyat is meted out with discrimination, as blood money awarded for women to the aggressive party is only half to that of a man while women are liable to the same punishment.

Inter-Faith Marriages

Interfaith marriages are not very common in Pakistan, as people prefer to stay in their respective religions. People in Pakistan when settling a marriage between a man and a woman try to get information of the family they are suppose to have their son/daughter to be married. They often do investigation through different sources for their satisfaction and to avoid any problems faced in the future.

Every person/family tries to get married in their respective religion, caste and sects of beliefs. Like a Muslim Sunni would prefer to be married in a Sunni family, the same is in Shia and other sects of Muslim religion.

Christians also prefer to marry in their own religion and would not like to go out of their cultural differences. It is not possible for either side to accept and follow the religion of any side especially in case of a Christian woman. Legally there is no objection for a Christian or Muslim to tie in bond of marriage but the pressure from the families and the communities from either side make it impossible for a Christian or Muslim to get married. But still these marriages take place in the community with or without the permission of both the families.

These marriages take place in two different ways:

- Forced Marriages
- Love Marriages
 - Muslim boy & Christian girl
 - Christian boy & Muslim girl

Forced Marriages

Most of these marriages take place in rural areas where a Muslim feudal marries a Christian woman by force. This usually happen to teach a lesson to a Christian servant either for not obeying the orders of the master or if the Christian woman is beautiful the feudal gets a desire to have her and this force him to marry that Christian woman. This also happen in brick kilns and other labor industries where whole of the family works and Christian women are being subjected into this forcible marriage and are asked to forget about their previous marriages as their marriages automatically dissolves after marrying a Muslim man. These marriages also take place when a minor is forcibly converted to Islam and to prevent her from going to her Christian parents they are usually forced into marriage with a Muslim male twice older than their own age.

Love Marriages

Muslim Boy & Christian Girl

Unlike the marriage between a Christian boy and a Muslim girl, there is no problem for a Muslim male to marry a Christian girl. It is said in the Muslim community that by marrying a Christian girl and bringing her into the circle of Islam is to commit a good deed for the male and for Islam. Muslims welcome Christian girls in their family and expect the girl to get involved in the new environment and to follow her religion obediently. But soon they start to have conflicts with the girl and these types of marriages does not last long and in the end the girl get tired and wants to get freedom from her husband and his religion. This enrages the Muslim husband and his family and they take this against Islam to let the girl go to her previous religion. They often kill her or does not give her divorce and keep her in their custody forcibly. Even if the girls manages to escape from her Muslim in-laws they follow her and try to threaten her and her family to send her back or else they (Christian girl and her family) will be killed. Even after getting divorce from her Muslim husband that Christian girl live her life in fear and try to live where no one can recognizes her. Therefore, interfaith marriages do not bring any good results for Christian men or women as in either way they lose in the end.

Christian Boy & Muslim Girl

It is not possible for a Christian boy to get involved with a Muslim girl. If a Christian boy and a Muslim girl fell in love with each other they cannot get married because of the fear and pressure from their families and also the pressure built by the extremists. Muslims do not allow their daughter marries is a Christian by faith then they take it against their pride and honor. They take it very seriously, and if the couple go into hide they search them, find them and kill both including the family of that Christian boy. They also charge the boy/man and his family for abduction of their daughter and try to get them behind bars.

Constitution of Pakistan Relating to Women

Rights of women are being protected in the constitution of Pakistan as well in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law.
- There shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex alone.
- No citizen otherwise qualified for appointment in the service of Pakistan shall be discriminated against in respect of any such appointment on the ground only of **Sex**
- Steps shall be taken to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of national life.....
- The state shall protect the marriage, the family, and the mother.....
The state shall..... [ensure] that women are not employed in vocation unsuited to their sex.....

Constitution of Pakistan, Articles 25,27,35,37

- All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.....
- Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedom set forth in this declaration, without distinction of any kind.....
- All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.....
- Men and women of full age.....are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
- Marriage should be entered into with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
- Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.
Mother and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 1,2,7,16,21 (2), 25 (2)

Constitution of Pakistan Relating to Children

Child rights are being protected in both the Constitution of Pakistan and in the UN declaration for the protection of child rights.

- No child below the age of 14 years shall be engaged in any factory or mine or nay other hazardous employment. Constitution of Pakistan, **Article 11 (3)**
- The state shall protect the marriage, the family, the mother and the child. **Articles 35**
- The state shall make provisions for ensuring that children.....are not employed in vocations to their age.....Article 37 (e)
- In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public to private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration. Article 3 (1)
- childhood is entitled to special care and assistance.

UN Convention of the Right of the Child, Preamble

Due to the lack of improper administration of the law in Pakistan the law and Constitution is being violated and the government has no means to stop it to protect children.

Child rights are being protected in both the Constitution of Pakistan and in the UN declaration for the protection of child rights.

No child below the age of 14 years shall be engaged in any factory or mine or any other hazardous employment.

FACT FINDING REPORTS in 2012

1- Report on the Criminal possession and desecration of GOSHA-E-AMAN by the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) in Pakistan

Today (Tuesday) January 10, 2012, Mr. M.A Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) was informed about the illegal possession and demolition of Gosha-e-Aman (The Corner of Peace) Ghari Shahu, Lahore by the Punjab Government's owned agency the Lahore Development Authority (LDA). Following the horrendous incident of destruction of the Church Property a CLAAS monitoring team headed by Mr. M.A. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) including Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer CLAAS) and Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) visited the place of occurrence and note the following details:



The CLAAS team witnessed that the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) deployed heavy contingent of police force at the surroundings of Gosha-e-Aman (The Corner of Peace). The LDA officials with the heavy bulldoze machines were easily bulldozing the Holy Chapel, desecrated the Holy Cross, Holy Bibles, boundary wall of the church



property, old built houses and other belongings of the church etc. The people who were demolishing the Gosha-e-Aman (The Corner of Peace) was also maltreated the Christian families residing inside the land and kicked them out from the land. The CLAAS team also noticed that the news of the destruction of the church property flashed, hundreds of Christians without delay especially the Parish Priest Rev. Fr. George, as well as the neighborhood Christians gathered at the demolished church property.

The hundreds members of the Christian community was peace fully recorded their protest and the protesters blocked Ghari Shahu Road and suspended traffic for several hours.

The CLAAS team also took part in the protest demonstration and demanded immediate release of illegal possession as well as demanded for the immediate arrest of the criminal assailants.



According to “Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Yousaf Mani, + Rt. Rev. Sebastian Shaw (Catholic Bishop of Archdiocese of Lahore) appointed me to look after the said property namely as GOSHA-E-AMAN (The Corner of Peace) which was registered as Lahore Charitable Organization and the Catholic Church looks after the said property for last 80 years and introduced vocational institute in the building. The area girls and women took advantages form the vocational institute accordingly. When I took the

charge and found that three different groups of land mafia enforcedly and illegally occupy the said land and assigned their armed men. He further added and said “The matter of the illegal occupation is under court proceedings and in this connection the honorable court already constituted a commission and the commission transparently recommended that the said piece of land is registered as charitable land and the Catholic Church is looking after that said land. Secondly while the matter is under court proceedings



but the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) destructed the whole property inhumanely.”



The police strictly prohibited the Christians to join the protest and told about the instructions of the government’s high officials and they depute the police for the security of the officials of the LDA. The Deputy Superintendent of Police Qila Gujar Singh also threatened Mr. Joseph Francis warned him that if he will not stop the protest the police will register a case FIR against him. Afterwards the protesters dispersed peacefully and an urgent

meeting was held at St. Anthony's Church for further action and it was unanimously decided to hold of urgent press conference. The press Conference was addressed by Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Yousaf Mani, Mr. M.A Joseph Francis MBE, Rev. Bishop Yaqoob Paul, Mr. Zia Khokhar, Mr. Shahzad Elahi (MPA-Punjab) and Mr. Saleem Gabriel.

Addressing to the urgent press conference Mr. M.A Joseph Francis expressed his grief concerns over the demolition and condemned the illegal and unjustified inhuman act for demolition of Church Property. Mr. Francis also warned the Punjab Government to stop for backing the land grabbers and demanded the registration of criminal case FIR and also demanded the immediate arrest of the Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Town, Deputy Superintendent Qila Gujjar Singh, SHO's of the surrounding police stations and other responsible officials etc. The Punjab Government's owned agency the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) should finish off their illegal and unjustified possession and to release the Gosha-e-Aman (The Corner of Peace) property on its actual position and handover the hold of the said property to the Catholic Church. Mr. Francis also warned



that if the prejudice and discriminatory behaviors remain continues in the country and the Church Properties illegally grabbed than the Christian Youth helplessly will took the law into their hands and the government will be responsible.

Lastly the penal of the press conference urged the government to take necessary steps against those responsible and announced nationwide calls of protests. The protest will be observed from Wednesday January 11, 2012 and in

this connection the protest demonstration will be held in front of the desecrated Gosha-e-Aman (The Corner of Peace) at 11:00am on January 11, 2012. Hundreds of Christian protesters attended the protest including Rev. Fr. Joseph Louis (Executive Secretary Caritas Pakistan-Lahore), Mr. Zia Khokhar (An activist for Religious Freedom), Mr. Shahzad Elahi (Member Provincial Assembly Punjab) and several minority rights participated in the agitation.

CLAAS Findings

1. The demolition of Gosha-e-Aman was illegal and unjustified.
2. The government of Punjab over night prepared forged documents with the help of the Land Revenue Department and claimed the ownership of the church property.
3. Functionaries of the Punjab Government are responsible for desecrating the sacred place of Gosha-e-Aman.

4. A convent, small Chapel, Holy Bibles, Hymn Books, Religious literatures, sewing school, Home for old age persons, residential quarters for the employees and boundary wall were desecrated inhumanly.
5. The worth of the land is in billion rupees and the Punjab Government with the help of Kamran Michael wanted to grab the land.
6. The Punjab government wanted to build Kalsoom Nawaz Trust on the said land.
7. The Government of Punjab verbally announcing the property rights.
8. The ownership of Gosha-e-Aman is under question because till the filing of this report no written direction made from the Government of Punjab.
9. The government functionaries including the Chief Minister Punjab, Minority Minister Kamran Michael, District Coordination Officer, Deputy Superintendent of Police Qila Gujar Singh, Functionaries of the Lahore Development Authority, Collector, Revenue Administrative Officer, Land Record Officer, Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Town, Tehsil Municipal Administration Shalimar Town, City District Government and various are responsible for demolition.

2- Fact-finding report on Khurram Masih Blasphemy Case



Khurram Masih Blasphemy victim

Khurram Masih s/o Rasheed Masih, lived in a rented house in Rajput Street, Yousaf Colony Majeed Park, Shahdara Town, Lahore. He originally belonged to Quetta and shifted Lahore to earn good. On December 05, 2011 Zulfiqar Ali, the owner of the rented house blamed Khurram Masih for burning the pages of the Quran. On the complaint of Zulfiqar Ali, a case FIR 1211/11 dated 05-12-1011 offence under section 295-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) got registered against Khurram Masih in the police station, Shahdara Town, Lahore. Khurram Masih was arrested on the same day after registration of FIR and sent to judicial lock-up camp jail Lahore.

“The petitioner was a resident of Majeed Park and owner of four houses and Khurram Masih was the one of the tenan. On the day of occurrence at about 02:00pm Zulfiqar Ali came to know that Khurram Masih burnt the pages of Quran as the neighbors tried to stop him to burning the pages of the Holy Quran but he did not care the requests and kept continue to burn the pages of Quran. Following the information, Zulfiqar Ali along with his real brother Ali Hassan s/o Sajad, Jameel Fazal s/o Muhammad Fazal and Jabar Ali Manj s/o Abdul Rehman went to the place of occurrence but Khurram Masih locked his home and escaped. Further it was mentioned in the FIR that the petitioner immediately informed the area SHO (station house officer) who reached the place of occurrence and arrested Khurram Masih on the spot without any delay.”

After arrest of Khurram Masih, he wanted his post-arrest bail which was filed in the session’s court, Lahore, and dismissed on 03-01-2012 by the honorable Court. The

learned Additional & Sessions Judge did not read the FIR properly and ignored the following discrepancies arises in FIR:

1. There is delay of two hours and 50 minutes between the occurrence and the registration of the case FIR.
2. The complainant was not witness of the occurrence and also was not present at the spot.
3. The FIR does not also find mentioning the name of any other eye witness who deposed about the instant occurrence.
4. In the FIR the petitioner admit that Khurram Masih locked-up the house and fled away from the spot before his arrival.
5. Later-on the petitioner himself admits, in the same breath, that Khurram Masih was apprehended from the spot by the police.

Cancellation of Bail Application by the Court of Sessions

The post-arrest bail application was filed on 09-12-2011 in the Sessions Court, Lahore. On 03-01-2012 after hearing the arguments the learned judge Mr. Anjum Raza Syed (Additional & Session Judge kept) under the influence of his own personal sentiments and prejudicially dismissed the bail application of Khurram Masih. It was clearly noticed that the learned Judge did not apply his judicious mind. Mr. Anjum Raza Syed (Additional & Session Judge) announced the following:

“This is very sensitive issue, the grant of bail at this stage may fan the heated sentiments of the parties which may result into great mishap. Under these circumstances, the petitioner Khurram Masih is not entitled to the concession of bail. The bail application of the petitioner Khurram Masih is dismissed.”

3- Fact finding report on Muslims attacked on Christians in LDA Quarters Lahore

On January 22, 2012 at about 09:03 pm, Mr. Joseph Francis was informed about the overwrought situation of Christians and Muslims in LDA Quarters Walton Cantt. Lahore. It was also informed that after a minor dispute between children the infuriated mob of Muslims attacked on the houses of the local Christians.



Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) and Mr. Tahir Bashir (Legal Advisor CLAAS) immediately reached at the spot and visited the affected area. Police was also reached at the spot to hold the situation. Team finds that Christians were confined in their homes. They were afraid from the violent behavior of Muslims because they were armed with weapons and firing and never wanted to meet even with police officers. CLAAS team meet with the ASP (Assistant Senior Police Officer) B-**Division**

Cantt and he told to CLAAS that the young Muslim and Christian boys has dispute but later they have made it a religious issue. He further stated that he has called a meeting of Christians and Muslims at 6:00 pm on January 23, 2012. He told to CLAAS that he wanted to resolve the matter peacefully.

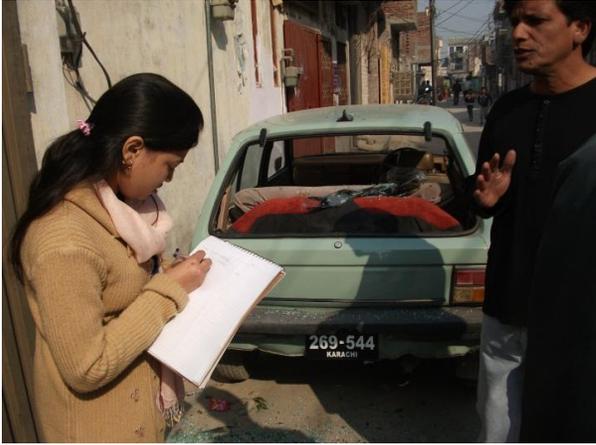
On January 23, 2012, at 11:00 am Mr. Joseph received call about Muslims attack on Christians with deadly weapons. CLAAS team including Mr. Joseph Francis (National Director), Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer), Mr. Sohail Habel (Finance Manager) and Ms. Rama Rasheed (Assistant Program Officer) rushed to the occurrence place and found that it was the rumor.

CLAAS team met with different local Christians



CLAAS team met with local Christians to inquire the matter. They informed to the team a dispute was taken place between Christian and Muslim children at 7:00 pm during playing a **snooker** game but after that it was settled with the help of elders. At the same night at 9:00 pm electricity power was off due to load shading when Christians heard a noise outside. They saw a Muslim angry mob consists of 100 -150 people armed with sticks, iron rods and deadly weapons marching towards **Christian houses**. They began to open fires in the air and also started throwing stones and bricks on the Christians houses. They broke the house doors, electricity meters, shops and also attacked on the Churches Naisrat Church and Pakistan Assembly of God Church (The House of Divine Fellowship) and break the glasses of the windows. They were calling the names of Christians loudly and using a slang language for them. CLAAS team met with connected people in particular visit the damage churches, Christian shops and houses.

Javeed Gill told to CLAAS that he has not any space in his house for car parking and he used to park his car outside the house from many years but the attackers broke the back screen and stole the things from the car. He told to CLAAS they also fire on Christian houses and abused them.



He also told to CLAAS that we know this is the children dispute but we also surprised that how Muslims made it religious issue. He also informed to CLAAS that children are afraid from this violence attack of Muslims and therefore they did not go to school.



CLAAS team met with Salamat Masih and visited his shop which was totally damaged. He said that he is working as hair dresser since many years but it's the first chance when Muslims have become furious to Christians. He also informed that not only his shop but also many other Christians shops were also attacked.

Ms. Rubi said that the school children are frightened from this situation. We pray for the Muslim brothers (the attackers) and hope for peace and harmony prevail in our area and the whole country.



Moon Masih told to CLAAS that he is running a small gift shop since many years but it's the first time when Muslims attacked on Christians because of a minor dispute. He said that attackers broken the glasses of the shop racks and took away valuable things from his shop.

CLAAS team also met with some Muslims to know their views over this dispute among Christians and Muslims. One of the Muslims named Har- Dil- Aziz informed to the CLAAS team that it was a wrong action of Muslims against Christians. It was a dispute between

children it should be solved immediately. But it should not promote within the Muslims or Christians as a religious matter. Some other old Muslims said that we are neighbors of Christians and living together since many years therefore we want peace and harmony in this area.

Team Observation/Finding:

- Team finds that this was a minor dispute among children which was made a religious issue.
- The Young and teen aged Muslims attack the Christian house.
- Team also finds that Christians were also ready to react to the attack of Muslims and they were gathered at a place to make plan.

We will keep you up-date accordingly. Please pray for Pakistan and the people of Pakistan, May the Lord give them wisdom and Peace.

4 Report on maltreatment and harassment of Christian Community in the village Kaadi Wind, District Kasur

On January 25, 2012 Mr. Iqbal Khokhar, a freelance journalist from Kasur, approached CLAAS office for legal aid assistance for the family of Labha Masih. Labha Masih along with his children namely Boota Masih & his wife Samia, Sharif Masih and Akram Masih visited CLAAS office and narrated the following:

The family background

Labha Masih s/o Jindu Masih aged 60, resident of village Kaadi Wind, district Kasur, worked on a brick kiln along with his children named Boota Masih aged 27, Hanif Masih aged 25, Sharif Masih aged 24, Akram Masih aged 20, Aslam Masih aged 18 and Safia aged 11 for last many years. The village Kaadi Wind is situated near the city of Kasur, where about 40 Christian families live among 2500 Muslims. Mostly Christians in the village are poor and work on brick kilns for Muslim brick kiln owners on daily wages. According to Labha Masih the majority Muslim community is prejudice and hate Christians on the basis of religion beliefs.

Incident of violence

In January 2012 Labha Masih's son Sharif Masih went to bazaar to buy chicken meat for meal as he often goes to the chicken shop of Ijaz Ahmed. The shop keeper informed about the price of the chicken to Sharif Masih. When he paid money to the shop keeper there were Rs. 10 rupees less from expect price of the meat. He requested the shopkeeper that he will pay him the remaining balance later but soon. On January 17, 2012 at around 05:00pm Sharif Masih, was on his way to home and passed by the chicken shop. Ijaz Ahmed asked him about the balance money while Sharif Masih again requested for some time to pay the said amount. Ijaz Ahmed aggressively enforced Sharif Masih to pay the balance amount at the spot, and used abusive language and started

beating him severely. Mohammad Sarfraz and Mohammad Shakeel the cousin of Ijaz Ahmed saw the dispute between Ijaz and Sharif, and came to help him in beating Sharif Masih. It was a minor issue which could be settled among Sharif Masih and Ijaz Ahmed but they also started beating Sharif Masih. Luckily, Sharif Masih ran away from the place to his home. It was not enough for Ijaz Ahmed and his cousins that they beat Sharif Masih. They started shouting and informed fellow Muslims that a Christians has beaten them severely and urged them to take revenge from the Christians. Ijaz Ahmed, Sarfraz and Shakeel Ahmed armed with weapons and others Ghulam Mustafa, Hassan Muhammad, Noor Muhammad, Sarfraz Ahmed, Muhammad Bashir Noor, Shakeel Ahmed, Kher Din, Muhammad Din, Ijaz Ahmed, Muhammad Ilyas, Sajid Qamar and Muhammad Awais armed with weapons and wooden sticks and iron rods reached at the place of Sharif Masih and again started beating him severely. They also beat his family members and used abusive language for all Christians in the area; they brutally tortured and humiliated the female family members. They opened fire arms on the family and set their house on fire while their cattles/animals also burnt alive. Labha Masih (father of Sharif Masih) requested Ijaz Ahmed and other 25 Muslims attackers leave them but the Muslims extremists disregard the request.

Few pictures of the family members of Labha Masih



Labha Masih aged 60



Sharif Masih aged 28



Akram Masih aged 25



Samina Bibi aged 25



Boota Masih aged 26



Live stock was burnt alive



Picture of Labha Masih's house burnt by Muslims

Labha Masih went to the police station to register a complaint against Ijaz Ahmad and others but police On January 17, 2012 (the day of incident) Labha Masih informed Mr. Iqbal Khokhar, a freelance journalist about a brutal attack of Muslim extremists on his family; he reached at the place and met with victim family of Labha Masih. Mr. Iqbal broadcasted the news of this incident on the local media.

he local administration and the police did not pay any heed on the matter and while the victim family lodged their application for the registration of case FIR. Later after the pressure made by the Media, the police on January 19, 2012 registered a case FIR no 58/12 offences under section 337-A1, A2, F1 & F2, 452/379, 148/149 and 427 of the Pakistan Panel Code (PPC) against Ghulam Mustafa, Hassan Muhammad, Noor Muhammad, Sarfraz Ahmed, Muhammad Bashir Noor, Shakeel Ahmed, Kher Din, Muhammad Din, Ijaz Ahmed, Muhammad Ilyas, Sajid Qamar, Muhammad Awais and 04 unknown criminal assailants at the police station Saddar Kasur. After completing the investigation, the police referred the victim family to the hospital for medical examination. Ijaz Ahmed along with his companions threatened the distressed family for life and warned them for dire consequences. Labha Masih informed the concerned police station about the threats. The police only summoned the seven accused persons but did not arrest them.

Registration of Cross Version (Counter FIR)

The accused party lodged an application in the Saddar Police Station for the registration of case FIR against the victim family of Labha Masih. On January 22, 2012 a counter case FIR offence under section 337/A1- F1, 354/148, 149 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) registered against Sharif Masih, Labha Masih, Ashraf Masih, Shahid Masih, Boota Masih, Vikram Masih, Hanif Masih, Ashiq Masih, Aslam Masih, Arshad Masih, Rafiq Masih, Pervaiz Masih, Zahid Masih, Gulzar Masih and 04 unknown criminal assailants at the police station Saddar Kasur. The opponent party purposely lodged the cross FIR to setting the scores.

Legal Aid Assistance of CLAAS and Up-dates

On January 25, 2012 Labha Masih along with his injured children namely Boota Masih & his wife Samia, Sharif Masih and Akram Masih approached CLAAS office for legal aid assistance. CLAAS assigned Mr. Akhtar Masih Sandhu Advocate of High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) as their attorney and in this connection Mr. Sandhu on January 26, 2012 visited the place of occurrence, meeting with the victim family and on the same day applied for the case files in the court. On January 30, 2012 Mr. Sandhu submitted power of attorney on behalf of the aggrieved family in the court while the accused party got their pre-arrest bails. Presently Mr. Sandhu is contesting against the pre-arrest bails of the accused persons as well as moved an application for the re-examination of injuries of the victims. Presently the accused party enforcing the aggrieved Christian family of Labha Masih for compromise as well as to take back the case FIR registered against them. While till the filing of this report the case is under court proceedings.

5- Nadia Naira, a Christian girl was forcedly converted into Islam and forcedly married under Islamic law Family Background

Permeela Bibi aged 47 w/o Clemence, a Christian by faith and resident of Chak No. 03 R-B Marriam Abad, Khanka Doggran, Tehsil Safdar Abad District Shiekhpura, married with Clemence in 1983 and out of this wedlock the family blessed with five children namely as Nadia Naira aged 25, Noreen Marriam aged 23, Amars aged 20, Sharoon Aftab aged 16 and Haroon Sarfraz aged 14. Her husband professionally is small agriculturist and has cultivation land in the village. According to Permeela Bibi, fifteen years after marriage, she started a grocery shop in her home and also helped her husband to meet their daily needs or other related expenses.

The village

According to Permeela Bibi, the village Mariamabad village is contained on crops growing green belt in the area and mostly villagers are cultivators and have cordial relations with the fellow Muslim landlords. Secondly the village Chak No. 03 R-B Marriamabad means city of Mary in the Urdu language is very famous as National Marian Shrine in Pakistan and is well known for an annual pilgrimage at worldwide. Every year in the month of September the feast of the birth of Mary as well as "Visitation

of Holy Mary” at the place of pilgrimage remembered since 1947. The prominent feature of the shrine is the statue of Mary stands at the Marian Grotto on a hill and according to history the Holy Mary appeared in statue of Mary in Marian Grotto. The pilgrims observed the holiness of the place and travel by foot, bullock carts, bicycles, buses and trucks etc to Mariamabad and attend the annual pilgrimage, an event of three days.

Financial state of the villagers and their difficulties

The poor villagers have their own agriculture land but are poor and also are unable to buy new technologies for modern farming etc. Secondly the rest of the villagers are working as farm laborer or some are working as day laborer in the city. To meet with urgent requirements the Christians usually lend money with an exorbitant rates of interest from Sheikh Maqsood Ahmed aged 50 s/o Nawab Din, a Muslim by faith and resident of neighboring Chak No 04 R-B, Sahuwala, Khanka Doggran, Tehsil Safdar Abad District Shiekhupura, is very much famous for his business of lending of money with an exorbitant rate of interest in the surrounding villages.

The poor Christians did not pay their attention on the exorbitant rates of interest and just took the money and fulfill their immediate needs. If the poor Christians did not return the interest amount in time than Sheikh Maqsood Ahmed, took advantage and grabbed their personal belongings etc as well as harassed them too. Few Christian’s joins hand with him and started collecting the interest amount from the Christians on his behalf and in return Maqsood Ahmed gave them some money for this services.

Abduction, forced marriage and forced conversion of Naira Nadia



Permeela Bibi further added that they never lend money from Maqsood Ahmed but he started visiting at their grocery shop on regular basis. Sometimes her children look after the customers at grocery shop and probably her elder daughter Naira Nadia aged 15, a student of Grade 8th also looks after the shop affairs. Maqsood Ahmed started kept bad eyes on Naira Nadia while the family was unaware about the spitefulness of Maqsood Ahmed. Even Nadia never noticed about the malice attentions of Maqsood Ahmed. Unexpectedly, on February 11, 2001 Maqsood Ahmed kidnapped Nadia on gunpoint and at the

time of kidnapping Nadia was just fifteen years old. Within two days of kidnapping the accused Maqsood Ahmed enforcedly converted her into Islam and contacted a Muslim Nikha (marriage).

Registration of Case FIR & Court Proceedings

When the aggrieved parents came to know about the kidnapping, forced marriage and forced conversion of Naira Nadia, the distressed parents immediately report the matter in the police station Khanka Doggran and the police registered a case FIR against Maqsood Ahmed. Later the area police joined hands with the accused Maqsood Ahmed and refused to arrest the accused. According to Permeela Bibi, after disappointing from the police they filed habeas corpus petition against the illegal detention of Nadia Bibi in the Lahore High Court, Lahore. On the direction of the honorable Lahore High Court Nadia was produced before the court and was frightened. Later, Nadia recorded her statement against her parents and in-favor of her husband Maqsood Ahmed. It was insufferable for the upset parents and they were also known that Nadia was under threat that's why she recorded her statement against them in the court. According to Permeela Bibi, after the negative response of Nadia in the court the family never contacted Nadia in between while her father did not tolerate the incident of far-off her daughter Nadia and became sick and till date he is unwell.

The return and sufferings of Naira Nadia

After 10 years of her illegal detention Nadia got chance to flee and straight away reached at her parent's home on November 30, 2011 and narrated the full episode of her awful story. Maqsood Ahmed came-up along with criminal assailants namely Hamid Yasin, Abu-Bakar and 4 other unknown assailants to Nadia's parents and started threatening as well as demanded the return of Nadia. Maqsood Ahmed also warned the distressed family for dire consequences and gave life threats. He also warned the poor family that if they will not return Nadia to him than he will kidnap their younger daughters. Maqsood Ahmed every day after using heavy amount of drugs came to her parents and gave verbal abuse by name to the whole family members. The aggrieved parents tolerate the whole maltreatments and no one from the village to walk around the distressed family. Finally keeping in view the whole circumstances the upset family on January 16, 2012 contacted CLAAS office for legal help and assistance. The distressed family requested CLAAS for shelter for and following the threats made by Nadia's Muslim husband the CLAAS office provided shelter to Nadia and her younger sister Amars at Apna Ghar Rehabilitation Centre on the same day.

Statement of Nadia Naira



Nadia Naira narrated the following facts of her kidnapping and said:

"I never thought that I will ever live far from my parents, brothers and sisters. When I was kidnapped I was just 15 years old and was a student of class 8th. I had no life experience and when Maqsood Ahmed kidnapped me, he took me at unknown place and physically hurt me severely. After two days of my kidnapping, Maqsood Ahmed without my

consent and on gun point he forcedly converted me into Islam and I was given a Muslim name as Ayesha. Later he forcedly contacted a Muslim Nikha (marriage) and again he did not bother to ask for my free will to contact Muslim marriage with him. When I was informed that my parents registered a case FIR of my kidnapping against Maqsood Ahmed, I was relaxed and hoped that soon I will be with my parents. Maqsood Ahmed exasperated from the case FIR and threatened me for dire consequences and gave life threats. Maqsood Ahmed also warned that if I recorded my statement against him, my parents will be killed. It was very difficult for me to understand the matter and on the other hand the safety of my parents was also the main concern for me. I was frightened and act upon accordingly as he asked me to do for him. When I was appeared before High Court and saw my parents and wanted to talk to them but was prohibited for not to talk with them in the court. When Maqsood Ahmed saw me and again threatened me in the court and I was enforced to record my statement in his favor.

Later, I recorded my statement before the judge and admitted that I never kidnapped and embraced Islam with my own aspirations and also contacted marriage with

Maqsood Ahmed with my free will and wanted to live with my husband and the allegations of kidnappings are totally baseless. Now I am Muslim and had no connection with my Christian parents anymore. It was very painful for me to say the above words against my parents but on the other side their safety was also in front of me and I don't know how I tolerate the whole matter.

Afterwards Maqsood Ahmed took me at his relatives because his first wife did not accept me as his second wife. Finally after six months he took me at his own residence and I was shocked to know about the 10 children from his first wife. His first wife quarreled with him but he did not pay any attention and I enforcedly stayed with him in the same house. Whenever I tried to flee from his illegal detention but he gave life threats to me as well as to my parents. Even he never allowed me to meeting with my mother, father, sisters and brothers. Soon after the forced marriage Maqsood Ahmed became violent and tortured me over small domestic affairs and also started using high potency of drug and became drug addict. Under his grave threats I gave birth to his five children and presently their names are as Dilawar aged 9, Dilbar aged 7, Baber aged 5, Swara aged 4 and Shama aged 1/2 years. The aggressiveness of Maqsood Ahmed started some 4 years before. Giving harsh beatings and verbal abuses was in his every day routine. He also forced me to convert my parents into Islam but I refused to do and the differences started after my refusal and Maqsood Ahmed made my life miserable. I tried my level best to get away from the illegal detention of Maqsood Ahmed but in vain. I was worried and feared that I will be killed because Maqsood came to know that I am not happy with him at his home. Finally, I got chance on November 30, 2011 and escaped from the illegal detention of Maqsood Ahmed and straight away reached at my parents. I am totally helpless and difficult to understand what to do the next and am very much disheartened from Maqsood who inhumanly spoiled my whole life. I am very much frightened and have life threats.”

Legal Aid Assistance

On January 16, 2012 the distressed parents contacted CLAAS office for legal help and assistance and also requested for shelter for Nadia and her younger sister Amras. Nadia wanted file a criminal case against Maqsood Ahemd as well as wants divorce and also registration of criminal case FIR of maltreatment and harassment. The Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) appointed Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) to look after the legal matters accordingly. In this connection on January 17, 2012 the CLAAS filed a petition on behalf of Nadia in the Court of Sessions-District Sheikhpura for the registration of criminal case against Maqsood Ahmed as well as submitted an application in the police station Khanka Doggran against Maqsood Ahmed his brother Hamid Yasin, Abu-Bakar and 4 other unknown assailants for verbally abusing in drinking condition, extending threats of kidnapping the younger sisters of Nadia and harassment.

Up-date:

Mr. Haroon Latif Khan, Additional Sessions Judge Sheikhpura took up the matter in accordance with law and gave directions to the Inspector Station House Officer (SHO) Police Station Khanka Doggran for the registration of case FIR against the nominated accused persons. Till the filing of this report the matter is under court proceedings.

6- Report on False allegations of Blasphemy against Ms. Saira Khokhar (A Christian Principal of TCF School in Lahore)

The information about the alleged incident of Blasphemy

On February 23, 2012, M.A Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) was informed by telephone call about an unpleasant incident of false Blasphemy allegations against Ms. Saira Khokhar w/o Pastor Rufan, a Christian Principal at The Citizen Foundation School in Rodawala, Bedian Road, Lahore Cantt.

Immediate Follow-up by CLAAS

Keeping in view the sensitivity of the blasphemy matter CLAAS team headed by M.A Joseph Francis MBE including Ms. Katherine Sapna (Deputy National Director CLAAS) and Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) went to meet with Mr. Imtiaz (Superintendent of Police Investigation Wing) at Sarwar Road Circle, Lahore Cantt.

Mr. Francis requested Mr. Imtiaz for fair investigation of the alleged incident of blasphemy as well as expressed his grave concerns on the security of Ms. Saira Khokhar, the victim of blasphemy. SP assured Mr. Francis that he is personally investigating the matter which just took place due to professional jealousy. SP further added that the police rescued Ms. Saira from the mob of attackers and took her into the

police custody to be saved her. Mr. Joseph Francis advised SP to be aware from the so-called NGOs as well as the media attention because if the blasphemy matter will broadcast in the media might be create trouble for the police as well as for local Christian residents. Mr. Francis further requested SP for the high alert security for Ms. Saira and explained the previous experiences of dealing the blasphemy cases since 1992. SP investigation was pleased about the suggestions of CLAAS and promised that he will do justice with Ms. Saira Khokhar.

On February 24, 2012 SP informed Mr. Francis that after investigation and examine of blasphemy allegations Ms. Saira Khokhar was released from the police custody and no blasphemy case FIR registered against her.

Fact-finding of CLAAS

On February 24, 2012 a fact-finding team including Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS), Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer CLAAS) and Mr. Mehboob Ahmed Khan (Legal Advisor Human Rights Commission of Pakistan) visited occurrence place. The CLAAS team after meeting with connected people finds the following:

Back ground:

The village Rodawala is situated in North and eight kilometer far from Lahore at Bedian Road, Lahore Cantt. Around 250 Muslim and 20 Christian families are residing in this village since the Indo-Pak partition, Christian and Muslims were living in peace and cordial. Mostly Christians are poor and working on daily wages in the city. The percentage of the education in the village is low and it is also very difficult for the Christian villagers to send their children in the outside schools.

The Citizen Foundation School (TCF)



The TCF was set up in 1995 by a group of citizens concerned with the dismal state of education in Pakistan. Additionally, at present the TCF is one of Pakistan's leading non-governmental organizations in the field of formal education. The vision of TCF is to remove barriers of class and believe on the access to basic education and in this connection the TCF built schools in the deprived locations in Pakistan. The TCF build

a primary and secondary school in the village Rodawala in 2001 and till date around 650 students of primary and secondary sections from surrounding villages are studying in the TCF schools. The Primary Section of the Rodawala village contained on two story buildings and over 350 students from class nursery to class 5 are studying in the TCF school primary section in Rodawala. The school management provides logistic (pick & drop) support to all its teachers.

Appointment of Ms. Saira Khokhar as principle of TCF School



The Principal's Room-Place of Occurrence)

Ms. Saira Khokhar w/o Pastor Rufas aged 40, resident of Lahore is a mother of two children. She belonged to an educated and well repute religious family. She was assigned as Principal for the Primary Section at The Citizen Foundation School at Rodawala village in 2009. The TCF School staff consisted on 10 female teachers including Ms. Saira Khokhar. The other 2 Christian staff was Shafqat Masih, Peon and his wife Sughran Bibi worked as a care

taker of little children in the School. They told CLAAS team Saira Khokhar behaved

the whole staff respectfully and due to her good manners Muslim teachers were astonished and jealousy. They also informed that two Muslim teachers namely Miss. Shagufta, Miss Amna, Sugran Bibi (peon) and Shafqat Masih (watchman) is the resident of Rodawala village but remaining staff comes from surroundings.

The Blasphemy Incident (Thursday February 23, 2012)

(According to Shafqat Masih (watchman) on February 23, 2012 the School started at 08:00 am in routine. Teachers and staff reached at the School approximately 07:45. But Ms. Saira Khokhar arrived late at about 07:55 am but went in her office after the opening prayer (Assembly).

According to the local sources usually peon Aasia and Shafqat Masih were the only employees who closed and opened the office of Ms. Saira.

On the day of incident Aasia (peon) opened the office of Ms. Saira. At about 09:30 am she came to Ms. Saira and asked for the cleaning of her office. When she went to the room for cleaning she started shouting and alleged Ms. Saira for the desecration of Holy Quran.

Shafqat Masih also informed to the team that Ms. Shagufta another teacher informed him about the alleged incident and informed that during the cleaning of the principal's office/room Aasia (peon) found some ragged pages of Surah Yaseen (the 36th surah of the Holy Quran in order) and Ayatul Kursi (the Throne Verse, or is 255th verse of the second chapter of Al-Baqara in the wastepaper basket. The information about the alleged incident of blasphemy was spread like fire in the Jungle and within seconds the whole staff gathered around principal's office and seized her in the office. Muslim teachers as well as the other staff started using abusive language against Ms. Saira and also gave her severe beatings. School teachers and other staff were in attempt to kill

Ms. Saira and also demanded for the registration of blasphemy case (FIR) against her without any investigation of the alleged incident of blasphemy.

Immediate aggression after the alleged incident of Blasphemy

Following the screaming from the TCF School the Rodawala villagers immediately gathered in the school and remonstrated over the alleged incident of Blasphemy. Later the area people called 15 (the police Helpline) and fortunately keeping in view the warmth of the blasphemy matter the police personal from Haeir Police Check Post, Police Station Burrki Hadyara, Main Circle, Sarwar Road, Lahore reached at the place of occurrence and controlled the situation immediately. At first the police took Ms. Saira into custody and shifted her at the Police Station Sarwar Road, Lahore for investigation. The fanatic Muslims of the village seized the school and later a mob from the surrounding villages Kerianwala, Lail Pind, Daaue, Hurpalkay, Pathanwala, Mouta Singh, Mehar Town and Lidharr gathered in the school and chanted slogans against Ms. Saira and demanded for the registration of Blasphemy case FIR against her. A heavy contingent of police deal with instigated angry violent mob and after long great efforts the police dispersed them. The Christians residing in Rodawala are still under fears whereas the school management forcibly kicked Shafqat Masih (TCF Watchman) and his wife Sughran Bibi (peon) out from the school.

CLAAS Findings/Observations

1. The blasphemy allegations against Ms. Saira, victim of blasphemy were blamed fallaciously while she has not any connection with the alleged incident of blasphemy.
2. Ms. Saira Khokhar gave respect to all staff and was dedicated & dutiful in her work.
3. The blasphemy allegation arises after professional jealousies against Ms. Saira principle of a School and well educated woman.
4. Aasia School peon along with other Muslim staff spitefully planned to implicate Ms. Saira in the alleged incident of blasphemy.
5. The Muslim staff without any investigation of the alleged incident held responsible Ms. Saira Khokhar for committing Blasphemy.
6. The timely interventions of the police rescued Ms. Saira as well as saved the Christians from the big massacre.

Conclusion

The recent incident shows that the culture of religious intolerance and hatred is increasing day by day in the Pakistan and the misuse of blasphemy laws victimizing the non-Muslim citizens of the country. The outright disrespect for fundamental rights, both by the state and the communal elements, is also visible in the case of Ms. Saira. The present worst alarming situation of persecution in the name of religion is promoting the

culture of silence and the government must take notice of it and also to take precautionary measures to overcome on the extremism. The violence in the name of religion showed the state's failure for not addressing the issues of misuse of blasphemy laws seriously. Sadly, the state never brought the perpetrators for the interest of justice. The Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement (CLAAS) is very much concern over the the present alarming and critical situation of religious intolerance, acts of injustices and violence against the Christians in Pakistan. If the prejudice and discriminatory behaviors remain continues in Pakistan that could be menace for the coming years and that lead for grave threats to the peace and security in Pakistan.

Recommendations

1. A fair and transparent investigation must be carried out as soon as possible in the interest of justice to ensure that the innocent Christians should not victimized, abused and harassed on their religious beliefs.
2. The government should arrest the real perpetrators and took stern actions against them and ensure the administration of justice.
3. The Punjab governments keeping in view previous incidents of mob brutality in fake blasphemy accusations and should take serious notice of this case, which is a clear example of the misuse of blasphemy law.
4. The state is responsible for protecting its citizens especially the non-Muslims citizens from malicious attacks from the majority settlements.
5. The government of Pakistan must launch a campaign through the media to raise awareness of the rights of the non-Muslim citizens of Pakistan.
6. The government must ensure that non-Muslim citizens are not exploit religiously, economically, politically or socially and there is need to campaign urging respect for all religions must be promoted at all levels.

5- Pastor Altaf Khan was attacked and severely beaten in Faisalabad

The Information

On Mr. M.A Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) was informed about a horrendous incident of the wickedness of fanatic Muslims against the Senior Pastor namely Dr. Altaf Khan (Acting Moderator Presbyterian Church of Pakistan & Founder Grace Foundation – Faisalabad). On March 03, 2012 CLAAS fact-finding team headed by Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) including Mr. Sohail Habel (Finance Manager CLAAS), Rev. Falek Sher (Senior Pastor) and John Paul (Supporting Staff CLAAS) visited the place of occurrence and note the following:

Family Background



Senior Pastor Dr. Altaf Khan aged 50 s/o renowned Pastor Rev. Rehmat Masih Late is a resident of House No P-1006, Maqsood Abad, Nawabanwala, Faisalabad-Punjab. Pastor Altaf Khan is a father of two children and he completed his seminary and doctorate from South Korea. At present Dr. Khan is working as Founder of Grace Ministry as well as serving as an Acting Moderator Presbyterian Church of Pakistan. Dr. Khan founded the Grace Ministry in 1987 and till date the Grace Ministry built 30 new churches and other religious institutions in Faisalabad-Punjab.

Background of the confrontation



According to Dr. Khan, his neighbored Saraj Masih Bhatti converted into Islam along with his wife and three sons namely Irshad Bhatti, Shamshad Bhatti and Kamran alias Kami. The family was known as drug dealer in the locality. The wife and children of his son Irshad Bhatti was working as housemaid at the house of Dr. Khan.

In June 2007 Saraj Masih Bhatti requested Dr. Khan and wished to sale his broken down house No P-380, Street No 06, measuring 11 Marlas (1 marla consisting on 272 square feet), Maqsood Abad-Faisalabad to him. The said property was adjacent at frontage of Dr. Khan's residence. In this connection the agreement of purchase of land was settled as PAK Rs. 24, 90, 000/- (2.5 million approximately) and on June 15, 2007 Mr. Khan gave PAK Rs. 7, 70000/- as advance amount while December 30, 2007 was decided pay back for the remaining amount of PAK Rs 17, 20, 000/-. Saraj Masih Bhatti after completing the formal documents gave the possession of the said property to Dr. Khan on June 15, 2007. But Irshad Masih (son of Saraj Masih) requested Dr. Khan to allow him to stay in one room of the said property till the construction. Later Dr. Khan allowed Irshad Masih to stay in one room till the re-construction of the said property.

The reason for allowing Irshad Masih to stay in said property because the wife and children of Irshad Masih was working as housemaid at the house of Dr. Khan. As it was decided that Dr. Khan will pay back the remaining amount till December 2007 but Saraj Masih Bhatti and his children namely Irshad Bhatti, Shamshad Bhatti and Kamran alias Kami gave some constraint reasons of helplessness and took PAK Rs. 100, 0000/- (1



million) and gave their undertaking on the affidavit of receiving the said amount. Later Mr. Khan repays the remaining amount in the presence of witnesses to Saraj Masih Bhatti on the promised date as December 30, 2007. But Saraj Masih did not transfer the registration of the land papers in the name of Dr. Khan on December 30, 2007. The possession of the said property was already with Dr. Khan. Saraj Masih requested and took some time for the completion of transfer of mutation of property

in favor of Dr. Altaf Khan. Instead of completing the said mutation Saraj and his newly converted Muslim sons became dishonest and with the help of Muslim criminal assailants dishonored the promise. The area Muslims were not happy because many Muslims converted into Christianity in the church of Dr. Altaf Khan. When Dr. Khan noticed about the dishonesty of Saraj and family he immediately consulted the honorable court for justice. Later in January 2008 the court decided the property case in favor of Dr. Altaf Khan and ordered Saraj Masih to implement the court order and transfer the mutation of the said property in favor of Dr. Khan. Afterwards the property case trial started and Saraj & his accomplice lingering the case and did not followed-up properly and always go before the case for next hearing.

Purpose to purchase the property

According to Dr. Khan, he wanted to expand his ministry and has planned to construct an orphanage as well as Pastoral Centre in the said piece of land.

The Incident

According to Dr. Altaf Khan while the property dispute was under court proceedings and on February 02, 2012 the court hearing was decided for the witnesses from the complainant side and the accused party was fully aware that after witnesses the case will be decided in favor of Dr. Khan. In a while the accused party took the next court hearing date as February 22, 2012. Unexpectedly, on February 18, 2012 in between 05:00 to 06:00 in the evening, the sons of Saraj namely Irshad, Shamshad and Kamran fully equipped with deadly weapons came at the said property and wanted to take hold of the property. After the timely intervention of Dr. Khan and his accompanying persons namely Kshahif and Rafiq the criminal assailants did not grab the property. The criminal assailants threatened Dr. Khan for life and warned for dire consequences and escaped from the scene.

The criminal assailants attacked on Dr. Khan's residence

Later on February 19, 2012 round about 12:45 (midnight) the accused Irshad, Shamshad, Kamran, Ashraf, Asif, Arooj alias Chanda (a lady) including seven other

criminals assailants fully equipped with deadly weapons, hard wooden sticks and with blunt weapons again wants to take hold of the property. The church security guard namely Sajid aged 36 and Boota Masih aged 40 strived them and after resistance Shamshad open fire arms on Sajid which resulted the sever injuries. The fire arm critically injured Sajid and he sustained injures at his arm and ribs and he was immediately shifted to the hospital for first-aid. While Boota Masih was critically inured with hard wooden stick and sustained injures at the upper part of his head and under ear. Secondly, Arooj alias Chanda (a lady) attacked on Boota Masih with hard wooden stick and injured his foot. Dr. Khan further added and said, following the noise of the fire arms the neighboring residents namely Pastor Afzal Masih, Ilyas and other residents gathered and saw that the criminal assailants opened fire arms in the air and terrorized the vicinity. Later the criminal assailants threatened Dr. Khan for life and warned for dire consequences and ran away from the place of occurrence.

Registration of false case FIR

After this inhuman act of violence the criminal assailants got registered false case FIR No 134/2012 offence under sections 452/354, 337/337 A-2, 337 H-2, 379, 337 A-1 and 148 K-8 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) at the police station Samnabad, Faisalabad against Dr. Altaf Khan, his son Arslan, Pervaiz, Nadeem, Kashi, Aslam, Rafiq, Haroon, Rooni, Goga, Aslam Masih, Ilyas, Newton, Ali (newly converted from Islam to Christianity), Irfan, Haji Boota, Anil, Shuneel and Waqas including 6 unknown accused persons. The complainant Irshad Masih in the FIR alleged that on February 18, 2012 the above stated persons attacked on his house maltreated the women and grab cash amount as well as mobile phones etc. While Dr. Khan was in the hospital to looks up the medical treatment of his critical injured fellows admitted in the hospital. Later Dr. Altaf Khan was informed about the registration of forged case FIR against him and others. On February 21, 2012 Dr. Khan put forward an application and for the registration of criminal case FIR against Irshad Masih etc and detailed the background of the confrontation. Later, the police registered second case FIR No 135/2012 offence under sections 324, 149 & 148 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) at the police station Samnabad, Faisalabad.

The reason of confrontation

Dr. Altaf Khan is well known Pastor in the vicinity as well as famous in whole Faisalabad too. According to the area residents many Muslims visiting Dr. Khan for prayers and many of them embraced Christianity. The area Muslims were not happy because many Muslims converted into Christianity in the church of Dr. Altaf Khan. According to Dr. Khan "I have discovered that some unknown Muslim residents are backing Saraj and his sons for this attack and insisting them against me. I noticed that some fanatic Muslims are jealous from my ministry and did not like my work because the ministry has lot of Churches and institutions in Faisalabad."

CLAAS Findings

The CLAAS team meeting many residents of the area and find the following:

1. Dr. Altaf Khan legally purchased the said property and has sale of deeds and other related agreements concerning with the property.
2. Dr. Khan is well known Pastor in the vicinity as well as famous in whole Faisalabad too.
3. Many Muslims visiting Dr. Khan for prayers and many of them embraced Christianity.
4. The area Muslims were not happy because many Muslims converted into Christianity in the church of Dr. Altaf Khan.
5. Some unknown Muslim residents pressed Saraj and his sons for confrontation against Dr. Khan.
6. The accused party with criminal attentions got registered a false case FIR against Dr. Kahn, his son and others belonging to his ministry.
7. The injured victims Sajid is out of danger but is under medical care while Boota Masih was discharged after few days.
8. Saraj and his sons are known as drug dealer in the locality and have connections with criminal groups.

Conclusion

Presently, the matter is under investigation but this incident shows that the culture of religious intolerance and hatred is increasing day by day in Pakistan. The Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement (CLAAS) is very much concern over the the present alarming and critical situation of religious intolerance, acts of injustices and violence in the name of religion against the Christians in Pakistan. If the prejudice and discriminatory behaviors remain continues in Pakistan that could be menace for the coming years and that lead for grave threats to the peace and security in Pakistan. Sadly, the law enforcement agencies are failed to protect the civilians.

8- Fact-Finding Report on Shamim Bibi Blasphemy Case Bahawalnagar

The Information

On February 02, 2012, M.A Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) was informed about an alleged incident of Blasphemy against Shamim Bibi, in District Bahawalnagar-Punjab. Keeping in view the warmth of the blasphemy matter on March 06, 2012 CLAAS fact-finding team headed by Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) including Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer CLAAS) and John Paul (Supporting Staff CLAAS) visited the place of occurrence and note the following:

Family Background



According to the details collected by CLAAS, Bashir Masih aged 40 s/o Dalip Masih, is a resident of Chak (village) 170/7R of Haroon Abad, Tehsil Fortabad, District Bahawalnagar-Punjab. Bashir Masih is a tenant by profession and married with Shamim Bibi (blasphemy victim) in 2010. Bashir Masih and Shamim Bibi blessed with a baby girl and at present the age of their daughter is three months. The other siblings in the family were as Rehmat Masih aged 45, a married and a father of a daughter Beela aged 18 and son Nadeem Masih aged 20 while his wife Bashiran Bibi died in 1998. Mushtaq Masih aged 42, Bashiran Bibi aged 38, Munir Masih aged 35 and Naziran Bibi aged 30. While his brother Nazir Masih embraced Islam some 25 years before at the age of 16 and was given Muslim name as Faiz ul Rasool. The family members are farm laborer and earning their bread and butter from the cultivation.

The Chak (village) 170/7R



The Chak (village) 170/7R is a rural community of Haroonabad and of Bahawalnagar District and situated on the Indo-Pak border since before the independence of Pakistan. The village has a very hot and dry climate in summer and the district Bahawalnagar is one of the hottest areas in the country. The village is approximately over 500 kilometer far from the Capital City Islamabad and located on the East side of the Province of Punjab. The 95% populations of the village is Muslim and are landlords while only 16 Christian families are living in the village. The Christian residents are poor and are working as tenants or farm laborers for the village landlords and the landlords cultivating wheat, cotton and rice. The literacy rate in the village is high in the Muslim population while only 4 Christian boys are studying. The relations between Christian and Muslims are cordial. According to Asharf Masih, the Christians residing in the village are poor and the financial deprived situation is a big cause for their conversion into Islam because after conversion they got everything they need.

Context of false Blasphemy accusations against Shamim Bibi



According to Bashir Masih, some 25 years before his younger brother Nazir Masih embraced Islam at the age of 16 and was given a Muslim name as Faiz ul Rasool. While recently on February 24, 2012 his sister Naziran Bibi aged 30 along with his niece Beela Rehmat d/o Rehmat Masih aged 18 and nephew Nadeem Masih s/o Rehmat Masih aged 20 embraced Islam. After conversion Naziran Bibi got so many profits and also Naziran was offered so many handsome

packages, that if she could convince the other Christian family members to embrace Islam. After conversion Naziran Bibi time and again visited her Christian family and also wanted to convert the whole family into Islam and in this connection Naziran Bibi many times enforced Shamim to embrace Islam. Shamim Bibi refused to embrace Islam while after this denial Naziran Bibi became infuriated and wanted to give her a lesson. Afterwards, Naziran Bibi geared up the neighbor of Shamim Bibi namely Hamad Ahmad s/o Mushtaq Ahmed Hashmi for implicating Shamim Bibi in blasphemy accusations. According to one of the relatives of Shamim Bibi that Hamad Ahmed deceitfully glossed a plan to implicate Shamim Bibi in a false blasphemy case and forged an alleged

incident of blasphemy. In this photo the relative of Shamim Bibi is showing the wall and pointed out that Hamad Ahmed based this wall and alleged to hear the insulting remarks in respect of Prophet Muhammad. After finalizing their false-hearted plan Hamad Ahmed lie down his bogus story of blasphemy with Syed Azhar Ali Shah (the prayer leader of the village mosque) and said that he is living in neighbor of Shamim Bibi and was near the wall and heard that Shamim Bibi was insulting Prophet



Muhammad loudly. Hamad Ahmed narrated the false story of blasphemy against Shamim Bibi and assured the prayer leader that the tone of voice he heard behind wall was of Shamim Bibi. The prayer leader without verifying the alleged incident of blasphemy trusted Hamad Ahmed and held responsible Shamim Bibi for passing derogatory remarks against the respect of Prophet Muhammad.

Registration of Blasphemy Case FIR

According to Bashir Masih on February 27, 2012 Syed Azhar Ali Shah (prayer leader of the village mosque) lodged an application in the police station Khechiwala for the registration of blasphemy case FIR against his wife Shamim Bibi for passing derogatory remarks against the respect of Prophet Muhammad and hurting religious sentiments of

the Muslims. According to the case application Syed Azhar Ali Shah (prayer leader of the village mosque) blamed Shamim Bibi for passing derogatory remarks loudly against Prophet Muhammad in the corridor of her house. He also blamed Shamim Bibi and pointed out in his application that she committed the blasphemy for settling of scores because her family members embraced Islam and for that reason she insulted Prophet Muhammad. Later, a case FIR No 30/2012 offence under section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) registered against Shamim Bibi at the police station Khechiwala, Bahawalnagar. The same day Shamim Bibi was arrested while she was totally unaware from the blasphemy allegations. The concerned police inspector completed the investigation and later sent her in the District Jail Bahawalnagar. CLAAS has experienced in the previous registered blasphemy cases that the sub-inspector level police officers complete the blasphemy investigation. Whereas the blasphemy laws had made it compulsory that no police officer below the rank of Superintendent of Police can investigate the blasphemy offences.

CLAAS Team joins the Investigation

Later, Dr. Kanwal Senior Pastor and former District Councilor lodged an application before the (DPO) District Police Officer Bahawalnagar against the alleged incident of blasphemy as well as for re-investigation of the blasphemy allegations. The DPO Bahawalnagar marked the matter to the SSP Investigation. On March 06, 2012 Mr. Mian Irfan (Senior Superintendent of Police Investigation Bahawalnagar) visited Shamim Bibi in the District Jail Bahawalnagar and interrogates about the alleged incident of blasphemy as well as visited at the so-called place of occurrence. The same day Mr. Mian Irfan (Senior Superintendent of Police Investigation Bahawalnagar) summoned both parties for re-investigation and the CLAAS fact-finding team also joined the investigation. Over two dozens adherent from both sides were present for the investigation and Syed Azhar Ali Shah (prayer leader of the village mosque) recorded his statement from the complainant side. Syed Azhar Ali Shah informed the SSP that Hamad Ahmed came to him and told about the blasphemy incident. Syed Azhar Ali also added that Hamad Ahmed did not saw Shamim for disrespecting Prophet Muhammad he only heard the sound of voice behind the wall. Whereas Dr. Kanwal recorded his statement from the victim said and informed the SSP investigation that there is no incident of blasphemy took place in the village and the blasphemy allegations are totally false. Dr. Kanwal further added that the Christians cannot think to deliver derogatory remarks in respect of Prophet Muhammad. After hearing both parties the SSP Investigation found that Hamad Ahmed was pressurized by the religious leaders who gave him the oath of the Holy Quran for keeping the blasphemy allegations against Shamim Bibi. Later the SSP Investigation advised the complainant party for not to pressurize Hamad Ahmed and direct the religious leaders to look over the matter into according to the injunctions of Islam. It is worthy to mention here that according to the injunctions of Islam one witness is not enough for blaming any one in such cases. Afterwards the SSP Investigation postponed the investigation for March 10, 2012 and directed that for next investigation will be in the police station Khechiwala.

CLAAS recorded the following Statements of the village inhabitants

1-Abdul Karim Khan

According to Abdul Karim aged 60 said, "I am a landlord and have cultivation land in the village and knowing the Christian residents since last forty years. The Christians are poor and working as peasants in the village lands. I am astonished that the person blaming Shamim Bibi never ever went to the mosque for prayer OR never attends any religious ceremony. According to my belief Islam is a religion of peace and I can give my guarantee that the blasphemy allegations are totally false and biased and according to the injunctions of Islam one witness is not sufficient to hold responsible to any person for blasphemy."

2-Bashir Masih

Bashir Masih aged 45 s/o Dalip Masih said "I am a tenant and took small piece of land on lease in the village for cultivation. I was married with Shamim Bibi in 2010. We blessed with a baby girl namely Naila aged 03 months at present. My sister namely Naziran Bibi aged 30 embraced Islam in February 2012 and also converted the two children of my elder brother as his daughter Beela Rehmat aged 18 and son Nadeem Masih aged 20 in the same month while my family was busy for preparation of marriage of Naziran, the newly converted.

After conversion Naziran time and again visited home to look at her dowry articles which were prepared for her marriage. Few days before the blasphemy allegations Naziran visited home and enforced my wife to embrace Islam. My wife refused to embrace Islam. Naziran was annoyed with Shamim Bibi and she lends a hand with my neighbored Hamad Ahmed for implicating my wife in the false case of blasphemy.

3-Ashraf Masih

Ashraf Masih aged 40 said "I am resident of the village by birth and working as mason and surprised over the blasphemy allegations as well as on the situation of religious intolerance in the country and Shamim Bibi is innocent."

4-Patras Masih

Patras Masih aged 35 said "Shamim Bibi was falsely blamed for disrespecting of Prophet Muhammad. We are living in the village since the creation of Pakistan and no one among the Christians can do such a heinous crime against any religion."

5-Muslim eyewitnesses

The CLAAS team also meeting with the Muslim villagers, who requested for not mention their names in the report but shared their concerns over the false blasphemy allegations against Shamim Bibi. They informed the CLAAS team that the Christian residents are poor and working for them as farm laborer. The Christians of the village are peace loving and never alleged for disrespecting our religion and belief. The so-called religious leaders are promoting hatred in the village.

March 10, 2012 investigation in the Police Station Khechiwala

On March 10, 2012 Bashir Masih (husband of victim Shamim Bibi) informed the CLAAS office about the details of the re-investigation called by the SSP Investigation at police station Khechiwala. According to Bashir Masih the SSP Investigation recorded the statements of the Christian and Muslim villagers. The SSP also noticed that according to the injunctions of Islam one witness is not enough for blaming any one for blasphemy but the police entered the name of second witness in the FIR (first information report) illegally. Later the SSP summarized the investigation and gave times to the complainant party and advised them to take up the matter in the village council and report back to him as soon as possible.

Finding/Observations

1. The blasphemy allegations against Shamim Bibi victim of blasphemy were blamed fallaciously while she has not any connection with the alleged incident of blasphemy.
2. The sub-inspector level police officers completed the blasphemy investigation. Whereas the blasphemy laws had made it compulsory that no police officer below the rank of Superintendent of Police can investigate the blasphemy offences.
3. Hamad Ahmed was pressurized by the religious leaders who gave him the oath of the Holy Quran for keeping the blasphemy allegations against Shamim Bibi.
4. According to the injunctions of Islam one witness is not sufficient to hold responsible to any person for blasphemy.
5. The CLAAS team observed that the police entered the name of second witness in the FIR (first information report) by themselves illegally.

Note: The CLAAS office constantly keeping in touch with the victim family and looking forward the matter enthusiastically and recorded the above narrated facts till date. We assure you that we will keep up-date accordingly.

9- Sonia Iram, A Christian girl forcedly converted into Islam & married under Islamic Law

The Information

On April 04, 2012 Ghafoor Masih aged 40 S/o Saraj Masih, a Christian by faith and resident of Theng Chak No. 07, Kothi Wala, Tehcile Pattoki, District Kasur approached CLAAS office for legal aid assistance in kidnapping of his daughter Sonia Erum, who kidnapped on March 31, 2012 by the accused Amir Rafiq, a resident next to Ghafoor Masih. He also shared about the registration of criminal case FIR dated 03-04-2012 against him and relatives namely Bashir Masih, Anwar Masih, Nazir Masih and some other unknown Christians etc at the police station Saddar Pattoki. On the same afternoon a CLAAS team including victim Ghafoor Masih, head by Mr. Nadeem Anthony

Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) including Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer CLLAS) and Mr. John Paul (Support Staff CLAAS) visited at the police station Saddar Pattoki Kasur as well as meeting with the victim family and note the following:

Family Background

Ghafoor Masih was married with Khursheed Bibi in 1993 and the family blessed with five children at present namely Sonia Erum aged 17, Ajab Gull aged 15, Shan aged 12, Hammad aged 10 and Rizwan aged 05. Ghafoor Masih is a donkey cart rider and working as day laborer in Saddar Bazar Pattoki while Khursheed Bibi is a house wife. The victim family is living in the village since last 40 years and is law abiding citizens of Pakistan. Their paternal and maternal relatives are residing in surroundings streets of the village.

The Village and financial condition of Christians

The village Chak No. 07, Mauza Theng, Tehsil Pattoki, District Kasur is an old village and settled here since before the Indo-Pak partition and at present around 700 hundred Muslim families are residing in the village while on 70 Christian families are residing among 700 Muslims inhabitants. The Muslims residents are landlords, cultivators and has big amount of cultivation land. Whereas the Christians are poor and working as day laborer in the area and some are working as agricultural laborer for Muslim landlords. The literacy rate in village is not much from the Muslim residents and only 08 (eight) children of the Christian families are studying. Due to very low rate of literacy rate the Christians are considered to be ill-mannered, uneducated and treated as less human.

An incident of confrontation & impoliteness in the village in 2004

According to Ghafoor Masih, a scuffle took place between Christians and Muslim residents of the village in 2004. The quarrel started when relatives of Dawood Khan (a rich landlord & ex-councilor) were playing cricket in the village and near the village Church. The cricket ball time and again crossed into the church compound which created very much disturbance for pastor Barkat, pastor in-charge and his wife Lavisia Bibi. The pastor in-charge many times requested them for not to disturb them but the Muslim boys took it as joke and kept continues playing cricket. Afterwards, the Muslim boys got annoyed and inhumanly gave cruel beatings to pastor Barkat and his wife Lavisia for stopping them to playing cricket near the village church. The wife of Pastor Barkat, got critical injuries and when Christians villagers namely the families of Ghafoor Masih, Bashir Masih, Anwar Masih and Nazir Masih and others they immediately rushed towards village church and rescued Pastor Barkat and his wife. Later, after exchange of hot blows a fight took place between Christians and relatives of Dawood Khan and the battle resulted sever injuries both sides. Afterwards, the matter was closed after compromise but a rivalry started between both parties while Dawood Khan was much annoyed with Christian families of Ghafoor Masih, Bashir Masih, Anwar Masih and Nazir Masih and took abhorrence in his heart and wanted to take revenge from Christians.

Incident of Kidnapping of Sonia Erum

Sonia Erum aged 17 D/o Ghafoor Masih appeared in an examination of class 9th in board of education. On April 31, 12 the day of the incident, Sonia along with her classmates went to the school to look at their examination results. After, taking their

results the girls' students including Sonia were on the way to home and were near to Sharif Nursery (plant sales outlet) and a white car coming from the village side stopped near the girls. Accused Amir Rafiq, (a resident of neighboring village but at the time of kidnapping was living with his uncle Abdul Rasheed, a resident next to Ghafoor Masih) all of sudden along with two unknown assailants came out from the car and put a pistol on the forehead of Sonia Erum and threatened for life and enforced her to sit in the car without making a noise. Victim Sonia acted accordingly and the criminal assailants immediately escaped from the place of occurrence. The fellow students identified the accused persons and started shouting "help" "help" and later narrated the whole story of kidnapping of Sonia Erum to Rasheed Masih and Emmanuel Masih who were working in the Sharif Nursery (plant sales outlet) as well as informed about the occurrence of kidnapping in the village. The aggrieved family of Sonia contacted with Rafiq, father of accused Amir and his uncle Latif, who assured them for the safe return of kidnapped Sonia and promised that they will fulfill their word. Rafiq and Latif requested the aggrieved family for not to register a case FIR or other legal proceedings against the accused persons and the victim family trusted on them and did not involve police in the matter. Later, their rival Dawood Khan, taking the advantage of his old enmity against Ghafoor Masih and other Christians get inside the matter and informed the victim family that Sonia is in the illegal custody of accused Amir etc and assured the victim family that he will help for the safe return of Sonia till the 1st April, 2012 and later extended his promise till the next morning.

Registration of Case FIR against victim family

Instead of the safe return of kidnapped Sonia, Dawood Khan cunningly advised Rafiq and Latif for the false case FIR against those Christian who were his enemies namely Ghafoor Masih, Bashir Masih, Dr. Anwar Masih, Nazir Masih and some other Christian villagers. In this connection Dawood Khan deceitfully gathered the village landlords and made a forged plan of registration of criminal case FIR against Christians and decided that the complainant of the case FIR will be Abdul Rasheed, (the resident of next to Ghafoor Masih and uncle of accused Amir). On April 02, 2012 in the evening Abdul Rasheed got registered a criminal case FIR No. 158/12 offence under section 452/354, 342/337 & 148/149 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) against Ghafoor Masih, Bashir Masih, Dr. Anwar Masih, Nazir Masih and some unknown persons at the police station Pattoki. The complainant falsely alleged in the FIR (First Information Report) that the nominated Christian accused persons on 02-04-2012 in the afternoon of illegally abducted his two daughters namely Shakeela Bibi & Nabeela Bibi and confined them for several hours. The complainant also falsely alleged that the Christian accused persons humiliate his daughters in the village and tortured.

The aggrieved family got registered a Kidnapping Case FIR

While the aggrieved family was waiting for the return of Sonia but the accused persons instead of homecoming of Sonia got registered a criminal case FIR against the victim family. It was painful for the victim family that when the victim family went to the police station for the registration of case FIR against the accused persons but the police used delay tactics but and refused to register case FIR but later in the same evening of April 02, 2012 the police registered a case FIR No. 159/2012 offence under section 365-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) on the complaint of Dr. Anwar Masih (Uncle of abducted Sonia) against accused Amir and other unknown criminal assailants at the police station Saddar Pattoki. It was also discovered that the police join hands with the accused

persons and till date the police did not charge or arrest the nominated accused and other unknown criminal assailants.

The unfair and prejudice role of the Police

The police did not bother to start their investigation against the accused persons for kidnapping of victim Sonia as well as never raided for the arrest of accused Amir and other criminal assailants. Whereas the police unjustly started investigation and severally raided against alleged Christian accused persons. The aggrieved family also informed that the police was influenced by the Muslim landlords of the village and the surrounding villages who took the matter as on their honor.

Legal Aid Assistance by CLAAS

Firstly, on April 04, 2012 CLAAS visited at the police station Saddar Pattoki Kasur and meeting with Mr. Azeem U Din the concerned investigation officer of the case FIR and later met with SHO Mr. Haji Muhammad Akram (Station House Office, police station Saddar Pattoki Kasur). The CLAAS team urged the police officers for fair investigation and explained about the false case FIR registered against the Christians'. The officer in-charge assured the CLAAS team for transparent investigation and guaranteed for justice.

Secondly, on April 17, 2012 CLAAS filed pre-arrest bail application in the court on behalf of Ghafoor Masih, Bashir Masih, Dr. Anwar Masih, and Nazir Masih through Mr. Akhtar Masih Sandhu Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS). On April 20, 2012 the honorable court accepted their ad-interim bail till April 28, 2012 and on the said date the honorable court was informed about a compromise took place between the parties and the pre-arrest bail of Christians was extended till May 07, 2012.

Aggrieved family visited CLAAS office (May 07, 2012)

On May 07, 2012 the complainant Abdul Rasheed and his daughters namely Shakeela Bibi and Nabeela Bibi submitted an affidavit of compromise in the honorable court of Mr. Zafar Hussain Bhatti (Additional & Sessions Judge, Pattoki) for the confirmation of bails of Ghafoor Masih, Bashir Masih, Dr. Anwar Masih and Nazir Masih. After court hearing the aggrieved family including Khursheed Bibi, Ghafoor Masih, Bashir Masih, Dr. Anwar Masih and Nazir Masih visited CLAAS office and disclosed the following terms and conditions imposed on them:

Unjustified & Partial Compromise took place in the village court (Punchayat)

The aggrieved Christian requested for compromise in the case FIR No. 158/12 offence under section 452/354, 342/337 & 148/149 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) allegedly registered against Ghafoor Masih, Bashir Masih, Dr. Anwar Masih, Nazir Masih and some unknown persons. In this connection the dispute taken up in the village court (Punchayat) and the Muslim landlords prejudicially and discriminatorily decided that the compromise will be based on the following:

Prejudice Terms of Compromise

- 1- Firstly, the complainant Abdul Rasheed expensed Pak Rs. 70,000/- (US\$ 770 approximately) on the case FIR No and other court case expenses and the Christians nominated in the case FIR punished to pay the expensed amount to the complainant Abdul Rasheed.
- 2- Secondly, the landlords unfairly decided that Dr. Anwar Shahzad and others unknown who identified namely as Emmanuel and Iqbal will right away leave the village and stay away from the village for five years and if the said Christians will not obey the terms of compromise it will be considered as violations of the compromise and the violators will be punished accordingly.
- 3- Thirdly, the Christian girl Sonia Erum has been converted into Islam and she is a Muslim and from now the Christian parents have no concern with Sonia and should stay away from her.
- 4- Fourthly, Sonia Erum married with Amir under Islamic rites and will stay with her Muslim husband and will come back in the village after two years for stay.

Discriminations

1. The landlords unfairly did not take-up the matter of kidnapping of Sonia in the village court (Punchayat) and only punished the Christians in a false case FIR.
2. The Muslim landlords also showed off their authority and were narrow-minded because they unfairly refused the homecoming of my daughter.
3. The village landlords falsely created tense situation between Christians & Muslims residents of the village.
4. Keeping in view the overwrought situation in the village many Christian families flee from the village for some safe places because the Muslim boys intended to attack on Christians.

Non availability of the copy of compromise

When CLAAS team asked the victim family to show off the copy of the compromise but the victim family informed CLAAS office that the Muslim landlords has not shown them the copy of compromise. The landlords only took thumb impressions and signatures on the blank paper.

Testimonies of Christian Victims

1-Khursheed Bibi

The mother of kidnapped Sonia said “I am mother of five children and Sonia is my eldest daughter among four sons. After kidnapping of Sonia my family has been spread out because she was the only Christian girl in the family as well as in the village who reached at level of secondary schooling. I am missing my daughter very much and disturbed after her kidnapping. My all relatives and Christian villagers are annoyed with

my family and blaming us that all tension was happened in the village because of my daughter. My relatives nominated in the case FIR held responsible my family to bear whole expenses arises in the whole case proceedings etc and we are spending till date. In this connection we have sailed out our donkey cart and other households as well as took huge loan amount from my relatives and at present I am worried that how we may return back the loan amount. Presently, I am worried about the day to day living of my children because we have already sailed out our donkey cart which was the main source of our income. The accused persons kidnapped my daughter for the purpose of forced conversion into Islam and forced marriage. The village landlords unfairly imposed bindings on my family and refused the homecoming of my beloved daughter. I have no words to explain that how much difficulties I am facing in the village. I have lost my daughter but the fellow villagers notwithstanding are against my family and exaggerating different discourses on the character of my daughter. No one is talking on the homecoming of my daughter and only is criticizing which is out of mind and injustice against my family.”

2-Ghafoor Masih

Ghafoor Masih, the father of kidnapped Sonia Erum said “She is the only daughter in my family and was kidnapped while she was on her way back from school. I lost my beloved daughter and the landlords did not talk on the homecoming of Sonia. I contacted with Rafiq, father of accused Amir and his uncle Latif, who assured me for the safe return of my daughter and also promised that they will fulfill their word. I wants to submit an application in the police station for the registration of case FIR against the kidnapers but Rafiq and Latif requested me for not to register a case FIR or other legal proceedings against the accused persons and I trusted on them and did not involve the police in the matter of kidnapping.

Later, Dawood Khan (a land lord) informed me about the whereabouts of my daughter which was in the illegal custody of accused Amir. He was also informed that she was converted into Islam and married under Islamic rites with accused Amir S/o Rafiq. Afterwards, Dawood Khan also assured me that he will help for the safe return of my daughter till the 1st April, 2012 but extended his promise till the next morning. I was waiting for the return of my daughter and instead of homecoming of my daughter the landlords collectively got registered a false criminal case FIR against me, my younger brother Dr. Anwar Shahzad, other relatives namely Bashir Masih & Nazir Masih and also involved two other relatives identified as Iqbal and Emmanuel etc. It was painful for me and when I went to the police station for the registration of kidnapping case FIR against the accused persons but the police used delay tactics and refused to register the case FIR but later in the same evening of April 02, 2012 the police registered a case FIR No. 159/2012 offence under section 365-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) on the complaint of my younger brother Dr. Anwar Masih against the accused Amir and other unknown criminal assailants at the police station Saddar Pattoki. It was also discovered that the police join hands with the accused persons and till date the police did not arrest the nominated accused and other unknown criminal assailants.

My relatives nominated in the case FIR are annoyed and held responsible me and my daughter for the registration of case FIR against them. They are also blaming that the Christians in the village are suffering by my family. The Christians nominated in the case FIR asked me to disburse the whole expenses arises in the legal proceedings and on other matters including traveling, food, court expenses as well as the fine amount of Pak

Rs. 70,000/- (US\$ 770 approximately). I am a poor man and working as day laborer and during the legal action of the police I was living as hiding and obviously it takes so much finance and till date I have spent Pak Rs 300,000/- (three hundred thousand Or US\$ 3300 approximately). I have sailed out my donkey cart and other households as well as took huge loan amount from my relatives & friends and at present I am worried that how I will return back the loan amount. I am a Christian and the Muslim landlords extremely dislike the Christians of the village. The Muslim landlords involved us in a false case and we did not give our arrest voluntarily and absconded. The Muslim landlords considered us to be ill-mannered, uneducated and treating us as less human being and unfairly did not return my daughter.”

3-Dr. Anwar Shahzad

According to Dr. Anwar “I am not agreed with the village court (Punchayat) decision because the pronouncement is biased and one sided. I studied Diploma in Homeopathic Medical System (DHMS) and I am qualified homeopathic doctor and established a private clinic in the village since last three years and the moment I have to acquire so much money from villagers. If I will be send away from the village this will cause financial and social loss for me. During, legal action of the police I was living as hiding and obviously it takes so much finance and near about I spent Pak Rs 80,000/- (US\$ 880 approximately) as well as my shop is closed since last two months. I am a poor man and not able to re-establish new clinic or impossible for me to quickly start another business.”

4-Bashir Masih

Bashir Masih said “I am a small farmer and harvesting a piece of land in the village. I stayed away from the land for many days and this litigation gave me huge loss. I am not agreed with the decisions of the landlords which are one sided and biased. The decision will promote much hatred among the Muslim & Christian villagers. The landlords are biased against the Christian villagers and collectively proposed prejudice conditions of compromise against the Christians.”

5-Nazir Masih

Nazir Masih said “I am working as agricultural laborer for a landlord namely Sher Muhammad Mao. I was falsely implicated in the case FIR because according to the time of occurrence mentioned in the case FIR and at that time I was working on agricultural farm of Sher Muhammad Mao and I have the witnesses that the case FIR is false. The village landlords are biased and cunningly enforced us to obey unfair conditions of the one sided compromise. The Christians in the village are poor and mostly working as day laborer. The conditions of the compromise are clear cut human rights violations against the Christian villagers.”

Up-dates after compromise

On May 15, 2012 Ghafoor Masih and his wife Khursheed Bibi informed CLAAS office about the paying of Pak Rs. 20,000/- (US\$ 220 approximately) out of Rs. 70,000/- (Seventy thousand rupees). The aggrieved family also informed that they have requested some more time for the remaining amount and the landlord gave them some more time to arrange the remaining amount. The depressing parent of Sonia also informed that they are trying for the comeback of Christians who were punished to stay away from the village for five years.

CLAAS Finding / Observations

1. The Christian inhabitants directly became the victim of prejudice and injustices.
2. Sonia Erum was kidnapped for the purpose of forced conversion into Islam as well as forced marriage.
3. The Muslim landlords took advantage of old enmity against Christians and deceitfully developed an unfair agreement of compromise as well as got registered a false case FIR against Christians.
4. The terms of compromise were biased and inequitable.
5. The registration of criminal case FIR against Christians was false and preplanned.
6. The police was influenced by the Muslim landlords because the behavior of the police was very much cooperative towards the accused persons and the circumstances clearly indicate that the police join hands with the landlords.
7. The police did not investigate the matter of kidnapping of Sonia Erum on merit and the investigation officer did not arrest the accused persons as well as not get any evidence against the accused persons.
8. At present the depressing parent of kidnapped Sonia Erum are under pressure by the fellow Christians who held responsible them for the registration of case FIR against Christians.
9. The poor parent lost their beloved daughter but the Muslim landlords unfairly did not take-up the matter of kidnapping of Sonia in the village court (Punchayat) and only punished the Christians in a false case FIR.
10. The depressing parent sailed out donkey cart, other households as well took loan and approximately spent Pak Rs 300,000/- (Three hundred thousand Or US\$ 3300 approximately) till date on legal proceedings, traveling, food, court expenses as well as the fine amount of Pak Rs. 70,000/- US\$ 770 approximately).

Conclusion

The Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement (CLAAS) is very much concern over the the present alarming and critical situation of religious intolerance, acts of injustices and violence in the name of religion against the Christians in Pakistan. The CLAAS team come-up on the conclusion on this depressing incident of kidnapping of a Christian girl as well as are astonished on the "Prejudice Terms of Compromise". The ill-treatment and hatred is visible in the incident and more importantly the silent role of the police is very much questionable. The aggrieved family is totally disagreed with the terms and

conditions of the compromise but without fulfilling the conditions they cannot live in the village. If the prejudice and discriminatory behaviors remain continues in Pakistan that will create hatred and violence in the name of religion. Presently, the matter is under the terms of compromise and till date the aggrieved family paid Pak Rs. 20,000/- (US\$ 220 approximately) of fine amount out of Rs. 70,000/- (Seventy thousand rupees). The aggrieved family also trying hard and requesting the Muslim landlords for the comeback of Christians who were punishes to stay away from the village for five years. Finally, this incident shows that the culture of religious intolerance and hatred is increasing day by day in Pakistan.

10- Ijaz Masih murder by Muslim friends in Manawala, District Nankana Sahib

Mr. Sohail Masih S/o Sadiq Masih aged 30, resident of Mohallah Chaurigran, Faisal Town, Manawala, District Sheikhpura and Pastor Inderyaas (The area pastor) on April 17, 2012 approached CLAAS office and informed about a cold-blooded murder of his elder brother Ijaz Masih. According to Sohail Masih, his elder Ijaz Masih aged 35 married with Razia Bibi in 1996 and the family blessed with five children at present namely as Azeem aged 12, Tauqeer aged 10, Sohail aged 08, Sumbal aged 04 and Sahil aged one and half year. Ijaz Masih was working as property dealer and sometimes do work as salesman in the business of sale and purchase of horse and cattle's (buffalos). He was earning handsome amount and also has good relations with Muslims residents of the locality. Ijaz Masih has loving affairs with a Muslim namely Safia Bibi, resident of the neighboring village Faisal Town, Manawala. Ijaz Masih spent thousands of rupees on different matters of Safia's family including the marriages of her children as well as helped in the release of her brothers namely Abbas, Ishfaq, Rashid and Asif from the prison. Safia and her brothers assured Ijaz Masih for the return of his amount. Two months ago the deceased Ijaz Masih gets some loss in his business and asked some money from Safia and her brothers for the standing-up of his business. But instead of helping Ijaz Masih, the accused Safia and her brothers quarreled with him and refused to pay back the requested amount. Ijaz Masih, tolerated and forgets the matter and again drawn in his business. On March 15, 2012 two days before the murder incident, Zahid (son of accused Safia Bibi) quarreled with Ijaz Masih over old enmity and during scuffle both got small injuries. Safia and her brothers did not tolerate and turned out to be violent against Ijaz Masih and wanted to give him a lesson.

On March 17, 2012 Ijaz Masih along with his sick younger brother named Shahzad Masih went to Lahore for his medical check-up and on the same day near around 02:00pm (afternoon) both reached at home. After few seconds Safia and her son Zahid entered at their place and Safia starting arguing with Ijaz in context of the quarrel which took place between Ijaz & Zahid. Obviously, exchanged of hot words passed between Safia, Zahid and Ijaz Masih but later the matter was solved. The brothers of Ijaz Masih namely Irshad Masih, Sohail Masih, Shahzad Masih and their brother-in-law Samson Masih who were present on the spot solved the matter. According to Shahzad Masih while the matter was under discussion and near about 03:30pm Safia's brother namely Abbas, Ishfaq, Rashid and Asif also joined them and deceitfully started discouraging their nephew Zahid for quarreling with Ijaz Masih and cunningly butter-up Ijaz Masih to forget the quarrel. In a while the family of Ijaz Masih, served them tea etc. Unexpectedly,

around 04:30pm Safia, Abbas, Ishfaq, Rashid and Asif offered Ijaz Masih to join them to proceed at their Dera (small camp for storage of grass, animals and some sort of sitting place) for discussing on other matters etc. Ijaz Masih without any suspicions went along with them while Safia escorted with Ijaz on his motorbike. According to Shahzad Masih after one hour he made a phone call at the cell phone of his brother but Ijaz Masih did not attend the phone call. The situation became doubtful for the family but Shahzad continuing gave him phone calls and finally Safia attended the phone and informed that Ijaz Masih caught-up in an accident and her brothers took him in the hospital for medical checkup. Later, the family rushed to the hospital and found the dead body of Ijaz Masih. According to the medical examination of the dead body it was established that Ijaz Masih was killed because the cause of death was exposed as asphyxiate. Sohail Masih and Pastor Inderyaas also claimed that the investigation officer is backing the Muslim accused party and did not contacting them.

Concerning with the matter of discriminations on April 23, 2012, A CLAAS including Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS), Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer CLAAS) along with relatives of the deceased Ijaz Masih including Shehzad Masih, Sohail Masih, Mian Shabir Hussain, Muhammad Ali, Pastor Inderyaas, Amos Masih, Pastor Chand, Muhammad Shahzad and Haji Nazir meeting with Dr. Haider Ashraf DPO (District Police Officer) Sheikhupura on the brutal murder of Ijaz Masih. The CLAAS team expressed grief concerns over the delaying tactics of unfair investigation of the murder of Ijaz Masih conducting by Murtza Virk (Investigation Officer) police station Manawala. The CLAAS team gave brief details of the murder of Ijaz Masih as well as revealed on the DPO that the investigation officer is providing VIP protocol to the accused persons as well as not cooperating with the Christian complainants. The DPO assured the CLAAS team and the aggrieved family of the deceased Ijaz Masih for transparent investigation of the said murder incident through Mr. Makhdoom Qaisar Bashir SSP-Investigation (Senior Superintendent of Police) Sheikhupura and guaranteed that justice will be done.

On April 26, 2012 the Mr. Makhdoom Qaisar Bashir SSP-Investigation (Senior Superintendent of Police) Sheikhupura summoned the accused and complainant parties as well as the investigation officer Murtza Virk for the case up-dates. A CLAAS including Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS), Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer CLAAS) and Mr. Basharat (Support Staff CLAAS) attended the proceedings. The SSP-Investigation heard the claim of the complainant as well as of the relatives of the accused party. Later the investigation officer also shared the facts of his investigation and turned the murder incident into accident. The concerned SSP-Investigation after hearing both parties as well as to the investigation summoned to the SHO (Station House Officer), nominated accused Safia Bibi, and others related to the murder case to appear before him for investigation. In a while the SSP-Investigation assured the distressed family of deceased Ijaz Masih and the CLAAS team for fair investigation and took up the responsibility to monitor the investigation.

11- Fact-Finding Report in Blasphemy case against Sajid Masih alias Saji

Mr. M. A. Joseph Francis MBE, National Director CLAAS was informed about a case of blasphemy registered against a young Christian Sajid Masih alias Saji aged 23 years, a resident of a village Saddiquabad, Farooqabad district Sheikhupura. Mr. Francis took the matter seriously and assigned a fact-finding team consisted on Mr. Nadeem Anthony

Advocate Research Officer, Mr. Asher Sarfraz Field Officer, Ms. Huma Lucas Assistant Field Officer and Mr. John Paul Driver. The team went to Farooqabad visited the occurrence place on 23rd May 2012. Sajid was arrested by the police and sent to the prison, his family of Sajid Masih left to the safe place because of the threat to kill them at the spot therefore CLAAS team met Sajid's paternal relatives George Masih, Manzoor Masih, Allah Ditta and others in locality and find the following.

The town and the state of Christians

Farooqabad is a city of Sheikhpura District located on Sargodha Road. Saddiquabad is adjacent to Farooqabad city. There were about 60 Christian families lived among 400 Muslim families. The Muslims were land owners and do cultivation in the field for all season's crops whereas the Christians were employed as machinists, masons and transporters etc beside that few of them were Pastors. Literacy rate among the Christians was 100% not only due to traditional role of Christians in teaching institutions but they were keen interested to send their children to school to get education.

Family Background of Sajid Masih

Allah Ditta (real uncle of Sajid Masih) informed CLAAS team that they are the residents of Saddiquabad, Farooqabad since 1986, their father's name was Nanak Masih and they were three brothers Manzoor Masih, George Masih and he himself. Anayat got married to Rasheedan Bibi in 1982 and blessed with six children named Najma aged 28, Tahir Masih aged 26, Nussrat 24, Sajid alias Saji 23, Sonia 20 and Asher John 17 and all these children were educated. Anayat Masih was a vendor. He collected scrapped items waste paper; plastics etc on cheap rates and sell out in the market on high rates.

George Masih stated that he was informed about the alleged incident of blasphemy (setting a box on fire) and that the villagers held his nephew Sajid responsible for it. He went to the spot and noticed that Muslims of were gathered there and chanting slogans against my nephew and other Christians that they will burn the Christian houses and they will kill Sajid at the spot. On the other hand, the area Muslims staged protest a demonstration over the alleged incident of blasphemy. Later these Muslim protesters seized the City Police Station of Farooqabad and demanded that an FIR be registered against Sajid under the blasphemy law. He immediately approached the local Muslim leaders, neighbors and some Muslim friends who all were surprised when they heard about the said incident. They assured for Sajid's safety and protection of all the Christian residents. They immediately called upon the local Muslim leader's punchayat (a local council of villagers) over this issue. But the Christians were frighten because of the previous incidents therefore they started vacant the homes to save their lives. The police realized the sensitivity of the case and took Sajid Masih into the custody and registered a blasphemy case FIR under section 295-c."

CLAAS visit to the police station

CLAAS team met Mr. Malik Ghulam Shabir Awan, the Station House Officer (SHO) at City Police Station Farooqabad. The SHO informed CLAAS that it was very difficult for

police to control the situation because the protesters seized the police station and threatened to kill Sajid Masih and burn the houses of other Christians if the case of blasphemy would not be registered. The police dealt this case under section 295-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) to control the angry and violent mob. Police promised to get registered case FIR against Sajid Masih and requested people to go to their homes. After the police sent the mob back they shifted Sajid Masih to another police station quietly. And it became an unavoidable compulsion for us to follow the immediate demands of angry protesters as well as the protection and safety of the accused Sajid Masih.

Meeting with Sajid Masih alias Saji

On 23rd May 2012, after visit to the incident place and meeting the Christian families, relatives of Sajid and other people CLAAS team went to the district jail Sheikhpura to visit Sajid Masih alias Saji. The Jail superintendent was strictly ordered by the administration and did not allow the meeting. But the superintendent asked the team to wait for some time and then only gave permission to only one CLAAS member to visit Sajid. Then he told CLAAS about the false allegation of blasphemy leveled against him. He informed about he was a skilled man and in 2009 he started his own business of scarp and worked along with his father Anayat Masih, as they used to collect old scrap, waste papers, plastic etc and took a shop near his house on main Sargodha Road, Saddiquabad. They worked hard and by the grace of God they started earning good. Over the time period there were few Muslims jealous of their work and good income. It is fact that the Muslims of this area wanted to make Christians their slaves to work at their houses on low wages but thanks Jesus that the Christians at Farooqabad are good in their businesses and their children are getting high education. Sajid Masih said that in 2010 some Muslim boys namely Sahar-ul-Zaman alias Gull Zaman s/o Mohammad Ashiq aged 24, and his friends Faisal, Imran and Nafees, resident of the same locality were jealous of his success in the business and they started to harass him and many times tried to have a dispute and many times there was a use of hot words between them.

Once Sajid Masih was on his way to home when one of the boys, Sahar-ul-Zaman s/o Muhammad Ashiq stopped him and started using abusive language for him and had a dispute with him while Sahar-ul-Zaman attacked on Sajid with a *tokaa* (a sharp metal tool for cutting fodder) and he got severe injury on his leg and had to get stitches recover the wound. His family wanted to get registered a case FIR against Sahar but the matter was settled after a compromise through the elders of Christians and the land owners as the Muslims offered Rs.10,000PKR (US\$ 1050 approximately) as compensation which was refused by Christians and they forgave Sahar-ul-Zaman for Jesus Christ.

Sajid Masih also added, the complainant Sahar ul Zaman of the case FIR was an active member of Karwan-e-Islam (a small local organization claiming to protect Islam) and he was the area in-charge of this Islamic group, he was responsible to collect the scrapped or torn pages of Quran as well as other Islamic books. He was provided with number of green metallic boxes which were fixed with electricity poles in the locality as it was written on the boxes that people should put the holy papers in those boxes.

Later on May 15, 2012 Sajid was on way back to home to have lunch in the afternoon, he noticed Muslim boys Faisal, Imran and Nafees were hooting on Christian girls while passing through. The girls asked them to stop teasing otherwise they will file complain against them. These boys got infuriated upon them and they attacked on Sajid who was also present on the spot but luckily he was saved by a timely intervention of other people around. Again there was a compromise but but they kept grudge in their hearts.

Sajid said that on May 18, 2012 there was a memorial service prayer of his grandmother at 3 pm. Therefore he opened his shop earlier as he wanted to finish his work earlier. At about 12:00 in the afternoon he closed his shop and came back to home, on the way he saw children playing in the street near the pole where the green box for holy papers was fixed. Mohammad Faisal and Imran whom had a fight with him few days ago and started harassing him as they blamed him for setting fire in the box, he got surprised and looked at the box which he left behind that there was smoke coming out of the box. Meanwhile Faisal and Imran started shouting and alleging Sajid for blasphemy as hs set the pages on fire in the box.

Sajid immediately denied for doing so, and Faisal admitted that he was joking, but again balmed Sajid for the offence in the front of other Muslims. One of the eyewitnesses of the incident, Riaz (Qulfi Wala) a wnder and sell out homemade ice-cream in the same street, intervened and assured people that Sajid is innocent, but Sahar ul Zaman, Faisal, Imran and Nafees instructed him to keep quite and threatened him of dire consequences. Sajid rushed to a local billiard shop to share the episode with one of friends Sajan, and then he left to home.

Sajid Masih was at home and engaged in arranging prayer cermoney for his grand mother when around 3 pm there were few local Mulla's from mosquealong with Sahar ul Zaman, Faisal, Imran and Nafees and many other villagers gathered on his door and started asking him why he set the fire in the box that there were some pages of Quran. They started to pressuerise Sajid to admit that the mistake. He told his innocency to the Mulla's and also informed about the grudge Sahar ul Zaman, Faisal, Imran and Nafees had for him and wanted to take revenge from him.

He informed CLAAS that the allegations were baseless and he tried to prove himself innocent but failed because the villagers trusted Sahar and his other Muslim friends. Meanwhile the Muslims started raising religious slogans and within seconds there was a gib mob Muslims gathered in the area to beat Sajid Masih.

He also shared that the local police at around 5 pm in afternoon two police constables from the City Police Station, Farooqabad raided Sajid Masih's house, arrested him and took him to an unknown farmhouse where they abused him and tortured severely for three hours and keep pressurizing to admit the alleged crime and when he did not committed the offense police took him to the police station and locked him behind the bars.

Follow up by CLAAS

The Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) kept visiting Sajid Masih in the prison and closely monitored the legal case in the court. The DSP (Deputy Superintendent of Police) Farooqabad Circle was in-charge of the investigation and he inquired the matter clearly. The DSP summoned the complainant and the accused parties several times for their statements but no was there. On the other side the local Muslim leaders were quite concerned about Sajid and they saw the real picture of whole episode and therefore wanted to find the middle way to resolve the issue peacefully. After meeting with the DSP on May 29, 2012 CLAAS felt that the false allegations of blasphemy had been dropped against Sajid and the matter was solved at the initial stages of the investigation.

12- Blasphemy allegation against Pastor Joshua John & Saleem Masih Narowal



On May 24 2012 Bishop Paulus M. Junior, who is Bishop of the Church of God (an independent Church), made a telephone call from Islamabad to Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) and asked for help regarding a blasphemy case against the Church Pastor in district Sialkot, that was getting ugly.

CLAAS team headed by Mr. M. A. Joseph Francis reached the place of Bishop Paulus at Islamabad at about 1 pm to look into the matter brought forward by Bishop Paulus.

Bishop Paulus M. Junior, Bishop of Church of God

The victim Pastor Joshua was on his way to Islamabad to meet with CLAAS team.

In the meanwhile the Bishop informed CLAAS team that he was the in-charge of the Church of God. He said that Pastor Joshua John had been serving as Pastor of the Church of God living along with a 9 years old son Calab Joshua at Chak Maroor village, Tehsil Daska, District Sialkot. He was invited by Christians of another village Data Jhatt to give a sermon at the local church during a prayer service; during the service he used Quranic verses to show the comparison between Quran and Holy Bible about Jesus Christ, which lead us to believe that Jesus Christ is a Son of God. At the news of his statements the local Muslim clerics disrupted the prayer meeting, abused the pastor and the Christian community and threatened to kill all Christians in the locality. They alleged pastor of blasphemy as he had quoted and drawn from the verses of Quran during his sermon. Within no time the Muslims were demanding registration of a case FIR against Pastor in the police station under blasphemy law.

The Pastor never arrived and later that day, on May 24th 2012, in the evening Bishop informed CLAAS team in Islamabad that Pastor Joshua had been arrested by the police and he was in the police station Qila Kalar Wala along with his son and Church Elder Saleem Masih who used to invite pastor Joshua to hold meeting prayers at village Data Jhatt.

Bishop Paulus remained in contact with the police of the related police station till the release of Pastor Joshua. While Mr. Joseph Hakim Din, a former MPA of Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid-e-Azam) from Pasrur, district Sialkot was also in the police station for negotiations with the police urging them to not register an FIR.

Mr. Francis, National Director CLAAS approached the relevant DSP and SP investigation and requested them to not register an FIR against Pastor Joshua and asked for his release from the custody soon. Mr. Francis requested for fair investigation of the alleged incident of blasphemy as well as expressed his grave concerns over the security of Pastor, the victim of blasphemy.



CLAAS team along with Pastor Joshua John and his son

Mr. Francis told to the DSP about all the bitter experiences of the past regarding security of the blasphemy victims. DSP assured Mr. Francis that he was investigating the matter personally and knew the facts of the case. SP added that the police wanted to help Pastor, to absolve him of charges of blasphemy as there was nothing in the case. He admitted that there was pressure from the Muslim circles to register an FIR against Pastor and these mobsters had already threatened the police with attacks on the police station. These Muslims also demanded of the police to hand over the Pastor to them so that they could punish him themselves. They had gathered

around the police station demanding the registration of FIR. Bishop Paulus and CLAAS team were too concerned about Pastor Joshua and requested the DSP for providing him security in the police station. DSP immediately provided police force to cover the police station around to keep the Pastor safe from any mishap or harm.

CLAAS in the meanwhile continued its efforts through various quarters and the next morning, on 25th May 2012, due to the hectic pursuing of the matter, the Station House Officer (SHO) Qila Kalar Wala released Pastor Joshua and Elder Saleem Masih without lodging a blasphemy case against them. He however took their signatures on the reconciliation documents between accused and the complainants in which they had apologized for quoting from the Quran. Police sent Pastor Joshua to Islamabad, to Bishop Paulus, under police security. After release Pastor Joshua was taken to the shelter of Bishop Paulus and CLAAS.

Statement of Pastor Joshua John

Talking to CLAAS Pastor Joshua told the team that on the Saturday last, on May 20, 2012 he had been invited to the village Data Jhatt where he shared the word of God with the community. During his sermon he quoted Quranic verses to show the comparison between Quran and Holy Bible about Jesus Christ, which lead all human beings to

believe that Jesus Christ is a Son of God. He also said that “it was a burden and I shared the word of God with the people of Data Jhatt to tell them that the Son (Jesus) is only way to go to the Father (God). I have spread the seed as it will grow and bring the fruit”, the Pastor said. He further stated that the Prayer meeting was going on when a local Maulana Qari Muhammad Fazal interrupted the prayer and started abusing him while threatening to kill him. Mohammad Fazal had an objection that being a Christian why the Pastor had used or read Quranic verses. Qari stated that the Pastor was not allowed to quote from Quran during his sermon. It is pertinent to mention here that these people making the objection knew that Pastor used to be a Muslim before and he had accepted Jesus in his life. Therefore they were too annoyed.

It must be detailed that about 18 years ago Pastor Joshua John converted from Islam to Christianity and now he is a true and strong believer of Jesus Christ. After 6 years of his born again, he got married to a Christian woman and Jesus blessed him with a son named Calab Joshua. He is always very grateful to the Lord Jesus Christ for this blessing. He had been living happily along with his family but unfortunately his wife left him about 4 years ago because somehow she thought that harm was coming his way and she was not willing to face anything along with his converted husband. She got a divorce and also tried to take the custody of their son but Calab was already 6 years old quite attached to his father therefore he kept living with his father. Pastor said that his son has a very strong faith in Christ. He was in the lock up along with his father in the police station and he was singing the Holy songs (that only Jesus can give them salvation). Calab's gesture encouraged the constables in the police station to be on the justice side and they praised the Lord when they saw the strong belief of Calab (only 9 year-old) on Jesus Christ. Pastor shared his testimony with CLAAS team that although he was a minor (new comer) in Christianity but he had been lucky that he had experienced hard times and abuse in the name of Christ. Meanwhile Bishop Paulus requested CLAAS for the safe accommodation of Pastor Joshua and his son Calab Joshua. CLAAS offered them a safe place and also support for all basic needs at its shelter home Safe House. CLAAS is also exploring the possibilities if some foreign friends help relocate Pastor and his son somewhere where they are safe.

13- A suspicious killing of a Christian family in district Okara



Place of occurrence

On May 22, 2012 CLAAS was informed about an inhuman incident of butchery of four members of a Christian family were brutally killed by cutting the throats in district Okara. It was shocking and unexpected as everyone wanted to know the reasons behind this suspicious killing.

On May 30, 2012 CLAAS fact-finding team Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer), Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer, Ms. Huma Lucas (Office Assistant) and John Paul (driver) visited the place of occurrence, met with the family of deceased persons,

the area churches, schools, meeting with area residents, neighbors and visited the police station.

Christian settlement in Okara District



Ahmed Town of District Okara

The city Okara is approximately 120km far from Lahore on the main Multan Road which is highly populated, with Christian and Muslims since decades. The Christians has educational institutions in the town and consequently the Christian inhabitants are well educated. The incident of mass murder took place in Ahmed Town which is adjacent to main Okara city. The Christian residents were laborers, government servants as well as working as educationist in the area. There are about 200 Christian

families living among 500 Muslim families in Ahmed Town Okara.

Family Background of Francis Masih (the complainant)

The complainant Francis Masih (father of Shagufta Parkash) aged 65, resident of Main G.T Road, Okara informed CLAAS that he was married with Teresa Bibi in 1967 and has six children. He is running a shop of construction and building materials in Okara. He was weeping while sharing with CLAAS team that his daughter Shagufta Parkash was a teacher in Convent School, Okara before her marriage and some time ago her murder



she joined Living Stones Schools, at Ibrahim Colony, Ahmed Town as teacher. His son Shahwaiz Farooq was a businessman, daughter Yasmeen Farkhanda was married and house wife, his son Hanook Francis was an electrician, the other deceased daughter Samina Gull aged 36 was running her own clinic in Faisalabad after completing lady health worker course, while his younger son Qandeel Javed was a student of computer sciences.

He said that his daughter Shagufta Parkash was oldest among the children and get married in 1994 with Dr. Babar Yaqoob, a local resident. It was a love marriage and she was blessed with two children named Zarish aged 17 and Zohaib aged 14. Before marriage Dr. Babar completed Diploma in Homeopathic Medical System (DHMS) and was practicing as homeopathic doctor and established his private clinic in Ibrahim Colony, adjacent to Ahmed Town. The time of death Zarish Babar (deceased) was just 17 years, she just finished her matriculation examination from Government Satluj Girls High School, Okara and planned for further studies. Little Zohaib Babar (deceased) aged 14 was a brilliant student of class 9th at Government Satluj Boys High School, Okara.” The distressed Francis Masih further said, “After marriage my daughter was living with her in-laws but later shifted in a rented

house. It was very much difficult to live in a rented house as well as to keeping and dealings with the day to day house expenses etc. Then I managed to buy a piece of land for my daughter in Ahmed Town in 2010. Slowly and gradually my daughter and her husband constructed a room including with one corridor and bathroom near the main entrance and they started living in the said house. In the meanwhile Dr. Babar established a private clinic in Ibrahim Colony, but was not very much interested to work at the clinic. Babar became sick with heart diseases just one year ago. Before death Shagufta was going through very hard time.”

Suspicious killing of the family

Francis Masih informed CLAAS, that on May 22, 2012 at about 05:45pm Dr. Babar went to St. James Catholic Church, Main G.T Road Okara, for searching his son Zohaib and in a while met with my son Shahwaiz Farooq and inquired about Zohaib. The accused Dr. Babar also asked my son Shahwaiz to send his parents because the accused wanted to meeting with them on some family issues. My son Shahwaiz also noticed that the cloths he wears were wet with water and some blood marks were visible at the back side of his cloths and additionally the blood drops were flowing form one of his finger which was duly cut with sharp edge weapon. When my son asked him about all well in the family as well as asked him about his imprecise condition but the accused did not replied appropriately but only answered that he was working in the kitchen and his finger was cut with sharp knife. My son Shahwaiz also shared that little Zohaib was playing with the children happily and when the accused insisted Zohaib to come with him but deceased Zohaib constantly refusing his father and wanted to amuse himself to play more. Afterwards, Dr. Babar enforcedly dragged Zohaib and instantly left the church premises. Later, my son Shahwaiz informed that the accused wanted to see me and my wife at his own home in the evening at 06:30pm. I along with my wife Teresa Bibi went to meeting with my daughter and with the accused. Eventually, near about 06:30pm we reached at the place of residence and knocked the door. After knocking the door again and again, I became worried and started asking the whereabouts of my daughters, the accused son-in-law and the grand children from the neighbors. The neighbored were not known the whereabouts of my family and finally I hit the door and resultantly the down part of the door break-up and the moment I entered inside the premises and saw that the bodies of my two daughters, grandchildren and son-in-law were lying in pool of blood on the floor. When I saw the dead bodies of my children my brain suddenly clogged and I lose my heart. Later, the police and other rescue teams immediately reached at the place of occurrence and shifted the dead bodies of the deceased Shagufta Parkash, Samina Gull, Zarish Babar and Zohaib Babar in the city morgue for autopsy, while instantly provided first aid medical care to injured Dr. Babar and immediately shifted him to the District Head Quarter Hospital, Okara for further medical treatment.”

Sadden Francis Masih provided the following details along with photos of the deceased persons:



Shagufta Babar was a teacher by profession



Samina Gul was a lady Health visitor by profession



Zarish Babar was 17 years old and just finished her matriculation examination



Zohaib Babar aged 14 was a brilliant student of class 9th

The Funeral Prayer Service

The funeral prayer service of the victims was held on May 25, 2012 at St. James Catholic Church, Main G.T Road Okara. Hundreds of people including relatives and family friends attended the funeral and prayed for eternal rest and peace for the innocent victims of brutality.

Background of the accused Dr. Babar Yaqoob

CLAAS team also met with the family members of Dr. Babar Yaqoob, his brother Mehmood Masih informed that Dr. Babar Masih aged 47 son of Anayat Masih is younger among other siblings. They lived in the same locality; Babar Yaqoob fell in love with Shagufta Parkash and got married about twenty years ago. Babar was intellegen and before marriage he got diploma in homeopathic medical system (DHMS) and started his own clinic in the locality in Ibrahim Colony.he said that Babar was not involved in the murder of his family because he loves them.



Mehmood Masih and his family shared information with CLAAS Team

Meeting with the concerned police officers at Police Station B-Division Okara

CLAAS team visited the Police Station B-Division Okara and met with the concerned police officers. As they said that police reached at the incident place bloodshed after getting the information.The rescue team of the 1122 (The Punjab Emergency Service of Rescue) reached at the spot and

the police found four dead bodies lying in pool of blood while Dr. Babar Yaqoob was also wounded and lying down along with the dead bodies of his wife and children but seemed alive. The rescue team 1122 immediately shifted Babar to the District Head Quarter Hospital, Okara while the dead bodies were been shifted in the city morgue for autopsy.

Police informed that Francis Masih, father of deceased Shagufta held responsible Dr. Babar Yaqoob for this brutal murder and got registered a case FIR No. 255/12 offence under section 302 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) against him. After the registration of case FIR Dr. Babar was arrested in the hospital while he was seriously injured and was unable to speak a single word. Keeping in view the health condition of Dr. Babar, police shifted him at Jinnah Hospital, Lahore for good medical treatment, two senior police officers named Muhammad Nawaz and Bilal Haider were deputed for security.

CLAAS team contacted with Mr. Riffat Hammed, the investigation officer for further updates. He informed that after completing the medical treatment the accused Dr. Babar was brought in the police station for investigation during iquires of the matter police found Dr. Babar guilty and responsible for the murder of his family over some domestic issues and also attempted to commit suicide and slit his throat with the same sharp edge weapon. The investigation officer also disclosed the medical report and shared with CLAAS that the neck of accused was slit with sharp edged weapon and hardly had he survived. The strangulation around the neck also leave significant bruising caused the accused is unable to speak. The investigation officer disclosed that before arrest the accused continually changed his statement as well as admitted the killing.

Additionally, Mr. Riffat Hammed informed that at present the accused Dr. Babar is in District Jail, Sahiwal since June 26, 2012 and he is the only witness of this incident. The investigation officer also informed that his inquiry report and findings would be completed after receiving the chemical examination report of deceaseds.

CLAAS hope that the law enforcement agencies and the concerned departments will take up the matter seriously and find out the real motives behind the unfounded incident of killings. CLAAS is very much anticipated that the murderer should be penalized and the justice for the distressed family will be done for the best interest of justice.

14- CLAAS monitoring on the registration of false Blasphemy Case FIR against two female Ahmadi, Instructors of the Post Graduate College of Nursing in Lahore

Mr. M.A. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) was informed about the registration of a blasphemy case against two Ahmadi women instructors of the Post Graduate College of Nursing in Lahore, Punjab. According to details, the blasphemy allegations were leveled against Syeda Tasneem Kausar and Rubina Jabeen after they exchanged arguments over preaching of Islam and Qadianiat with their Muslim student Sumera Naz. The victims had already engaged their legal counsel but still requested CLAAS to join and follow-up the court proceedings in the false blasphemy case registered against them. Mr. Francis was also informed that after the registration of the false blasphemy case some banned Islamist outfits forced administration to suspend the academic activities at the Nursing College as well as demanded immediate action against the accused of blasphemy.

The complainant and hatred over religious differences

The complainant Sumera Naz aged 30, resident of district Gujranwala in Punjab province belonged to Sunni Muslim sect. She was a student of Neuro Sciences at Post Graduate College of Nursing Lahore and associated with some banned Islamist outfits. She was irregular in her attendance in class but the main argument ensued when she started persuading her instructors Ms. Rubina Jabeen and Syeda Tasneem Kausar, who both come from an Ahmadi family, to relinquish their Ahmadi identity. Ms. Rubina Jabeen was quite irritated at this and brought the matter to the Principal of the College and filed an application for disciplinary action against Sumera Naz. Therefore Sumera Naz got annoyed and decided to implicate Ms. Rubina Jabeen and her friend Syeda Tasneem Kausar in false case of blasphemy. She filed an application at the Police Station Civil Lines Lahore, wherein she blamed both Ms. Rubina Jabeen and Syeda Tasneem Kausar of preaching and distributing literature about Qadianiat during their lectures to convert students to Qadianiat.

Background of the accused

Brief introductions of the women accused in the false blasphemy case are as follows:

1. Syeda Tasneem Kausar, d/o Syed Aziz Ahmed aged 55, belonged to Ahmadi Muslim community was a senior Nursing Instructor in grade 18 and has been serving in the Health Department of Punjab for the last 31 years and was a Nursing Instructor in the department of Accident and Emergency at the Post Graduate College of Nursing, Lahore.

2- Ms. Rubina Jabeen d/oChaudhary Rehmat Ullah aged 52, belong to Ahmadi Muslim community was a Nursing Instructor in grade 17 and has been serving in the Health Department of Punjab for the last 29 years. She was Nursing Instructor in the department of Neuro Sciences at the Post Graduate College of Nursing, Lahore.

They both were close friends and lived together in an apartment in Lahore.

Reasons behind the allegations of blasphemy

According to details collected by CLAAS that, a dispute started a few weeks ago when Syeda Tasneem Kausar and Ms. Rubina Jabeen approached College administration to take an action against Sumera Naz a student of Neuro Sciences at Post Graduate College of Nursing while she was disobedient. She was not regular in the class. As she was Sunni Muslim and kept persuading Ms. Rubina Jabeen and Syeda Tasneem Kausar to embrace Sunnat.

Sumera was enrolled for a one year course in Neuro Sciences at the Post Graduate College of Nursing but she never respected Ms. Rubina Jabeen being a class teacher because of her Ahmadi faith. And took grudge against her teacher over the observations on her poor attendance in the class. Ms. Rubina Jabeen brought the matter before the Principal and filed an application for a disciplinary action against Sumera Naz and another student named Rana Kamran. Therefore some staff members also started distressing Ms. Jabeen on the basis of religious differences, and an unfriendly

atmosphere was created by Sumera Naz and Rana Kamran in the institute as they annoyed because of inquiries and proceedings conducted against them by the principle on the complaints of Ms. Jabeen.

Religious difference between Sunni Muslims and the Ahmadis

For the details on why the Sunni Muslims are against Ahmadis and the religious difference can be seen at the following web link: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmadiyya>

Alleged incident of blasphemy

On 10th May 2012 Ms. Rubina Jabeen asked Sumera Naz for about irregularity in her attendance. Sumera Naz got infuriated as she felt her insult in the front of her class fellows but did not gave any explanation and kept quiet. Later she made a plan to give a lesson to Ms. Jabeen as she was also furious against her teacher over the complaints to the principle and repeated notice of absence from the class. She along with fellow students started a hate campaign against Ms. Rubina Jabeen and her best friend and colleague Syeda Tasneem Kausar among the students and teachers. Later Sumera Naz, along with her allies, planned to implicate Ms. Rubina Jabeen and Syeda Tasneem Kausar in a case of blasphemy.

Registration of Blasphemy case FIR

On May 31, 2012 a case FIR No. 488/2012 under section 295-A and 298-C PPC (Pakistan Penal Code) was registered at the Civil Lines Police Station, Lahore against Ms. Rubina Jabeen and Syeda Tasneem Kausar on the application of Sumera Naz as she blamed them for preaching Qadianiat and distributing literature among students during their lectures in the class. It was clear from the very outset that the police had registered this case because of the heavy pressuer of the banned Islamic organizations. In their initial finding the police held Ms. Rubina Jabeen and Syeda Tasneem Kausar responsible for blasphemy of “preaching and distributing literature related to Qadianiat” among students to convert them.

CLAAS intervention and follow-up of the blasphemy case

The victim’s family was in contact with CLAAS and pproched for guidanace and legal support to deal with their case. Therefore CLAAS started persuing the case in the court of Mr. Abdul Qayyum, Sessions Judge, Lahore.

On June 02, 2012 the victims Ms. Rubina Jabeen and Syeda Tasneem Kausar filed pre-arrest bail application before the District & Sessions Judge, Lahore through Mr. Muhammad Imran Sulehria (Advocate High Court). Their ad-interim bail was admitted on the same day and both Syeda Tasneem Kausar and Ms. Rubina Jabeen were directed to join the investigation. The learned Sessions Judge adjourned the court hearing till June 12, 2012.

On June 12, 2012 the victims Syeda Tasneem Kausar and Ms. Rubina Jabeen appeared before the court for hearing. The learned Judge found that the investigation of the said blasphemy case was not completed and ordered to the investigation officer to

submit the report and other related record on the next hearing. The case was adjourned till June 26, 2012.

CLAAS Reflection

The Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) has been monitoring the blasphemy case with full determination and attention. CLAAS has always expressed great concern over the misuse of blasphemy laws in Pakistan and this case too is an evident example of such abuse. Although this blasphemy case is following the usual court proceedings but the lives of victims Syeda Tasneem Kausar and Ms. Rubina Jabeen themselves and of their families are under grave threat.

Case update: The case is pending in the court.

15- Fact-finding report on Tania Bibi, a Christian woman kidnapped and forced to convert into Islam



Victim Tania Rubeeqa

On May 20, 2012 Allah Rakhi approached CLAAS office and informed about the kidnapping, forced conversion and forced marriage of her daughter Tania aged 22 resident of village Daulatabad, Tehsil Manawala, district Sheikhpura.

She informed that on April 28, 2012 Tania, was kidnapped by unknow persons while she was on the way to home. The family has been searching her at her work, relatives and friends. After about one month Tania's family luckily traced her whereabouts through cell phone call made by Tania from the number of kidnapper Muhammad Zafar s/o Khadim Hussain. According to Allah Rakhi, her older son Robert Masih followed the cell number and checked the data/record

in the phone company and got the address of kidnapper's resident of Nawan Janoobi, in Dera Ghazi Khan. On May 20, 2012 Robert Masih and Shafaqat Masih (another brother of Tania) went to Dera Ghazi Khan and able to locate Muhammad Zafar through the the given address by the telephone company. As they went straight away and enquired Muhammad Zafar about their sister Tania but he refused to disclose her location. Later he informed them about Tania but said that he could not help them further. Robert and Shafaqat returned home and informed the area police of the whereabouts of Tania. Allah Rakhi (mother of Tania) complained that the area police was not registering the case FIR against the kidnappers.

Immediate action CLAAS for the registration case FIR

Mr. M.A. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) started hectic efforts in this situation in order to pressurize the police for registration of a kidnapping case FIR against the kidnappers. Through this untiring initiative a kidnapping case FIR No. 189/12 under section 365-B of PPC (Pakistan Penal Code) was registered on May 24, 2012 against the kidnappers cum human smugglers at the Police Station City Nankana. Mr. Francis again and again inquired and followed-up about the police action and finally the District Police Officer (DPO) informed that a police force was formed for recovery of

kidnapped Tania from Dera Ghazi Khan. Police including lady police along with Robert Masih and Shafaqat Masih, went raided the houses of the accused persons but failed to recover Tania Bibi. Later the police came to know that she was sold out by the accused for the sum of Rs. 85,000/- (US\$ 940 approximately) to some other unknowns. Then they asked Tania's brothers to pay their money back if they were ready to take her back to home. Her brothers approached Haji Muhammad Khan Khachela, a former Nazim of Choti Zaireen (similar to the mayor of a Union Council), and requested for their help in the recovery of their sister Tania. Haji promised that he would assist them in this matter.

Tania Rebecca's safe return

On 1st June 2012 Allah Rakhi, Robert Masih, and Shafaqat Masih visited CLAAS office along with their daughter Tania after her recovery, and narrated the following episode of inhumanity:



Victim Tania along with her mother Allaha Rakhi

It was such a trauma for the aggrieved family that their beloved daughter had been trafficked and humiliated through a month. Allah Rakhi said thanks to CLAAS for legal and moral support for the recovery of her daughter. She leased out her house for two years against an amount of 200,000PKR (US\$ 2200 approximately) for the expenses. The money was spent on finding Tania's whereabouts and paid to the captors. When they went to Haji Muhammad Khan Khachela in Choti Zaireen and requested him to contact the persons involved, he Khan called

Muhammad Zafar who informed that the moment Tania was in custody of Khadim Hussain and Ismail who were residents of Nawan Janoobi, in Dera Ghazi Khan. Upon this information Haji raced Khadim Hussain and Ismail who admitted that they had bought her against the sum of 85,000PKR from an unknown couple. But they have sold out Tania to Atta Muhammad and Rab Nawaz, of a village Dauana in district Dera Ghazi Khan for the same amount. Haji was an influential person in the area and he reached out to Atta Muhammad and Rab Nawaz who admitted that they paid money to Khadim Hussain and Ismail for Tania. After a long effort of Haji that Atta Muhammad, Rab



Victim Tania along with her uncle Shafaqat Masih approach CLAAS office

Nawaz agreed for the return of Tania but demanded for 90,000PKR (US\$ 990 approximately) and gave time to Tania's family for the secure payment by 1st June 2012 otherwise they would never see her again. At last, Tania was safely recovered after facing a lot of suffering, time and money spent.

Statement of victim Tania

When Tania visited CLAAS office she was too disturbed to utter a single sentence about the painful experience of her kidnapping and

inhuman violence. She was accommodated at the CLAAS Rehabilitation Centre “Apna Ghar” for counseling and relaxing. Gradually, she wound down and narrated the whole story to CLAAS staff as follows:

“My mother is a “*dai*” (traditional birth attendant) and I used to help her in my village as well as in the surrounding villages. Gradually, I also started working as a midwife and got a job at Gulzar Hospital with Dr. Annie (Gynecologist). Dr. Annie works at the District Hospital, Sheikhpura and in the evening at Gulzar Hospital. I frequently traveled with Dr. Annie in the district wherever duties were assigned by the hospital management and had also visited District Hospital, Sheikhpura many times to look after pregnant women undergoing surgery during pregnancy. During my duties I met with Rehana Bibi at the District Hospital Sheikhpura, who had been admitted to the hospital for her pregnancy and I took good care of her there. We developed cordial relations during this time and Rehana supported my work through referring women who sought medical services pertaining to their gynecological issues. Rehana was very close to me and always flattered me too much praising my beauty etc. With the passage of time I suspected that she had something on her mind and wanted to gain some kind of advantage out of me. Before long my doubts became certain about her when she asked me to embrace Islam. She also tried to attract me with the prospect of an overseas job. I was totally unaware about the ill plans of Rehana and immediately accepted her job offer. It was my mistake that I concealed the matter from my family and blindly trusted Rehana and her husband Muhammad Ashraf.”

Abduction of Tania

“On the day of incident she went to her maternal uncle’s place in Nankana City at 09 in the morning, on the way, a car stopped by her and Rehana offered her to sit in the car as she will drop her at uncle’s place. As Tania was totally unaware of the ill plans of Rehana she sat along with her in the car. Later she noticed that there were three other persons in the car with Rehana, her husband Muhammad Ashraf, her son and a driver. Tania expressed her discomfort and requested Rehana that she can go by self. She asked her to sit quietly and threatened that if she will make noise, would be killed. Rehana informed her that they were taking Tania to Multan where they had a child delivery case in their relatives. Later Rehana and her husband put black scarf on her eyes and gave her some intoxication. She was disturbed and realized that she had been kidnapped. Meanwhile Rehana informed her mother that she was with them for a delivery case in Multan and would be back soon. But when her mother asked them to put her on the phone they switched off the cell phone.”

Inhuman sale and purchase

She also informed that after few days of kidnapping Rehana and Ashraf took her to Dera Ghazi Khan and handed me over to Muhammad Zafar. She was totally confused and unable to understand the cruel attitude of Rehana and her husband and asked them why they were leaving her with a stranger but they both left the place silently without answering. She was sexually abused by Muhammad Zafar while his family members forced her to embrace Islam and to get married Zafar but she refused to embrace Islam upon which they sent her to Muhammad Ismail aged 50 and Khadim Hussain aged 45 at Nawan Janoobi in Dera Ghazi Khan. She was completely unaware about her sale and purchase; she has been raped by these people continually. She was trapped and it was hard for her to go back to her family. During her illegal detention she found that young girls were abducted from different part of the country and forcibly married to old men and

sell out to another after some time. She also discovered that it was a tribe and they were buying and selling the young girls as a tradition. During abduction she was ill treated and beaten up severely.

Tania added that on May 20, 2012 she got information that her brother Robert Masih and Uncle Shafaqat Masih came to Dera Ghazi Khan to search her and kill her on the spot. When I heard this she got really enthusiastic as she wanted to see them and tell them the whole happened to hening they planned to shift her to another location with another man. She was sent down with three women who took her in the midnight to some new man, it was a stormy night with no light and they walked through the fields and stony desert. These three ladies forced her to walk fast but she could not and fell down at least four times and injured seriously.

On May 23, 2012 when the captors came to know that the police was also involved in the matter they forced Tania to get married with one of them but she refused clearly. They misguided her that my brother and uncle will kill her if she did not get married. They took her thumb impression on blank papers and took her to the court of magistrate for recording her statement against her family. She acted as they commanded and so she was forcibly married to Sajjad Hussain s/o Ahmed Bakhsh, resident of village Dauraro, Tehsil & District Dera Ghazi Khan. The date of registration of marriage was shown as May 03, 2012 which was kept so to cover all their illegal acts. The new captors who must have paid for me treated me cruelly and raped frequently”.

She returned to family

Tania additionally said that she found that she was being shifted from one to another for money, she got fainted and lost her senses and could not explain that what kind of experience it was. She was shifted to the residence of Haji Muhammad Khan Khachela in Choti Zaireen to go back to my family when her brother was agreed to pay 100,000PKR (US\$ 1075 approximately) for her through Haji Muhammad Khan and another former MPA (member provincial assembly) and she came back. Tania also requested CLAAS for providing her shelter at CLAAS rehabilitation centre.

CLAAS Fact-Finding

On June 05, 2012 CLAAS fact-finding team, including Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer), Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer), Ms. Rubina Ghazal (In-charge Legal Aid Department) and Mr. John Paul (Support Staff) along with Tania visited the place of occurrence where she was kidnapped and conserved investigation officer in the police station city Knankana.

CLAAS meeting with investigation Officer

CLAAS team met with Mumtaz Ajmal ASI (Assistant Sub-Inspector), the investigation officer in the registered kidnapping case. ASI shared the difficulties police faced during the recovery of victim Tania. He also said, Majority of the politicians in Dera Ghazi Khan are feudal lords and many were part of the sitting government. The area police was also helpless and did not help the local police in the recovery. It was quite astonishing that a local politician Haji Muhammad Khan Khachela, former Nazim openly promised for assistance but when the family would pay the amount to the accused.

CLAAS's follow-up

On June 11, 2012 CLAAS team comprised on Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate, Mr. Asher Sarfraz Field Officer CLAAS and Ms. Rubina Ghazal In-charge Legal Department took Tania to the District Nankana Sahib for meeting with the District Police Officer (DPO) and recorded her statement. Unfortunately, CLAAS team could not meet DPO due to his emergent assignments but were able to file an application before the Allaqa Magistrate (Judicial Magistrate) for recording statement of victim Tania under section 164 of the PPC. The application was admitted on the same day and called upon on June 13, 2012 for the statement of kidnapping, forced conversion and forced marriage. CLAAS team also moved an application for the medical examination of Tania as she was raped and sexually abused continually which was admitted and the learned Magistrate directed for medical examination at the City Hospital Nankana Sahib seeking the Medico-legal report by the same evening.

CLAAS Findings

1. Given the ignorance of the victim the incident of kidnapping was factual and victim Tania was kidnapped and forcibly married to a Muslim.
2. It was not easy for Tania return to her family whereas to recover a woman from semi-tribal area was a miracle.
3. During her illegal abduction and detention Tania had been raped many times and frequently harassed sexually. Whereas the Medico-Legal Report confirmed the raped.
4. The local police at Dera Ghazi Khan were helpless in the case as the criminal captors seemed to run their own tribal system there. They have their own way of paying money for underage girls for marriage or for the purpose of fulfilling their sexual lust.
5. The writ of the government in the place of abduction as well as the helplessness of the police in Dera Ghazi Khan is questionable.
6. The investigation officer never seemed interested to arrest the kidnappers especially Rehana and her husband Ashraf.
7. The investigation officer almost completed his inquiry wherein he had blamed and held Tania responsible for her abduction and all other hardships.

CLAAS Recommendations

1. The Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) is not contented with the inquiry conducted by the investigation officer.
2. The District Police Officer (DPO) should take the matter seriously and assign a competent police officer for reinvestigation, instant arrest of people like Rehana and Ashraf, and immediate end to the human trafficking in the area.

3. Illegal detention of a citizen is against the law of the land and the concerned department of the government should take preventive measures for the innocent girls abducted and for recovery of those in custody of the human traffickers.

16- A Christian family attacked and forced to embrace Islam



Latif John and his wife visited CLAAS office and narrated the whole story

Mr. Latif John his wife Rosy John approached CLAAS office on 12 June 2012 and informed about a disheartening incident in which their property was vandalized and they were on serious threats from unknown religious extremists. Latif John also stated that the attackers disconnected electricity wires, fired in the air and harassed the family while they also broke the rear screen of their car parked in the porch. Before leaving the attackers pasted a notice carrying a threat as this: **“KALIMAH PARH Lo WARNA (RECITE KALIMAH OR ELSE”.)”** on the motorcar. In Islamic faith *Kalimah* carries the meaning that “there is no (other) God but Allah, and Muhammad [Peace Be upon Him] is the last prophet of Allah. Keeping in view the sensitivity of the matter Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate Research Officer visited the place of occurrence on June 13, 2012 to assess the real motive behind the tragic incidents of threats and attacks.

First Attack



The broken rear wind screen of the car



The pasted a notice carrying with a threat as **“KALIMA PARH LO WARNA”**

According to the facts the first highhanded attempt was made in the midnight between May 04 & 05, 2012 when the unknown criminal assailants knocked Latif John's door and when the door was not opened they turned violent. They cut the electricity wires and opened fire from in the air. As they broke the rear screen of their car parked in the porch, they pasted a notice carrying a threat as **"KALIMAH PARH LO WARNA"** on the motorcar. The aggrieved family filed an application at the area police station for the registration of a case FIR against the attackers. The police used delaying and did not register the FIR. After great difficulties and efforts the police registered a case FIR No. 332/12 under section 506 & 427 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) against unknown people at the police station Ghaziabad, Lahore. It was an unexpected incident for the victim family and since then the family has not slept properly for even a single night.

The Second Attack



The front part of property was burnt defectively



The Suzuki Van burnt completely

The second incident of vandalizing of this property took place in the midnight between May 27 & 28, 2012 when these religious extremists set on fire the front part of the house which resulted in burning and eventual destruction of the said property. A three wheeler



The three wheeler Auto Rickshaw burnt totally

Auto Rickshaw was turned in to ashes and the front side of roof and a Suzuki Van was burnt completely. Flames were so high and spread so widely that they burnt the window of their neighbor's house at the third floor. Their neighbors immediately started putting water on the fire and after about one hour's struggle the victim family was rescued.

The aggrieved Latif John filed another application at the same police station for the registration of case FIR against the criminal assailants and again faced

difficulties and finally the police registered a case FIR No 412 under section 436 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) against unknown criminal assailants at the same police

station. This second incident hugely terrorized the victim family; Latif John shifted his family to an undisclosed location without further delay. According to Latif John he along with his wife and children never slept even for a single night after the incident but the criminal assailants were free and did not arrest by the police.

CLAAS meeting with the concerned Investigation Officer

The investigation officer informed that there was not any clue to get access to the criminals. It was discovered that the investigation officer was not interested to inspect the two incidents thoroughly as even after a lapse of couple of weeks he had not moved anywhere. He seemed to while away the time and not concerned about the investigation. On the other hand it was a matter of life and death of the Christian family who are under tremendous trauma and on severe threats by the militants.

CLAAS findings

It was noticed by CLAAS that there were two sign boards carrying names of Islamic organizations placed near the residence of Latif John which clearly showed that the locality was under heavy influence of the religious extremists and the religious groups were very active in the vicinity.

It was also observed that victim Latif John suffered huge economic loss in this inhuman act of violence, threats and brutality in the name of religion as three wheeler Rickshaw registration no. LEA-07/4124 and a Suzuki van were completely burnt as they were the source of income and the total worth of his loss was estimated 1,000,000PKR (USD\$ 108695 approximately).

Legal Aid Assistance by CLAAS

On June 14, 2012 CLAAS filed a petition under section 22-A & 22-B of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C.) in the Court of Sessions on behalf of Latif John for seeking the administrative direction from the honorable court to arrest the accused immediately and provide protection to the victim and his family. CLAAS filed this petition through Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) on June 25, 2012 after the lengthy arguments by Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court the honorable Judge disposed of the petition with the direction to the Investigation Office and the SHO to proceed strictly in accordance with law and put maximum effort to finalize the investigation of the two cases. The Judge also ordered provision of adequate protection to the victim.

Update: Police was delaying tactics and they don't pay heed to the pleas of Latif John and the family, who were still in hiding.

17- Report on demolition of a Christian's settlement in Lahore by LDA

On July 19, 2012 CLAAS got informed about the demolition of a Christian settlement in Lahore, by the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) in Haveli Nasir Ganj, Chuhng, Lahore.

CLAAS team including Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate, Research Officer, Mr. Asher Sarfraz Field Officer, Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate, Legal Advisor and Ms. Huma Lucas Office Assistant visited the place on July 20, 2012 and met with the affected families and note the following:



Demolition of Christian Settlement

Background of Haveli Nasir Ganj, Chung

Haveli Nasir Ganj, Chung located at 22 kilometers far from Lahore on Multan Road and Christians were living in this area since 1954. Varyam Masih aged 70, informed CLAAS team that Mehar Muhammad Charagh (late) a land lord brought Christians at this place to make them for work. He further added that when Mehar Muhammad Charagh (late) was alive, he devoted that piece of land to the poor Christians to live. Later, the area came under the LDA and became the choice of DHA (Defence Housing Authority) sector and the value of land was increased unexpectedly.

The Christians never made effort to transfer the property rights to them since they were gifted verbally and they were allowed to live by Mehar Muhammad Charagh (late). The Christians of the area were extremely poor and worked as laborer in the nearby factories, and do labor in construction of buildings around as women were domestic workers. There was not water and electricity supplies by the government as they lived without basic facilities.



Varyam Masih further added that presently the area was populated with 53 Christian families and almost whole houses were demolished by the LDA impertinently. The up-set Christians were on the surface and suffering through the day to day necessities, medicines, clothing and housing. None of the governmental authority provided them alternative place to live and the affected Christians.

On July 19, 2012 at about 12:00pm

the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) under the supervision of Ms. Mariam Kiyani (Additional Director General LDA) destructed the Christian settlement at Haveli Nasir Ganj.

As they completed this operation under the heavy contingent of police with latest weapons as well as under the administration of Rao Iqbal Joiya (Land Record Officer), Rao Aziz Meer (Land Accusation Collector), Fazal Rehman (Director State Branch) and under the other LDA officials.

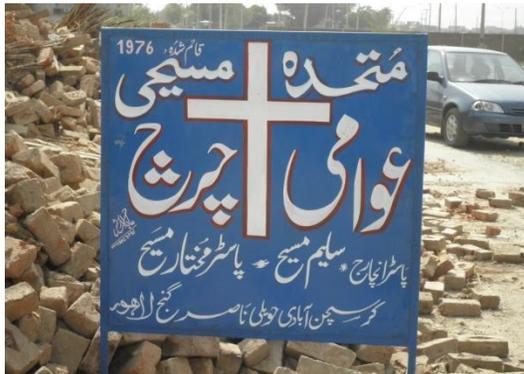
CLAAS team visited the place where Christian living under tents and shedows of trees. The effected women informed CLAAS that at the time of demolish of the houses the only women were at homes as the men were at their work. The women tried their level best to stop and resisted against the demolition of their houses as well as a church but the LDA bulldozed the every thing with the heavy machineries. The Christian residents also claimed that they were never served any notices by Lahore Development Authority (LDA) to vacant the place it was all sudden.

Reaction of the Christian Community



The Christian residents were disturbed because of the said incident. The news of destruction of Christian settlement flashed without delay and few media personnel immediately reached at the place to cover the demolition. The effected Christians were looking for political intervention as well as tried to contact with the sons of Mehar Muhammad Charagh (late), the legal owners of the said piece of land but all in vain.

On July 23, 2012 Christians staged a peaceful demonstration in the front of Lahore Press Club and chanted slogans against the LDA. The Christian protesters demanded compensation for rebuilding their houses and also demanded for the registration of criminal case FIR against LDA personnel. Christian's women, children, youngsters and



old persons took part in the protest demonstration. Meida especially electronic media reported and covered the protest the peacefull demonstration of Christians.

The affected Christians visited CLAAS office

On July 23, 2012 the effected Christians namely Mukhtar Masih, Dr. Salamat,

Mehboob Masih and Allaha Wasaya visited CLAAS office and complained that the LDA during demolition operation disrespected Mutehda Masehi Awami Church (United Christians Church) established and constructed in 1976. Afterwards, the affected Christians lodged an application in the Chuhng Police Station with the help of CLAAS for the registration of criminal case FIR against assailants as well as against the LDA personnel for desecrating and distruction of the church and Christian settlement.

CLAAS Team Findings:

1. The attack on Christian settlement was pre-planned.
2. The assailants bulldozed the Christian settlement and the boundary wall of the church with bulldozer machine under the heavy security of the police.
3. The LDA claiming for acquiring the said piece of land legally.
4. The local Muslim residents are providing food and other necessities to the affected Christians.
5. The local residents are living in since Haveli Nasir Ganj 1954 and never served any notice of vacant of place from Lahore Development Authority (LDA).
6. The concerned police was not cooperative and making lame excuses for the registration of the FIR.

18- Fact-finding report on Police violence against Christians in LDA Quarter Lahore

The Information



The place of occurrence where Adeel Masih was killed on the spot

The place of occurrence, met with the family of deceased and visited the seriously injured, local residents and the local police station.

On August 14, 2012 Mr. M.A Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) was informed about police violence against Christian residents in Nawaz Sharif Colony, Lahore and killing of a Christian while four were seriously injured by police.

Following the information on August 15, 2012 a fact-finding team including Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer CLAAS), Mr. Ayaz Gill (Court Clerk CLAAS) and Mr. John Paul (Supporting Staff CLAAS) visited the place of

CLAAS team found that about 1000 Christian families were residing in the locality and mostly work as laborer, domestic workers, masons and sanitary workers while the literacy rate among the Christians is 30%.

Family background of deceased Adeel Masih

Ashraf Masih s/o Sohan Masih aged 40, granduncle of deceased Adeel Masih, resident of Nawaz Sharif Colony; Lahore informed that deceased Adeel Masih aged 15 son of

Irfan Masih (his real brother). His father Irfan Masih worked as sanitary worker while his mother Rani Bibi was domestic worker. When the CLAAS team visited the aggrieved family and noticed that the family and relatives were sit down on the ground for mourn. The CLAAS team expressed concerns with them and showed sympathies to them. Due to the shock Irfan Masih was unable to deliver a single word while his younger brother Ashraf Masih demanded for justice.

The background of Police Violence

Ashraf Masih informed CLAAS that Pervaiz John aged 43, was a liquor supplier in the locality while many other unknown Christians were connected with him for the illegal sale of liquor alcohol in surrounding areas of Nawaz Sharif Colony, Lahore. According to the information collected by CLAAS the illegal sale of liquor was in the notice of the area police as they used to drink and also supplying in other police stations in Lahore. It was also informed that if Pervaiz John stopped and failed in the continuous supply of the liquor and monthly bribe, the police always raided on his house, assaulted the women and other family members, brutality tortured John Perviaz and demanded money and bottles of liquor from him under duress.

The incident



Pervaiz John injured narrating facts to CLAAS team, his injured son also seen in the photo

CLAAS team visited Pervaiz John aged 43, and father of six children. He informed that he was known as liquor supplier in the locality but about five months ago he left the business of sale of liquor.

On the day of the incident on August 12, 2012 at about 11:00pm there was a traditional ceremony of Haqeeqa (such kind of functions to call the relatives and family friends for joining in their happy moments) of his nephew in the same locality. All relatives were gathered to join the happy moments of Haqeeqa. The same time some police constables namely Ilyas Jutt,

Ehtesham, Muhammad Shah and Muhammad Muhajid of Naseerabad Police Station who were on mobile duty and stopped over near the house where the ceremony was going on, to extort monthly bribe and bottles of liquor from him. Parvaiz John and his relatives look after the police constables and offered them nner followed by liquor etc. Near about 12:00pm the police constables after taking the heavy quantity of liquor alcohol came to him and demanded sufficient stock of liquor and money for celebrating Eid. Muslims celebrates the Eid-ul-Fitar after 30 days fasting in Ramadan. In the meanwhile Parvaiz left the party because he not feeling well and came home to take rest and sleep.

When the drunken police constables did not find him in the party they became infuriated and raided his house and demanded bottles of liquor and the decided money. He excused them and informed that he has left the business of liquor. The police constables

became violent and started beating Parvaiz, tortured him severely and assaulted his other family members and female as well. Later the police tried to take him to the police station and following his hue and cries the local residents came out to help him but they have been beating and hurting him in his head with their guns in the presence of local people. Pervaiz got severe head injuries and became unconscious.

Yousaf Masih one of the eyewitness and resident of the same locality further added that Pervaiz John was fell down on the ground and became unconscious, his body was not moving and it seemed that he was dead by the police torture and the police constables tried to escape from the place of occurrence. Later, the assembled Christian residents demanded the police constables to take the body of Pervaiz John along with them. The drunken police constables were reluctant to do so while the Christian residents were under fear that if the police will not take him along with them than the police must try to implicate them in this murder.

Afterwards, the Christians residents protested against police. Therefore a scuffle took place between Police and the Christians. In the meantime, the police constables contacted their colleagues at the police station within few minutes six other policemen reached at the scene.

Apparently the situation got deteriorated and ultimately led to the severe clashes between the police and Christian residents. Finally, the police party opened fire on the Christians and resultantly three Christians namely Sarfraz aged 20, Irfan aged 23 got gunshots and sustained bullet injuries. While 15 years old Adeel Masih got in his head and to come forth from his eye taking out his eyeball and Adeel Masih died on the spot and the same bullet badly stroked on the forehead of Robestor John son of Pervaiz John, who got severe injuries on the upper side of his right eye on the forehead.



Injured 11 years old Robestor John,

The situation was out of control and the policemen however, leaving their weapons and motorcycles at the crime sight managed to escape from the scene. The Christians their own shifted Pervaiz John, Sarfraz, Irfan, Robestor John and Adeel Masih to the nearby General Hospital where Adeel Masih was pronounced to dead while other four were declared as out of danger but severely injured. Whereas two police constables also received slight injuries during the clash.

Reaction from the Christians

When the Christians of other colonies such as Bahar Colony, Peter Colony, Youhannabad, LDA Quarters heard about the violence of police against Christians in Nawaz Sharif Colony they took gathers in the area to show solidarity and concerns with Christian brothers and sisters. They also staged the protest demonstrations and demanded immediate arrest of policemen who attacked Christians and killed Adeel Masih a young aged 15. Christian protesters blocked Ferozepur Road and suspended traffic for several hours. The angry Christians set the tyres on fire and chanted slogans against police and demanded the registration of case FIR against the responsible police constables. The clashes erupted between the police and the Christian protestors and the

angry protestors pelted the police and private vehicles with stones. Virtually, the Ferozepur Road turned into battlefield for several hours. Following the critical situation of the police high officials namely Awais Malik, Superintendent of Police, Model Town, Lahore with heavy contingent of police including senior officer reached at the spot and assured Christians for prompt justice and requested the protestors to let the traffic open. After, the promise of police officials the protestors dispersed peacefully.

Registration of Case FIR

On August 13, 2012 a case FIR No. 589/12 offence under section 302, 324, 148 & 149 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) registered on the complaint of Ashraf Masih, granduncle of deceased Adeel Masih against three police constables namely Ilyas Jutt, Ehtsham, Muhammad Mujahid and six other unidentified police officials at the police station, Naseerabad, Lahore.

CLAAS team visited the Naseerabad Police Station

The CLAAS team met with Aslam Sindhu (In-charge investigation-Naseerabad Police Station) and urged him to carry out his investigation on merit and also demanded that Justice should be done. Aslam Sindhu informed CLAAS team about the registration of case FIR and assured that the accused would be punished. While no one from the accused police constables was arrested yet. CLAAS team learnt that the concerned police officers were delaying the matter, it was also clear that the concerned police officers were trying to save their fellow colleague from the criminal case.

CLAAS team visited the Liaqatabad Police Station

There was another case FIR registered against Christian residents at the police station Liaquat Abad Lahore for setting a container on fire and damaging the private vehicles with stones during the protest. The Christians alleged that after the assurance of justice by the Superintendent of Police (SP) they returned back in the colony and they did not set any container on fire and did not damage the private vehicles. When CLAAS team visited Liaqatabad, Police Station for the following of the registration case against Christians, the investigation officials informed that there was not any case FIR registered; there was only an application by the owner of the containers submitted with the Station House Officer (SHO).

CLAAS Findings / Observations

1. The police constables created lawlessness and the police violence was unjustified and against the law.
2. The seriously injured Christians were shifted in the hospital by the Christian residents of the area.
3. The seriously injured Christians were discharged from the hospital after few hours and the CLAAS team found that the injured need more medical care accordingly.
4. Pervaiz John was involved in the illegal sale of liquor under the police protection.

5. The police extort monthly bribe and bottles of liquor from Pervaiz John on daily basis or any time the needs.
6. The police administration is not taking the matter seriously and as result none of accused constables has arrested till date.
7. The CLAAS team revealed that the concerned police officers are active to safe their fellow colleague.
8. The CLAAS team also learnt that the concerned police officers using delay pretext and for the time being wants to hold up the matter.
9. Deceased Adeel Irfan was murdered unjustly and he has nothing to do with the clash.
10. The Christian protesters peacefully staged a protest demonstration and demanded immediate arrest of policemen involved in the attack and blocked Ferozepur Road and suspended traffic for several hours.
11. The angry Christians set the tyres on fire and chanted slogans against police violence and demanded the registration of case FIR against the responsible police constables.
12. The police with mala fide attentions put out news through media that the police have killed two wanted terrorists in the encounters in Nawaz Sharif Colony.
13. Deceased Adeel Masih was buried in the area graveyard.

Recommendations

- 1- A fair and transparent investigation must be carried out as soon as possible in the interest of justice to ensure that the innocent Christians should not victimized, abused and harassed by the criminal police officers.
- 2- The police administration should investigate those police officers involved in the illegal sale of liquor and extorting money and liquor under duress.
- 3- The police administration should arrest the killer police constables immediately for fulfill administration of justice.
- 4- The criminal and departmental actions should initiate against the responsible police officers for taking law into their hands.
- 5- The government should compensate the aggrieved family of deceased Adeel Masih as well as to the critically injured Christians.

19- Fact finding report on Rimshah Misrik, a Christian girl beleaguered, ineffectually tortured and falsely implicated in a blasphemy case in Islamabad

The Information

On August 17, 2012, near about 07:30pm Mr. Albert David from British High Commission Islamabad informed Mr. M.A. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) about the registration of blasphemy case FIR and arrest of a Christian minor girl Rimshah Misrik aged 13, in Islamabad, the Capital City of Pakistan. Mr. Albert also clued-up that little Rimshah and the fellow Christian residents were badly beaten up by the Muslim inhabitants and after facing ill-treatment the Christians locked-up their homes and flee from the area instantaneously.

Composition of Fact-Finding Team



The Christians locked-up and flee from their homes

Following the critical situation of the area and unpleasant incident of blasphemy on August 18, 2012 a CLAAS fact finding team headed by Mr. M.A. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) consisting on Ms. Katharine Sapna (Deputy National Director CLAAS) and Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) arrived at Islamabad for accumulating the real facts behind the unexpected

incident of blasphemy. The team was informed about the critical situation of the area and after long discussion and keeping in view security concerns it was decided to not visit the area in a big group. Afterwards, Mr. Arif Gill Core Member (Pakistan United Christian Movement) and Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) went to the area to get the full information and facts related to the blasphemy incident. CLAAS members' visited the place of occurrence, meeting with local Muslims and few Christians who were back to their houses after three days.

Atmosphere of the Locality

When CLAAS team entered the locality they observed that the Muslim residents were discussing the alleged incident of blasphemy. While CLAAS team noticed that everyone was confused and do not know the real facts behind the incident. All Christian families locked-up their homes and left to the safe places because of the threat of Muslims to burn them alive in the houses because of the blasphemy. Few Christians who were present in the area were under fear and unable to speak about the incident and misbehavior of Muslim neighbors and torture they did on Christian residents.

History:

The vicinity is known as Meher Jaffar, next to the very famous and valueable place of G-11 sector Islamabad. More than 50 Christian families were living in this area out of 500 hundred Muslim families. The Christians are living as tenants since last fifteen years and they all are laborers. The women worked as domestic workers OR maid servants in the nearby bungalows whereas the male family members worked as sanitary workers, white-wash painters and construction manual workers etc. While the Muslim residents are businessmen, property-owners and shopkeepers etc and their literacy rate was very high whereas the Christians were illiterate, poor and financially unable to send their children in the school. The Christian residents were vulnerable and ignorant due to their low rate of literacy, poverty and because of the sanitary work they were considered to be ill-mannered and treated as less human being.

The Christian place of worship

The Christian residents were not familiar with each others because they do not have any place to be gathered for pray/worship or other community matters as they were banned to worship and offer their prayers by the local mosque leader Khalid Jadoon Chishti. After several requests the Muslim residents permitted them to build a church in the locality, and then Christians started to use a room as church but they would have to follow some conditions.

- 1- The Christians will start their prayer after Azan finished in the mosque.
- 2- They cannot use loudspeakers.
- 3- The Christians will never offer their prayers loudly and sound of hymns must be slow.
- 4- They will not use music while worshiping because Muslims do not like voice.

Background of victim family

Misrik Masih aged 45, shifted to the said house just a month ago, but he used to live in the area for 5 years. Misrik Masih worked as a white-wash painter and his wife along with daughters worked as domestic worker. The family was illiterate and poor, and it was the only Christian family living among the Muslims majority.

The alleged incident of Blasphemy

A local Christian Rifaqat Masih informed CLAAS team that he was the one who was called by the complainant and others on the spot at the time of occurrence. Rifaqat Masih Said, "I was at home and at about 06:45pm he heard voice within few minutes the complainant called him and showed the burnt pages of Quran and alleged Rimshah for blasphemy. The prayer leader of the area mosque Khalid Jadoon Chishti was furious and called upon Muslim residents and informed them about the incident.

Rifaqat Masih inquired form the family, they informed that they were cleaning their house and during after cleaning their daughter Rimshah went to throw the trash etc. He

also asked Rimshah and she said that she do not know what's happened she just threw the waste outside the house. The Muslim women who were already present near the heap of trash, they stopped her and started inquiring that why she has burnt the pages printed with Arabic words. Rimsha was totally unaware about the papers but the women started beating her and enforced her to commit Blasphemy.

Meanwhile Malik Muhammad Umaad passed through and the women showed him some burnt pages of Arabic book. He became violent and started beating Rimshah and held her responsible for burning the pages of Quran”.



A local resident narrating the facts of the alleged incident of blasphemy

Rimshah under blasphemy accusations.”

CLAAS team met with a Muslim shopkeeper who informed about the facts but requested to not mention his name in the report. He said that “The complainant Malik Muhammad Umaad brought the matter in to the notice of Qari Khalid Jadoon Chashti (the prayer leader of the area mosque) who immediately called at 15 an emergency contact number of police. The matter was referred to the concerned police at Ramna police station. The complainant accompanying with Qari Khalid Jadoon went to the police station and get registered a case FIR against

The shopkeeper also informed that on August 17, 2012 after Friday Prayer the Muslim residents of the area took oath in the mosque and decided that they do not want Christians in their area and the Shopkeepers will stop the supplies of grocery, vegetables, milk and other necessities, and they will socially boycott Christians.

He further said that the news of the incident of blasphemy was broadcast through the loudspeakers of the area mosques. The local Muslims as well as neighbored Muslims following the broadcast gathered there without any delay and without knowing the real facts behind the incident. They have been chanting slogans against little Rimshah and local Christians. Rimshah, her family members and few other Christian residents were beaten severely by the angry mob.

After facing ill-treatment the Christians locked-up their homes and flee from the area as they were threatened that they would be burnt in the houses. Rimshah and her family member were taken in to the police custody to save them from the angry mob. The angry protesters attacked two Christian houses, set on fires their households including TV, cloths, beds etc. Luckily, the Christian residents were not present in the house.

Violent reaction of the angry Muslims

The violent Muslim mob recorded their protest demonstration at the Kashmir Highway. They blocked Highway and suspended traffic for several hours. The angry protesters set the tyres on fire and chanted slogans against police and demanded the registration of case FIR and immediate arrest of Rimshah. The police officials including senior officer reached at the spot and tried to control the furious mob and assured them about the registration of blasphemy case and arrest of Rimshah Masih.

Registration of Blasphemy Case FIR

A case FIR No. 303, offence under section 295-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) got registered in the Ramna police station, Islamabad on August 16, 2012 against Rimshah for desecrating the Quran.

The CLAAS team meeting with the following and recorded their statement accordingly:

Muhammad Amir Latif

The CLAAS team met Mr. Mohammad Amir Latif a property owner who gave his houses to Christian families on monthly rent. He informed that he was not present at the time of incident but I am sure that the allegations are baseless and that Rimshah did not committed blasphemy. He also said that he was disagreed with the decision of the fellow Muslims to enforced Christians to vacant the houses within a month and the social boycott, they are livening in the locality peacefully over the years.”

Muhammad Khalid

CLAAS team also met another property owner who gave houses for rent. He said, “He is not willing to vacate any house although the fellow Muslims gave one month ultimatum to the Christians. If the Christian girl disrespected Islam to Quran she should be punished.” But the other Christians are innocents.

Albert Masih & Maqsoodan Bibi



Albert and Maqsoodan Bibi narrating the facts

Albert Masih aged 35, has four children, he worked as a sanitary worker and living in the vicinity since four years. He informed CLAAS that he was surprised over the growing situation of religious intolerance and never expected this brutality. He said that the blasphemy allegation was baseless and Christians have to flee from the houses for their safety. He expressed that the local Christians were worried about little Rimshah and her family.

Meeting with shopkeepers

The CLAAS team met with few area shopkeepers who were angry and not willing to sale the grocery items to the Christians but they could not explain their reasons, as they were forced by the prayer leader to do so. Local Muslim residents showed their concerns over the situation and were shocked by the violence behavior of Muslims for Christians. They said that Christians and Muslims were living in peace, there are so-called members of the religious political parties promoting anarchy in the country and encouraging the hands of the extremists. They further said the religious fanatics are destabilizing the situation of peace and harmony in the country especially at Meher Jaffar, Islamabad.

Amjad Shahzad

Amjad Shahzad aged 22, said that he is living along with his parents in this locality for last many years, the first time I saw this worst situation. He said that Muslims are angry but do not bother to inquire the real story behind the incident' the extremists created an atrocious situation without investigation which is not fair. It is difficult for Christian families to relocate immediately.

Mrs. Catherine



Family members of Catherine Bibi explaining the situation after the alleged allegations of blasphemy after discharged piss on it.

She is worked as a housemaid for last many years. She informed CLAAS that the Muslims dislike that Christians living among them. She also said that before the incident her owner requested her repeatedly to bring the Holy Bible, as she wanted to read.

Catherine did not provided her Bible but a story book used in the Sunday schools. The owner's son aged 12 read the story book with the miracles

of Jesus Christ, he torn the book into small pieces and threw in the basket

UP-date report on Rimshah Misrik Blasphemy case



CLAAS team present in the court premises

Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) is closely involved in the case of Rimshah Misrik and attended the all court hearings to show the sympathy and solidarity with the Christian community in Pakistan.

On August 23, 2012 an advocate namely Riaz Anjum filled petition for post arrest bail under section 10 of the Juvenile Justice System ordinance 2000, under

section 497 of the Cr.P.C on behalf of Rimshah in the Court of Sessions Judge, Islamabad. It was requested in the bail petition that Rimshah is a minor and her case falls under the Juvenile Justice System ordinance 2000. On the same day the honorable judge in his order directed the learned counsel to file any documentary evidence showing the accused as juvenile so that before proceedings further with the matter, question of jurisdiction may sort out and adjourned the court till August 28, 2012.

On August 27, 2012 a CLAAS team headed by Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) including Ms. Katherine Sapna (Deputy National Director CLAAS) and Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) reached Islamabad to attend the court hearing scheduled as August 28, 2012.

CLAAS team was present in the court of Mr. Raja Jawed Abbas Hassan, Session Judge-West, Islamabad on August 28, 2012 and the legal counsel for Rimshah namely Mr. Pervaiz Khan (Advocate High Court) and Mr. Tahir Naveed Chaudhary (Advocate) were also present. During stay in the court room the CLAAS team learnt that on August 23, 2012 Irshad Bibi (mother of Rimshah) moved an application before the Court of Session Judge for appropriate order against the first post arrest bail petition filed by Riaz Anjum Advocate on behalf of Rimshah as he is not the defense council. In her application she prayed before the honorable court that she never allowed anyone to file bail petition on their behalf neither her daughter Rimshah signed nor put down her thumb impression at any power of attorney. Irshad Bibi claimed that her daughter Rimshah have not any knowledge about the bail petition.

Production of Medical Board Report



During the court proceedings Mr. Munir Jeffery Sub-Inspector (Investigation Officer in Rimshah case) present with police record. On the call by the court CLAAS team along with the defense counsel appeared before Mr. Raja Jawed Abbas Hassan, Session Judge. The investigation officer presented the report of Medical Board which was constituted for the age determination of Rimshah. According to the Medical Board report, Rimshah was 14 years old (approximately) and secondly she was not grown-up according to her

age. The counsel informed the honorable court about the application of Irshad Bibi against the bail petition and submitted a fresh power of attorney.

Following the procedure the learned Judge twice called Riaz Anjum Advocate to appear before the court and after his absence accepted the fresh power of attorney. The honorable Judge objected on the report and questioned that why the formation of medical board was not conducted through Presiding Officer Juvenile Court?

Later the honorable Judge advised the defense counsel to file another application for the formation of medical board and directed the District Magistrate, Islamabad to make

necessary arrangements for the determination of the age of Rimshah and for the submission of medical board report before the court on the next fixed date of hearing. Afterwards, the honorable Judge adjourned the court proceedings till August 30, 2012.

Further actions of CLAAS

- The CLAAS team stayed in Islamabad for 3 days till next date of hearing
- On August 29, 2012 the CLAAS team revisited the vicinity of Meher Jaffar and met the Christian families. CLAAS also prepare a list of families for emergency help such as uncooked food items and other basic needs as they were denied to buy from the local stores.
- On August 30, 2012 Rao Abdul Raheem submitted power of attorney on behalf of complainant Malik Hammad which was admitted by the court. Secondly, he claimed that the police softening the case under duress of the higher officials. Thirdly, he raised objections on the medical report as well as on the constitution of medical board and requested the honorable court to re-constitute medical board for determination the age of Rimshah. The honorable court directed for re-constitution of medical board and adjourned the court hearing till September 01, 2012.
- On August 30, 2012 Rimshah was produced before the magistrate and the police requested an extension of 14 days in her judicial remand and later the judicial remand was extended for further 14 days on the request of the concerned police.
- On September 01, 2012 Rao Abdul Raheem, counsel for the complainant raised objection on the authenticity of the power of attorney submitted by Rimshah's lawyers and requested before the honorable court for the verification of thumb impression of Rimshah. Secondly, Rao Abdul Raheem objected on the bail petition and requested the honorable court to direct Rimshah's lawyers for filing new bail petition. In the meanwhile Rimshah's parents requested the court to allow them to change her lawyer because Riaz Anjum is not their lawyer. The honorable Additional Sessions Judge Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan adjourned the court hearing till September 03, 2012.
- On September 01, 2012 Rimshah blasphemy case took a dramatic twist and Hafiz Muhammad Zubair, assistant Imam in the area mosque and two others came forward as a witness and recorded their statements before the magistrate. According to the statements, later broadcast on the TV channels the Imam (cleric) Mosque Qari Khalid Jadoon Chistti intentionally put burnt pages printed with Quranic as evidence against Rimshah.

- On September 01, 2012 after the statement of Hafiz Muhammad Zubair, the police arrested Qari Khalid Jadoon Chistti and presented him before the judicial magistrate and later he was sent to the jail on a 14 days judicial remand.
- On September 03, 2012 (today) following the lawyers strike the case hearing adjourned till September 07, 2012.
- The lawyers defending complainant are using delaying pretext and influencing the case which is clear sign of prejudice and hatred against non-Muslim citizens in the country. Again the misuse of blasphemy laws has been proved and the government should take appropriate legal actions against those who harass and gave unkind beatings to the Christians residents and should punish the responsible for misusing blasphemy laws for the best interest of justice. The government should release victim Rimshah with honour from the all charges of blasphemy and the real accused must be punished.

Additionally, the registration of false blasphemy case FIR on the basis of forged evidences against Rimshah Misrik alleged by the Imam Masjid Qari Khalid Jadoon Chistti and complainant Malik Muhammad Hammad are unfounded and her arrest is unjustified as well as her illegal confinement in the jail is depressing and condemnable. Additionally, CLAAS will deal and follow-up legal proceedings in the court against Khalid Jadoon Chishti.

Court Hearing on September 07, 2012

On September 07, 2012 CLAAS team headed by Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) includes Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer CLAAS), Ms. Rama Rasheed (Assistant Program Officer CLAAS) and Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) were present in the court of Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan, Additional Sessions Judge-Islamabad. The court room was jam-full with large numbers of human rights activists, lawyers and media personnel.

The court hearing of post arrest bail of Rimshah started at 08:20am and continued till 10:41am. (Two hours and 21 minutes).The complainant's lawyers Rao Abdul Raheem Advocate High Court, Fazal Rehman Niazi Advocate High Court along with eight other lawyers were present in the court while the defense team consisting on Chaudhary Muhammad Saddique Advocate High Court, Pervaiz Khan Advocate High Court, Tahir Naveed Chaudhary Advocate, Khan Faisal Hafeez Advocate High Court and Raja Akram Ameen Advocate High Court were also present in the court.

The court called upon the case of Rimsha, the complainant's lawyers raised objection against two lawyers from Rimshah who did not signed the power of attorney. They also claimed that the investigation officers, doctors and the state machinery manipulating the evidences. Rao Abdul Raheem also argued that Rimshah had confessed her offence of blasphemy; therefore there was no reason to delay the capital punishment and grant her bail. The complainant lawyer's team along with representative of Islamabad Bar

Association used large extent for delaying pretexts and wanted to dismiss the bail application as well as trying to harass the honorable court. During court proceedings the complainant's lawyer raised many objections which were over ruled by the learned Sessions Judge.

It was also observed that the complainant lawyers became aggressive and religiously emotional. Whereas the situation in the court room seems overwrought because the complainant lawyers disrespect the decorum of the court while honorable judge reminded them to keep decorum of the court. The complainant lawyers include Fazal Rehman Niazi and others warned the defense lawyers for the dire consequences as well as to the media for highlighting the case. CLAAS team noticed that the complainant lawyers prejudicially argued their case and prayed the honorable court to dismiss the bail application of Rimshah.

Prejudice behavior of the District Attorney

Muhammad Mahfooz Hafeez Paracha the state lawyer, showed prejudice, he openly criticize Rimshah for desecrating the pages of Holy Quran. Behavior. Instead of assisting the court as prosecutor, he supported complainant lawyer and held responsible Rimshah for committing blasphemy. Rao Abdul Raheem thanked the district attorney Mahfooz Hafeez Paracha for supporting the complainant. The honorable judge intervened and asked the state lawyer to keep control his emotions as he is representing the State not the complainant. Later, it was found that the district attorney Mahfooz Hafeez Paracha has strong Islamic background.

Meanwhile the Investigation Officer Munir Jeffrey (Sub-Inspector) appeared before the honorable court along with record and informed the honorable judge about the recording of statement of Hafiz Malik Zubair, under section 164 Cr.P.C on August 30, 2012 before the learned Magistrate.

According to his statement made on oath that at the time of alleged incident he was sitting in the mosque at Maghrib Ish time (the prayer perform after sunsets) when some people came in the mosque among one holding shopping bag in their hand stated that the Holy Quran has been burnt. The shopping bag in which there was ashes and nothing else was there in the bag. The said shopping bag was placed in the mosque by Qari (an Arabic word with meaning as "reader" while here in Pakistan the term Qari used as "Imam Mosque-prayer leader" in Pakistan)and the people went away after some time Qari came back and inquired as to where is the shopping bag containing ashes, the other people sitting in "Atiqaf" (Atiqaf is an Islamic practice consisting of a period of retreat in a mosque for a certain number of days in accordance with the believer's own wish. It is most common during the month of Ramadan, especially the last ten days)gave the shopping bag to him and placed some of the papers of Holy Quran from the mosque in it, on which the persons in Atiqaf objected as to why Qari has done so, on which Qari told, "you are not having mature mind and you do not know because you are immature" and when the people sitting in Atiqaf informed him he also told the Qari that he is doing a wrong act who replied that this will be a proof against these people and in this way they can be ejected from the locality. On which Qari Sahib whose name is Hafiz Muhammad Khalid Chishti Jadoon replied that he has included the papers of Holy Quran in the shopping bag in order to prove the case against these Christians and in this way they can be expelled."

Secondly

The statement of Hafiz Malik Zubair has also been supported from the statements of Khurram Shahzad and Hafiz Muhammad Zubair in their statements recorded under section 161 of the Cr.P.C (Criminal Procedure Code). This is pertinent to mention here that Khurram Shahzad and Hafiz Muhammad Zubair were those who also observed Atiqaf in the mosque.

Arguments by the defense lawyers for Rimshah



CLAAS team also observed that it was much difficult for lawyers to defend Rimshah because the complainant counsels unprofessionally interfered and disrespect the decorum of the court. During proceedings the complainant continues objected on the defense lawyer's arguments. The honorable Judge many times addressed the complainant counsels and warned them to respect the court. Later, the defense counsel

of Rimshah took plea before the honorable Judge and argued that the circumstances has been changed after the statement of Hafiz Malik Zubair on the counterfeit of Qari Jadoon Chishti and it is clear that Rimshah is not accused in the said blasphemy case FIR and prayed before the honorable court to release her on bail.

After hearing the arguments of both petitioner and defense councils the learned Judge took some time to announce the order.

CLAAS team meeting with investigation officers

CLAAS met Mr. Muhammad Asif Assistant Sub-Inspector, investigation officer he informed the team that the investigation is underway and the police did not collect any evidence against Rimshah, her involvement to vandalize the pages of Holy Quran was fake. He further added that Rimshah is innocent and she has nothing to do with blasphemy. She was allegedly blamed.

Acceptance of Bail

After about 4 hours wait the learned Judge passed ordered, code the reference of the statement of Malik Muhammad Zubair recorded under section 164 Cr.P.C supported by Khurram Shahzad and Hafiz Muhammad Zubair the persons sitting in the mosque for "Atiqaf" have contradicted the story narrated in the blasphemy case FIR by stating that some people came in the mosque in with a shopping bag containing ashes and nothing else was present in it but Qari Hafiz Muhammad Khalid Chishti Jadoon, included the papers of Holy Quran from the mosque in the said shopping bag in order to make a

proof against Christians for expelling them from the town. This creates a serious doubt in the case of the prosecution. Islam teaches the Muslim forgiveness, patience, tolerance, good behavior towards the minorities. Moreover, as appeared from the medical certificate issued by the seven doctors, the accused/petitioner is a minor and her mental age appears below her Chronological age. It is also not believable that she has intentionally burnt the Holy Quranic verses. Hence, case of the accused/petitioner has become one of further inquiry. In these circumstances, the instant bail petition is accepted and the accused/petitioner Mst. Rimshah, is released on bail subject to her furnishing of bail bonds in the sum of Rs.5,00,000/- with two sureties each (one million Pak rupees &US\$ 10750 approximately) of the immovable property to the satisfaction of this court.

The learned Judge further added that it is pertinent to mention here that as it is a very sensitive matter which has attracted national as well as international media and it also hurts the feelings of different religions, hence, the Inspector General of Police, Islamabad is directed to appoint an honest and dedicated senior officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police, who shall conduct a proper investigation, so that the real culprit or conspiracy, if any, could dig out and real facts could be brought to surface.

CLAAS contributions in Rimsha Masih Case

Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) organized a press conference on September 08, 2012, Islamabad on the misuse of blasphemy laws in Islamabad Hotel, Islamabad and the following statement was issued during the press conference.

**Statement released at Press Conference
September 08, 2012, Islamabad**

***“Condemnation of Misuse of Blasphemy Laws against
Religious Minorities in Pakistan”***



The Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS), Civil Society Organizations and human rights activists are grateful to all Media and civil society friends for being here with us today. We want to draw your kind attention to the misuse of Blasphemy Laws, their consequences and socially insulting attitudes, together with religious animosity and hatred, as well as inhuman discrimination in the name of religion against religious

minorities in Pakistan. We strongly condemn these inhuman attitudes.

We can give assurances that no Christian can commit blasphemy in respect of the Holy Prophet of Islam (PBUH), nor desecrate the Holy Quran, and on no account vandalize the Holy Places or Personage at all.

Today the religious minorities in Pakistan are facing insecurity and becoming victims of inappropriate mind-set which is visible from the various inhuman incidents happening in the past and continuing in present and the catalogue of these oppressions and cruelties against the religious minorities is very big. Every Pakistani is very much familiar with these massacres and carnages. The Christians were falsely implicated in blasphemy cases and extra judicial killings, attacks on churches and other places of worship, and illegal land grabbing etc. As a result of blockade and arson, 8 Christians were burnt alive as well as the whole of Shanti Nagar was burnt into ashes. It is a pity that none of the successive governments made public the investigation reports of these incidents and not even a single accused was convicted or penalized till date.



It was EXTREMELY unjust when the government compensated the burnt victims of Gojra with only Pak Rupees 500,000/- while the terrorist who was killed in the massacre was compensated with Pak rupees 1,000,000/- and a house; and afterwards ALL the attackers were released.

Christians have also been killed in the police custody and in the jails. The most recent example of Rimshah Misrik where a prayer leader (Imam Mosque) Qari Khalid Jadoon Chishti and Emmaad Malik got registered a false blasphemy case FIR under section 295-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) on the basis of forged evidences against Down's Syndrome affectee, little Rimshah – it once again proved that the Blasphemy Laws are misused against Christians. The prayer leader also misused the mosque's loud speaker and mischievously called upon his fellow Muslim residents of the previously harmonious community for violence and taking the law into their own hands against Christians. The perpetrators violating the name of Islam must be brought to justice.

Sadly, the legislation formulated in the name of religion continues to generate intolerance, hatred, violent attitudes and mob vigilante violence in the society against religious and sectarian minorities. We want to bring in the notice of the government and all the religious leaders and scholars, that from 1927 till 1990 there is no record of any blasphemy case registered against a Muslim or Christian. From 1982 to 1986 the military ruler, Dictator Gen. Zia-ul-Haq introduced changes in the Blasphemy Laws and gave a sword in the hands of religious extremists. So far nearly 2000 blasphemy cases

have been registered and over 50 innocent people have been extra-judicially killed in police custody or jail or in the court premises.

The Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) is dealing with the Blasphemy cases since 1990 and in this connection CLAAS has extended legal support to 110 Christians and Muslims charged under Blasphemy Laws. All the alleged accused of blasphemy were released and acquitted by the honorable Apex Courts, but all these accused were forced to serve 8-10 years in jail during their trials. Those who were released/ acquitted were not resettled in safe locations and are living in hiding for fear of their lives, under constant death threats. It is an outrage that the governments have totally failed to provide security to the innocent citizens falsely charged under these Blasphemy Laws. At present, approximately 170 Muslims and Christians are imprisoned, accused of blasphemy in the Punjab jails, and the majority of them are Muslims. The blasphemy allegations also arise for taking revenge in personal enmities, disputes over property, illegal land grabbing, family and marital disputes, and over business rivalries. Many are still waiting for the start of their case trials in the courts.

CLAAS in its annual report 2011 has published a survey report after one on one meeting with 96 prisoners in which 6 Christians and 90 Muslims were imprisoned under blasphemy charges in 13 jails of the Punjab province. CLAAS has also maintained the record of those who were killed in anger and resentment of acquittal of blasphemy incidents, where the blasphemy allegations were proved as frivolous and baseless.

The purpose of introducing laws is to provide justice and security to the citizens, but in their current revised form without Parliamentary democratic enactment, the Blasphemy Laws are using for killing the innocent people with impunity. We demand that the Government must revise and repeal all those dictatorially promulgated laws which have demonstrably failed to provide justice, protection and security to ALL the citizens of Pakistan.

It is observed that the police usually register the blasphemy cases due to mob pressure and fear, and the lower courts similarly, also never tried the cases in accordance with fundamental principles and practice of the law, which has caused chaos and injustice for innocent accused people.

The CLAAS teams during jail surveys observed that those alleged accused charged under Blasphemy Laws have developed psychological, mental and physical disorders, and even are not able to change their clothes by themselves, whereas, the law does not permit a continuation of a trial against such mentally challenged persons in any court of law. However, instead of providing appropriate psychiatric or medical care, they are kept imprisoned.

We again want to assure our Muslim brothers and sisters – our fellow Pakistani citizens – that not a single Christian can disrespect Islam or any religion and even cannot think of committing blasphemy. The Pakistani Christians are peaceful and want to see interfaith harmony, peace, progress and blissful Pakistan. We want to clarify to the Government that if the misuse and abuse and exploitation of Blasphemy Laws against Christians is not stopped through the law enforcement agencies and elected representatives and legislators, then the Christians will be entitled to continue their protest.

The CLAAS and Civil Society Organizations time and again demanded that the Government should take effective action to prevent the misuse, abuse and exploitation of blasphemy laws, but the State, under successive Governments, has failed to address the presentations and demands made by the religious minorities and human rights activists. After the registration of a false blasphemy case FIR against little Down's Syndrome affectee Rimshah and her unjust imprisonment for 3 weeks, Pakistani Christians and human rights activists are very disturbed and outraged. We are in no doubt that this incident, with its ugly conspiracy and the hidden facts coming to light gradually, has further damaged the image of Pakistan internationally, and as a State whose Constitution guarantees equality, justice and religious freedoms for ALL its citizens.

We want to ask the Interior Minister Rehman Malik, who is directly responsible for the ICT police, as to why he closed his eyes on the day when the false blasphemy case was registered against innocent Rimshah. No security arrangements have been made since the day of the incident for the affected Christian community of Islamabad. Mr. Rehman Malik should open his eyes and take action. It is a shame that he is incapable to probe the assassination of his fellow federal minister for Minorities, Mr. Shahbaz Bhatti, and has not arrested his murderers till date.



We are disappointed in him and in the Pakistan People's Party, which has closed its eyes and has thrown away the Christians from its manifesto and party policies. We demand that the Government set up a joint investigation committee and include Christian church leaders and activists to probe the real motives and facts behind the registration of a false blasphemy case

against the legal minor Rimshah. The perpetrators who committed this heinous crime must be punished for justice and for future deterrence. We demand that the Government must keep separate religion from the State, which was Jinnah's Pakistan.

The CLAAS and Civil Society Organizations and activists want to acknowledge the timely intervention of religious leaders like Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, President Pakistan Ulema Council, and the large number of CSOs and human rights activists who bravely and courageously raised their voice against the registration of a false blasphemy case FIR against little Rimshah as well as against those evil persons who are damaging the name and sovereignty of Pakistan.

Lastly, we again thank you for your presence and we especially thank the Media for their balanced professional responsibilities, for example, Dawn, Express-Tribune, The News, Pakistan Today, Daily Times, Geo TV, Aaj TV, Express TV, Dunya TV, Samaa TV, Dawn TV, ARY TV, and other electronic and print Media in Pakistan and the International Media, for highlighting the issue and presenting a balanced and accurate view regarding the blasphemy allegations.



Visit of Meher Jaffar (the affected place)

On September 07, 2013 CLAAS prepared a list of hundred families of Mehar Jaffar and affected in Rimsha case. Mr. Joseph Francis during his visit to the families was interviewed by the Reuters News Agency at front of the residence of victim Rimshah. Through this interview Mr. Francis expressed his concerns

over the alleged incident of blasphemy and urged the government to probe the matter in accordance with law.

The CLAAS team during follow-up visit meeting with Muslim residents. Mr. Francis requested the Muslim residents for tolerance and peace. Mr. Francis assured the Muslims that not a single Christian can disrespect Islam or any religion and even cannot think of committing blasphemy against Prophet Muhammad. The Pakistani Christians are peaceful and want to see interfaith harmony, peace, progress and blissful Pakistan.

CLAAS team listed the name of affected Christians suffered with unexpected and false alleged incident of blasphemy. The CLAAS observed that the sudden displacement create difficulties for affected Christians who were suffering through necessities. During survey the CLAAS team also noticed that few houses were still locked.

The CLAAS team issuing the token cards



CLAAS team visited Mehar Jaffar and the purpose of the visit was to distribute tokens among the Christian families to provide them uncooked food items. It is pertinent to mentioned here that on the first fact finding of CLAAS it was found that 50 Christian families lived in the area. When the CLAAS team went to follow-up there were more than 80 Christian families. During the issuing of token cards many Christians contacted CLAAS for the registration of their family

details. The CLAAS team noticed that there were so many Christians left who could not provide their family details because of their displacement.

CLAAS team visit Raman Police Station

CLAAS team visited Ramna Police Station and met the concerned investigation police officers as asked for the recorded statements of Hafiz Malik Zubair, under section 164 Cr.P.C on August 30, 2012 before the learned Magistrate as CLAAS wanted to contest the blasphemy case against Qari Muhammad Khalid Jadoon Chishti and the 25 nominated accused persons and 150 unknown criminal assailants of the case FIR No. 304 offence under sections 353/186, 148/149, 434/341, 431/427 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) & 2/3 of the Amplifier Act registered on August 17, 2012 at the police station Ramna, Islamabad. The case FIR was registered for instigating local Muslims for violence against Christians and especially plans for burning alive to little Rimshah, illegally protesting and blocking the main road for several hours and on other lawlessness.

CLAAS provided food items to 100 families at Maher Jaffar



On September 09, 2012 CLAAS in collaboration with the Church World Service (CWS/A-P) distributed 100 packets of uncooked food items among the families at Meher Jaffar Colony. The food items were consisting of 10 kg flour, 02kg rice, 400 gram tea, 01 kg salt, 02 kg sugar and 01 kg pulses etc.

After a blasphemy case registered against Rimash, she was taken in to custody. Her family was looked after by Mr. Paul Bhatti Advisor to the Prime Minister. But the rest of the families also have to suffer. The local shop keepers did boycott with local Christians and stopped the supply of food items. On the other side Muslims refused Christians to do work at their places. They were hand to mouth therefore CLAAS provided them a small package of food to spend some days.

20- Three Christian brothers died at once mysteriously in the well, Lahore

Three real brothers died under mysterious circumstances after they stepped into a well allegedly for removing a motor near Bara Sanda Stop, Bund Road,



On August 22, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis was informed about the suspicious death of three Christian brothers at once in a well at Sanda Lahore. The same day on August 22, CLAAS staff Mr. Nadeem Anthony (Research Officer) and Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field officer) visited the occurrence place and noted the following:

Team met the locals as well as wanted to meet with the depressed family but people informed that deceased were only three brothers named Shahzad Masih aged 30, Bhoro Masih aged 28 and Nona Masih aged 23 lived alone in a rented house for last two years.

The neighbors informed that they came from a village to work in Lahore and used to live on a rented house. They were laborers but Shahzad Masih was an electrician.



An eye witness informed CLAAS team that last night Shahzad Masih, along with his brothers tried to steal away the water pump of Chaudhry Ayub and Mian Nazir's Dera (A place where landlords gather for activities). The water pump was fixed in a well.

Shahzad Masih entered in to a 80-feet deep well to stole water motor and suffered an electric shock when he tried to disconnect power from the motor. His brothers heard his screams they also entered in well to

safe him but unfortunately they also died due to an electric shock or poisonous gas in the well while others run away after heard their screams.

In the morning when landlord's workers came to Dera for work they found dead bodies in the well. They call Rescue 1122 and police and after 45 minutes they were pulled out of the well.

Meeting with Police Officers:

CLAAS team went Police Station Sanda and met with IO of this case. He told that police has got registered a case against the suspect of well owner Chaudhry Main Nazir and Ayub Ali but well owners alleged three brothers as they were thieves and trying to steal water motor from the well. Police also find their family and told about their death as the bodies were sent to autopsy after determine the exact cause of their death.

21- Fact finding report on brutal torture and murder of Suneel Yaqoob in Faisalabad

The Information



Victim Suneel Yaqoob

Mr. M.A Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) was informed about the brutal murder of Suneel Yaqoob a 12 year- old Christian boy in Faisalabad. On August 27, 2012 fact-finding team team headed by Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) including Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) and Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer) visited the place met with aggrieved family, Christian politicians, pastors and residents of the area to collect the real facts behind the murder.

The family background



Aggrieved Aasia Bibi along with her children

two younger sisters.

CLAAS team visited the house of aggrieved family and met with Aasia Bibi, mother of deceased Suneel Yaqoob in Christian Town, Faisalabad. Aasia Bibi was married with Yaqoob Masih in 1997 and out of this wedlock she had four Children and the deceased Suneel Yaqoob aged 12 was on second number among the children. The sudden death of Yaqoob Masih burdened on little Suneel as he have to work to help his mother for the family survival to support a sick elder brother and

Suneel started work and later got involved in the sale of liquor alcohol. Although, the business of liquor sale was illegal but Suneel started earning attractive amount and through this earning he contented the whole necessities of his family accordingly. The deceased was the prime source of income for the family.

Deceased Suneel worked for Akram Masih (Maternal uncle of victim Suneel Yaqoob), Imran Masih and Saleem Mubarak. Victim family was poor and could not bother on the involvement of deceased Suneel in the illegal sale of liquor. Suneel was very much aware on the nature of work but kept continue for the supreme interest of the survival of his family.

The unexpected missing of victim Suneel Yaqoob

According to Aasia Bibi on August 19, 2012 in the evening her son Suneel went to the market to buy some food for the family but did not return till late night. They all were worried about him and started looking the whereabouts of Suneel with relatives as well as with the liquor sale vendors. The distressed family at first presumed that Suneel must be captured by the police because he was well known in prohibited sale of liquor. On the other side the information of sudden missing of Suneel was noticed the area Christians and they immediately informed the police as well as looking for him in the town. The worries of his family went extended but at this occasion no one knows the whereabouts neither informed about the missing Suneel Yaqoob. Additionally, even no demand of ransom was raised from any corner.

Registration of case FIR

While the rumors and predictions about the missing of victim Suneel were in full sewing and on August 20, 2012 near about 09:00am Mr. Ali Raza, a police constable of police station Factory Area, Faisalabad informed about a disfigured dead body of a boy lying in an open place and nearby Chamra Mandi Cotton Mills. The police constable found the defaced dead body when he was on his way to home after performing his duties. The constable Ali Raza also noticed that the whole dead body who had apparently been killed using a sharp edge weapon. The body had been sent of fire and resultantly whole body was burnt badly whereas the face of dead body was covered with blood wet cloths. The constable additionally noticed that there were cut marks all over the dead body. Later the area police took the dead body into their custody and after completing the relevant inquiry the dead body was sent to the Allied Hospital, Faisalabad for autopsy examination. Later the deceased was identified by his family.

On August 20, 2012 a case FIR No. 567/12 offence under sections 302, 365-B & 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) registered at the police station Factory Area, Faisalabad against unknown criminal assailants.

Postmortem Report

According to the autopsy report the horrific torture marks were found on the dead body and deceased was murdered with sharp edge weapon. His nose, lips and belly had been

sliced off and his family could hardly recognize the dead body because the body was burnt badly. According to the autopsy near about 23 wound marks of the sharp edged weapon have been identified and the police also raised the possibility of sodomy. The dead body of Suneel was spoiled badly and even it was difficult for his mother to recognize him. Later, his mother recognized him from a mark on his forehead.

Protest Demonstrations

The sudden horrific death of victim Suneel made saddened the people of area and everyone was shocked and wanted to know the real motives behind the brutal murder of little Suneel. After the autopsy the dead body was handed over to the family for burial and the police assured the victim family for the arrest of accused persons. The family and area residents staged protest demonstrations and demanded immediate arrest of the accused involved in this inhuman act of brutishness.

The family and residents of Christian colony after funeral prayer took out the dead body at Narawala Road, Faisalabad and chanted slogans against killers and demanded the government for immediate arrest of criminal assailants and later after the assurance of the police for the arrest of accused, he was buried in the graveyard of the area.



The family and area residents staged protest demonstration along with Coffin Box (The file photo was taken from Tribune.com)

Arrest of accused persons

While the family and area residents were in the state of mourn and one of the neighbors of victim Suneel got courage and tipped the police that on the day of missing of the deceased he had seen victim Suneel along with Akram Masih, Imran Masih and Saleem Mubarak on the same evening when Suneel went missing. It is pertinent to mention here that the above nominated accused persons helped the family in funeral arrangements of Suneel as well as expressed condolences with the distressed family. After this information the police arrest the three accused persons and later got physical remand for investigation. During investigation the suspects had confessed to murder of Suneel over a business dispute.

According to Mr. Raja Zameer Ahmad (Superintendent of Police-CIA Crime Investigation Agency) the suspects Akram Masih is a resident of Chaudhary Chowk and is close relative of the deceased. The second accused is resident of Christian Town, the same locality while the third accused Saleem Mubarak is a resident of Chak 287-JB of Toba

Tek Singh, Faisalabad. The police party has also recovered the weapon used to kill the child.

According to details the business of sale of liquor of the accused persons was on high and the dispute between Suneel and accused persons started when Suneel demanded to increase of his repayment against the sale of each liquor bottle. The demand was unacceptable for the accused persons and in this connection many incidents of exchange of harsh words between accused persons and Suneel also took place. The deceased Suneel became annoyed and stopped work for the accused persons. The accused also threatened him for life and warned him for dire consequences. Suneel was not agreed to work more for the accused persons and he also shared with his mother about the disputes. As Suneel was honest in his work and gave hundred percent businesses to the accused persons. After the refusal of Suneel the business of sale of liquor went down day by day and the accused persons became furious towards Suneel and planned to give him a lesson. In this connection one of the suspects namely Akram Masih had picked up Suneel from his home on August 19, 2012 and took him to the Chamara Mandi Chowk where Imran and Saleem Mubarak were waiting for them. The accused persons at first tortured Suneel brutally and also attacked on him with sharp edged weapon. It is obvious that the victim must be quivered after the torture and cuts of sharp weapons and resultantly the victim could not withstand the injuries and their heartless violence and died. After this inhumaneness the accused wanted to hide the identification for victim Suneel and set his dead body on fire. Resulting from fire, his whole body was burnt badly and even it was difficult for his mother to recognize him.

Meeting with Christian politicians and others

The CLAAS team meeting with Christian politicians namely Mr. Khalil Tahir Sindhu Advocate High Court (Member Provincial Assembly Punjab, Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights, Minorities affairs & Parliamentary Affairs and additionally member Special Committee on Government Assurances, Law and Parliamentary Affairs) and secondly meeting with Mr. Kamal Chukhtai Advocate High Court, coming candidate of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) for Member Provincial Assembly Punjab. Both politicians condemn the incident and shared with CLAAS about their responsibilities and their contact with the police for the immediate arrest of accused persons. Pastor Ajmal Chukhtai, who perform the funeral prayer service of victim Suneel also expressed his grief concerns over the death and condemned the incident.

Statements of area residents

The CLAAS team meeting with dozens of Christian residents of Christian Town who expressed grave concerns over the brutal murder of little Suneel. The Christian and Muslim residents has strongly condemned the inhuman incident and demanded maximum punishment for the accused persons in accordance with law of the land.

Conclusion

Finally the CLAAS team derived on final point that victim Suneel Yaqoob intentionally killed by the accused persons and over business dispute. Keeping in view the

unpleasant incident of a child the roles of police are very much unprofessional and irresponsible towards performing their duties. The police was very much known about the illegal sale of liquor and never arrest the accused persons. It was also informed that the police always took bribe from the accused persons and allowed them to sale and purchase. The police unprofessionally never carried out raid or neither takes stern action against those involved in the business of illegal business of sale of liquor.

The brutal murder of Suneel is a big question on the role of law enforcement agencies and before this incident many happenings has been happened in past and if the police will not take appropriate legal actions against law wavers such incident will be continued in future.

22- Fact finding report on the kidnapping of Pastor Calvin John

The Information



Pastor Calvin along with his Children and CLAAS Team

Through some sources CLAAS was informed about the kidnapping of Pastor Calvin John aged 41, a resident of village Martin Pur, district Nankana-Punjab, Pakistan. On August 27, 2012 CLAAS team headed by Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director) including Ms. Katherine Sapna (Program Officer) and Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer) visited the village and the family of Pastor Calvin and find the following:

The village Martin Pur

The village Martin Pur Chak No. 371 is a small Christian village and above 1000 (one thousand) Christian families are residing in the village. The village was founded by a missionary named Dr. Samuel Martin in 1897 and located 10 kilometers far from Nankana Sahib.

About Pastor Calvin

Pastor Calvin John aged 41 was involved in Church of Pakistan as a Pastor and his monthly salary was as PAK Rs. 4000/- (US\$ 400 approximately). He married with Naseem Mariam in 1997 and has five children namely Aroma Calvin (girl) aged 13, Anmol Sherona (girl) aged 09, Daniel Calvin (boy) aged 07, Imssal Calvin (boy) aged 05 and Angel Calvin (girl) aged 04. His wife Naseem Mariam was a house wife. CLAAS team visited Pastor Calvin and found him still in trauma.

Background incident

Pastor Calvin, informed CLAAS team that some years before he purchased a piece of land from his paternal aunt and the front part of the same land was already purchased by Gogo Bibi aged 50. A three feet width and leftward way was left separated for moving in and out for Pastor Calvin. In this way Pastor Calvin and Gogo Bibi became neighbors

and their relations remained cordial. The family of Gogo Bibi was suffering through the facility of water but as good neighbored Pastor Calvin provided her clean drinking water through a water pump.



Pastor narrating the facts behind kidnapping

In the meanwhile Samera Bibi aged 22 daughter of Gogo Bibi embarrassed Islam and also learn the Holy Quran by heart. The happening of embracing Islam was wholly observed by the fellow villagers but no one resisted any objection neither demanded them to leave the village. Even Pastor Calvin did not interfere in their internal matters. With the passage of time the Christian villagers and Pastor Calvin noticed some Muslim outsiders constantly visiting to Gogo Bibi. Afterwards, it was found that her daughter Samera Bibi has illicit relations with a visitor namely Tahir Shahzad, a police constable of the local police station. Samera Bibi demoralized the whole atmosphere and keeping in view the whole situation Pastor Calvin stopped all relations as well as stopping to provide water etc.

Samera Bibi became violent after this termination of relations between Pastor Calvin & Gogo and started threatening Pastor Calvin and his family and demanding to restore the water supply while Pastor Calvin refused to reinstate. Over this Samera Bibi, infuriated and wanted to give him a lesson and in this connection she along with Tahir Shahzad started threatening Pastor Calvin. Many times the family of Pastor Calvin was troubled by Samera. Pastor Calvin said, "My family suffered a lot but remained silent because Samera and Tahir Shahzad continually threatened us for life and warned for dire consequences.

The Incident

The month of August 2012 was going on and the parishioner asked Pastor Calvin for the arrangements of celebrations in account of 14th August, 2012 in the village church. The parishioners wanted to celebrate the Independence Day festivity in the village with zeal and zest. In this connection on August 11, 2012 near about 03:30pm Pastor Calvin went to the market to buy flags, banners, little flags and other related stuffs etc but did not return back at home. The family waited him till the evening but later became worried and trying hard to search him here and there but was failed. Unexpectedly, Pastor Calvin got



Mr. Joseph Francis with victim family

missed and nowhere to be found to the family. Later in the same late evening his wife Naseem Mariam received an anonymous phone call and was informed about the whereabouts of her husband Pastor Calvin. The unidentified phone caller did not disclose his identity and only informed about the kidnapping of Pastor Calvin and also warned Naseem Mariam and her family for not to report the police. The family became worried and was keen to know about him. The next day kidnappers demanded PAK

Rs. 30,000/- (USD\$ 306 approximately) against the release of Pastor Calvin. The demand of kidnappers was unexpected and his wife started begging for ransom amount. Naseem Mariam and her brothers namely Saleem Masih & Younis Masih along with village's Session including Elder Munasi Lazar, Elder Samuel P Mushraf, Elder Javed Fakhar, Elder Lal, Elder Rustam Bhatti and Pastor Shahzad Fakhar U Din were in effort for reconciliation.

On the other side the kidnappers continuously conveyed their message and demanded for ransom amount from the helpless Naseem Mariam. On August 14, 2012 a villager shared about the threats of Samera to Pastor Calvin with village's sessions. The villager informed that once he has noticed that Samera was threatening Pastor Calvin for dire consequences as well as warned him for kidnapping. Taking his information as clue the family informed the police about the kidnapping of Pastor Calvin by Samera and other unknown criminal assailants. The incident of missing Pastor Calvin got international attention whereas the police did not show any seriousness for the recovery of missing Pastor Calvin. In the meanwhile when the accused persons came to know about their names in the complaints they immediately freed Pastor Calvin.

Safe return of Pastor Calvin

Suddenly on August 14, 2012 in the midnight Pastor Calvin in the state of unconscious was found outside his residence. No one witnessed that how victim Pastor Calvin came back home. Later he was immediately provided first aid medical treatment and later was called in the area police station for the recording of statement and interrogation.

Statement of Pastor Calvin

The CLAAS team meeting with Pastor Calvin and he disclosed the following illegal and wicked facts which were really inhuman and thoughtless:

He said, "I am victim of viciousness of Samera, Tahir Shahzad and family. I was also informed about embrace of Islam by Samera. When I noticed and was informed about the immoral acts of Samera and Tahir, I immediately decided to stop all relations with her family."

Taking this matter Samera and Tahir started threatening and many times warned me for dire consequences. I was not guilty and never took their threats seriously. Additionally, both Samera and Tahir time and again warned for falsely involving me in different criminal cases such as to involve preaching of Christianity on Muslims and their conversion into Christianity. Many times my family troubled by Samera and her accompanying assailants. My family suffered a lot but remained silent because Samera and Tahir Shahzad continually threatened us for life and warned for dire consequences."

Unfair attitude of the Police

"My family immediately called a doctor and I was provided first aid medical treatment while my medical care was going on and I was called by the police for statement. The police enforced me to record my statement as they wanted to record. The statement was as "I hide myself and no one kidnapped me at all". It is pity that the police meanly wanted to close my kidnapping case and on the other side my fellow pastors also

wanted to stop the proceedings. In this way the kidnapping incident was enforcedly closed by the police and I am disappointed on the role of law enforcement agencies that are failed to protect the civilians. I was worried about my wife and children and helplessly recorded my statement as the police wanted to record.”

Statement of Naseem Bibi

The CLAAS team recorded the statement of Naseem Mariam, wife of Pastor Calvin John and she said, “The missing of my husband was unexpected and when I waited him till late evening and was anxious to know the whereabouts of my husband. Secondly his cell phone connected as switched off and I was worried because he never came to be late at home as well as he did not informed his whereabouts. Finally, I informed the missing of my husband to my parents as well as to the villagers. Later in the same late evening I received an anonymous phone call and was informed about the kidnapping of my husband.”



**Victim Pastor Calvin visited
CLAAS office**

“The unidentified phone caller did not disclose his identity and only informed me the whereabouts of my husband. I was astonished that why my husband was kidnapped. Furthermore the next day the kidnappers again called and demanded PAK Rs. 30,000/- (USD\$ 306 approximately) as ransom against the release of my husband. The demand of kidnappers was unexpected and they also warned me for not to report the police.”

“I shared the demand of kidnappers to my parents and started begging for ransom money from my family. At last the villagers informed the kidnapping incident to the police. At first the police were reluctant to take any action and later harassed and blamed on me for the kidnapping of my husband. The attitude of police was unkind towards me and blamed that I have illicit relations with other men in the locality. The police contemptibly took along with here and there and forced me to commit my crime for kidnapping my husband. When my husband came back safely at home that time I was taken to Rawalpindi by the police while I was with the police and was informed about the return of my husband.”

“The police instead of searching my husband harassed me and their attitude was unjust. The so-called police investigation was offensive and the police wanted to save the accused Samera and his boyfriend.”

Statements of area residents

The CLAAS team meeting with dozens of Christian residents of the village who expressed grave concerns over the kidnapping incident of a pastor. The villagers strongly condemned the kidnapping incident and demanded that the accused involve in kidnapping must be punished according to the law of the land.

CLAAS Findings

When CLAAS team meeting with Pastor Calvin and his wife Naseem Mariam, both were under fear and were afraid for their children. It was also observed that victim Pastor Calvin was not in position to say a single word and was not willing to recall the bad

experience of kidnapping. It was also observed that the accused Samera and her mother were present at home and they were observing the movements of CLAAS team.

Finally the CLAAS team emanated on final point that the accused by attention warned Pastor Calvin for involve him in false religious matters. In this connection they warned to involve Pastor Calvin for converting the Muslims into Christianity. The threats of deceitful involvement in religious based matters are come on the surface in this case. The rate of persecution in the name of religion is high in Pakistan and the fanatic mindset threatens the innocent people and destroying the peace of the society. The police did not investigate the matter in accordance with law which is another example of prejudice practices against minority communities.

23. Fact finding report of Faisal Masih, a Christian boy was murdered in Essa Nagri, Karachi



Christian staged protest demonstration on University Road against the unjustified killing of Faisal Masih

Mr. Joseph Francis was informed about an incident of killing of a 24-year-old Christian, Faisal Masih from the Essa Nagri area Karachi. Initial details were that Para-military forces opened fire on Christian protesters when they were protesting peacefully against the brutal murder of Faisal Masih. Keeping in view sensitivity of the matter Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) visited Karachi on September 01, 2012, meeting with various people of the locality including Christians and especially with parents of the deceased Faisal Masih, and gathered the following facts behind the heartless incident of murder of Faisal Masih. Mr. Saleem Khursheed (Member Provincial Assembly-Sindh) and Ms. Jacqueline Sultan (Advocate High Court) from Karachi also joined the fact-finding team.

About Faisal Masih

The CLAAS team met with parents of the deceased and noted that Faisal Masih, 24, s/o Binyamin Masih, was the youngest among five children in the family. He was running a cellphone shop in the locality, selling cell phone cards and credit transfer facilities to the consumers. He also was the local dealer of “easypaisa” (easypaisa is a scheme of a particular cell phone company and a bank to transfer money from one place to another). It meant that the deceased always had big cash amounts with him at the shop.



File photo of cell phone shop of the deceased Faisal Masih

Background on Essa Nagri, also known as PIB Colony (Pir Ilahi Buksh Colony)

Essa Nagri is a densely populated neighborhood, home to some 50,000 Christians, living in conditions of extreme poverty, lacking basic facilities. There are many Christian colonies in the Metropolitan area of Karachi while Essa Nagri is the biggest in population. This Christian colony is under threat from quite diverse kind of groups, from Islamist militants as well as from drug dealers for many years. Different criminal gangs wield control of this vicinity and extort money from Christian shopkeepers. The activists of criminal gangs freely move in the area; they loot houses and terrorize Christians through aerial firing with latest weapons. As stated, Essa Nagri is situated in central part of the city and the land here is now of very high value. The criminal gangs want to grab the land and they keep terrorizing Christians with attacks and even brutal killings so that they leave their properties and flee. Police in the area is well aware of the criminal activities rather they part of the crimes in this locality.

The Incident



The front part of the shop and place of occurrence where Faisal Masih was shot dead

According to Binyamin Masih, father of the deceased, his son Faisal Masih opened his shop on 29th August 2012 as was his morning routine. The CLAAS team noticed that their shop is housed in the front portion of their property. Essa Nagri is quite a congested population area and this shop is situated on the main entrance of Essa Nagri from the University Road side which is all the time filled with area residents mainly Christians.

At about 7 pm two criminal assailants of Pashtun origin and known to be residents of Baloch Goth, Karachi invaded the shop and demanded money from Faisal Masih on gun point. Obviously Faisal resisted and refused to part with the money. In the resultant scuffle one of the co-accused was captured by the deceased. The accused was in tight grip of the deceased and in an effort to get free opened fire on forehead of Faisal Masih. Resultantly, Faisal Masih got serious injuries in his head not tolerating the injuries he died on the spot.

Depressed Binyamin Masih said, “I am a patient with diabetes and witness of the crime scene. When the accused attacked my son I was 50 feet away from the crime scene. I noticed that a scuffle took place between my son and the accused. It was a horrible scene for me and when I tried to stand up and rescue my son I got serious attack of



Depressed Binyamin Masih narrating the facts

diabetes. I was unable to rescue my son and started shouting for help. At that time no one stepped forward to help me and rescue my son.”

Arrest of Murderer

Within no time a big crowd gathered in the street and when the murderers tried to flee the crime scene after killing Faisal Masih one of them was caught by the area residents. The residents started beating the accused who was later identified as Salman Bangash (a criminal wanted in a number of street crimes). Soon afterwards the police reached the crime scene and arrested the accused Salman Bangash while the dead body of deceased was shifted to the hospital for autopsy. Later a criminal case FIR was registered against Salman Bangash at the police station Pir Ilahi Bakash Colony, Karachi.

Protest Demonstration

Soon after this act of violence and injustice the Christian residents staged a protest demonstration and blocked University Road, Karachi for several hours. The Christian protesters were peaceful and chanted slogans against the accused persons. The police intervened along with Para Military Forces (Rangers) to disperse the Christian protesters firing in the air as well as using tear gas. The Christians demanded immediate arrest of the other accused but both forces just wanted to disperse the protesters.

In an unexpected move rangers and the police opened fire on angry protesters and resultantly Pastor Cornelius Feroze, aged 32, and Shahzad Riaz, aged 23, got serious injuries. These seriously injured persons were shifted to the hospital; Pastor Cornelius Feroze to Liaquat National Hospital and Shahzad Riaz to Jinnah Hospital, Karachi.

The CLAAS team met with Pastor Cornelius Feroze and according to him he got gunshot injuries on shoulders and on his backbone. He was discharged from the hospital after necessary medical treatments. According to him the police and rangers offensively opened firearms on peaceful protesters and during meeting CLAAS team found him in stable health condition.

The CLAAS team also met with Nasreen Bibi who had actively participated in the demonstration as well as rescued Shahzad Riaz from the police. Nasreen Bibi, said, “I am also resident of Essa Nagri; while we were peacefully demonstrating when they opened fire. As a result Shahzad Riaz got a bullet in his backbone and fell down on the road unconscious.”

“The police constables lifted him and threw him inside the police patrolling van. I was looking at him and I reached near the police van to find Shahzad Riaz in critical condition. I saw a pond of blood surrounding him and started shouting for help to rescue Shahbaz. I jumped inside the police van and the moment I lifted him, I noticed that the back part of his body had severe gunshot injuries and a fountain of blood was coming out of his wounds. The protesters got hold of him and without delay shifted Shahbaz to the Jinnah hospital for medical treatment.”

“I am very disappointed over the violent act of police and other forces for inhumanly attacking the innocent protesters. The police, instead of providing security or listening to their demands, violently attacked them seriously injuring many Christians and also arrested them.”

The CLAAS team also met dozens of Christians who expressed same concerns as of Nasreen Bibi and father of the deceased; they demanded that the police should take stern action against the criminal assailants and pleaded for security.”

Unjustified act of Para Military Forces (Rangers)

The residents of Essa Nagri informed CLAAS team about the illegal attack of police and the Para Military Forces on peaceful Christian protesters. The police along with Para Military Forces fired tear gas and opened straight fire on peaceful protesters. Resultantly Pastor Cornelius Feroze and Shahzad Riaz got critical injuries while many other Christians were beaten and arrested by the police and by the Para Military Forces. According to the law of the land the action and attack of Para Military Forces is illegal, unjustified and unconstitutional.

The Funeral Service

The CLAAS team also attended the funeral prayer service of the deceased Faisal Masih. Friends, family and residents of the area had gathered near a roadside tent where the funeral prayer service was held for the deceased. The CLAAS team was informed about the serious threats from the criminal assailants. It was observed that the Christians were under threat while on the other side none of police constable was deputed for security of the Christians.

Statements of area residents

According to Christian residents of Essa Nagri, they are under severe threats for many years but they are voiceless as they don't have strong political representation to defend their rights. Various criminal elements are harassing, looting and killing the Christians. They said that the police is also involved with the criminal assailants and they allow criminals to extort money and give free hand in other crimes also. It was also revealed by the Christian residents that it was known that political parties had divided streets among themselves, for extorting money.

The Christian shopkeepers in Essa Nagri believe that they are being targeted so that they would ultimately leave the area. They opined that the political parties wanted to turn Essa Nagri into their own constituency because the land has enormous value. They also showed their concern over increasing number of robberies in which bandits fire into the area freely. They felt helpless because their children and families were not safe, churches were not secure and young boys of the community were being killed with impunity. As small traders they feel very threatened by the extortionists while and nobody seemed to care among the political leaders or the administration.

The Christian residents put the number of Christian youth killed recently at five and said as many as 12 had been critically injured. Extortionists seem to roam around freely in the area, threatening Christian traders over money. They also demanded for the immediate dismissal of Station House Officer over his criminal negligence and said that the departmental action should be taken against him.

According to Christian residents, they had made several complaints to the local police, to the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Rangers and to the Army offices but all had gone in vain because no one among them cares, especially for the Christians. The government authorities seem to give no attention to the Christians.

The CLAAS team also visited the police station for meeting with the station house officer but none of senior or the concerned police officers was available for comments.

Findings and observations

1. The Christian residents are living in a state of constant fears and threats and have become patients with chronic depressions.
2. The police along with criminals are involved in crimes.
3. The Christian residents are not safe and could not register complaints against criminals.
4. The criminal elements want to grab the properties of Christians so they are threatening them to vacate the locality. In this connection many Christians have left the vicinity already.
5. The criminals have robbed a number of houses, extorted money from traders and they still enjoy political support from the ruling parties.
6. The Christian shopkeepers in the area have been receiving threats from the criminals, similarly other residents of the area receive extortion slips for payment of millions of rupees.
7. The Christian residents are still receiving threatening phone calls by the extortionists and the land grabbers to vacate their properties as well as for to extortion money.

24. Fact finding report on Christian Nurses were poisoned in Civil Hospital Karachi

The Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) was informed about an unpleasant incident of poisoning of nine Christian trainee nurses at Civil Hospital, Karachi. The CLAAS office monitored the incident throughout and discovered that the Government of Sindh and Health Department Sindh did not take appropriate legal action against the accused nor directed for any inquiry of the incident. Keeping in view the sensitivity of the matter Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS)

visited Karachi on August 31, 2012 and gathered the following facts behind the tragic incident of poisoning:

The Civil Hospital, Karachi



The Civil Hospital Karachi was established in 1898 with 250 beds to provide basic health facilities and following the growth of population over the years the hospital has expanded to 1900 beds. The hospital does not only cater to the needs of the whole of Sindh but also of the neighboring Balochistan province. Civil Hospital Karachi is a large public facility affiliated with Dow University of Health Sciences which also has a nursing school with a big hostel for the trainee nurses

on its premises. The hospital is providing all kinds of services and facilities related to medical care at one place.

The Christian Nurses

There are a large number of Christian women among the nurses serving the Civil Hospital, Karachi who come from different parts of the country and usually belong to poor families. Mostly are completing their training in the nursing school and later get job in the adjoining Civil Hospital. The Christian nurses interviewed during this fact-finding stated that the profession of nursing is completely filled with hardships, disrespect, abuses, accusations and disappointments. More importantly the Christian women in this field are facing discriminatory attitude in the name of religion and they are ill-treated and ignored all the time. They said that they were loyal and devoted to their profession despite all of these factors and had never compromised on their patient's health. They often face sexual harassment by the doctors as well as by the public.

Sexual harassment, hatred and degrading treatment against Christian nurses

On condition of anonymity quite a number of trainee nurses divulged to CLAAS representative Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate that many girl students of the Civil Hospital Nursing School were being sexually abused while others were being forced to make friends with senior staffers of the medical facility and with the influential etc. The trainee nurses also said that women teachers were also involved in these affairs and they forced the students for friendship with members of the People's Paramedical Staff (a wing of the Pakistan People's Party) and office bearers of other so-called workers' unions operating in the hospital. Christian nurses have been staging protest demonstrations against these unethical and immoral acts.

It was astonishing to know that teachers at the school were also involved in this heinous crime. These teachers and their "protected" students could take off from duty any time

and they often remained absent as if they had been exempted from their duties. If any of the students, especially from among the Christian ones resisted or refused to act according to the wishes of the bosses and teachers she would be punished and bound for 24 hours duties. As a result every year many Christian students leave their studies half way. There are also cases where these students get pregnant and they are then compelled to marry the colleagues who had been exploiting them sexually. These trainee nurses also reminded of the cruel incident of 2010 when a Christian nurse student Magdalene Ashraf was raped and brutally beaten up by a senior doctor of the hospital and she was later pushed down from the second floor of the Civil Hospital.

The Incident



Christian nurses under treatment

It was very difficult to gather information about the recent incident and after much persuasion one student nurse agreed to give the details. According to her a group of students – 11 in number – were studying collectively on 29th July 2012 in a room in the nursing hostel. It was around 8 pm at which time the kitchen area is usually insecure and unsafe. While studying they felt need for tea and one of them went to

make tea for all but she forgot to bring sugar. After putting tea pot on the stove she went to the room again to bring sugar. It was almost 10 pm when they had tea ready and at that late hour, some only sipped half the cup of tea while three of them namely Anila, Rita James and Rafia finished the full cup. After having tea unexpectedly all Christian student nurses started vomiting and became unconscious. They all were taken without any delay into emergency for the first aid medical treatment. Three of them being in critical situation were shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and put on ventilator. Rest of them were shifted to the general ward.

Registration of a criminal case

Later a case FIR was lodged (at the Eidgah Police Station, Karachi) against unidentified persons for allegedly administering some poisonous substance to the nurses in tea. According to the police, the investigation is underway and samples of tea and its ingredients had been sent to a laboratory for chemical examination while urine samples had been sent to a private lab for an examination. Till the filing of this report the police are awaiting the results and investigation has not moved much. The case FIR was registered under section 337-J (causing hurt by means of a poison) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). Following relevant provisions of PPC need to be kept in mind for this case:

337-J (PPC) Causing hurt by mean of a poison: “Whoever administers to or causes to be taken by, any person, any poison or any stupefying, intoxicating or unwholesome drug, or such other thing with intent to cause hurt to such person, or with intent to commit or to facilitate the commission of an offence, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause hurt may, in addition to the punishment of arsh or daman provided for the kind of hurt caused, be punished, having regard to the nature of the hurt caused, with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years.”

Meeting with Shafqat Sardar Khokhar and his wife Babra



Shafqat Sardar and his wife Babra

Shafqat Sardar Khokhar and his wife Babra are paternal uncle and aunt of Sana Nelson who was among the victim nurse students. Shafqat is a laborer while Babra Bibi is herself a nurse. Shafqat Sardar Khokhar said, “My niece Sana also fell seriously ill. She was the victim of prejudices and injustices. The dreadful incident of poisoning the Christian student nurses is unjustified and affected families condemn the incident.” He added, “Near about 100 senior nurses are working in the Civil Hospital Karachi and many are completing their nursing course

etc. The Christian nurses usually belong to poor families coming from all parts of the country. The hostel administration is Muslim and Muslim nurses lead the prejudice and hatred against Christian nurses. The Muslim nurses along with other staff, union office bearers and political activists of different political parties force Christian nurses for immoral activities. We have been informed that on the day of the incident an exchange of blows had taken place between Christian and Muslim nurses regarding duties as well other activities. Muslim nurses’ prejudices take shape of religious intolerance.”

Shafqat Sardar further added, “I met with the affected nurses who disclosed that soon after the incident they saw some Muslim nurses surrounding the room where Christian nurses were studying and making tea. Afterwards, the fellow Christian nurses found some broken pieces of and remains of mercury (from glass thermometers) near the stove where Christian students were making tea. After all it was established that the mercury from the glass thermometers was poured into the tea. The suspicions of mixing mercury in the tea grew against the fellow Muslim nurses.” Shafqat Sardar and his wife were sad and showed their disappointment over the inhuman behavior of the Medical Superintendent (MS) and the hospital administration and said, “After first aid treatment the Christian nurses were forcibly discharged from the hospital and they were directed to join their duties. The hospital management wanted to hide the incident and pressurized the student nurses to join the duties. Secondly the Hospital management warned the

Christian nurses of dire consequences like implicating them in scandals etc. if they demanded serious inquiry.”

Statement of Mrs. Nasreen Gill (Chief Nursing Superintendent, Civil Hospital Karachi)

Mrs. Nasreen Gill, a Christian lady who is a senior staff nurse at the hospital and is working as Chief Nursing Superintendent said that the Christian nurses were constantly under pressure in the hospital and the nursing school. As head of nursing she had received many complaints from Christian nurses pertaining to sexual harassment, forcing to perform others' duties, forced for adultery and they also face inhuman attitude in the name of religion etc. She said she had many efforts in this connection and tried to solve their problems peacefully but every time she faced indifference rather hard time from the higher authorities of the nursing school. Secondly, she said, a notorious group of Abbas Tinda, an activist of People's Paramedical Staff (PPS) along with office bearers of trade union and members of the political parties are actively involved in the sexual exploitation of the students and nurses. The consequences with which these nurses and students are threatened if they don't budge include firing from the job, acid thrown on their faces and even killing. The members of PPS and union office bearers have been reported to spend their nights with nurses during duty times.

Talking on the incident Mrs. Nasreen Gill said that they were investigating at the hospital level also while an FIR had been launched against unknown accused persons. She thought it was a pity that the student nurses while under treatment were forcibly discharged from the hospital when they still needed appropriate medical treatments. The affected nurses were suffering from low blood pressure along with other health related disorders and developing back some complications.

The arrogance of hospital management and the health department Sindh

The health department wanted to hide the incident as well as was reluctant to investigate the matter even according to the hospital's rules and regulations. Dr. Professor Saeed Qureshi (Medical Superintendent Civil Hospital) admits the incident of poisoning but he disagreed that staff or anyone from the hostel management was involved.

It was disappointing that Dr. Sagheer Ahmad (Provincial Minister for Health, Sindh) totally declined to admit the incident and said nothing had happened with the Christian nurses that warranted any caution or special investigation.

Meeting with Saleem Khursheed Khokhar MPA

Mr. Saleem Khokhar (Member Provincial Assembly Sindh and Chairperson Standing Committee on Minority Affairs, Sindh) said, "The Christian nurses were deliberately poisoned because of their faith. I have condemned the incident and urged the government and the police to launch joint investigation to discover the real cause of

poisoning. Large numbers of Christian nurses are serving in the Civil Hospital and they are subjected to ill-treatment and prejudices. In a press statement I have requested the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take suo motu notice of the incident. The society has become extremely intolerant and is not allowing the religious minorities to live in peace. This incident is an example of hatred and partiality which is unjustified and offensive. In this connection many rights groups staged protest demonstrations and demanded the government to investigate the matter in accordance with law of the land.”

Observations and findings:

1. The incident is an example of hatred and prejudice.
2. The Christian nurses are facing inhuman attitude in the name of religion.
3. The Christian nurses of the Civil Hospital are going through hardships, abuse and are forced for adultery; they are sexually harassed and disrespected in the hospital premises.
4. The affected student nurses were forcibly discharged from the hospital while keeping in view their health the nurses still needed appropriate medical treatment.
5. The Christian students and nurses are being sexually abused and raped while others are also being forced to make friendships with old age personnel.
6. The members of the renowned political parties are involved in this heinous crime.
7. There are some speculations that some Muslim nurses along with other staff members of the hospital were directly involved in poisoning the Christian nurses.
8. The higher management of the civil hospital and the health department cunningly wanted to hide the incident.
9. The Christian nurses were also threatened that if they did not act according to the wishes of their bosses and seniors they would be fired from the job, acid thrown on their faces and even killing. They are also threatened that they would be implicated in cases like drinking of alcohol in the hostel and their name will be attached to different scandals etc.

Recommendations

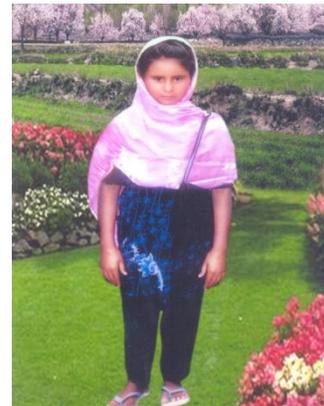
1. A fair and transparent investigation must be carried out to find the real motives behind the incident of poisoning for the best interest of justice.
2. The government and the hospital management must ensure that the innocent Christian nurses should not be victimized, abused and harassed by the criminal elements.

3. The police administration should investigate the illegal involvement of members of the renowned political parties, office bearers of union and outsiders in threatening the Christian nurses for dire consequences.
4. The hospital administration should initiate departmental actions against the staff members involved for poisoning.
5. The civil hospital management must protect and safeguard the rights, lives and dignity of the Christian nurses and they must be respected.

25. Fact-finding report on Maqdas Kainaat, a Christian young girl was raped and murdered in Sahiwal

The Information

On September 12, 2012 distressed father Raffique Masih, a Christian from Sahiwal, approached CLAAS office along with his relatives namely Shaukat Masih and Raffique Samuel and informed about a heartless incident of brutal murder, gang rape and strangulation to death of his minor daughter Kainaat alias Muqadas. During this visit to CLAAS he briefly narrated the story and claimed that the police and concerned departments were not taking his case seriously were unduly favoring the accused persons who were in the police lock-up. Raffique Masih added and informed Mr. Joseph Francis that despite a lapse of one month after the incident the police had only arrested three accomplices of the main accused and had failed to arrest the real culprit behind this incident. He alleged that police were delaying the proceedings and investigations just to make the case weaker.



Deceased Kainaat Muqadas

The cold-blooded murder of a Christian minor girl prompted CLAAS to immediately constitute a fact-finding team headed by Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) and with other members namely Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer CLAAS), Ms. Huma Lucus (Field Officer CLAAS) and Mr. John Paul (Support Staff CLAAS). The CLAAS team reached the area on September 12, 2012 and visited alleged place of occurrence, police station and met with people related to the case. Raffique Masih and his uncle Shaukat Masih joined the CLAAS fact-finding team from Sahiwal. The CLAAS team spent two days in the area and gathered the following facts about the incident:

Family Background

The saddened family is headed by Raffique Masih who is a 40-year-old Christian living in Chak # 98/6R, Post Office Khas Tehsil & District, Sahiwal. Raffique Masih is married to Nomi alias Shamim and the couple had seven children named Kainaat Muqadas (victim) who was aged 12 years and 5 months at the time of her death, Sadia alias Kaalo aged 8, Nadia 7, Sultan Masih 6, Shan Masih 5, Salman Masih 4 and Marriam of age 1½ years. Raffique Masih used to be a truck driver but some two years ago he started work as a brick kiln laborer and within these two years he worked at different brick making factories surrounding his residence. In July 2012 Raffique Masih and his wife started

work for Chaudhry Muhammad Khalid at Al-Ghani Bricks Company, Katchi Paki Road, 96/6, District Sahiwal and shifted their residence to company's quarters.

State of Christian residents at Al-Ghani Bricks Company

According to Raffique Masih only three Christian families were living at brick making company amongst 10 Muslim families. The relations between Christians and Muslims were cordial and they were residing and working as brick kiln laborers at the brick making factory for last ten years. The CLAAS team noticed that the brick kiln laborers were living in a deprived state appeared to be patient rather than healthy human beings. It is such a pity that no medical facilities were provided to the brick kiln workers and the management did not arrange anything further than the emergency provisions, a fact gravely observed by the CLAAS team during their visit. The team also noticed that the upper skin of the children, women and males gave blackish impression and after inquiring it was found that their skin was damaged while working whole day in the mud and under the sun's heat. The residents also informed the CLAAS team that they were getting Rs. 400/- (USD 4.5 approximately) for making 1000 bricks, which is unjustified and not enough to take care of the day's necessities for a single family.

The Incident

Raffique Masih stated that his wife had been suffering from some illness for about six months and on 14th August 2012 around noon she had a severe pain so he took her to local hospital and later to the Civil Hospital, Sahiwal. In the Civil Hospital she was operated for appendicitis through a minor surgery. All this while their children were alone at home while Arshad Masih, Rafique's elder brother who lives in the neighboring village looked after the children while Raffique and his wife were in the hospital.

On 15th August 2012 Arshad Masih asked the deceased Kainaat Muqadas to prepare food for her mother and father and left the premises for his home Chak # 98/6R. Upon his return around 3 pm he found that the food had been cooked and children were taking it but Kainaat was nowhere to be found. He asked Kainaat's younger sister Sadia alias Kaalo about Kainaat who told him that she had gone to nearby field as they did not have a wash room facility at home. Arshad Masih waited for her a while but realizing his duty he soon started a search for her in the fields around the house. Kainaat was not to be found anywhere and after asking neighbours and relatives in vain, he immediately informed her father Raffique Masih who rushed back from the hospital and started searching for Kainaat.



Deceased Muqadas take clean water from this Water Hand pump

Rafique also brought the matter into notice of kiln-owner Chaudhry Muhammad Khalid as well as asked the whereabouts of his daughter from everyone around including Irshad Ali (accountant of Al-Ghani Bricks Company). He also made inquiries from the neighbors especially from Mureed alias Cheena (an elderly fellow of 50) who lives next to Raffique Masih at the kiln quarters. Deceased Kainaat used to go to Mureed's house to get clean drinking water and sometimes for washing clothes etc. Raffique also added that many times he had seen Mureed's sons lurking

around the hand pump that Kainaat used.

Desperate on not finding her, Raffique Masih asked his neighbors Hameed and Mureed Cheena again but instead of giving him any details they became furious and stated that they knew nothing about Kainaat. Some neighbors however told Raffique that a guest named Yasin, who was visiting Mureed, Hameed and Shahbaz etc. was also missing since the time when Kainaat disappeared. Raffique Masih started Yasin's search and also informed his wife about disappearance of their daughter.



Sad Raffique Masih showing the place where he found the dead body of his daughter

Hearing the horrific news his wife rushed back home and asked Irshad Ali and Hameed to return their daughter and warned them of criminal action against them. They expressed suspicions about Yasin. In the meanwhile Hameed informed the distressed family that Yasin had stolen his cell and through this phone he has informed Irshad Ali that Raffique's daughter is not with him. The family as well as neighboring Christian residents gathered and strongly protested with Mureed alias Cheena and Noor Muhammad and demanded the safe return of Muqadas warning them of dire consequences.

Information on whereabouts of missing Muqadas

On August 16, 2012 at 9:00 am Irshad Ali informed Raffique Masih that accused Yasin had made phone call to him and he told that Raffique's daughter Muqadas was not with him and also stated that at that time she was in the cornfields near Raffique's house. Following this information Raffique Masih and his relatives rushed towards the cornfields and found dead body of Kainaat Muqadas lying on ground in a bad state. Looking at the dead body of deceased Kainaat Muqadas, her father Raffique Masih lost his senses. Later, the police reached at the spot and took the dead body into their custody and shortly shifted the deceased to District Head Quarter Hospital, Sahiwal for autopsy.

Registration of case FIR and arrests



The FIR of the case was registered on 16th August 2012 (No. 488/12 under section 149, 302/148 of the Pakistan Penal Code) against Yasin s/o Khuda Baksh, Rasheed alias Cheedo s/o Mureed Cheena, Shehbaz s/o Noor Muhammad, Hameed s/o Noor Muhammad and one unknown person at Police Station Fareed Town, Sahiwal. The alleged accused Rasheed alias Cheedo, Shehbaz and Hameed were arrested on the same day and after completion of 14 days remand they were sent to the Sahiwal jail on September 14, 2012.

The Post Mortem Examination Report

According to initial medico legal examination report deceased Kainaat died on August 16, 2012 at around 08:30 am and the cause of death was recorded as her disc herniation was badly fractured while the spinal nerves were damaged. The description of other injuries on external examination was bleeding from the vaginal orifice present, hymen freshly torn, lacer bone present, vagina admits 2 finger easily and bleeding from the organs. Secondly, other injuries were identified as bruise present all around the neck and on dissection hyoid bone is fractured. The final report was to be given after the report of the chemical examination and in this connection specimen from stomach, small & large intestine, liver, spleen and kidney etc had been sent to laboratory for the expert opinion.

The Funeral

The police handed over the dead body of deceased Kainaat Muqadas to her parents on August 16, 2012 near about 05:00 pm. They immediately arranged for the funeral. Deceased was buried in the graveyard of her home town situated in Chak # 98/6R, Sahiwal.

Statement of Mrs. Nomi alias Shamim (mother of deceased Kainaat Muqadas)

Mrs. Nomi, said "On August 14, 2012 I was admitted to the hospital for a surgery to remove my appendix. The next day my husband informed me about our missing daughter Muqadas, which was shocking and unexpected. I was not in the state to immediately rush to find out my daughter. On the day of her funeral I was at home and after funeral I requested Noor Muhammad and Mureed for whereabouts of my daughter. Both kept silent and did not give any answer and later I asked Irshad Ali (accountant at Al-Ghani Bricks Company) because I had heard that the accused Yasin time and again had called him and inquired about the reaction of my family and the fellow Christians. Irshad Ali totally denied any links with the accused Yasin but I had a suspicion on him because some days ago he had called my husband and advised him to be careful about my family. My family and the Christians living around pressurized and asked Irshad Ali. The area Christians were aggressive and Irshad Ali promised that he would help for the safe return of Muqadas and asked for some time. Later, on August 16, 2012 at about 07:00am I along with my husband again went to Irshad Ali, who informed that Yasin made a phone call to him and stated that Muqadas was not with him. I was worried and anxious to know about my daughter and near about 09:00 am Arshad Ali came and informed my husband that accused Yasin had made phone call to Irshad Ali and Yasin notified that Raffique's daughter Muqadas is not with him (Yasin). They said that at that time she was in the front part of cornfields of my house. Following the information on whereabouts of our daughter my husband along with relatives rushed towards the cornfields and found the dead body of my beloved daughter Kainaat Muqadas lying on ground in a bad shape. Sudden death of my daughter was very much distressing for me while I was already suffering from after effects of the surgery. I am sure Irshad Ali is also involved in this brutal murder because he was already aware about the bad plans of the accused as well as was in contact with the accused persons".

Sadia alias Kaalao

The CLAAS team also met with Kainaat's younger sister Sadia alias Kaalao who said, "I was having lunch along with other siblings and my elder sister Muqadas was preparing

the food. During cooking she informed me that she was going to front part cornfields relieve herself. When she did not return for quite some time I moved towards the cornfields but my sister Kainaat Muqadas was not there. I looked for her in the neighborhood and in this while one of our neighbors Malangi aged about 17 informed me that honey bees had attacked Muqadas and our neighbors were performing exorcism (driving out the evil spirits) for Muqadas. I was confused because I had not seen my sister in the cornfields.”

Statement of Najma Bibi and Sheila Bibi

The CLAAS team met with Najma Bibi who is wife of the paternal grand uncle of the deceased and Sheila Bibi, wife of the paternal uncle who gave bath to the dead body of Muqadas Kainaat. Both ladies described the facts that contradicted the Medico Legal Report. According to Najma and Sheila during bath they noticed that her left hand and fingers were roughly broken and the left leg was broken too. They also noticed that the whole body was severely assaulted by the accused and it looked as if the brutality was done not by a single person but by several persons. Also her vagina was badly torn and the bleeding from vagina continued till her burial. Both ladies further added that deceased was raped approximately 8 to 9 times by different accused persons. They said that the shreds of her shirt also showed that she had tried hard to defend herself from the attempts of rape. According to them the inner side of her mouth was wounded and marks were visible on her breasts. It looked like that she had been beaten with sticks because the stick marks were also visible all over her body.

Irshad Ali (Accountant at Al-Ghani Bricks Company)

Among all these statements it was very important to see and interview Irshad Ali. When the CLAAS team met him he had this to say, “On August 15, 2012 Raffique and his wife informed me about disappearance of their daughter Muqadas and also informed me that Hameed’s guest Yasin had also not been seen since her disappearance. I went to Hameed’s house and asked him about Muqadas and Yasin to which he said that he had no idea of whereabouts of Yasin and Muqadas and he also informed me that Yasin had stolen his cell phone. After sometimes I got a missed call from the cell phone of Hameed. I promptly responded the missed call and found out that the cell phone was with Yasin who informed me that Muqadas is not with him and again from the same number the next day he informed me that she might be in the cornfields. As I was with Raffique Masih at that time I informed Rafique and we went to the cornfields where her dead body was found. Later I came to know through Hameed that accused was a criminal offender and he had murdered his paternal aunt with axe and was also a drug addict and he had habits of drinking alcohol, Hashish and Marijuana etc.

Chaudhry Muhammad Khalid Arain

The CLAAS team met with Chaudhry Muhammad Khalid Arain, the owner of Al-Ghani Bricks Company. He said, “It was shocking news for me that a minor girl was brutally killed at my premises and in this connection I personally intervened and handed over Rasheed alias Sheedu, Shahbaz and Hameed to the police. I am in contact with the police and eager to know the whereabouts of accused Yasin and others.”

Meeting with the Investigation Officer

The CLAAS team also met with Mr. Noor Muhammad (Sub-Inspector), the investigation officer of this case who informed that the police had arrested the accused namely Rasheed Cheedo aged 18, Shehbaz aged 24 and Hameed aged 36 and had obtained 14 days judicial remand for each of them. He said that the police had recovered a scarf from arrested accused persons which they used to strangle her throat. The investigation officer assured the CLAAS team that justice would be done in this case. He also said that the police was making all efforts to arrest the main accused. He further shared that the judicial remand of the arrested accused will be completed on September 14, 2012 and they will be sent to the jail and later he informed that the accused had been sent to the jail. The CLAAS team expressed their grave concerns over the investigation as well as shared disappointment on the police for their failure to arrest the main accused. The investigation officer also informed CLAAS that the police had known the family background of the accused as his name is Yasin aged 38 s/o Khuda Baksh, cast Muslim sheikh, resident at the Brick Company of Mirza Iqbal Beig, Jalla Road, Bhai Phero, District Kasur. The elder brother of accused Yasin had been arrested by the police for further investigation.

Meeting with the arrested accused Rasheed alias Cheedu, Shahbaz and Hameed

The CLAAS team also visited the Fareed Town police station and got a chance to meet with three arrested persons namely Rasheed alias Cheedu, Shahbaz and Hameed. When the CLAAS team asked them about their involvement in murdering innocent Muqadas and keeping Yasin, a criminal offender, as a guest at their place, they rejected the allegations of murder of Muqadas and denied their involvement. They further said that they had never known the background of accused Yasin and at the moment were very much shocked on his act of brutality.”

Muhammad Mureed alias Cheena

The CLAAS team was in the police station when they got a chance to meet Muhammad Mureed, father of Rasheed alias Cheedu. He had come to the police station for seeing his son Rasheed and to press the innocence of his son. He said, “I was unaware about accused Yasin and one of my cousins Shahbaz introduced him and informed that Yasin would stay with them while working at the brick company. Nothing was in my mind and I never noticed the acts and deeds of accused Yasin”. During this conversation a dejected Raffique Masih jumped in and argued with Mureed and argued with him stating, “Your arrested son Rasheed alias Sheedu and cousin Shahbaz very well knew about the past of accused Yasin and they also tried to hide whatever they knew when my daughter went missing. I time and again personally requested them to tell about my daughter but they did not and denied completely their links with the incident.”

Meeting with Malangi

The CLAAS team also met Malangi who is a 17 year old neighbor of the aggrieved family. Malangi was the one who met Kaalao, the younger sister of deceased Muqadas, and informed her about the attack of honey bees on Muqadas as well as informed about the neighbors who were performing exorcism (driving out of evil spirits) to rescue her. When the CLAAS team asked Malangi about how he had come to know what he stated to Kaalo, he replied, “On the day of the incident I was on my way to home when I saw

Yasin who requested me to bring some alcohol from the neighboring village. He told me about the honey bees attack on Muqadas. Then my father Hameed called me and I left the conversation there and then but I saw that after me Yasin straight away went to Irshad Ali. My father was angry, because he did not like Yasin and prohibited me from meeting him. I personally know that Yasin was habitual of using Hashish and Marijuana etc. and he had asked me many times to bring drugs for him. I also noticed that he regularly paid visit to the adjacent Bricks Company of Chaudhry Tahir for the purpose of using drugs with friends namely Kabeer and Lalli etc. who are all drug addicts. His friends Kabeer and Lalli were also absent from their duties since the day of this incident.”

Abdul Sattar

The CLAAS team met Abdul Sattar, aged 23, one of the close relatives of the accused. He informed the CLAAS team saying, “I recorded a phone call from accused Yasin who admitted to his crime and through phone calls he has stated many times that he had made a mistake and killed Muqadas. Yasin also promised that he would help in securing release of my relatives who were suffering because of him. He also said that he would turn himself in and was arranging money for compromise with Raffique Masih. My family is waiting for him since the day he called. I also endorse the statement of Malangi that accused Yasin was a drug addict.”

Muhammad Shahzad

The CLAAS team met with Muhammad Shahzad, aged 26, who informed that he was working at the Brick Company of Chaudhary Tahir. He said, “At first I came to know Yasin when he was caught red handed at the neighboring Brick Company of Abdul Rehman for raping a female donkey (Jenny or Jennet). Accused Yasin frequently visited our Brick Company and Kabeer and Lalli were his friends and they all used drugs together.”

Meeting with Sardar Zafar Dogar (Deputy Superintendent of Police)

The CLAAS team met with Sardar Zafar Dogar DSP (Deputy Superintendent of Police) Sahiwal. During this meeting DSP informed the CLAAS team that the police were raiding for the arrest of the remaining accused persons particularly the main accused. He also informed that the DPO (District Police Officer) Mr. Muhammad Ayaz Saleem is very much concerned also and the police officials were handling the case for the best interest of justice. The police parties were very near to apprehending the accused Yasin through his cell phone record and that he would be arrested soon.

Statements of area residents

The CLAAS team also met with dozens of Muslim and Christian residents of the area who expressed their grief and concern over the death of Kainaat Muqadas. They strongly condemned her brutal murder and demanded that the accused involved in this brutal murder must be severely punished. Some of these accounts are given below:

Jameela Bibi (Neighbor)

Jameela Bibi a 55 years old Christian from the locality said, “Little Muqadas was very loving among the people here and she was an obedient daughter. I was also with

Raffique when we approached Irshad Ali in his office and asked him to bring the girl back.

I was shocked to see the condition of the dead body of Muqadas and noticed that her left hand and fingers were roughly broken and the left leg was broken too. The dead body was lying on the ground of cornfields in very bad condition. I also noticed that injury marks were on her whole body, teeth bites blue marks visible on her cheeks, breasts, belly and the lips were sucked inhumanly and the swelling had turned into black and blue.”

Rasheed Masih

The CLAAS team met with Rasheed Masih aged 32, paternal uncle of deceased Muqadas who informed the team and said, “The sudden death of Muqadas was shocking for my family and at present the whole of my family is under trauma. I observed that the police are not taking much interest in this case and therefore I have contacted one of my friends in the media so that this case is highlighted and police take it seriously. A media team has met with the concerned people, arrested accused and visited the Brick Company.”

CLAAS Findings / Observations

1. The innocent Kainaat Muqadas was killed brutally and inhumanly.
2. The distressed family at the moment is living with their relatives and the mother of deceased is suffering with the appendix pain.
3. Christian residents of the area are poor and marginalized mostly working at brick kiln.
4. The Christians are deprived of the basic fundamental rights and more importantly there is no political representation for the Christian community.
5. Deceased Muqadas Kainaat usually took drinking water from the water hand pump fixed outside the residence of the accused persons.
6. The Christians need a strong political platform.
7. Arrested accused person namely Rasheed alias Cheedu, Shahbaz and Hameed very well knew the criminal background of accused Yasin.
8. When the accused Shahbaz introduced Yasin to the owner of Brick Company Chaudhary Khalid, Shahbaz concealed the criminal background of accused Yasin.
9. Arrested accused Hameed had known about the conduct of accused Yasin and intentionally prohibited his son Malangi to not have any link with accused Yasin.
10. The other Muslim residents at the Brick Company also knew about accused Yasin and they also hid the fact that he had murdered his aunt with axe.
11. After the Medico Legal Report (Post Mortem Report) the police added the section of Rape to the FIR (PPC Section 376).

12. The police after completing 14 days judicial remand of the accused sent them to the jail on September 14, 2012.

13. The CLAAS team also noticed that the investigation Officer was too busy and he did not properly investigate the brick kiln laborers who concealed and hid the real facts.

14. According to the updates the police parties are raiding to arrest accused Yasin.

Recommendations

1. A transparent and fair investigation must be carried out by the senior police officials for justice in the brutal murder of minor Kainaat Muqadas.

2. The concerned authorities should ensure that the justice is done and also ensure that the marginalized are not victimized.

The Brick Company owners before recruiting the brick kiln laborer must verify the background of the laborer from his/her past employers and knowing locals.

26. Fact-finding report on a Christian boy Rabeel Aftab was forcibly converted into Islam

The Information



Harriate Aftab Mother of Rabeel Aftab during her visit at CLAAS office

On October 08, 2012 Mr. Joseph Francis was informed by Mrs. Harriate Aftab from Okara about a coldhearted incident of forced conversion, sexual violence (sodomy), maltreatment, kidnapping and violence of her 20-year-old son Rabeel Aftab. Harriate is a middle aged Christian woman and mother of five children. During her visit at CLAAS office she brought medical reports and other related documents as evidence of the inhuman violence against her son.

Taking note of the heinous offences and ill-treatment meted out to the boy, a CLAAS fact-finding team headed by Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) with other members Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer CLAAS), Ms. Huma Lucas (Assistant Field Officer CLAAS) and Mr. John Paul (Supporting Staff CLAAS) visited the distressed family on 9th October 2012. The team met victim Rabeel Aftab and also talked to the investigation officer. The team had following to report:

The village

Okara city is approximately 120 km from Lahore, located on the main Multan Road. Chak (village) 53/2-L is adjacent to Okara city where in Mehboob Town the aggrieved family is the only Christian one living among Muslims. Okara city and adjoining areas are

highly populated where Christian and Muslims have been living together peacefully for many decades. The Christians have educational institutions in town and consequently the Christian inhabitants are well educated. The Christians here are laborers, government servants and they are also working as educationists in the area.

Family Background

Mrs. Harriate Aftab is a resident of Okara who was married to Shafquat Aftab in 1991. Shafquat Aftab is a teacher while Harriate Aftab is a house wife. At present the names and ages of children are as Rabeel Aftab aged 20 (student of Veterinary Medical Sciences), Raheela aged 19 (student of Nursing), Raheel Aftab aged 17 (student of Male-Nursing), Mariam aged 15 (student of grade 10) and Dawood Aftab aged 13 (student of Grade 7). The CLAAS team observed that all children were outstanding in their studies.

Victim Rabeel Aftab



Rabeel Aftab trying to explain his agony

The CLAAS fact-finding team visited the distressed family and found Rabeel in critical state of mental disorder. It was also observed that victim Rabeel was unable to complete even a single sentence. The distressed parents' informed CLAAS team that Rabeel was mentally tortured while he was being forced to embrace Islam. When he refused this he was brutally maltreated and inhumanly beaten-up by the management of Faran Academy. It was really saddening that an intelligent Christian student was inhumanly forced to embrace Islam and was brutality tortured.

About Rabeel Aftab

According to distressed mother, Harriate Aftab, her son Rabeel Aftab was quite intelligent since his childhood. He studied for matric at Government Model MC High School, Okara, passing out in 2008, and obtaining 705 out of 850 (Grade A+) in his secondary school examination with Science subjects. He was very fond of studying diseases of animals and their treatment. He continued his good performance and passed his Intermediate examination with Pre-Medical and marks obtained 902 out of 1100 (Grade A+) from Government College, Okara.

He was a brilliant student in the college and wanted to become a doctor of veterinary Sciences. He not only secured A+ grade but also got second position in the Pre-medical examinations in the District Okara upon which the Punjab Government awarded him with full scholarship for studying his DVM (Diploma in Veterinary Medicines) and research of veterinary & animal sciences for which Pak Rs. 27,000/- (US\$ 250/- approximately) were fixed for him per semester. Additionally, Rabeel was also honored with a laptop by the Chief Minister of the Punjab. He got admission in the College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences (CVAS), District Jhang, to complete the Diploma in Veterinary Medicines

(DVM), class of 2011-2016. As he joined his classes in September 2011, he started living in Jamia Hostel, Jhang.

The college administration was pleased to have a brilliant student in their college and he was appreciated by the professors as well as by his class fellows. For his excellence in the study, the hostel management gave him free accommodation and food etc. Rabeel Aftab was very hard working and he started teaching at the nearby Faran Academy in Jhang for his own expenses as well as to partially support his family.

Mrs. Harriate Aftab said that bad time for her son started when he planned for teaching at Faran Academy. In December 2011 when Rabeel Aftab visited home, he informed his parents about the pressure for conversion by the management of Faran Academy. His parents advised him to keep his attention on the study and not to get involved in religious matters. However the pressure and force to embrace Islam continued for Rabeel which he kept tolerating because he knew that if he resisted the humiliation at that point, his dreams of becoming a doctor of veterinary sciences & medicines might not be fulfilled.

The incident and statement of Shafquat Aftab

According to Rabeel's father, Shafquat Aftab, his son was on summer vacation when he received post from the medical college for payment of fees for new semester. Following the submission of fees on August 26, 2012, he along with his class fellow Hammad ur Rehman (resident of Okara) went to the college to submit forms for renewal scholarship. Parents did not know about submission of forms and they got worried about the delay in his return. They waited that night but started calling college office, relatives and his class fellows but no one knew the whereabouts of their son. Shafquat Aftab said, "Finally, around 8 pm in the evening of August 27th, 2012 my wife contacted his class fellow Hammad ur Rehman who informed us that he was with Rabeel till the afternoon of August 27, 2012 and returned home the same evening. He did not give any further information."

"It was unacceptable for me and my wife because both boys had left Okara for Jhang but only Hammad returned home. The cell phone of Rabeel was continuously switched off. Our suspicions grew because we knew that Hammad had taken Rabeel many times to the mosque and tried to convince him to embrace Islam and had even taught him perform prayer in the mosque."

The family gets informed about the whereabouts of missing Rabeel Aftab

The distressed Sahfquat Aftab said, "It was difficult for my family to tolerate the situation and we were worried about Rabeel. I also try hard to find him with relatives and his class fellows but in vain. While I was wondering to know the whereabouts of my son when on August 29, 2012 near about 12 noon my wife received a phone call from the Police Station Model Town, Gujranwala. The police officer at the other end informed my wife that the police had arrested Rabeel from the nearby garden and when the police took him into the custody he was in a state of intoxication. This news was indeed a big one for us and was like if we had returned to life again."

"Following the information I, along with my relatives, and without any delay, rushed towards Gujranwala and found Rabeel in the police custody. It was evident that Rabeel

had been tortured and maltreated by the police. The condition of Rabeel was unspeakable because my son looked like as he had suffered for quite a long time. The moment Rabeel saw me in the police station he started crying and embraced me tightly. He cried loudly and asked me to take him away from the police station. Rabeel was under enormous fear and wanted to disclose something about the happenings of the previous two days.”

Medical Treatment

The family was too much disturbed and was unable to inform the police about the incident. Rabeel was in a very bad shape and needed immediate and appropriate medical treatment.

The parents observed that Rabeel was not reacting normally and indications were of mental disturbance as well. In the meanwhile, on August 31, 2012, suddenly Rabeel’s condition turned critical and he had to be shifted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Lahore for medical treatment from where he was referred to the General Hospital, Lahore for a Neuro CT scan as well as other medical check-up.

According to the medical reports as well as brain CT scan it was discovered that Rabeel was tortured badly whereas the CT X-Ray shows puss signs on inner side of brain and



blood clots inside his head. He would turn violent any time and got fits of mental disorder. Due to high pressure inside his brain Rabeel became a patient with psychiatric problems who is crying most of the time getting angry over little matters. During these fits he loses senses and starts shouting, crying and breaks utensils and other articles.

Physically Rabeel is suffering from various medical problems such as skin allergy, stomach diseases, cardiac pain and lung infections. In these circumstances victim Rabeel has been to different hospitals namely Fatima

Memorial Hospital, Doctor’s Hospital, Jinnah Hospital and the General Hospital. Presently he is at Jinnah Hospital in psychiatry ward for mental health examination and other related tests.

Statement of Harriate Aftab

Mother of the victim Rabeel, Ms. Harriate Aftab, said, “The safe return of my son is a blessing for me and my family. When my son came back home he informed us that he had been inhumanly tortured and was forced to embrace Islam and he was also forced to recite Kalma (the Islamic phrase recited at the time of embracing Islam). Rabeel also told that people at Faran Academy gave him poison in the milk. I collected his belongings from the hostel where I found some papers written by Rabeel in which he had written that one Hammad was his enemy and he also forced Rabeel to embrace Islam. I also found papers written by Hammad for Rabeel on how to perform Wazu (cleanliness before prayers) with Hammad address also on those papers.”



“Due to his critical condition we could not inform the police about the sad incident. Finally, on October 04, 2012 I got some courage and filed an application at the Police Station B-Division Okara. In this application I appealed for registration of an FIR against criminal assailants as well as requested police to take appropriate legal action against the responsible and nominated Hammad and other unknown persons. The SHO Amir Sultan assigned Rana Muhammad Ashraf ASI for investigation and now investigation is underway.”

Mrs. Harriate Aftab talked highly of his son and his exceptional academic career narrating all the grades he had got and the acknowledgement from the government in form of scholarship and the laptop.”

It was very painful to meet Rabeel Aftab because such a brilliant student was showing no signs of his intelligence instead he was unable to complete even a single sentence while talking to the CLAAS team. From his uttering the team gathered that he had been mentally tortured to embrace Islam and upon refusal, physically maltreated and beaten-up by the religious extremists.

Findings / Observations

1. Rabeel Aftab directly became the victim of prejudice and injustices.
2. The management of Faran Academy, In-charge Jamia Hostel and parents of Muhammad Usman forced Rabeel to embrace Islam because his intelligence and on his refusal he was sexually abused, inhumanly ill-treated by the religious extremists.
3. Muhammad Hammad and Mohammad Usman used to take Rabeel in the Islamic programs forcefully.
4. Victim Rabeel was illegally detained for the purpose of forced conversion into Islam.
5. The police have been influenced by the religious leaders because it was observed that the behavior of the police was very polite towards the alleged accused. The circumstances clearly indicate that the police have joined hands with the accused party. Therefore police did not investigating the matter on merit.
6. Rabeel's parents are receiving threats through blank phone calls; religious leaders of the area are pressurizing them and demanding Rabeel back as he has embraced Islam.
7. Rabeel Aftab needs a psychiatrist (specialist) to control and observe his mental state.
8. Rabeel was tortured and maltreated by the Model Town police, Gujranwala without any cause.

Recommendations

1. The criminal assault against mentally disturbed Rabeel must be addressed in accordance with law and guarantee the victim must receive an impartial evaluation of his mental health, in order to establish whether he is fit to record his genuine statement.
2. CLAAS appeal to the concerned authorities for adequate remedies for victim and urge to take immediate and appropriate legal action against those responsible.
3. The government must ensure the security of poor parents of Rabeel.
4. A transparent and fair investigation must be carried out in order to enforce justice and ensure that the justice will be done.

The government of Pakistan must launch a campaign through the media to raise awareness of religious tolerance and rights of the religious minorities and the need for a civilized society to cherish religious diversity and especially in the case of forced conversions.

27. Fact-finding report on Police violence against Christians Bahawalpur

The Information

Mr. Saleem Gill, Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) informed Mr. Joseph Francis on October 10, 2012 about an unpleasant incident of police violence against Christian residents of Bhatta No. 02, Christian Colony, Tehsil & District Bahawalpur, Punjab. Mr. Saleem Gill further informed that a shuffle took place between the police and Christians over false allegations of illegal sale of liquor. The police illegally made these allegations and raided Christian locality without legal notice.



Christian Colony, Bhatta No. 02, Bahawalpur

Noting the nature of the incident a fact-finding team headed by Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer CLAAS) headed for the place of occurrence on October 10, 2012. Other members of the team included Mr. Saleem Gill Advocate, Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer CLAAS), Ms. Huma Lucas (Office Assistant CLAAS) and Mr. John Paul (Supporting Staff CLAAS). The team visited the place of occurrence, meeting with victims and other persons linked to the incident and noted the following:

The area of Bahawalpur

Bahawalpur is located in the Punjab Province close to Indian Border and near the Rajasthan State of India. The city is very much known for its historical heritage as well as for the ancient culture of the Cholistan Desert. The city is situated some 420 km from Lahore and is approximately 600 km far from the Capital City Islamabad. The city is rich with seasonal vegetables and fruits while industries are expanding gradually.

The Christian Colony, Bhatta No. 02, Bahawalpur

According to the residents Christian Colony was established by the foreigner priests some sixty years ago. The Catholic Church wanted to give land to the poor Christians and allotted 5 Marla piece of land to the Christian families each (one Marla is equal to 1 square rod, so is about 272.25 square feet). The Christian Colony is situated in the middle of main city. The Muslim tribe of Odes and Christians are residing in the locality for the last 6 decades. Presently some 250 Christian families are living in the colony among a total of 400 Muslim families. Christians are poor and are mostly employed as sanitary workers, gardeners, petty staffers at Bahawal Victoria Hospital while a smaller number of them is working as government employees. The literacy rate is fair among Christians and only a few get a chance to get reasonable education.

The background of unpleasant incident of police violence

According to one of the prime victims Chaudhry Pervaiz aged 50, who is a known local political leader among Christian residents of Bahawalpur the police are involved in the



Affected Christians narrating the real facts behind the incident

illegal sale of liquor alcohol through some Christian residents in the Christian Colony. It has also been observed that the policemen usually consumed drink together with Christians in their houses. These few Christians served the policemen through drink parties thinking that it would enhance their reputation in the area. The other Christians time and again requested them to mend their ways and to stop illegal business of liquor. Sometimes the police would arrest these accomplices just to show off their progress before the high officials and released them after few hours.

The Incident

According to the area residents and facts collected by the CLAAS team, on October 07, 2012 near around 8 am seven policemen from the police station Kautwali namely Muhammad Aslam (Assistant Sub Inspector), Munir Ahmed (Assistant Sub Inspector), Ahmed (Assistant Sub Inspector), Muhammad Iqbal (Constable), Shakeel (Constable) and the prime suspect Imdad Ali (Constable) with Haider Ali (Constable) and Rizwan Ahmed (Constable & driver) entered the Christian Colony. Later it was found that the



Injured Christians narrating the facts

police were searching for Farooq alias Mithu, the known liquor supplier in the locality and working as a sanitary worker at Bahawal Victoria Hospital, Bahawalpur. After inquiring the police promptly went to his residence and demanded heavy quantity of liquor beside money from Mithu.

As it was not possible for Mithu to fulfill their demands he explained it to them stating that he had left the business of liquor. After his refusal the policemen got infuriated and started torturing Mithu using filthy language against Mithu and his family. The policemen pulled him out of his home and kept torturing him now in public.

Some Christians in the street took notice of the police violence and intervened in the matter for settlement and release of Mithu. The policemen were reluctant to release him and unexpectedly, a scuffle ensued between the police and Christians over the false accusations of illegal sale of liquor. Both the parties, Christians as well as the policemen, got severe injuries during this episode and the police escaped from the area.

Police violence, degrading treatment, torture and highhandedness

Same day near about 03:00 pm in the afternoon the police (with the prior permission of District Police Officer Bahawalpur Sohail Habib Tajik) gathered around and cordoned off the Christian Colony for launching of a so-called crackdown against the liquor dealers. The Deputy Superintendent of Police City Mirza Arif Rasheed, Elite Force In-charge Nasarullah, Station House Officer Kautwali Mohsin Sardar and Station House Officer Cantonment along with hundreds of the policemen including police personnel in plain clothes, security agencies personnel and women police took part in this attack on the Christian Colony.

According to Christians of the area, the DPO, DSP City and SHO instigated policemen for the attack and used filthy language against Christians. The DPO also reportedly prompted the policemen to bring Christian women out as he would convert them to Islam.

It was also observed by the Christians that at the time of so-called operation the police was carrying empty sacks along with them. Later, the Christians learnt that the police wanted to implicate Christians for illegal sale of liquor and they had brought sacks to show to the media that the police had brought with them for false coverage.

The Police Attack

It is such a shame that the police brutally tortured respectable Christians including educationists, political leaders and social activists whom they took to the police station.

When the locality people tried to solve the matter peacefully the police arrested them and gave them inhuman treatment and they were all brutally tortured for several hours.

The police personnel unlawfully trespassed and entered the Christians' houses during illegal raid and inhumanly tortured women and children. They broke lockers, doors and disrespected anyone they found including the elderly. All this while they kept passing insulting and abusive remarks about young Christian girls and finally they arrested dozens of Christians and detained them in the police station Kautwali and Cantt. Later, seven case FIRs were registered against Christians at the Police Station Cantt, Bahawalpur. The police cunningly blamed Christians for stock-piling thousands of liters of liquor alcohol, stickers, lids, packing material and empty bottles. In the evening police deceitfully produced the alleged so-called stuff of liquor before the media and showed it all as if the whole Christian Colony was a den of illegal sale of liquor.

It was also observed by the CLAAS team that the high officials even in the police did not pay any heed to the unprofessional conduct of the criminal police personnel nor did they visit the place of occurrence. The silence and negligence by the state institutions was very much disappointing and appalling. The role of concerned local police officials was very much astonishing especially for not addressing the matter in accordance with law of the land.

Registration of false case FIRs and the arrest

During the illegal and alleged crackdown of Bahawalpur police, dozens of Christians were arrested and locked up in the police station. On October 07, 2012 the police stations Kautawali and Cantonment registered 07 case FIRs no 604/12, 605/12, 606/12, 607/12, 608/12, 609/12 & 610/12 under sections 149/255, 186/148, 324/353 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and 3/4 of the Prohibition Enforcement of Hadd Order, 1979 (for Prohibition of Manufacture etc of Intoxicants & Recovery of Narcotics). Later on the police completed challans (charge sheet) against seven Christians namely Adnan Masih, Yaqoob Masih, Younis Masih, Liaqat, Sadiq Masih, Shahzad Masih and Farooq alias Mithu and sent them to the New Central Jail, Bahawalpur.

Medical Examination

The Christians were under grave threat from the police and were not ready for medical examination. After long arguments only three injured Christians namely Vicky Jamsheed, Arif Masih and Chaudhary Javed Rehmat agreed for the medical examination. The CLAAS team assisted the injured Christians and got magisterial orders for medical examination as well as took them to the Bahawal Victoria Hospital, Bahawalpur for medical examination. The file photo was taken in the Bahawal Victoria Hospital during medical checkup.

Statements

The CLAAS fact-finding team met with the following affected Christians, who were unjustly tortured and illegally confined at the police station:

Rafia Farooq

The CLAAS team met Rafia who is wife of the main target of the police, Farooq alias Mithu. According to Rafia, “Farooq alias Mithu and I have 4 children namely Sameer aged 12 who is a student of 6th class, Shehraz 10, student of 4th class, Neha Katherine 8, student of 1 class and Awais Falamoon. My husband is working as a sweeper at Bahawal Victoria Hospital. He was involved in illegal sale of liquor but he had left that many months ago when our children started growing. The police forced him to rejoin the illegal trade but my husband refused to start again. Before this incident the police had raided our home many times to arrest my husband. My mother-in-law is a diabetic patient, admitted to the hospital and my husband was looking after her.”

“During the police raid I noticed that the police carried some sacks along with them. The police brutally tortured my husband and used abusive language against him. The police constables violently broke household items and searched every corner of our house. Later the police arrested my husband and blamed him for manufacturing liquor alcohol.”

Rev. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP



Rev. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP along with victims

The CLAAS team met with the Parish Priests Rev. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP and Rev. Fr. Samuel Raphael OP at the parish house. Both priests briefed their efforts for reconciliation as well as for the invalidation of the criminal case FIRs falsely registered against the Christians. Rev. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP said, “I was informed about the incident through our catechist Babu Sohail and immediately rushed towards the place of occurrence and found that heavy contingent of police were deployed who had cordoned off the Christian Colony. The police constables fully were equipped with latest guns, bullet proof jackets and armed with wooden

sticks.”

“I along with other Christian leaders intervened for reconciliation but the DSP Bahawalpur Mirza Arif Rasheed and other police officials were unwilling to listen and rudely misbehaved with us. The violent DSP also used abusive language against Christian leadership and resident Christians. Later on the DSP Mirza Arif Rasheed gave only ten minutes for the immediate arrest of those Christians who exchanged blows with the police. We assured the police that the responsible would be handed over and requested the police some more time to discuss the matter within the community.”

“The Christians were peaceful and wanted to resolve the matter peacefully while the police officials did not bother to take departmental actions against the police officers who illegally tortured the Christians. The Muslim inhabitants were also chanting slogans against Christians as well as “**Allah Ho Akbar**” and “**Pakistan Zindabad**”.

Chaudhry Javed Rehmat

Ch. Javed Rehmat aged, 40, is a respected Christian of Bahawalpur. He is an educationist running his own private school, St. Peter’s High School, in the city.

Additionally, he is serving as president of All Pakistan Minority League, a small political group for monitoring and dealing issues related to the minority communities. He said, "I was informed about the police violence on Christian residents of Bhatta No. 02 and after a short while I along with some other Christian leaders, the Parish Priests Rev.Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP and Rev. Fr. Samuel Raphael OP reached at the spot."

"I noticed hundreds of policemen along with high police officials in the Christian Colony. We were trying to resolve the matter but the police was reluctant to listen. The negotiations with the police for settlements were underway when unexpectedly the police started torturing the Christian leaders including me. The policemen blindly tortured the Christian leaders publicly and later arrested dozens of innocent Christians and locked them in the police station. More than 30 police constables were torturing every single Christian they found."

"I was harshly tortured in the police station without any reason, as a result I got severe inner hurts in my whole body especially at the back, head and shoulders. I have nothing to do with the incident of exchange of blows with the police but was tortured inhumanly. The police torture is unjustified and I will stand against the police violence. However, the police at the time of raid cunningly took media personnel along with especially the local news channel "**Bahawal Nama**" for the coverage of so-called police action. Then the police falsely registered 07 case FIRs, nominated 10 Christians and involved 20 unknown Christians."

Chaudhry Pervaiz

He is also a known local political leader among Christian as well as serving as vice president of the All Pakistan Minority League, Bahawalpur. On the day of incident he was also present and trying to resolve the dispute.

According to Chaudhary Pervaiz, "I was astonished why the police was not ready to listen to or reconcile the matter peacefully. I am a patient with diabetes mellitus and was badly tortured by the police publically and after arrest inhumanly ill-treated and again tortured in the police station. The police used filthy language against Christian women, men, political leaders and more importantly passed insulting remarks against Holy Bible."

Chaudhry Pervaiz further stated that "When I was in the police lock-up the Station House Officer SHO Mohsin Sardar directed the police constables to arrest Christian men, women, girls and children of Christian Colony and to bring them to the police station. The SHO further shouted that he wanted to convert the Christians to Islam. The District Police Officer Bahawalpur Sohail Habib Tajik also passed insulting remarks about Holy Bible and used abusive language against Christians."

Vicky Yousaf

CLAAS team was informed that a youth named Vicky aged 25 who is a sanitary worker was also tortured by the police. On the day of the incident he was present in the colony and the police pulled him out in the street and harshly tortured him. His right leg was fractured due to police torture and he had to be admitted to the hospital for medical treatment.

Arif Palaus

Arif Palaus aged 50, said, "I am working as a sanitary worker and on the day of the incident after finishing my duties I was on my way to home and the moment I entered in the Colony, the police constables without informing my fault started slapping and punching me at my ribs and they repeatedly tortured me violently. I was astonished as to why the police was torturing me and in the meanwhile I got an opportunity to escape from the clutches of the violent policemen and ran away. The police constables followed me to arrest me. I was too frightened and entered a house and hid myself upstairs but fearing arrest blindly jumped from the rooftop. Resultantly, my left ankle was fractured and I got some other injuries.

Asif Sadiq

Asif Sadiq aged 19, who is a student of Masters, said, "On the second day of incident I was at home and studying. All of a sudden, dozens of police constables entered our house from the rooftop and started searching our house especially cupboards etc. During search the police broke my computer and badly destroyed the households."

"The criminal police constables misbehaved with my sisters and sister-in-law, who was pregnant. I along with my father was brutally tortured with wooden sticks and slapped by the police. The police illegally trespassed and violated the dignity of our house. Later on, I was arrested along with my father and the violent police constables took us to the police station. My mother and sisters were threatened and the police restricted them from intervening. Afterwards the police took us to the police station and again we were inhumanly tortured. The next day I was released while my father was sent to jail."

Saleeta Sajid

Mrs. Saleeta, aged 24, said, "When the police constables were searching out my room, I stopped them but they misbehaved with me. The criminal police cops used abusive language against the Christians."

Mrs. Rehana

Rehana, 35, said, "My family is respected in the locality and is known as an educated family. On the day of the incident I was present at my parent's residence and witnessed how the policemen unlawfully entered our house from the rooftop. The criminal police constables disrespected and violated our privacy and did not bother to observe whether my mother, sister and sister-in-law had any headgear on or not. The police constables violently destroyed our households and unlawfully searched the whole house. The criminal police constables without any explanation inhumanly tortured my father and younger brother. The trespass of the police is illegal and unpardonable."

Salman Anwar

The CLAAS team also met with Salman aged 19 who is a student of intermediate with the subject of Pre-medical. Salman said, "I am also resident of the same colony and on October 08, 2012 the second day of the incident I was on my way back from college to home. The moment I entered in the colony and was captured by the police. The police constables cruelly tortured me with wooden sticks and punched me on my ribs and belly.

As a result I got severe hurts at whole of my body while a blue mark appeared on my right thigh which is painful and aching.”

Iqbal Masih

Iqbal Masih, aged 52, is a government employee and on the day of the incident he was also tortured by the police. Iqbal Masih said, “I was just outside of my house and the police started torturing me with wooden sticks, kicked me with their heavy shoes and punched me at my ribs.”

Shumaile Yousaf

Shumaile is a small kid of 5 years and a student of class KG studying at St. Dominic Convent School, Bahawalpur. He also became the direct victim of police torture. According to the family, “The police suddenly entered our house and started torturing the whole family. Rescuing himself from the police, Shumaile hid under the bed.”

“When the police started their search and found little Shumaile under the bed they tortured him with wooden sticks. Shumaile was inhumanly tortured by the police and was hit with three wooden sticks on his head.”

When CLAAS team met Shumaile, he was under fear as well as unable to speak a single word. Shumaile said, “Stroke of the wooden stick was very painful and the pain still remains in my head.”

Ms. Tahira

Tahira, 19 years of age, informed the CLAAS team as such, “The police constables, fully equipped with guns and wooden sticks, entered our house and straight away started beating my father. When I tried to make an effort to rescue my father I was also tortured by the police.”

“I usually wear Shalwar Qamiz (traditional dress of men and women in Pakistan) and set my hair style as boy-cut so I sometimes appear as a boy. The police constable thought I was a boy. The police constable pushed hard and I fell down on the ground. The police constables viciously beat me with sticks at my back and I am still suffering from swelling and pain.”

Nasira Pervaiz

The CLAAS team met with a mother of three, Nasira Bibi, aged 40, who is a widow. She said, “I am a seamstress (woman tailor) and stitch clothes for other people. My husband expired some 12 years ago. My elder son is a mason while the younger son is working as a sweeper at Bahawal Victoria Hospital.”

“My only daughter helps me in tailoring and in other house-keeping work etc. On the day of the incident I had locked my home and went to drop clothes to my customers. When I returned I found the doors unlocked while the cupboard was destructively smashed and the clothes were scattered on the floor. Later, I was informed by the neighbors about the so-called police raid. The police action was totally illegal and unjustified. It was a

trespass and also violation against dignity and respect of my privacy. The criminal police constables must be punished.”

Khurram Shahzad

Khurram Shahzad aged 30, working as sweeper at agricultural farm. He disclosed the following details related with the police violence against Christians:

He said, “On the day of the incident I was at home and unexpectedly the police constables entered in our home and used filthy language against me and my family. At first the violent police constables brutally tortured my father with wooden sticks, punched on his ribs. When I tried to rescue my father I was also tortured by the police. Later, the police arrested my father and took him along to the police station. Farooq alias Mithu is nephew of my father and the police arrested my father as close relative of him.”

“I begged the police not to arrest my father but the police did not listen to my request. I followed the police and noticed that my father was again brutally tortured in the police station. Later, with the help of some influential people I succeeded to get my father released. His whole body was paining and he sustained severe injuries due to wooden sticks which were visible on his back. The marks of injuries turned into red and blue and hurt him badly. Later, I took him to the hospital for necessary and appropriate medical treatment. I am very much disappointed by the monkey business of the police of illegal sale of liquor through the Christians.”

Nasreen Iqbal

Nasreen Iqbal, aged 45, said, “The criminal police constables ruined our privacy because at the time of their illegal raid I was with my daughters and no one from us was wearing scarf on our heads properly. The police did not ask anything and started beating all of us. Resultantly, I got harsh hurts at my back and at present I am suffering through severe pain at my back.”

“They heartlessly searched our house and passed insulting and abusive remarks against Christian girls and women. They openly remarked that they never imagined how gorgeous and good looking Christian girls and women were living in the Christian Colony and they wanted to take us along to be converted to Islam. I am very much disheartened over the misconduct of the police.”

The CLAAS also interviewed many other Christians who had the same feelings and reservations. The Christian residents were depressed and blaming those who were involved in the business of illegal sale of liquor. The CLAAS team also observed fear and fright in the eyes of Christians in particular youth, girls and women.

Findings / Observations

1. The police violence was illegal, unjustified and prejudiced.
2. The police inhumanly tortured the innocent Christians and raided at Christian Colony for two days without any legal notice or warrants of arrest and search.
3. The police high officials prompted for violence instead of reconciling the matter.

4. Most Christians harshly tortured, slapped, punched, kicked and inhumanly beaten-up with wooden sticks and got third degree treatment by the police without any fault of theirs.
5. The police constables created lawlessness which is against the law and their misconduct was unethical and unprofessional.
6. The seriously injured Christians were never provided First Aid Assistance whereas the Christians personally shifted the injured Christians to the hospital.
7. The seriously injured Christians were discharged from the hospital after a few hours and the CLAAS team found that the injured need more medical care accordingly.
8. There were only few Christians involved in the illegal sale of liquor under the police protection and who pay money and bottles of liquor to the police bribe on regular basis.
9. The police officials did not take departmental action against the accused constables nor have arrested them till date.
10. The CLAAS team also noticed that the concerned police officers were active to save their colleagues from charges of misconduct etc.
11. The CLAAS team also learnt that the concerned police officers were using delays on one pretext or the other and for the time being wanted to hold up the matter and did not withdraw the case FIRs.
12. The seven Christians had been sent to the new Central Jail Bahawalpur and later the nominated Christians in the case FIRs got pre-arrest bails.
13. The police with Mala Fide attentions brought so-called media representative for the coverage of purported crackdown against innocent Christians and later broadcast the coverage on local cable network.
14. The police constables used abusive and filthy language against Christians especially young girls and women.
15. The high police officials and the police constables passed derogatory remarks against Holy Bible and Christianity.
16. The police high officials wished to convert the Christian girls and women into Islam.
17. The CLAAS team observed that the Christians were tortured by the police constables unfairly and prejudicially.
18. The police violence was against the fundamental rights, dignity and respect of the Christians.

Recommendations

1. The Chief Minister Punjab, Law Minister and the Inspector General of Police Punjab should investigate and bring to book those police officers involved in the illegal sale of liquor and extorting money and liquor under duress.
2. A fair and transparent investigation must be carried out as soon as possible in the best interest of justice to ensure that the innocent Christians should not be victimized, abused and harassed by the criminal police officers.
3. The criminal and departmental actions should be initiated against the responsible police officers for taking law into their hands.
4. The Inspector General of Police Punjab should direct the local administration for registration of criminal case FIRs against criminal police constables and other security institutions involved in the so-called operation.
5. The Government of Punjab should compensate the aggrieved Christian families for the damages as well as to the critically injured Christians.

Update

Till the filling of this report no criminal police constable had been arrested nor any investigation into their misconduct is underway.

28- Fact-finding report on Principal of Farooqi Girls High School implicated in a false blasphemy case



An Ariel view of Farooqi Girls High School before attack by extremists (Source of photo: Internet)

occurrence and to get the real facts behind the case.

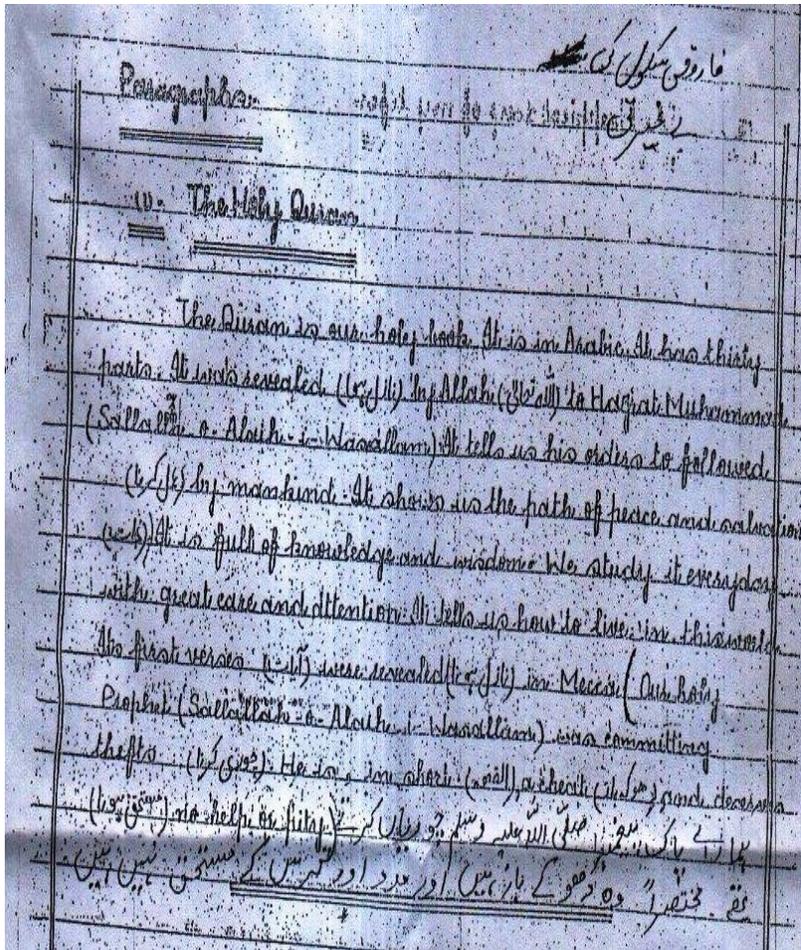
On November 01, 2012 Mr. M.A Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) was informed about a blasphemy case registered against the principal of Farooqi Girls High School, Lahore; the principal was arrested by police. Mr. Francis comprised a fact finding team including Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer) Mr. Sohail Habel (Finance Manager), Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer) and Mr. Asif Raza (Assistant Field Officer) to visit the place of

Background Farooqi Girls High School



Farooqi Girls High School was established in 1978 by Mr. Arshad Ali Asim Farooqi and his wife Zahida Asim Farooqi at 62/4 Karim Park, Makkah Road, Lahore. Later he started other two schools as branches on Yaseen Road, Lahore and on Munshi Ladda, Lahore. There are thousand students and over two hundred teachers in the Schools. It was a good positioned and famous School among other schools in the locality for producing good results in matriculation and has win medals for obtaining top positions from the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Lahore.

Background the blasphemy incident



The lower part of the paragraph of this hand written material contained blasphemous words was mixed with another paper of the same book from where Iftikhar was preparing the assignment.

CLAAS team met with many residents and according to the information provided by the students of Farooqi Girls High School that Ms. Irfa, a teacher of class VI in the school asked her student namely Iftikhar to prepare course assignment from the book of English as a home work for the CLAAS competition. Iftikhar unintentionally mixed up some lines of another paragraph from the net page of the book while working on assignment but did not recheck it. He was also directed to translate some scripts from English to Urdu. Iftikhar submitted the assignment to the class teacher, Ms. Irfa who did not bother to recheck the

assignment documents. Latter As a final point the assignments were handed over to the management for photocopy for all students of class VI. Even the management did not care to recheck the assignment which contained blasphemous words. Later on the assignment was distributed among the class students just before the school closed in account of Eid ul Azha holidays. The school management purposely handed over the photo copies of the assignment to students for the preparation during the Eid holidays for CLAAS competition.

Questioning authenticity of the hand written Xerox copy of the assignment

The Xerox copy of a hand written document was provided to the CLAAS team by the relatives of one of the students containing blasphemous words which were translated from English into Urdu in the last paragraph of the handwritten paper. The English paragraph was started about the Holy Quran while the Urdu translation was clearly shown about that mixed up of with another subject.

It is worth mentioned here that the name of School was not mentioned on the paper neither the principal nor the school teacher signed the paper. The authenticity of the paper was questionable because even there was no school stamp was visible at the paper.

While the investigations were underway and in the meanwhile the school management had subsequently published front page adverts in two leading newspapers after the incident to deny any knowledge of the alleged insults, saying Iftikhar distributed the work just 10 minutes before the school closed for the Eid ul Azha holiday.



The punishment for blasphemer is decapitation which is clearly written in the boundary wall of the school

CLAAS discovered that the blasphemous assignment was mistakenly prepared by the student Iftikhar as he unintentionally mixed some lines from another page of the book from where he was preparing the assignment. It was also observed that the photocopies of the offending pages were distributed among protesters at the time of protest. The CLAAS team also noticed that the slogans which were spray painted on the boundary wall of the school as well as on the surrounding walls clearly provoking catchphrase on “GHUSTAKH-e-RASOOL KI SAZA SUR TAN SE JUDA” (punishment for blasphemer is decapitation or off with their heads). The

protesters did not bother to clarify or to inspect the allegations and held responsible the principal and the school teacher for using the blasphemous words and writing insulted and derogatory remarks for the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

CLAAS team also heard different account of stories on the alleged incident of blasphemy but the said paper with blasphemous content was written by a student who could not figure out the book had a torn page and he wrote or added wrong lines from another subject by mistake. No doubt the senior teachers and the school administration showed

their negligence in the case and did not recheck the content of the assignment before the distributed among the other students.

The residents of the area and surrounding staged protest demonstration on October 30, 2012, Tuesday night and continued to protest on October 31, 2012 Wednesday and eventually besieged three buildings of the school without investigating the issue. The angry protesters kept chanting slogans and demanded death penalty for the owner of the school and the teacher.

According to the sources CLAAS team was informed that a large number of protesters including religious groups and Islamic leaders toured the Farooqi Girls High School with the police and found nothing related blasphemy inside the premises. A heavy contingent of police consigned for three building (branches) of Farooqi Girls High Schools.

The violent attack of protesters



On October 30, 2012 the protesters including activists of the religious groups took law into their hands and attacked on the buildings of the Farooqi Girls High School (3 school branches) damaged the owner's car. The angry protesters did not allow the fire brigade to access the area and to overcome on the fire. The police was present on the spot but were not much while hundreds of protesters very charged clashed with police.



The angry protesters took charge of the street on which the schools were located and violently attacked on the schools. However, later the situation went out of control and enraged and the angry protesters entered the school building, violently attacked and burnt the school property.



Resultantly, the owner's motorcar, the school furniture, computer labs, class rooms, generator room, dining room, sick room, motorbike, total office records and students' credentials were burnt totally. The electricity connections were also burnt and destroyed at all.

Secondly, the angry protesters looted money from the lockers of the schools as

well as robbed the generators and other valuable things from the schools.

CLAAS, team was informed about the difficulties in the rescue activities by the fire fighters that how the protesters made it difficult for the fire fighters to get in the scene, but they had managed to do their job of preventing the fire from spreading. The area residents also informed that in the beginning it was difficult for the police to control the enraged mob. Later the police were eventually able to take back the control of the area.

CLAAS team visited the area police station

CLAAS team also visited Shafiqabad Police Station, Ravi Road located in the north part of Lahore. The team wanted to meet with the police officials to know about their findings in the alleged incident of blasphemy as well as wanted to ask about the police action against unjustified act of violence by the protesters. As usual none of police officials were available for comments.



The file photo of Mr. Asim Farooqi, owner and principal of Farooqi Girls High School

CLAAS team got a copy of the case FIR no. 1470/12 offence under section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) registered against Ms. Irfa Iftikhar (school teacher) and Asim Farooqi (owner and principal of Farooqi Girls High School).

It was found that the blasphemy case FIR was registered on the complaint of Muhammad Abdullah Saqib, a religious cleric of the locality and the vice principal of Jamia Kareemia Sadiqia (a religious school in the same area) located Hussain Park, Kareemia Road, Bilal Gunj, Lahore and others namely Muhammad Ali Naqshbandi, Muhammad Irfan Alqadari and Maoulana Mujahid Abdul Rasool. The police arrested Asim Farooqi and shifted him at unidentified location for the purpose to investigate while raided for the arrest of lady teacher Irfa Iftikhar who was absconded. Mr. Asim Farooqi was presented before the judicial magistrate for the remand of 14 days for the investigation in the alleged blasphemy case. CLAAS team was also informed by the police complaint cell of the Shafiqabad Police Station about the registration of criminal case against unidentified protesters for taking law into their hands.

The district Government constitute a committee to probe the blasphemy matter



Students of Farooqi Girls' High School wave placards as they stage a protest outside Lahore Press Club and demanding the re-opening of their school.

Mr. Jawad Rafique Malik (Commissioner Lahore) set up an inquiry committee to probe the **matter of alleged incident of the distribution of blasphemous material among students.**

The inquiry committee comprised on Mian Marghoob Ahmed MNA (Member National Assembly), Muhammad Ajasam Sharif (Member Provincial Assembly-Punjab), Khwaja Imran Nazir (Member Provincial Assembly-Punjab), Pervaiz Akhtar EDO (Executive District Officer-Education), Abdul Ghaffar SP

Security (Superintendent of Police Lahore), Abdul Rasool Khan President Pakistan Sunni Tehreek along with other members of Sunni Tehreek namely Abid Hussain, Qari Muhammad Rafique, Qari Muhammad Irfan Leghari, Chaudhry M Ilyas and Muhammad Arshad were in the committee.

Apparently, after when the school vandalized by mob violence, the peace of Farooqi Girls High was disturbed and the teachers, students and parents were worried about the future of their education. In this connection the students staged peaceful demonstrations outside the school building and outside the Lahore Press Club in which girls students, teachers and parents participated and expressed concern over damaged school building and its subsequent closure for indefinite period.

The students expressed grave concerns on the false blasphemy allegations against the Principal and said the whole issue is causing great academic loss to over 5,000 students enrolled in all campuses. The students ensured resumption of academic activities at the school besides thoroughly investigating the alleged incident of blasphemy.

Post arrest bail of Mr. Asim Farooqi

On November 03, 2012 Arshad Ali Asim Farooqi son Asim Farooqi, filed an application to seek bail. He prayed before the court and sought a bail on health grounds and requested the court that he is 77 years old and has a history of heart problems and other diseases. Secondly, he submitted a statement that he was born as Muslim even could not imagine such a crime, his belief in Allah and his Prophet (PBHU).

The alleged offence was down to the negligence of a teacher and that the teacher had been sacked. The counsel for the petitioner further prayed that the principal was merely alleged to have abetted the offence, not to have played an active role in the commission of the alleged blasphemy offence. Whereas the prosecution submitted that he principal had been nominated in the FIR and his active involvement could not be ruled out. Finally, after hearing the litigant parties Additional District & Sessions Judge Anjum Raza dismissed the after arrest bail petition of Arshad Ali Asim Farooqi.

Release of Mr. Asim Farooqi on bail

On November 13, 2012, the High Court Lahore accepted the bail application of Asim Farooqi and granted him bail after furnishing surety bond in the sum of PAK Rs. 200,000/-for the satisfaction of this court.

Well ahead, after the admission of bail, the Commissioner Lahore returned the administrative control of the Farooqi Girls High School.

29- Ghazala Khan & Zafar Bhatti victims of blasphemy

On November 19, 2012 Ms. Ghazala Khan aged 50 wife of Sheikh Anwar a resident of Lahore contacted Mr. Joseph Francis MBE (National Director CLAAS) and informed about the registration of blasphemy case FIR against her and her colleague Zafar Bhatti. She requested CLAAS for legal aid assistance and informed CLAAS the about the facts and circumstance behind the blasphemy incident includes:



File photo of Ms. Ghazala Khan

Ms. Ghazala Khan d/o James Samuel was a resident of Lahore. She completed her Law graduation and married with Shiekh Anwar under Islamic rites and God blessed her with a daughter named Mary Aurgman and a son named Suleman. She was heading an NGO since 14 years and worked for women rights and helped the poor.

Ms. Ghazala Khan said, that her paternal Aunt Mrs. Alice Yaqoob wife of Allah Ditta, lived in Lahore. She was a staff nurse. 50 years ago her aunt adopted a boy from Mission Hospital, Sialkot and gave him name as Shahid Tabbasam. When Shahid grew-up he was not a good person by nature. Her aunt noticed on the depraved acts and deeds of him. Therefore, he started creating problems for her aunt and indulged in bad habits such as cheating and theft of households. In 1991 her Aunt Alice Bibi quashed the all relations and disowned him from the property and kicked him out from the house. After his removal he became violent and wanted to grab the property but was failed and later he went abroad i.e. in Saudi Arabia and settled there.

Guardianship of Mrs. Alice

Ms. Ghazala further informed that the “The sudden death of her uncle made aunt depressed and therefore she took the responsibility to look after her aunt. Her aunt was a heart patient as well as paralyzed and under medical treatment.”

“Later, Ghazala appointed a girl named Neena to look after her aunt as an attendant. With the passage of time it was discovered that Neena was giving all informed to Shahid Tabbasam about aunt’s health situation. Ghazala said that in 2005 she made an agreement to sell out the house of aunt for rupees 1500000 PAK (fifteen lac rupees (US\$15625 approximately). Ghazala paid the whole amount but due to some domestic circumstances she was not able to made transfer deed or mutation etc.”



Unexpectedly, Shahid Tabbasam without informing Ghazala reached Pakistan and with

She does not want any misfortune or tussle with Shahid Tabbasam in the life of her aunt. On 20 December 2011, Ghazala got stay order form the Civil Court for accomplishment of sale deed/mutation. While the matter was under court proceedings and on 13.02.2012 her aunt got severely ill and admitted in the hospital for medical treatment.

the connivance of Neena abducted her aunt from the hospital and detained her at unknown place. Ghazala's aunt Alice Bibi died because of deprived of the appropriate medical treatment. Ghazala immediately submitted an application for the registration of criminal case FIR against Shahid Tabbasam and others but unfortunately the concerned police station did not take the matter seriously neither registered a case FIR."

"On 10.03.2012 Shahid Tabbasam accompanying with Bashir Niazi Station House Officer Liaqatabad along with police constables and other unknown criminal assailants came to the said house and expelled her along with her family out from the house. The accused Shahid Tabbasam illegally possessed the property. Later SHO and Shahid threatened her for dire consequences and warned that if she will take the matter in the court she will be implicated in the blasphemy case. Ghazala immediately, called at 15 (Police Help Line) to save her life and property. On the same day the SHO Bashir Niazi registered a fake and false case of theft against Ghazala and her brothers. She was continually threatened by Shahid for the registration of false criminal cases as well as the blasphemy case.

Ghazala was terrified and brought threats and warnings before the police officials for legal help and safeguard. But the SHO Bashir Niazi in the connivance of Shahid Tabbasam got registered many criminal cases against Ghazala and her brothers.

As Ghazala was running an NGO and provided legal assistance to the poor. Once Rev. Zafar Bhatti resident of Azam Basti, Mehmoodabad, Karachi approached her office along with a victim to get legal aid, as Pastor Zafar also informed about his work for human rights and his contacts with media. During conversation I shared with him about above mentioned difficulties. Whereas, Pastor Zafar started helping me in this difficult time as well as luckily recorded the threatening calls, warnings of dire consequences, blackmailing and force to away from legal proceedings from Shahid Tabbasam and his accompanying criminal assailants or his gang namely John, Shosheel Qamar, Sohail Kanwal, Qaiseer, Anayat, Barkat Masih and other unknown etc. Later, the recording of the conversation was presented before the concerned Superintendent of Police and the police was directed accordingly. The accused party was annoyed with the conduct of Pastor Zafar and wanted him to involve in the blasphemy cases."

Therefore Shahid and others became enemies of Pastor Zafar and wanted to implicate him in the blasphemy case to kill him at the spot.

The above said criminal assailants started to threaten Ghazala and she gave the cell number to the police from whom she received threatening calls, later it was found that the SIM card was purchased in the month of June 2012 and it was registered for an unknown person, a resident of Hanjarwal, Lahore. In July 2012 the same SIM card number 0306-6771010 was transferred on Ghazala's profile and when she inquired, the SIM card company did not bother to take any action.

Registration of Blasphemy case FIR and a summon to join the investigation

On July 11, 2012 Maluna Ibrar Ahmed get registered a blasphemy case FIR No. 526 offence under section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and 25D of the Telegraph Act 1885 registered at the police station New Town, Rawalpindi against Pastor Zafar Bhatti and Ghazala Khan.

When the police investigate the matter and obviously followed the SIM identity which was registered at Ghazala's name. On August 29, 2012 summon/order from the office of the Superintendent of Police Rawal Division, Rawalpindi with reference No. 128-RSP offence under section 160 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C) was issued to Sub-Inspector Amanat Ali (Investigation Officer). According to the order the Sub-Inspector was advised to present Ms. Ghazala Kahn on September 03, 2012 at about 10:00am and joined the investigation in the blasphemy case FIR No. 626 offence under section 295-C & 25D of Telegraph Act.

The religious extremist and complainant Maulana (prayer leader) Ibrar Ahmed, Secretary General Ehle-Sunnat Jamiat Pakistan, Rawalpindi Division blamed that he has received blasphemous SMS messages against the respect of the Mother of Prophet Mohammad from the SIM number 0306-6771010 registered in the Ms. Ghazala Khan.

The purpose was only to prohibit and enforced her in the legal proceedings. The police did not nominate anyone in the blasphemy case FIR but mentioned the cell number which was registered on Ghazala's profile. Whereas, Pastor Zafar was illegally arrested by the concerned police and later was sent to Adiala jail, Rawalpindi."

On November 16, 2012 she filled a pre-arrest bail application before the honorable Lahore High Court which was accepted on the same day. The honorable Mr. Justice Muhammad Anwaar-Ul Haq, Judge High Court Lahore granted her protective bail and fixed the next court hearing till November 23, 2012 as she was bound to furnish bail bond in the sum of Rs. 100.000/- (USD1041 approximately) for the satisfaction of the court."

CLAAS's Contribution

On November 12, 2012 CLAAS filed post arrest bail of Pastor Zafar through Mr. Malik Asif Tauseeq Awan, Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) in the session court Rawalpindi. Due to the release of blasphemous film in the US the situation was worse and Muslims were again aggressive and therefore the lawyer withdraws the bail of Zafar Bhatti on November 15, 2012 to avoid any verdict of the judge.

CLAAS is helping and dealing with Ms. Ghazala Khan's legal case in Lahore and Zafar Bhatti's case in Rawalpindi through Mr. Malik Asif Tauseeq Awan, Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS).

Up-date: Ghazala has got confirmed bail from the High Court Lahore while the case is pending

30- Sister Birgitta Almeby, Swedish Human Rights was attacked in Lahore

On December 03, 2012 at about 03:00 pm the Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) was informed about the murder attack on Sister Birgitta Almeby aged 70, a social activist & Swedish missionary, working with Full Gospel Assemblies of Pakistan FGA-Church as managing director. She was attacked by the unknown assailants at the main gate of her residence in Model Town, Lahore.



CLAAS team was continuously in contact with the friends present in the hospital and later on December 05, 2012 a CLAAS fact finding team consisting on Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer), Mr. Sohail Habel (Finance Manager), Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer), Ms. Huma Lucas (Assistant Filed Officer) and Mr. Ayaz Gill (Court Clerk) visited the place of occurrence, meeting with concerned persons, neighbors, visited Jinnah Hospital and note the following:

CLAAS team met with Senior Pastor Liaqat Qaisar (Chief Spokesperson of the Full Gospel Assemblies of Pakistan FGA-Church & Principal FGA Bible School) who said, "Sister Birgitta Almeby was a Swedish missionary and working in Pakistan since last 38 years. She was a social activist & charity worker and aiding the projects of FGA-church as managing Director includes Adult Literacy Centre, Technical Schools, Midwife Training School, Community Development Schools and Orphanage Centre etc.

She dedicates her whole life to serve the people of Pakistan and actively took part in the activities whenever Pakistan hit by the natural disasters and additionally she every times ready to serve the needy and down trodden section of the society. Especially she worked on the basic education of orphanage girls and children and has outstanding record serving in the field of education. She was unmarried and having appreciable devotion towards her works throughout her life. She was a non-political personality and came to Pakistan in her young age."

The Incident



Pastor Liaqat Qaisar narrating the facts

Liaqat Qaisar said that on December 03, 2012 Sister Birgitta left her office and drove to home, while she just reached at her residence in Model Town, she was cowardly attacked by the unknown criminal assailants. The neighbors heard the noise of gunshots near at about 02:00 pm and found Sister Birgitta palpitating on road. At the time of this unexpected attack she was alone in the car driving on herself and sustained one bullet injury on her shoulder. The neighbors immediately took her to Jinnah Hospital Lahore where she was instantly operated. Pastor Liaqat

condemned the murder attack and demanded authorities to investigate the matter in accordance with law and examine the real motives behind the case.



Sister Birgitta lying unconscious in the ICU

Pastor Liaqat stated that the doctor has removed the bullet from her shoulder whereas she was still in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in the Emergency for recovery. According to the doctors she suffered with the lungs infection because at the same stage some food substances crossed inside her lungs. On the other side the doctors said that she started recovering after her successful surgery and they were trying to save her life. It was clear that the attackers wanted to kill Sister Birgitta because her cell phone, handbag and other objects were still in the car.

Resident of Sister Birgitta



CLAAS team visited the place of occurrence and found blood, was plunged approximately 20 feet far from the main gate of her residence.

The file photo of the main entrance of residence of Sister Birgitta, she lived in the said house for 12 years and she has a couple employed who work for her and take takes care.

Statement of Rehmat Masih



Rehmat Masih narrating the facts

CLAAS team meeting with Rehmat Masih aged 60 and his wife Sarah Bibi aged 56 who worked for Sister Birgitta since she arrived in Pakistan. His wife was working as cook while Rehmat Masih looks after other task. They expressed grave concerns on the unexpected attack on Sister Birgitta.

CLAAS team also met with the neighbors of Sister Birgitta who were worried about her health and showed their grave concerns over the incident. One of the neighbors namely Sheikh Azhar Advocate High Court, condemned the incident. He said that she had good association with the neighbors and in the locality.

Rev. Dr. Hizikiel Serosh

CLAAS team met with another Senior Pastor Dr. Hizikiel Serosh, of the Full Gospel Assembly Church, a professor and a poet in Christian poetry especially for writing hymns. Pastor Hizikiel informed about his association with Sister Birgitta. He was familiar with her since 1972 and worked for Christian's welfare together. He expressed grave concerns on the attempt of murder and prayed for her health. He said, "The attack was unacceptable and unjustified and should be investigated in accordance with law."

Registration of case FIR and the investigation

On December 03, 2012 Pastor Saleem Sadiq (Chairman FGA-Church), got registration of case FIR No. 514/12 offence under section 324 of the Pakistan penal Code (PPC) at the Police Station, Model Town, Lahore. The police further claimed that no one witnessed the gunfire whereas the police are investigating the occurrence and trying to know about what was happened at the crime scene. Till the filling of this report no arrest was made by the area police so far.

Reaction from the Civil Society Organizations

The civil society organizations including Christian rights activists strongly condemned the attempt of murder Sister Birgitta and expressed their grave concerns on the incident. They demanded the government to arrest the criminal assailants behind the attack and urge the police and law enforcement agencies to keep vast their investigation and brought the accused before justice.

Demise of Sister Birgitta



The file photo of Sister Birgitta was taken when she was shifted from Pakistan to Sweden

The health condition of Sister Birgitta became critical and was still on ventilator while she was attacked on December 03, 2012. Keeping in view her critical health condition on December 09, 2012 she was sent her native country Sweden and was admitted at Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm for special medical treatment. In this connection the government of Sweden sent a special air ambulance manned by a team of doctors. Sadly, on December 13, 2012 Sister Birgitta died in Stockholm Hospital. May the Almighty God bless and her soul may rest in peace. Her dedication, commitment and welfare towards humanity in Pakistan will be remembered.

CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

Legal Aid & Assistance provided in the year 2012

11- Blasphemy Cases

11.1- Khurram Masih Vs The State

Please find the report on page no (143-144)

11.2- Syeda Tasneem Kausar etc Vs The State

Please find the report on page no (186-189)

11.3- Zafar Bhatti etc Vs The State

Please find the report on page no (267-270)

11.4- Asia Bibi Vs The State

Aasia Bibi, resident of Chak No. 3 Itanwali, District Nankana Sahib, was maliciously implicated in blasphemy allegations. CLAAS carried a fact finding and according to the details Aasia Noreen wife of Ashiq Masih was working in a fruit garden owned by Addriss/o Ahmad Ali. Aasia was the only Christian women working in the fruit garden. Her co-workers Asma d/o Abdul Sitar, Mafia d/o Abdul Sitar and Yasmeen d/o Allah Rakha often showed their discriminatory behaves towards her but Aasia always ignored their attitude but shared her difficulties to her husband accordingly. Aasia was the head of the working women in the fruit garden and obviously her co-workers had jealousy about her.

On June 14th, 2009 the day of incident her co-workers had argued over a minor issue with her over passing a glass of water during their lunch break. On June 18th, 2009 her co-workers complained to their local Imam Masjid (prayer leader of local mosque) Sadique Akbar against Aasia Bibi for committing blasphemy by making derogatory remarks against the Holy Prophet.

The prayer leader instigate the locals for violence and resultantly on June 19th, 2009 hundreds of enraged protesters gathered and went to the fruit garden and started beating severely. A fake case FIR # 326/09 offence under section 295-C of the PPC was registered on June 19, 2009 at Police Station Saddar Nankana Sahib by the complaint of Qari Muhammad Salam.

CLAAS provided her legal assistance and also financially helped her family. On July 07, 2009 CLAAS applied her post arrest bail in the court of Mohammad Naveed Iqbal ASJ, (Additional Sessions Judge), Nankana Sahib. On July 14, 2009 the post arrest bail of Asia Bibi was canceled.

On August 05, 2009 the family changed their counsel and the CLAAS legal advisor stopped the legal proceeding in this case. On October 29, 2010 Additional Session Judge Muhammad Naveed Iqbal gave order for her death sentence and confined her to District Jail Sheikhpura.

On December 24, 2011 CLAAS team visited to Aasia Bibi in the District Jail Sheikhpura and she requested for legal aid assistance for her case against her appeal for death sentence.

On September 12, 2012 CLAAS met with Aasia lawyer S.K Chaudhry Advocate High Court and he agreed to work together for the protection and release of victim Asia Bibi.

On September 18, 2012 CLAAS has signed power of attorney to Aasia Bibi in District Jail Sheikhpura.

CLAAS has taken the case again and paid the legal fee of her case to Mr. S.K Chaudhry (Asia Bibi's lawyer) and CLAAS legal team in December 2012 and waiting for the appropriate time of hearing in this sensitive and special case.

12- Forced Conversions and Forced Marriages

12.1- Nadia Naira, a Christian girl was forcedly converted into Islam and forcedly married under Islamic law

Please find the report on page no (150-154)

12.2- Tania Bibi kidnapped and forced to convert into Islam and married under Islamic rites, District Court Nankana Sahib

Please find the report on page no (189-193)

12.3-Stella Marry a Christian victim of forced conversion

Suman Bibi (Stella Marry) vs Khurram Iqbal



Stella Mary

Stella Mary, commonly called Suman by her friends and family, is a Christian lady who lived in Rawalpindi and taught at St. Joseph High School, Rawalpindi. Her father was a Catechist in Cathedral Church and mother Cecilia is a housewife. She has four siblings namely Qamar David (married) aged 38, Rose Mary (married) aged 25, Gloria Kanwal 21 and Aftab Samson 17.

According to Stella Mary (Suman), her school arranged a music concert for the students in 2001 where she met Khurram Iqbal who came from Lahore for the concert. Khurram is a Muslim and was 27 at that time. As Khurram was a singer he'd come to her school for music shows. Over that time Khurram and Stella grew a mutual attraction and eventually Khurram proposed her for marriage. At this point Stella told Khurram that although she liked him she could not marry him because she would not change her religion at any cost. Stella said that Khurram assured her that he and his parents would never force her to convert to Islam but convinced her that the documentation of their marriage would be completed under the Muslim law.

Following these assurances Stella Mary (Suman) accepted his suggestion and they got married in 2002 under Islamic rites but this marriage took place without the consent of Stella's parents. Khurram gave her an Islamic name, Suman.

Stella said that the early years of their marriage were pleasant and as promised Khurram and his parents never forced her to accept Islam. She also said that the behavior of her in-laws was very cordial towards her.

Stella got pregnant in 2008 and upon coming to know of this development her father in-law, Abdul Razaq, started forcing Stella Mary (Suman) to accept Islam. She refused this demand and reminded them about their promise of not pushing her for conversion. Stella realised that after this refusal her father in-law had started pressurizing Khurram for Stella's conversion. This was followed by Khurram's push to Stella to convert to Islam

and as she refused again she faced wrath of her husband. He started fighting with her over minor domestic issues and his behavior towards her changed completely.

On September 20, 2008 while she was reciting the Holy Bible in early hours of the morning Khurram came towards her in full rage, gave her severe beating and threw the Holy Bible out in the street. She tried to stop him from doing this but instead of stopping he threatened her that if she read the Holy Bible again in his house he would kill her. Khurram also started forcing her to say Namaz (Prayers prescribed by Islam) because he thought it was necessary as she was going to give birth to a Muslim child.

She stated that after her standing refusal Khurram made her life miserable and overlooked all her needs especially as were essential for her health in pregnancy. In these circumstances she gave birth to a baby girl Mickle on October 21, 2008. She told that her father in-law gave an Islamic name Um-e-Huma to Mickle without Stella's will. On October 28, 2008 Stella Mary (Suman) escaped from Khurram's house along with her daughter and managed to reach her parent's house safely where she is now living along with her parents.

Fearing a backlash Stella does not move out of her house in day light and hardly anybody knows whether she is in the house or not. Once when she was visiting her aunt Rose Mary's house (on 15th August 2012) Khurram came to her parents' house along with some Muslim clerics and threatened that they should be ready for dire consequences if they did not return his daughter. She stated that after that day they had been receiving continual life threats from the unknown Muslim extremists. On August 16, 2012 Stella came to CLAAS office for a safe place and legal assistance for dissolution of her marriage. CLAAS appointed Mr. Ch. Nasir Anjum Suba Advocate High Court (legal advisor CLAAS) for the court proceedings who has filed a suit for dissolution of marriage in the Family Court, Lahore on the behalf of Stella. Her case is in process.

12.4-Sajida Bibi Vs SHO



Khalid Masih husband of Sajida at CLAAS office for legal assistance

elder son Zaman Khalid helped her out to drop at the Steam Power Bus Stop, Sheikhpura Road, Faisalabad from where she took bus to proceed for factory.

Khalid Masih s/o Sardar Masih aged 42; is a Christian by faith and resident of B-Block, Quaid-e-Azam Park, Street No. 02, Sheikhpura Road, Faisalabad, is a father of four children, named Zeshan aged 17, Farhan aged 16, Usman aged 14 and Sehrish aged 12. According to details he is sweeper by profession and his wife Sajida Bibi aged 37 was working as Packer at Masood Textile Mills Ltd, Nishatabad, Faisalabad and the factory provided the facilities of transportation to the workers. Usually, his

On August 10, 2012 (Friday) his wife as routine went for duties but did not reach at the factory. Afterward, Khalid Masih received a phone call from Hammad Masood (Factory supervisor) as regard of the absent of Sajida Bibi from her duties. The missing of Sajida Bibi was unexpected for Khalid and in this connection he searched for her with relatives, family friends, bus driver and with the co-workers but in vain. After researching through the whole corners he filed an application at the Police Station, Mansoorabad, District Faisalabad. The police only inserted his complains in the day book and did not take further legal actions.

On September 03, 2012 at about 11:52pm Khalid received a unanimous phone call form (0334-4478860) at his cell phone and he noticed some screaming, uproar and cries from the other side and immediately recognized the tone of voice as his wife who wants to inform something. In the meanwhile unknown people hold up the phone and disconnect. When Khalid called back at the same number, the attending person reluctant to share about him and disconnect the call. On the next he again went to the police station and informed about the phone call. Later the phone number was traced and was registered in the name of Tawakal Ullaha s/o Khan Muhammad resident of Warburton, District Nankana Shaib. The concerned police authorities did not pay any heed on the matter of kidnapping nor visit the place of occurrence and even did not bother to interrogate the factory workers etc. Khalid collects whole information related with the accused and provided to the police on self basis while the concerned police station never summoned against the accused persons.

On November 05, 2012 Khalid approached CLAAS office for legal aid and assistance for the registration of case FIR against the kidnappers. CLAAS appointed its legal advisor Mr. Faisl Ilyas Advocate for court proceedings.

On November 09, 2012 Khalid informed CLAAS office that her wife Sajida Bibi came back at home.

Statement of Sajida Bibi

On November 12, 2012 Sajida Bibi and Khalid Masih approached CLAAS office and shared with Mr. M.A Joseph Francis National Director CLAAS about the incident of her abduction.



Sajida Bibi narrating the facts of the incident

According to Sajida that on the day of occurrence while she was present at the Steam Power Bus Stop, Sheikhpura Road, Faisalabad from where she took bus to proceed for factory, meanwhile a black car came near her and a woman called her from the car. When she came forward for listing her, she pulled her towards the car and sniffed intoxicated handkerchief to her and within seconds got unconscious. When Sajida came in senses she noticed that she was present an unknown place and kidnapped by Zeshan Khan.

According to Sajida Bibi, Zeshan Khan was also working in the same factory where she worked. Six months ago a quarrel has been taken place between Sajida and Zeshan Khan. One day during her duty hours Zeshan Khan sexually harass her while she was present in the factory and no one was present that time. Zeshan Khan hold her hand and started to force her to have illicit relation with him, Sajida got annoyed slapped him and strictly warned that she will complain to the factory supervisor about his misbehave. Zeshan frightened and requested her forgiveness. Later she was forget this incident and also not shared about this any one even her husband. After that she shifted another branch of the same factory. On the other hand Zeshan Khan not forgets his insult.

On August 10, 2012 Zeshan Khan kidnapped her and physically tortures her severely. After ten days of kidnapping, Zeshan Khan without her consent and on gun point he forcedly converted her into Islam he forcedly contacted a Muslim Nikha (marriage).

Zeshan Kahn also warned that if she tried for run from her custody and recorded any statement against him, her husband and children will be killed. It was very difficult for her to understand the matter and on the other hand the safety of her family was also the main concern for her. She was frightened and act upon accordingly as he asked her to do for him. When she was appeared before the Magistrate Court Gujranwala and she was enforced to record her statement in his favor. Later, she recorded her statement before the judge and admitted that she never kidnapped and embraced Islam with her own aspirations. She tried her level best to get away from the illegal detention of Zeshan Khan but in vain. Luckily, she got a chance to escape from his illegal detention Sajida wore his mother's burqa (A kind of veil with eye holes to it covering the whole body from head to foot) dress and came at her home.

Updates: CLAAS' Legal Mr. Faisal Illlyas filed a writ Petition for the Registration of a criminal case in the Sessions Court Faisalabad on the behalf of Sajida Bibi which has been disposed off in her favor.

13- Cases under Hudood Laws & unpleasant incidents of rape

13.1 Mumtaz Bibi Vs SHO etc (Sobia Rape Case)

Background

Mumtaz Bibi aged 42 w/o Ashiq Ali, a Muslim by faith and resident of Faisalabad Road, Manawala, District Sheikhpura, along with her husband Ashiq Ali visited CLAAS office and shared the following facts relating to her kidnapped daughter. According to Mumtaz Bibi, she is a mother of eight children namely Asif aged 22 a paralyzed, Shagufta aged 20, Misba aged 18, Sobia aged 12, Kashif aged 10, Sidra aged 07 and Nisar aged 05. Her husband is a farm laborer and working at a cattle farm house while she was working as domestic worker in different bungalows and her three daughters namely Shagufta, Misba and Sobia to joined her for supporting the family.



File photo of victim Sobia

Mumtaz Bibi further added that her elder son Asif accidentally lost his arms at workplace and the family urgently needs money to meet with medical treatment of injured Asif. While she was seeking a helping hand and in the meanwhile she was offered a proposal. According to the proposal she was explained that a well-to-do family of Muhammad Atif seeking a minor girl to work as housemaid for one year in Lahore. Her monthly salary will be PAK rupees 2,300/- (USD\$ 25 approximately). Mumtaz Bibi was helpless and also wished to take care of the medical treatment of her son and without any delay accepts the offer and sends her minor daughter Sobia to Muhammad Atif's bungalow for one year from April 2011 to April 2012 as housemaid.

According to the agreement Muhammad Atif gave one year advance salary of PAK rupees 27,600/- (USD\$ 295 approximately). Afterwards Mumtaz Bibi spent the said amount for the medical treatment of her injured son as well as met with her daughter Sobia twice and found her happy at workplace.

Statement of Mumtaz Bibi

Distressed Mumtaz Bibi said, "On February 07, 2012 I reached Lahore to meet my daughter but found the family of Muhammad Atif sent Sobia to their aunt's residence for helping them to look after their guests arrived from London. When I made requests for meeting with my daughter then I was provided the address of their aunt's residence and gradually I met with my daughter. Their aunt informed me that the guests from London want to take Sobia along with them to London. In this connection they will definitely give handsome package of salary to Sobia. The offer was attractive but it was



The photo of distressed Mumtaz Bibi was taken during her visit to CLAAS office

a sudden proposal which I flatly refused to send my daughter abroad. I told their aunt that I am waiting for the completion of one year and wanted to take my daughter back and never want to put her again as domestic servant. After three days of my visit to Sobia, Atif's aunt again called and asked for my approval for sending Sobia abroad, which I again refused. After six days of my conversation with Atif's aunt on February 20, 2012 my daughter Sobia informed me that Atif's aunt blaming on her (Sobia) for the theft of gold bangles. My daughter Sobia also informed that I have taken the gold bangles from my daughter Sobia. My daughter was frightened and informed that the owner gave her harsh beatings and enforcing her to admit the robbery. My family was very much concerned for Sobia and try hard to contact her but failed. Following the whole circumstances my husband along with relatives went to Lahore and visited Atif's aunt and my husband informed that Sobia was blamed that after robbing the gold bangles and 1000 dollars she has been escaped along with her mother and their whereabouts are not known. Later my husband went to the real owner Muhammad Atif, who also claimed the same. We all were very much worried for Sobia and my doubt for missing of my daughter Sobia was on Atif and his aunt. After searching Sobia here and there I along with my son went to the area police station for the registration of kidnapping case FIR against Atif and his aunt but the police reluctant to lodge the case FIR against the accused persons because they were influential of the area. I was very much disturbed and on April 17, 2012 approached CLAAS office for legal aid assistance for the recovery of my kidnapped daughter."

Legal Aid Assistance by CLAAS

The aggrieved Shamim Bibi was provided legal aid assistance and in this connection CLAAS on April 2012 filed a Habeas Corpus Petition in the Lahore High Court on behalf of victim Mumtaz Bibi for the recovery kidnapped minor Sobia and also seek direction from the honorable court for the recording to statement of kidnapped Sobia. CLAAS filed the Habeas Corpus Petition through Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS). The following court proceedings were conducted accordingly:

1. On the next day April 18, 2012 the Habeas Corpus Petition was fixed before Mr. Justice Sheikh Najam ul Hassan, Judge Lahore High Court and the concerned SHO was directed to produce minor Sobia before this court on April 26, 2012 and notices were also served to Atif and his wife and later the court hearing adjourned for April 26, 2012.
2. On April 26, 2012 the Habeas Corpus Petition was heard by Mr. Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Judge Lahore High Court who was informed that on April 23, 2012 a theft case FIR No. 440/12 has been registered against minor Sobia and her brother Muhammad Asif at the Police Station Chung Lahore. CLAAS filed Habeas Corpus Petition on April 17, 2012 while the accused persons with mela fide attention got registered a case FIR on April 23, 2012. Despite the facts the honorable judge directed the concerned SHO to produce minor Sobia before this court on May 08, 2012.
3. On May 07, 2012 CLAAS moved pre-arrest bail petition in the Court of Sessions for Muhammad Asif, the alleged accused in the case FIR No 440/12 through Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS). The bail petition was admitted by the honorable judge and adjourned the court hearing till the recovery of minor Sobia.
4. On May 08, 2012 the honorable judge was on leave and the case hearing was fixed for May 11, 2012.

5. On May 11, 2012 the Habeas Corpus Petition was fixed before Mr. Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Judge Lahore High Court who was informed that the investigation officer is not interested to recover minor Sobia. The honorable judge directed the CCPO (Capital City Police Officer) to appoint a police officer not below the rank of DSP (Deputy Superintendent of Police) to recover minor Sobia and to produce her before this court on May 21, 2012. The investigation officer was also directed to appear before this court along with record on the said date.

6. On May 21, 2012 the DSP (Deputy Superintendent of Police) Riffat Sultana appeared before the honorable court and states that she received the letter from CCPO day before the date of hearing. The DSP seeks time to recover minor Sobia and the court adjourned till May 28, 2012.

7. On May 28, 2012 the concerned police officer appeared before the court and submits that despite hectic efforts minor Sobia could not be recovered. The petitioner Mumtaz Bibi directed to cooperate with the aforesaid police officer to facilitate the recovery of minor Sobia. The DSP seeks time to recover minor Sobia and the court adjourned till June 12, 2012.

8. On June 12, 2012 the DSP again seeks more time to recover minor Sobia and the court adjourned till June 21, 2012.

9. On June 21, 2012 the DSP appeared before the court and states that the petitioner Mumtaz Bibi is not cooperating in recovering the minor Sobia. The petitioner Mumtaz Bibi directed to cooperate with the aforesaid police officer to facilitate the recovery of minor Sobia. Later the DSP directed to produce minor Sobia before this court on June 27, 2012.

10. On June 27, 2012 the DSP again seeks more time to recover minor Sobia and the court adjourned till July 04, 2012.

11. On July 04, 2012 the DSP appeared before honorable court and produced a copy of the advertisement given in the newspaper by him in daily Express and daily Jang regarding missing of victim Sobia. In the said advertisement reward of PAK rupees 100,000/- was announced. The DSP again seeks more time to recover minor Sobia and adjourned the court hearing till July 17, 2012.

12. Recovery of victim Sobia

On July 17, 2012 the Habeas Corpus Petition was heard by Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar Asghar, Judge Lahore High Court. The DSP concerned produced victim Sobia before the honorable court and informed that Shahnaz Bibi, a maid servant of Farzana Irfan took victim Sobia to Hujra Shah Muqem and the victim Sobia has been recovered from said Shahnaz Bibi. Later the custody of minor Sobia was handed over to her mother Mumtaz Bibi. The Habeas Corpus Petition was disposed of accordingly. After court hearing victim Sobia along with her mother Mumtaz Bibi and brother Muhammad Asif visited CLAAS office and shared the details of her by force abduction accordingly.

13. After the recovery of minor Sobia the case FIR No 440/12 registered against Sobia and her brother Muhammad Asif was invalidated by the honorable Additional & Sessions Judge, Lahore.

Statement of Victim Sobia

On July 17, 2012 victim Sobia along with her mother Mumtaz Bibi and brother Muhammad Asif visited CLAAS office, she was out of mind and was unable to deliver a single sentence about the painful experience of her kidnapping, ill-treatment and sexual violence. Gradually, she wind down and narrated the whole story accordingly and said, "I was working as housemaid with my mother to help my family. My elder brother Muhammad Asif accidently lost his arms at workplace and my family urgently needs some money for the medical treatment of my brother Asif. My mother took one year advance payment from Muhammad Atif for the medical treatment of my brother and later I came Lahore for working as housemaid for Muhammad Atif. Everything was going well and my mother came to see me normally. In February 2007 my owner Muhammad Atif sent me to his aunt named Nisha for helping her to look after their guests arrived from London. When I was working for Nisha my mother came to see me and Nisha informed my mother that the guests from London wants to take Sobia along with them to London. My mother politely refused to send me abroad. When I was working for Nisha I found that her sister Farzana Irfan is living on the second floor of the house. During my work I met with another housemaid namely Shahnaz alias Chani who was working for Farzana Irfan and we quickly got familiar with each other. On February 20, 2012 an occurrence of robbery took place in the dwelling of Farzana Irfan. According to Farzana, her five gold bangles along with



Minor Sobia narrating the painful experience of her kidnapping, ill-treatment and sexual violence

USD\$ 1000 (PAK Rupees 92000/- approximately) were missing from her room. Unexpectedly, Farzana held responsible me for this robbery and blamed that I gave her five gold bangles and USD\$ 1000 to my mother Mumtaz Bibi. In this connection Farzana and her family gave me harsh beatings and enforced me to admit the robbery. After this incident Farzana made my life miserable as she makes me busy in hard labour, never give food in time as well as gave me harsh beatings.

I was very much disturbed and discussed the cruel attitude of Farzana with Shahnaz alias Chani, who suggested me to escape along with her (Shahnaz) and also assured me that she will help me in my safe return to my parent. Finally, I got chance and flee along with Shahnaz alias Chani at her residence. During my stay with Shahnaz I noticed that her husband Muhamamd Akram aged 35, kept bad eyes on me and also started sexually harassed. The moment Shahnaz went out form home for some work Muhammad Akram raped me time and again. I disclosed the matter with Shahnaz but she did not take the matter seriously and also feel embarrassing and took my complaint as her insult. In revenge, Shahnaz forced me to develop sexual relations with her father too, which I refused totally. I was surprised that why Shahnaz suddenly change her attitude and forced me for immoral activities. Upon my refusal Shahnaz warned me that if I will not develop sexual relations with her father Muhammad Ismael, I will be killed. I was also raped by her father Muhammad Ismael severely. In the meanwhile I discovered that Shahnaz theft Farzana's five gold bangles and USD\$ 1000. I requested Shahnaz to send me back to my parents but she was not willing to do and started using delaying pretext. I was very much disturbed and also was helpless to free from the illegal

detention of Shahnaz and her family. On July 10, 2012 Shahnaz send me Okara to work for her younger sister Sajida. I shared the whole story of my sorrows with Sajida and her husband Ali Asghar, who informed my whereabouts to my brother Muhammad Asif.”

Medico Legal Examination Report of victim Sobia

On July 18, 2012 CLAAS moved an application through Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) before the area Magistrate of Police Station Chung, Lahore for the Medical Examination of victim Sobia. The honorable magistrate directed the concerned SHO to help the victim accordingly. The medical report was served to the victim same day and according to the medical report and opinion by the concerned doctors victim Sobia was multiple times raped brutally by two persons during the time of her abduction.

The following further legal actions was also taken by CLAAS

On July 19, 2012 the Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) filed a Habeas Corpus Petition in the Court of Session’s Judge Lahore on behalf of victim Sobia for the registration of Criminal Case FIR (First Information Report) against the accused persons through Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS). During the pendency of the petition the opponent party used so many ways to approach the CLAAS legal advisor and offered a heavy amount for the withdrawal of the petition. The offer of the opponent party was spurned by CLAAS lawyer. On July 28, 2012 the honorable Judge disposed of the petition with strictly direction to the concerned SHO (Station House Officer) to record the statement of victim Sobia for the registration of criminal case FIR as well as the SHO was also directed to report back the honorable court on immediate effect.

Up-dates

Later the aggrieved family informed CLAAS that the family did not want to continue the litigation anymore and deliberately withdrawal from the case.

13.2- Alisha Bibi Vs The State

Victim Alisha aged 14 d/o Majeed Masih (late), a student of Grade 10th and is a resident of Lahore. Her mother Musrrat Bibi is a housewife while her father Majeed Masih was expired few years back. Whereas her elder brother named Shehzad aged 24 is a driver by profession and is the only source of income in the family. On July 18, 2012 victim Alisha along with her mother visited CLAAS office and informed the following:



File photo of victim Alisha

According to victim Alisha she just over and done with her matriculation examination and was free but later took admission in computer classes at Hafiz Science Academy, Ghazi Road, Lahore to develop computer skills. The science academy was nearby her residence and she gradually started to join her computer classes and the timetables of the classes were from 09:00am to 11:00am.

Statement of victim Alisha



Victim Alisha visited CLAAS office and narrating the facts

Sufferer Alisha further added and said, “My mother is a spiritual lady and different Christian families formulate earnest requests to her to pray for their families. In this connection my mother always took me along with her for visiting different families for prayer. My mother normally visited to the family of Babar Gill, a resident of Main Bazar Chungi Amar Sidhu, Lahore. Slowly but surely I noticed that the neighboring shop keeper of jewelry kept bad eyes on me. Later, I came to know his name from the signboard and he was identified as Muhammad Aftab. Accused Aftab made his routine to stand in our way for while our visiting at the residence of Babar Gill. On July 16, 2012 I was on my way and walking towards my Academy to attend computer classes and the accused Aftab accompanying with other accused Asim and Bilal suddenly appeared in a white car and accused Aftab clutched my arm and forcedly pulled me inside the car and put a pistol on my forehead and threatened to sit in the car without making a noise and the criminal assailants



immediately escaped from the place of occurrence. The accused persons forcedly abducted me at unknown place of occurrence where I was enforcedly raped by accused Aftab. After sexual assault and violence the accused persons threatened me for life and warned that if I disclose the matter to any one I will be killed. Afterward, the accused persons left me at the place of occurrence and escaped.” Distressed Alisha further added and said, “The incident was unacceptable for me and I was also under fear and I immediately left the place of occurrence and rushed towards my best friend Farriya and informed her whole story. My friend Farriya advised me to tell the whole incident of rape and abduction to my mother. I was very much frightened and reached at my home after two hours of the incident but did not disclose the matter on my mother. On the next day on July 17, 2012 my friend Farriya made a phone call and shared the rape incident with my mother. My mother modestly asked me about the incident which I revealed on her correctly and also informed that the accused persons warned that I will be killed if I disclose the matter to anyone.” On July 18, 2012 Alisha along with her mother

approached CLAAS office and requested for legal aid assistance in the matter of illegal detention and rape.

Legal Aid Assistance:

On July 19, 2012 CLAAS moved an application before the Magistrate, Police Station Factory Area, Lahore for Medico Legal Examination of victim Alisha through Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS). The area Magistrate same day directed the concerned police station for Medico Legal Examination Report of the victim.

Medico Legal Examination Report of Alisha, the female Survivor of Sexual Violence

On July 20, 2012 after the Medico Legal Examination the concerned doctors gave their final opinion that victim Alisha was subject raped.

On July 26, 2012 the Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) filed a petition in the Court of Session's Judge Lahore on behalf of victim Alisha for the registration of Criminal Case FIR (First Information Report) against the accused person through Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS). On July 30, 2012 the honorable Judge strictly directed the concerned SHO (Station House Officer) to record the statement of victim Alisha for the registration of criminal case FIR against the accused persons as well as directed the SHO to report back the honorable court on immediate effect and disposed of the petition.

14- Dispute & Criminal Cases

14.1 Permeela Bibi Vs SHO Khanqah Dorgan District Sheikhpura



Permeela Bibi along with her daughter Nadia at CLAAS office

Permeela Bibi and her husband Clemence are Christians who have been married since 1983. They have five children: Nadia Naira, 25, Noreen Marriam 23, Amara, 20, and Haroon Sarfraz, 14. The family resides in Marriam Abad, Khanka Doggran, District Shiekhupura.

Clemence is a small farmer who cultivates land in their village. Parmeela Bibi started a small grocery shop in their home to help with expenses. Occasionally their children would help out, including Naira Nadia, who was fifteen and in the eighth grade. At that time, a notorious money

lender from a neighboring village, Sheikh Maqsood Ahmed, began to frequent their shop. Though Maqsood Ahmed, a Muslim, was known for lending money at exorbitant rates to poor Christians, Parmeela Bibi states that she had never borrowed from him. The family did not notice that he was watching their daughter, Nadia.

On February 11, 2001, Maqsood Ahmed kidnapped Nadia at gunpoint. Two days later she was force to convert to Islam, and then forced marry Maqsood in a Muslim ceremony. When the parents learned what had happened to their daughter, they immediately reported the matter to the police station in Khanka Doggran. The police issued a FIR (First Incident Report) against Maqsood Ahmed. However, later the police sided with Maqsood Ahmed and refused to arrest him.

Parmeela Bibi states that when the police failed to take action in response to their suit, they filed a habeas corpus petition against Nadia's illegal detention in the Lahore High Court. Nadia was called to testify. In court, Nadia repudiated her parents' version of events and upheld Maqsood Ahmed's claims. The distraught parents realized their daughter had been intimidated. Her father became ill over the situation and remains so to this day. They had no further contact with Nadia until November 30, 2011, when Nadia was able to escape and flee to her parents' home. Nadia then told her parents the full story of her abduction and enforced detention.

Maqsood Ahmed followed Nadia to her parents' home with two known assailants, Hamid Yasin and Abubakar, and four unknown assailants. He demanded Nadia's return, making threats against their lives. He also threatened to kidnap their younger daughters if Nadia were not returned to him. Every day Maqsood Ahmed would come inebriated to their home and verbally abuse each of the family members. The parents tolerated the maltreatment as no one in the village came to their aid. Finally the parents could tolerate no more. On January 16, 2012, they contacted CLAAS for legal aid to register a criminal case FIR against Maqsood Ahmed and to file for the dissolution of the marriage. They also requested safe shelter for Nadia and her younger sister Amaras.

In response to their requests, CLAAS filed a petition on behalf of Parmeela Bibi for the registration of a criminal case FIR against Maqsood Ahmed and his brothers Hamid

Yasin and Abuakar, as well as the four others who while inebriated verbally insulted and abused the family, as well as threatening to kidnap Nadia's younger sisters.. Parmeela Bibi was represented by Mr. Tahir Bashir, an attorney and legal advisor of CLAAS, in the Court of Sessions before Judge Sheikpura. Until Parmeela Bibi appealed to CLAAS for assistance on the afore mentioned date, she had not contacted CLAAS or informed the organization of any proceedings in the police station.

14.2- Muhammad Sarfraz Vs Sharif Masih etc

Please find the report on page no (147-150)

14.3- Muhamm3- Muhammad Iqbal Vs Justice of Peace (J.O.P)/Additional & Sessions Judge etc



Arshad Ahmed at CLAAS office

Arshad Ahmed s/o Faqeer Muhammad, resident of Wazir Abad, District Gujranwala. He has a wife and four children: Mubeen, 18, Sajawal 17, Mohsan Raza, 15, and Sonia, 14. All the children are students. Arshad Ahmed is a milkman and his wife is a government employee. The family is of good repute in their locality.

Arshad reports that he has a longstanding enemy in Akbar, a landlord in the village. The enmity began when a physical altercation took place between Arshad's nephew, Juge, and Akbar's son, Skindar. Both boys sustained

serious injuries. The families were able to close the incident by compromise, but since that time Akbar has wanted revenge on Arshad.

On June 23, 2011, Arshad's son, Sajawal Ali, went to the market to buy some household articles. When he did not return home after many hours, his parents began searching for him. Neighbors of Arshad Ahmed, Muhammad Malik and Imran, informed Arshad that they had seen Sajawal with Akbar's sons on the outskirts of the village at the bus stop at around 10:30 pm. Arshad then received an anonymous phone call informing him that his son had been kidnapped and demanding a ransom of 4,500,000 Pakistani Rupees (about US\$4,945).

The anonymous caller was later identified as Aurangzeb. It was also learned that Akbar's son, Muhammed Iqba, made a telephone call from Greece, announcing that Sajawal was in his custody. He demanded as a condition of Sajawal's release that the family deposit the ransom money with Mazhar Hussain, a former village councilor. The family arranged for the ransom, but the kidnappers did not release Sajawal. When Arshad Ahmed again requested his son's release, Muhammad Iqbal changed his demands. He told Arshad to take the ransom money from Mazhar Hussain and instead deposit it with Haji Muhammed Nawaz, another former village councilor, in order for Sajawal to be released.

The ransom money was accordingly given to Haji Muhammad Nawaz in the presence of Akbar and his son, Skindar. Haji Muhammad Nawaz assured Muhammad Iqbal that the ransom money was in his possession and asked for the release of Sajawal. At a later

time, Muhammad Iqbal called and informed the family that Sajawal was dead and hung up the phone. Arshad Ahmed was deeply distressed and met with Muhammad Nawaz, explaining the whole situation to him and begging for his help. Muhammad arranged a meeting with the accused and asked Akbar and his son Skindar about Sajawal's whereabouts. Akbar and his son promised Sajawal's safe return and said that they would not take the ransom money. However, at this time Sajawal still has not been returned. In view of the situation, Arshad Ahmed applied to the District Police Officer to take action. The DPO referred the matter to the Ahmed Nagar police station but Arshad was then referred back to his own local station. Finally the officer in charge of the investigation told Arshad to arrange a ransom of 100,000 Rupees (approximately US\$ 1098) for the release of his son. Arshad approached the City Chief Police Officer and submitted an application for a change in venue for the investigation and the investigation was formally referred to the Deputy Superintendent of Police at the Ahmed Nagar police station. The Deputy Superintendent of Police summoned both parties and questioned the accused about the kidnapping of Sajawal. The accused promised to return Sajawal within four days but they did not keep their promise.

In discouragement Arshad Ahmed then filed a petition in the Court of Sessions before the Justice of the Peace to register a criminal case FIR against the accused.

On November 16, 2011, the court heard testimony by the police that stated Arshad Ahmed had no eye witnesses to the kidnapping of his son. Furthermore, the police testified that Sajawal had chosen to go to Greece himself and that no kidnapping had taken place. After hearing police testimony, the petition was dismissed by the court. On January 26, 2012, Arshad Ahmed then filed a petition in The High Court of Lahore to register a criminal case FIR against the accused. On February 27, 2012, Arshad Ahmed asked CLAAS for legal aid. CLAAS provided legal counsel through Muhammed Amin Javaid, an attorney and CLAAS legal advisor.

Updates: At present the writ petition is pending before the Lahore High Court.

14. 4- Najma Bibi Vs SHO etc

Najima Bibi and her husband Shahzad Yousaf Chaudhary, Muslims, have five children: Milka Shahzad, 12, Danish Ahmed, 9, Hasher Ali, 8, Husnain Ali, 7, and Noor Fatima, 5. All the children are students. Shahzad Yousaf is working in Malaysia. Najma Bibi lives with their five children in her own home in Moor Eamana Abad, District Gujranwala.

Najima Bibi reports that almost nine months ago a quarrel took place between Najima and her neighbor Abdul Quyyum, a former police constable. He lost his job because he was charged with corruption and consorting with criminals. Abdul Quyyam has a bad reputation in the area for his harassment and disrespect of women. Najima Bibi was severely harassed by Abdul Quyyam to the point of being forced to have sexual relations with him. Najima felt helpless and unable to stop his cruelty.

On February 18, 2011, Najima attended the funeral of her father-in-law. She returned home late and found that her children had locked the door and gone to bed. As she knocked on the door to rouse them, Abdul Quyyam came outside and began quarreling with Najima, accusing her of causing a disturbance by repeatedly knocking on the door. Najima and Abdul Quyyam came to blows. Then Abdul Quyyam's son joined his father in beating Najima senseless and ripping her clothes.

The next day Najima filed an application to register a criminal case against Abdul Quyyram and his accomplices. The police did not act on her complaint until they were directed to by the court,

A FIR 173/11 offence under section 354/506, 34, of the Pakistan Penal Code was registered. Even then the police did not arrest Abdul Quyyram and his accomplices. After the case was registered, Abdul Quyyram threatened Najima's life. He forced Najima and her children to leave their house without taking any of their belongings and locked the house so that they could not return. Najima secured a rental house for her and the children. She reports that after several days she returned to her own home to gather clothing and other necessary items, but found some of her belongings were missing. When Najima asked Abdul Quyyram about the missing items, he severely beat her, fracturing her left hand. Najima submitted another application to register the case, but again the police colluded with Abdul Quyyram and refused to assist her. They held her illegally in the police station, accusing her of robbery. She was later released. Najima repeatedly petitioned for legal help from the authorities but was ignored. On Feb. 29, 2012, Najima approached CLAAS for legal aid. CLAAS attorney Kamran Youself Khan, representing Najima Bibi, filed a petition in the Court of Sessions to register a criminal case against the accused. The judge ordered the accused to appear in court and directed the authorities to undertake a thorough investigation. Abdul Quyyam appeared in court. A compromise was reached between the two parties, resolving the case.

14.5- Bashir Masih etc Vs The State

Please find the report on page no (167-175)

14.6 State Vs Basharat etc

Asher John s/o Bashir Masih aged 29, Christian by faith and resident of Kasur. He has six siblings including him named Asher alias Ashiq aged 29, Sadiq aged 25, Arif aged 21, Basharat aged 20, Najma aged 18 (married) and Salma aged 17 (married). By profession he is doing private job in garments factory. According to Asher John that Ruqqiya bibi w/o Abdul Rasheed, Muslim by faith, was married and have five children, she was his next door neighbor. Asher John stated that Ruqqiya and his younger brother Basharat fell in love with each other. While Bashir Masih (father of Asher John) came to know about their love affair he strictly ordered Basharat to stay away from Ruqqiya bibi because she is a Muslim married woman and have five children, he will snare in several illegal case. Just for the time being Basharat assured his father that now he will never have relation with Ruqqiya.

Nevertheless Basharat surreptitiously meet Ruqqiya bibi, On April 28, 2011 both escaped from the village. On May 13, 2011 Bashir Ahmad (father of Ruqqiya bibi) gave an application of Ruqqiya abduction to the SHO (station house officer) Mustafabad, district, Kasur against three unknown persons. After two weeks of this incident Bashir Ahmad came to know through some sources about Ruqqiya and Basharat illicit relation. Bashir Ahmad went to Asher John house along with some local people of his locality and met with Bashir Masih he inquired and requested Bashir Masih to return his daughter.

But Bashir Masih assured him that he does not know about Basharat and till up he did not contact them.

On May 16, 2011 Bashir Ahmad registered a FIR (first information report) 260/11 under section 496/A in Mustafabad police station, Kasur against Basharat s/o Bashir Masih and Ashiq Masih s/o Bashir Masih. On July 12, 2011 Police arrested Asher John from his house and send him in jail. Later he was bailed out from the Sessions Court Kasur.

On May 10, 2012 Asher John came to CLAAS office for legal assistance for his case trial. CLAAS provide its legal advisor Mr. Akhtar Masih Sandhu advocate high court for his trial proceedings and he was acquitted on October 23, 2012 from the Sessions Court during the trial.

14.7Abraham Yousaf Vs The State

Ibrahim Yousaf lives in Faqeerabad (Distt. Quetta). He is a 16 years Christian lad whose parents are both well placed government servants; his father is working for National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and mother is a staff nurse with the Wapda Hospital, Quetta. He has a younger brother Alisha aged 15 who is a student of 10th grade and sister Alliyah who is 12 years old and a student of 6th grade.

After his matriculation Ibrahim got admission at the prestigious Forman Christian College (F.C. College), Lahore for his intermediate (FSc). He stated that on 30th May 2012 he went to the designated examination centre for his Annual Intermediate Examination where he took the Chemistry examination according to the schedule of the exams and after handing over his answer sheet to the supervisor Mr. Azan Shabbir Ahmad he came back tohis place for the preparation of next day paper. During his next paper in the examination hall (on 1st June 2012) he was approached by the supervisor Mr. Azan Shabbir Ahmad (a Senior School Teacher (SST) at the CDG Boys High School G.T. Road Lahore) who asked Ibrahim to wait after completion of the paper as he wanted to talk to him.



Ibrahim Yousaf with CLAAS representative

Ibrahim stated that when all the students had left and the examination centre was almost vacant Mr. Azan Shabir Ahmad called the local police and started asking Ibrahim about his Chemistry answer sheet. Ibrahim had handed over the sheet the previous day to this supervisor so he stated the same to him. He also got worried about his Chemistry answer sheet and asked the supervisor to find it as it was the supervisor who was responsible for the missing paper.

Instead of making an effort to locate the missing sheet, Mr. Azan Shabir Ahmad forced him to accept that he had not returned the answer

sheet to him and when Ibrahim refused to accept this allegation, police arrested him on the spot and took him to Civil Lines Police Station, Lahore where they registered an FIR under section 3 of the Punjab Universities and Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education Malpractices Act 1950 against Ibrahim. He called his father in Quetta and narrated the whole story to him. Reaching Lahore on 1st June 2012 Ibrahim's father came straight to CLAAS seeking legal opinion and help. CLAAS moved a post arrest bail immediately and the same day obtained a favorable verdict.

The trial is now pending and CLAAS Legal Advisor Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court has submitted his power of attorney on 15th November 2012 for pursuing the case hearings.

14.8- Latif John Vs CCPO etc

Please find the report on page no (194-196)

14.9 Rubina Bibi Vs SHO Kot Lakhpat

Rubina, daughter of Faqeer Husain, 32, is a Muslim resident of Lahore. She has four siblings: Samina, 35, Sakina, 22, Nagina, 20, and Uzma, 18. Their father died several years ago. Rubina and her mother Miraj Bibi work in a factory to meet the family's financial needs. Rubina reports that her younger sister Nagina and their neighbor Shahid Husain, son of Walayat Husain, fell in love. Shahid Husain belongs to a wealthy family and runs his own real estate business while Rubina and her family live from hand to mouth. Rubina explained to Nagina that they belong to a poor family and she would not be accepted as a daughter-in-law in Shahid's family. Nagina did not heed Rubina's advice and asked Shahid Husain to send his family to her house to arrange the marriage. His family flatly refused and warned Shahid to stay away from Nagina, as they would never allow him to marry her. Rubina states that on June 5, 2012, at 2:00 pm Nagina was alone at home while Rubina and their mother were working. When Rubina and her mother returned home they saw that Nagina was not there and searched for her. They later discovered that Nagina had taken Rs 35,000 and one and a half grams of gold and had run away with Shahid Husain. They could not find her in their



Rubina Bibi along with her mother at CLAAS office for legal assistance

neighborhood, so Rubina and Miraj Bibi went to Shahid Husain's shop and asked if they had seen Nagina. Shahid Husain's older brothers, Shehzad and Zahid Husain, and their uncle, Khalid Husain, verbally abused the women and forced them from the shop. On June 22, 2012, Rubina and her mother again visited the shop and asked Shehzad Husain to give them information about Nagina. Shehzad Husain slapped Rubina and twisted her arm while Khalid Husain took hold of her collar and threw her from the shop. Zahid Husain shoved and slapped Miraj Bibi. On the same day, June 22, 2012, Rubina and

Miraj Bibi went to the local police station, Kot Lakh Pat, Lahore, and registered a complaint against Shehzad Husain, Zahid Husain, and Khalid Husain. However, the police refused to enter any action on their behalf.

On June 26, 2012, Rubina applied for legal assistance at CLAAS. On June 28, 2012, Tahir Bashir, attorney and legal advisor for CLAAS, representing Rubina, filed a petition in the Court of Sessions, Lahore, to register a criminal case FIR against the accused. On July 10, 2012, the judge directed the Station House Officer at the police station to register a criminal case FIR against those who had unjustly treated Rubina and her mother.

14.10- Arhsad Masih Vs The State

Farzana w/o Arshad Masih aged 34 years, Christian by faith and resident of Gujranwala. She is a mother of one boy named Akash at present he is 8 years old. According to Farzana she has nine siblings including her and eight are married. Before 7 years ago her sister Martha was kidnapped by a Muslim Ifthikar Ahmed s/o Muhammad Sharif who was also living in the same locality where they are living. After Martha's kidnapping her family registered a kidnapping case against Ifthikar Ahmed but he forcedly converted Martha into Islam and later married with her. Therefore kidnapping case was closed after Martha's statement. After Martha's conversion Farzana's family left their house and shifted another place while Farzana along with her husband Arshad were not shifted.

Often the people of the locality informed Farzana that the relation between Martha and her Muslims husband has not cordial, often he beat her brutally and gave her physically torture on minor issues. But Farzana's family not takes interest in Martha's family matter.

In May 2012 Ifthikhar Ahmed phonicallly contact with Farzana and offered her to convert into Islam and married with him. He also offered her that he will give all his property to



Farzana Bibi at CLAAS office alogn with her son

her if she will agree with him. But Farzana refused him by saying that she is happy with her husband and if he tried to contact again with her, she will inform to her husband.

After some days of Farzana's refusal Ifthikhar Ahmed came at her home and asked her about Martha and also told that he beat her severely, therefore she left his home while she is a mother of five children and he assured that she is living with her. But Farzana told him that she and her

family did not know about Martha.

On June 08, 2012 a case FIR No. 513/12, Offence under Section 496-A of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) registered by Ifthikhar Ahmed at police station Subaz Mindi District Gujranwala, against Farzana, her husband Arshad, her brother Laban and her nephew Imran Masih. Police arrested Arshad Masih and locked him up while Laban and Imran are residing in District Sawat before the incident.

Her brother Robin appeared before the concern police station for investigation, he told the whole matter that they have not known about Martha and they have not contact since seven years. But police joined hands with Ifthikhar Ahmed and linger on the case investigation. Police physically tortured Arhsad and forcedly insisted him to accept that they kidnapped Martha.

Therefore Farzana and his brother Robin approached CLAAS office for legal assistance. Farzana also requested for shelter because it is difficult for her to live at her home. CLAAS provided shelter to Farzana and her son Akash at Apna Ghar Rehabilitation Centre CLAAS and also appointed its legal advisor Mr. Kamran Yousaf Khan Advocate for court proceedings. Arshad has been bailed out and after compromised case was closed.

14.11 Hamayat Masih etc Vs The State

Hamayat Masih, a 25 year old Christian resident of District Sheikhpura, is a laborer. He is married to Shaista and the couple has been blessed with four children named Anum aged 10, Alishba 8, Adnan 6 and Zain of 3. According to Hamayat's father Kaila Masih, there are some people in their locality having some grudge with his family for many



Hamayat Masih with CLAAS lawyer

years and among them is the person known as Hadayat Masih. Hadayat Masih would pick a fight with Kaila's family on any pretext. Hamayat Masih state dthat some four months ago Hadayat Masih stole their buffalo and hid it on his dwelling. Some of the villagers informed Hamayat Masih of the whereabouts of the buffalo upon which a *panchayat* (an informal court of local influential people) was approached by his father Kaila Masih and his

uncles Borha Masih and Bashir Masih with a plea of getting their buffalo back. The panchayat assured them of help and said if Hadayat had their buffalo, it would be returned for sure. Within three days Hadayat Masih returned Hamayat Masih's buffalo in the witness of Panchayat but privately warned Hamayat, Kaila Masih and uncles that he would take exemplary revenge involving them in such a case that they would always regret this buffalo incident. Hamayat Masih stated that on July 28, 2012 Hadayat Masih went to Panchayat with an allegation of stealing his buffalo and its calf, against Kaila Masih, Borha Masih and Bashir Masih. This time he pleaded with the panchayat to get his cattle back from Hamayat Masih's family.

Hamayat Masih, Kaila Masih, Borha Masih and Bashir Masih all appeared before the Panchayat the next day and swore that they had not stolen Hadayat's cattle and their word was honoured by the panchayat because they also knew the earlier incident and the revengeful motive. Not getting a favourable response from the panchayat, Hadayat Masih went to the police and registered a fake theft case of his stolen cattle on 25th October 2012 (FIR no. 1199/12, under section 406 PPC at PS Nawab Shah Town, Lahore) against Kaila Masih, Hamayat Masih, Borha Masih and Bashir Masih.

Police raided the houses of these falsely accused persons on 23rd November 2012 at around 4 pm and arrested Kaila Masih while son Hamayat was not at home. Hamayat Masih approached CLAAS office on 26th November for legal assistance in this false case. CLAAS appointed its legal advisor Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) to help Hamayat in the court case who filed an application on 27th Nov. 2012 for grant of post arrest bail and secured bail for Kaila Masih on 1st December 2012. The pre-arrest bail matter of Hamayat Masih suffered in the beginning when Hamayat could not reach court for the first petition filed on his behalf in the Court but his pre-arrest bail has now been allowed and he is waiting for the trial to get himself out of this totally frivolous and baseless case.

15- Murder Cases

15.1 State Vs Rafique Masih

Farooq Masih and Salma Bib, Christians, have been married since 1998. They are the parents of six children. Farooq Masih is employed as a janitor in a private school. Farooq Masih states that he borrowed Pak Rs 10,000 (approximately US\$110) from his younger brother, Rafiq Masih, and promised to repay it. Eight months later in August 2010, Rafiq visited Farooq and demanded that he repay the loan. Farooq was taken by surprise and asked for some time to get the money together. Rafiq was unwilling to wait, but they reached an agreement whereby Farooq would repay the loan in April 2011.

On April 26, 2011 at around 3:00 pm in the afternoon, Rafiq Masih visited his brother's home to remind him the loan was due. Farooq was at work but his wife Salma Bibi and six children were in the house. Farooq reports that Rafiq asked his wife to repay the loan. Salma Bibi was unaware of the arrangements and told Rafiq to ask Farooq for the money. Rafiq assumed that Salma Bibi and his brother were unwilling to repay the loan. He became violent and started beating Salma Bibi. When her children tried to intervene, Rafiq beat them as well. He then assaulted Salma with an ax. Salma collapsed with profuse head bleeding, which her children witnessed. They began shouting while Rafiq escaped. The shouting brought the neighbors to the scene, where they found Salma Bibi in critical condition.

Farooq Masih was informed of the incident and when he reached home he transported his wife to the hospital.

On April 27, 2011, case FIR 548/2011 Section 302/324 of the Pakistan Penal Code was registered at police station Satukatla, Lahore, against Rafiq Masih. On May 3, 2011, Salma Bibi died in hospital of her injuries. Rafiq Masih hid for several months until he was found and arrested by the police on November 11, 2011. On February 20, 2012, Farooq Masih applied to CLAAS for legal aid and assistance. Tahir Bashir, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor, submitted a Power of Attorney on behalf of Farooq Masih.

Updates: The murder case is currently being tried in court.

15.2-The State Vs Younis etc



Naziran Bibi at CLAAS office

Naziran Bibi, Christian, widow of Salamat Masih, is a resident of Sheikhpura. She has seven children: Anwar Masih, 35, Munawar Masih, 33, Mukhtaran Bibi, 30, Ruth Bibi, 28, Patras, 26, the now deceased Yousaf Masih, 25, and Hina, 23. With the exception of Yousaf, all the children are married.

Nazreen Bibi states that on March 5, 2011, at 10:30 pm, Yousaf Masih, Saleen Masih, a police constable, and Asif Masih, a laborer, rode on Saleem's motorbike to the nearest market to buy some medicine. After buying the medicine, they were returning home. When they had just reached the nearest town,

Akbar Pura, three armed assailants suddenly appeared and stopped them at gunpoint in order to rob them. When the assailants noticed the police insignia on the license plate of the motorbike, they opened fire. Bullets pierced the back of Yousaf's neck and exited from his face. He died immediately. Asif Masih was shot in the back, severely injuring his spine. Saleem Masih survived by hiding behind the motorbike. The assailants escaped.

Saleem Masih reports that he immediately contacted the local police, who removed the dead body and admitted Asif Masih to the hospital. Case FIR 69/2011 under Section 302/324 of the Pakistan Penal Code was registered at police station Narang, District Sheikpura. The police investigation identified three suspects, Muhammed Younis, aka Mochi, Muhammad Shahbaz, and Boota aka Booti. Muhammed Shahbaz and Muhammad Younis admitted to the crime and were imprisoned. The third assailant was arrested nine months later. Saleem Masih further states that the accused are threatening their lives and forcing the plaintiffs to compromise. On March 1, 2012, Nazireen Bibi applied to CLAAS for legal aid and assistance. Malik Zaman Haider, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor, entered power of attorney in the court on behalf of Saleem Masih.

Updates: The murder case is currently being tried in court.

15.3- The State Vs Shakeela Bibi (Shabana's murder)

This unfortunate episode took place in the neighborhood of Nishtar Colony which is a newer housing scheme on the eastern side of Lahore where a large number of workers and daily wagers live in small houses of a planned township. Two families had been living in adjoining houses here, one headed by Hanif Masih and the other by his nephew Ijaz Masih. Both are Christians, Hanif is about 31 years old while Ijaz is 5, 6 years younger to him. Hanif, who is a labourer in a paints factory, was married to Shabana and the couple had been blessed with three children named Nabeela aged 5, Sahil 3 and

Michael,



Shabana (late) with husband Hanif

Ijaz Masih, Hanif's nephew, and also his next door neighbor, worked in the same factory. According to Hanif, Ijaz's wife Shakeela used to have severe complaints of neglect from Ijaz Masih. Hanif Masih told of several quarrels between Shakeela and husband Ijaz Masih on trivial matters especially when Shakeela criticised Ijaz for his alleged illicit relations with other ladies. Shakeela had also complained to Hanif Masih many times about Ijaz Masih's miserly attitude towards her and not taking care of her needs.

Hanif Masih further shared in his account that for the past some months Shakeela had started alleging that Ijaz had illicit relations with his aunt Shabana (Hanif's wife). These blames were followed by regular fights between Shakeela and Shabana over petty

domestic matters and on several occasions Shakeela threatened Shabana with killing her. On 22nd July 2011 at around 10 in the morning, when Shabana was at her home with her three little children, Shakeela came to their house where the two ladies had a severe quarrel again after which Shakeela hurried to her house. She returned after half an hour with a gun and opened fire on Shabana who got a shot in her chest and died on the spot. Upon hearing the gun shots and cries of Shabana's children people of the locality ran towards Hanif Masih's house. As Shakeela saw people approaching Hanif Masih's house she fled away.

Hanif Masih stated that he was informed about his wife's death by their neighbour Nagina Bibi and he registered an FIR (No. 737/11) against Shakeela for murdering his wife. Although the case FIR was registered the same day as of murder, the police arrested Shakeela after six months of the incident.

When Hanif Masih approached CLAAS office for legal assistance in the murder case of his wife he was facilitated by the team and the case was assigned to Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS). The case is pending trial in the Sessions Court.

15.4-State Vs Arshad etc (Murder of Muhammad Ali)

Muhammad Ali, 22, son of Muhammad Anwar, Muslim and resident of Kot Abdul Maalik in District Gujranwala, was murdered on October 10, 2011. According to information given to CLAAS, on October 10, 2011, Muhammad Ali and his brother-in-law Muhammad Anwar were invited to a cousin's wedding. At the wedding Muhammad Tafil, Muhammad Ali's father, gave him Pak Rs 30,000 (approximately US\$ 320) to spend on further wedding expenses. Faryad Ali, a professional videographer filming the wedding, witnessed the exchange. After several hours Faryad Ali lured Muhammad Ali from the wedding in order to take the money. Faryad Ali and Muhammad Ali were not far from the wedding celebration when one of Faryad Ali's friends, Shahzad, joined them. They both attacked Muhammad Ali with the intention of robbing him. Muhammad Ali fought back and tried to escape when they opened fire on him. A bullet hit his left cheek and exited from the back of his neck. He died immediately. The family of Muhammad Ali was concerned about his absence and began searching for him. Cousins of Muhammad Ali, Rafiq and Shahid, found his bloody body hidden in bushes close to the site of the wedding celebration. It was determined that Faryad Ali and Shahzad had murdered him.

On the same day case FIR 1203/11 under Section 302/34 of the Pakistan Penal Code was registered against Faryad Ali and Shahzad at police station Factory Area, District Sheikpura. The accused parties were arrested. On March 13, 2012, Muhammad Ali applied to CLAAS for legal aid and assistance.

Updates:

The accused parties are currently imprisoned. Malik Zaman Haidar, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor was monitoring the case. In December 2012 the plaintiff changed counsel.

15.5- Nazia alias Nazi Vs The state

Razia d/o George aged 34, a Christian by faith and resident of Lahore married with Akram in 2005. At present the couple was parents of two children named Yamima 6 years old and Aroosh 3 years old. She was a house wife while her husband Akram Khohar (late) was a property dealer by profession. According to Razia, since six years she was living with her in-laws in the joint family including with her mother in-law and two elder brother in-laws and their families. After the death of her father in-law, her mother in-law allocated her house in her children. Therefore they were living in their own apartment house.

Razia Bibi further shared on February 2, 2012 her husband Akram Khokhar went to Aslam's room (Akram's elder brother) as usual. After some time their neighbors informed them that the smoke was coming out from the room of Aslam and later without any delay they broke the door of Aslam's room and found a burnt dead body. While Aslam's wife Nazia alias Nazi was busy in her domestic work. When Razia and other family members asked about the said dead body, Nazia told them that she murdered Akram and after that burnt him. She also said that she was no guilty later Nazia was arrested by area police and recorded her statement.

On the same day a case FIR No. 180/ 12, Offence under Section 302 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) registered at police station Factor Area, Lahore against accused Nazia alias Naz. Later Razia's brother in-law insisted her for compromise but Razia not agreed for compromise. Presently Nazia confined at Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore. On May 5, 2012 post arrest bail of Nazia was moved by her counsel in the Court of Session Judge which was dismissed on May 15, 2012 by the learned Sessions Judge. While the Post-arrest bail of Nazia is pending in the honorable High Court, Razia approached CLAAS office for legal aid and assistance regarding her husband's murder case and also wants to contest the post arrest bail of Nazia. On June 21, 2012 CLAAS submitted a power of Attorney on behalf of Razia through Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) for contested the post-arrest bail of Nazia. On July 19, 2012 Nazia bailed out from High Court and while the case was under trial the party changed the counsel in November 2012.

15.6- State Vs Falak Shar (Murder of Lazar Masih)

Mukhtar Bibi is a widow, her husband Hadayat Masih died many years ago. This Christian family has been living in Sanda area of Lahore for a long time. Mukhtar Bibi had 9 children out of which 8 are married and she was living with her only unmarried child, Lazar Masih (late), in her own house. Lazar Masih worked as a mason for a living.

Mukhtar Bibi further stated that in the year 2000 her daughter Ruby moved in with them along with her husband because Ruby's husband Falak Share alias Boota could not earn enough to rent a house although he too worked as a mason. Her daughter Ruby is still living with her with her own five children.



(Late) LAZAR Masih

In 2007 Boota took Rs.100,000/- from her son Lazar for his personal use and assured Lazar that he would return the money within a few months. Sometime later when Lazar demanded his money from Boota, he refused him to return his money. Lazar accommodated him by suggesting an installment mode for return of money but insisted that Boota should start repaying as Lazar needed the money. When Lazar realised that Boota was not serious in returning the money in any way he requested him to pay half of the electricity bill because Lazar found it difficult to bear the full household expenses especially the ever escalating electricity bill.

Mukhtar Bibi further shared that on April 24, 2012 her son Lazar requested Boota to pay the electricity bill of the month of April amounting to Rs. 2000/- and also demanded his money back again. During their conversation Boota started to quarrel with him. After their quarrel Lazar paid the bill but the same night at around 11: 30 pm Boota murdered Lazar hitting him with an iron rod. After the murder Boota fled away and went into hiding.

Mukhtar Bibi and her son Yousaf Masih informed the area police of the incident who registered a case FIR No. 459/ 12 for murder of Lazar Masih against the accused Boota. Although Boota was hiding, and did not even contact his wife Ruby, the police was able to trace him and on May 24, 2012, after one month of the incident, arrested him.

Presently Boota is confined in Camp Jail, Lahore, trying to get out on bail and to prove that he was not the one who murdered Lazar. To get justice Mukhtar Bibi approached CLAAS office for legal aid and assistance who immediately appointed its legal advisor Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba (Advocate High Court) for court proceedings. Mr. Suba has since filed his power of attorney to represent Mukhtar Bibi and the case in trial now.

16- Habeas Corpus Petitions

16.1- Sonia Vs SHO

Sonia Masih, Christian, married Farooq Masih on October 15, 2009. They are residents of Lahore and have two children: Jazial, 2, and Adnan, 2 months. Sonia reports that after marrying Farooq they lived with his parents. The first three months of their marriage were happy, but then Sonia discovered that Farooq had a gambling problem. Even though he was unemployed Farooq continued to gamble, selling off Sonia's dowry bit by bit. Sonia asked him to stop gambling but rather than stopping he started quarreling with Sonia over minor domestic matters. He did not provide for their daily expenses. If Sonia



Sonia Bibi along with her children at CLAAS office after recovery of her children

asked him for money, he beat her brutally. Sonia states that rather than imperil her marriage she ignored her husband's behavior. Her in-laws were also hard on her but for three years she followed the advice of her parents and elders in the family to get along with her husband and in-laws. When Sonia was pregnant with their second child, she went to her parents' home on September 19, 2011, for the delivery. Sonia's parents knew her financial situation and were willing to bear all the expenses for the birth. Her husband was not in agreement with Sonia going to her parents, and he did not contact her for nearly a month. On October 10, 2011, he came to her parents' house, beat her and took the children. The situation was intolerable for Sonia and she decided no longer to live with her husband.

On October 11, 2011, Sonia applied to CLAAS for legal assistance in recovering her children. On October 14, 2011, Nasir Anjum Suba, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor, filed a Habeas Corpus petition for the recovery of minors as well as filing a petition for divorce. The court ordered Sonia's children returned and the divorce case begun. On February 8, 2012, her husband again took her children after beating her and threatening her life. On February 9, 2012, Sonia again applied to CLAAS for legal aid in the recovery of her children. Acting for CLAAS, Nasir Anjum Suba again filed a Habeas Corpus petition for the recovery of minors. On February 13, 2012, by order of the court her children were returned. Her divorce was granted on April 17, 2012, and the case is closed.

16.2-Uzma Bibi Vs SHO etc

Uzma Bibi, Christian, daughter of Anwar Masih, is married to Aslam Masih. They live in Lahore and are parents of two children. Aslam works as a laborer and Uzma Bibi is employed at a hairdresser's. Uzma reports that after she and Anwar Masih married, they lived in a rented house. Anwar Masih's father, Sardar Masih, offered to construct a room in his house where they could live to save on expenses. Aslam Masih approached Sonia's father, Anwar Masih, in this regard and asked to borrow Pak Rs 300,000 (approximately US\$3,300) for the construction of the room. Anwar Masih loaned the amount to his son-in-law. Aslam and his father Sardar drew up a contract that stated if Sardar Masih sold his property, he would give an equal share of the proceeds to his son

Aslam Masih, as well as returning the full amount of the loan. The construction of the room was completed on December 6, 2011. However, when Aslam and Uzma tried to move in, Sardar Masih and a son-in-law Babar Masih began shouting and accused Aslam and Uzma of trying to take over the house. A physical altercation broke out. Babar Masih brutally beat Aslam and Uzma and ejected them from the house. Aslam



Babar Masih along with his family at CLAAS office after Habeas

immediately to visit his father. Uzma waited for him for the entire day. She tried to reach her husband by cell phone, but his phone was turned off. He did not contact his wife. Uzma Bibi searched fruitlessly for her husband for two months. She was then informed that Babar Masih had illegally detained her husband at his house. Uzma went to Babar Masih's house and found her father-in-law there.

She asked both of them where her husband was. Both men accused Uzma for Aslam's disappearance and demanded that she bring him back. After this encounter, Uzma Bibi went to the police station and submitted a complaint against Sardar Masih and Babar Masih for the kidnapping of her husband. The police did not act on her complaint.

On February 24, 2012, Uzma Bibi applied to CLAAS for legal assistance in the recovery of her husband. The same day Tahir Bashir, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor, representing Uzma Bibi, filed a Habeas Corpus Petition for the recovery of her husband. The same evening the court bailiff recovered Aslam Masih from the illegal custody of Babar and Sadar Masih. Uzma Bibi again appealed to CLAAS for legal assistance in obtaining the return of the money they had borrowed from her father and given to her father-in-law. She also informed CLAAS about Babar Masih's threats against her and her husband. Sadar Masih agreed to repay the amount of the loan to Uzma Bibi.

16.3- Hira Vs SHO etc

Hira, Muslim, daughter of Muhammad Khalil Khan, is a resident of Lahore. She married Muhammad Ikhlq and they have one daughter, Mariam, who is six months old at this writing.

Hira reports that the early days of her marriage were happy. Inexplicably her husband and in-laws' attitude toward her changed. Ikhlq began quarreling with Hira over trivial domestic matters. He accused her of having illicit relations with other men and cast aspersions on her character. The atmosphere in their home became very tense. Even the birth of their daughter did not change Ikhlq's attitude. He refused to provide for the

daily needs of his wife and daughter. If Hira asked for money, he would verbally and physically abuse her. Hira tolerated his cruelty for the sake of her daughter and her marriage. In February 2012 Ikhtlaq quarreled with Hira over a minor matter. He then brutally beat her, snatched their daughter and forcibly ejected Hira from their home. Hira tried repeatedly to see her nursing baby but her husband and in-laws refused to allow it.

On March 14, 2012, Hira applied to CLAAS for legal aid and assistance to recover her daughter. On March 15, 2012, Tanvir Masih, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor, representing Hira, filed a Habeas Corpus petition for the recovery of a minor. Six months later Mariam was brought before the court and the judge gave custody of Mariam to Hira.

16.4- Nusrat Bibi Vs SHO (Habeas Corpus Petition)

Nusrat Bibi aged 25 w/o Ashraf Masih, a Christian by faith is resident of Kasur and is a brick kiln worker by profession. She was married with Ashraf Masih in 2003 with the consent of both families under Christian rites and out of this wedlock the family blessed with four children named Haroon aged 8, Rimsha aged 6, Samson aged 4 and Atish aged 2. According to Nusrat Bibi, her husband Ashraf Masih is also working as brick kiln laborer and both were working in the brick making factory of Haji Ashfaq and got their



The family photo of Nusrat along with family was taken during their visit to CLAAS Office after Habeas for illegal dentue

earnings on weekly basis. Nusrat Bibi, further added that before starting work for Haji Ashfaq they took PAK rupees 3500/- as advance payment. With the passage of time the aggrieved Nusrat and Ashraf Masih realized that the owner taking force labor as well as deducted advance payment from their salary. Nusrat Bibi further shared that they were enforced to work hard while they worked three years but the alleged amount always found increased. The brick kiln owner was reluctant to pay their salary as well as did not allow them to off from their duties. In April 2012

Nusrat and her husband requested the kiln owner that they do not want to continue their labour because they are not getting their salary in time and they are under serious financial crisis which was intolerable for the family. After this attempt of negotiation the kiln owner became aggressive and started taking forced & hard labor without giving any salary. The distressed couple was suffering and helpless to tolerate the cruel attitude of the brick kiln owner. On June 11, 2012 the younger son named Atish suffered with high fever and she got chance to come out from the illegal custody of the brick kiln owner and straight away approached CLAAS office for legal aid assistance in recovery of her husband and children. On July 12, 2012 CLAAS filed a Habeas Corpus Petition on behalf of distressed Nusrat Bibi through Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) in the honorable Lahore High Court for the recovery of her husband

Ashraf Masih and three children. A court bailiff constituted on the same day by the honorable High Court and on the next day July 13, 2012 the three children and Ashraf Masih were recovered and produced before the honorable High Court and later the custody of recovered persons was handed over to Nusrat Bibi. Later, the Habeas Corpus Petition was disposed of accordingly. After their release by the honorable High Court Nusrat Bibi along with her husband and children visited CLAAS office.

Up-dates: Case was disposed off in favor of Nusrat Bibi.

16.5 Rakhal Bibi Vs SHO etc

Rakhal Bibi aged 18 d/o Boota Masih, Christian by faith and a resident of District Nankana married with Daniel in 2007 and the family blessed with a baby boy. According to Rakhal, her husband was a drug addict, after three weeks of marriage he changed his attitude towards her and often quarreled with her on minor domestic matters.

She further told that he did not provide her food on time when she asked him about food he abused her and beat her brutally even though she was pregnant. Once she asked for the money to pay utility bills but he gave harsh beatings and as a result her hand finger fractured. Gradually, she came to know about the first marriage of Daniel. She also acquainted with the reason because of his bad character enforced his first wife to leave. She bears all his cruelty of her husband for the sake of her martial life. Later on Rakhal was blamed for illicit relation relations with men and he disallowed for meeting with the parents. Finally she came to her parents on June 05, 2010 and decided for divorce from him. She approached CLAAS office on June 16, 2010 for legal assistance; CLAAS' filed a suite for the Dissolution of marriage on June 17, 2010.

She stated that while her suite was under court proceedings on July 29, 2010 Daniel came to her house at 7:00 a.m. Rakhal was alone at home he forcibly took Rakhal and his son with him he further threat her that if she declined to go with him, he will kill both of them. She stated that she went with him just to save her son's life but he does not change his attitude towards her. Daniel beat her brutally on minor domestic issues and made her life miserable. She stated that in these circumstances she again gave birth to a baby boy named Adnan on March 2012. Rakhal stated that after his birth she got some gyne problem so on May 05, 2012 she came to her parents' house along with her children. On May 13, 2012 Daniel came to her parent's house viciously beat her in front of them and forcibly snatched his children and hazard her that now he will sell his younger son.

Rakhal approached CLAAS office on May14, 2012 for legal assistance, CLAAS' filed Habeas Corpus Petition for the recovery of her sons Danish and Adnan through Mr. Malik Asif Tauffique Awan Advocate High Court (legal advisor CLAAS) on May 24, 2012 in the Sessions Court of Islamabad. The détente's recovered and produced before honorable Sessions court on May 28, 2012.

Up-Dates: The Habeas Corpus Petition was disposed of accordingly.

16.6- Safia Bibi Vs SHO Gojra etc

Safia aged 35 w/o Saleem Masih, a Christian by faith is a resident of Chak No. 313/J.B, Gojra District, Toba Tek Singh, Faisalabad. According to Safia, she is mother four children namely Azeem aged 18, Waseem aged 15, Khalil aged 12 and Jameel aged 10. Her husband Saleem Masih is paralyzed and unable to work. The family was going through grave financial crisis and in the meanwhile one year before Allah Dad, a Muslim by faith and resident of the same village assisted the poor family of Safia Bibi and advised to send their sons as laborer in Gojra, for working in a poultry form which is



Safia Bibi along with her family at CLAAS office after recovery of her three children for illegal custody

belongs to one of his friends Munawar Ahmed. Later, Safia sent her three sons for working at the poultry form and their monthly salary was decided as PAK rupees 5000/- for each. Afterwards the three sons of Safia started working in the poultry farm and after one month when they asked the first month's salary the owner Munawar Ahmed wrongfully artifice for paying the decided salary. On the other side the owner also started taking hard labour from her three sons and forced. The situation became financially intolerable for the family and they requested the owner to pay them PAK rupees 1000/- monthly from their salary for daily food expenses. The owner agreed and told that the remaining of their balance salaries will be given to them after one year. After one year when Safia's sons asked their balanced salary, the owner declined and told them that he has been paid their salaries amount to Allah Dad. The owner fallaciously gave their salaries amount to Allah Dad as well as demanded PAK rupees 128,000/- from Safia's sons. Safia and her sons were overwhelmed and were in difficult situation and worried about their salaries which they never took from the owner. While the owner did not pay any attention the family as well as her sons was prohibited to visit the family and detained them in the poultry form for forced labour. Distressed Safia time and again requested the owner to allow her sons for visiting home but the owner only allowed Safia to visit her sons in the poultry farm. The owner also warned Safia that he will not free her sons until the said amount PAK rupees 128,000/- will not be returned according. Therefore on June 27, 2012 Safia Bibi along with her husband approached CLAAS office for legal aid assistance for the release of their sons from the illegal custody of Munwar Ahmed. On July 4, 2012 CLAAS filed a Habeas Corpus Petition on behalf of distressed Safia Bibi through Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) in the honorable Lahore High Court. A court bailiff constituted on the same day by the honorable High Court and on next day July 05, 2012 the three sons of victim Safia Bibi

were recovered and produced before the honorable High Court and later the custody of recovered sons handed over to Safia Bibi.

Up-dates: Later, the Habeas Corpus Petition was disposed of accordingly.

16.7-Sardar Masih Vs SHO etc



Sardar Masih with CLAAS representative

Sardar Masih is a 44 years old laborer hailing from Sheikhpura. He is married to Irshad Bibi and out of this wedlock they have been blessed with nine children namely Nazia aged 21, Sidra 18, Razia 16, Shehla 14, Mafia 12, Irum 10, Motu 8, Shan 6 and Muskaan 4.

Sardar Masih has some close relatives namely Latif Masih s/o Waris Masih and Waris Masih s/o Shafi Masih while Waris Masih has close friends Muhammad Nadeem and Liaqat Masih. Through these relatives, especially Waris Masih, Muhammad Liaqat

used to visit Sardar Masih's house often and he started taking interest in Sardar's daughter Sidra. The young lady was quick to point out Liaqat's behavior and confided in her mother that she was not comfortable with Muhammad Liaqat's coming to their place.

Sidra was visiting Waris Masih's house on 1st November 2012 in the afternoon but did not return till late. When Irshad Bibi called and requested Waris Masih to send Sidra back she was informed by him that Sidra had left about an hour ago. Irshad Bibi looked for Sidra in her neighborhood and checked with a couple of relatives but could not find her upon which she called Sardar Masih and informed him about Sidra's absence. Sardar Masih started inquiring neighbors and relatives to find out soon that Muhammad Liaqat had paid a handsome amount to Waris Masih and Latif Masih for his marriage to Sidra and they had received money for handing over Sidra to Liaqat. When Sardar asked Waris Masih and Latif Masih about Sidra, they told him that Liaqat had abducted Sidra. Sardar Masih straight away went to the Police (Factory Area) and requested them for taking action against the culprits but the SHO would not listen. Upon this treatment Sardar Masih came to CLAAS office on 28th November 2012 for legal assistance in his matter where he was facilitated immediately and on 29th November 2012 Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) filed a Habeas Corpus Petition in the Lahore High Court for the recovery of Sidra.

Up-Dates: Matter is still unresolved.

17- Family Matters

17.1- Nazia Bibi Vs Waris Masih

Nazia Bibi, daughter of Anwar Masih, Christian, married Waris Masih on May 5, 2002. It was an arranged marriage. They are residents of Gulberg III, Lahore and parents of three children: Yaushwa, 8, and Rizwan and Adnan, 5. Nazia Bibi reports that after her marriage she and her husband lived with his parents. The first days of the marriage were pleasant, but then Nazia began noticing that her husband had no interest in working and did not hold down a proper job. Nazia asked Waris Masih to get a job to support their family. Rather than take care of his family, Waris began quarreling over minor domestic matters. He would often harshly beat Nazia. Nazia tolerated his cruelty for the sake of their marriage. Her in-laws never intervened on her behalf and they themselves treated Nazia disrespectfully. Family disputes were often brought before the elders of the family, particularly Nazia's parents, who advised her to ignore her husband's behavior and instead concentrate on preserving her marriage and family. Nazia states that she always followed their advice in negotiating a compromise.

After six years of marriage, Nazia contracted tuberculosis. Neither her husband nor her in-laws helped Nazia in her illness. In 2007 she left her husband and in-laws and moved back to her parents' home, taking her son Rizwan with her. Her parents bore all her medical expenses as well as the expenses of her children. Her husband did not visit her once. After four years, in September 2007, the elders in the family requested that she return to her husband. Nazia obeyed and went to her husband's home but his attitude toward her had not changed. She could no longer tolerate living with him and returned to her parents' home. To help out with expenses for both her parents and her son, she took a job in a school as domestic help.

On January 1, 2012, Nazia applied to CLAAS for legal assistance in obtaining a divorce. On January 12, 2012, Nasir Anjum Suba, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor, representing Nazia Bibi, filed a suit for the Dissolution of Marriage.

Updates: The divorce was granted on May 15, 2012.

17.2- Niamat Masih Vs Nusrat Bibi

Nasreen Bibi, Christian, is married to Puran Masih. They live in Lahore and are parents of five children. Puran Masih is employed as a day laborer.

Nasreen Bibi reports that her oldest daughter Nusrat, 22, was born deaf. Niamat Masih, a resident of the same locality, became interested in Nusrat, even though he knew about her handicap. When he proposed marriage, both families were in agreement. They were married in a Christian ceremony on December 16, 2007. After their marriage they lived with Niamat's family. The first year of marriage went well, but then Nusrat Bibi noticed that Niamat Masih's attitude toward her was changing. He did not provide for her daily needs. Nusrat Bibi also noticed that her husband was showing a great deal of interest in his brother's wife and that he provided for her needs. Tension began between Nusrat and her husband when she demanded that he provide for her. To help her daughter's situation, Nazreen Bibi gave a separate home to her daughter and her husband. However, Niamat Masih continued to fail to provide for his wife and Nusrat's parents had

to bear all her expenses. Sometime later, Niamat's brother and his family moved in with Nusrat and Niamat. Nusrat's family did not raise any objections, but privately they were appalled that Niamet was carrying on an affair with his sister-in-law. Nusrat implored her husband to stop his illicit relationship and the couple quarreled often over this issue. Niamat Masih then demanded that Nusrat's share in the property be deeded to him. He quarreled violently with his wife, beat her harshly and left her at her parents. He did not contact her for two years.

Nusrat's parents discovered that Niamat had married their daughter in order to take her share of the property. They refused to transfer Nusrat's share to Niamet. Niamet became annoyed and filed a suit for the dissolution of marriage. On January 10, 2012, Nasreen and her daughter Nusrat applied to CLAAS for legal assistance to contest the divorce. On January 12, 2012, Nasir Najum Suba, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor representing Nasreen Bibi, submitted Power of Attorney and a written statement in the court.

Updates: The Suit for the Dissolution of Marriage was dismissed on April 23, 21012, due to the failed appearance of the plaintiff Naimat.

17.3-Sana Vs Iqbal Masih

Sana, daughter of Pyara Masih, Christian, married Iqbal Masih on February 6, 2011. At the time of the filing of this report, the couple did not have any children. Iqbal Masih holds a menial position with the Pakistan army. Sana reports that her husband suddenly changed his attitude toward her. He began physically and verbally abusing her and insulting her parents. Sana endured his abuse for the sake of her marriage. It gradually came to Sana's awareness that her husband was having an affair with a Muslim woman. Sana implored her husband to stop his adultery, but in response he beat her harshly. He did not care for her daily needs and if she asked him for money he would quarrel with her. Sana further reports that her husband did not allow her to visit her parents and that she had not gone to see them once since their wedding. Iqbal Masih also prohibited telephone contact between Sana and her parents. On December 12, 2011, Sana's father came to her home and requested that Iqbal Masih allow Sanan to come home for several days because her family was worried about her. Iqbal Masih refused to let his wife go and told his father-in-law that if he took Sana home, it would be permanent and he would file for divorce. Sana added that on December 22, 2011, at around 11:00 pm, Iqbal Masih brought a Muslim woman to their home in order to have intimate relations with her. When Sana tried to stop her husband, he began beating her and threw her out of the house. Sana finally reached her limit and determined no longer to live with Iqbal Masih.

On February 6, 2012, Sana appealed to CLAAS for legal aid and assistance in order to obtain a divorce. On February 10, 2012 Nasir Anjum Suba, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor, representing Sana, filed a Suit for the Dissolution of Marriage.

Updates: The divorce was granted on July 30, 2012.

17.4- Anam Vs Ali Zohaib Haider

Anum Lal Sadique, a 23-year-old Muslim lady of Lahore got married to Ali Zohaib Haider on May 07, 2009. According to Anum she went to a joint family home after marriage and the initial some weeks of her married life were smooth and pleasant but soon she came to know that her husband Ali was a drug addict.

Upon Anum's pointing this out and her requests to quit the addiction, her husband changed his attitude and started quarreling with Anum over minor domestic issues. He did not look after day to day needs of Anum and whenever Anum asked for expenses he



Anum Sadique

would start quarreling and gave her harsh beatings. According to Anum, she ignored and tolerated the whole episode of violence and unkindness just to save her marital life. Her in-laws never took notice or tried to stop Ali Zohaib's cruelty towards Anum. The situation kept worsening to a stage where she had to disclose the whole episode of violence and Ali's habit of drug addiction to her parents. Her parents talked to Ali Zohaib about it but instead of understanding, Ali took their advice as an insult and increased the violent beatings to Anum as well as stopped Anum from visiting her parents or even talking to them on phone.

During this time Anum got pregnant and her need for food increased. According to Anum, she was not getting proper food from Ali's pocket while her medical checkup and care was also ignored by her husband Ali. Finally, Anum moved to her parents' home where she gave birth to a daughter on May 11, 2010 who was named Wania. Her daughter Wania is now 2 years old whose expenses are all taken care of by the grandparents. Anum's husband never bothered to take his wife or daughter back and has not visited them during these two years. Her parents tried their best again and again for a compromise but Ali Zohaib did not respond nor contacted. An ugly episode took place on February 3, 2012 when in response to Anum's parents' request for a compromise he became violent and threatened them. He warned them that if they tried to contact him again he would snatch his daughter and kill Anum as well as involve her in a theft case.

Following this attitude and threats, Anum decided to not live with Ali Zohaib anymore and decided to get out of this relation. Therefore she approached CLAAS office on February 9, 2012 for legal assistance regarding her divorce matter. On February 10, 2012 CLAAS filed a Suit for Dissolution of Marriage on behalf of Anum through Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba, Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS). While her suit for dissolution of marriage was under court proceedings her husband and in-laws came to her parents' house and tried to forcibly snatch Anum's daughter from her, and they also beat her severely tearing her clothes. Her mother immediately informed the local police (Lytton Road police station) who were quick to reach the occurrence spot in time and they looked into the whole matter. Later the police registered a case (FIR No. 454/2012) for offences under sections 379, 354 and 506 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) on August

27, 2012 against Ali Zohaib and his family. Ali Zohaib moved his pre-arrest bail petition in the court of Sessions Judge, Lahore which was contested on October 19, 2012 by CLAAS' legal advisor Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba.

Update: The Suit for Dissolution of Marriage has been decided in Anum's favor while the criminal case is under court proceedings.

17.5- Iram Vs Alhanan Khokhar

Iram, daughter of Bashir Alam, Christian, married Alhanan Khokar in December 2011. They are residents of Rawalpindi. Iram reports that she was informed by telephone about the death of a friend by her friend's cousin, Alhanan. Iram and Alhanan began a friendship by telephone which later developed into Alhanan visiting Iram in her home. Alhanan told Iram about his unhappy marriage and his two children. He also informed Iram that he worked for an NGO in Islamabad. After one month Alhanan proposed to Iram but she refused. Later Alhanan told Iram that he had divorced his first wife and no longer had relations with her. His mother corroborated his story. Believing Alhana's mother, Iram accepted Alhanan's marriage proposal. They were married on December 3, 2011, in a Christian ceremony. Iram did not inform her family of her marriage. After wedding Alhanan took Iram to his home in Rawalpindi. Iram saw that his first wife and his children also lived in the home. Alhanan introduced Iram as the new housemaid and told his first wife she would be living with them. Iram ignored his deceitfulness and insulting behavior and stayed in the house. Iram soon noticed that Alhanan has a bad reputation and engages in numerous adulterous relationships. On December 14, 2011, when Alhanan realized that Iram knew about his immoral activities, he moved Iram to his parents' home in Sheikpura and no longer contacted her. Iram tried repeatedly to get in touch with Alhanan without success. Her in-laws did not assist her in any way. In January 2012 Alhanan's parents lied to Iram and told her that Alhanan went to South Africa for employment. When Iram was finally able to talk to Alhanan, she told him she wanted a divorce. She returned to her parents. Later she learned that Alhanan was still in Pakistan living with his first wife.

On February 10, 2012, Sana applied to CLAAS for legal assistance in obtaining a divorce. Nasir Anjum Suba, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor, representing Sana, filed a Suit for Dissolution of Marriage.

Updates: The divorce was granted on May 8, 2012.

17.6-Nomi Karamat Vs Shahid Mehmood

Nomi, Christian, daughter of Karamat Masih, married Shahid Mehmood on October 27, 2007. Shahid Mehmood is employed by the Pakistan Army. Nomi reports that after the wedding she moved into her in-laws, home. The early part of their marriage was pleasant and her in-laws were kind. Gradually Nomi became aware that her husband has a bad reputation for his numerous affairs with women. She learned that he was even having an affair with his sister-in-law, Saima. Nomi tried to stop him, but he continued his adultery and refused to take care of her daily expenses while providing those of his sister-in-law. Nomi told both her parents and her parents-in-law about his affair with Saima, but received no support. Nomi tried to commit suicide. Even after her suicide attempt, Shahid Mamood continued his behavior and forced Nomi to return to

her parents. She remained in constant contact with her husband and returned to him in September 2008. There was no change in his behavior and again he left her. In April 2009 Shahid asked Nomi's uncle for a compromise, promising that he would be faithful to Nomi. Shahid asked for six months to get family affairs in order. During this time Shahid did not contact his wife. Nomi decided she could no longer stay married to Shahid.

On December 9, 2009, Nomi applied to CLAAS for legal assistance in obtaining a divorce. In January 2010 Tahir Bashir, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor, representing Nomi Karamat, filed a Suit for the Dissolution of Marriage. On May 24, 2010, while the suit was underway in court, a compromise was reached between the two parties. Nomi withdrew her suit. On February 13, 2012, Nomi returned to CLAAS and again applied for legal assistance in obtaining a divorce. She explained that after returning to Shahid, there was no change in his behavior and he again left her. She was firm in wanting a divorce. Tahir Bashir, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor, again represented Nomi Karamat and filed a Suit for the Dissolution of Marriage.

Updates: The divorce was granted on July 16, 2012.

17.7- Sonia Bibi Vs Michael David

Sonia, Christian, daughter of Sharif Masih, is a resident of Lahore. She is the youngest of seven children.



Sonia Bibi along with her children at CLAAS office

Sonia reports that a man of her locale, Michael David, wanted to marry her. In 2007 Michael sent his parents to Sonia's home with a proposal of marriage. Sonia's parents did not accept the proposal for two reasons: one, Sonia was the youngest sibling and two, her parents had already arranged for her to marry her cousin. Even though Sonia's parents refused Michael's proposal, he sent his parents eight times to request her hand in marriage. Michael became angry at their refusal to accept his suit, and frequently beat up Sonia's brothers to force them to arrange the marriage. His threats extended to the entire family. On January 13, 2008, Michael forced Sonia to marry him. Sonia subsequently gave birth to two children, Ishaq, 4,

and Angel, 3. Sonia further reports that after they were married she discovered Michael had been married and was addicted to drugs and gambling. He had divorced his first wife and spent twelve years in prison for his involvement in the murder of his first father-in-law.

After two months of marriage Michael started quarreling with Sonia over minor domestic issues and if she argued back, he would brutally beat her. He remained unemployed because of his drug and gambling addictions and did not provide for daily necessities. He also prohibited Sonia from contact with her parents. Sonia tolerated his behavior for the sake of her marriage and her children and did not tell either her parents or her in-laws about his inhumane treatment. Whenever Sonia would insist that Michael provide for the household he would beat her and force her to take money from her parents.

Sonia's parents bore the entire expenses for Sonia's household and her two children. Michael sent Sonia to her parents and told her to stay there, but her parents insisted that Sonia compromise and return to her husband.

In July 2011 Michael beat Sonia so badly that she was seriously injured. She escaped to her parents. Her parents submitted an application for registration of a criminal case FIR against Michael at the Women police station. Sonia fully disclosed the extent of the domestic violence she had suffered and the story was widely reported in the media. Michael took back Sonia but did not change his behavior. In January 2012 Sonia asked her parents to resolve her domestic situation, but her parents refused because they were so annoyed by her husband. Sonia then contacted the Good Shepherd Sisters and stayed at their shelter. Her father-in-law learned of her whereabouts and took her back to Michael. Sonia again tried to live with her husband and again she noticed no change in his behavior. He continued to beat her. Finally he cut off all her hair and made her bald.

On January 20, 2012, Sonia again sought shelter with the Good Shepherds Sisters. On February 13, 2012, the nuns referred Sonia to CLAAS for legal aid and assistance. Sonia was provided shelter at CLAAS's Apna Ghar Rehabilitation Center. On February 15, 2012, Nasir Anjum Suba, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor, representing Sonia, filed a Suit for the Dissolution of Marriage. Sonia later returned to her parents' home with her children.

Updates: The divorce was granted on July 3, 2012.

17.8- Nazia Bibi Vs Babar Masih



Nazia Bibi

Nazia Bibi, Christian, daughter of Ashraf Masih, was a resident of Kasur when she married Babar Masih on February 6, 2005. It was a marriage arranged by both sets of parents. The couple had no children. Babar Masih had a car rental business and Nazia was a housewife.

Nazia Bibi reports that after the wedding she moved to her in-laws' house in Lahore. The first two months of marriage went well. Eventually, however, Nazia's sister-in-law informed her that Babar Masih was involved with another woman and

planning to marry her. When Nazia told her in-laws about their son's love affair, they denied the allegations. Her husband then began to neglect his wife and did not cover her daily expenses. Nadia requested him repeatedly to stop his affair, but he started beating Nazia. He would tell her to leave and go to her parents, but her parents would counsel her to compromise and would force her to return to her husband. Nazia tolerated her husband's harsh and quarrelsome attitude to save her marriage. Her in-laws finally took note of his treatment of Nazia and advised him to improve, but he did not listen.

On January 12, 2011, after trying hard to compromise, Nazia left her husband and moved back to her parents. On January 18, 2011, Babar Masih sent her a formal letter

of separation. On March 5, 2012, Nazia applied to CLAAS for legal aid and assistance in seeking a divorce. On March 14, 2012, Akhtar Masih Sandhu, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor, represented Nazia in filing a Suit for the Dissolution of Marriage.

Updates: The divorce was granted on April 23, 2012.

17.9- Saira Bano Vs Imran Shahzad



Saira Bibi at CLAAS office

Saira Bibi, Muslim, daughter of Muhammad Khalid, is a resident of Lahore. On March 16, 2002, she married Imran Shahzad. They have five children. Saira reports that after the wedding she moved in with her in-laws. The first five years of marriage were pleasant. Later her husband became violent over minor pretexts and did not supply their daily necessities. If she asked for money, he would force her to ask her parents. If she refused to ask her parents for money, he would severely beat her and use insulting and abusive language. When Saira had two children

she learned that her husband had a first wife and was the father of two children by her. At first Saira thought her husband had no contact with his first wife, but she then learned that he was living with her. Saira tolerated the situation for the sake of her marriage and her children, even though daily life was very difficult without the money to pay for their basic needs.

In 2007 Sarai moved to her parents with her five children. However, her parents had trouble meeting the expenses of Saira's and her children. To help out, in November 2011 she took a job as a security guard with a private hospital. For four years her husband did not contact her. However, in 2011 her husband took three children from Saira and warned her that if she tried to see the children she would be punished. Saira was afraid and did not visit her children. On February 6, 2012, she finally gathered her courage and went to visit her children. Her husband's first wife refused to allow Saira to see her children.

On February 29, 2012, Saira applied to CLAAS for legal assistance in recovering her children. On March 1, 2012, Tanvir Masih, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor, representing Saira, filed a Habeas Corpus petition for the recovery of minors as well as filed a suit for spousal and child support. The suit for spousal and child support was decreed on May 16, 2012. But Imran Shahid did not implement on the court order there for CLAAS filed an execution petition in the court again.

Updates: Execution Petition is under court proceedings.

17.10-Tahira Bibi Vs Bashir Masih

Tahira Bibi, Christian, daughter of Bashir Masih, is a resident of Lahore. On February 4, 2005 without the consent of her parents, she married a Muslim, Muhammad Jameel, in a Muslim ceremony. The couple has two children. Tahira is employed as a maid at Hope Fellowship School. Tahira Bibi reports that the early months of her marriage were

cordial. However her in-laws suddenly turned against her because of religious differences and were fanatical in their opposition. Tahira's mother-in-law began pressuring her son to divorce Tahira. The home situation became daily more difficult. Muhammad Jameel began quarreling with Tahira over minor domestic issues and finally divorced her. Tahira's parents turned out her and her children and Tahira went to an aunt. To provide for her children, she took the job as maid and later became a governess in the school. Four years after her divorce, Tahira's aunt convinced her to remarry. While they were discussing this, Tahira's sister suddenly died, leaving five adult children. The family convinced Tahira to marry her sister's husband, Bashir Masih, in 2010. There were no children from this second marriage.. Tahira states that Bashir was unemployed and dependent on his grown children for money. When Tahira would ask



Tahira along with her two children

her husband for money for their daily expenses, Bashir told her to ask his sons. Bashir's children were rude and insulting to Tahira, would quarrel with her over insignificant matters, and even resorted to violence.

On February 12, 2012, Bashir's younger son quarreled with Tahira over a minor issue. He verbally abused her and the beat her. Bashir did not intervene to protect his wife. Then the younger son forcibly ejected Tahira and her two children from his home. Again Bashir did not say or do anything. On February 20, 2012, Tahira applied to CLAAS for legal assistance in obtaining a divorce and requested shelter. Tahira and her two children were given shelter at CLAAS's Apna Ghar Rehabilitation

Centre. On March 21, 2012, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor Tahir Bashir, representing Tahira, filed a Suit for the Dissolution of Marriage.

Updates: The Suit for the Dissolution of marriage was withdrawn on May 25, 2012.

17.11- Nazia Bibi Vs Sabir Masih

Nazia aged 28 d/o Inyat Masih, a Christian by faith and resident of Kasur, married with Sabir Masih on August 20, 2006. It was an arrange marriage and was decided with the consent of both families. Out of this wedlock the couple has no child.

According to Nazia Bibi, after marriage she started living at in-laws as in the joint family in Kasur. Sabir Masih was working as laborer while Nazia lived as house wife. After one month of her marriage her husband started to quarrel with her because she came to know that her husband is medically unfit. Therefore her husband always doubts on her character and also blamed her that she has illicit relation with another man.

Consequently Nazia disclosed the matter with her mother that she did not wants to live with her husband due to his rudeness. But her mother advised her to bear patiently the whole situation. So, she requested with her husband for medical treatment but instead of accepting her advised, started to quarrel and beat her on minor issues. He also started neglecting Nazia as well as did not pay any heed on her day to day expenses.

While Nazia ignored the harsh and quarrel attitude of her husband for just to save her marital life. Many times Nazia requested him to stop his bad behavior but he did not change his attitude. Finally, in 2007 after trying hard to compromise with the situation she left her husband and started living with parents. After that often her husband and in-law tried to compromise but she did not want to live with him. In March 2012 her husband came at her parents' home and forcedly insisted her to live with him but she refused him. On March 29, 2012 Nazia approached CLAAS Office for legal aid assistance in the matter of her divorce. On April 02, 2012 CLAAS filed a suit for dissolution of marriage in the court on behalf of Nazia through Mr. Akhtar Masih Sandhu Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS).

Updates: Presently, the Suit for Dissolution of Marriage is under court proceedings. On the other hands after receiving first notice from court Sabir Masih appeared before concern court and filed a suit for conjugal rights CLAAS also contest this suit on the behalf of Nazia Bibi.

17. 12-Sadia Vs Javed Masih

Sadia aged 22 d/o Talib Masih, a Christian by faith is a resident of Lahore. She was married with her cousin Javaid Younis on June 12, 2011 with the consent of both families and out of this wedlock the couple has no child. According to Sadia Bibi, after marriage she started living with her in-laws as in joint family. The early fifteen days of marriage were pleasant and in the meanwhile Sadia discovered that her husband is drug addict and taking much interest into work. It became difficult for Sadia Bibi to handle the day to day expenses. As a final point the differences started among the couple when Sadia, requested Javaid to do some work and earn day living for the survival of the family. Instead of taking the matter seriously and stopping himself from his bad habits of drugs, started to quarrel and beating her brutally. Sadia tolerate the cruel attitude of her husband for just too safe her marital life. The in-laws too behaved with Sadia impolitely and never noticed or stopped Javaid for his cruel attitude. In the meanwhile, Sadia took money from her parents and run the affairs of her kitchen and other expenditures etc. Sadia was up-set because the attitude of her husband became violent day by day and finally in November 2011, she came at her parent home and started living with them. In December 2011 her husband Javaid came at her parent's place and forced Sadia to rejoin the family. Sadia refused to live with him and upon her refusal Javaid started beating Saida at her parent's home. After this incident the families wished for the compromise but Sadia unwilling to live with him anymore. Therefore on May 09, 2012 Sadia approached CLAAS office for legal aid assistance and requested for legal opinion in her family dispute. Sadia wants to file a suit for dissolution of marriage as well as a suit for the recovery of dowry articles. On May 15, 2012 CLAAS filed a suit for Dissolution of Marriage on behalf of Sadia in the court of Muhammad Ahmed family Judge, Lahore through Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS).

Up-dates

Presently, both suits dissolution of marriage and suit for the recovery of dowry articles are pending before the court.

17.13- Azra Barkat Vs Ashraf

Azra aged 32 d/o Barkat Masih, a Christian by faith is a resident of Lahore. She was married with Ashraf Emmanuel on March 25, 1998 with the consent of both families. Out of this wedlock the couple blessed with a baby boy named Ashknaz and present aged 11 years old. According to Azra Bibi, after marriage she started living with her in-laws in the joint family at Youngsnabad, District Sheikhupura. After two months of marriage she discovered that her husband was not interested to work as well as often absent from home. Gradually Azra came to know that her husband was also involved in a murder case and just before two months of their marriage he has bailed out but was appearing before the court routinely. Although her husband was involved in a murder case and his family was going through serious financial crisis but he kept continue his criminal habits. Azra time and again requested her husband to mend his ways and take interest in the affairs of family matters but in vain. Azra tolerate with the situation for just for the sake of her marital life. In other way Azra borrowed money from her parent from the day of her marriage till 2008. In year 2008 her brother arranged an accommodation in Lahore in a rented house and Azra along with her husband shifted in Lahore. The second portion of the said house was also on rent and a Muslim family was residing in the dwelling. Secondly, her brother also arranged a job for her husband, but he was not interested to do any job often stayed out from home. With the passage of time he also changed his behavior towards Azra. After some time Azra came to know that her husband got second marriage with a Muslim woman residing at the second portion of the same house. When Azra asked her husband about his second marriage, instead of giving explanation he started quarreling with Azra. Later he left his wife Azra and started living with his second wife and even did not bother about the future of his son. After marrying with the Muslim woman, Ashraf contacted with Azra by phone but never visited Azra at home. Azra was upset and demanded divorce from Ashraf. Her husband took the matter seriously and refused to divorce as well as threatened Azra that if she again demand for divorce, he will snatch his son.

Afterwards, Azra did not contact with Ashraf but it became difficult for Azra to look after son's basic necessities and therefore started working as beautician to fulfill their day to day needs. In the year 2012 Ashraf gave divorce to his Muslim wife and insisted Azra for reunion & compromise and warned that if she refused to compromise he will snatch his son. Azra was not ready to keep on her relation with Ashraf and did not want to give the custody of her son. Therefore on June 12, 2012 Azra approached CLAAS office and requested legal aid assistance and wanted to file a suit for dissolution of marriage against her husband. CLAAS filed a suit for dissolution of marriage on behalf of Azra Bibi through Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS).

Up-dates

At present the suit for dissolution of marriage is under court proceedings.

17.14- Robeca Vs Haroon Maish

Robeca d/o Amanat Masih aged 20, a Christian by faith and resident of Lahore, was married with Haroon on November 11, 2011. It was an arrange marriage and out of this wedlock the couple has no child.

According to Robecai, after marriage she started living with her in-laws in the joint family. Her husband is a gardener by profession while she is a house wife. The early months of their marriage were pleasant and gradually Robeca noticed that her husband Haroon is not taking interest into work nor has any proper job because he is Asthma's patient. Therefore it is difficult for her to manage her daily expenses. The differences started among the couple when Robeca, requested Haroon to do some work and earn day living for the family. Instead of taking interest to doing any work he started to quarrel with her on minor house hold issues. Robeca ignored the cruel attitude of her husband for just to save her marital life. Her in-laws also behaved with her impolitely and never noticed or stopped Haroon for his cruel attitude towards her. In May, 2012 after trying hard to compromise with the situation she left her husband and started living with her parents. While Haroon, her husband insisted her to live with him. But she did not want to live with him. On June 6, 2012 Robeca approached CLAAS Office for legal aid assistance in the matter of her divorce. CLAAS appointed its legal advisor Mr. Tanvir Masih Advocate for court proceedings and as a result he filed a suit for dissolution of marriage in the court of Civil Judge Family Court Lahore on the behalf of Robeca Bibi.

Up-dates:

At present the suit for dissolution of marriage is under court proceedings.

18.15- Naira Ishaq Vs Sheraz Sabir Qreshi

Naira d/o Ishaq Bhatti aged 28, Christian by faith and residence of Lahore. Her father Ishaq Bhatti is Pastor by profession. Naira has five siblings including her, presently, she is doing job in Hybrid show room.

According to Naira, that in the year of 2006 she was working as consumer Tele-Caller in the City Bank, Lahore. Here she met with Shehraz Sabir Qureshi s/o Sabir Hussain Qureshi aged 29, Muslim by faith and resident of Lahore. By profession he was Journalist in Emirates News. Shehraz Sabir often visited Naira's bank, they both fell in love with each other and got married under the Muslim rite on May 08, 2010 without the consent of her parents. Out of this wedlock no issue is born.

She stated that the early days of her marriage was extremely cordial with her husband but her in-laws attitude was not pleasant towards her. She told that after three months of their marriage her mother in-law named Tallat fought with her on minor domestic issue and kicked her out from house along with her husband.

She stated that they started living on the rented house and their expenditure getting raise day by day to accomplish their daily needs. Naira started doing job along with her

husband. As she started work Shehraz Sabir changed his attitude towards her. Shehraz Sabir started to quarrel with her on trivial matters tortured and later she learnt that her husband has some misunderstandings and has doubt her character as she has illicit relation with other people.

Naira told that her husband has made routine to beat her viciously and threat that he will divorce her. Meanwhile she got pregnant but Shehraz Sabir forcibly abort baby. In January 2012 Shehraz Sabir quarrel with Naira abused and gave harsh beatings to her and kicked out from his house. She told that she bears all his cruelty just to save her marital life but all vain.

Therefore, on July 02, 2012 Naira came to CLAAS office for legal assistance in her divorce matter. CLAAS appointed its legal advisor Mr. Ch. Nasir Anjum Suba Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor) for court proceedings. On July 03, 2012 Mr. Ch. Nasir Anjum Suba filed a suit for dissolution of marriage in the Court of Senior Civil Judge with the powers of Family Judge Court, Lahore on the behalf of Naira. Presently, her suit is under court proceedings.

18.16- (i) Shamim Vs Munzooria Ram (ii) State Vs Munzooria Ram

Family Background



Shamim Mai, Hindu, daughter of Phookar Ram, is a resident of Bahawalpur. She has five siblings: Imran, 35, Nani, 33, Chanoo, 31, Sultan, 29, and Nazir, 27. Her father works as a laborer. Shamim married Manzooria Ram in a Hindu ceremony in 2010 with the consent of her family.

Shamim Mai reports the following: “After marrying Manzooria Ram I learned that my husband is a laborer who gambles and has a drug addiction. I tried hard to convince my husband to stop his bad habits, but nothing changed. Rather than working, he would drink alcohol and gamble. When I took the matter to my in-laws, they turned against me and advised Manzooria Ram to give me a hard time. My husband’s resentment against me grew. He forced me to sell articles of my dowry to finance his drinking and gambling. If I refused, he would beat me inhumanly. He also forced me to get money from my parents. When I refused, my husband beat me so badly my arm was fractured and my whole body was in pain. He habitually beat me over minor domestic matters. I tolerated his behavior to save my marriage and did not involve my parents.”

Shamim Mai went on: “On May 30, 2012, about 6:00 pm, my husband hurriedly entered the house and forced me to give him my silver necklace, bangles, and rings, weighing one kilo and ten grams, worth Pak Rs 140,000 (approximately US\$1592). He claimed he had lost a large amount at gambling and needed to sell my jewelry to pay his debt. I steadfastly refused and my in-laws and husband beat me cruelly and threatened my life. My mother-in-law then gave me something to drink that caused me to pass out. Later my father told me my husband had taken off my jewelry and sold it. I am really hurt by my husband and in-laws and no longer want to live with them.”

Statement of Pookhar Ram (father of Shamim)



Shamim along with her father Pookhar Ram at CLAAS office for legal help

innocent daughter and had to helplessly stand by while her husband and in-laws disgraced her without mercy. My son-in-law then took her jewelry and fled.”

Pookhar Ram reports: “On May 30, 2012, about 7:00 pm I visited my daughter Shamim Mai with my cousin Raju, to find out how her family life was going. When I entered the house I was surprised to see that my son-in-law was forcibly cutting off my daughter’s hair while her mother-in-law Sukhi Mai, her father-in-law Mewaah Ram, her brother-in-law Ajmal Ram and her sister-in-law Naseebo Bibi held her arms. I could see that my daughter was drugged. When I tried to rescue my daughter, my son-in-law stopped me at gunpoint and forbade me to intervene. My son-in-law said if I told anyone he would kill me and my family. I was unable to help my

Case registered

The same day, on May 30, 2012, Phookar Ram and his daughter Shamim Mai went to the local police station Saddar Yazman, Bawalpur, to register a criminal case FIR against the assailants. The police acting on Phookar Ram’s complaint registered case FIR 42/12 under Sections 148/149 380/506B, 337-v2, 337-J of the Pakistan Penal Code against Manzooria Ram, Meewah Ram, Ajmal Ram and Naseebo Ram. After the case FIR was registered, the accused went before the Additional Sessions judge and were given pre-arrest bail.

Legal Aid Assistance by CLAAS

CLAAS promised legal services to the victim and her family. They referred the matter to attorney and CLAAS legal advisor Saleem Gill in Bawalpur to file a criminal case against the accused and to follow the case through with the utmost diligence. The case is currently in court.

17.17- Razia Sama Vs Sarfraz Bhatti etc

Razia Sama d/o Sama aged 44, a Christian by faith and resident of Lahore, got married with her cousin Sarfraz Bhatti on April 19, 1997. It was an arrange marriage and out of this wedlock the couple has no issue.

According to Razia she is a government teacher by profession and sine 24 years she is working at Government girls’ high school Nishat Colony Lahore Cantt while her husband is a laborer by profession.

The early two years of marriage were pleasant and gradually Razia noticed that her husband Sarfraz is not taking interest into work nor has any proper job. The differences

started among the couple when her husband started to borrow money from others. Therefore the people started approaching at her home and demanding money from Razia. Often she requested him if he needed some money for his personal use he demanded from her but not from the others. Razia, also requested Sarfraz to do some work and earn day living for the family. Instead of taking the needs of the family the disputes started among them over minor domestic issues and many times Razia was harshly beaten up by Sarfraz.

She further stated that, before one year her husband started to steal household things and also not stopped taking money from others. He also started giving her physical and mental torture. Often he is threatening her by saying that he will kill her and get all her insurance money. She paid her husband's debt money up till now and always ignored his harsh and quarrel attitude but now it is difficult for her to bear with his quarrel and harsh attitude. Consequently, she decided to leave her husband thus; she wants to file a suit for dissolution of marriage.

Therefore on July 11, 2012 she approached CLAAS office for legal aid and assistance regarding her divorce matter. On July 13, CLAAS filed a suit for dissolution of marriage as well as a petition of Harassment in the Sessions Court on the behalf of Razia through its legal advisor Mr. Tanvir Masih. Harassment Petition is disposed of in her favor on the same day.

Up-date:

The suit for dissolution of marriage is under court proceedings.

17.18-Sunita Bibi Vs SHO etc

Sunita Bibi aged 26 d/o Retender Lal, a Christian by faith and resident of Youngsnabad, District Nankana Sahib-Punjab married on August 17, 2007 with her cousin namely Munassi Shahzad, under the Christian rites with the consent of both families. The family blessed with two children presently the baby girl Sahronium aged two and half year and baby boy Benny Hen aged one and half year. After marriage her husband was a laborer while working as waiter while Sunita was as house wife and she started living with in-laws as in joint family. Gradually, Sunita noticed that her mother-in-law is very much stiff and has not love affection towards her. The mother-in-law always kept Sunita busy in domestic affairs as well as started quarreling on minor domestic issues and treating her as slave. Increasingly the situation became worst for Sunita and finally the couple shifted Lahore and started living in a rented house. In September 2009 Sunita gave birth to a baby girl named Sahronium and at the time of birth the mother in-law paid a visit to the couple in Lahore to see her granddaughter and stayed with them for one month.



The mother-in-law after staying with them for one month took the couple along with her to Youngsnabad. Sunita stayed at her in-laws for one month and after when she wished and asked from mother-in-law to let her go but the mother-in-law rudely refused and did

not allow her to go along with her husband to Lahore. The mother in-law also quarreled with Sunita and used filthy language against her while Sunita sensibly compromised with the situation just to save her marital life. Sunita was very much up-set and in the meanwhile the mother in-law snatched her daughter Sahronium and expelled her out from home. Afterwards a compromise took place between the family and Sunita rejoined the family. But on August 21, 2010 the mother in-law again used filthy language against Sunita, snatched her daughter and expelled her out from home. Sunita contacted with her husband and shared the whole situation accordingly but instead of helping his wife Munassi Shahzad behaved with Sunita inadequately and enforced her to stay with his mother in Youngsnabad. At the time of this quarrel Sunita was pregnant. It was very much painful for Sunita and therefore in September 2010 she approached CLAAS office for legal aid assistance for the recovery one year minor Sahronium. CLAAS filed a Habeas Corpus petition in the Lahore High Court on behalf of Sunita for the recovery of minor Sharonium through Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS). On September 16, 2010 the custody of minor Sharonium was handed over to Sunita by the honorable Lahore High Court.

After this litigation a compromise took place between the families and the couple again started living in Lahore in a rented house. In November 2010 she gave birth to a baby boy named Benny Hen. With the passage of time Sunita noticed that her husband has been changed and started quarreling with her on minor domestic issues as well as insulted her characteristically and again insisted Sunita to remained stay with his parents in Youngsnabad and also claimed that he is unable to afforded rented house. While Sunita, refused to stay with her in-laws and did not want to tolerate further quarreling etc.

Incident of inhuman violence



File photo of critically injured Sunita Bibi

Sunita was tolerating the whole affairs patiently but on July 1, 2012 her husband along with his elder brother quarreled with Sunita on trivial domestic matters and used abusive language as well as gave her outrageous beatings. Defenseless Sunita injured critically and got severe injuries on her whole body. On the same day she reached at her family and submitted an application in the Woman Police Station Race Course, Lahore against her husband for the registration for the criminal case FIR. Later, the injured Sunita was sent to the Ganga Ram Hospital for Medico Legal Examination. Taken as a whole and according to the Medico Legal Examination Report she sustained severe injuries on her whole body. The harsh beatings resulted excruciating swelling on her forehead, a layer of blood vessels turned into black

under eye while the cheek & nose turned into red. According to the concerned Medco Legal Examiner's opinion the offences under sections 337-A & 337-F1 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) are attracting in accordance with law. On July 05, 2012 Sunita again approached CLAAS office for legal assistance in the above said criminal assault as well requested for shelter. Later she was provided shelter at Rehabilitation Centre Apna Ghar as well as CLAAS assisted Sunita legally. In this connection on 17, CLAAS filed a writ petition in the Court of Sessions on behalf of Sunita for the registration of criminal case FIR against the accused persons through Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal

Advisor CLAAS). On the said date the honorable judge directed the concerned SHO to appear before the court with his investigation report and adjourned the court hearing for July 23, 2012.



Case up-dates

On July 23, 2012 SHO Police Station Hanjarwal, Lahore, submitted his report and asserted that the matter was in between husband & wife while torture on her by the brother-in-law was not long-established. After hearing the arguments and reports the honorable judge postponed his decision for further consideration and adjourned the court hearing for July 30, 2012. On the said date of hearing the honorable Additional Sessions Judge, Lahore Mr. Muhammad

Nadeem Shaukat (Duty / Ex-Officio Justice of Peace) disposed of the petition with the direction to the SHO Station House Officer to record the version of victim Sunita and to proceed further strictly in accordance with law.

Note: The file photo of victim Sunita along with Children was taken during her stay at Apna Ghar.

17.19- Ruby Bibi vs Sunny Patras



Ruby Bibi narrating her ordeal to her CLAAS legal advisor lawyer

Ruby, aged 26, was married to Sunny Patras on 4th October 2009. Ruby's father is a resident of Islam Road, Sumanabad, Lahore, who arranged this marriage following the consent of the two families. No issue was born out of this wedlock.

Ruby states that after some days of her marriage she found out that her husband had a two-year-old daughter who was born out of his earlier marriage in 2005 to one Meena. When Ruby asked about the marriage and the child, Sunny told her that

he had divorced Meena and he had no concern with his first wife Meena or the daughter.

Under the circumstances Ruby compromised with the situation and started living among the joint family of her in-laws. Over the next few weeks Ruby realised that her husband did not go out for regular work. Within a few months she found out to her utter shock that Sunny actually was a drugs supplier and he himself was addicted to liquor, *charas* and drug drops. She also noticed that he was involved in gambling practices. Once these vices were open to Ruby it caused a quarrel and then it became a routine that Sunny would get drunk and beat her. Ruby pleaded with Sunny time and again requesting him to quit his bad habits but he did not listen; instead his behavior towards Ruby worsened

in which he was joined by his family. Ruby bore this ordeal for two years but at last she broke and told her parents all about this misfortune. Ruby's parents did the same that she had been doing for two years and told her to compromise and she complied just for what she thought was an attempt to save her marriage. Ruby later shared that despite the feeling that her husband would never change she wanted to live with her largely due to advice of her parents and elders of the family.

Unfortunately Ruby's husband was apprehended by the police on 21st June 2012 when he was wandering in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park in a drunk state. He however managed to secure his release within a few hours – presumably using his powerful drug supplier friends – and reached home by the evening. Pumped up by the torment of the day he was already in a bad state when he started beating Ruby on some complaint by his mother; he badly beat her up in presence of his parents. After the beating, Sunny (her husband), Patras (father-in-law), Nasreen (mother-in-law) and Pervaiz (elder brother-in-law) tried to set her ablaze but she luckily escaped that attempt and fled to her parents' home.

When she narrated the whole story to her parents they accompanied her to the area police station Millat Park, Lahore for registration of a criminal case FIR against the criminal assailants. Upon Ruby's complaint the police registered an FIR (No. 329/12) for offences under sections 354 & 506 of Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) against her husband Sunny, father-in-law Patras, mother-in-law Nasreen and brother-in-law Pervaiz. The perpetrators however secured their pre-arrest bails appearing before the Additional Sessions Judge.

At this stage Ruby approached CLAAS office (on July 23, 2012) for legal aid and assistance to contest the bail applications of the accused. She also sought CLAAS help in filing a suit for dissolution of marriage as well as one for the recovery of her dowry articles. CLAAS has entrusted Ruby's court cases to its legal advisor Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba, Advocate High Court.

Update

On July 24, 2012 CLAAS assigned lawyer Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba, Advocate High Court, successfully contested the bail applications of the accused in Ruby's case and the lawyer of the accused was driven to withdraw the bail applications on the very first hearing.

Further to the criminal proceedings against the perpetrators in Ruby's case, CLAAS lawyers have filed a suit for dissolution of marriage on Ruby's behalf (July 27, 2012) and another one for recovery of her dowry articles (on September 05, 2012) both of which are in proceeding.

17.20- Nazia Bibi Vs Ghulam Nabi



Nazia Bibi narrating the facts to CLAAS representative

Nazia d/o Saai Ahmed aged 30, a Muslim by faith and resident of Ghazi Road, Lahore was a mother of two children. According to Nazia Bibi she got married with Shabir Ahmed in 2001 and out of this wed lock two children were born named Umair Hussain aged 10 and Zubair Hussain aged 09. Her husband was a drug addict and unfortunately in 2006 he died due to continue drinking liquor. After his death she came at her mother' house along with her two children and started to living with her in a rented house. She started working as house maid for the sake of her children and their necessities.

But alone it is difficult for her to bears daily house hold expenditures as well as children's expenses. Therefore her mother arranged her second marriage and on August 17, 2011 she got second marriage with Ghulam Nabi. He is mason by profession and was living in a rented house at Gujranwala. She further shared that after three months of her marriage she came to know that Ghulam Nabi was already married and it was his third marriage with her. But she compromise with the situation and gradually Nazia noticed that her husband Ghulam is not taking interest into work nor has any proper job. But he invites others people especially man at home. Often her husband invites Nazia and forcedly orders her to obey and serve as their wishes. But Nazia did not agree with him, later her husband started to force her for illicit relation with other men. On her repeatedly refusal she was often beaten by her husband severely. Time and again she requested her husband to mend his way for the sake of their marriage but he did not agree with her. Once her husband attempt to her murder but luckily she escaped from his home.

Again she came at her mother' home and started work as a house maid. Her husband hide somewhere else and often he contact with her phonically and threatened her by saying that he will kill her and her children. So she decided to take divocre for him. Therefore on August 13, 2012 she approached CLAAS office for legal assistance regarding her divorce matter.

CLAAS appointed its legal advisor Mr. Tanvir Masih for court proceeding and as a result on September 05, 2012 he filed a suit for dissolution of marriage on the basis of Khula.

Up-Date:

Presently this suit is under court proceedings.

17.21- Rahat Saleem Vs Amir Yousaf

Rahat Saleem, aged 18, is a young Christian lady whose father Saleem Fazal is a Captain with the Salvation Army Church, Sheikhpura. She has six siblings namely Musarrat aged 28, Farhat 26, Azeem 24, Nadeem 22, Nighat 20 while one brother Naeem is younger to her.



Rahat Saleem at CLAAS office

During late 2009 Rahat was studying for her FSc (Fellow of Science Certificate) in 2nd year and for her studies she was staying at her paternal uncle Shahbaz Munawwar's house at Muridkey. According to Rahat, one of her aunts Samreena had been married to Amir Joseph both of whom were Christians and the couple was blessed with two daughters named Shawnee aged 4 and Shayne aged 2. Amir Joseph worked as a Medical Representative for a pharmaceutical company. Rahat states that her aunt Samreena went to United States of America to visit her father in January 2010 and after a few months Samreena's husband Amir Joseph came to Shahbaz Munawwar's house to spend his vacations along with his daughters. While he was residing with this Muridkey family he used to pick and drop Rahat from her college. During this routine Amir Joseph grew an affinity towards Rahat and lured her into an affair.

In August 2011 Amir Joseph took Rahat away with him and to hide his misdeed he converted to Islam while also marrying Rahat under Muslim rites. Rahat recalled that in the beginning he was extremely cordial with her but with each day passed Amir Joseph's attitude towards her worsened. Within weeks Rahat realised that Amir Joseph had illicit relations with several other women. Upon her complaint of this state of affair and following her efforts to stop him from seeing other women, he started beating her and warned her not to interfere in what he said was his personal matter.

Rahat told that quarrels between the two became a routine and Amir Joseph would be ignited on minor domestic issues. Rahat stated that in the meanwhile she got pregnant but Amir Joseph started forcing her to abort the child. When Rahat declined this demand he gave her some severe beating and in this state succeeded to get the child aborted without her will. After this incident Amir Joseph made her life miserable and started threatening her with a divorce. Rahat also recalled that Amir Joseph forcibly took her signatures on blank stamp papers somewhere in late July 2012.

The episode took the worst turn on 1st August 2012 when Amir told Rahat to get out of the house because, he said, he had divorced her. When Rahat refused to move and declined to accept her divorce he gave her some harsh beating to her and threw her out of his house.

Rahat turned to CLAAS office for legal assistance on 2nd August 2012 and while she is being facilitated in her legal claims over Amir, she has been accommodated at CLAAS Rehabilitation Centre "Apna-Ghar".

17.22- Sara Barkat vs Saleem Naeem (An Apna Ghar case)



Sara Barkat with son Issac

Sara Barkat, a 25-year-old young Christian lady belonging to Bahar Colony, Lahore got married to with Saleem Naeem Ashiq on July 11, 2011. It was an arranged marriage and the couple was soon blessed with one baby boy named Issac who is now five months old.

According to Sara, her in-laws were living as a joint family and she moved with them where first two months of their marriage were spent pleasantly. After that initial period Sara noticed her husband's reluctance to go out for work, in fact she realised that Saleem Naeem did not have a proper job. Sara's requests to Saleem to seek some proper work led to differences between them.

Saleem, instead of taking any job or looking for some work, started quarreling with Sara over minor domestic issues and many times he beat up Sara very badly. Sara ignored the cruel attitude of her husband in hope for better times. Sara's in-laws, who themselves were very impolite to her, never tried to stop Saleem from beating Sara. In March 2012 Sara's husband beat her severely and kicked her out of the house while she was eight months pregnant. When she sought help at her parents' home they advised her to ignore Saleem's attitude and to look after her marital life. Sara obeyed them and went back to her husband's place only to be disappointed again because her husband never changed his attitude towards her. September 24, 2012 was the fateful day when Sara's woes went out of any human proportions. First her husband beat her harshly on a minor domestic issue. Then she was beaten up by the step father-in-law and the step brother-in-law. Sara called her sister and informed her about the happenings; her sister rushed to her house and she too was beaten by the Sara's husband and her in-laws. Upon this both sisters went to the area Police Station (Nishtar Colony) and submitted an application explaining their ordeal at the hands of Sara's husband and in-laws but the police were hand in glove with her in-laws and did not register any FIR. Due to this intolerable situation Sara had to move out of her husband's house and started living with her parents. Keeping in view the financial position of her poor parents and day to day needs of her son, Sara approached CLAAS office (on 26th September 2012) for shelter and legal assistance regarding her family dispute as she wanted divorce from her husband. CLAAS has filed a Suit for Dissolution of Marriage (on 28th Sep. 2012) on behalf of Sara through Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba, Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS).

Up-Date:

Case is under court proceedings.

17.23- Sabeen Iqbal vs Sohail Younis



Sabeen Iqbal

Sabeen Iqbal is a 28-year-old Christian lady living in Model Town, Lahore. She got married to Sohail Younis in 2009 in an arranged marriage and the couple was blessed with one son named Shaleem, who is now one and half year old.

According to Sabeen, she moved to Sialkot after marriage where her husband was living with his family in a joint family arrangement. A couple of initial weeks after her marriage were trouble-free but soon disputes started popping up between the husband and wife on minor domestic issues. Sabeen's in-laws too behaved badly with her especially her mother-in-law. Her mother-in-law went so far as to blame Sabeen of having illicit relations with her brother-in-law (sister's husband). Over this period Sabeen was harshly beaten up by her husband.

Sabeen ignored the cruel attitude of her husband just to save her marriage but after about two months of her marriage she was forced to come back to her parents who advised her to ignore the attitude of her husband and the mother-in-law and continue with her married life. She spent about three months at her parents' and then, upon repeated advice of her parents she went back to her husband's place. Upon her return she was greeted with even harsher attitude by her husband and she was badly disappointed.

In November 2010 Sabeen was severely beaten by her husband on a minor domestic issue while she was pregnant; after this beating her husband took her to her parents' home and left her there. In March 2011 Sabeen give birth to a baby boy. She tried to contact her husband but he did not come to see her, even after the birth of her child. Sabeen's parents bore all her medical expenses pertaining to birth of the child as well as other expenditure. Sabeen further shared that a compromise was reached in June 2011 and she went to her in-laws' house with her son. In August 2011 again, Sohail threw her out of his house and snatched her son also. Since then her parents tried many times for a compromise but her husband and the in-laws never agreed and her husband clearly said that he did not want her anymore. Sabeen has lost contact with her husband and the son; the husband neither divorced her nor did he take her back.

Under these circumstances Sabeen approached CLAAS office on September 29, 2012 for legal assistance regarding her matter. She wanted a divorce from her husband as well as needed her belongings back to support herself. CLAAS has filed a Suit for Dissolution of Marriage on behalf of Sabeen through Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba, Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS).

Up-dates:

The Suit for the recovery of dowry article is also in process.

17.24- Rehana Bibi vs Munir Ahmed

Rehana is a Muslim girl of 20 years, living in Lahore. They are three siblings; the eldest is Waqas aged 22, who is deaf by birth, Rehana herself, and Azeem aged 12, who too, unfortunately is deaf by birth. Rehana's father Fida Hussain is insane therefore her mother Gherawan Mai runs their house.



Rehana Bibi with CLAAS staff and lawyer

According to Rehana's account she got married to Munir Ahmed s/o Muhammad Yar on 16th February 2012 with the consent of their parents and no children are born to the couple. She stated that early days of her marriage were pleasant ones but the behavior of her in-laws changed soon especially with reference to her dowry articles. Her in-laws kept criticizing her parents for not giving her expensive and luxurious dowry articles. Within no time her husband also started demanding money from her parents and if she refused to arrange the money from her parents he would start beating her. Rehana's mother-in-law always had false complaints against her mainly about household work and her husband Munir would take his mother's word and would beat Rehana severely. In these circumstances Rehana got no favour or facility from Munir and was always getting abuse for her and her parents if she ever dared ask for anything. Some four months ago Munir Ahmed had a fight with Rehana on a minor issue and then kicked her out of his house. Upon her protest and complaint Munir Ahmed visited her parents' house on 10th September 2012 along with his brothers Tariq, Amir and Jahangir and beat all of them insensitively while his abusive language and insults were heard by the whole neighborhood loud and clear. This incident really disheartened Rehana and she decided to break off with Munir Ahmad. She approached CLAAS office on 10th December 2012 for legal assistance. Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) filed a Suit for Dissolution of marriage on the basis of Khula and the next day filed a separate case for recovery of dowry on behalf of Rehana. Presently, both these cases are under court proceedings.

17.25- Sania Vs Asim Waseem



19-year-old Sania, a Christian girl from Youhanabad, was married to Asim Waseem on 2nd October 2011, at Shanti Nagar, District Kahnewal. The couple was blessed with a son named Alisha who was around four months when she approached CLAAS.

Sania told CLAAS that when she got married they were living as a joint family with her in-laws and initial some months of her married life were smooth and happy. After that Sania realized that her husband did not go out for regular work. Within a few months she found out to her utter shock that her husband actually was a drugs supplier and he himself was addicted to liquor, *charas* and drug drops and as well as he is a petty thief and involved in criminal activities. This revelation and Sania's protest led to quarrels among them and Asim started beating her without any excuse. After six months Sania left her husband's place and came to her parents in Lahore. Her husband came following her and took her back with him after a compromise. Sania kept requesting Asim to quit his bad habits as it was agreed at the time of her coming back but he did not listen. Sania ignored the cruel attitude of her husband in hope for better times. Her in-laws, who themselves were very



Sania with CLAAS lawyer

impolite to her, never tried to stop Asim from beating Sania. Due to this intolerable situation Sania had to move out of her husband's house again and started living with her parents while she was pregnant too. When her son was born, Asim came to know of the news and visited her parents' place where a fight ensued and he beat her as well as her mother while threatening them to kill Sania. He also attempted to take the infant away with him but could not succeed. Asim's criminal record and his continuing that way had convinced Sania that she never wanted to go back to him but she was afraid that one day he would snatch the child from her. In these circumstances Sania approached CLAAS office (on December 12, 2012) for legal assistance regarding her family dispute as she wanted to file a suit Dissolution of Marriage. CLAAS has filed a Suit for Dissolution of Marriage on behalf of Sania through Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba, Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS). Presently suit for Dissolution of Marriage is under court proceedings.

17.26- Ghulam Fatima vs Muhammad Hafeez

Ghulam Fatima, nicknamed as Fozia, is a 25-year-old young Muslim lady belonging to Shahdara, Lahore who got married to Muhammad Hafeez on 30th December 2007. It was an arranged marriage and the couple has been blessed with two daughters named Mehar Bano (born 2008) and Esha (2010).



Ghulam Fatima with CLAAS representatives

After their marriage it took no time for Fozia to realize that her husband did not have a regular work. Initially she thought that the work was irregular and the household family expenses were managed through joint family system in which one could survive without a fixed income but within a few months she found out to her utter shock that Hafeez actually was a drugs supplier and he himself was addicted to liquor, *charas* and drug drops. Once these vices were open to Fozia it caused a quarrel and then it became a routine that Hafeez would get drunk and beat her. Fozia pleaded with Hafeez time and again requesting him to quit his bad habits but he did not listen. Fozia ignored the cruel attitude of her husband in hope for better times. Fozia's in-laws, who themselves were very impolite to her, never tried to stop Hafeez from beating Fozia. Fozia bore this ordeal for five years but at last she broke and told her parents all about this misfortune. Due to this intolerable situation Fozia had to move out of her husband's house and started living with her parents. Keeping in view the financial position of her poor parents and day to day needs of her children, Fozia approached CLAAS office (on December 11, 2012) for legal assistance regarding her family dispute as she wanted to file a suit for Maintenance Allowance for her children and also wanted to file a suit for Dissolution of Marriage on the basis of *khula*. CLAAS has filed a Suit for Maintenance Allowance on behalf of Fozia through Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba, Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS).

18- Property Matters

18.1- Hameeda Bibi Vs Padri Samson

Hameeda Bibi widow of Raffique Masih aged 55 a Christian by faith and resident of Green Town, Lahore approached CLAAS office and narrates the following facts related to the grab of her property by a pastor. According to details Hameeda was married with Raffique Masih in 1992. Out of this wedlock the family blessed with a boy at present named Jonathan aged 22 and presently studying pre-engineering at the Christian Technical Training Center (CTTC) Gujranwala. Hameeda Bibi further stated that in 1995 her mother Sardara Bibi bought a piece of land measuring 4 ½ Marlas (The Marla is 01 square rod, so 272.25 square feet) in Green Town, Lahore with consideration amount of Pak Rs 180, 000/- (US\$ 1980 approximately) from Ishaq Masih. The said piece of land was situated in between Bethany Church, Lahore and the residence of Pastor Samsoun Alfred. Hameeda Bibi is living in the said property since last seventeen years. Hameeda Bibi further stated that Pastor Samsoun wanted to get the hold of her property and claimed that the said property is belonging to the Bethany Church. In this connection Pastor Samsoun is using the second portion of the property by force and started a primary school without her permission furthermore they destroyed the all furniture placed at the second portion. Additionally, Hameeda Bibi claimed that Pastor Samsoun threatened her constantly and wanted to take the hold of property and many times Pastor Samsoun threatened her son Jonathan for dire consequences. Hameeda Bibi further added that on April 04, 2012 near about 10:00a.m Pastor Samsoun broke the main gate and later fixed-up the church sign board on the main gate. She refuses to go along with the force of Pastor Samsoun but she is alone & handicap and no one helped her out from this difficult time. Therefore, on April 11, 2012 Hameeda Bibi approached CLAAS office for legal assistance and wants court stay order against Pastor Samsoun for not to sale out the said property. On April 12, 2012 CLAAS filed a suit of Permanent Injunction on behalf of Hameeda Bibi through Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS). The honorable Civil Court granted the stay order on the same day in favor of Hameeda Bibi.

Up-dates: CLAAS was informed by Pastor Samsoun that the said property is registered in the name of Bethany Church since from the day one. Following the information and keeping in view the original registration documents of the Bethany Church-Green Town, Lahore, CLAAS withdrawn its power of attorney from Hameeda Bibi side for concealing of real facts from CLAAS.

18.2-Padri Samson Vs Hameeda Bibi

Pastor Samson Alfred S/o Alfred Masih a Christian by faith and resident of Sector-II, 417-D, Green Town, Lahore approached CLAAS on May 19, 2012 and narrated the following details related to the church dispute. According to Pastor Samson, he is a senior pastor and serving as the member of the clergy since 1992 till date. Presently, he is in-charge pastor of Bethany Church-Green Town, Lahore. The church membership is

consisted over 200 families and the church is also running Sunday school program etc. The Bethany Church-Green Town purchased three plots i.e. (1) Plot No. 417-C (2) Plot



Padri Samson

No. 417-D (3) Plot No. 417-E in different times through Pastor Samson for the purpose to build a church. The church purchased Plot No. 417-D from Ishaq Masih on May 17, 1995 and the possession was transferred to the church. Afterwards on April 16, 2011 the title of the plot was transferred in the Bethany Church-Green Town, Lahore by the Lahore Development Authority (LDA). Pastor Samson further added that Mst. Sardaran Bibi (late) was working with Bethany Church as volunteer. She was a poor lady and has no place of residence and the church management gave Plot No. 417-D to Sardaran Bibi for residence in August 1995. Later, Sardaran Bibi along with her daughter Hameeda Bibi shifted and started

residing in the said piece of land. After death of Sardaran Bibi in 2005 her daughter Hameedan Bibi along with her own son Jonathan aged 22 are living in the said plot. Hameeda Bibi became paralyze after a stroke and the church took responsibility for the day to day needs of the family and in this connection her son was sent to Christian Technical Training Center (CTTC) Gujranwala for study and presently studying pre-engineering at the same institution. The church members started taking care of Hameeda Bibi and provided her food, clothes and other necessities of life thoroughly. At present the church is using the second portion of the property and started a primary school but Hameed Bibi started claiming the property rights and prohibited Pastor Samson to stop church activities in the said property.

In this connection on February 02, 2012 Hameeda Bibi filed a suit for Permanent Injunction titled (Hameeda Bibi Vs Pastor Samson). In this suit Hameeda Bibi claimed that her mother Sardaran Bibi was owner in possession of the said property, who has died leaving behind Hameeda Bibi as her legal heirs. In the meanwhile Hameeda Bibi, time and again trying to sale out said house illegally and without any legal authority. The sale out of church property was unacceptable for the church members and keeping in the view the matter on April 04, 2012 Pastor Samson fixed-up the church sign board on the main gate of the said property. The church sign board was the intimation for those who came for auction etc. While the first suit for Permanent Injunction was under court proceedings Hameeda Bibi within two months filed second suit on April 12, 2012 titled (Hameeda Bibi Vs Pastor Samson) for Declaration with Permanent Injunction against the same property matter. In this suit Hameeda Bibi claimed that she herself purchased the said property and attached sale receipt of property without signatures. Pastor Samson further added and said the purpose of litigation was just to harass and blackmail him. Therefore, on May 19, 2012 Pastor Samson approached CLAAS office for legal aid assistance and into contest of above mentioned suits. On May 24, 2012 CLAAS filed written statement against the suit of Permanent Injection through Mr. Tanvir Masih

Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) on behalf of Pastor Samson. CLAAS also filed an application for consolidation

Up-dates

Presently the property suits are under court proceedings.

18.3- Fact- Finding Report on Property Matter of Pastor Altaf Khan District Faisalabad

Please find the report on page no **(158-162)**

18.4-Report on further proceedings in grave yard case in Gujranwala

Brief History

The Christian residents of Chandali village, Tehsil Kamoki, District Gujranwala are inherited and residing in the village since before the Indo-Pak partition. At present above 30 Christian families are living in the village and are farmers by profession. The Christians kept continue the same practice since decades and till date are associated with trade farming whereas few Christians are working as laborers. It was strange that no graveyard was available for the Christian villagers but they buried their corpse in the neighboring graveyards outlying from the village.

The graveyard for Christians was an immediate need and in this connection the Christians made many requests for the allocation of piece of land for graveyard. Finally in 1987 the Provincial Government allotted 08 Kanal piece of land according to the land record with Khsara No. 828/8-0, Khtooni No. 476, Khevit No. 168 and the allocated land was surrounded with Christian residents. At present above 200 graves are exists in the graveyard.

According to Khazan Masih s/o Viryam Masih the graveyard was without boundary walls and the Muslim villagers as well as neighboring villagers started using the Christian cemetery as trespass or the way to use as street leap over and insulted the graves of their forefathers. Khazan Masih further added that whenever the Muslims were stopped for not to trespass the graveyard. The Muslim landlords including Shahbaz, Sardar Virk, Muhammad Dilawar, Muhammad Ramzan, Muhammad Sardar, Hashmat, Barkat Ali, Muhammad Zulfiqar Bhutta, Muhammad Abrar Bhutta, Muhammad Waqas Bhutta and Muhammad Usman Bhutta were behind the whole squabble and always gave hard time to the Christians.

While instead of ending for infringe the rights they deliberately started jumping on the graves and insulted the graves inhumanly. The Christians time and again made requests to the Muslim trespassers for not to use the graveyard as street way but instead of using the main roads of the village they preferred to use the Christian graveyard as shortcut way. Whereas the land was allotted for graveyard and not for the use as street way, the proof can be verified from the attached documents as recorded in the land record dated

May 09, 1987. The Muslim villagers were reluctant and did not pay any attention on the cries and requests of Christians.

However around five to six Muslim families wanted to get gas pipeline inside the graveyard and they jointly submitted an application to the concerned gas company to get the supply of main gas pipeline. Secondly the said Muslim families mischievously misguide the Sui-Northern Gas Pipelines Limited Company that the land is a street way and not a graveyard and claimed that Christians has illegally possessed the land etc. The Muslims used all ways to get the gas supply inside the graveyard.

Therefore the gas company started digging-up the graveyard for the purpose to laying the main gas pipeline. The Christian villagers of the area protested and make many efforts to stop the gas company for not to install the gas supply line inside the graveyard. The aggrieved Christians later approached the gas company and showed them the full record and brought matter into their notice. The General Manager Gas pipelines differed with Christians and rejected the authenticity of such documents and behaved with the Christians inhumanly. Afterwards, the manager showed the Christians a map of the disputed land and claimed that the graveyard is not legal and when the Christians refused to acknowledge his prerogatives associated with the land, the manager became violent and used filthy language against Christians and warned them for dire consequences.

On March 10, 2010 Khazan Masih and Christian villagers filed a suit for Declaration with Permanent Injunction in the Civil Court, Gujranwala. The court proceedings were continued and on April 15, 2010 the application for grant of temporary injunction was accepted whereas the Muslim residents disowned the court order. The Christian villagers try hard for the enactment of court orders but failed. While the matter was before the court and finally on April 01, 2010 the Sui-Northern Gas Pipelines Limited Company through the General Manager installed the gas pipelines inside the graveyard. The gas company forcedly digging-up the graveyard and in this way disrespects the graves of Christians. The gas company ruined the graveyard for the purpose to provide gas supply to some specific Muslim residents. Additionally, the local government constructed a cemented road inside the graveyard.

The matter was before the court for proceedings and in the meanwhile the Christians did not provide the appropriate evidences and the court decided the suit for Declaration with Permanent Injunction infavor of Muslims and against Christians. Whereas the second suit for stopping the trespassers and demolishing of cement made road inside the graveyard kept continue before the court and later the stay was granted by the honorable court.

Therefore, on March 10, 2011 Khazan Masih along with affected Christian villagers approached CLAAS office for legal aid assistance. Keeping in view the sensitivity of the matter the CLAAS submitted Power of Attorney and later on June 29, 2011 CLAAS filed an application for contempt of court in the court of District & Sessions Judge, Gujranwala through Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba Advocate High Court (legal advisor CLAAS). On July 14,

2011 the learned Judge hereby disposed of the petition for lack of evidences whereas directed the litigant parties for compromise and advised the lawyers of litigant parties for their assistance. Later, demarcation of the subject property was conducted by the Revenue Officers concerned on the request of both litigant parties and it was revealed that cemented road and gas pipeline were under the boundary of graveyard. It was unanimously decided in witness of Dr. Sardar, who also gave Rs 2000/- for the thrashing of cemented road under the limit of graveyard.

In this connection over and done with bulldozers the cemented road was demolished from the graveyard. After demolition Salamat Sardar (Assistant Deputy Director-NAB) son of Dr. Sardar cunningly in connivance with Assistant Commissioner Komoki got registered a false case FIR No. 410/12 offence under sections 427, 379, 109 & 431 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) at the police station Wahndu, district Gujranwala against whole male Christian villagers namely Viryam Masih, Khazan Masih, Sabir Masih, Haider Masih, Abbas Masih, Ilyas Masih, Imran Masih, Ashiq Masih, Asif Masih, Nadeem Masih, Shahid Masih, Zahid Masih, Emmanuel Masih, Waris Masih, Atif Masih, Arif Masih and Tariq Masih for demolishing the government's constructed road inside the disputed graveyard.

The moment CLAAS through Mr. Kamran Yousaf Khan Advocate (Legal Advisor CLAAS) is taking care of court proceedings and therefore the nominated Christians granted pre-arrest bails and the matter is under court proceedings.

CLAAS Findings

According to the circumstances the Muslims belongs to two big casts namely Bhutta's and Bhatti-Rajpoot's are taking the revenge of old enmity against each other whereas the Christians are becoming direct target of their old enmity and suffering through litigation as well as facing hardships etc. The criminal offences against Christians are unjust, illegal and against the fundamental rights of citizens of Pakistan and violations of constitutional norms.

19- Harassment Cases

19.1- Maria & Marriam Vs Abid Zafar Bhatti etc

Maria is a Christian youth, 22 years of age. Maria is the eldest in seven children of Abid Zafar Bhatti (a photographer at the Royal News) and Rubina George. Her siblings are Sara aged 21, Mariam 20, Adil 19, Mehwish 14, Madiha 11 and Jerry 10.

According to Maria, her father was earlier a Muslim by faith while mother Rubina George was a Christian; both met during the course of their work and decided to marry. As Abid Zafar Bhatti converted to Christianity they got married under Christian rites.

Maria told that her father's attitude was never cordial towards children and he did not fulfill their needs. She told that her maternal grandparents provided their monthly house expenses. Eventually their mother was constrained to take up a job in a factory to accomplish their necessities of life.

Maria further told that since her paternal parents were Muslims they would often come to their home and compel her father to convert back to Islam. Maria particularly mentioned her paternal grandmother namely Khursheedan Bibi, Muhammad Tariq (paternal uncle), his wife Zeenat Bibi and an aunt Rani (father's sister) in this regard. They also wanted Abid Zafar Bhatti's wife and children to accept Islam.

In January 2008 her father accepted Islam and then started forcing her mother and children to embrace Islam but they refused to do so. Maria told that on their refusal her father made it a routine to abuse and beat them on minor issues. Her father also threatened Maria and her younger sisters Sara and Mariam that he would forcibly convert them to Islam.

Maria told that one day (June 10, 2009) her grandmother Khursheedan Bibi came to their house and informed her father that she had a marriage proposal for Mariam and the boy was a Muslim. Maria's mother got annoyed at this and clearly told her mother-in-law that she would never marry her children to Muslims. Upon listening this Maria's father got really angry and severely beat up Rubina George. He claimed that he would marry all his daughters to people of Muslim faith.

Maria told that on June 12, 2009 her uncle Muhammad Tariq, his wife Zareena Bibi and Rani Bibi came to their house in the absence of her mother and their father forcibly sent Mariam along with Uncle Muhammad Tariq who kept Mariam at his house and told her that she was going to be married in a Muslim family. Their mother Rubina went to Muhammad Tariq's house and asked about Mariam but he showed total ignorance of her whereabouts and kicked Rubina out of his house.

So, on June 24, 2009 her mother filed Habeas Corpus petition in the Session's Court, Lahore and with the help of this process they were able to recover Mariam. Since that incident her mother and all siblings started living with their maternal uncle Kamran.

Maria told that after three years of all that happened in 2009 her father came to Kamran's house on February 23, 2012 and requested him to send Rubina George and his children along with him. He assured that he would convert to Christianity again and promised that he would not harm his children in future.

Maria stated that they all went along with her father and started living with him but they were astonished to see that he was still a practicing Muslim by faith against his claim and promise. Maria told that her father made their life miserable; he would give harsh beatings to them on minor issues and forced them to accept Islam. Then on October 18, 2012 her father informed Maria and Mariam that he was looking forward to marry them



Maria and Mariam with a CLAAS Legal Department during narrating the facts

to Muslim men and they might get married soon.

Maria and Mariam made it clear to their father that they would always be Christian and did not want to be a Muslim. They refused to marry Muslims as indicted by their father. Upon this their father threatened that if they did not agree to marry Muslim boys he would kill them. Somehow after this threat Maria and Mariam managed to escape from their father's house and took refuge again at their maternal uncle Kamran's house.

Maria and Mariam came to CLAAS office on 19th October 2012 for shelter and requested for legal assistance in their matter. CLAAS provided them shelter at CLAAS Rehabilitation Centre "Apna-Ghar" and appointed its legal advisor Mr. Tahir Bashir, Advocate High Court for court proceedings. On October 22, 2012 Mr. Tahir Bashir filed Harassment petition against their father Abid Zafar Bhatti in the Sessions Court on behalf of Maria and Mariam to secure them a safe future.

20- Theft Cases

20.1-Kenneth Shahzad Vs The State

Kenneth Shahzad, Christian, son of Shahzad Yousaf, is a resident of Lahore. He is employed as front desk officer at Moves Club in Lahore. Kenneth reports that on February 2, 2012, around 8:00 pm he went to the ATM machine at Allied Bank on Zahoor Ellahi Road. While he was withdrawing his cash, he noticed that the bank security guard was sleeping on a chair while his cell phone was charging. Kenneth told the guard to wake up or he would report him for sleeping on duty. Kenneth just wanted to shake the guard up but the guard was angry that a customer would disturb him. To protect himself, the bank guard threatened to accuse Kenneth of theft. The guard told the bank manager there had been a theft and got the number for the police from the bank manager. He phoned the police emergency number and police from the station Ghalib Market arrived immediately. They arrested Kenneth Shahzad according to the false report made by the bank guard and incarcerated him. A theft case FIR 137/12 under Section 379 and 411 of the Pakistan Penal Code was registered against Shahzad at the police station Ghalib Market, Lahore. After completing a one sided investigation the police put him in jail. His family then approached CLAAS for legal assistance. CLAAS through attorney Ms. Sumera applied for post arrest bail and was successful in having Kenneth Shahzad released on bail.

Updates: The case is currently being tried in court.

20.2- The State Vs Bushra etc



Bushra Bibi at CLAAS office

Bushra Bib, Christian, is married to Makhan Masih. They are residents of Hasham Nagar, Multan Road, Lahore, and are parents of five children: Rehana, 38, Anwar, 36, Ruksana, 34, Asif, 32, and Kashif, 28. Makhan Masih works as a day laborer. Bushra has worked for Haji Arshad for 28 years as a maid. Many times Bushra told her employer that she wished to stop working, but her employer always asked her to stay. Bushra reports that on November 2, 2011, she was cleaning house as usual when her employer informed her that some gold jewelry had been stolen. Her employer questioned Bushra Bibi about the missing jewelry but Bushra did not know anything. On

November 9, 2011, Bushra was unable to go to work because of family problems. She sent her husband to inform her employer. Her employer refused to let her stay home, using the pretext that he was expecting guests. Bushra quickly went to work, but there were no guests. She began her usual housework. When she finished work and asked to leave, her employer refused. He illegally detained Bushra and again began interrogating her about the missing jewelry. Her employer then called others to assist him in interrogating Bushra. They beat her with sticks, ripped her clothes, and kept her captive for several hours, threatening her with dire consequences for the theft of the

jewelry. Bushra was so frightened she told them she had given the jewelry to her daughter Ruksana.

On November 10, 2011, at about 5:00 pm the employer asked Ruksana about the missing gold jewelry. Ruksana informed her mother's employer that her mother had implicated her just to stop the beatings. Her employer then detained both Bushra and Ruksana for twelve days and repeatedly beat them. On December 12, 2011, the employer took the women to the area police station Mustafa Town and in collusion with the police a false case FIR 198/11 offense under Section 381 of the Pakistan Penal Code was registered against Bushra and Ruksana. The women were imprisoned after a cursory one sided investigation. There was no medical examination undertaken.

After four days in jail Bushra and Ruksana were brought before the magistrate. The magistrate observed that neither woman could stand up straight and directed a medical examination. After reviewing the medical report, the magistrate ordered the immediate arrest of Haji Arshad and his accomplices. The magistrate further directed that a case FIR under Section 337 of the Pakistan Penal Code be registered against the accused. The police again colluded with Haji Arshad and did not arrest him or his accomplices as ordered by the court. Haji Arshad wanted to be spared a criminal court case and after one month he hired a lawyer for Bushra and Ruksana. On January 2, 2012, both women were released on bail. After their release Bushra no longer wanted to work for Haji Arshad but he forced her to continue. At this point Bushra and Ruksana applied to CLAAS for legal aid.

On February 27, 2012, CLAAS initiated the following actions. Attorney and CLAAS legal advisor Tahir Bashir on February 27, 2012, submitted Power of Attorney to the court on behalf of Bushra and Ruksana. On April 24, 2012, a petition was filed in court to register a case FIR against Haji Arshad and his driver Muhammad Ashiq. On April 24, 2012, Ruksana informed CLAAS about the arrest of her husband Ayub Masih. On May 4, 2012, attorney and CLAAS legal advisor Tahir Bashir filed a petition for post-arrest bail for Ayub Masih.

Updates: The case is currently being tried in court.

20.3- Shahla alias Gogi etc. vs The State

Shahla alias Gogi approached CLAAS office in late September 2012 and shared that she had been accused of a false theft case. Walton Road resident Shahla, 35, is married to Farooq Masih and is mother of a 9-year-old child Sameen Farooq.

According to Shahla, she has been working as housemaid for the last 20 years. Some three years ago she was working for a TV anchor Mubashar Luqman and his wife Farrah Bibi. After some time she discontinued working for Farrah but remained in contact with that family. In mid of September this year the said Farrah Bibi called Shahla and asked her to support in their shifting to another house. As Shahla was quite aware of the quantum of work involved, she took her sister-in-law Rimshah along as helper. They helped Farrah and the family for two days and when they were returning home on 20th September after completing their work Farrah Bibi called them back. They complied and upon their arrival at Farrah's place they came to know that they had been blamed for

stealing Farrah's gold ornaments etc. The owner Mubashar Luqman of the house and his wife Farrah searched them separately. During this "investigation" Shahla and Rimshah were ill-treated and beaten up. After a humiliation of about two hours at the family's home their driver Liaqat Ali took Shahla and Rimshah to the area police station where both the ladies were detained for several hours for the purpose of investigation. Like at home, nothing was found from their physical search. During police investigation both ladies were treated badly again and threatened of dire consequences. The police kept them up till about 02:00 a.m. (midnight) and upon their release they were dropped home by the driver Liaqat Ali.

The anchor Mubashar Luqman and his wife persistently tormented and threatened them criminally mainly through their driver. During these dishonest and violent deeds the driver Liaqat Ali tried all means of harassment to obtain a confession to a crime they had not committed. The driver also took them to the concerned police station to break them mentally and for fulfillment of his sinfulness towards Rimshah.



A CLAAS legal department takes note of the harassment faced by hapless Gogi and Rimsha

Shahla alias Gogi said she was quite surprised at the behavior of Farrah and her husband. While she was trying to cope with the shock of their unjustified attitude, Rimshah informed her about the sexual harassment by the driver Liaqat Ali. She informed Shahla that from the very first day of their work at Farrah's house driver Liaqat Ali had been continuously harassing her sexually. She disclosed that while interrogating them he had snatched Rimshah's cell phone and transferred her photos via bluetooth. He later approached Rimshah for illicit relations and promised that if she agreed the whole theft charges

would be dropped. He aggressively threatened her that she should be ready for dire consequences if she turned her cell phone off responding to his unwanted calls.

This deceitfulness of the driver Liaqat revealed the whole story to Shahla. She tried to manage the issue and but the driver kept on and called Rimshah again on September 22, 2012 using abusive language which call was somehow recorded by Rimshah. Driver Liaqat Ali also warned Rimshah that if she did not develop sexual relations with him it would not be good for the whole of her family especially for her brother Farooq Masih.

Later, on September 25, 2012 driver Liaqat Ali filed an application of the alleged theft at Defence-A police station, Lahore. Upon this application and with influence of the anchor Mubashar Luqman, a theft case (FIR No. 889/12) was registered against Shahla alias Gogi, her husband Farooq Masih and sister-in-law Rimshah. According to this FIR Shahla, Farooq and Rimshah have been blamed for stealing 20 expensive silk ties beside a diamond locket, a gold ring and a golden set worth of which is stated as Pak

Rs. 400,000/- (US\$ 4166 approximately). The police have arrested Shahla's husband Farooq Masih while at the time of police raid Shahla and Rimshah were not at home so they escaped arrest.

CLAAS is actively supporting the women in this case and moved pre-arrest bail applications for Shahla and Rimshah before the Court of Sessions Judge, Lahore through Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) on 26th September 2012. The bail applications have been accepted and further proceedings are pending for November 10, 2012.

21- Fraud & Fake Cases

21.1- Javid Francis Vs The State

Javid Masih s/o Francis age 45, resident of Bahar Colony Lahore. He was working as Naib Qasid in Information Department Secretariat Lahore.

According to Javid, his elder brother has some litigation with Zafar Danial due to this reason Zafar Daniel registered a fake fraud case FIR No. 56/2010, offence under section 5/2/47 PCA, 161 PPC at Police Station ACE, Lahore against him.

Therefore Javid approached CLAAS office for legal assistance regarding his case. CLAAS appointed its legal advisor Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court for court proceedings and as a result he moved pre-arrest bail of Javid Francis in the court of Anti Corruption Lahore which was allowed on January 13, 2012 and he was bailed out.

Up-date: Not in legal proceeding.

21.2- The State Vs Roseline Bibi



Roselane Bibi

Roselane Bibi is 48 years of age and is living in Lahore with her three sons named Ophyaz Younis aged 16, Shahzad Younis 14 and Fraz Younis 12. She is working as a staff nurse with the General Hospital Lahore while her husband Younis Masih is teaching at St. John's High School Youhanabad, Lahore. Under difficult circumstances Roselane Bibi borrowed some money from her neighbor Niamat Masih and told him that she would return the amount within one month. The amount taken was Pak Rs. 15,000/- (US\$ 160 approximately), on 18th March 2009. They also agreed that if Roselane was unable to return the money by the promised date, she would be paying a profit on the loan amount. Niamat Masih insisted that she gave him some surety therefore she furnished a cheque of Pak Rs. 36,000/- (US\$ 385 approximately) without any date to Niamat Masih. She was unaware that her bank account had been termed "dormant" because of no transactions but in any case she went to Niamat's house for returning the money within the decided time of one month where she was informed that Niamat Masih was in jail due to a criminal case against him. Roselane Bibi got into a problem that she could neither handover the loan amount to any person other than Niamat Masih nor was he himself available to receive the money. Therefore she kept the money with herself and waited for Niamat to return from jail. When Niamat Masih got out of the jail she came to Roselane and demanded Pak Rs. 66,000/- (US\$ 703 approximately) as he said that profit had accumulated on the original amount. Finding it difficult as well as unjustified, she requested Niamat Masih for not putting her and her family in such a trouble because it

was not possible for her to return such a huge amount and she promised to return the actual loan amount of Pak Rs.15000/- within a few days. However Niamat Masih kept his demand of Pak Rs. 66,000/- intact and was clearly bent upon getting this amount from them come what may. He went to Roselane's bank on September 28, 2009 where he was told that Roselane's account had been closed and he could not get any money. This refusal helped Niamat Masih to file a case against Roselane when on 22nd April 2010 he got a case of fraud registered against Roselane Bibi at Chung police station. Resultantly a useless and frivolous litigation started against Roselane who had to get an interim pre-arrest in June 2010 (confirmed on June 21, 2010) and the case is now fixed for trial. In January, 2013 Roselane approached CLAAS office for legal aid assistance where she was readily facilitated and Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court (Legal Advisor CLAAS) will be representing her in the trial when the hearing of the case comes up.

22- Job Matters

22.1- Samuel Shaokat Vs Pakistan Railways through its Chairman etc

Samuel Masih, Christian, son of Boota Masih, is a resident of Sahajpal area in Lahore. He is the father of seven children. He worked as a fitter at the railway steel shop for 22 years. Samuel reports that he began his job on December 1, 1979, and was an honest and hard worker. There were no complaints by his employers. He was assigned different duties by his supervisors. When he was assigned to the gas section on February 12, 2002, his supervisor in that division pressured him to make illegal contracts. He refused to participate in corruption. However, the men over him were furious that he did not take part in their illegal activities and planned to teach him a lesson. Samuel was served a Show Cause notice number 237 dated January 8, 2002 which stated

“You are reported to be an inefficient, irregular worker who is obstructive on the job. You continually look for opportunities to cause trouble for the administration. You are quarrelsome and uncooperative toward your coworkers and supervisors. You are continually inciting your coworkers to create trouble. Because you are a member of a minority group, you exploit your status to pressure the administration to give you favors.” Samuel filed a reply to the Show Cause but was fired from his job anyway. He then sought recourse from the Minister of Railways but did not receive any reply to his request.

In April 2009 Samuel applied to CLAAS for legal aid and assistance. Acting for CLAAS, attorney and legal advisor Tahir Gul Sadiq filed a writ petition in the Lahore High Court.

Updates: On December 10, 2010, the court dismissed the petition and directed it to be filed before the service tribunal. In May 2011 attorney and CLAAS legal advisor Tahir Bashir again filed a Service Appeal before the Federal Service Tribunal Camp at Lahore. On January 27, 2012, the Service Appeal was accepted and is presently being reviewed in court.

CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

Recommendations:

- Under the present situation of the misuse of discriminatory laws in particular the blasphemy laws against the religious minorities especially against the Christians, we therefore recommend to repeal the all discriminatory laws in the country that separating & discriminating the nation on the basis of religion and belief.
- Better measures must be taken to protect individuals charged under the alleged blasphemy accusations and their families during trial.
- A transparent and fair investigation must be carried out after any attacks on minorities in order to enforce justice and ensure that innocent people must not victimize.
- The government must ensure that religious minorities are not exploited religiously, economically, politically or socially and there is need to campaign urging respect for all religions must be promoted at all levels.
- The government should address the growing issue of forced conversion into Islam and forced marriages of Christians and members of other minority communities.
- Interfaith dialogues facilitated by civil society organizations and NGOs must be continued across the country, not just in the main cities, to remove misperceptions and confusion between the Muslim and Christian communities in Pakistan.
- NGOs working in their individual capacity playing vital role in creating awareness about minorities' rights. They should also focus on networking and support each other in advocacy and lobbying for repeal of discriminatory legislation.
- The education syllabuses that promoting radical teachings, hatred in the name of religion must be stopped and the government should ensure that the students educated about religious tolerance and harmony.
- The state is responsible to provide employment opportunities to its non-Muslim citizens on equal basis and there should be no discriminations on the basis of their religion.

- Domestic violence especially all forms of violence against women should be prohibited as prescribed in the law and the state must guarantee for the implementations of such laws.
- The issues of the brick kiln must be addressed according to law and the organized vigilant committees on labor should monitor the brick making factories and to keep an eye on the circumstances of forced labor at the brick kiln.
- The state should be responsible for protecting its citizens especially the religious minorities from malicious terrorist attacks on the minority's settlements and places of worships and the state should provide compensation to the victims of attacks on Churches, Schools and Institutions run by the Christians as it does in the case of attack on Mosque and Imam Barghas.
- The courts should give fair decisions on the witness of woman who is raped and abducted, without any discrimination of religion and gender. Also the statement of a minor should be admissible and should not be considered as true in the case of forced conversion.
- Networking among the NGOs and civil society should be strong and they should have strong relationship and should support each other in advocacy and lobbying for amendment and repeal of discriminatory laws.
- Laws should be vigorously applied to protect working women from discrimination and harassment at work place.
- Measures also need to be taken to publicize the law against harassment at work place so that working women all over the country, especially in the rural areas be familiar with their legal rights and means of redress in harassment cases.
- Laws alone will not end violence against women the government should make existing mechanisms for redress more effective and set up new mechanism that can ensure that female victims of violence receive justice.

CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

Acronyms

Sr. #	Acronyms	Description
•	AI	Advocates International
•	AA	Advocates Asia
•	AGM	Annual General Meeting
•	AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
•	ASST.	Assistant
•	ATM	Automatic Teller Machine
•	ACT	Action by Churches Together
•	ARD	Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy
•	ASI	Assistant Sub Inspector
•	Adv.	Advocate
•	ATC	Anti Terrorist Court
•	ATA	Anti Terrorism Act
•	A.R.P Church	Presbyterian Church
•	AGHS	Legal Aid Cell
•	ASJ	Additional Session Judge
•	ADJ	Additional District Judge
•	ASP	Assistant Superintendent Police
•	ACRE	A unit of area used in some countries, is equal to 4,046.86 sq m./4,840 sq yd.
•	BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
•	BHC	British High Commission
•	BIBI	Word Bibi usually used fir in respect of a lady
•	CEO	Chief Executive Officer
•	CLAAS	Centre for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement
•	CWS-P/A	Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan

•	CM	Chief Minister
•	CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
•	CID	Criminal Investigation Department
•	CNN	Cable News Network
•	CD	Compact Disk
•	CAP	Community Advance Program
•	COP	Churches of Pakistan
•	CIP	Country Information Policy
•	CPI	Consumer Price Index
•	CIR	Christian Institute Raiwind
•	Cr. P.C	Criminal Procedure Code
•	CCPO	Chief City Police Officer
•	CH	Chaudhary & Landlord
•	CLAP	Christian Lawyer Association Pakistan
•	CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card
•	CHAK	The word Chak use for Village
•	CHALLAN	The word Challan is used for Charge sheet.
•	D&C	Dilatation and Curettage
•	DOC	Document
•	DPO	District Police Officer
•	D/O	Daughter of
•	DIG	Deputy Inspector General
•	DHQ	Divisional Head Quarter
•	DSP	Deputy Superintendent of Police
•	DSJ	District Session Judge
•	DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
•	DCO	District Coordination Officer
•	DDOR	Deputy District Officer Revenue

•	DAR-UL-AMAN	Shelter Home for women
•	EDO	Executive District Officer
•	EU	European Union
•	F/O	Father Of
•	FIR	First Information Report
•	FIA	Federal Investigation Agency
•	FBI	Federal Bureau Of Investigation
•	FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
•	GEO	Gene Expression Omnibus & name of a TV Channel
•	G.T ROAD	Grand Trunk Road
•	HMK	Hilfsation Maertyrer Kirche
•	HRCP	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
•	HAZRAT HAZRET	or Hazrat or Hazret is an honorific Arabic title used to honor a person
•	HBL	Habib Bank Limited
•	IGFM	International Society for Human Rights-German Section
•	ICCO	Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation
•	I.O	Investigation Officer
•	N.I.C	National Identity Card
•	IBA	International Bar Association
•	IGI	Industrial General Insurance
•	JAC	Joint Action Committee for People's Rights
•	JD	Name of School
•	KM	Kilometer
•	KG	Kilogram
•	LTD	Lane Transit District
•	MFI	Mehdi Foundation International

•	MS	Medical Superintendent
•	MBE	Member Of The British Empire
•	MSS	Marie Stops Society
•	MNA	Member National Assembly
•	MPA	Member Provincial Assembly
•	MLC	Medico Legal Certificate
•	MCB	Muslim Commercial Bank
•	MCFI	Muslim Christian Federation International
•	MD	Managing Director
•	MQM	Muttahida Quami Movement
•	MP	Member Parliament
•	MEP	Member European Parliament
•	MARLA	The marla is 1 square rod, so 272.25 square feet.
•	MASIH	Masih is the Arabic work for Messiah (Christ). In modern Arabic it is used as one of the many title of Jesus.
•	NAO	National Audit Office
•	NAZIM	Organizer, Convener & Coordinator of cities and towns in Pakistan
•	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
•	NCJP	National Commission Justice & Peace
•	NCIDE	National Commission for Inter-Religious Dialogue
•	NCCP	National Council of Churches of Pakistan
•	NUML	National University Of Modern Languages
•	NBP	National Bank of Pakistan
•	NWFP	North West Fortier Province
•	NIC	National Identity Card
•	OPD	Out Door Patient

•	PA	Personal Assistant
•	PAF	Pakistan Air Force
•	PPP	Pakistan People Party
•	PPC	Pakistan Penal Code
•	PBUH	Peace Be Upon Him
•	PCNP	Pakistan Christian National Party
•	PCCS	Pakistan Christian Credit Society
•	PIMS	Pakistan Institute for Medical Science
•	PML (N)	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group)
•	PST	Pakistan Standard Time
•	RI	Release International
•	R/O	Resident of
•	RPO	Regional Police Officer
•	RS	In Pakistan, Rs is referred to as the “rupees”
•	SHO	Station House Officer
•	SLMP	Sharing Life Ministry Pakistan
•	S/O	Son of
•	SI	Sub–Inspector
•	SP	Superintendent of Police
•	SPARC	Society For The Protection of The Rights Of The Child
•	SSP	Senior Superintendent of
•	SAP	South Asia Partnership
•	SMS	Short Message Service
•	TSA	Technical Services Association
•	TLC	Trinity Law College
•	TOLA	Ten Gram Gold
•	TB	Tuberculosis
•	TDA	Tehsil Development Authority

•	TMA	Tehsil Municipal Administration
•	UK	United Kingdom
•	USA	United States America
•	UN	United Nations
•	U/S	Under Section
•	UAE	United Arab Emirates
•	UC	Union Council
•	UP	United Presbyterian
•	UCH	United Christian Hospital
•	UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
•	UNO	The United Nations Organization
•	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissions For Refugees
•	UNICEF	United Nation's Children's Fund
•	UNHRC	United National Human Rights Commission
•	UNHCO	United Nation Health Care Organization
•	VS.	Versus
•	WWW	World Wide Web
•	WAR	War Against Rape
•	WCC	World Council Churches
•	W/O	Wife of
•	WASA	Water and Sanitation Authority
•	WAPDA	Water and Power Development Authority
•	YRS	Years
•	YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association
•	YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

Brief introduction of Staff & responsibilities

Mr. M.A Joseph Francis MBE (National Director)



Muntizar Anthony Joseph Francis started CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT (CLAAS) in 1992 and serving as National Director since the creation of CLAAS. As National Director Mr. Joseph Francis provides overall leadership and strategic direction for the organizational matters and manages its 25 person staff in Lahore. He is handling the overall administration as well as national and international affairs of CLAAS and heading fact-finding missions. He is also pursuing cases in the courts as well. The National Director creates and implements annual development plan and strategy to manage the projects. He is providing professional and personal support to staff and observe & evaluate them as needed. He is presiding staff meetings, coordinate professional development for high performance and directed recruiting & staffing. He is counseling the victims and assisting them in their cases and other related issues. Mr. Joseph Francis appears regularly in major media outlets and speaks to audiences around the country. Mr. Francis is instrumental in the organization's recent effort to assemble a group of Christian organizations called Pakistan Christian Democratic Alliance to speak out publicly against policies and discriminatory laws especially the blasphemy laws in the country. Mr. Francis's is playing pivotal role in the effort to highlight discriminatory treatments faced by the religious minorities in Pakistan.

Mr. Joseph Francis has a distinguish record of human rights advocacy in Pakistan and his services recognized nationally and internationally. In 2000, International Christian AWAZ Canada presented appreciation award in recognition Mr. Francis's dedication, commitment and sensitivity for the Christians of Pakistan. He was honored with French Republic Human Rights Prize in 2002. The British Police Department the LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY presented an appreciation certificate with Constabulary Medal in 2002. Martin Luther an appreciation award for his work for persecuted Christians in Pakistan presented by Gesellschaft Fur Menschenrechte (IGFM) Germany. Church world Services – Pakistan/Afghanistan awarded CLAAS & Mr. Francis for being a voice for the voiceless & a beacon of hope for the last forty years. Full Gospel Church awarded in recognition and dedication services towards Christian community. The Advocates International presented "A GOOD SAMARITAN" award in 2004. The Bright Future Society awarded a gold medal and certificate of excellence for outstanding services for protecting human rights in September 2006. Peace Award from National Commission for Inter-Religious Dialogue Ecumenism in December 13th, 2006. In 2009, the International Gesellschaft Fur Menschenrechte (IGFM) Germany honored with an appreciation certificate and cash prize for the protection of persecuted Christians in Pakistan 2009. He is a council member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), Executive member of Advocates International Washington and Advocates International Asia. He is also Chairman Pakistan Christian National Party and President Pakistan Christian Democratic Alliance (PCDA). On June 16, 2011 Her Majesty Queen

Elizabeth the II has appointed him to be an Honorary Member of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire MBE. In 2012 he was candidate for the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by European Parliament Brussels, Belgium.

Ms. Katherine Sapna (Deputy National Director/Program Officer)



Ms. Katherine as Deputy National Director/Program Officer, CLAAS assisting the National Director and provides programmatic support to ensure the day to day functioning of the projects of CLAAS. She is monitoring program implementation and providing appropriate technical assistance concerning CLAAS's policies and procedures. Act as a catalyst for new projects, ideas and maintain contact with a broad cross section of donor agencies. Prepare formal evaluations and recommendations for funding requests for the National Director. She is representing CLAAS at designated meetings and community meetings. She is working collaboratively with colleagues on special assignments that serve to enhance the CLAAS's organizational effectiveness. Present overview, reports and presentations on the activities of CLAAS to the Board of Directors for consideration at their meetings. She joined CLAAS in the capacity of assistant field officer in October 2004 and promoted as program officer in 2008. As program officer she is responsible for devising and executing project strategies and implementing the office affairs as directed by the National Director, especially handling all National and International correspondence of CLAAS, project monitoring and budgeting etc. Ms. Katherine received her B.A in the subject of Education (2005) and master's degree in History (2007) from the University of the Punjab. She is liable to be part of the fact finding and writing of reports. She attends court hearing assisting women victims according to the sensitivity of their cases.

Mr. Sohail Habel (Finance Manager)



As finance Manager Mr. Sohail Habel is responsible for maintaining accounts of CLAAS. He prepares profit and loss statements and monthly closing and cost accounting reports. Mr. Sohail joined CLAAS in October 2005 in the capacity of Assistant Accountant and later was promoted as Finance Manager in October 2009. Compile and analyze financial information to prepare entries to accounts, such as general ledger accounts. He has duty to maintain, and coordinate the implementation of accounting and accounting control procedures with his assistant as well as performing managerial duties as directed by the National Director. He prepares payroll entries, invoices, and other accounting documents. He is duty bound to explain billing invoices, accounting discrepancies to the National Director. He interacts with internal and external auditors in completing audits within the prescribed time period. He is in charge to coordinate with banks and day to day operating expense. He contain responsibility for record keeping and supervising vehicle running (motor car &

motor bike) etc. He is also a member of CLAAS fact finding team, and attends court hearings as well as any other duties that may be assigned. Mr. Sohail received his B.Com from the University of the Punjab and studying MBA Finance from the University of the Punjab.

Ms. Neelam Uzma (Assistant Finance Manager)



Ms. Neelam Uzma is working with CLAAS as an Assistant Finance Manager since February 2009. She is assisting Mr. Sohail Habel as an assistant accountant and look after office expenditures regularly, maintaining account books, preparing salary register. Ms. Neelam Uzma received his I.Com in 2007 from Lahore Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Punjab and presently studying B.Com from Quaid Azam College of Accountancy, Lahore.

Mr. Joel Samuel (Internal Auditor)



Mr. Joel Samuel is working with CLAAS as an Internal Auditor since 1997. He is well-experienced and has analytical skills of finance and audits. He as an Internal Auditor is responsible for the internal audits of the CLAAS projects in accordance with the annual plan, as well as assisting the National Director with other audit matters and projects.

Ms. Rama Rasheed (Assistant Program Officer)



As Assistant Program Officer Ms. Rama assisting the National Director and Program Officer in administrative work respectively maintain office documentation, issuing office notices & announcements, taking meeting minutes, supervising co-staff, record equipment maintenance, uphold general correspondence, maintain the postage register, handling sensitive documentation and record keeping etc. Ms. Rama organize the daily schedule of appointments and visits of the National Director. She is also assisting the Program Officer and takes minutes of Board meetings. Assisting with documentation & completion of necessary reports as required. Update and maintain mailing lists. She is also part of fact finding

team and prepare reports. She attends the court hearings time to time with the women victims during their trial in the courts especially the cases pursuing by CLAAS. Ms. Rama joined CLAAS as office Assistant in November 2008. Ms. Rama received her B.A in Subject of Psychology (2008) and master's degree in Political Science (2010) from the University of the Punjab.

Mr. Nadeem Anthony Advocate (Research Officer)

As Research Officer, Mr. Nadeem Anthony mainly focus on identify, research. He joined



CLAAS from June 2010 in the capacity of Research Officer. His primary duty is to taking facts from the clients in sensitive cases, pursuing important cases in the courts, fact finding of the incident places, research of the different important issues and Jail visits for captivating facts and many other duties that may assign by the National Director. He is writing fact-finding reports, survey reports and also edits CLAAS annual reports and prepared press releases and research papers for CLAAS.

Mr. Nadeem Anthony received his B.A in Subject of Journalism and masters (2003) degree in Political Science (2005) from the University of the Punjab. He also completed his L.L.B (LAW Graduate) in the session of 2007-2010, from the University of the Punjab. He left the job on December 2012.

Ms. Huma Lucas (Office Assistant)



As Office Assistant, Ms. Huma Lucas is assisting the Program Officer & case reports and maintaining legal files and staff attendance register, check cleanness, maintain office equipment and prepare demands of the grocery of the office as well as to look after the kitchen affairs accordingly. Ms. Huma Lucas joined CLAAS in the capacity of Assistant Field Officer in 2009. She is also a member of CLAAS fact-finding team and prepares fact-finding reports. She attends the court hearings time to time with the women victims during their trial in the courts especially the cases pursuing by CLAAS. Ms. Huma received her B.A in

Subject of Journalism (2011).

Mr. Asher Sarfraz (Field Officer)



Mr. Asher Sarfraz is working with CLAAS since September 1995 and is a senior staff member of CLAAS. As Field Officer he is responsible for the implementation and ongoing maintenance of all office policies and procedures, including schedule of daily operation of CLAAS. He also is assisting the National Director to delegate responsibility to appropriate staff

to ensure that the day-to-day functions and assigned projects are carried out. He personally manages the staff & volunteers who are responsible for the specific tasks, assignments, programs & events etc. He is also handling the legal aid department as well as visiting the jails for meeting with prisoners and up-dates on the court cases. He is on the whole responsible to report the National Director to provide assistance for encouraging the growth and assisting in the evaluation process of the staff. He is also a member of CLAAS fact-finding team.

Mr. Asif Raza (Assistant Field Officer/ Telephone Operator)



Mr. Asif Raza joined CLAAS in 2004. He assist Field Officer in his work and also dealing with the telephone calls and marking Newspapers to sort out news concerning issues and human rights discriminations and reports to the National Director & the Program Officer accordingly. He is also member of CLAAS fact-finding team as well as any other duties that may be assigned. He is also assisting in photocopies and other documentation.

Ms. Rubina Ghazal (In charge Legal Department)



As Field Officer Ms. Rubina Ghazal, liaise with the victims and their effected families and assisting them according to their concerning problems. Ms. Rubina Ghazal joined CLAAS in the capacity of Field Officer in 2008. She is accordingly providing the information, maintains legal files, record keeping and updates to the National Director and the Program Officer. She is conducting one-on-one meetings to gather information and analyze questionnaires. She is identifying an area that requires awareness and further communication or clarification to the National Director. She prepare reports concerning and findings for the National Director and the Program Officer. She is counseling the victims according to their needs and coordinates them for meeting with their legal counsel in the litigations. She is also a member of CLAAS fact-finding team and prepares fact-finding reports. She attends the court hearings time to time with the women victims during their trial in the courts especially the cases pursuing by CLAAS.

Mr. Johnson Sohail (Receptionist)



As Receptionist, Mr. Johnson Sohail have responsibilities to greet persons entering CLAAS and provide the information as they required or direct persons to correct destination. Mr. Johnson Sohail joined CLAAS in the capacity of Receptionist in 2004. He is dealing with the queries from the public, receive letters, mails, documentation and maintain the reception area. He also keeps the record of news clipping of newspapers to sort out news concerning issues and human rights discriminations.

Mrs. Nasreen Sajjid (Kitchen-in-Charge)



Mrs. Nasreen Sajjid joined CLAAS in the capacity of Kitchen-in-charge in July 2011. She knows how to time dishes when they must be completed at once and know how to cook in bulk without generating waste. She is following the health codes pertaining to safety and sanitation of the work area and cooking utensils and how to properly prepare food to avoid food-borne illnesses. She have ability to multitask, especially when cooking several things at once. She prepares food for the staff members and visitors who daily visits CLAAS office.

Mr. Yousaf Khokhar (Janitor)



As Janitor Mr. Yousaf Khokhar is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the office by performing disinfects sinks, countertops, toilets, mirrors, bathrooms, floors, tables, chairs, dusts furniture, floor sweeps, mops, floors using brooms etc. Mr. Yousaf Khokhar joined CLAAS in the capacity of Janitor in 1995. Mr. Yousaf Khokhar is also one of the senior most staff members of CLAAS.

Mr. Atif (Support Staff)



Mr. Atif Khokhar joined CLAAS in the capacity of Support Staff in October 2011. He maintains to serves all food and beverage items according to established procedures. He also maintains knowledge of food items and exercising positive warm hospitality. He is flexible and has excellent guest service & communication

skills. He prepares and delivers orders efficiently and quickly. He is also assisting in photocopies and other documentation.

Mr. John Paul Bernard (Driver)



Mr. John Paul Bernard joined CLAAS in the capacity of driver in June 2011. He maintains the vehicles of CLAAS and also member of CLAAS fact-finding team. As driver he is working in the operation of vehicle to assure safe transportation of staff as well as the clients to and from various destinations. He has ability of automotive maintenance procedures and other mobility devices etc. He is taking care of vehicles, washes and clean interior, takes vehicles garage for maintenance and repair. Additionally, he is performing related duties as required.

Mr. Asif Khan (IT Officer)



Mr. Asif Khan joined CLAAS in the capacity of IT Officer in 2008. He works for install or repair windows, operates and maintains computers and networking software, diagnosing and solving problems that develop in their operations and any other devices following technical plans. He is also responsible for the design, layout and coding of a website. He also involved with the maintenance and update of an existing site. And also perform other related duties as required.

Legal Advisors Employing in the CLAAS Office

1-Mr. Tahir Bashir (Advocate High Court)



Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court joined CLAAS in the capacity of Legal Advisor in 2008. As Legal Advisor CLAAS, Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate High Court is providing professional support and advice to the National Director on different aspects of cases including analysis, creation, reasoning, and evaluation, within legally satisfactory parameters. He as Legal Advisor supported the Legal department with the timely advice on all matters of legal aid assistance. He is assisting CLAAS with proactive legal aid assistance and advice on various legal issues like; Blasphemy, Forced Conversion, Forced Marriages, Abduction & Rape Cases, Family Matters, Murder Case, Miscellaneous Cases, Theft Cases, Habeas Corpus Cases, Dispute & Criminals Cases, Job Matter Cases, Kidnapping Cases, Fraud & Fake Cases, Land Dispute/ Property

Cases, Threat-Harassment and Religious Matters etc. He is ensuring the National Director that the legal documents and other contractual documents are effectively drafted, reviewed, interpreted, and vetted. He is managing external and internal legal resources where required.

2-Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba (Advocate High Court)



Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba Advocate High Court joined CLAAS in the capacity of Legal Advisor in 2008. As Legal Advisor CLAAS, Mr. Nasir Anjum Suba Advocate High Court is providing professional support and advice to the National Director on different aspects of cases including analysis, creation, reasoning, and evaluation, within legally satisfactory parameters. He as Legal Advisor supported the Legal department with the timely advice on all matters of legal aid assistance. He is assisting CLAAS with proactive legal aid assistance and advice on various legal issues like; Blasphemy, Forced Conversion, Forced Marriages, Abduction & Rape Cases, Family Matters, Murder Case, Miscellaneous Cases, Theft Cases, Habeas Corpus Cases, Dispute & Criminals Cases, Job Matter Cases, Kidnapping Cases, Fraud & Fake Cases, Land Dispute/ Property Cases, Threat-Harassment and Religious Matters etc. He is ensuring the National Director that the legal documents and other contractual documents are effectively drafted, reviewed, interpreted, and vetted. He is managing external and internal legal resources where required.

3- Mr. Tanvir Masih (Advocate High Court)



Mr. Tanvir Masih Advocate High Court joined CLAAS in the capacity of Legal Advisor in 2008. As Legal Advisor CLAAS, Mr. Tanvir Masih is providing professional support and advice to the National Director on different aspects of cases including analysis, creation, reasoning, and evaluation, within legally satisfactory parameters. He as Legal Advisor supported the Legal department with the timely advice on all matters of legal aid assistance. He is assisting CLAAS with proactive legal aid assistance and advice on various legal issues like; Blasphemy, Forced Conversion, Forced Marriages, Abduction & Rape Cases, Family Matters, Murder Case, Miscellaneous Cases, Theft Cases, Habeas Corpus Cases, Dispute & Criminals Cases, Job Matter Cases, Kidnapping Cases, Fraud & Fake Cases, Land Dispute/ Property Cases, Threat-Harassment and Religious Matters etc. He is ensuring the National Director that the legal documents and other contractual documents are effectively drafted, reviewed, interpreted, and vetted. He is managing external and internal legal resources where required.

4- Mr. Akhtar Sindhu (Advocate High Court)



Mr. Akhtar Sindhu Advocate High Court joined CLAAS as the capacity of Legal Advisor in January 2004. As Legal Advisor CLAAS, Mr. Akhtar Sindhu is providing professional support and advice to the National Director on different aspects of cases including analysis, creation, reasoning, and evaluation, within legally satisfactory parameters. He as Legal Advisor supported the Legal department with the timely advice on all matters of legal aid assistance. He is assisting CLAAS with proactive legal aid assistance and advice on various legal issues like; Blasphemy, Forced Conversion, Forced Marriages, Abduction & Rape Cases, Family Matters, Murder Case, Miscellaneous Cases, Theft Cases, Habeas Corpus Cases, Dispute & Criminals Cases, Job Matter Cases, Kidnapping Cases, Fraud & Fake Cases, Land Dispute/ Property Cases, Threat-Harassment and Religious Matters etc. He is ensuring the National Director that the legal documents and other contractual documents are effectively drafted, reviewed, interpreted, and vetted. He is managing external and internal legal resources where required.

Court Clerk

Mr. Ayaz Gill (Court Clerk)



As Court Clerk Mr. Ayaz Gill contain duties to help the CLAAS lawyers during courts hearings and examines legal documents submitted to court for adherence to law or court procedures, prepares case folders, and posts, files, or routes documents by the directions of the National Director. Mr. Ayaz Gill joined CLAAS in the capacity of Court Clerk in 2008. He explains procedures or forms to parties in case. Mr. Ayaz Gill is securing information for judges, and contacts witnesses, attorneys, and litigants to obtain information for court, and instructs parties when to appear in court. He records case disposition, court orders, and arrangement for payment of court fees.

Mr. Aqeel Naveed (Court Clerk)



As Court Clerk Mr. Aqeel Naveed, contain duties to help the CLAAS lawyers during courts hearings and examines legal documents submitted to court for adherence to law or court procedures, prepares case folders, and posts, files, or routes documents by the directions of the National Director. Mr. Aqeel joined CLAAS in the capacity of Court Clerk in 2007. He explains procedures or forms to parties in case. Mr. Aqeel is securing information for judges, and contacts witnesses, attorneys, and litigants to obtain information for court, and

instructs parties when to appear in court. He records case disposition, court orders, and arrangement for payment of court fees.

Apna-Ghar Staff

Ms. Maria Basharat (In-Charge “Apna Ghar”)



Ms. Maria joined CLAAS in the capacity of In-charge Rehabilitation Centre Apna Ghar in April 2010. She is responsible for assisting Women victims who may walk in to the Rehabilitation Centre Apna Ghar seek assistance in dealing with a wide variety of presenting problems, including domestic violence, grief, child abuse, forced marriages, forced conversion, expression, anxiety, eating disorders and various other problems and difficulties faced by the victim etc. She is providing face-to-face crisis intervention counseling and referrals to other resources and services after with the consultation of the National Director and the Program Officer. CLAAS providing its services at Apna Ghar without discriminate based upon age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability etc. Ms. Maria notifies the communications addressed for the residents at Apna Ghar by the National Director and the Program Officer.

Mr. Basharat (Watchman “Apna Ghar”)



Mr. Basharat joined CLAAS in the capacity of Watchman in 2000 and is also a permanent resident at Rehabilitation Centre Apna Ghar for the purpose to check out the security concerns. He has ability to perform tasks simultaneously and ability to perform occasional overtime with some holiday and weekend work required. He contains duties to look after the overall operational works such as repair, maintenance etc as directed by the National Director. He is in charge for record keeping and supervising vehicle (motor car) running etc. His work is generally performed indoors although occasionally outdoors work of a general nature may occur and reports to the National Director and the Program Officer.

Mr. Liaqat Bhatti (Tailor Master “Apna Ghar”)



Mr. Liaqat Bhatti joined CLAAS in the capacity of Tailor Master Stitching Centre of Rehabilitation Centre Apna Ghar in May 2010. His primary duty is to teach the victims (women & girls) residing at Apna Ghar and reports to the National Director and the Program Officer according to their needs. He is handling

embroideries, stitching, cutting, knitting and sampling of different concept of garments such as the traditional cloths etc.

Legal Advisors CLAAS

The CLAAS office case to case appointing the following Legal Advisors from Lahore and outstation for different cases dealt by CLAAS:

- 1- Mr. Chaudhary Muhammad Amin Javaid Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, Lahore
- 2- Mr. Ch. Naeem Shakir Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, Lahore
- 3- Mr. Malik Asif Tauffique Awam Advocate High Court, Rawalpindi Division
- 4- Mr. Saleem Gill Advocate High Court, Bahawalpur
- 5- Mr. Malik Zaman Haider Advocate High Court, Shahdra-Lahore
- 6- Mr. Mohammad Idress Advocate High Court, Khanewal
- 7- Mr. Rana Farman Ali Sabir Advocate High Court, Mian Channu Khanewal
- 8- Mr. Shan Elahi Umair Advocate High Court, Mian Channu
- 9- Mr. Ilyas Javed Advocate High Court, Faisalabad
- 10- Ms. Noor Naz Agha Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, Karachi
- 11- Mr. Chaudhary Aslam Advocate High Court, Sheikhpura
- 12- Mr. Sheikh Sarfraz Advocate High Court, Sheikhpura
- 13- Mr. Javeed Sahotra Advocate High Court, Sahiwal
- 14- Mr. Faisal Ilyas Advocate, Faisalabad
- 15- Mr. Kamran Yousaf Advocate, Gujranwala