Persecution 26 November 2026 | English article

Latest: Shagufta Kiran Still on Death Row in Pakistan

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Pure Discussions"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Shagufta Kiran, a 40-year-old former nurse and mother of four, is still on death row in Pakistan more than two years after a court sentenced her to die for allegedly forwarding a message in a WhatsApp group. A new report published on 22 November 2026 says she remains in solitary confinement in Rawalpindi's Central Adyala Prison, separated from her children for more than five years. Her husband says she never wrote the message and never even read it before she passed it on.

Think about what that means in ordinary human terms. A mother taps "forward" on her phone one day, and her life splits in two.

On one side is the home in Islamabad where she raised four children. On the other is a small cell, a death sentence, and children who have grown up without her while the family hides.

Kiran was arrested on 29 July 2021. The accusation came from Shiraz Ahmad Farooqi, the administrator of an interfaith WhatsApp group called "Pure Discussions", who said she had shared blasphemous content in the group.

Armed officers from the Federal Investigation Agency's Cybercrime Wing raided the family home in Islamabad and took her away - along with her two youngest sons, who were then aged 10 and 12. She was interrogated for four days.

On 18 September 2024, an FIA court in Islamabad convicted her under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code, the country's blasphemy law, and sentenced her to death. The sentence also carried seven years' imprisonment and a fine of Rs 300,000, as reported in the recent coverage.

The verdict itself is not new. What is new is the report that she is still there, still alone in her cell, still waiting while her family lives in fear.

Her husband, Rafique Masih, has never wavered in his account. He says his wife did not write the post, did not understand what it said, and forwarded it without reading it.

"She was not the author of the post, nor did she understand its content. She forwarded it without reading, unaware of the consequences."

That one sentence is the whole case in miniature. A forwarded message, unread, has cost a woman five years of her children's lives - and may yet cost her own life.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

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