



Dear friends and colleagues

**Our colleague is in grave danger and urgently needs to be relocated outside**

**Pakistan!** As you may know, the High Court of Lahore yesterday granted the appeal against the conviction of Shafqat Emmanuel and Shagufta Kausar, who were found guilty of blasphemy and sentenced to death in April

2014: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shafqat\\_Emmanuel\\_and\\_Shagufta\\_Kausar\\_blasphemy\\_case](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shafqat_Emmanuel_and_Shagufta_Kausar_blasphemy_case) Saif-ul-Malook represented this young couple and won their acquittal, which resulted in an outpouring of media reports and tweets. Just to give you an example of some of the media reports: <https://twitter.com/StuartR92034479/status/1400425568697565189?s=20>  
<https://twitter.com/StuartR92034479/status/1400655081259819010?s=20> For background about their case please

see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shafqat\\_Emmanuel\\_and\\_Shagufta\\_Kausar\\_blasphemy\\_case](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shafqat_Emmanuel_and_Shagufta_Kausar_blasphemy_case)

As you may recall, Saif-ul-Malook also represented the very high-level case of Asia Bibi, whose acquittal he also secured three years ago: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia\\_Bibi\\_blasphemy\\_case](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia_Bibi_blasphemy_case) However, due to the credible death threats against him he was forced to leave Pakistan and temporarily relocate to The Netherlands with the assistance of a Dutch NGO. He then returned to Pakistan in order to plead her final and successful appeal. But since his life continues to be in danger, requiring police protection. Our Monitoring Committee on Attacks on Lawyers has closely monitored his case, in particular through our multilingual blog about attacks on lawyers around the world: <https://defendlawyers.wordpress.com/tag/pakistan/>

I woke up today to a most alarming and frightening tweet from Saif-ul-Malook: <https://twitter.com/Saifulm32731039/status/1400542029130702848?s=20> This is clearly an urgent plea for help to leave Pakistan permanently. The Paris Bar through the Observatoire international des avocats en danger (OIAD) now has a special programme to temporarily relocate endangered lawyers to France, but since he specifically requests relocation to an English-speaking country that would not be available. **Would your law society or Bar association be ready and willing to urgently intervene to save his life?** I am taking the liberty of copying this email to Saif-ul-Malook, so if you are, you can and

should immediately communicate with him by email: [saif-ul-malook@live.com](mailto:saif-ul-malook@live.com) Despite his police protection the security situation in Pakistan is deplorable, the religious extremists are ever present and able to kill those charged with blasphemy, their lawyers or the judges involved. Our Monitoring Committee on Attacks on Lawyers has very limited resources, and is not in a position to be able to intervene for his permanent relocation.

By way of further background about Saif-ul-Malook, in May 2020 I nominated him for the Edelstam human rights prize. Unfortunately he was not granted the award, but the following excerpts from my nomination will give you more information about this extraordinarily courageous lawyer:

"" Born on 11/7/1956 to an agricultural family in Lahore, I was awarded a law Degree from Punjab University law college, University of Punjab from Pakistan in 1979. After practical training and court appearances through a law firm, I got a licence to practice in 1984 and since then I am practicing. I was appointed the special prosecutor by the Government of Pakistan to prosecute Mumtaz Qadri, the assassin who killed the then Governor of the largest province of Pakistan namely Punjab as none in the country was forthcoming for this prosecution because of threats from fundamentalist Muslims who were portraying the murderer as a Muslims Hero. The motive for murder was that the Governor was supporting Asia Bibi. Thereafter, I took the Asia Bibi case as a challenge to human rights as the whole world was supporting her. I won acquittal for her and she is now leading a peaceful life in Canada. Nowadays, I am conducting an appeal before the Lahore High Court of a second Christian woman on death row for blasphemy charges namely Shaghuftha along with her husband Shafqat. I am also doing some other blasphemy trials inspite of death threats and living under state provided police security. At the time of Asia Bibis acquittal, I was forced to leave Pakistan and was awarded Asylum by the Netherlands. But when the Asia Bibi review petition was fixed before Supreme Court of Pakistan, I came back to defend her again surrendering the Asylum status offered to me by the Dutch Government. In 2020, on the International Day of endangered lawyers which was focused on Pakistan, I toured Rome, Paris, London, Amsterdam, and Den Haag as I was invited by those bar Associations and foundations of endangered lawyers. During this visit, the Paris Bar association conferred upon me an honorary membership of the Paris bar, making me the first ever Pakistani to have this honour bestowed upon me. "

Our Monitoring Committee on Attacks on Lawyers has closely monitored Pakistan over the past six years, especially for our blog about attacks against lawyers around the world: <https://defendlawyers.wordpress.com/tag/pakistan/> We have documented cases where Pakistani lawyers have been killed, physically attacked or have received credible death threats, in particular, because of defending individuals charged with blasphemy. Once convicted of blasphemy in Pakistan a death sentence is mandatory. As a result, for quite some time there are few Pakistani lawyers who have the courage and the determination to take on such cases. Based on this information, the additional information presented in the last section of this nomination and the experiences of Mr Malook, I am convinced that over the past few years, now and in the future he faced, faces and will face a serious risk of death or serious physical harm because of his defence of human rights in Pakistan and his actions as a lawyer defending blasphemy cases. Accordingly, in my view he falls within the parameters of the by-laws of the Foundation as a most suitable nominee to receive the Edelstam Prize.

**Professional background, experiences and other interesting activities:**

Again, quoting from his CV:

"Graduated with a law degree from the University Law College, Punjab University in 1979. Operating a privately owned law firm Saif-ul-Malook Law Associates since 1984. • Have been practicing civil, criminal law and human rights law since 36 years. • Have conducted two most controversial blasphemy cases in the history of Pakistan. Currently, the leading specialist in blasphemy law in Pakistan. • I was the prosecutor in the famous blasphemy case of Salman Taseer, the Governor of Punjab. • I was the defence council in the internationally famous blasphemy case of Asia Bibi v The State and successfully got her acquitted her despite receiving death threats after a lengthy and life threatening court battle. • Currently the defence council for the blasphemy case of Christian couple Shafqat Emmanuel and Shagufta Kausar, a couple also convicted under sections 295B and 295C of the Pakistan Penal Code, a case which is currently under appeal in the High Court Lahore."

"Elected as Vice President of the Lahore High Court Bar Association in 2000. Legal Adviser for Capital Development Authority Islamabad (CDA). Honorary Member of the Paris Bar Association. Recipient of the Irwin Prize 2019 for efforts and campaigning for human Rights in Pakistan"

[...]

I first heard about the case of Mr Malook as the co-chair of the Monitoring Committee on Attacks on Lawyers, International Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL), in November 2018, and we have closely monitored his case since, especially since we have been very concerned about his safety, given the repeated death threats made against him, as well as the very dangerous and volatile nature of Pakistan, a country where many lawyers have been killed, physically assaulted or otherwise attacked."

Thank you so much. **Please act now to save Saif-ul-Malook!**

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International Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL)

Blog: <https://defendlawyers.wordpress.com/>

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