



ONE FREE WORLD INTERNATIONAL

20 Bloor Street East, Box 75129, Toronto, Ontario M4W 3T3 Canada | OFWI.org

January 15, 2024

Hon. Marc Miller, PC, MP
Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Email: minister@cic.gc.ca

Re: Supporting Raza Muhammad's Family To Make An Asylum Claim in Canada

Dear Minister,

I am writing to request your urgent intervention on an extraordinary humanitarian case One Free World International (OFWI) is working on.

A family of Pakistani nationals' lives are in immediate danger. They have been forced into hiding in an unsafe third country and are being hunted by radical Islamic extremists who have vowed to behead members of this family.

Their only "crime"? A member of the family, Raza Muhammad, converted to Christianity.

Our ask is simple: please grant Raza Muhammad's family temporary residence permits so the family can fly to Canada and make an asylum claim, which we are confident the Immigration and Refugee Board will recognize their claims and confirm them permanent residence in Canada as refugees.

Upon arriving in Canada, OFWI and a caring community are ready to support them in resettling to start a life in Canada. The family needing to be resettled are Mr. Muhammad's two brothers and their wives, their four children, Raza's senior citizen parents, and Raza's first son.

Please allow us to detail why the risk to their life is so great and the need so urgent.

Overview of One Free World International's Work

First, some background on our organization. OFWI is a Toronto-based non-profit organization dedicated to helping persecuted religious minorities around the world and advancing human rights. 2024 marks our 18th year advancing human rights.

We have successfully help resettle and integrated refugees in Canada fleeing persecution from around the world, including Yazidis from Northern Iraq who were facing a genocide by ISIS,

Ukrainians following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and other persecuted minorities from Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Our work ranges from conducting daring rescue missions, building bridges between communities, advocating for persecuted minorities to governments around the world, and raising awareness about those who are persecuted for their beliefs through media, events, and online, as well as supporting these populations with aid and direct action where we can.

It is with this experience working on the frontlines of conflicts and in troubled areas of the world where the absence of human rights is the norm, that we make this rare and extraordinary request.

The Muhammad Family's Plight

For the Muhammad family, time is running out to keep them alive.

For years, Raza and his family have faced escalating violent attacks and death threats to their lives in their native Pakistan.

When Pakistani authorities and Islamic extremists discovered that Raza had been attending an underground church, a barbaric mob broke both of his arms and legs, several ribs, and nearly killed him. Adding to the cruelty, extremists forced his ex-wife to marry his older brother.

Last year in 2023 Raza's brothers, Ajmal and Qamar, were attacked by another violent mob, and Raza's father was brutally beaten by extremists. He is still suffering memory loss to this day.

Months later, Qamar was shot and Ajmal was stabbed (Appendix B). They nearly died in hospital.

When the violence and attempted murders were reported to police, they refused to help.

With the country's deteriorating political climate, Islamist political parties have ramped up their efforts to target those with which they believe to have committed blasphemy, and have resorted to mob attacks, blackmail, and coercion to pressure government officials to meet their demands.

Succumbing to their will, police subsequently decided to charge Raza with blasphemy under sections "295(A), 295(B), 295(C) and 298(A)", which criminalizes those who insult or disrespect Prophet Muhammad, the Holy Quran, and Islam. These accusations are categorically false.

Blasphemy is considered the highest crime in Pakistan — worse than murder.

Mufti Abdul Rashid Qadri of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan, a far-right Islamic extremist political party, issued a fatwa (a formal ruling or interpretation on a point of Islamic law given by an Muslim legal expert) in 2022 against the Muhammad family that calls for each of them to be

beheaded for maintaining a relationship with Raza following his conversion to Christianity (Appendix B).

Since 2010, four fatwas have been issued against them. They do not expire.

To make the family's plight even worse, Raza and his family can no longer find legal representation, as lawyers in Pakistan view the work too great a risk to their own lives.

Urgent Need For Your Support

Minister, we implore you to take these threats seriously before it's too late. It is with deep pain and regret that we inform you that, for Mr. Muhammad's sister, it was too late. Following her own conversion to Christianity in 2021, she was poisoned and murdered by these violent extremists.

It's only a matter of time before the rest of the Muhammad family meets a similar fate at the hands of these barbaric extremists, unless we **take action now**.

Please find enclosed (Appendix A) a petition with over 3,000 signatures and counting from concerned citizens from Canada and around the world who are urging you to exercise your Ministerial powers to grant the Muhammad family asylum in Canada.

We humbly and urgently ask for you to please heed our calls and end this family's nightmare and grant them the gift of safety and security that they so desperately need.

I would be happy to meet with you via Zoom, or with you and your staff in Ottawa or Toronto to answer any questions you may have, as well as collaborate on whatever remedy to this dire situation you are able to assist with.

Thank you for this consideration and God bless.

Sincerely,



Majed El Shafie
President and Founder
One Free World International

Appendix A: PETITION TO THE HON. MARC MILLER, CANADA'S MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES, AND CITIZENSHIP

cc: Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, PC, MP
Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs

APPENDIX A: PETITION TO THE HON. MARC MILLER, CANADA'S MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES, AND CITIZENSHIP

Minister, the following is the text of an ofwi.org petition that has received 3052 signatures from people in Canada, Germany and the United States.

<https://ofwi.org/petition-rescue-razas-family>

PETITION TO THE HON. MARC MILLER, CANADA'S MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION,
REFUGEES, AND CITIZENSHIP

Where as, the Muhammad family has faced persecution in Pakistan for Raza Muhammad's conversion to Christianity. Raza Muhammad and his family are at risk of violence and their lives are threatened due to the country's draconian blasphemy laws which are routinely used to target religious minorities.

Where as, without refuge and resettlement for the Muhammad family, their lives will owe their fate to the mob of extremists out who are spreading false allegations of blasphemy and are calling for them all to be beheaded.

Where as, the Muhammad family are a target for Pakistani agents and Islamic extremists in Pakistan and other countries in the nearby region, and Canada has the protections to ensure they can live in safety and security.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED CALL UPON THE MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES, AND
CITIZENSHIP TO EXERCISE THEIR MINISTERIAL POWER TO GRANT THE MUHAMMAD
FAMILY ASYLUM IN CANADA.

APPENDIX B: PHOTOS OF THE MUHAMMAD FAMILY'S INJURIES FOLLOWING EXTREMIST MOB ATTACKS



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Amjal with stab wounds to the face, Raza's father who was beaten on the head, and Qamar who suffered a gunshot wound around his left hip.

APPENDIX C: FATWA ISSUED BY MUFTI ABDUL RASHID QADRI OF TEHREEK-E-LABBAIK PAKISTAN

English translation to follow

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

تحریک لبائے پاکستان

فتویٰ

محمد رفنا ولد محمد اسلم نوم گبر ساکس گاڑن اینیاں سبیل صلح نبوت
جو کہ دین حق کی سبھی تعلیم سے منحرف ہو گیا اور اسلام
کو چھوڑ کر مرتد بن گیا تھا اس آئی با بت اس
کے خاندان کو منع کیا گیا تھا کہ جو شخص مرتد ہو جاتے
تو قرآن مجید حکم دینا ہے کہ اس کے رشتہ دار ماں
باپ بہن سبھی اس سے میں قسیم کا تعلق واسطہ نہیں رکھے
گئے اور مرتد کی سزا صرف اور صرف سزائے موت سے خیر ہے
لہذا میرا یہ فیصلہ قرآن مجید، رسول اللہ صلو علیہ وآلہ وسلم کی
سنت کی تعلیمات و حکامات کے عین مطابق ہے کہ
جس طرح اس کے خاندان کو پہلے بھی سخت مرتد بازرگنوع
کیا گیا تھا کہ مرتد و مناس سے کسی قسیم کا رشتہ نہیں رکھنا سبیل
اس کے باوجود وہ منع نہیں ہوتے اب جو سزا مرتد کی
ہے وہی سزا مرتد کے خاندان اور اس کے سبھیوں
کا عمل و مناسی قمریونا ہے عامر و مناسی ہے
سزائے موت سے جدا سزائے موت سے جدا

01-6-22

مفتی عبدالرشید قادری

Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan

Islamic Verdict (Fatwa)

Muhammad Raza son of Muhammad Aslam, caste Gujjar, resident of Village Banian, Tehsil and District Gujrat, who left the true and divine teachings of Islam and became deviant and he left Islam and became apostate. His family was asked to leave him as the person, who leave Islam and became apostate, then the Holy Quran gives order that his relatives, father, mother, brothers and sisters will not have any kind of relationship with him. The apostate has only one punishment, which is separate his head from his body. Therefore, my own decision is according to the Holy Quran, teachings and orders of the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him). His family was told repeatedly to restrict from any relationship with apostate Raza but they did not stop. Now the punishment is for the apostate, his family and his brothers, 1) Ajmal Raza, 2) Qamar Raza and 3) Amer Raza will also face such punishment.

Separate head from body, Separate head from body,

[Signed]

Mufti Abdul Rashid Qadri

01-06-2022