



ASIA BIBI HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR BLASPHEMY

Asia Bibi is a 45-year-old Christian woman in Pakistan who was sentenced to death for blasphemy against Islam's prophet Mohammed. She is the first woman ever to receive the death sentence for blasphemy in Pakistan.

Asia was arrested in June 2009 after an incident involving Muslim women who refused to drink from the same water bowl as Asia Bibi, a Christian. When Asia challenged them about this, the women accused her of making derogatory comments against Mohammed and she was arrested. Her trial lasted 16 months and in November 2010 the judge handed down to Asia the maximum sentence of death for the crime of blasphemy against Islam.

"It does not matter to me whether I am sentenced or whether the judge will set me free," Asia said. "I know that I am innocent and most of all I know that the Lord is with me. They persecuted Jesus also and the Bible says that they will persecute us as well."


Asia Bibi is still behind bars waiting for her appeal to be heard. Her health is deteriorating after months in isolation in prison and her life is in constant danger as Muslims across Pakistan call for her execution.

Asia's husband and two daughters are desperate for the appeal to be heard. They visit her every week.

"My mother is innocent," Asia's youngest daughter said. "She is weak and can barely speak. I can't control my tears when I see her. We have faced hardships because my mother stood firm for her faith."

Asia's eldest daughter said, "We spend every single day in fear. Although the delay is making me lose hope, I pray every time and feel that God will bring her back one day."

Your prayers are vital and your letters of encouragement speak loudly to the authorities in Pakistan that Asia Bibi is not alone and will not be forgotten!



Use this space for anything else you want to share with Asia - your favourite Bible verse, a sketch or drawing, or even for more writing space! ➔