PETITION CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN TO RELEASE SHAGUFTA KAUSAR AND SHAFQAT EMMANUEL

September 1, 2019

Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
3517 International Court NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan,

It is with great urgency that we the undersigned ask your government to release Shagufta Kausar and Shafqat Emmanuel, who are currently held in two different prisons in Pakistan. The married couple was falsely accused and charged with “insulting the Qur’an” in June of 2014. The Muslim cleric Muhammad Hussain received a blasphemous text message from a phone allegedly registered under Mr. Shagufta Kausar’s name. The police arrested Shagufta, tortured him, and threatened to torture his family if he did not confess.

Shagufta said that the cleric and his friend colluded together to steal Shagufta’s national identity card and used it to purchase the phone and send the text messages to implicate him and his wife. This was an act of revenge in response to a quarrel that broke out between their children months prior. The accusations are even more appalling due to the fact that Shagufta and Shafqat are illiterate. The couple cannot write in Urdu, let alone English, and the fact that the text messages were written in English makes the accusations even more preposterous.

Moreover, Shagufta suffered a major injury in 2004, which paralyzed him from the waist down and requires medical attention. He has spent several months in the hospital due to extremely painful bedsores all over his body.

We, therefore, demand that your government unconditionally release Shagufta Kausar and Shafqat Emmanuel from prison and declare their charges null and void.

We eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,

International Christian Concern and the undersigned

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www.persecution.org/idop/petition