

Pakistan's controversial blasphemy law

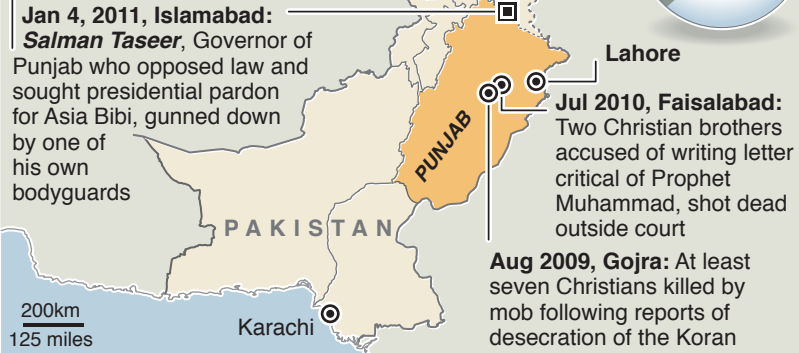


Nov 2010: *Asia Bibi*, Christian woman sentenced to death for insulting Prophet Muhammad



Jan 4, 2011, Islamabad:

Salman Taseer, Governor of Punjab who opposed law and sought presidential pardon for Asia Bibi, gunned down by one of his own bodyguards



Lahore

Jul 2010, Faisalabad:

Two Christian brothers accused of writing letter critical of Prophet Muhammad, shot dead outside court

Aug 2009, Gojra: At least seven Christians killed by mob following reports of desecration of the Koran

BLASPHEMY LAW

■ Under law, anyone who speaks ill of Islam and Prophet Muhammad commits crime and faces death penalty. **But activists say vague terminology has led to its misuse**

■ Most convictions are thrown out on appeal, but angry mobs have killed many people accused of blasphemy

■ Minorities, especially Christians, say convictions hinge primarily on witness testimony, often linked to personal vendettas

■ Under pressure from religious conservatives, ruling Pakistan People's Party has backed away from scrapping law altogether