



## 5.8. Death penalty

Under the PPC, the death penalty may be imposed for murder,[1163](#) referred to as *qatl-i-amd*, (sections 302(a) and (b))[1164](#) and blasphemy (section 295C).[1165](#) The death penalty is further specified for certain acts, including ‘the offence of kidnapping for ransom or hostage-taking’, falling under the purview of the ATA.[1166](#) For details on blasphemy provisions and ATA provisions stipulating the death penalty, see sections [5.4. Blasphemy law](#) and [5.5. Anti-Terrorism Acts](#) above, respectively. There were continued reports of courts imposing new death sentences,[1167](#) including on blasphemy charges,[1168](#) with varying estimates of their overall number.[1169](#) In 2025, HRCP reported a significant increase in death sentences, with at least 225 issued, mainly by lower courts, compared to 174 in 2024; at least 15 of these related to blasphemy charges.[1170](#)

The Justice Project Pakistan (JPP) recorded 3 204 death row prisoners in the country’s prisons as of October 2025. However, a *de facto moratorium* on the implementation of the death penalty has been in place since 2019,[1171](#) with no executions reported in 2024[1172](#) and no such reports found during the remainder of the reference period.

- [1163](#)

LG, Types Of Punishments Under Pakistani Law, 3 October 2025, [url](#)

- [1164](#)

Pakistan, Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) (as amended up to 2025), 1860, [url](#), sections 302(a) and (b)

- [1165](#)

Pakistan, Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) (as amended up to 2025), 1860, [url](#), section 295C

- [1166](#)

Pakistan, Anti-Terrorism Act (as amended up to 2025), 1997, [url](#), section 7(a), (e)

- [1167](#)

See, for example, News International (The), Man sentenced to death in double murder case, 25 March 2026, [url](#); Hands Off Cain, Pakistan: Two Brothers Sentenced to Double Death Penalty, 17 March 2026, [url](#); Shahid, K.K., Is Pakistan Ready to Reform Its Lethal Blasphemy Laws?, The Diplomat, 24 January 2026, [url](#); AP, Pakistani court sentences 4

people to death for blasphemy, 15 January 2025, [url](#)

- [1168](#)

Shahid, K.K., Is Pakistan Ready to Reform Its Lethal Blasphemy Laws?, The Diplomat, 24 January 2026, [url](#); AP, Pakistani court sentences 4 people to death for blasphemy, 15 January 2025, [url](#)

- [1169](#)

Amnesty International, Death Sentences and Executions 2024, 8 April 2025, [url](#), pp. 21, 23; HRC, State of Human Rights in 2024, 2025, [url](#), p. 12

- [1170](#)

HRC, State of Human Rights in 2025, 4 May 2026, [url](#), p 12

- [1171](#)

NCHR and JPP, The Death Penalty in Pakistan 2025, 10 October 2025, [url](#), pp. 18-19

- [1172](#)

Amnesty International, Death Sentences and Executions 2024, 8 April 2025, [url](#), p. 21; HRC, State of Human Rights in 2024, 2025, [url](#), p. 12