

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 20241172 and no such reports found during the remainder of the reference period.

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  LG, Types Of Punishments Under Pakistani Law, 3 October 2025, url

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

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

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

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  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

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  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

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  Amnesty International, Death Sentences and Executions 2024, 8 April 2025, url, pp. 21, 23; HRCP, State of Human Rights in 2024, 2025, url, p. 12

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  HRCP, State of Human Rights in 2025, 4 May 2026, url, p 12

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  NCHR and JPP, The Death Penalty in Pakistan 2025, 10 October 2025, url, pp. 18-19

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  Amnesty International, Death Sentences and Executions 2024, 8 April 2025, url, p. 21; HRCP, State of Human Rights in 2024, 2025, url, p. 12

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