

KAMARIS Philippe

From: Europarl President Press

Sent: 19 November 2010 18:14

To: Europarl President Press

Subject: Buzek on the death sentencing of Asia Bibi: "I hope that the Pakistani government takes up this opportunity to repeal the law on blasphemy"



"I am following closely the case of Asia Bibi in Pakistan and I am both confident and hopeful that the Lahore High Court will accept her appeal."

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Brussels, 19 November 2010

Buzek on the death sentencing of Asia Bibi in Pakistan

Commenting on the case of Asia Bibi, sentenced to death penalty for blasphemy in Pakistan, the President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek stated:

"I am following closely the case of Asia Bibi in Pakistan and I am both confident and hopeful that the Lahore High Court will accept her appeal.

I also hope that the Pakistani government takes up this opportunity to repeal the law on blasphemy which I consider as an abomination, a relic of the past.

This law does not help building mutual understanding and peaceful relations between the ethnic and religious groups in the country. Pakistan needs unity and reconciliation. The law on blasphemy only serves the extremists.

The European Parliament strongly opposes the death penalty in all circumstances. We condemn all executions wherever they take place. We call on all nations to enforce the implementation of the UN resolution on a universal moratorium on executions; the Pakistani case is no exception.

Whether we look at redress, deterrence or punishment, there is no ground for the justification of capital punishment. The European Union considers that the death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhumane and degrading punishment."

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