

Asia Bibi family being hunted 'house to house' in Pakistan

The family of Asia Bibi, the Christian woman who spent eight years on death row in Pakistan for blasphemy before being acquitted three weeks ago, claim they are being hunted by extremists going house to house with their photographs to try to track them down.

John Pontifex, of Aid to the Church in Need UK (ACN), which has campaigned on Bibi's behalf since she was convicted and sentenced to death in 2010, said he had been in almost daily contact with her family over the past three weeks and they were very frightened.

"They have told me that mullahs had been reported in their neighbourhood going from house to house showing photos of family members on their phones, trying to hunt them down," he told the [Sky News](#) protests of some sort could be a possibility. One man said: "There are people who may support her coming but there's a risk if she comes here it could cause protests. It could be 50-50. There are some people who might not say anything and there are some people who think this is not right. There is some risk of demonstrations if she comes here."

The Muslim Council of Britain said in a tweet: "There are unfounded media reports that Pakistani national Asia Bibi is being denied asylum into the UK because of concerns from British Muslims. We find such insinuations to be as nonsensical as they are divisive. We see no reason why Asia Bibi should be denied asylum into the UK."