

## **May 2009**

- a Blasphemy provision added to the Irish Defamation Bill at committee stage

## **October 2009**

- Pakistan proposes the wording of the Irish blasphemy legislation at the UN
- the proposal was made on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

## **January 2010**

- the Defamation Act 2009 becomes law on **1st January**, including blasphemy clause
- Atheist Ireland publishes 25 blasphemous statements on the same day

## **February 2010**

- Qamar David is sentenced to life in jail for Blasphemy by a court in Pakistan
- he subsequently died in jail under suspicious circumstances in March of 2011

## **July 2010**

- Rashid and Sajid Emmanuel are arrested for blasphemy in Pakistan
- they were shot and killed while being escorted from court by police

## **November 2010**

- Asia Bibi is sentenced to death for blasphemy by a court in Pakistan
- she remains in prison today, pending appeal against her execution

## **January 2011**

- Salmaan Taseer (Governor of Punjab) is assassinated for opposing Blasphemy laws
- the assassin (his bodyguard) is showered with rose petals by supporters at his trial

## **March 2011**

- Shahbaz Bhatti is assassinated for opposing blasphemy laws by Tehrik-i-Taliban
- he was an elected member of the Pakistan National Assembly

## **August 2012**

- Rimsha Masih is arrested on blasphemy charges by Pakistani police
- she was eventually accepted by Canada on humanitarian and compassionate grounds

## **January 2014**

- Muhammad Ashgar is convicted of blasphemy and sentenced to death in Pakistan
- his murder while in prison was instigated by the assassin who killed Salmaan Taseer

## **October 2015**

- the Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research reports on blasphemy cases
- in 2014 alone, there were more than 1,400 blasphemy cases processed in Pakistan

## **May 2017**

- Gardaí launch blasphemy probe into Stephen Fry comments on RTÉ television

## **1st January 2018**

- our blasphemy law has been in effect in Ireland for seven years on this day
- for this time, Ireland has been cited as best practice in blasphemy, by Pakistan