Foto: Kirche in Not

Pakistan - Freedom for Maira Shahbaz

The Christian girl, Maira Shahbaz, 13 years old, was kidnapped on April 28, 2020 at gunpoint on the street by the 44-year-old Muslim, Mohamad Nakash, forcibly converted to Islam under threats, forcibly "married" to the perpetrator and brutally raped by him. According to various sources, this is what happens to 100 to 1000 Christian girls and women per year in Pakistan.

The Supreme Court in Lahore, capital of the Pakistani Punjab province, decided on August 4, 2020 that the now 14-year-old girl must remain with her rapist, as her alleged "husband", and justified it with the fact that the girl converted to Islam, whereby the parents lost their rights, although the parents proved their daughter to be a minor by submitting a birth certificate, and the perpetrator's acts of violence had been reported to the court.

We, the undersigned, protest against kidnapping, forced Islamization, forced "marriage" and are especially opposed to the raping of Christian and other non-Muslim girls. We particularly oppose the decision of the courts to award these girls to their tormentors or citing Islamic law prohibiting their return to their parents. Conversely, Muslims would not accept the same treatment! The law of Pakistan, restricting child marriage (Child Marriage Restraint Act), existing since 2014, must be applied without exception, guaranteeing government permission to allow all abducted girls to return to their parents and to their faith, and punishing those who are committed to promoting child marriages and consequent sexual violence against minors, regardless of class and role in society.

We, the undersigned, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations, demand the Pakistani government to respect the rights of non-Muslim girls and women for their protection against sexual violence and to also recognize for non-Muslim parents the unrestricted right of custody and residence of their underage children. To this end, we demand the lifting of all judgments against the underage Christian, Maira Shahbaz, and her return to her parents, the right to leave the country for the whole family and the punishment of her kidnapper and rapist, as well as everyone who has sexually assaulted the underage Maira.

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Please send (also incomplete) to: International Society for Human Rights (ISHR), Edisonstraße 5, D-60388 Frankfurt am Main, Tel.: 069-420108-0, Fax: 069-420108-33, eMail: info@igfm.de, Internet: www.igfm.de