

Pakistani Christian girl raped by Muslim robbers selflessly saves younger sister from assault

12 January 2021

A 16-year-old Pakistani Christian girl, brutally raped by a gang of Muslim robbers because of her faith, acted selflessly to save her younger sister from sexual attack.

“Don’t do anything to my sister, whatever you do, do to me,” the older sister told the men as the two girls were led away. The younger child, aged 14, was physically unhurt but is extremely distressed. Her older sister is shocked and traumatised.



Pakistani Christian women praying. Christians are asked to pray for healing for the traumatised sisters and their family

The attack happened after three robbers held up a rickshaw in which the girls were travelling with their father and three other

family members at night on 28 December in the district of Sheikhupura, in Punjab.

Police later arrested the men who confessed they had been robbing people on the same Sheikhupura road for five years but claimed to have “never done anything bad before”. According to a Barnabas contact, the men added, “We only raped because they were Christian.”

A local pastor, who has been visiting and praying with the family several times a day, said, “We cannot forget what happened, but we are trusting in the Lord to heal. Because the family are Christians it is very difficult to get justice.”

Christians, about 3% of the population in Pakistan, are despised and discriminated against by the Muslim-majority. Christian women and girls are especially vulnerable to abuse. It is estimated that, each year, 700 Christian women and girls are kidnapped, raped, forcibly converted and married to Muslims, but the authorities rarely intervene.

From Barnabas Fund contacts