

Paris, February 1, 2019

Asia Bibi soon in Canada, her lawyer Saif ul Malook, who obtained her acquittal in October, is now himself in danger and threatened with death. and asks for the protection of Europe through his lawyer François Zimeray.

Asia Bibi should be soon in Canada with her family. This will be the end of a nine-years nightmare. The young Pakistani owes her release in the first place to the talent and courage of her lawyer, Saif ul Malook, who agreed to bring her case before the Court of appeal and obtained her acquittal.

This commitment has been a source of threats with death against Saif ul Malook and forced him to flee from his country.

**According to François Zimeray, Saif ul Malook's lawyer,** Asia Bibi's lawyer,

*« Without Saif ul Malook, Asia Bibi would still be jailed and condemned with death penalty. To save his client's life, he has risked his own with full knowledge of the facts. He deserves the highest protection. There is no more essential action than defending human rights defenders.*

**With the support of NGO's Lawyers Without Borders, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient, Mr. François Zimeray calls upon all European heads of State to formally grant the protection and statute to Saif ul Malook which courage and heroism demand for him to reside and work freely in Europe.**

**Mr. Saif ul Malook, Asia Bibi's lawyer:** Saif is a well-known lawyer for 30 years. He had a great experience in Lahore, Pakistan, where he lived with his math teacher wife and 12-year-old daughter. On the day of the verdict, he went to Islamabad to hear the court acquit his client. When he left the audience, he was taken care of by the security teams who took him to a safe place. Having a Schengen visa issued by Italy, he was discreetly taken on a plane to Rome and then to The Hague where he was supported by friends and the association SOS Christians of the Orient (HVC). He left Pakistan without taking anything other than the clothes he wore on the day of the hearing, with no income, they got him a small apartment and some extra clothes.

Saif ul Malook met François Zimeray in Paris on December 5, 2018, thanks to Avocats sans Frontières.

#### **The Zimeray & Finelle Law firm**

Zimeray & Finelle combines expertise in complex legal challenges with international diplomacy, offering clients unique, tailor-made legal services, and specialises in international human rights (including corporate compliance), transnational crime, and conflict resolution.

#### **About François Zimeray**

Francois Zimeray is an international lawyer, formerly serving as the French Human Rights Ambassador-at-large, the French Ambassador in Denmark and as a Member of the European Parliament. Called to the Paris Bar in 1987, Francois Zimeray has extensive experience dealing with complex international legal challenges, for individuals, corporations and governments. Previously, François was a partner in a leading Paris law firm where, for 20 years, he advised and assisted corporations on transnational commercial disputes both in litigation and arbitration. In September 2018, he partnered with Jessica Finelle, lawyer since 2009, specializing in international criminal law, to create Zimeray & Finelle law firm.

At the same time, he joined the prestigious human rights law firm Doughty Street Chambers as associate tenant.

François Zimeray is the author of « J'ai vu partout le même visage », published by Plon in 2016.

#### **About Jessica Finelle**

Jessica Finelle, lawyer at the Paris Bar and partner at Zimeray & Finelle, specializes in international criminal law and human rights law. She has recently obtained a decision from independent UN experts, asserting that the detention of Général Mokoko, Congolese main opposition leader to President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, was arbitrary, calling for his immediate release and reparation of his prejudice.

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