



**NEWSLETTER**  
January -  
March 2021  
7<sup>th</sup> edition

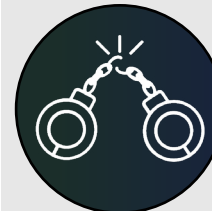
Supporting Sindh's  
Criminal Justice  
System through  
Legal Aid, Legal  
Empowerment and  
Speedier Trials.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF SUCCESS from this quarter



**834**

Underprivileged  
prisoners legally  
represented



**334**

Under trial  
prisoners were  
released on bail



**672**

Cases disposed /  
resolved through  
Judicial Orders



**443**

Under-privileged &  
innocent prisoners  
acquitted on merit

all made possible through the support of CWP-LAO

## Message from the Special Secretary - Prisons, Home Department, GoS

We are pleased to encourage a unique model of Public-Private Partnership of CWP-LAO and the Home Department, Government of Sindh. It is one of the major initiatives which raises the voice of prisoners and plays a critical role in strengthening our criminal justice sector, as this program provides free legal representation to needy prisoners who are the most vulnerable segments of our society.

Since 2004 CWP has been contributing through an effective system of legal representation for prisoners who have little knowledge of their legal rights and cannot afford legal fees or raise enough money to post bail or pay fines. Persons charged even with minor offenses, but without legal representation, are detained until their hearing, trial or convictions.

Currently, we are all facing the toughest challenges due to the COVID pandemic. Prisons and prisoners face heightened risks and a program that helps decongest overcrowded prisons is welcome in these times. As such, we look forward to the continued services of the CWP to ensure that the legal rights of prisoners are ensured and speedy justice is meted to most needy in our society.



**Mr. Sohail Ahmed Qureshi**  
Special Secretary - Prisons,  
Home Department,  
Government of Sindh

## Progress Review Meeting with Inspector General Prisons of Sindh

A progress review meeting was held on January 28, 2021, at the office of Inspector General Prisons Sindh **Mr. Kazi Nazeer Ahmed** and representatives from the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners (CWP). **Barrister Haya Emaan Zahid** (Secretary CWP) presented the litigation performance from July to December 2020, highlighting the 500+ acquittals on merit and disposals of over 1,000 cases

in courts, during which free legal aid was provided by the Government's Committee.

This was followed by a detailed discussion on the mechanisms for expansion in services and the implementation of the new prison laws. Mr. Kazi Nazeer appreciated the efforts of CWP and encouraged the team to carry on efforts for the provision of legal aid services in prisons.



# CELEBRATION OF PAKISTAN DAY

Pakistan's Resolution Day was celebrated in high spirits in the Women Prison in Hyderabad. Given the third wave of the pandemic; the occasion was honored whilst ensuring strict compliance with relevant COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures.

This event aimed to help prisoners realize the importance of Pakistan's resolution and history, and the sacrifices made by the Muslims of the sub-continent towards achieving an independent state. The various activities during this

event included Milli Naghmas, Naats, and songs. **Ms. Syeda Qurat-ul-Ain Shah** (Incharge Women Complaint Cell), and representatives from Women Development Department attended the event and appreciated the work that the CWP does in prisons.

**Ms. Abida Sami Abbasi** (Superintendent of Women Prison), and **Dr. Irfana Memon** (Senior Medical Officer) paid special thanks to CWP, regarding



their welfare and legal services for the inmates.

**Mr. Abdullah Soomro**, Section Head CWP Hyderabad, paid a vote of thanks to all the participants on the occasion and highlighted some key Pakistan's Resolution points. **Dr. Sana Memon** (Medical Officer), **Ms. Uzma Javaid** (Sewing Teacher), **Ms. Noreen Shaikh** (CWP Advocate), and **Ms. Sanya Nisar** (Montessori Teacher) also took active part in the event.



## Activities at ELC

Commemorating the occasion, CWP organized a ceremony at the Early Learning Centre (ELC) in Karachi Women's Prison, acknowledging the efforts of the leadership of the founder of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and many others who strived for an independent state. The day witnessed various tablos, performances on national songs along with a cake cutting ceremony.

# WELFARE ACTIVITIES

## REVAMPING THE SEWING CENTRE of the Women Prison, Karachi



The CWP renovated and redecorated the sewing center at the Women's Prison in Karachi. The renovations included re-décor of walls and doors, transitions of the color scheme from the dark to bright colors, and replacing the previous wall decals and themes with new ones. This activity helped to rejuvenate the ambiance in the room and it is hoped that it will provide a more pleasing and comforting working environment for the prisoners.



## MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT and Welfare

Menstrual Hygiene Management sessions were organized for women prisoners and the female prison staff at the Women Prison in Karachi on February 2, 2021 and on February 8, 2021, in Hyderabad in Collaboration with Santex (Leading Producers of personal hygiene items).

This initiative was organized to spread awareness among women prisoners on the importance of managing their menstrual health, and how its effectiveness can ensure growth, health, and a safe environment for everyone.

Adding to the purpose a video



## FREE LEGAL ADVISORY CAMPS in 23 Prisons of Sindh

**C**WP organized 23 Free Legal Aid Camps between March 17 to 30, 2021, on a large scale for UTPs. 513 UTPs from Adult Male Prisons and 121 from women and Juvenile facilities benefited from these camps; as free legal advice and free legal aid were given to those who needed it.



documentary was also presented by Santex during these sessions. Sanitary items were distributed among women as gift packs to assure that this initiative benefits the lives of women.



# ONE-DAY TRAINING of CWP-LAO Lawyers



Staff training and career development for any organization play a vital role in the development of its human resource capabilities and resulting improvement in service delivery standards. CWP believes that basic legal awareness and sensitization towards rule of law is something that should not only be directed towards enhancing the competencies of its staff but to every citizen which in a way leads towards legal empowerment of the entire nation.

Following this principle, the CWP- ensures that legal awareness is an integral part of the training curriculum for its team, along with all associated staff involved with prison management in Sindh. For the same purpose, a one-day training for CWP lawyers across Sindh was held on March 29, 2021, while ensuring strict compliance with COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures.



This capacity-building session aimed at polishing the understanding of the lawyers on the new legal system introduced by the Sindh Prisons and Corrections Services Act 2019, along with the revision of Sindh Prison Rules 2020. Participants were trained on cross-examination skills using facts and figures, and unique challenges that they face in the courts with a view to assisting them to gain the confidence of the clients, and communicate more effectively within the courts and prisons. With the development of new tools, cross-examination & communications skills, and additional knowledge, the lawyers will be able to better approach the problems that they face during prison management. The training also shed light on how to manage relationships, atmosphere, and

codes within the prison.

The training was graced by the participation of Mr. Munawar Shah (Senior Superintendent C.P. Mirpurkhas), Mr. Mehmood Akhtar Qureshi (Senior Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan), and Mr. Mohammad Shahid Shafiq (District Session Judge & Senior Faculty Member of SJA). Sessions were also led by Ms. Hira Saleem, Ms. Sana Sharif and Ms. Jawziya Zaman of the CWP. The training concluded with remarks from Justice (R) Arif Hussain Khilji, who provided his valuable insights, appreciated the work done, and persuaded the lawyers to remain committed to the services they provide in order to maintain and improve the legal services which the CWP provides.

## Personal Hygiene Partnership



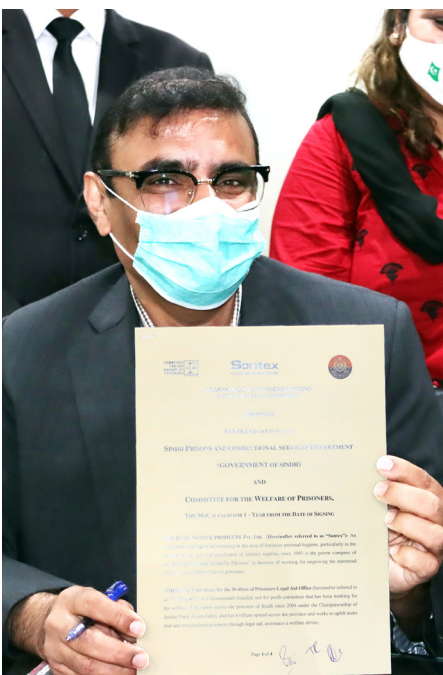
### SIGNING OF MOU (MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING) with Santex Products Pvt. Ltd., and Sindh Prisons & Correctional services department.

A “Personal Hygiene Partnership” was entered into between Sindh Prison Department, Santex, and CWP on the occasion of the International Women’s Day 2021, as they joined hands for organizing awareness sessions on Menstrual Hygiene Management for women prisoners across Sindh. The

MoU was signed by **Mr. Kazi Nazeer Ahmed** (Inspector General Prisons, Sindh), **Mr. Talha Rehman** (Chief Executive Officer, Santex), and Justice (R) **Nasir Aslam Zahid** (Chairperson CWP-) on March 9, 2021, at the LAO head office in Karachi.

This MoU will enable all parties to more frequently

organize Menstrual Hygiene Management sessions and distribution of sanitary napkins in the four Women Prisons. The collaboration is built on harmonizing the strengths to empower women prisoners and hence enable them to look after their well-being while being in prisons and after release.



# PLANTATION DRIVE

The Early Learning Centre (ELC) Hyderabad organized a Plantation Drive on February 19, 2020, to create awareness amongst the young minds regarding plants and trees being an invaluable resource on our planet. The children were taught about the importance of trees for our environment and the ecosystem.

The day also witnessed the plantation of several plants by the little ones.



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# JUSTICE SUCCESS **STORIES**

## Amir Rajab

Amir aged 22, is a daily wage earner who wrongly spent six months in Central Prison Karachi. He was earlier implicated in a false case of theft by the police for an unrecovered item. As per the story narrated by Amir and verified by CWP lawyers, the case against Amir was fabricated and had no merit. Amir was arrested and implicated by an FIR registered by senior police officials. On September 9, 2020, when he was returning home after work, Amir was stopped and searched by the police. Despite nothing being recovered from him, the police brought him to the police station and fabricated a case of theft against him. During this time Amir kept insisting that he was innocent and was never involved in any crime

Amir was pressurized to confess to his crime in exchange for a reduced

sentence. Amir belonging from a financially under-privileged background, earns approximately Rs. 15,000/month and couldn't afford a lawyer.

**Munawar Hussain** (Advocate CWP) represented him in the court as his defense counsel and filed his Vakalatnama on October 10, 2020. At that time Amir had pleaded guilty (as he was pressurized to return to his normal life), therefore the case had shifted to the evidence stage where the District Commissioner examined 5 prosecution witnesses and had found contradictions amongst the statement of five witnesses. Not a single witness was genuine, as all witnesses turned out to be police officers - which was a clear violation of section 103 Cr.P.C. The contradictions of the witnesses created serious doubt.

From the perusal of the



Advocate Munawar Hussain

entire evidence, it transpired that the prosecution had completely failed to prove to the charges against Amir.

Moreover, there were serious contradictions that shattered the entire police story, leading to which the court acquitted him from the charges on February 15, 2021. Amir is very grateful to CWP for the legal assistance and is now reunited with his family.



# JUSTICE SUCCESS **STORIES**

## Rizwan Khan

Rizwan Khan, 30-years old, is only the bread earner for his family, despite being financially underprivileged. He was working as a laborer at a dairy farm when he faced a drastic situation.

Rizwan was mistakenly arrested by the police, during a situation of riots and bloodshed which took place between two influential landlord families of the local area. The police arrested Rizwan after being pointed out by one of the landlords and booked him in a false case of a police encounter. **Mr. Samiullah Shaikh** (CWP advocate) interviewed him and filed his Vakalatnama on March 1, 2021, since he could not engage a private lawyer for the representation of his case before the concerned court. As proceedings started, the challan was submitted and its respective copies were supplied on the same day, while

the charge frame and case moved to the evidence stage. Four prosecution witnesses were examined. After the statements from the accused were recorded, final arguments of both sides were also heard. After completion of proceedings, all records such as challan, evidence, statements, and final arguments of both sides were assessed by the court. The prosecution completely failed to prove their case, as none of the allegations were proved. This led to the acquittal of Rizwan from the false charges which were levied upon him.

Rizwan was acquitted on March 13, 2021, by extending the benefit of doubt under Section 265-H(I) Cr. P.C. With the persuasion of CWP, it took only three weeks to conclude the matter, and hence deliver justice to Rizwan. Had this case been mismanaged or not taken by the CWP in a timely



Advocate Samiullah  
Shaikh

manner, the accused could have faced imprisonment of up to 10 years which means an expected 10 precious years of his life could have been wasted. Upon his release Rizwan was very happy and thankful to the Sindh Government's legal aid which helped him out of prison.

## Muhammad Hunain

Muhammad Hunain, a juvenile under the age of 18, belonged to a financially under-privileged background and was working as a laborer at a motorcycle workshop, earning a meagre Rs. 300 per day.

As he was sitting with friends on the eve of March 2, 2021, Rangers arrested him and handed him over to the police. Hunain refused to pay the gratification money

demanding from him leading to the police lodging a false FIR against him and implicating him in charges against possessing illegal weapons.

**Waqar Ali Mallah** (Advocate CWP) interviewed the accused himself on March 5, 2020, and took the case. Hunain's Vakalatnama was filed in court on March 12, 2021. As the case proceedings started, the challan was submitted on May 7, 2020,



Advocate Waqar Ali  
Mallah

# JUSTICE SUCCESS STORIES

## Ameen



Ameen was imprisoned for two and a half years at the Central Prison in Karachi for the offense of Dacoity. Ameen belongs to a poor family and is the only bread earner for his old mother. Yet he is hardly able to cover all the day-to-day expenses of his mother. Due to old age, his mother faced a lot of difficulties in trying to meet Ameen every time at the City Courts. Despite the old lady filling an application at the court to process the prolonged case, no substantial progress was made. Ameen's mother was in no position to engage any private lawyer to represent her son's case and was in dire need of legal support. Upon request from the old lady, the case was taken by CWP's advocate **Ms. Paras Magsi** who immediately applied Section

265-K CrPC, hence processing the application and presenting the scenario of unnecessary delay before the knowledge of the Honorable Judge. Until this time no witnesses from the side of the Prosecution were examined and Ameen continued to languish in prisons. Moving forward, the process was finally kick started and witnesses were examined within a month- a simple process which was not initialized since 2018.

The honorable judge reached the conclusion that the charges against Ameen were completely false, and therefore acquitted him on January 5, 2021. Due to the efforts of CWP Ameen was released from prison, and now continues to live his life with his mother.

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and the charge was framed on September 4, 2020. The evidence stage had three PWs (Prosecution Witness) who all turned out to be police officials. While one of the witnesses was the investigation officer of the case himself, who was continuously being absent despite several notices been issued by the court. By using discretionary powers, the court closed the prosecution side's statement of record on January

12, 2021. The case was very weak and the prosecution completely failed to prove any allegation against Hunain.

After assessment of the statement of Hunnain and evidence of 2 witnesses from the prosecution's side the court concluded the case in favor of Hunain and released him from all charges. Hunain was acquitted on January 12, 2021. It took 10 months for the case to conclude,

and hence for him to get justice. Upon his release, Hunain was relieved from this situation and praised the services provided by CWP.

# PARTNERING WITH PRO BONO LAWYERS

The story of 75 year old Sakina is not unique. The CWP-LAO, in collaboration with its highly capable team of pro bono legal partners managed to successfully acquit Sakina in a narcotics related case in which she was wrongfully accused and sent to prison for 8 years.



Hundreds of prisoners in Sindh have been wrongfully accused of crimes they did not commit and are serving their sentences in prisons across the province. Not all of them can afford to hire professional legal services to file appeals for their sentences. This is the gap that the CWP, is trying to fill. Our team of highly experienced lawyers and our network of pro bono legal partners work tirelessly to ensure that those in need of legal aid and assistance in prisons are facilitated at the earliest.

We are grateful to our team of lawyers, our pro bono partners and our program team for their efforts in making this happen!



To see the story of how the CWP-LAO team was able to set her free, scan or click (if you receive a soft copy of the newsletter) the respective QR code.



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