



**COMMITTEE  
FOR THE  
WELFARE OF  
PRISONERS**



LEGAL AID OFFICE

(Legal Aid Office Project)

# NEWSLETTER

January-March 2022

10<sup>th</sup> edition

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

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF SUCCESS from this quarter



**783**

number of  
Vakalatnamas/ cases  
filed in courts for our  
clients



**381**

number of bail  
applications filed for  
clients



**676**

number of cases  
disposed off through  
judicial orders



**430**

number of acquittals  
(On Merit & 265-K &  
249-A C.r PC).

all made possible through the support of Government of Sindh



**Mr. Syed Munawar Ali Shah**

**Additional Inspector General Prison Karachi**

“The Government of Sindh took this initiative and engaged its notified committee ‘Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners (CWP)’ to work on new rules for prisons that cover provision of basics necessities and facilities for inmates, safeguard the rights of prisoners, and convert prisons into correctional facilities where prisoners have opportunities to change their life through all means.”

## MESSAGE FROM the Additional Inspector General Prisons – Syed Munawar Ali Shah

According to the Federal Ombudsman, the national overcrowding rate in Pakistan’s prisons is 134 percent, with a significantly more excessive percentage depending on the prison

The overuse of arrests and detention – including for minor offenses, frequent overuse of pre-trial detention and under use of non-custodial measures -, the backlog of cases in Pakistan’s courts, and the long delays between hearings all contribute to bloating prison populations.

Unfortunately, the colonial structure and rules followed in the prisons do not fit the needs of today’s criminal justice system demands. Although provincial governments have made amendments to the rules, a major shift in policy – based on comprehensive research – is required to address these mounting issues.

It was my honor to be a part of the team which worked on developing “Sindh Prisons and Corrections Service Act and Rules, 2019”. I admire **Chairperson CWP Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid** (Ex-Chief Justice of Sindh High Court and former Supreme Court judge) who has spent a major part of his life in the field ; visiting prisons to support underprivileged and vulnerable inmates. Currently, the committee under his leadership is working on legal aid and empowerment, and research and welfare in 23 prisons across Sindh. I hope their efforts continue in the same spirit, and together we can work towards making Sindh prisons a model for other provinces.

## FREE LEGAL ADVISORY CAMPS in 23 Prisons of Sindh

Between January to March 2022, CWP has successfully organized 23 free legal aid camps for under trial prisoners. 442 under trial adult male prisoners and 168 under trial women and juvenile prisoners have been provided free legal advice through these camps.



## ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

### MOU signing with KARACHI UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

"Football Training Camps are back!"

Prior to the pandemic, Karachi United Football Club conducted weekly classes for juveniles in Youthful Offenders Industrial School (YOIS) Karachi. Enrolled juveniles were trained by professional football coaches. Organized twice a week, the football camps provided an excellent opportunity for juveniles to engage in healthy recreational activity and learn essential life skills such as discipline, team building and leadership. Released juveniles are connected with Karachi United's regular training camps organized in KUFF Centers of Excellence, which are spread across the city.



We are overjoyed to announce that the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners has signed a renewed MOU with Karachi United Football Club to restore their services in YOIS Karachi after a hiatus of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the first enrollment cycle from January 1, 2022 to March 30, 2022, 26 juveniles enrolled for the camp. A football kit distribution ceremony was organized in YOIS Karachi where **Mr. Jan Mohammad Sahib** (Superintendent YOIS Karachi) distributed kits among enrolled juveniles and encouraged them to engage in healthy recreational activities.



**Law Department**  
Government of Sindh

241, Helpline 0800 70806  
**SLACC**  
Sindh Legal Advisory Cell Center

Speak to a qualified & high-court registered lawyer - TOLL FREE number:

**0800 - 70806**



### SPECIAL DAYS AND EVENTS – A CELEBRATION!

Celebrating events and occasions allow to break the monotony of prison routine. We consider celebrations an important part of rehabilitation – particularly for children in prisons. Highlighting important events and occasions serve to connect children behind bars with the outside world.

Early Learning Centers in Karachi and Hyderabad celebrated "Kashmir Day" and "Pakistan Day" to teach children about the significance of these dates in a celebratory manner.

## KASHMIR DAY CELEBRATIONS

**K**ashmir Day or Kashmir Solidarity Day is observed on February 5, 2022 to commemorate the sacrifices of Kashmiri people and their on-going struggle for freedom in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

On the occasion of Kashmir Day, Early Learning Centers in **Karachi** and **Hyderabad** decorated classrooms with posters made by students and conducted educative activities to teach students about the day, inculcating learning with the fun aspect of the celebrations.



## PAKISTAN DAY CELEBRATIONS

**P**akistan Day is celebrated on March 23, 2022 to celebrate the Pakistan Resolution. Early Learning Center in Women Prison Karachi organized fun educational activities to highlight the importance of Pakistan Resolution and its association with Minar-e-Pakistan, Lahore. Students dressed up in color-coordinated white and green traditional outfits, and performed on national songs.

Among the attendees of the celebrations was Assistant Superintendent Women Prison Karachi Ms. Humera Qayum and other prison officials.

## STRAWBERRY DAY!

**S**easonal changes are often unnoticed within the confines of prison walls. To teach students about winter fruits and spread some joy within monocolored classrooms, Early Learning Center Karachi organized 'Strawberry Day'. This fruit day was organized to teach students about the importance of fruits in diets and color association through strawberries. Students dressed in red and green and enjoyed not only strawberries but delicious desserts made with strawberries – milkshake, pastries, strawberry delight – you name it!



## CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is a reminder to celebrate and advocate for women's rights all year round.

CWP Hyderabad team celebrated Women's Day with inmates in Women Prison Hyderabad. The purpose of the event was to highlight the global efforts for women's rights, equality and justice and amplify the grievances of incarcerated women.



## Winter clothes distribution to WOMEN & JUVENILE PRISONERS

**O**n December 29, 2021, Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners in collaboration with Women Development Department – Government of Sindh distributed winter clothes in women and juvenile prisons Hyderabad.

The motivation behind this initiative was to reduce – if not alleviate – the problems faced by the inmates.



## Meeting MR.KAZI NAZEER AHMED (I.G. Prison, Sindh) and MR. NASIR KHAN (D.I.G Prisons, Karachi):

Mr. Kazi Nazeer Ahmed (I.G Prisons Sindh) and Mr. Nasir Khan (D.I.G Prisons, Karachi) were updated regarding the Committee's on-going activities, and were presented with the bi-annual CWP-LAO Newsletter.



## AMOUNT DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY

**W**omen behind bars are faced with societal stigmas which more often than not translate into fewer opportunities – specifically financial – upon release.

Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners is committed to providing women in prison with opportunities for rehabilitation, education and skill building – all that is required for them to become economically empowered and independent upon release.

In the recent past, CWP has showcased artworks by inmates in women prison at several occasions to promote financial independence. An amount distribution ceremony was organized to distribute the proceeding from the sale of these artworks amongst respective women prisoners.



Senior Prison Management including **Mr. Kazi Nazeer Ahmed** (IG Prisons; Sindh), **Mr. Munawar Ali Shah** (AIG Prisons; Sindh), **Ms. Sheeba Shah** (DIG WPs, Karachi) and **M Humera** (Superintendent; WP Karachi) were present at the ceremony and extended their support to women who wished to improve their skills during incarceration.



Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners is thankful to the people who were a part of the exhibitions. Their support will help women prisoners take a step towards financial independence.



## Paralegal Room Inauguration Ceremony was held at CENTRAL PRISON & CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, SUKKUR.



Prison Paralegal Program is operating in four prisons in Sindh. Recently, a prison paralegal room was inaugurated in Central Prison & Correctional Facility, Sukkur. The occasion was attended by **Mr. Mumtaz Ahmed Raja** (Deputy Inspector General Prisons, Sukkur Region), **Mr. Qurban Ali Malano** (Advocate Supreme Court & Member of Sindh Bar Council), **Mr. Nisar Ahmed Bhanbhro** (Advocate Supreme Court) and **Mr. Ishak Ahmed Rind** (Deputy Superintendent of CP & CF Sukkur).

The participants appreciated the efforts made by CWP for the welfare of prisoners and said that proper space and environment for classes would be helpful in nurturing a better learning environment.

## CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS

### One-Day Capacity Building Session on "CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE" for CWP lawyers.

**O**ne-day capacity building session was organized on "Criminal Procedure Code" led by **Mr. Uzair Ali Khan Gori** a (senior legal expert and former magistrate).

The session detailed the basic as well advanced techniques of the law and shared the best practicing tips with the attendees. The main objective of the session was to provide the participants with detailed knowledge and skills in the rules of evidence and procedure as they apply to criminal trials.



A total of 38 participants from Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Shaheed Benazirabad, Dadu, Sanghar, Khairpur, and Larkana were trained in this session.



## Capacity Building Workshop for CWP LAWYERS

**C**ommittee for the Welfare of the Prisoners and Legal Aid Society in collaboration with Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA), organized a two-day capacity building workshop for lawyers in Karachi

Held in two batches, these sessions trained 39 CWP lawyers from different districts. The sessions were delivered by senior trainers from Sindh Judicial Academy covering the following topics:

principle of forensic report & its interpretation, art of argument (bail application),

Oanoon-e-Shahadat 1984, Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018, Art of Argument on main case, important case laws, and professional ethics to be observed by an advocate.



## Training of Trainers - PRISON PARALEGAL (Women Prison Karachi)

After a rigorous selection process, short-listed convicts (and Under Trial Prisoners, in some cases) were trained by CWP lawyers in Women Prison Karachi. The training comprised of ten training sessions.

a total of 16 hours – the topics included introduction to the constitution of Pakistan, fundamental rights, introduction to crime, and criminal law including: the basics of criminal law, criminal trial, defence and sentencing, probation & parole, reasoning behind sentences, juvenile justice and prison rules.

**16 trained paralegals** will conduct weekly paralegal classes for new inmates to enhance their legal knowledge and provide educational support.



**Law Department**  
Government of Sindh

24/7 Helpline 0800 70806

**SLACC**  
Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center

Speak to a qualified & high-court registered lawyer - TOLL FREE number:

**0800 - 70806**



## Training Of Trainers - PRISON PARALEGAL (Central Prison Sukkur):

During a three-day prison paralegal training, 19 inmates were trained on basic laws including criminal law, prison rules, fundamental rights, criminal trial process, civil laws such as – property law, family law etc.

The training was facilitated by CWP-LAO's senior staff including **Ms. Sana Qureshi** (Program Manager), **Mr. Habib-ur-Rehman Jiskani** (Manager Litigation) and **M&E, Mr. Syed Ahmar Shah** (Section Head Sukkur), **Mr. Muhammad Younis** and **Mr. Amjad Gabol** (Litigation Advocate).



The certificate distribution ceremony was graced by **Mr. Sundar Khan Chachar** (Advocate High Court Sindh) and **Mr. Chachar Ex-GS** (District Bar Sukkur). They applauded the participants for their dedication to guide new inmates.





## Nazeer Lakho, saved from 14 years of prison sentence !

**N**azeer (22 years) was the sole breadwinner for his family of five – his parents and three siblings. Nazeer had a heated argument with his landlord which soon became a nightmare for him.

The landlord used his privilege to involve the police and register a case against Nazeer. Nazeer was booked under a narcotics case– the police claimed they had recovered eleven hundred grams of hashish from him. Nazeer was sent to District Prison, N o s h e r o s f e r o z . Nosherosferoz.

Prior to his arrest, Nazeer was the only source of income for his family of five earning ten thousand rupees per month. With the source of income in jail, the family struggled to collect funds to hire a private lawyer to represent Nazeer.

Nazeer met **Mr. Naveed Khan Ujjan** (Advocate and Head of CWP Dadu Section) during a legal advisory camp who took on his vakaltnama.

The case proceeding began formally on October 15, 2021. In light of the evidence and witnesses,



Advocate Naveed Khan  
Ujjan

the honorable court decided that Nazeer was innocent and therefore he was acquitted of all the charges.

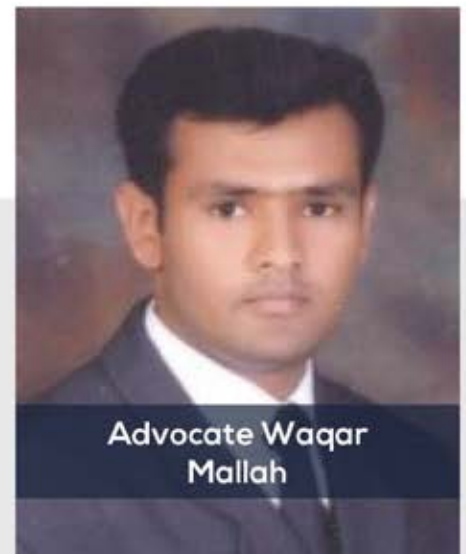
Nazeer was acquitted of the charges on February 19, 2022, however, if the false charges against him had been proved Nazeer could have faced upto fourteen year in jail with up to one million in fine or worse – death penalty.

## Ismail, was acquitted from baseless charges.

**I**smail, 14 year old, was brought into police station for an informal interrogation. When Ismail did not return home, his family decided to report it to the police only to find out that he was illegally being held by the police.

Police officials demanded money in return of Ismail's release. Upon the family's failure to do so, a false case of theft was registered against Ismail and he was transferred to YOIS Karachi. During his time in YOIS, Ismail interacted with CWP lawyers and reached out to them for assistance.

His vakalatnama was taken up by CWP lawyer **Advocate Waqar Mallah** on November 11, 2022. The case proceedings took about three months, during which the court found the allegations against Ismail baseless and he was acquitted on February 23, 2022.



Advocate Waqar  
Mallah

# Justice SUCCESS **STORIES**

## Mohsin Maseeh, was acquitted from false absconding case.

**M**ohsin Maseeh worked as a driver to provide for his family of seven. On July 13, 2021, Mohsin was interrogated by some policemen and picked up in a case of alcohol consumption and possession.

Soon after his arrest, Mohsin showed symptoms of Covid-19 and was shifted to a local hospital in police custody. To add to his ordeal, during his time in the hospital, Mohsin was booked in another case of absconding from police custody. He was finally moved to Central Prison Hyderabad.

With the sole source of income behind bars, Mohsin's family could not afford a private lawyer. Mohsin was introduced to Legal Aid Office during an advisory camp, there **Mr. Abdullah Soomro** - (Section Head CWP Hyderabad) took on his vakalatnama.

The case proceedings for alcohol consumption and possession lasted for over a month; the court maintained that the evidence was not sufficient to incriminate Mohsin. Mohsin was also acquitted in the false absconding case after six months.



Advocate Abdullah Soomro

On February 24, 2022, Mohsin walked out of prison as a free man.

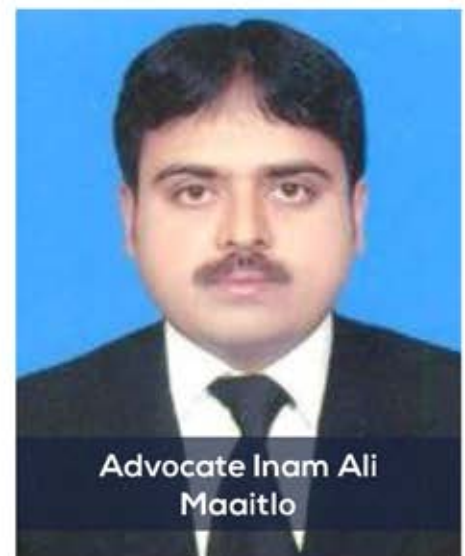
A core mission of the committee is provide free legal aid and representation to hundreds of inmates like Mohsin in prisons across Sindh.

## Abdul Sattar, was acquitted from a fabricated case arising from a Property dispute

33 year old Abdul Sattar landed in prison after he had a dispute with his brother over property and inheritance. His brother used the police to get his revenge. Soon after, Sattar was arrested by the police for carrying hashish under 9/B CNS act 1997 and sent to Khairpur prison.

Unable to afford private lawyer, Sattar approached CWP lawyers to represent him case.

His case was taken up by **Mr. Inam Ali Maaitlo** (Section Head Khairpur) on August 31, 2021. Case proceedings took over 5 months, the courts closely examined the evidence and witnesses against Sattar. The courts concluded that evidence was not enough to incriminate Sattar and therefore he was acquitted on January 8, 2022.



Advocate Inam Ali Maaitlo

# Justice SUCCESS **STORIES**

**Gulshan, was acquitted from a false charge of being in possession of an illegal weapon.**

**G**ulshan worked as a househelp in Karachi to support her family. She faced imprisonment on the allegation of robbery – worth 65 lac rupees cash, mobile phones, and gold – in the house she worked as a help.

Earning only ten thousand rupees per month, engaging a private counsel was out of question. **Ms. Noor-ul-Saba**, took up Gulshan's vakaltanama on September 7, 2020. Formal case proceedings began;

two witnesses were examined and statement of the accused recorded. The case faced delays due to non-availability of the complainant and the witnesses. The complainant finally appeared before the court on February 3, 2022, explaining that she was unable to produce witnesses. She further stated that she did not want to proceed with the case any longer, and therefore the accused should be allowed application of



**Advocate Noor-ul-Saba Hussain**

release as filed by their advocate.

After her oral statement before court and submission of no objection certificate, the court allowed application for the release of Gulshan. she was finally set free after spending over two innocent years in prison.



**Law Department**  
Government of Sindh

24/7 Helpline 0800 70806  
**SLACC**  
Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center

مفت قانونی مشورہ  
صرف ایک کال کے فاصلے پر



For Free Legal Advice Please call at:  
Registered Lawyer - TOLL FREE number:  
**0800 - 70806**



# Justice SUCCESS **STORIES**

**Sonu, was acquitted from the from a false case of absconding.**

**S**onu, 17, along with his mother was booked under a false case of gutka and manpuri. Sonu was shifted to YOIS Hyderabad and his mother to Women's Prison, Hyderabad.

During a regular jail visit, CWP lawyers were requested by Sonu and his mother to take their vakalatnamas. **Mr. Abdullah Soomro** and **Ms Naureen** were engaged as Sonu's and his mother's counsel on December 12, 2021.



As case proceedings began, three prosecution witnesses were examined. Statement of the witnesses presented contradictions. Based on the discrepancies within statements, the court concluded that the charges against both, Sonu and his mother were baseless. The court ordered for their release on February 7, 2022.

Within two months, both Sonu and his mother were out of jail and back to their routine life.



**Law Department**  
Government of Sindh

**SLACC**  
South Legal Advisory Call Center

24x7 Helpline: 0800 70806

**Need Legal Advice Related To Education Sector?**

Please Call Us at:  
**0800-70806**

**For Free Legal Advice**

**GET IN TOUCH!**

+92 21-35390133-5

info@lao.org.pk

/LegalAidOffice Pakistan

Spanish homes,  
Mezzanine floor,  
DHA, Phase-1,  
Karachi