

JUSTICE SUCCESS STORY

Providing the right legal remedy to Asiya for being accused of a crime she did not commit

We met Asiya in the Women's Prison Karachi. She was gleaming with happiness – she had been exonerated of murder charges. She settled down with us – thanking God and Habib Jiskani, Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners – Legal Aid Office lawyer who had represented her at court.

Asiya was imprisoned for her cousin, Sohail's murder. Asiya was happily married, but Sohail had a liking for her. Despite her relationship, Sohail would threaten Asiya to leave her husband. Eventually, Sohail was successful in getting her divorced on gun point.

After her divorce, Asiya resisted marrying Sohail. To put an end to the problem, Asiya's kids got her married to Iftikhar. It was after the two converted to Islam that the family disowned them and threatened them of dire consequences. Asiya and Iftikhar endured blackmail and torture from their family for 12 years. During this time, Sohail – who was a political worker- was murdered by his enemies. Given Asiya and Sohail's history, their family, accused Asiya and her husband, Iftikhar of Sohail's murder.

Asiya relied on private lawyers for her case proceedings during the course of which she changed 4 lawyers. According to her, she was misguided and told that changing lawyers may help expedite the process. This not only prolonged her case proceedings but also costed her a lot of money. She was represented by a private lawyer when she was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

When Asiya lost all hope, she approached Habib Jiskani – lawyer CWP - for legal representation. Habib Jiskani informed her of all the legal

remedies available to challenge her conviction. They then proceeded with filing a petition in High Court. During the petition, Asiya was provided timely updates about her case proceeding as well as guided throughout the process.

Asiya was ecstatic to be exonerated of a crime she and her husband did not commit.

