



COMMITTEE  
FOR THE  
WELFARE OF  
PRISONERS



# NEWSLETTER

April - June 2023  
15<sup>th</sup> Edition

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



**551**

Vakalatnamas filed in  
the courts



**282**

Bail applications  
granted



**396**

Cases disposed off  
through court orders



**263**

Acquittals (On Merit  
& 265-K & 249-A Cr  
PC (37))

## EDITORIAL

### Muhammad Anwar Mustafa Inspector General Sindh Prisons

The recently enacted Sindh Prisons & Corrections Services Act and Rules of 2019 reflect our dedication to creating a more effective and compassionate prison system. Our goal is not just confinement, but to facilitate positive change and reduce recidivism rates by empowering individuals with skills and education.



**Mr. Muhammad Anwar Mustafa**  
Inspector General Sindh Prisons

The partnership between the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners and Tech Valley Pakistan, which is dedicated to providing Google Career Certificates to women prisoners, opens doors of opportunities for our incarcerated women, allowing them to acquire new skills, expand their knowledge, and enhance their employability prospects. Through these certificates, we aim to break the cycle of recidivism and help these women become valuable contributors to the society.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Tech Valley Pakistan for their generous donation of laptops to the Women's Prison, Karachi. These laptops will serve as invaluable tools in facilitating the learning process and enabling women prisoners to access online educational resources and the Google Career Certificate programs. By combining the provisions of the new legislation, the empowerment through Google Career Certificates, and the support from our partners, we are taking significant strides towards providing comprehensive rehabilitation programs.



## Presenting 19 Years of Progress to Secretary Home Department, Mr. Aijaz Ali Shah: The Journey and Future Pathways

The Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners conducted a comprehensive progress review, shedding light on the remarkable 19-year journey in a meeting chaired by the Home Secretary Sindh, Mr. Aijaz Ali Shah.

Over the course of two decades, the Committee has been steadfast in its pursuit of justice, providing legal aid, empowerment, welfare & rehabilitation, and engaging in valuable research and policy work. The impactful initiatives have particularly benefited first-time under-trial prisoners, facing financial hardships, who are accused of minor offenses across 20 prisons in Sindh.

In the recent two years, the Committee has diligently provided legal advice to 8,051 prisoners through experienced lawyers, ensuring their voices are heard. A total of 6,101 adult male, female, and juvenile inmates have been represented in courts, leading to the resolution of 4,849 cases with certified judicial orders. Moreover, the Committee successfully filed and obtained 2,772 bail applications for adult and juvenile prisoners, securing their rightful release.

The meeting was graced by the presence of esteemed individuals including DIG Sindh, Syed Munawwar Ali Shah, Special Secretary Prisons, Nasir Abbas Soomro, Additional Secretary Prisons, Tariq Qureshi, Deputy Secretary Women's Development Department, Hafeez Ur Rehman, and the Committee's Secretary, Barrister Haya Emaan Zahid. Together, we embarked on charting a path for the future, building upon the substantial progress achieved this far under the able leadership and guidance of the Home Secretary Mr. Aijaz Ali Shah.



## Celebrating 19 years of impactful work!

The Committee's Secretary, Barrister Haya Emaan Zahid, presented the comprehensive CWP Result Report to Mr. Anwar Mustafa, IG Prisons. From litigation to legal empowerment, welfare & rehabilitation to research and policy advocacy, this report reflects our commitment to positive change in the criminal justice system.



## Strategic Implementation Meeting at the Prison Headquarters in Karachi

The strategic liaison meeting with Mr. Munawwar Shah DIG Prison at the IG Office aimed to ensure alignment and coordination for effective service delivery. By discussing action items for standardizing digital mechanisms and establishing an efficient monthly reporting mechanism, the meeting emphasized the importance of liaising to enable seamless collaboration and improved service outcomes.



## Empowering Women Prisoners: The Committee joins forces with Tech Valley Pakistan

The Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners joined forces with Tech Valley Pakistan to make Google Career Certificates accessible to the most vulnerable job seekers. This partnership aims to equip women prisoners and female prison staff in Women's Prison Karachi with essential skills for a brighter future. Tech Valley Pakistan has also generously donated 5 laptops, fostering learning and collaboration. CEO Tech Valley, Umar Farooq's visit to Women's Prison Karachi paves the way for future pathways and impactful collaborations.



## Enhancing Collaboration: Liaison Meetings Presenting the Committee's Work and Fostering Effective Partnerships

The Committee's Litigation Manager, Mr. Habib Jiskani, visited the Quetta High Court Bar Association and Supreme Court Bar Association, engaging in discussions about the work of the Committee.

He presented reports, newsletters, and diaries highlighting the Committee's achievements and updates. Meetings with specific individuals, including Abdul Malik Baloch (Member Executive Committee Supreme Court Bar Association), Abid Kakar (President Quetta Bar Association), and Talat Jabeen (Library Secretary Quetta High Court Bar Association), resulted in appreciation for the Committee's work and the efforts of Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid.

These interactions showcase effective engagement, communication, and the presentation of the Committee's work, fostering positive feedback and collaboration with legal professionals and Bar Associations.



## Breaking Barriers, Fostering Inclusion: Gender Identity Awareness Session at the Office of the IG Prisons.

The recent inclusion of provisions for separate barracks for transgender individuals in the Sindh Prison and Corrections Service Act & Rules 2019 marks a significant step towards promoting equality in prisons. However, the true impact of these provisions lies in the awareness and understanding among high-level prison officials. The Committee organized an awareness session conducted by Ms. Shahzadi Rai at the I.G Office to bridge this gap by shedding light on the challenges faced by transgender prisoners.



During the session, Ms. Shahzadi Rai emphasized the urgent need for separate barracks to ensure the safety, dignity, and well-being of transgender individuals in prisons. By providing them with an environment free from discrimination and harassment, these separate barracks act as a crucial foundation for fostering inclusivity within the prison system. Additionally, Ms. Rai highlighted key issues such as regular HIV testing to address healthcare concerns, ensuring access to medication for specific medical needs, and the importance of mental health facilities for comprehensive support.

Through this collaborative effort, the aim is to create a prison environment that respects the rights of all individuals, irrespective of their gender identity. By recognizing the importance of such awareness sessions and incorporating the Sindh Prison and Corrections Service Act & Rules 2019, we move closer to a more equitable and just prison system that upholds the dignity and rights of transgender prisoners.



## Indian Fishermen are home!

The recent repatriation of 200 Indian fishermen from District Prison Malir Karachi has brought relief and joy to their families and communities after a long wait.

Another batch of 200 Indian fishermen was released from District Prison Malir on 2nd June 2023. A total of 400 Indian fishermen have been repatriated so far in the year 2023.

This initiative not only helps individuals return to their homes and loved ones but also reinforces the importance of respecting human rights and humanitarian relief. Such repatriation efforts are essential in promoting global cooperation and fostering a sense of compassion and empathy towards those who are in need.

Through this goodwill gesture, we hope that Pakistani fishermen in Indian prisons also find their way home.



## Streamlining information on boats belonging to Indian fishermen imprisoned in District Prison Malir Karachi:

The Committee conducted a data collection exercise to account for boats belonging to Indian fishermen incarcerated in District Prison Malir, Karachi. These boats have significant value as they are not only their means of livelihood but also crucial assets.

Proper management and protection of the boats can play a vital role in supporting the fishermen's future livelihoods and facilitating their reintegration into society. Documenting the boats and their condition can help prevent any loss, damage, or unauthorized use while the fishermen are serving their sentences. It also contributes to transparency and accountability in the prison system and the relevant ministries, ensuring that prisoners' assets are accounted for and protected.



Through this exercise, the Committee aims to ensure that the boats remain in good condition and will advocate for their return to the fishermen upon their release.

## Iqbal Detho Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) Joins Eid Milan Celebration at Women's Prison Hyderabad

We were delighted to host Mr. Iqbal Detho, the esteemed Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), at the Women's Prison Hyderabad for a special Eid Milan celebration organized by the Committee.

During his visit, Mr. Detho interacted with the inmates, lending a compassionate ear to their concerns and ensuring their human rights are upheld. In addition to his engagement with the inmates, Mr. Detho also took the opportunity to meet with children in Early Learning Center, Hyderabad. We sincerely appreciate Mr. Detho's dedication and efforts in promoting understanding and respect for human rights.



These meaningful events serve to strengthen the bond between law enforcement and the community, fostering a positive relationship that prioritizes human rights. We remain steadfast in our commitment to work hand in hand, alongside individuals like Mr. Detho, to advocate for human rights, improve prison conditions, and enhance the lives of those within our prisons.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Iqbal Detho for his visit and his unwavering commitment to the cause of human rights.



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## Collaboration for Human Rights: The Committee and Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) continue to work in close coordination to advocate for prisoners' rights

Visits to Central Prison Hyderabad, Sukkur, Khairpur, Mirpukhas, District Prison Ghotki & Shikarpur, Women's Prison Hyderabad & Sukkur, and YOIS Hyderabad were facilitated. 22 vakalatnamas were signed as a result of these visits.



## Chairperson Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, Nuzhat Shireen, visit Early Learning Center in the Women's Prison Karachi

Nuzhat Shireen, Chairperson Sindh Commission on the Status of Women visited the Early Learning Center (ELC) in the Women's Prison Karachi for the purposes of monitoring conditions at the school. ELC provides pre-primary education to children incarcerated with their mothers; its curriculum is in line with the National Curriculum for Early Childhood Education.



## Free Legal Advisory Camps

The Committee prioritizes provision of legal aid across prisons in Sindh, including efforts towards increasing prisoners' awareness regarding right to legal aid and ways to seek legal aid services.

Between April and June 2023, we successfully organized 22 free legal advisory camps for prisoners. The camps witnessed the active participation of 653 under-trial prisoners, including adult men, women and juvenile prisoners who benefited from free legal advice.



## Spreading Eid Joy Behind Bars: Committee's Initiatives Bring Festive Cheer to Prisons

Sharing Ramazan blessings, the Committee distributed iftar hampers in Women's Prison Hyderabad through a generous donation.

Through a generous donor, the Committee distributed eid suits to the women prisoners at the Women's Prison Hyderabad and young offenders at Youthful Offenders Industrial School Hyderabad. They were thrilled to receive the suits and we're grateful for the opportunity to bring a little joy to their lives during the eid festivities.

The Committee was thrilled to distribute Eid gifts to the children incarcerated with their mothers and the kids of female prison staff at the Women's Prison Karachi. It was heartwarming to see their smiles and excitement as they received their new toys.



## Overcoming Water Shortage: Committee's Tireless Efforts Lead to Progress at Youthful Offenders Industrial School and Women's Prison Hyderabad

**Y**outhful Offenders Industrial School and the Women's Prison Hyderabad faced severe water shortage. Previously, the Committee was able to install a water boring plant in the Women's Prison Hyderabad through a generous donation however the problem persisted.

Our team remained committed to finding a solution to the problem. The Committee suggested the Superintendent Women's Prison Hyderabad to write to the Provincial Ombudsman regarding the issue. The Superintendent Women's Prison Hyderabad nominated, Mr. Danish, a member from our team, to represent Women's Prison Hyderabad before the Provincial Ombudsman. Danish appeared before the Provincial Ombudsman four times and also met with District and Session Judge Hyderabad.

The unwavering dedication paid off as the District and Session Judge Hyderabad issued a letter to the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Hyderabad, urging them to expedite the resolution of the water supply problem. The Committee's approach, applauded by the Superintendent of Women's Prison and YOIS Hyderabad, serves as a shining example of how administrative solutions and networking efforts can effectively address challenges within the prison system.



مفت قانونی مشورہ  
صرف ایک کال کے فاصلے پر



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## Overwhelming response towards donation drive for children's playroom in the Women's Prison Sukkur!

A heartfelt thank you to AMI School and its incredible students for their immense generosity and support in our recent donation drive for the playroom in Women's Prison Sukkur.



We firmly believe that every child deserves access to the joys of play, the wonders of literature, and the opportunities for growth that educational resources bring. By providing these cherished items, you are helping to create a nurturing environment for these young minds, offering them a glimmer of hope, inspiration, and a sense of normalcy amidst challenging circumstances.

Thank you, AMI School and each and every student who contributed, for making a difference in the lives of these children. Together, we are planting seeds of love, empowerment, and possibility.

## Sweet moments: Mango Festival in the Women's Prison Hyderabad

The Mango Festival organized by the Committee brought a much-needed sense of normalcy to the Women's Prison in Hyderabad. Through the support of generous private donors, a delightful array of mangoes was made available to the women prisoners, offering a taste of joy and sweetness amidst the confines of their incarceration. The festival not only provided a momentary escape but also fostered a spirit of camaraderie through friendly games, reminding the women of the importance of community and shared experiences, even within the prison walls. Such initiatives play a crucial role in restoring a sense of normalcy and dignity, offering glimpses of hope and connection in their journey towards rehabilitation.



## Bringing relief during scorching summers!

The Committee responded to a request from the Women's Prison Hyderabad for essential items to combat rising temperatures. Proudly donating room coolers, water dispensers, and fans, we stand in solidarity with the incarcerated women, ensuring a more comfortable environment.



## Justice SUCCESS **STORIES**

### Ahmed\*

Ahmed, a 28-year-old resident of Sukkur, found himself facing imprisonment in Central Prison. With a family of five dependents and elderly parents unable to assist in his release, his situation seemed dire. Ahsan, formerly employed as a laborer who earned Rs. 15,000/- per month, maintained his innocence, claiming false charges of drug possession due to enmity with a relative who happened to be a local SHO.

Unable to afford legal representation, Ahmed sought assistance during a visit to Central Prison, Sukkur. Recognizing his financial constraints, the Committee assigned Mr. Amjad Gabol, to his case. On May 19th, 2023, Mr. Gabol filed the vakalatnama on Ahmed's behalf.

As the case progressed, meticulous attention was given to all relevant documents, uncovering significant loopholes in the prosecution's evidence. After thorough examination, the court pronounced Ahmed innocent on May 30th, 2023, freeing him from the burden of baseless charges.

The resolution of Ahmed's case was achieved within a remarkably short span of 12 days. Without the intervention of the Committee, he would have faced a potential imprisonment sentence of up to seven years, in addition to a substantial fine.



Advocate  
Mr. Amjad Gabol

\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

# Justice SUCCESS **STORIES**

## Kamal\*

**A**t the tender age of 19, Kamal found himself unjustly imprisoned in District Prison, Dadu, accused of a baseless crime involving attacking and firing upon a police party to evade arrest. The police report claimed that Rashid and his companions were armed and engaged in a confrontation with the officers. However, Rashid's reality was far from the accusations. Hailing from an impoverished background, he was the sole provider for his aging parents and younger siblings, making his incarceration even more devastating.

In a stroke of hope, Kamal sought legal assistance during a visit by the Committee's advocate, Ms. Sumera Laghari, at District Prison Dadu. On May 23rd, 2023, vakalatnama was filed on his behalf. With unwavering dedication, Ms. Laghari meticulously examined the evidence, challans, statements, and final arguments presented by both sides.

During the court proceedings, glaring contradictions in the prosecution's witness statements emerged, casting doubt on the credibility of their case. The burden of proof fell squarely on the prosecution, and their inability to substantiate their claims led to a resounding victory for Kamal. On May 30th, 2023, the court declared Kamal innocent, granting him a new lease on life.

The expeditious resolution of Kamal's case, taking a mere 8 days, showcases the immense impact of legal aid in upholding justice and safeguarding the rights of vulnerable individuals. Had it not been for the intervention of the Committee, Kamal would have faced the grim prospect of a lengthy imprisonment sentence and hefty fines. Kamal's innocence has been established, allowing him to reunite with his family, resume his role as their sole breadwinner, and rebuild his life with newfound hope and dignity.



\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

# Justice SUCCESS **STORIES**

## Muhammad\*

**M**uhammad, a 60-year-old senior citizen from Sanghar, found himself entangled in a web of false accusations, despite leading a life of hardship and poverty. As the sole breadwinner for his destitute family, his monthly income of Rs. 10,000 as a laborer was barely enough to sustain them. Maintaining his innocence, he vehemently denied any involvement in the alleged encounter with a police party, asserting that the charges against him were entirely fabricated.

Referral of his case by the District and Sessions Judge, Sanghar, led to the involvement of Mr. Naeem Ahmed Sirewal, an advocate from the Committee, as his legal representative. On January 19th, 2023, Mr. Sirewal filed a Vakalatnama on behalf of Muhammad. The case relied solely on the testimonies of police officials, with no independent witnesses present, a clear violation of Section 103 of the Criminal Procedure Code. These circumstances cast serious doubts on the credibility of the witnesses.

The court meticulously assessed the case records, including the challans, evidence, statements of the accused, and final arguments presented by both sides. In a resounding victory for justice, numerous irreconcilable contradictions emerged in the statements of the prosecution's witnesses. Unable to meet the burden of proof, the prosecution failed to substantiate their case. Consequently, on May 12th, 2023, the court declared Muhammad innocent, exonerating him from the malicious charges that had plagued his life.

Muhammad Hashim's freedom was restored, liberating him from the burden of false accusations and preventing the potential for a lengthy imprisonment term of up to 10 years, along with hefty fines.



**Advocate  
Mr. Naeem Ahmed Sirewal**

*\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.*

# Justice SUCCESS **STORIES**

## Jamali\*

In the depths of the Youthful Offenders Industrial School in Hyderabad, a young soul named Jamali, aged 17, found himself trapped in the clutches of false imprisonment. As a laborer earning a meager Rs. 12,000 per month, he struggled to make ends meet. Jamali maintained his innocence, claiming that he had been wrongly accused due to an age-old feud with the complainant's son over a trivial matter. The deliberate intention to frame him in this baseless case exposed the depths of injustice he faced.

During a visit by our team, conducting interviews with indigent litigants at the Youthful Offenders Industrial School in Hyderabad, Jamali mustered the courage to seek legal representation. Plagued by financial constraints, he had been unable to engage a private advocate. Recognizing his dire circumstances, Ms. Noreen Sheikh, an advocate from the Committee, took up his case. On February 22nd, 2023, she filed the vakalatnama.

The case proceedings commenced, adhering to all legal requirements, and unfolded under the watchful eye of the court. As the proceedings drew to a close, the court meticulously examined the relevant documents, unearthing numerous ambiguities that cast doubt upon Jamali's guilt. In a moment of redemption, the court pronounced Jamali innocent, liberating him from the shackles of criminal charges on April 19th, 2023.

Without the Committee's intervention, Jamali would have faced the harrowing prospect of imprisonment for up to 14 years, accompanied by hefty fines.

Jamali's release stands as a powerful symbol of hope, reminding us that justice can prevail even in the face of adversity.



## GET IN TOUCH!

