



SINDH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Government of Sindh



JAIL VISITS BY SHRC

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HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL

OUR VISION

To create a society free of violence, extremism & enduring human rights & have an environment of peace, interfaith and justice. We are thriving really hard on achieving our goal

OUR MISSION

To promote & protect the Human Rights enshrined in the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan & in international human rights standards

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE:



Dear Readers,

I am honored to share our latest newsletter, highlighting the recent visits the SHRC team conducted to various correctional facilities and prisons in Sindh. These visits have provided us with essential insights, findings, and recommendations that we are eager to bring to attention of policy makers. One of the most pressing issues our team encountered during visits was the problem of overcrowding in these facilities.

Many of them are operating well beyond their intended capacities, which poses harm to the well-being of inmates. This overcrowding is exacerbated by arbitrary police arrest practices, a high number of under trial prisoners (UTPs), and a reluctance to explore alternatives to detention for minor offenses such as release on probation and parole. These factors severely impede inmates' access to basic healthcare and overall quality of life.

The gravity of the situation is further emphasized by a recent report by Human Rights Watch titled "A Nightmare for Everyone - The Health Crisis in Pakistan's Prisons." Pakistan's prison system ranks among the most overcrowded globally. Unfortunately, the dire circumstances result in many prisoners not receiving the basic healthcare they are entitled to under National and Provincial Legal framework, violating international standards such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, commonly known as the "Mandela Rules".

Within our province, the Sindh Prisons & Corrections Service Act and Rules of 2019 aim to align with international standards by addressing healthcare provisions, improving living conditions within prisons and ensuring the rights of prisoners including legal aid. However, recent challenges, including the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and flooding in Sindh, have exposed disparities in healthcare access, especially within the prison system. Access to healthcare for detained inmates is a human right that must be available to all without discrimination. We appreciate the Government of Sindh for taking steps to fulfill its obligations by implementing progressive Rules, including an online medicine system, to ensure physical and mental health services are accessible to prisoners.

In closing, we express our deep gratitude to the Sindh Human Rights Department and legal aid partners, including the Legal Aid Society (LAS) and Pakistan Legal United Society (PLUS), for their unwavering support in our mission to provide legal access to inmates through Human Rights Department, Government of Sindh. Support and commitment from stakeholders towards human rights are invaluable as we tirelessly strive to build a more just and compassionate society. SHRC will continue to support and engage for better living conditions, the provision of legal aid, and the protection of prisoners' rights.

EDITOR'S NOTE:



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest SHRC newsletter, where we shed light on our commitment to safeguarding human rights within Sindh's correctional facilities as per the mandate granted under section 4(iv) of the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act, 2011.

Our recent visits to these facilities have brought to the forefront the indispensable role of data and research in our mission. According to a report by UNHCR, as of March 30, 2020, Sindh's prisons held 15,167 inmates, exceeding the authorized capacity by 12%. Alarming overcrowding persists in certain male prisons, with District Prison Shaheed Benazirabad at 136% over capacity and District Prison Malir at 105% over capacity, among others. (UNODC)

These visits have revealed cases of false implications, particularly in drug-related offenses, underscoring our dedication to a just and equitable judicial process. While reform initiatives are underway, the pressing issue of overcrowding persists, severely affecting hygiene, quality food, and overall well-being of inmates.

Nonetheless, there are encouraging signs, such as vocational training programs for women prisoners and awareness sessions for inmates in Central Jail, Hyderabad, and Karachi, exemplifying the potential for rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Our data-driven approach informs recommendations to the government, aiming to enhance human rights protection, access to justice, and the rehabilitation of inmates. We remain steadfast in our commitment to advocating for the rights of inmates, strengthening partnerships, and expanding our advocacy efforts.

We appreciate the unwavering support from IG Prison Office, Home Department, Government of Sindh, our legal partners and stakeholders as we work together to build a more just, humane, and rights-conscious society.

Best Regards,

Ali Masood

Research Associate, SHRC.

VISITS RECAP:

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), under the new leadership, embarked on a transformative journey in this quarter. We conducted inspection visits to multiple correctional and prison facilities in the province of Sindh, to assess the conditions of detention facilities, amplify the voices of inmates, and advocate for human rights.

These visits were not only a testament to our commitment but also a step forward in realizing the Government's priority areas under the Rule of Law Roadmap, which aims to establish a just and equitable legal system.

The prison facilities in Sindh, often plagued by overcrowding and limited resources, create harsh living conditions for inmates. Such challenges make it arduous for prison staff to provide the necessary care and support. The SHRC inspection visits were conducted with a single purpose: to improve the living conditions of inmates and identify cases to provide legal aid.

Our approach is comprehensive, employing mixed methods that included both quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. Trained SHRC staff and dedicated volunteers formed the backbone of our data collection process. They conducted interviews with inmates, meticulously observed their living conditions, and gathered pertinent data using the tools at their disposal. Furthermore, they engaged in enlightening conversations with prison staff to better understand their perspectives and the hurdles they face in delivering care and support.

The SHRC, fueled by its unwavering commitment to justice and human rights, ventured into the heart of Sindh to visit around sixteen correctional facilities. Among them were Sukkur Central Prison 1 and Prison 2, Larkana Prison, Jacobabad Prison, Hyderabad Prison, District Jail Badin, Khairpur Jail, Women Jail Hyderabad, Juvenile Jail etc. These selections were made based on population density, geographical location, and the urgent need for improvements in the conditions of these facilities and the humane treatment of inmates.

In the pages that follow, you'll discover our profound visits, the findings that emerged from the depths of these facilities.

FINDINGS FROM INSIDE

DURING OUR VISITS TO VARIOUS PRISONS AND JAILS IN SINDH, WE MADE SEVERAL IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS:

»»» SUKKUR CENTRAL PRISON. DATE: 05 APRIL '23

In Sukkur Central Prison 1 & 2, Chairperson Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho interacted with the prisoners and addressed various issues. Notably, 17 needy prisoners were identified who were languishing in Sukkur jail due to their inability to afford legal representation. Several cases were referred to the Commission, LAS and PLUS for free legal aid.

FINDINGS OF GHOTKI & JACOBABAD JAIL:

Influx of UTPs: One concerning finding that stood out was the sluggish influx of under trial prisoners (UTPs) into the majority of correctional facilities. This observation raises several critical questions about the criminal justice system and its impact on the lives of those awaiting trial.

Slow Judicial Process: Some of the prisoners had legal representation but expressed concerns about the slow judicial process.

Medical Supplies and Equipment: The head consultant of the prison, raised concerns about the lack of adequate medical supplies and equipment. This included shortages of medicine, first aid kits, ambulances, and life-saving drugs.

Power Outages: The jail experienced frequent load shedding, with 10-12 hours of power outage per day. The team suggested the installation of solar panels and lights as a potential solution.

»»» BADIN JAIL. DATE: 08 APRIL '23

SHRC's team visited Badin Jail and conducted a comprehensive assessment of the facilities, problems faced by inmates, and provision of legal assistance. The jail comprised 8 separate barracks, accommodating 559 prisoners, including individuals from Sajawal and Thatta districts, as well as foreigners. It was observed that some prisoners had not received legal aid, prompting immediate contact with the Legal Aid office for assistance.



»»» JACOBABAD CENTRAL JAIL AND DISTRICT PRISON GHOTKI. DATE: 06 MAY '23

During the visit to Jacobabad Central Jail and District Prison Ghotki, the SHRC team, led by Chairperson Mr. Iqbal Detho, along with members Mr. Ayub Khoso and Mr. Sukhdev, conducted an investigation into the conditions and treatment of inmates.





➤➤➤ DISTRICT PRISON AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN LARKANA. DATE: 06 MAY '23

The visit to the District Prison and Correctional Facility in Larkana involved a detailed inspection of the living conditions of inmates, including the juvenile section, and the issues related to legal representation. The Chairman, along with Member/MPA Ms. Farhat Seemen and Member Mr. Ayub Khosa, identified needy inmates and promptly referred their cases to the Legal Aid Society (LAS) and PLUS lawyers for immediate assistance. Around 48 cases were identified and referred to LAS and PLUS for further action.



➤➤➤ WOMEN JAIL, HYDERABAD. DATE: 05 MAY '23

The Women Jail in Hyderabad is a correctional facility specifically designated for female inmates. During the visit, the SHRC team documented various aspects of the facility, including the population of women prisoners, vocational training and education facilities, legal aid provision, and an awareness session conducted by the Chairperson.

SHRC'S FINDINGS OF WOMEN JAIL HAYDERABAD:

Women Prisoner's Population:

The Women Jail housed a total of 60 women prisoners, and it was observed that indoor games were well-maintained, providing recreational opportunities for both babies and mothers.

Legal Aid: Legal aid was provided to 5 cases, demonstrating efforts to ensure fair legal representation. Additionally, the Legal Aid Society organized an Eid Milan party for the women prisoners.

Vocational Training and Education:

One positive aspect that emerged from the inspection was the early learning center within the jail. The facility was found to be in good condition, providing incarcerated women with opportunities for education and personal development. The facility also offered sewing facilities to provide vocational training for the women prisoners. This is a crucial step towards rehabilitation and reintegration into society, ensuring that these women have a chance to rebuild their lives after serving their sentences.



➤➤➤ NARA JAIL IN HYDERABAD. DATE: 06 MAY '23

DURING THE VISIT TO NARA JAIL IN HYDERABAD, THE SHRC TEAM OBSERVED THE FOLLOWING FINDINGS:

Inmate Population: The jail housed a total of 281 detainees, with one being convicted and the rest under trial.

Poor Infrastructure: The jail's structure and barracks were in a dilapidated condition, requiring immediate attention.

Inadequate Security: The security system around the jail was deemed insufficient, raising concerns about the safety of both inmates and staff.

Lack of Health Facilities: Health facilities for prisoners were not available, highlighting the need for better healthcare provisions.

Legal Aid: Legal aid was provided to 15 prisoners by Habib Jiskani and his team from the Legal Aid Society.



➤➤➤ JUVENILE JAIL, HYDERABAD. DATE: 06 MAY '23



Mr. Muhammad Aslam Shaikh, Member Judicial-II of the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), along-with the legal team of Pakistan Legal United Society & Legal Aid Society visited the Juvenile Jail in Hyderabad.

THESE ARE THE FOLLOWING FINDINGS OF THE VISIT TO THE JUVENILE JAIL, HYDERABAD:

Juvenile Detainees: The Juvenile Jail held a total of 24 juveniles, with 19 under trial and 5 already convicted. The Chairperson identified cases that required immediate attention and referred them to the Legal Aid Office and PLUS to expedite legal proceedings for the juveniles.

The living conditions within the juvenile detention center were generally satisfactory. However, there were some concerns about the treatment and discipline methods used with the young inmates. It is essential to ensure that juveniles are treated with care, compassion, and respect while in detention. During the visit it was assessed the availability and effectiveness of educational and rehabilitation programs for the juveniles. Healthcare services and mental health support were observed to be adequate, with a focus on addressing the unique needs of juvenile inmates. Ensuring the physical and mental well-being of these young individuals is of paramount importance.



➤➤➤ CENTRAL JAIL, HYDERABAD. DATE: 06 MAY '23

THE SHRC TEAM VISITED THE CENTRAL JAIL IN HYDERABAD AND MADE THE FOLLOWING FINDINGS:

Inmate Population: A total of 1954 prisoners were detained in the Central Jail, with 5 identified cases requiring legal aid. The legal team assessed the provision of legal aid and the fairness of trials within the prison. Ensuring that inmates have access to legal representation and receive fair treatment during their legal proceedings is essential to upholding their rights.

Facilities: The food, health, bedding, and other facilities in the Central Jail were found to be comparatively better than those observed in other visited jails. The delegation also looked into the availability of rehabilitation and reintegration programs for inmates. Such programs are vital for preparing detainees to reintegrate into society successfully after serving their sentences.

Awareness Session: The Chairperson held a meeting with the prisoners in a newly constructed hall. During this session, the Chairperson emphasized the importance of prisoners' rights and conducted an awareness session to educate them about their entitlements.



»»» DISTRICT JAIL MALIR, KARACHI DATED SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

Judicial Member of Sindh Human Rights Commission, Justice Retired Arshad Noor Khan, along with his team, including Barrister Rida Tahir, Complainant Superintendent Zaheer Hussain, and members of Legal Aid Society and Pakistan Legal United Society, visited District Jail Malir. The primary objective of this visit was to assess the administrative affairs of the jail and the welfare of the inmates.

Jail Superintendent Syed Arshad Shah provided a comprehensive briefing on all sections and barracks within the jail. Subsequently, the team conducted a thorough inspection of the 43-acre jail premises, which includes kitchens, canteens, fine art schools, madrassas, hospitals, and medical stores for prisoners. In addition to inspecting various facilities, the team engaged with prisoners to address their concerns.

Currently, District Jail Malir houses 5752 prisoners, exceeding its capacity of 2200 inmates. Notably, among the inmates, there are 269 Indians and 237 Afghans. During the visit, details of 32 prisoners in need of legal aid were collected and forwarded to relevant organizations. Instructions were also issued to the jail superintendent to ensure the provision of basic facilities.



»»» CENTRAL JAIL KARACHI DATED SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

On September 6, 2023, Justice Retired Arshad Noor Khan, accompanied by Barristers Rida Tahir, Zaheer Hussain, and Talha Shah, as well as members of Legal Aid Society and Pakistan Legal United Society, visited Central Jail Karachi. The visit aimed to address inmate issues, assess their treatment, and review the overall facilities and administration of the jail.

During the visit, DIG Jail Nasir Khan and Deputy Superintendent Ammad Hussain Chandio provided a detailed briefing, highlighting administrative challenges and delays in court production due to overcrowding. Recommendations were made to secure additional space, as the jail currently accommodates over 6000 inmates, exceeding its capacity of 2400.

The team also inspected various sections of the jail, including the kitchen, hospital, school, art class, computer lab, library, and music class, and assessed the facilities provided. Legal aid was extended to 18 deserving prisoners during this visit.

»» WOMEN JAIL, KARACHI

DATED SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

On the same day, Justice Retired Arshad Noor Khan, along with the same team, visited Women Jail Karachi with the purpose of making recommendations to improve administrative affairs and address women inmates' issues.

DIG Jail Syeda Shiba Shah provided a detailed briefing on jail affairs, followed by an inspection of facilities such as the school, art class, computer lab, beauty salon, and sewing center for women prisoners. The jail has a capacity of 250 inmates, currently housing 154.

During the visit, a list of women in need of legal assistance was prepared and handed over to the Legal Aid Society after thorough discussions with the women prisoners.



»» YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITY KARACHI

Continuing their efforts on September 6, 2023, the team, including Justice Retired Arshad Noor Khan, Barrister Rida Tahir, Zaheer Hussain, and Talha Shah, along with members of Legal Aid Society and Pakistan Legal United Society, visited the Youthful Offenders Industrial School and Correctional Facility Karachi.

The visit focused on reviewing the educational, medical, and overall facilities and management provided to the children at the facility. Superintendent Abdul Karim Abbasi highlighted that 350 children were under care and were receiving vocational training, education, and access to various activities.

The team conducted a detailed inspection of all sections and issued instructions to improve the quality of food, provide immediate medical assistance to children affected by an eye virus, and extend legal assistance to deserving children.

»» REMAND HOUSE KARACHI

On the same day, Justice Retired Arshad Noor Khan and the team visited Remand House Karachi to assess the educational, medical, and other facilities and management for children. Superintendent Faheem Usrani briefed them on vocational training, educational activities, sports, and other facilities.

The team conducted a thorough inspection of all sections and issued instructions to provide immediate medical assistance to children affected by an eye virus and offer legal assistance to deserving children.

These visits reflect the commitment of the Sindh Human Rights Commission to improve the conditions and welfare of inmates and children in correctional facilities across the province.

»» DISTRICT CENTRAL JAIL MIRPURKHAS

The Sindh Human Rights Commission, along with its Chairperson, Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, visited District Central Jail Mirpurkhas. The team observed the facilities provided to the inmates, including education and healthcare. The team also highlighted the need for consent in medical procedures for the inmates and stressed the significance of respecting their rights in this regard.



During the visit, the team examined different sections of the jail, such as the library, kitchen, and canteen. They encouraged the authorities to support the library by donating books and making it more useful for the inmates. The team also met with the Legal Aid Society, and referred legal assistance of inmates who did not have access to lawyers.

Concerning the transportation of prisoners, it was suggested that those brought from Larkana and Hub Chowki be kept in the nearest jail. This recommendation aimed to reduce difficulties faced by relatives and friends visiting the prisoners who would otherwise have to travel long distances.

Furthermore, the team stressed the importance of shifting prisons to solar systems through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. They suggested that the Department of Energy be contacted to explore opportunities for implementing solar power in the prisons.



»» TABLE

Here is a table summarizing the information about inmates who received legal aid in the respective jails during the visits by the SHRC:

Jails	Legal Aid Receiving
Sukkur Central Prison 1 & 2	17
District Prison and Correctional Facility in Larkana	5
Shikarpur	1
Mirpurkhas	2
District Jail Badin	13
Jacobabad Central Jail	3
Nara Jail, Hyderabad	15
Central Jail, Hyderabad	5
Women Jail, Hyderabad	5
Khairpur Jail	4
Karachi Jails (Malir Jail and Central Jail)	8

»»» TABLE

In accordance with the Diyat, Arsh, and Daman Fund Rules of 2007, the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has diligently exercised its mandate by referring numerous cases to both the Legal Aid Society (LAS) and the Pakistan Life Uplift Society (PLUS). These cases involve individuals who, regrettably, find themselves unable to alleviate their financial obligations. Below is a comprehensive list of such cases:

Jails	Referred Cases of Diyat, Arsh, and Daman
Sukkur Central Prison 1 & 2	20
District Prison and Correctional Facility in Larkana	3
Mirpurkhas	2
Hyderabad Jail (Nara, Central and Women)	13
Khairpur Jail	9
Karachi Jails (Malir Jail and Central Jail)	1
Larkana	4



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MANDATE

At the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), our mission is to safeguard and promote human rights in every corner of society, especially within correctional facilities. We focus on specific human rights issues during our visits, striving to protect the rights enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan from Article 8 to 28. Here, we shed light on key areas that require immediate attention and action.

Our mandate to visit these correctional facilities is derived from *Article 4(iv)*, which states, *'The Commission shall visit, under intimation to the Government, any jail or institution under the control of the Government where persons are kept or detained or admitted for the purpose of treatment, reformation, or protection to see the living conditions of the inmates and make recommendations thereon.'*



THIS MANDATE EMPOWERS US TO:

Monitor Living Conditions: We closely inspect the living conditions of inmates, ensuring they are treated with dignity and respect as mandated by Pakistan's Constitution.

Protect Personal Liberty: We advocate for the protection of personal liberty and ensure that individuals are not unlawfully detained or deprived of their rights.

Promote Rehabilitation: Our focus on treatment, reformation, and protection is in line with our commitment to promote rehabilitation and support for those in correctional facilities.

Recommend Improvements: We diligently make recommendations to the Government based on our findings, aiming to enhance the conditions and treatment of inmates.

Uphold Constitutional Rights: We stand firm in upholding the constitutional rights of all individuals, regardless of their circumstances, and work tirelessly to ensure these rights are respected within correctional facilities.

Our mandate is not just a legal obligation but a moral commitment to protect the rights and dignity of every person within these facilities. Through our actions and recommendations, we strive to create a more just and humane society where human rights are upheld for all.

»» OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) presents the following recommendations to the Government of Sindh, aiming to address critical issues and enhance the conditions of prisons and correctional facilities in the province. These recommendations are rooted in our findings and observations from visits to various correctional facilities in Sindh. Our objective is to strengthen the protection of human rights, ensure access to justice, and promote the rehabilitation and reformation of inmates. By implementing these recommendations, the Government of Sindh can take significant strides toward creating a more humane and effective prison system.



1. Increase Budget Allocation: Allocate sufficient financial resources to the prison system to address identified needs, including infrastructure improvement, staff recruitment and training, healthcare provisions, rehabilitation programs, and legal aid services.

2. Improve Access to Legal Aid: Strengthen the legal aid system by allocating additional resources and staff, guaranteeing that all inmates have access to legal representation and support. This includes activating District Legal Committees (DLCs) and ensuring prompt assistance from Legal Aid Society (LAS) and other legal aid service providers. (DLCs) and ensuring prompt assistance from Legal Aid Society (LAS) and other legal aid service providers.

3. Enhance Living Conditions: Take immediate measures to improve living conditions in prisons and correctional facilities. Address concerns such as overcrowding, dilapidated infrastructure, and insufficient facilities for hygiene, healthcare, and recreational activities. Regular inspections and maintenance are vital to ensure inmates' well-being.

4. Address Financial Burden on Needy Prisoners: Develop mechanisms to assist needy prisoners who cannot pay Diyat, Arsh, and Daman amounts to the legal heirs of victims. Explore options for financial support, facilitate legal arrangements, or establish a dedicated fund for such prisoners.

5. Strengthen Human Rights Training: Provide comprehensive human rights training to prison officials, ensuring they are aware of and uphold inmates' rights. This training should cover fair treatment, non-discrimination, prevention of torture, and respect for prisoners' dignity. Regular refresher courses and monitoring mechanisms are essential for effective implementation.

6. Juvenile Cases: Ensure that no juveniles are detained in prisons or police lockups, as mandated by the Sindh Juvenile Justice Rules 2019. Establish separate juvenile detention centers and provide appropriate care and rehabilitation services for juvenile offenders.

7. Poor Condition of Jails: Address the poor condition of Nara jail barracks and enhance the security system, ensuring inmates' right to safe and humane conditions of detention, as mandated by Chapter 27 of the Sindh Prisons Rules 2019.

8. Improve Access to Medical Services: In order to enhance healthcare for inmates, it is essential to collaborate with organizations such as the People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI). This collaboration should focus on the implementation of regular health check-ups and efficient medical response systems. Furthermore, it is imperative to ensure that all correctional facilities comply with Chapter 11 of the 2019 Sindh Prisons Rules, which stipulates the provision of adequate health facilities and qualified staff to safeguard inmates' right to healthcare. Addressing the significant issue of shortages in medical supplies and equipment, as highlighted by the head consultant of Jacobabad Jail, is crucial. Rule 168 of the 2019 Sindh Prisons Rules mandates that every prison must maintain a well-equipped hospital with an ample supply of medical resources and personnel.

9. Enhance Security Measures: Strengthen the security system within jails to ensure the safety of both inmates and staff, including enhancing surveillance systems and conducting regular security audits.

10. Shortage of Staff: Address the shortage of staff in the Dar ul Aman and Women Complaint Cell to ensure proper care and supervision of inmates, as mandated by Chapter 15 of the Sindh Prisons Rules 2019.

11. Focus on Rehabilitation and Vocational Education: Prioritize rehabilitation and vocational education programs for inmates, particularly juveniles and women, to facilitate their reintegration into society upon release.

12. Enhance Coordination with Stakeholders: Foster stronger coordination and collaboration between SHRC, prison authorities, legal aid service providers, healthcare institutions, and other relevant stakeholders for effective problem-solving and addressing inmates' needs.



13. Monitor and Evaluate Progress: Implement a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess the progress and effectiveness of these recommendations. Regular inspections, performance assessments, and feedback mechanisms are essential for accountability and continuous improvement.



»»» RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SINDH PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICE RULES, 2019

The Sindh Prisons and Corrections Service Rules, 2019 provides a very comprehensive set of mechanisms in the Chapter-IVA such as formation of Prison Policy Board envisaged to assess and evaluate infrastructural and resource needs (Rule-23), the Prison Management Board (Chapter –IVB) mandated to fix fiscal and operational issues of a prison and correctional facility (Rule-29) and Prison Oversight Committees (Chapter- IVC) mandated to evaluate key indicators and targets envisaged by Prison Policy Board (PPD), Prison Management Board (PMD) and set a way forward on rehabilitative plans and activities for the welfare of inmates (Rule-33). To serve the rehabilitative and welfare purposes of the Sindh Prisons and Corrections Service Rule, 2019, the Commission strongly recommends for the activation of the following existing mechanisms provided in Chapter IV-A, IV-B and IV-C respectively.

1. Activation of Prison Policy Board: It has come to our attention that, since its notification on December 14, 2020, only one meeting of the Prison Policy Board has been convened. This frequency falls short of the requirement specified in sub-rule 2 of Rule 22, which mandates meetings every 120 days. Therefore, we recommend that meetings be held in accordance with Rule 20(2) of the Sindh Prisons and Corrections Service Rules, 2019.

2. Activation of Prison Management Board: As of our knowledge, no meetings of the Prison Management Board have taken place since its inception on October 1, 2021. This lack of activity ultra vires sub-rule 2 of Rule 22, which mandates meetings every 60 days. Consequently, we recommend that meetings be scheduled as stipulated in Rule 20(2) of the Sindh Prisons and Corrections Service Rules, 2019.

3. Activation of Prison Oversight Committees: While the Prison Oversight Committees exist in Sindh, reports on their quarterly and annual activities are currently unavailable, as noted by the Commission. In light of this, we urge compliance with Rule 33(v) of the Sindh Prisons and Corrections Service Rules, 2019, which necessitates the submission of these reports.



Children in jail

By Editorial Board | October 28, 2023



Representational image. AFP File

Pakistan has around 1,300 juvenile offenders in jail. Some of them are under-trial prisoners and are forced to live a life behind bars because neither they nor their parents have the means to afford to pursue court cases. But the fact that such a large number of children are in jail should be a cause for concern for authorities who should see this sorry figure as their collective failure. To its credit, the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has recently asked the Sindh High Court to devise a mechanism to offer free legal aid to the 385 children incarcerated across the province. According to the data collected, the ages of these 'prisoners' range from 13 to 18 years.

There are several factors which lead to a child committing a crime. The first one is the kind of environment a child is exposed to at home. Domestic violence, loss of parents, financial difficulties, and other related traumas that a child faces at the early stages of life play a big role in turning him/her into a rebel. And when their fate takes them to people who boast about the rewarding world of crime, they do not think twice. People in our country rarely try to find out the factors that lead a child to commit punishable offences. The immediate reaction is to use brutal punishments against children so that they dare not repeat the offence. As a result, there are hardly any voices in favour of what society as 'criminals' who should not be allowed a chance at redemption.

SIIRC seeks updates on Remand Homes for juveniles

Sindh's jails house 385 juvenile offenders, 106 of them are under the age of 16

Our Correspondent | August 30, 2023



Design: Ibrahim Yaqub

KARACHI: The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has cast a glaring spotlight on the troubling neglect of laws intended to protect the most vulnerable section of the society - children.

The commission has raised concerns, directing its inquiry towards the establishment of Remand Homes. These sanctuaries are sanctified spaces, providing shelter to minors who find themselves facing charges. It is a shift towards compassion, replacing the cold bars of confinement with an atmosphere of custody, care, protection, observation, and treatment.

Vulnerable communities: SHRC, LAS ink MoU for free legal aid

Recorder Report | Published August 6, 2023



KARACHI: Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) and the Legal Aid Society (LAS) have taken a step forward to promote legal awareness and provide free legal aid to the vulnerable communities in Sindh.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to forge a strong partnership to ensure access to justice becomes a right, not a privilege for all members of society. The MoU signing ceremony was witnessed by Iqbal Ahmed Deho, the Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, and Justice Arif Khilji, the Chief Legal Advisor of Legal Aid Society, who played pivotal roles in bringing this collaboration to fruition.

The youthful offenders industrial school and correction facility at Karachi has the highest number of minors as it houses 338 inmates facing trial in different cases followed by the Hyderabad detention facility for underage with 35 and the one in Sukkur with 12 minors.

The SHRC has asked the Sindh High Court to devise a mechanism offering free legal aid to these children as mandated under several provisions of the Constitution and relevant law.

Initially, a separate legislation for child offenders, the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance (JJSO), was promulgated in 2000 about a decade after the UN Convention on the Rights of Child signing in 1990 to enable law offenders aged less than 18 years to enjoy special treatment in the eyes of law and bar the death penalty.

Thereafter, the Juvenile Justice System Act (JJSA) was enacted in 2018 repealing the Musharraf-era JJSO in order to provide more protection to the underage facing criminal litigations across the country.

The latest legislation also centers around the "best interest of the child" and introducing the new concept of juvenile rehabilitation in the country.

The SHRC sent a letter on Oct 4 to the registrar of the high court, seeking establishment of a mechanism for free legal assistance to the child offenders.



CLASSIC	INDEXES	SEANERS
STOCK	PRICE	
SME Leasing Ltd / New 10	2	▲ 0.27 (124.87%)
1000 Leasing (undertrial)		▲ 0.20 (14.38%)
To Star Mutual / New 10	5.50	▲ 0.20 (3.64%)
1000 Mutual Fund (undertrial)		▲ 0.05 (0.94%)
788 Inwest Ltd / New 10	5.20	▲ 0.05 (0.94%)
1000 Investment (undertrial)		▲ 0.05 (0.94%)
100 Capital Sec / New 10	3.15	▲ 0.11 (3.50%)
1000 Capital Securities (undertrial)		▲ 0.11 (3.50%)
Georgyos PK / New 10	4.75	▲ 0.04 (0.84%)
1000 Georgyos (undertrial)		▲ 0.04 (0.84%)
Unicap Modaraba / New 10	2	▲ 0.17 (8.50%)
1000 Unicap (undertrial)		▲ 0.17 (8.50%)
Sitara Petroleum / New 10	36.87	▲ 1.16 (3.14%)
1000 Sitara (undertrial)		▲ 1.16 (3.14%)
Baflo Ind / New 10	94.36	▲ 0.02 (0.02%)
1000 Baflo (undertrial)		▲ 0.02 (0.02%)
MitichalFudal / New 10	154.83	▲ 0.41 (0.26%)
1000 Mitichal (undertrial)		▲ 0.41 (0.26%)
Purple CR / New 10	123.09	▲ 0.09 (0.07%)
1000 Purple (undertrial)		▲ 0.09 (0.07%)

CURRENCY	WORLD	COMMODITY	FX
USD FOR INR (bank Selling) / New 10	287.55		

Call to provide free legal aid to 385 juvenile offenders in Sindh

Waqar Tariq | Published October 23, 2023



KARACHI: The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has sought a mechanism to provide free legal assistance to 385 juvenile offenders, who are being kept in three youthful offenders' industrial schools and correction facilities across the province.

The statistics, collected by the office of the inspector general (IG) of prisons and corrections service, Sindh, in July, said 168 juvenile offenders were 17 year old, 106 16 years old, 100 18 years old, eight 15 years old, two 14 years old and one offender was 13 years old.

The youthful offenders industrial school and correction facility at Karachi has the highest number of minors as it houses 338 inmates facing trial in different cases followed by the Hyderabad detention facility for underage with 35 and the one in Sukkur with 12 minors.

The SHRC has asked the Sindh High Court to devise a mechanism offering free legal aid to these children as mandated under several provisions of the Constitution and relevant law. Initially, a separate legislation for child offenders, the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance (JJSO), was promulgated in 2000 about a decade after the UN Convention on the Rights of Child signing in 1990 to enable law offenders aged less than 18 years to enjoy special treatment in the eyes of law and bar the death penalty.

Thereafter, the Juvenile Justice System Act (JJSA) was enacted in 2018 repealing the Musharraf-era JJSO in order to provide more protection to the underage facing criminal litigations across the country.

The latest legislation also centers around the "best interest of the child" and introducing the new concept of juvenile rehabilitation in the country.

The SHRC sent a letter on Oct 4 to the registrar of the high court, seeking establishment of a mechanism for free legal assistance to the child offenders.

»»» ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who supported our visits, including the Government of Sindh, Legal Aid Society (LAS), the Local Government Department, and the Jails' Administration. Your cooperation and assistance have been instrumental in our efforts to assess the conditions of correctional facilities, listen to the voices of inmates, and advocate for human rights. Your commitment to upholding the principles of justice and dignity is deeply appreciated, and it reinforces our collective mission to ensure the protection of human rights in the province of Sindh. We look forward to continuing our collaboration and making further progress in the pursuit of a just and fair legal system.



CONTACT US:

For inquiries, complaints, feedback, or assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're here to listen, engage, and take action.

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