



**COMMITTEE  
FOR THE  
WELFARE OF  
PRISONERS**



# NEWSLETTER

July - Sep 2024

20<sup>th</sup> Edition



**719**

Vakalatnamas filed  
in the courts



**396**

Bail applications  
granted



**563**

Cases disposed off  
through court orders



**319**

Acquittals On merit

all made possible through the support of Government of Sindh

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## Committee's Annual Progress Meeting: Reviewing and Planning Ahead

The Committee held its Annual Progress Meeting at the Home Department on August 21, 2024, Chaired by Mr. Muhammad Siddique Memon. The meeting focused on reviewing progress made against the Terms of Reference (TORs) 2023 - 2024 and charting the way forward for the upcoming year. Members of the Committee actively participated in discussions, providing insights on achievements, challenges, and strategic goals for the future.



## Strategic meeting with Inspector General Prisons Sindh, Kazi Nazeer Ahmed: Enhancing Rehabilitation in Prisons

Committee's Chairperson, Mr. Muhammad Siddique Memon, engaged in an introductory meeting with the Inspector General Prisons, Kazi Nazeer Ahmed. The discussion focused on devising innovative strategies to address prison overcrowding and improve rehabilitation processes. By exploring new approaches, we aim to create a more effective and humane prison system, ultimately benefiting both the individuals in custody and the broader community.



## Strengthening Partnerships for Human Rights: A Visit from Secretary Human Rights Department Sindh Ms. Tahseen Fatima

We were honored to welcome Ms. Tahseen Fatima, Secretary Human Rights Department - Government of Sindh, at Head Office for an insightful meeting. During her visit, we discussed potential collaborative efforts between the Human Rights Department and the Committee. Our goal is to expand legal aid services and enhance human rights within the prison system, ensuring comprehensive support and protection for inmates.



## Celebrating Independence Day with Ms. Saima Agha at Women's Prison Hyderabad

We were honored to have Ms. Saima Agha, Member of the Sindh Assembly and Parliamentary Secretary for Sports & Youth Affairs, as the Chief Guest at our Independence Day celebration at Women's Prison Hyderabad. Ms. Agha actively participated in the program and took the time to visit several of our key initiatives, including the Early Learning Center, Sewing Centre, and Sensory Garden. Her presence and engagement made the event truly memorable for all involved.



## Mr. Osama Malik, Director Legal Education at the Pakistan Bar Council, visit paralegal class in Central Prison Karachi

**M**r. Osama Malik, Director of Legal Education at the Pakistan Bar Council, visited the Paralegal Class established by the Committee in 2017 at the Central Prison Karachi. This program aims to create a sustainable mechanism where trained convicts serve as paralegals to assist new under-trial prisoners (UTPs) 2215% of UTPs who attended the sessions demonstrated increased knowledge of the laws and norms that govern their rights and obligations.

Mr. Malik engaged with the trained paralegals and expressed strong interest in expanding this impactful model to other prisons, recognizing its potential to improve legal literacy and support for inmates nationwide.



## Paralegals Awarded Remission for Outstanding Contributions

**W**e are proud to announce that two of our dedicated prison paralegals have been granted remission of 320 and 522 days, respectively, for their exceptional contributions to the prison paralegal program. This program, established by the Committee, trains convicts to serve as paralegals, offering crucial legal literacy to new under-trial prisoners.

The paralegal program follows a three-fold approach: know the law, use the law, shape the law. It empowers prisoners by equipping them with the knowledge of their legal rights, prison rules, and judicial processes, ensuring they can navigate the legal system more effectively. The two paralegals receiving remission have worked tirelessly within this framework, providing invaluable support to their peers and enhancing access to justice within the prison system.

Their hard work and dedication have not only transformed the lives of many inmates but also paved the way for a brighter future through this remarkable achievement.

## Generous Donation from the District Bar Association, Hyderabad

**M**r. Ziauddin Shaikh, President of the District Bar Association Hyderabad, alongside Mr. Wazeer Hussain Chandio, Library Secretary of the District Bar, and Mr. Zain ul Aabdeen Sahito, BVC Trainer of the Sindh Judicial Academy, visited our Early Learning Center and Sewing Centre at the Women's Prison Hyderabad. They expressed great appreciation for the Committee's work and generously donated an 80-litre electric water cooler to support the inmates.



The inmates are delighted by this much-needed support. Ms. Abida Sami, Superintendent of the Prison, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Chairperson of the Committee and the donors for their kind contribution, which has made a meaningful difference in the daily lives of the inmates.



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# Concluding Our Group Art Therapy Journey: Transformative Stories of Resilience

**O**n July 25, 2024, we successfully concluded 20 transformative group art therapy sessions at the Women’s Prison Karachi. The sessions have provided a creative outlet and supportive environment for participants, resulting in overwhelmingly positive feedback, with many reporting noticeable improvements in their mood and mental well-being.

## Key Highlights:

- ★ **Sughra’s Story:** Sughra, known for her gentle spirit, has made significant strides in managing stress and expressing her emotions more openly through art. Her progress has been truly inspiring, a testament to the healing power of creativity.
- ★ **Zaiba’s Transformation:** Initially hesitant and non-verbal, Zaiba has undergone a remarkable journey. She mastered the simple act of holding a pencil and discovered her passion for painting. This newfound confidence has inspired her to pursue other skills, showing the profound impact of our sessions.
- ★ **Yasmeen’s Joy:** Yasmeen's infectious joy lit up every session. Her journey in learning to regulate her emotions has been incredibly moving. She has become a symbol of resilience, embodying the positive change brought about by art therapy.

These stories reflect the personal growth and emotional resilience of the participants, highlighting the importance of therapeutic interventions in challenging environments.



## Football Camps at Youthful Offender Industrial School

The Committee, in collaboration with Karachi United Football Club, successfully concluded its football training camps at the Youthful Offender Industrial School (YOIS) Karachi. These camps were designed to promote both mental and physical fitness among young offenders. Recognizing the importance of mental well-being, the sessions also included mindfulness exercises and motivational talks aimed at building confidence and self-belief.

Each session brought energy and excitement, beginning with light drills and concluding with thrilling matches that strengthened teamwork and camaraderie. It was heartening to witness the young offenders not only enjoying the sessions but also demonstrating remarkable improvement in their skills and cooperation. The impact of these camps will continue to resonate as we focus on fostering positive change through sports.



## Dr. Mehmood Mustafa's Visit to Early Learning Center

Dr. Mehmood Mustafa, representing the Education Support Initiative (ESI), visited our Early Learning Center (ELC) in the Women's Prison Karachi. ESI has been a key donor for several years, playing a pivotal role in supporting our educational programs for children incarcerated with their Mother.

The purpose of this visit was to assess the ongoing activities and explore opportunities for extending collaboration to further enhance the educational support and resources available to the inmates. We look forward to continuing our partnership with ESI to create a positive and lasting impact on the



## Eid Milad-un-Nabi Celebrations at Women’s Prison and YOIS Hyderabad

In observance of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the Committee organized a heartfelt event at the Women’s Prison Hyderabad, featuring moving recitations and naats. Prisoners, staff, and our dedicated female lawyers actively participated in the celebration. The event concluded with the distribution of food boxes to all inmates and staff, bringing comfort and joy to the prison community.

In addition, our support extended to the Youthful Offender Industrial School (YOIS) Hyderabad, where food boxes were also provided to both inmates and staff. A total of 250 lunch boxes were distributed across both facilities, made possible through the generosity of private donors.



## Free Legal Advisory Camps

The Committee prioritizes the 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 July to Sep 2024, we successfully organized 20 free legal advisory camps for prisoners. The camps witnessed the active participation of 538 under-trial prisoners, including adult men, women, and juvenile prisoners who benefited from free legal advice.





# Justice SUCCESS STORIES

## Asif\*

**A**sif, a determined 28-year-old from Sanghar, was the cornerstone of his family's survival. His life took a harrowing turn when he was falsely accused of drug possession, a charge that seemed to shatter his already fragile world. In the midst of his struggle with poverty and uncertainty, a beacon of hope emerged in the form of Mr. Hussain Bux Chang, advocate of the Committee.

On June 25, 2024, Mr. Hussain Bux took on Asif's case with unwavering commitment, filing the vakalatnama to represent him. The legal process unfolded quickly, revealing glaring flaws in the prosecution's case against Asif. Key details were missing; the complainant and witnesses were unclear about the arrest and recovery memos, failed to describe the alleged drugs, and provided no information about the sealing and sampling of the evidence. Crucially, there was no record of who sent the evidence for chemical examination, further undermining the prosecution's claims.

After a thorough review of the evidence and inconsistencies, the court declared Asif innocent on July 4, 2024. Remarkably, this verdict was delivered through a video call, showcasing how modern technology can enhance the legal process.

In just 10 days, justice was swiftly served, not only clearing Asif's name but also highlighting the numerous flaws in the prosecution's case. This case highlights the vital role of legal aid for those marginalized and vulnerable, proving that dedicated advocacy can turn the tide in the fight against injustice and offer a ray of hope in the darkest times.



\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

## Daniyal\*

**D**aniyal, a 26-year-old laborer from Karachi, earned about Rs. 12,000 a month to support himself and his family. Tragically, he was wrongfully convicted for an encounter with police involving an unlicensed weapon and sentenced to ten years in Central Prison, Karachi.

Desperate for help, Daniyal reached out to the Committee. His case was taken on by Mr. Habib-ur-Rehman Jiskani and an appeal was filed on December 8, 2023. During the appeal, many critical issues were revealed.



\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

The police accused Daniyal and others of firing at them, claiming one officer was injured. However, no damage was reported to the police vehicle, and there were no local witnesses to support the story narrated by the police. Additionally, there was a significant 12-day delay before Daniyal was identified in a lineup, and the injured officer could not recognize him as the shooter. It was also found that Daniyal's name was not mentioned in

the first information report, and no physical description was provided. Furthermore, evidence showed he had been arrested from some different location days after the alleged incident.

These inconsistencies raised doubts about the police case and their intentions. On August 22, 2024, the High Court ruled in Daniyal's favor, clearing him of all charges.

After the Committee's intervention, Daniyal's case was resolved in just over eight months, saving him from nearly 8.5 more years in prison for a crime he did not commit.

## Mustafa\*

**M**ustafa, a 24-year-old from Gulshan-e-Maymar originally from Badin, was the sole breadwinner for his family, earning Rs. 25,000 a month as a laborer. He found himself imprisoned in Central Prison, Karachi, facing serious charges for possessing an illegal weapon, charges he insisted were completely baseless.

Mustafa sought help during the Committee's regular prison visit. The team took his case, and his advocate, Ms. Bad-e-Saba, filed the Vakalatnama on May 6, 2024.

As the case progressed, serious flaws in the prosecution's arguments became evident. There was no evidence proving the recovery of any weapon from him, Mustafa was arrested from a different location, all witnesses were police officers and no independent eyewitnesses were called. The prosecution struggled to establish their case beyond a reasonable doubt.

On September 6, 2024, after just four months of proceedings, the court recognized Mustafa's innocence and cleared him of all charges. With the Committee's support, he was freed from the heavy burden of false accusations and could finally return and unite with his family.



**Advocate  
Ms. Bad-e-Saba**

\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.



## Khalique\*

**K**halique, a 55-year-old resident of Karachi, found himself in a dire situation, imprisoned in District Prison Malir for allegedly carrying gutka and mawa, a charge he claimed was false. As the sole breadwinner for his family, Khalique struggled to make ends meet as a laborer.

Recognizing his plight, the Committee assigned his case to Mr. Fayyaz Ahmed, who filed the vakalatnama on his behalf on February 26, 2024. As the case progressed, it became clear that the prosecution was weak. The complainant failed to appear in court for months, despite multiple requests, raising doubts about the validity of the charges.

Mr. Fayyaz argued passionately for Khalique's acquittal, highlighting key issues, there were no eyewitnesses, no evidence proving Khalique was in possession of any illegal items, and discrepancies in the details of his arrest. He emphasized that continuing the case would waste the court's precious time, given the baseless nature of the accusations.

On September 10, 2024, the court agreed with Mr. Fayyaz's arguments and declared Khalique innocent, freeing him from all charges. In just 6 months and 16 days, Khalique went from being wrongfully imprisoned to returning home, relieved and grateful to finally clear his name.



**Advocate  
Mr. Fayyaz Ahmed**

\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

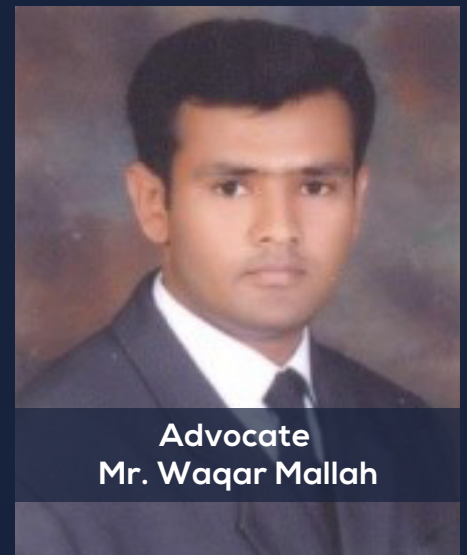
## Zaman\*

**Z**aman, a 12-year-old boy from Karachi originally from Larkana, found himself trapped in a tough situation. He was held in a Remand Home, accused of carrying an unlicensed weapon, a claim he denied, insisting he had done nothing wrong.

Worried for help, Zaman reached out for legal assistance, and the Committee took on his case. His advocate, Mr. Waqar Mallah, filed Vakalatnama on April 18, 2024, and the case moved forward.

During the court proceedings, several inconsistencies were revealed. The complainant admitted that the incident happened in a crowded area, yet no eyewitnesses were presented. There was also no description of the supposed weapon in the arrest documents, and the details of recovered currency notes were missing. Furthermore, the prosecution sent the weapon for expert analysis but took 27 days to do so, without justifying the delay.

Ultimately, the prosecution failed to provide enough evidence against Zaman. On August 1, 2024, the court declared him innocent, freeing him from the weight of false charges. In just 3 months and 15 days, Zaman went from being wrongfully accused to returning home, relieved and grateful.



**Advocate  
Mr. Waqar Mallah**

\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

## Ali\*

Ali, a 36-year-old laborer from Nawabshah, faced a challenging period in his life while being held in District Prison, Nawabshah. With two dependents relying on him and a modest income of Rs. 9,000 a month, Ali's life was already marked by hardship. He claimed that he was falsely accused of carrying a weapon—a charge he strongly denied, stating that it was a baseless case against him.

According to the prosecution, Ali was apprehended by the police at by Pass Road near the salt factory in Nawabshah, along with an unidentified person armed with pistols. The police alleged that both were part of a gang known for committing dacoities, which led to the criminal case against him.

Fortunately, Ali's case was taken up by Mr. Majid Ali, an advocate of the Committee, who filed a vakalatnama on his behalf on March 22, 2024. The court proceedings, which concluded after careful review of the case documents, revealed significant discrepancies. For instance, the place of the alleged incident was not blocked by any obstruction, and both the complainant and witnesses were uncertain about whether they had pursued Ali. Additionally, there were inconsistencies in the timing of the incident, and the investigation officer failed to prepare a crucial sketch of the scene.

These inconsistencies and contradictions cast serious doubt on the credibility of the case. As a result, the court found the case filled with ambiguities and contradictions, leading to Ali's acquittal. On July 3, 2024, he was released from the charges that had unjustly burdened him.

In just 3 months and 12 days, justice was served, and Ali was finally free from the shadow of criminal charges.



Advocate  
Mr. Majid Ali

\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

## GET IN TOUCH!



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