



**COMMITTEE  
FOR THE  
WELFARE OF  
PRISONERS**



# NEWSLETTER

**October - December 2024**

**21st Edition**



**761**

Vakalatnamas filed  
in the courts



**389**

Bail applications  
granted



**512**

Cases disposed off  
through court orders



**301**

Acquittals on  
merit

All made possible through the support of Government of Sindh

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# UNLOCK HOPE THIS RAMADAN WITH YOUR ZAKAT

Dear Supporter,

There was a time I thought my life was over. I was falsely accused of **stealing from the house** where I worked, and I **spent a year in prison** trying to prove my innocence. It wasn't just the loneliness—it was the shame, the helplessness of knowing my family was struggling without me. To help them, I **joined the sewing center run by the Committee**, stitching clothes for others, one piece at a time. I found peace in that work, and along the way, I rediscovered a passion I thought I'd lost: designing and sewing beautiful clothes.

**Today, I'm back home, working out of my house** and stitching for women in my neighborhood. Every stitch I sew feels like a small victory—proof that I'm rebuilding my life with dignity. I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the sewing centers in Karachi and Hyderabad. Your support not only helped me but continues to give women behind bars a chance to learn, grow, and return to society with their heads held high. **Please continue to give your Zakat generously, so more women like me can rebuild their lives.** May your kindness keep making a difference.

With gratitude,  
Asiya Raheem

Our account details for donations are as follows:  
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Faysal Bank Barkat Islamic Banking  
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Swift Code: FAYSPKKA  
IBAN: PK11FAYS003031301000007

**Last year, you helped transform lives by supporting 50 individuals across prisons in Sindh. This year, with just 10,000 PKR (35 USD), you can bring freedom, dignity, and opportunity to those in need.**

Your Zakat Will Help:

- Secure the release of under-trial prisoners in prisons for minor offenses by paying their surety
- Set convicts free who have completed their sentences but remain in prison due to non-payment of fines.
- Sponsor a child's education in our Early Learning Centers within prisons.
- Help us upskill women prisoners by providing modern sewing machines and training in our sewing centers.

زکوٰۃ سے بدلے زندگی

**IT'S TIME TO  
DONATE**

Unlock hope this ramadan with your zakat to **sponsor mubashir's education** in our **EARLY LEARNING CENTERS** within prisons

**DONATE NOW**

## 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 October to December 2024, we successfully organized 19 free legal advisory camps for prisoners. The camps witnessed the active participation of 501 under-trial prisoners, including adult men, women, and juvenile prisoners who benefited from free legal advice.



## Collaborative visits to Women's Prison and Youthful Offenders Industrial School Hyderabad with Sindh Human Rights Commission

Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, visited the Women's Prison and Youthful Offenders Industrial School (YOIS) in Hyderabad along with his team. The visit, facilitated by the Committee, provided an opportunity to meet with inmates and hear their concerns directly.

During the visit, the Committee stepped in to provide immediate legal assistance to prisoners who needed it the most. Conversations with the inmates highlighted ongoing challenges, and efforts were made to address some of them on the spot.

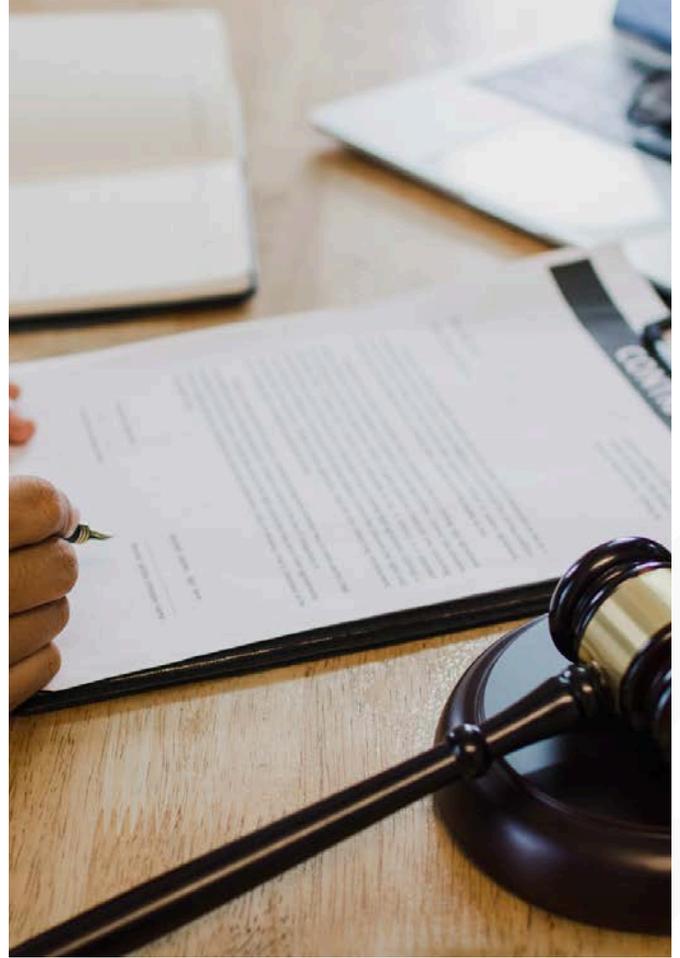
Visits like these are essential to bridging the gap between prisoners and the support they need. It's a reminder of how small actions can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those often forgotten.



## Seven Probation Orders Granted This Quarter

We're thrilled to share that this quarter, seven individuals were granted probation, marking an important step towards justice reform and better prison management. Probation and parole are critical components of an effective justice system, especially in Pakistan, where overcrowded and under-resourced prisons remain a significant challenge.

According to the Pakistan Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1960, probation allows first-time or low-risk offenders to serve their sentences outside prison under the supervision of a probation officer. Similarly, the Good Conduct Prisoners Probation Release Act, 1926, enables eligible prisoners to reintegrate into society on parole. These mechanisms emphasize rehabilitation over incarceration, aligning with modern principles of restorative justice.



In Sindh, where prisons are operating well beyond their capacity, probation and parole play a vital role in alleviating the burden on the system. Overcrowding not only leads to deplorable living conditions for inmates but also limits access to essential services like healthcare, education, and vocational training. Diverting eligible individuals to probation reduces strain on these facilities and allows resources to be allocated more effectively to those who need them most.

Moreover, probation and parole focus on reintegration rather than punishment, offering individuals a chance to rebuild their lives, reconnect with their families, and contribute to their communities. This approach not only reduces recidivism but also fosters a more humane and sustainable justice system.

These seven probation orders are a reminder of what's possible when laws are used to create pathways to rehabilitation. We remain committed to advocating for stronger probation and parole systems to help transform lives while addressing systemic challenges within our prisons.

## Little Hands, Big Creativity: Beading Fun at ELC Hyderabad

The Early Learning Center (ELC) in Hyderabad recently buzzed with excitement as little hands got busy with a delightful beading activity. This hands-on experience wasn't just about creating colorful designs—it was about nurturing creativity and building essential skills.

Beading activities are wonderful for developing fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and patience in young children. As the little ones carefully strung beads to craft their masterpieces, their focus and determination were truly inspiring. Activities like these play a crucial role in fostering self-expression and confidence, especially for children living in challenging environments.

We couldn't be prouder of these budding artists and their creations! The Early Learning Centers are designed to provide a safe and stimulating space for children incarcerated with their mothers.



## Seasonal Cheer: Winter Celebration at the Early Learning Center, Karachi

The Early Learning Center (ELC) in Karachi came alive with joy and laughter during its Winter Celebration! The fun-filled event featured exciting activities and games that kept the children engaged and entertained throughout the day. From creative crafts to energetic play, every moment was filled with the warmth and magic of the season.

The celebration was a reminder of how small, meaningful events can bring light into the lives of children, even in challenging circumstances. The smiles on their faces and their enthusiastic participation truly captured the spirit of the season—creativity, togetherness, and hope.



## Community Support in Action: Distributing Warmth and Encouragement

We were honored to welcome Mr. Shakir Nawaz Shar (General Secretary, District Bar Association Hyderabad) and Ms. Maria Sario (Incharge, Human Rights Cell, SSP Office Hyderabad) to the Women's Prison Hyderabad. During their visit, they distributed warm shawls to inmates, children, and staff, bringing much-needed comfort during the colder months.

They also explored our Sewing Centre, Early Learning Centre, and Sensory Garden, taking the time to learn about the initiatives we've implemented to improve the lives of incarcerated women and their children. Their words of appreciation for the Committee's efforts in providing legal aid and welfare were deeply encouraging. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Shakir Nawaz Shar and Ms. Maria Sario for their generosity and solidarity.

If you feel inspired to contribute to our work—be it through donations, partnerships, or other forms of support—we'd love to hear from you. Whether it's donating resources, volunteering time, or simply spreading awareness, every effort counts.



## Justice SUCCESS STORIES

### Anam\*

Anam\*, a 30-year-old woman from Karachi, had been facing the harsh reality of imprisonment in the Women's Prison Karachi. Wrongfully accused in a theft case, she found herself caught in a legal nightmare, struggling to clear her name. Married with two young sons to care for, Anam had been working as a maid for a modest monthly salary of Rs. 20,000. Her life was already tough, but this false accusation made it even harder. She was determined to prove her innocence, yet the financial challenges she faced prevented her from hiring a private lawyer. Anam reached out to the Committee for legal assistance; her case was assigned to Ms. Noor-ul-Saba. On January 11, 2024, legal proceedings began with the filing of her vakalatnama.

The court examined the case, reviewing all relevant documents and evidence. The Court uncovered – numerous contradictions and discrepancies. Anam's name had not even been mentioned in the initial FIR, and she had been arrested based solely on the nomination of a co-accused. There was no recovery made from her, nor any eyewitness testimony linking her to the crime. The prosecution's case weakened, and it became clear that Anam had been falsely implicated.

On October 7, 2024, she was finally freed from the burden of wrongful criminal charges, after a legal battle that lasted just 8 months and 27 days.

\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy



Advocate  
Ms. Noor ul Saba

### Shahzad\*

Shahzad, a 27-year-old from Hyderabad, who was the backbone of his family. As a laborer, he worked tirelessly, earning just Rs. 20,000 a month, to support his siblings and provide food for his loved ones. His life took a devastating turn when he was falsely accused of carrying intoxicants, a charge that led to his confinement in the District Prison Nara.

Despite a thorough search turning up nothing, the authorities unjustly blamed him, turning his world upside down. In the face of these critical accusations, Shahzad was determined not to give up. He sought legal assistance, and his case was taken up by Mr. Toseef Ahmed Chandio, an advocate of the Committee. On July 9, 2024, Mr. Chandio filed a vakalatnama.

As the case progressed, it became clear that the prosecution's case was filled with holes. Witness testimonies entirely from police officials were riddled with contradictions. Key details, such as the size of the alleged intoxicant containers, were missing from both the FIR and the arrest memos. The police had failed to involve any private witnesses, even though such individuals were available. No notices were issued to them to act as witnesses, and the so-called eye-witness from the incident was never examined. Worse still, no purchaser or accomplice was found or arrested at the scene. The more the case was scrutinized, the weaker the prosecution's evidence became.



The inconsistencies in the case led the court to a crucial conclusion: the prosecution had failed to provide reliable, credible evidence against Shahzad. On October 7, 2024, in just 2 months and 29 days the court acquitted Shahzad, granting him the freedom he had been unjustly denied.

\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy

## Zahid\*

Zahid\*, a 24-year-old man from the small town of Sanghar, was a hardworking laborer earning a modest monthly wage of Rs. 20,000. Zahid was the sole breadwinner for a family of seven, including himself. His life took an unexpected and distressing turn when he was wrongfully accused of carrying intoxicants and imprisoned in the District Prison Sanghar. The case against Zahid seemed baseless to him, but without the means to afford a private lawyer, he was left feeling helpless. In the midst of his despair, he sought legal assistance from the Committee. His case was assigned to Mr. Rizwan Ali. On June 30th, 2024, Zahid's vakalatnama was filed.

The court found significant contradictions in the testimonies of the prosecution's key figures. The complainant claimed that they had patrolled multiple locations before reaching the site of the alleged incident, yet the witness stated that they had gone directly there. The complainant also indicated that Zahid had been standing behind him during the preparation of the arrest memo, but the witness claimed Zahid had been seated in a police vehicle. Additionally, the complainant's version of events regarding the time spent preparing the arrest memo conflicted with the witness's statement.

\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy

These inconsistencies, along with other conflicting details, suggested a troubling lack of truth in the prosecution's case. The evidence raised doubts that the police even visited the crime scene or made the supposed recovery from Zahid's possession. In light of this, the prosecution's case crumbled, and the court ruled in Zahid's favor, declaring him innocent.

On October 1st, 2024, Zahid Ali was released, free from the heavy burden of criminal charges that had wrongfully tarnished his life. It took only 3 months and 2 days to bring the truth to light and deliver justice.

## Zain\*

Zain, a 14-year-old boy from Karachi, found himself trapped in a false case of theft that led to his confinement in the Youthful Offenders Interatrial School (YOIS) in Karachi. A young, hardworking bike mechanic from a poor background, Zain was struggling to make ends meet when he was wrongfully accused of a crime he did not commit. With no involvement in criminal activities, he knew he had to fight for his freedom, but his financial situation made it impossible to afford a private lawyer.

Determined to prove his innocence, Zain sought legal help and reached out to the Committee for support. His case was assigned to Ms. Mehwish Naz; vakalatnama was filed on December 21, 2023.

Key witnesses refused to attend court hearings, delaying the proceedings. Seeing the unjust delay, Ms. Mehwish Naz, filed an application to dispose of the case to prevent further wastage of the court's precious time. The court took a closer look at the case, and upon examining all the relevant documents, undeniable contradictions came to light. The complainant could not even recognize Zain during the trial, no recovery was made from him, and there was no evidence of any past criminal record.

These serious discrepancies led to a turning point, and the court finally declared Zain innocent. On November 5, 2024, after nearly 10 months and 16 days of legal struggle, Zain was freed from the false charges that had burdened him.



\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy

## Aslam\*

Aslam, a hardworking 30-year-old from Nawabshah, who carried the weight of his family's hopes and dreams on his shoulders. As the primary breadwinner, he worked tirelessly to support his loved ones, who were already struggling. But life took a dark turn when he was falsely accused of possessing narcotics.

Aslam's case was taken on by the Committee; On October 2, 2024, Mr. Majid filed a vakalatnama on his behalf. As the case progressed, it became clear that the accusations against Aslam were completely baseless.

Through meticulous investigation, Mr. Majid uncovered a series of troubling discrepancies in the case.

The details of the patrol routes taken by the police were unclear, the description of the so-called recovered narcotics was inconsistent, and there were significant contradictions between the memo of arrest and recovery.

Most notably, no independent witnesses were brought forward to corroborate the police's claims.

Thanks to Mr. Majid's dedication and careful examination of the evidence, Aslam's case was soon exposed for what it was a false accusation. In just one month, Aslam went from a place of fear and uncertainty to one of hope and freedom.

On December 2, 2024, the court declared him innocent, and he was finally released from the shadows of a wrongful charge.



\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy



**Law Department**  
Government of Sindh

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enrolled lawyer - TOLL FREE number:**

**0 8 0 0 - 7 0 8 0 6**

## Sheeraz\*

Sheeraz, a 15-year-old from Larkana, found himself facing a grim future in the Youthful Offender Industrial School (YOIS).

A hardworking young laborer, Sheeraz was earning a modest sum of Rs. 20,000 per month when he was falsely implicated in a case of confrontation with a police party.

The Committee took on his case during a regular prison visit. Vakalatnama was filed by advocate Younis on November 7th 2024.

The court proceedings revealed significant discrepancies in the case against Sheeraz. The witness statements contradicted the facts laid out in the FIR, and there was no evidence to support the claim of a violent confrontation. No injuries were reported on either side, the police vehicle showed no damage, and crucially, no CCTV footage from the crime scene was presented. Furthermore, no medical certificates were made available to substantiate the allegations.

Taking all these factors into account, the court ruled in Sheeraz's favor, declaring him innocent of all charges. The legal team's swift and meticulous work led to Sheeraz's release from the shadow of criminal charges on December 6, 2024, just one month after the case began.

\*Pseudonym used to protect privacy

## GET IN TOUCH



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areofprisoners



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ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ سے روایت ہے رسول اللہ ﷺ نے ارشاد فرمایا:  
”صدقہ مال میں کمی نہیں کرتا اور بندے کے معاف کر دینے سے اللہ تعالیٰ اس کی عزت مزید بڑھا دیتا  
ہے اور جو آدمی اللہ کے لیے عاجزی اختیار کرتا ہے تو اللہ تعالیٰ اسے بلند یوں سے نوازتا ہے۔“

آپ کی زکوٰۃ سے یہ قیدی  
رہا ہو کر اپنے گھر جاسکتا ہے

زکوٰۃ سے بدلے زندگی

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