


## April 2021 Edition



**Legal Awareness  
Watch Pakistan**

**Juvenile Justice  
NEWSLETTER**

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*An initiative by Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan*

Dear Recipient (s),

This is a special edition of our newsletter. It will provide you the information on our awareness-raising advocacy sessions & training workshops for capacity-building as well as awareness of stakeholders that we held from **June 2019 to February, 2021** in collaboration with stakeholder on the subject of juvenile justice in accordance with domestic laws and international conventions. The advocacy meant for implementation of **Juvenile Justice System Act 2018 (JJSA)** whose

**section 16** forbidden awarding of the death penalty to the minors **(at the commission of an offence)** in accordance with **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children** (UNCRC) to which the State of Pakistan became party in 1990. Despite having enacted and promulgated JJSA 2018 across Pakistan in **May 2018** minors still at imminent risk of being sent to gallows owing to inadequate **age determination** procedure in the juvenile justice system and also lacking of appropriate mechanism of providing documentary papers to children, and their parents i.e *birth certificate, computerized marriage certificates duly issued by NADRA* to these inadequacies' minors often subjected to gallows in recent times.

Likewise, to harmonize the criminal justice system we undertook additional difficult task of defending individuals those facing charges of blasphemy under **section 295** of Pakistan Penal Code 1860 across Pakistan. Until the time of this newsletter **39 individuals** facing **blasphemy charges** only in Lahore city of Punjab province of which **05 women**, and **01 juvenile** rest all **men** most having no counsel to establish their innocence beyond the reasonable doubt. We wish to receive your feedback as well as comment (s) or constructive criticism on content (s) of this edition so as to make this initiative better in future *via* email or simply giving us a telephone call. Contact details could be found on the title page of this newsletter. *Previous editions of this newsletter available at:* <https://legalawarenesswatch.com/newsletter/>

**(Sarmad Ali)**

**Advocate High Court**

**Director Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan.**

**Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.**

## RECENT PAST NEWS:

- The Chief Minister of Punjab sought report from authorities/police on incidence that happened in Narowal district of Punjab (in its one of the municipalities/tehsils) where 10<sup>th</sup> class student/juvenile allegedly killed one **Ayan Javed** with a gunshot fire. **(Daily Urdu Awaz Newspaper, dated 28-02-2021)**
- **Ministry of Interior** told **Parliament of Pakistan 9732** people behind prisons of Pakistan facing the death penalty & life imprisonment. Of which **7617** in Punjab, **1322** in Sindh, **73** in Balochistan, & **360** in KPK. The **Parliament** further learnt that some prisoners' clemency petitions under **Article 45** of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 pending with the President of Pakistan for three years or more. (<https://e.jang.com.pk/03-05-2021/lahore/pic.asp?picname=839.png>)
- **Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan** applauds the decision of Punjab Prison Department to allow disabled, and juvenile

prisoners to make telephone calls to their families' once a week at state expense.

([https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2021-03-10&edition=LHR&id=5544800\\_74586662](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2021-03-10&edition=LHR&id=5544800_74586662))

- **Kasur district police** had booked a minor 17-year-old on account of his alleged involvement in the murder of a man (35). It was suspected that a youth shot dead his alleged abuser for sexually abusing him for years. (<https://www.dawn.com/news/1612591/teen-held-for-killing-man-over-years-long-sexual-abuse-in-kasur>)



- **Police of Hadiyara** charged a juvenile on alleged occurrence of murder of a minor. The **Challan** report under section 173 of Criminal Code of Procedure 1898

(CRPC) submitted in the Child Court of Lahore by the prosecution for commencement of trial proceedings. Our **volunteer (s)** paid a jail visit to interview that juvenile on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, whereby it transpired that *Parents/ guardian of that juvenile had not been informed about his arrest by the police nor sought social investigation report from the probation officer/ social worker under 5 of JJSA 2018 during physical remand under section 167 of CRPC 1898. Owing to these facts, it is submitted that juvenile when arrested had not been given due rights under UNCRC, and JJSA 2018.* (<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2287377/minor-faces-murder-charge-in-lahore>)

## EVENTS:



- This group photo is from a Session on the Implementation of Juvenile Justice System Act 2018 held in **Tando Allahyar** district in **Hyderabad division** of Sindh province on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 under the umbrella of **Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan**, and **Marvi Rural Development organisation (MRDO)** having participation of Assistant Director Probation & Reclamation

Department (P&R) Hyderabad, Superintendent of Correctional Home Hyderabad, President District Bar Association, **Director Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan** and civil society.



- **LAW** distributed gift packs (daily use items) to street-connected children on **16<sup>th</sup> March, 2021** to mark the day for the street-connected children on **12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021**. Since the outbreak of Covid-19 across Pakistan, and around

the globe street-connected children have suffered greatly denied basic services i.e. right to health & education, etc. all around the world. Thus, **LAW** opined that *“for children either on streets or behind bars this is not pandemic, it is crisis for them.”*

- In pursuance of **“Vulnerable & Abandoned Prisoners Initiative”** **Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan** donated **60 packets** containing (detergents, washing soaps, tooth paste, and brush, hair oil, shaving razors, & comb) on **8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021** to vulnerable and abandoned prisoners housed in one of the prisons of Punjab. We wish to make more donations to **41** prisons of Punjab housing **7617 prisoners** including children, & women facing death penalty & life-imprisonment. Donations that we raised were made by the NGOs, right

groups, and individuals and those targeting harmonization of overall criminal justice system of Pakistan.



**Left: Director Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan, Superintendent District Attock Jail, and Deputy Superintendent of the same jail.**

## AWARENESS-RAISING ADVOCACY:

- In a bid to bring improvements in already sordid juvenile justice system of Pakistan awareness-raising advocacy campaign on the implementation of Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018 begun in the year 2019. Awareness-raising advocacy commenced from Lahore on **19th June, 2019 (Forum No.1)** where Pakistan's First Child Court Judge inaugurated the **Forum No. 1** on the implementation of JJSA 2018, and appeared as one of the Speakers among others. Thereafter, a same sort of forum after almost a month gap held on **17th July, 2019 (Forum No. 2)** in Lahore. Needless to say, forums held in year 2019 drew participants from the **Civil Society, Probation and Parole Service Department (then Reclamation and Probation Department), Lawyers, Prosecution Department, Judiciary, etc.**
- **Thereafter, LAW** held a training workshop at **Police Training College** in the same year on 10th October, 2019; whereby **40 policemen** received training under JJSA 2018. Awareness by means of advocacy continued in year 2020 on **28th February LAW** organized a training workshop at **National Academy of Prison Administration (NAPA)** of prison police-whereby **40** prisons' police got trained by experts including members of **LAW**.
- At the zenith of Covid-19 last year **LAW** held nine sessions in **nine different** districts of Punjab province subject to *Corona SOPs* in collaboration with stakeholders those featured roles in JJSA 2018. The year **2020** concluded after having a session in Khanewal district of Punjab in **November, 2020**.
- After the reception of positive feedback on our awareness-raising advocacy sessions & workshops in Punjab we substantiated our mission of implementation of JJSA 2018 to Sindh province of Pakistan in February, **2020** with the support of Sindh based organisation. We thank **Marvi Rural Development organisation** (MRDO) for having a partnership with **LAW** on the issue of juvenile justice for saving juveniles from barbarism in shape of the death penalty and life imprisonment. Until the time of this edition of newsletter **LAW** had

collaborated with its partner organisation in **04** forums those held in **Sukkur, Khairpur, Hyderabad, & Ghotki** districts. **LAW** and its partner organization by means of forums, sessions

and training workshops mobilized, and advocated and trained about 310 stakeholders directly another way around 3,000 altogether through **15** events in year **2020**.

**END**

**For donations and support:**

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**Note:** *This publication has not been formally edited.*