

SEPTEMBER EDITION 2021



**Legal Awareness
Watch Pakistan**

**Juvenile Justice
NEWSLETTER**

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An initiative by Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan (LAW)

Dear Recipient (s),

At glance, **LAW Pakistan** would like to pay its gratitude to Faisalabad Bar Association, District Press Club Faisalabad, policemen from the Office of District Police Faisalabad (D.P.O) for their participation in the

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session that was held last month with media on juvenile justice with an objective of raising the awareness and understanding of media houses, and associates of media on '**Disclosure of Identity**' with reference to **section 13** of the Juvenile Justice System Act 2018 (JJSA).

However, this edition will provide latest news, and information that our volunteers had collected and found during their field operations i.e. visits prisons', and pleading in courts for children in conflict with law.

Previous editions of this newsletter available at www.legalawarenesswatch.com

Thanking you!

(Sarmad Ali)
Executive Director L.A.W Pakistan
Advocate High Court
Dated: 25th August, 2021.

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RECENT PAST NEWS:

- **Youngest** child ever charged of blasphemy in Pakistan which can carry the death penalty. A child belonging to “**Hindu**” background had been accused of intentionally urinating on a carpet in the library of a madrassa, where religious books were kept, last month.¹ Despite carrying the death penalty not a single execution had taken place on basis of blasphemy since the introduction of **blasphemy as an offence in 1985 under General Zia’s regime**. However, individuals accused/convicted of blasphemy either killed by the violent and charged mobs comprised of the radicals or they found dead in custody of police under suspicious circumstances.



A violent mob gathered for killing that child.

¹ <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/schools/8-yr-old-hindu-boy-becomes-youngest-person-charged-with-blasphemy-in-pak-295225>

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- A child aged **(13)** had been allegedly charged with raping 9-year-old boy in Islamabad (Capital City) of Pakistan. **LAW Pakistan** calling on the authorities, and police to conduct investigation in accordance with JJSA 2018 with the involvement of the concerned probation officer, and without obtaining DNA profiling/report child charged of committing sexual activity should not be confined in ordinary prison regulated under **Pakistan Jail Manual 1978** having said that meant **'identity of arrested child'** also to be protected by the police & media in fulfillment of **section 13** of JJSA 2018 at any stage of the investigation.²



This photo is copied from social media, as it is. It provides that 13-year-old child is arrested for raping 9-year-old boy for two days.

² <https://www.urdupoint.com/daily/livenews/2021-08-09/news-2873029.html>

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RECENT PAST EVENT (S):

- On 31st July, 2021 LAW Pakistan** in collaboration with **District Press Club Faisalabad** had planned a session with media persons in order to sensitized them on the application of section 13 of JJSA 2018 that required that identity as well as other private information of children in conflict with law said to be protected, and disclosure of identity by any agency/authority or individual may serve simple imprisonment up to three years. Resource persons in the session opined that Pakistan's Social Media Regulatory Authority (Federal Investigation Authority), and Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) both to be sensitized making sure that identity of children in conflict with law must be protected because not only courts, police or probation officer (s) to protect the identity of children in conflict with law however, media houses and their field reporters also required to observe the application of JJSA 2018, resource persons added.



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ACCOUNCEMENT:

We're proudly announcing that **LAW Pakistan** initiated a new project on women facing the death penalty and life imprisonment across Pakistan. **LAW Pakistan** will provide *pro-bono* legal assistance to women in need of legal representation to establish their innocence. Our current project on children in conflict with law or said to have committed an offence punishable by the death penalty & life imprisonment will also stay active, as it is going on since **2017**.

END

Help us if you can!

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This newsletter has not been professionally edited.