

February 2022 Edition



**Legal Awareness
Watch Pakistan**

**Juvenile Justice
NEWSLETTER**

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An initiative by Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan (LAW)



Abbreviations

- **LAW: Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan**
- **MRDO: Marvi Rural Development Organisation**
- **CRPC: Criminal Code of Procedure 1898**
- **PPC: Pakistan Penal Code 1860**
- **JJ: Juvenile Justice**
- **JC.: Juvenile Court**
- **JJSA: Juvenile Justice System Act 2018**
- **JJN: Juvenile Justice Newsletter**
- **PEMRA: Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority**
- **NAPA: National Academy of Prison Administration**
- **KPK: Kyber Paktunkhaw province**
- **CRC: United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children**
- **CTD: Counter Terrorism Department**
- **JJC: Juvenile Justice Committee of Lahore Bar Association**
- **LBA: Lahore Bar Association**
- **I.G: Punjab Inspectorate General of Prisons**
- **I.O: Investigation Officer**
- **D.G: Director General**
- **A.C.: Assistant Commissioner**
- **GBV: Gender Base Violence**
- **PPSP: Probation and Parole Service Punjab**



Dear Recipient (s),

LAW Pakistan held two important meetings in the month of January 2022 with high rank officials of province Punjab about child protection in the context of juvenile justice and share with them their literature particularly recently developed compilation of juvenile justice newsletters (2021), etc. At glance, the office of Provincial Child Commissioner¹ and Deputy Secretary (**Home**) appreciated the efforts of **LAW Pakistan** for assisting authorities' on bringing improvements in the criminal justice system through reforms and they had also praised **LAW's** initiative of developing a monthly newsletter on juvenile justice for rapid communication with the stakeholders as it entails updates and developments in juvenile justice across Pakistan particularly Punjab.

In this edition we've shared news that had been printed in local papers-- where children found involved in penal incidences and brief points that arose during the meetings with the two dignitaries those mentioned above.

We wish to have your feedback *via* email for letting us to improve our future editions in this year. **Note:** *Compilation of editions that we issued last year (2021) available online at:* www.legalawarenesswatch.com

Thanking you,

(Sarmad Ali)
Director LAW Pakistan
Advocate High Court
Dated: 1st February 2022.

¹ Office of Chief Provincial Commissioner for Children (OCPC) was established with the support of UNICEF in 2009 and was upgraded in 2013. The project extended its outreach to all 36 districts of the Province of Punjab. The activity of this office has been performed by learned advisors/consultants of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab for redressal of Child Rights complaints throughout Punjab.



RECENT PAST NEWS:

- **Judge Ijaz Ahmed** of the **Child Protection Court** (KPK) province operating in Mardan district upheld the verdict of the anti-terrorism court against the child offender and sentenced him to 25 years in prison. Muhammad Nabi would have to serve a life sentence. Imprisonment under various provisions adds a total of 63 years of imprisonment to the child. However, if the total sentence starts from the same day, the child will have to serve 25 years of life imprisonment. **LAW Pakistan** condemned this decision on the ground that under **Article 36 read along with Article 37 (a)** of CRC, a child would not be sentenced to serve life imprisonment without the prospect of parole. Furthermore, we believe where a child is found guilty of an offence or involved in infringement of any penal law of Pakistan not to be subjected to incarceration in closed prisons with desperate and hardened adult offenders.²
- The authorities detained a boy (14), a son of the deceased saying he used to play the popular online game, **PubG**, and allegedly killed his mother and three siblings influenced by the game.³
- We're regretfully sharing with you that one of the boys who had been receiving *pro-bono* legal aid from **LAW Pakistan** since 2019 sentenced to serve life imprisonment without the prospect of parole by the trial court. We're now preparing his Criminal Appeal to the High Court to establish his innocence beyond the reasonable doubt.
- During the meeting with Provincial Commissioner for Children, we suggested that the electronic and print medias including social media to be regulated under their respective laws as well as controlled and managed under the provision of section 13 of JJSA that prohibited disclosure of identity of children in conflict with law or said to have infringed any penal law. The office guaranteed that the office of Commissioner for Children would initiate communication at highest levels of administration of Punjab province and with the unions of journalists to educate them on the existence of section 13 of JJSA. **LAW Pakistan** had also suggested that the journalists and electronic medias to be educated and made aware of disclosure of identity of children in conflict with law would land them in prison for simple

² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1671535/juvenile-gets-life-sentence-for-girl-assault-murder>

³ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1671875/teen-pubg-player-detained-over-familicide-in-lahore>



imprisonment of three years. Finding this issue important the office had decided sending a circulate to all departments/stakeholders as well as to media houses to draw their attention to existence of provision of section 13 JJSA.

- Akin to that another meeting had been held with the Deputy Secretary Home Department to express that the criminal justice system introduced through JJSA could be implemented in its letter and spirit by virtue of JJSA by the administration of Punjab province particularly its law enforcing agencies i.e., police, prisons police, etc. Moreover, **LAW Pakistan** avowedly expressed during the meeting that the **PPSP** to be given capacity building trainings in collaboration with civil society organisations to make sure that **“Proactive Initiative Approach”** would develop in their operations because only this way juvenile justice would improve across Pakistan.



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UPCOMING EVENT:

- **LAW Pakistan** has planned a two-day national training workshop on child protection and juvenile justice in Lahore from 15th February to 16th February 2022.

END

Help us if you can!

Account Title: Legal Awareness Watch

AC#: (PK33 MUCB 0085401010012584--MCB Bank Ltd)

Branch Name: District Courts, Lahore.

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