



**Legal Awareness  
Watch Pakistan**

# *Juvenile Justice* **NEWSLETTER**

**126-Lawyers Chambers District Court Lahore**

Ph:042-37300266 Mob:0321-7018649

Email:lawpak99@outlook.com

www.legalawarenesswatch.com

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## NEWS FROM RECENT PAST:

- To start off (2023) advocacy **LAW Pakistan** in collaboration with the **District Bar Association of Taxila** held a forum on **21<sup>st</sup> March** on the implementation of the **Juvenile Justice System Act 2018 (JJSA 2018)**. The forum had the participation of **40** stakeholders having the President of the Bar Association, General Secretary of the Bar Association, the Judicial Magistrate, lawyers/advocates, policemen from the Punjab police of sub-inspector rank, and probation officer as *guests of honour*.

It was recommended in the end of the forum by the **President of the District Bar Association** that **LAW Pakistan** and their partners abroad and within Pakistan would have plan more like training workshops and forums for the awareness as well as sensitization of the legal fraternity and stakeholders to ensure effective and meaningful implementation of the JJSA 2018. The President furthered that the elected members of the Bar Association (**2023-2024**) would have a meeting with the **District Judge** to make him aware that the **Juvenile Justice Committee** in the district to be made operational for the resolving cases of minor and major violations of penal law of Pakistan involving children (**less than 18-year-of-age**).

- **LAHORE:** A youth of 20-year-of age (as per the media reports) named **“F”** charged of killing his friend on **6<sup>th</sup> March 2023** with gunshot fire.<sup>1</sup> **In our view** the investigation officer (**I.O.**) should seek permission from the court of first instance in case of finding of no documentary evidence concerning the age of the minor for establishing his exact age. **We** had noted in past that children had been declared (above 18-year-of-age) intentionally and/or recklessly in the investigation by the police/law enforcing agency to avoid fulfilling their duties whereby whole of the JJSA 2018 got violated.
- **GUJRAT:** Police had apprehended **“H”** aged 16/17 years on suspicion of causing murder of his mother in collusion with his real father, paternal uncle, and aunty, said the police.<sup>2</sup> **We** at **LAW Pakistan** believe that the identity of apprehended child would be protected in fulfilment of section 13 of the JJSA 2018 that prohibited the disclosure of the identity of children in conflict with the law. Under **JJSA 2018** the disclosure of identity of children in conflict with the law is punishable by three years of simple imprisonment and/or with fine. **Note:** in the footnote we’ve provided the link of the video clip-- wherein the identity of the apprehended child was revealed by the anchor/interviewer.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/388128>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=1742298926164684&external\\_log\\_id=c9bf570e-5d60-42fb-adc2-54879ac53e86&q=taftishi](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=1742298926164684&external_log_id=c9bf570e-5d60-42fb-adc2-54879ac53e86&q=taftishi)

**BAHAWALNAGAR:** Saddar police have detained an **11-year-old boy** for allegedly raping his six-year-old schoolmate at **Chak Dhai Munni Ram**.<sup>3</sup> Last year (2022) **LAW Pakistan** held a forum in Bahawalnagar in collaboration with the **District Union of Journalists and District Bar Association** on the JJS 2018 that had the participation of more than **50** stakeholders. We at **LAW Pakistan** believe that whosoever will take up the case of this minor would ensure the participation of the concerned probation officer during the whole judicial procedure. Additionally, we further believe children apprehended in Pakistan to be housed in rehabilitation centers instead of ordinary notorious and overpopulated prisons as recently noted that in 2021 there were **51,411** prisoners in the province, of whom **33,206** prisoners were undertrial, **15,438** prisoners were convicts and **2,767** prisoners were condemned to life in prison. In 2022, there were **53,876** prisoners in total, comprising **37,149** prisoners undertrial, **14,401** convicted prisoners, and **2,326** condemned prisoners. In 2023 so far, there are **52,893** prisoners in total: **35,782** undertrial prisoners, **14,723** convicts and **2,388** condemned inmates.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dawn.com/news/1744676>

<sup>4</sup> Figures made public by the authorities in the wake of surprise visit of interim Chief Minister of Punjab to *Kot Lakhpat* prison of Lahore, Punjab.

**PHOTOS FROM THE RECENT FORUM:**



**END**



**(Sarmad Ali)**

**Advocate High Court**

**Director Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan (LAW)**

Chairman Juvenile Justice and Child Rights Committee of

Lahore Bar Association

**126-Lawyers Chambers District Court Lahore.**

**Dated: 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

**Note:** *This newsletter has not been professionally edited.*