NEWSLETTER

January - March 2026

22nd Edition

COMMITTEE FOR THE WELFARE OF PRISONERS





521
Number of Vakalatnamas Filed

175
Bail Applications Granted

169
Cases Disposed off through Court Orders

91
Acquittals on Merit

All made possible through the support of Government of Sindh

Message from our Chairman

The Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners (CWP) was founded on a simple but profound notion, that the walls of a prison do not diminish a person's humanity, and that the state has an obligation to ensure that those within its correctional facilities are treated with fairness, and dignity. This conviction remains the foundation of everything we do.

Pakistan's Constitution guarantees the right to a fair trial and due process to every citizen. Yet, for thousands of underprivileged prisoners navigating a complex legal system without guidance, leaving them without representation and overlooked by the system. CWP exists to bridge that gap.

Our work spans across legal representation, advisory camps, and to support the broader welfare of those living within correctional facilities, including women prisoners and their young children born into or growing up inside prisons, and teenagers held in juvenile facilities.



Each group faces distinct vulnerabilities, and each deserves a response that is consistent, humane, and rooted in dignity.

This work is only possible because of sustained institutional and community support. We remain grateful to the Law Minister and the Home Department, Government of Sindh, for the trust and oversight that gives CWP its institutional standing. We also acknowledge the continued cooperation of the Inspector General of Prisons, Sindh, along with Superintendents and prison staff across the province, whose support is essential to our work on the ground.

To our advocates, partners, donors, and all those who give their time and resources to this cause, we extend our sincere appreciation.

Our commitment remains clear: to ensure that no prisoner in Sindh is left without a voice, without representation, or without someone willing to stand up for their rights.

Justice Arif Hussain Khilji (Former Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan)
Chairman Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners

Inspector General, Prisons Visits Women Prison Hyderabad: Applauds CWP's Rehabilitation Efforts



Mr. Fida Hussain Mastoi, Inspector General Sindh Prisons & Corrections Service visited the Hyderabad Women's Prison.

During his visit, he spent time at the Early Learning Centres (ELCs), where children living with their incarcerated mothers receive basic education, and at the vocational sewing centres, where women are learning skills to help them rebuild their lives. He also interacted with prison staff and appreciated the Committee's efforts in providing legal aid whilst supporting education, skill-building, & rehabilitation.

Visits like these are an important reminder of how consistent support can shape positive outcomes for those living within the system.







A Visit of Compassion: Distribution Drive at Women's Prison Hyderabad

We had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Asad Panhwar and his family at the Special Prison & Correctional Facility for Women in Hyderabad, where a thoughtful distribution drive brought care, comfort, and practical support to women inmates, children living with their mothers, and prison staff.

The initiative was carried out on behalf of Ms. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari. Lunch, sweets, and clothes were shared with female inmates, children living with their mothers, and prison staff, bringing a sense of care to the day. Toys were also given to the children, while newborns received sleeping sets and clothes, small gestures that carried real meaning for those who need it most.

Beyond the items distributed, the visit served as a reminder of how meaningful simple acts of care can be, especially in spaces where dignity, comfort, and connection matter deeply.

Bringing Winter Warmth to: Correctional Facilities Across Sindh

In January, as winter temperatures settled across Sindh, CWP carried out a winter relief drive to support those living and working inside correctional facilities.

Warm jackets, shawls, and blankets were distributed across multiple prisons, reaching inmates, children living with their mothers, and prison staff. The aim was simple but meaningful: to offer comfort, warmth, and practical support during the colder weeks of the season.

The distributions took place at the Youth Offenders Industrial School (YOIS) Hyderabad, Central Prison Hyderabad, and the District Prison & Correctional Facility Shaheed Benazirabad. The effort was carried out in the presence of senior prison officials, bar association representatives, health officials, and CWP staff.

Among those present were Mr. Ishrat Ali Lohar, President of the High Court Bar Association; Mr. Pir Ghulam Hussain, District Health Officer Hyderabad; Mr. Nadeem Akhtar, Superintendent YOIS Hyderabad; and Mr. Zulqarnain Jokhio, Deputy Superintendent CP&CF.

The jackets distributed at YOIS were made possible through the generosity of a local donor, reflecting the vital role community support continues to play in CWP's work.





Expanding Access to Justice: CWP Extends Legal Aid to Badin and Jacobabad



CWP has expanded its legal aid services to two new facilities, District Prison Badin and District Prison Jacobabad, as part of our ongoing efforts to improve access to justice across Sindh.

Through this expansion, we aim to ensure that incarcerated individuals, regardless of where they are held, have access to timely and effective legal support. Many inmates in these facilities are held on non-prohibitory offences, where bail is typically granted, yet they remain in detention due to a lack of legal assistance.

By strengthening its presence in these regions, the Committee continue working towards a system where no one is left without a voice or the support they need to navigate the justice system.

Standing Together: Celebrating Kashmir Day at ELC in Women Prison Karachi

Children spent Kashmir Day learning about kindness, peace, and what it means to care for others. Through simple, age-appropriate activities, they were encouraged to think about empathy, justice, and standing with people who may be going through difficult times.

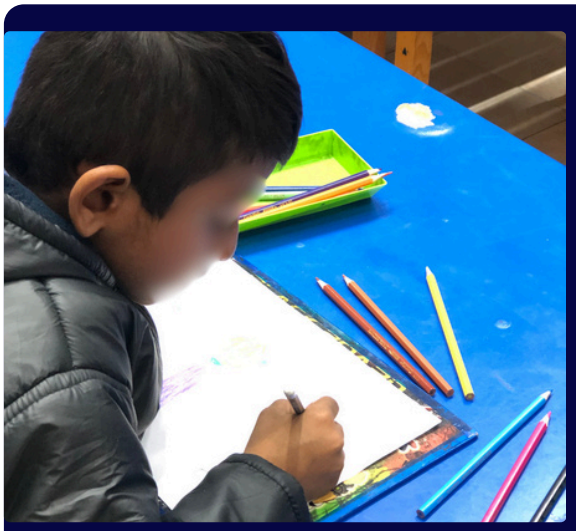
With guided activities and prayers for the people of Kashmir, the children were gently introduced to the importance of standing up for others. Their curiosity, questions, and willingness to care made the experience especially meaningful.

Moments like these show how early values of compassion and responsibility are shaped.

At the ELC, each activity is an opportunity to help children grow not just in knowledge, but in kindness too.



Me and My Family: Celebrating Love and Belonging at ELC Hyderabad





At The Early Learning Centre (ELC) in Women's Prison Hyderabad, a simple drawing and colouring activity turned into a beautiful way for children to talk about the people they love.

As part of the "Me and My Family" activity, the children drew and coloured pictures of their families, identifying parents, siblings, and the special role each family member plays in giving care, comfort, and support. It gave them a chance to express love and connection in a way that felt natural, creative, and easy for them to understand.

For children who may not be able to see their families often, activities like these can offer a safe and gentle space to explore their feelings and hold on to a sense of belonging. Alongside the emotional learning, the session also helped children develop creativity, drawing and coloring skills, and fine motor coordination through a fun, hands-on experience.

It was a small activity, but one with a lot of heart. At ELC, moments like these are designed to help children learn, express themselves, and feel supported as they grow, even in difficult circumstances.

Free Legal Advisory Camps



We continue to prioritise access to legal aid across prisons in Sindh, with a focus on helping prisoners understand their rights and how to seek legal support.

Between January and March 2026, we organised 10 free legal advisory camps, reaching 371 undertrial prisoners. Through these camps, individuals were able to receive legal guidance, better understand their cases, and take informed steps forward.

A Season of Giving: Celebrating Ramadan and Eid Across Sindh's Prisons

This Ramadan, in collaboration with the Legal Aid Society (LAS) and generous individual donors, we brought the spirit of the holy month into correctional facilities across Sindh, creating moments of connection, care, and reflection.

Iftar dinners were hosted at Women Prison Hyderabad, YOIS Hyderabad, Women's Prison Karachi, YOIS Karachi, and Sukkur, bringing inmates together in a shared space of warmth and togetherness.

Eid gifts were distributed across multiple facilities, while children living within prisons were also included through clothes and gifts, ensuring the festive spirit reached everyone.

The gatherings were joined by a wide circle of supporters, including Senator Ms. Krishna Kumari Kohli at Women Prison Hyderabad, and Mr. Waseem Shah, Mr. Parvaiz Qureshi, and Mr. Zain Sahito at YOIS Hyderabad. Sheeba Shah, Deputy Inspector General, Prisons & C.S (Women & YOIS) Sindh, also joined the Iftar at Women's Prison Karachi.

These moments show how compassion and dignity can be shared, even in the most challenging spaces. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to making this possible.

If you would like to support our work, whether through donations, partnerships, or simply spreading the word, please reach out to us at:
Communications@cwp.org.pk.



After Two Years, Umair Is Acquitted in Unlicensed Weapon Case



Advocate K.B. Shah

Umair* was only 17 when he was arrested in Karachi on 22 January 2024 and accused of possessing an unlicensed weapon. According to the prosecution, he was stopped by a police patrol and found carrying a revolver and two live rounds. For Umair, the situation was overwhelming. He was facing a serious criminal charge and did not have the financial means to hire a private lawyer. Without legal support, he risked being left to navigate the case on his own.

That changed when Mr. K.B. Shah, a CWP's lawyer, filed his vakalatnama and began preparing Umair's defence.

As the case moved forward, the defence carefully examined the prosecution's evidence and highlighted several concerns. The memo of arrest and recovery did not mention any identifying marks of the revolver, details that are important in establishing the identity of an alleged recovered weapon. The weapon produced before the court was visibly rusted, yet no forensic report was presented to confirm whether it was in working condition.

The recovery memo also did not include a departure entry number, raising questions about whether the police party's patrol had been properly documented. Although the alleged recovery took place during the day at a busy public location, no independent witness was associated with the case. The prosecution relied only on police officials as witnesses.

Together, these gaps weakened the prosecution's case. The court found that the charge against Umair had not been proved. On 25 February 2026, more than two years after his arrest, Umair was acquitted.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy

Court Acquits Raza After Six Months in Custody in Weak Prosecution Case



Advocate Majid Ali

Raza*, a daily wage labourer and the sole provider for his elderly mother and two younger siblings, had spent nearly six months in custody. Unable to afford legal representation, his case was taken up by the Committee during this period. Advocate Majid Ali filed his vakalatnama and pursued the defence diligently.

The court proceedings revealed serious flaws in the case against Raza. The prosecution's version of a five-minute armed encounter failed to withstand even basic scrutiny. Not a single member of the police party sustained any injury, nor was there any damage to the police vehicle, a fact the court found impossible to reconcile with a genuine exchange of fire.

No weapons were ever recovered from the accused, and they were not arrested at the scene. The entire case rested on a motorcycle found nearby and the statements of police officials alone. No independent witnesses were associated, despite the alleged incident taking place on a public road.

Further weakening the case, the investigating officer admitted during cross-examination that she had herself written the mashirnamas attributed to the mashir, with visible differences in handwriting within the same documents. No statements from local residents were recorded, and no prior criminal record was produced for any of the accused.

Taking these factors into account, the Honourable Court of Shaheed Benazirabad ruled in favour of Raza, declaring him innocent of all charges. The legal team's swift and meticulous work led to Raza's release, returning home to his family and the life that had been abruptly put on hold.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy

After Five Months Behind Bars, Ali Is Cleared of Unproven Charges



Advocate Hussain Bux Chang

For five long months, Ali waited behind bars — uncertain, distressed, and completely forgotten by a system that moves slowly for those without means.

It had begun on 7th August 2025, when he was arrested by Jhol Police and accused of possessing gutka. He was sent to District Jail Sanghar, separated from his family with no legal support and little hope of progress in his case.
That changed in January 2026, when CWP Advocate Hussain Bux Chang visited the prison on an official committee visit and Ali reached out to him for help.

Advocate Hussain Bux took up the case without hesitation, providing free legal representation, appearing before the court on Ali's behalf, carefully examining the facts, cross-examining the witnesses, and pursuing the matter with the urgency it deserved.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy

The court listened. And then it ruled. Ali was acquitted of all charges — his innocence established, his name cleared. After five months behind bars for a case that could never be proven, he finally walked free — his dignity restored and his life returned to him.

Kamran Walks Free After Case Built on Contradictions Collapses

On the morning of 5th August 2024, Kamran's life changed without warning. A police party in Karachi claimed to have apprehended him during an alleged armed robbery, accusing him of carrying a stolen purse containing a duplicate CNIC. Serious charges. No lawyer. No way forward.

CWP Advocate Waqar Mallah took up his case and filed a vakalatnama on his behalf. As the trial progressed, the prosecution's story began to unravel.

The complainant's own testimony contradicted itself. In the FIR, he had stated he was heading to work — yet in court, he claimed he was carrying Rs. 74,000 to pay a person named Allah Dita. That person was never produced as a witness, despite being central to the story.

The alleged robbed cash was never recovered from Kamran's possession. And the prosecution made no attempt to record the arrest or recovery proceedings through video or any modern device — despite the court noting that in today's world, every person carries a mobile phone.



Advocate Waqar Mallah

These contradictions created an insurmountable cloud of doubt.

The court found the charge not proved beyond reasonable doubt.

On 13th January 2026, the 1st Civil and Judicial Magistrate, Malir, acquitted Kamran of all charges. He walked free — his name cleared, his life returned to him.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy

Court Clears Ghani After Nearly a Year in Baseless Dual FIR Case



Advocate Baad-e-Sabah

Ghani's story began not with a crime, but with a moment of extreme poverty. On 29th March 2025, he was arrested under the Beggary Act by a police officer in Karachi. What should have ended there, a case of a destitute elderly man found begging, escalated into something far more serious. During interrogation, Ghani could not produce a CNIC. The investigating officer concluded, without checking any NADRA records or conducting any inquiry, that he must be an Afghan national. A second FIR was then lodged against him for being a foreign national without documentation.

He had no lawyer; therefore, Ghani's case was taken up by Advocate Baad-e-Sabah. At 68 years old, he appeared before the court via video link from prison and pleaded his innocence.

The defence highlighted, and later the investigating officer himself admitted during cross-examination, that he had not checked NADRA records before lodging the FIR.

No inquiry had been conducted into how or when Ghani had entered Pakistan, or whether he was, in fact, a foreign national at all. There was no evidence. There had never been any evidence. The court's findings were clear.

In a moment that spoke volumes, even the learned ADPP for the State, upon reviewing the case, frankly conceded before the court that a poor beggar had been booked without proper inquiry and without any evidence being collected. The prosecution closed its evidence at that point.

Accordingly, on 17th February 2026, Sessions Judge acquitted Ghani.
This case is a reminder of who falls through the cracks of Pakistan's justice system, and why CWP's work in monitoring, documenting, and advocating for the most invisible prisoners in Sindh's prisons is not just important, it is necessary.

After Five Months Behind Bars, Ali Is Cleared of Unproven Charges

For five long months, Ali waited behind bars — uncertain, distressed, and completely forgotten by a system that moves slowly for those without means.



Advocate Hussain Bux Chang

It had begun on 7th August 2025, when he was arrested by Jhol Police and accused of possessing gutka. He was sent to District Jail Sanghar, separated from his family with no legal support and little hope of progress in his case.
That changed in January 2026, when CWP Advocate Hussain Bux Chang visited the prison on an official committee visit and Ali reached out to him for help.

Advocate Hussain Bux took up the case without hesitation, providing free legal representation, appearing before the court on Ali's behalf, carefully examining the facts, cross-examining the witnesses, and pursuing the matter with the urgency it deserved.

The court listened. And then it ruled. Ali was acquitted of all charges — his innocence established, his name cleared. After five months behind bars for a case that could never be proven, he finally walked free — his dignity restored and his life returned to him.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy

Bilal Acquitted in Two Cases After Over Two Years Behind Bars



Advocate Ahsanullah

Bilal, a young labourer from Karachi, walked out of custody acquitted in not one, but two separate criminal cases—cases that had hung over his life for over two years, cases in which the State's machinery ground relentlessly forward despite the absence of credible evidence, and cases that should never have reached this point.

The story began on 9th September 2023, when Bilal was arrested by police in Liaquatabad. The allegations were serious, dacoity, obstruction of a public servant, attempted murder, and possession of an unlicensed weapon. But from the very beginning, the case had problems that any careful reading of the facts would have revealed.

No independent witnesses existed. No stolen property was ever recovered from him. And when the court later examined the prosecution's own FIR, it found the story, of a police encounter in which not a single officer received so much as a scratch, and no evidence connected Bilal to any crime, to be, in the court's own words, "totally incredible and untrustworthy."

CWP Advocate Ahsanullah Khan took up his case and pursued it with consistency and purpose. Through strategic advocacy, he highlighted the prosecution's persistent failure to produce even a single witness across both cases, and argued powerfully that over two years of detention without a verdict was a direct violation of Bilal's fundamental right to a fair and expeditious trial under the Constitution of Pakistan.

The court agreed. Finding no probability of conviction and no justification for further proceedings, it acquitted Bilal in both cases on 20th February 2026. After more than two years behind bars, a son returned home to his father.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy

A Night in August, a Case Built on Lies, and the Advocate Who Proved It

Suhail had no way of knowing that the night of 19th August 2025 would cost him months of his life.

When a police patrol claimed to have encountered a group of armed men on the Lakha Road, Suhail found himself named as one of them — accused of attempted dacoity, firing upon police, and obstruction of public servants under some of the most serious charges the law carries. He was taken into custody and sent to District Prison, Naushahro Feroze, with no means to fight back.



Advocate Naveed Khan Ujjan

His case was taken up by CWP Advocate Naveed Khan Ujjan, who filed a vakalatnama on his behalf as a pauper accused and began methodically dismantling the prosecution's case.

What unravelled was damning. The prosecution claimed to have identified the accused by the light of their vehicle, yet both the complainant and the mashir admitted that they had never known Suhail before that night. How could a positive identification be made during a brief, nighttime encounter under stressful conditions? The complainant stated they had chased the accused for three kilometres, yet the mashir flatly contradicted this, stating no chase had taken place at all.

The alleged encounter had involved multiple gunshots, yet not a single police officer sustained any injury and the police vehicle emerged without a scratch. The prosecution case was, in the court's own words, "riddled with material contradictions, glaring infirmities, and substantial improvements." None of the witnesses had rendered testimony that was trustworthy, coherent, or confidence-inspiring.

On 19th February 2026, the court acquitted Suhail of all charges. He walked out of custody, and back to his life.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy






FREE LEGAL AID &
ADVISORY CAMP







Law Department
Government of Sindh

24/7 Helpline 0800 70806

SLACC
Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center

Speak to a qualified & high-court enrolled lawyer - TOLL FREE number:

0 8 0 0 - 7 0 8 0 6



+92 21-35634112



info@cwp.org.pk



Block C, first floor, FTC building,
Shahra-e-Faisal, Karachi.