

- International Youth Day commemoration
- Vacancies available
- Capacity Building
- Success Stories
- Meeting with Japanese Research Scholars

**Editorial**

We are pleased to welcome you to 3rd issue of our Monthly Newsletter.

Happy Reading!

**SHARP-Pakistan commemorated International Youth Day in Karachi**

International Youth Day (IYD) is an awareness day designated by the United Nations. The purpose of

the day is to draw attention to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth. The United Nations' (UN) International Youth Day is celebrated on August 12 every year to recognize efforts of the world's youth in enhancing global society. It also aims to promote ways to engage them in becoming more actively involved in making positive contributions to their communities. Many activities and events that take place around the world on International Youth Day promote the benefits that young people bring into the world. Many countries participate in this global event, which may include youth conferences on issues such as education and employment. Other activities include concerts promoting the world's youth, as well as various sporting events, parades and mobile exhibitions that showcase young people's achievements.

The theme of the 2016 International Youth Day (12 August) is **“The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Production and Consumption”**.

This year's Day was about achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It focuses on the leading role of young people in ensuring poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development through sustainable production and consumption.

SHARP-Pakistan celebrated that day in Karachi on 12th August, 2016.

**Youth Conference** was organized by SHARP-Pakistan for youth of Pakistani, Somali and Afghan community studying in different universities of Karachi. Around 35 students (male and female) participated in the conference. During the conference 7 students took part in speech competition on the topic “the contribution of youth towards peace and development”. Shields were awarded among the 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions holders declared by judges of the day. Quiz competition was also conducted in the conference on that day on the general knowledge of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Somalia. Three questions related to other countries were asked from each community. Prizes were distributed

**Introduction**

Society for Human Rights and Prisoners Aid (SHARP) is a Non-Profitable, Non-Political and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

It has been striving for a human rights friendly Pakistan since 1999. Vulnerable fragments of society are the primary beneficiaries of its operations including legal protection, advocacy, community services, capacity building, emergency response etc. IDPs, women, juvenile delinquents, street children, prisoners etc are main beneficiaries of its work in different thematic areas including Protection, Child Protection, Emergency Response, Advocacy, Education, Infrastructure development, health, and other rights based approaches throughout the country.

**Vacancies Available**

- SHARP-Pakistan has announced different vacancies:
- Finance Assistant (Islamabad)
- Interpreter (Somali, Karachi)
- Interpreter (Dari, Haripur)

For details visit our website.

**Karachi**



among those who responded correctly. That session was very interesting which was enjoyed by participants of conference. UNHCR representatives of Field Office Karachi also made sure their presence in the conference. Certificates of participation were distributed among the youth of conference by SHARP-Pakistan.

## SHARP-Pakistan's RSD Registration Centre

SHARP-Pakistan RSD registration center is the first contacting point for the asylum seekers and refugees who want to avail protection of UNHCR. Recently UNHCR has changed their policy regarding Afghan's Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and Resettlement (RST). When the Afghan refugees approach to SHARP-Pakistan's RSD registration center then they are counseled by registration assistant with the help of interpreter regarding the new policy of UNHCR;

UNHCR Pakistan is no longer conducting a Refugee Status Determination and Resettlement for Afghans while they are proceeding it for non-Afghans

UNHCR Pakistan continues to assess the protection needs for those that are determined to be person of concern and may take appropriate action if his/her case will be assessed positively.

On the willingness of refugees with getting details on procedure then their applications are received along with their preliminary interview consent form and pictures. Those received applications are shared with UNHCR for further process. Screening Interviews (SIF) of the applicants are scheduled by UNHCR. Their Screening interview is conducted by registration assistant at SHARP-Pakistan office then the whole detail taken in interview are shared with UNHCR both in printed and soft PDF copy form along with the signature of Interviewer, interpreter and the applicant. In the next stage, their Screening interview/ form is reviewed by the panel of UNHCR and the panel decides either the applicants needs registration (Level 3) BIMS/ Progress/ Documentation and if his/her case is positively assessed and applicant qualifies the criteria then assistance is provided to the applicant and if the applicant does not qualify the criteria then no further action is taken on applicant's claim.

UNHCR staff members visit SHARP-Pakistan office in Islamabad twice in a month for the protection and resettlement inquiry process (Monday and Wednesday). The RSD registration Centre staff members of SHARP-Pakistan receive the applications from the refugees. The interpreters of SHARP-Pakistan translate the application for UNHCR staff and then their response on received application of refugees is conveyed through SHARP-Pakistan's interpreter.

SHARP-Pakistan's RSD registration Centre team also facilitates refugee in the renewal of their UNHCR Refugee card and protection letter. They receive the refugee's expired card/letter then send it to UNHCR office in Islamabad through Sharp-Pakistan's shuttle service. The renewed cards/letters of refugees are also delivered by them after taking the receiving signature of the IC's.

### Success Stories

#### Dispute between Afghans and Pakistani was resolved

On 09-08-2016, SHARP-Pakistan/ALAC II Lahore office team was informed telephonically that there was a fight between the Afghan Nationals and the Locals of the locality at Lahore PCM Centre. After receiving information, team rushed to PCM centre and had a meeting with the in charge of PCM Mr. Zulfiqar who gave tentative information that as there is no sufficient / proper sitting arrangement for the Afghan Nationals to sit on, therefore they were sitting in front of PCM Centre at an incomplete plaza across the road along with their families waiting for their turn to come when the locals, who were also the resident of the incomplete plaza, stopped them to sit there. The quarrel turned down into a fight, and both the parties (The locals and the Afghans) physically hit each other very brutally leaving many people injured. In the meanwhile, the police had come on the occurrence and had arrested people from both the parties and Afghan Nationals along with the locals were detained in PS Sabzazr.

Team then rushed to the concerned police station where both the parties were detained. Team conducted meeting with Abbas Shah SHO Sabzazr who was of the view that due to the brutality shown by the parties and tearing of clothes, causing of major injuries on skull and different body organs and creating public nuisance, the SHO was compelled to lodge an FIR on both the parties. In the meanwhile, the owner of the plaza came over to the police station. Team also held a meeting with the concerned owner along with the SHO jointly and requested them not to go into any kind of criminal litigation against the Afghan Nationals. All the efforts of the team were fruitful as after a long discussion, the owner was kind enough to accept the request of the team and the matter ended up amicably and the whole situation was resolved as no criminal charge was framed against the Afghan Nationals. After completing all that the legal formalities team got all the Afghan Nationals released from the Police Station Sabzazr.

#### Facilitation to 28 Afghan families during their repatriation

28 Afghan families made their decision to repatriate to Afghanistan in August, 2016 before that government issued evacuation notices to them as result of commencement of a new Hydro power plant project in their habitat area (Shangalou Camp also known as Temar III). They had been paid compensation by government for that then on the same day they vacated the area. SHARP-Pakistan team based in Batkhela provided them available information on voluntary repatriation. They requested SHARP-Pakistan to facilitate their repatriation as on those days only one Voluntary Repatriation Centre (VRC) of UNHCR in Chamkani was operational in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. There were many Afghan families, who approached in VRC and they had to wait days for their turn there to be registered with UNHCR. As evacuated families had no houses and their males were living in mosques while females in their relative's homes. UNHCR/VRC showed praiseworthy support and cooperation in providing a number to the SHARP-Pakistan Batkhela team for refugees to contact and fix a time prior visiting VRC for repatriation. Those cases were referred to UNHCR/VRC focal person Mr. Yasir Khan Afridi with request for urgent assistance. The VRC scheduled those families for the 3rd of September at the Chamkani VRC.

### Tenancy Dispute Resolution

Ministry of Refugee and Repatriation Afghanistan (MoRR) referred a case of a dispute between the plaza owner Mr. Nadir Shah and some 150 Afghan refugee shopkeepers. The Afghan shopkeepers wanted to repatriate and vacate the shops. Three months prior notice was served to the landlord by them as per conditions mentioned in their rental agreement but the land owner, contrary to the terms of the agreement, insisted on that he should be served a six months' notice along with that the shopkeepers have to pay the rent of three months in advance out of the total 6 months notice period in such a way he would get three months at once then rest three month rent on monthly basis. When Afghan shopkeepers would spend six month in his property with payment for all six months then they only could be allowed to leave.

ALAC/SHARP-Pakistan team along with UNHCR representative arranged a meeting between the landlord and shopkeepers at the District Administrator office, Nasir Bagh and resettled the issue amicably between the two parties.



### Eviction of Refugee Village Qatab ghar in Mardan



A call was received by SHARP-Pakistan from the RV Qatab Ghar, Mardan on 19th August, 2016, about an incident of forced eviction in the RV premises. There were 25 houses built on the land which were under the jurisdiction of RV Qatab Ghar and is owned by Mr. Safdar, a Pakistan national.

The owner of the land along with Police personnel of PS Shergarh and Patwari went to the location and started demolition of houses without prior notice to the camp administration or the inhabitants. They demolished the boundary walls of some of the house but on timely intervention of SHARP-Pakistan/ALAC team, they were restricted to do further demolition.

### D.I. Khan



### Capacity Building of Police

SHARP-Pakistan Kohat office organized police training workshop on 8th September, 2016 at police club in D I Khan. Thirty-five police officials of different ranks including ASIs, Sis, constables, etc. deputed in DI Khan participated in the training. The training covered and discussed basic Human rights in the context of refugee rights, their legal status and current extension given to them by GOP. A questionnaire was specially design on the refugee's status, UNHCR mandate and PoR to check the knowledge of Police officials and to enlighten them accordingly.

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### Consultation Sessions

SHARP-Pakistan Peshawar office team conducted three different sessions with police officials on 26th August, 2016 at three

different police stations which included PS Khairabad, PS NizamPur and PS Akora Khattak at district Nowshera. A total of 55 participants were facilitated during the sessions. The police officials were sensitized on the topics of Refugee rights, Human rights and they were informed about the current status of Afghan refugees.

A questionnaire was used during the session, which included different questions related to PoR cardholders, refugee status, UNHCR mandate, Afghan commissionerate and tripartite agreement to better identify the shortcomings in their knowledge and general concept in order to provide information accordingly.

### Nowshera



## Legal Camp

A legal camp was conducted by SHARP-Pakistan Kohat office on 18th August, 2016 at Chechana Camp, Kohat with 30 male participants. The session was delivered on different topics related to minor registration, lost PoR procedure, renewal of PoR and GoP policy related to Afghan refugees.

Two legal camps were organized by SHARP-Pakistan under ECHO project on 25th August, 2016. Both the sessions were conducted at Shaheed Mir Muhammad Fateh khan school, Phari Pura C.T Town, Peshawar. The session was attended by 58 male participants and 41 female participants. During the session, the participants highlighted the police harassment, PoR card (renewal, lost PoR procedure, modifications and birth registration etc) and voluntary repatriation. One of the major issues that was highlighted and discussed related to the tenancy problems of the afghan refugees.



## Meeting with the heads of Afghan Shura

SHARP-Pakistan Mardan office invited the heads of the Shuras from all the refugee villages (RVs) and urban areas on 8th of August 2016 and conducted a meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to share the information on the voluntary repatriation procedures and requirement. In that meeting a discussion was also made on the requirements/needs and expectations of those Afghan refugees who want to repatriate but they can make decision and are afraid to go back due to uncertain future and acceptance by their own country. SHARP-Pakistan/ALAC team acquainted them with available information on legal issues such as financial disputes, tenancy problems, PoR cards related issues, COI information and repatriation. Activity remained very fruitful as Mashran/elders were happy to get detailed information at the same place and time.

Other participants included Mr. Shafiq ur Rehman, DA Mardan, Mr. Bakhtyar, CDU and Mr. Bilal, Repatriation cell CAR.



## Meeting with Japanese Research Scholars from MURORON University, Japan

SHARP-Pakistan regularly organizes meetings with local and international community which focus on human rights and related issues to seek support and find durable solutions for the targeted beneficiaries. On 22nd September SHARP-Pakistan team facilitated the group of Japanese research scholars who were interested to know about work dynamics and field operations across Pakistan.

Project Director gave the overview of SHARP-Pakistan initiatives and contributions to cater human rights issues in Pakistan. Japanese scholars appreciated the achievements and quality of work being carried out by SHARP-Pakistan team. They also showed willingness to be the part of SHARP-Pakistan future initiatives regarding issues related to gender based violence.



SHARP-Pakistan's congratulation message to Ms. Aasia Niazi, Data Manager of SHARP-Pakistan on having a baby.

"A little girl is the best friend you always wished for but never had. Heartfelt congratulations".

## Key Findings - for month of Aug/Sep 2016

During the month of Aug-Sep 2016, SHARP-Pakistan provided legal assistance to persons of concern, intervened at police stations for arrest/ detentioncases of Afghan refugees, provided in-house and out-of-court services as well as counseling over telephonic helplines. Some important figures for this month's efforts by SHARP-Pakistan team are as follows:

### ICT, Punjab, AJK & Sindh

#### New Arrests

AUG  
85

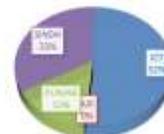
SEP  
60

#### Follow-up cases:

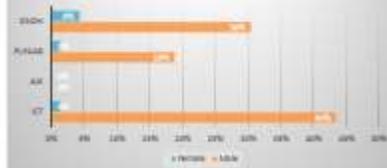
Aug = 03

Sep = 09

REGION WISE TREND OF NEW ARRESTS - SEP 2016



Arrest & Release Summary Sep 2016 (Gender vs. Region)



**144** registered Afghans were released from police stations and prisons of country

### KPK

İ BNo.	KPK's Fact sheet for August & September-2016	
1	Legal Aid cases/Court Representations	250
2	Legal Assistance cases	549
3	Counseling cases	2097
4	Release without charge (RWC)	242
5	Referrals	87
6	Legal Camps	11
7	Awareness sessions (Male & Female)	19 M & 13 F
8	Coordination meetings	179
9	PRF	148
10	PNA	66 (KPK) & 96 (ICT, Punjab & Sindh) =162
11	Intake Mode ( Walk in ,Helpline, field & Referral	1082