

- Change of Islamabad office address
- Torkham border crossing: New border controls
- Shura Meetings
- Shifting of office

**Editorial**

We are pleased to welcome you to 1st issue of our Monthly Newsletter.

Happy Reading!

**SHURA MEETINGS**

Shura meetings provide an opportunity to marginalized communities to express their grievances in front of those, who are caring, listening their voices and



supporting them in their miserable times on their doorsteps. It also gives big pleasure to them when respectable individuals of the society and human rights experts working for international commitments pay visit in their slum areas having poor infrastructure.



The main purpose of these meetings with vulnerable community elders and representative is to pay attention to their voices and to be with them in their hazard times of life as well as please them with advice and

assistance on their issues on the spot along with taking note of their issues to be discussed on the high level to give them relief. Updated information regarding their concern is also shared with them.

In May 2016, SHARP-Pakistan has conducted two shura meetings in ICT, seven in Punjab and one in Karachi areas in which total three hundred and nineteen (319) individuals (260 male & 59 Female) benefited from these meetings in their localities.

**Shifting of LAP office Islamabad to a new location**

**WE HAVE MOVED!**

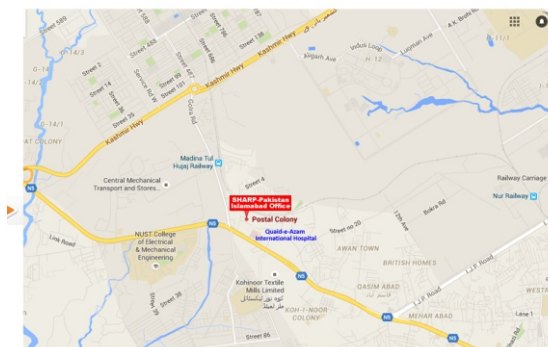
Our Islamabad office is shifted to a new location.

**Previous Address/Telephone:**

House 279-A, Nazimuddin Road,  
F-10/1, Islamabad.  
Ph: +92-51-2211621,  
+92-51-2211740

**New Address/ Telephone:**

House # 2, Postal Colony, CMT  
Road, Golra Morr, Islamabad.  
+92-51-2315171-2,  
+92-51-2315132



**Best wishes to our staff member**

SHARP-Pakistan extends best wishes to our newly married staff member Mr. Mateen Zafar Janjua (PNA Registration staff member).

*“Congratulations from SHARP-Pakistan & the entire staff on this special time of your life and best wishes for the new life together”.*

**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.

**Next month:**

- Rising tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan: Torkham Border firing
- Painting Exhibition and competition for Pakistani & Afghan students
- World Refugee Day June 20 and #WithRefugees campaign

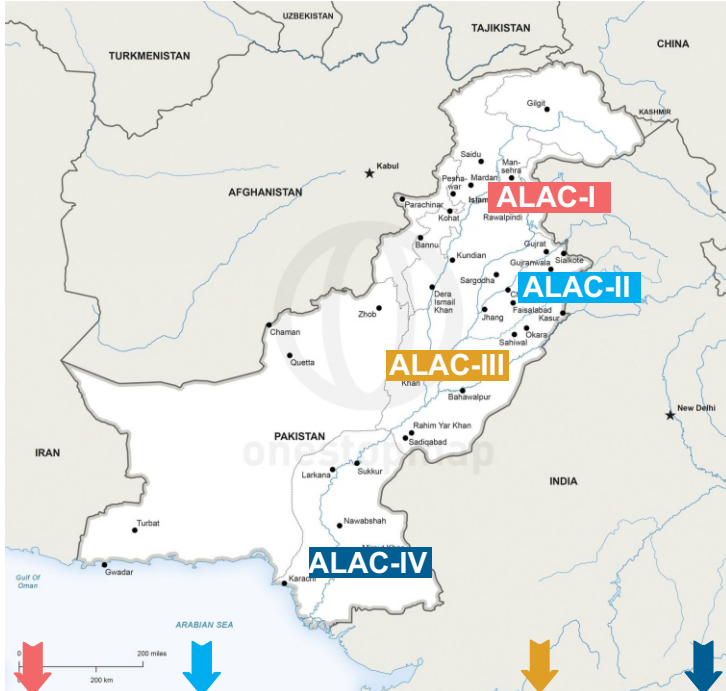
**News from the Region**

**Torkham border crossing: Pakistan curbs Afghan entry**

Hundreds of people remain stranded at a key border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan after Islamabad imposed stringent new border controls. Afghans now need valid passports and visas to enter Pakistan. Pakistan says the new rules will soon apply at other crossing points too, and aim to limit the movement of militants. The restrictions are likely to affect an estimated 1.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The long and porous border is a notorious source of tension between the two countries.

## Geographical Coverage

SHARP is striving to ensure the rights of the ignored and distraught individuals and communities throughout Pakistan. SHARP-Pakistan has its Headquarter Office in Islamabad. Legal assistance programme has its four **Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs)**.



Province Sindh as whole	Jurisdiction includes District Lahore, Sialkot, Jhang, Kasur, Khanewal, Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Chiniot, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Multan, Okara, Narowal, Pakpattan, Rahim Yar Khan, Sahiwal, Toba Take Singh, Vehari, Hafizabad	Working in district Mianwali, Chakwal, Bhakkar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Layyah, Lodhran, Sarghodha, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur	Covers ICT, AJK, district Attock, Jhelum, Rawalpindi.
-------------------------	---	---	---

## Success Story

Mr. Khan a registered Afghan national is living with his 16 years old sister Ms. Naseema in Punjab. According to him, his small family of two members is facing serious threat of life. Their parents have been died. One day police detained him in to the police station because he as tenant did not register himself in the concern police station, which is the requirement of law in Punjab.

After that incident the life of small family became worst especially his young sister because of loneliness as well as security threat to her because every one in the area knew that she is alone in home. Already they had life threat. SHARP-Pakistan lawyer's team realized the sensitivity of matter as well as their organization's mission to protect dignity and safety to young female living in vulnerable situation. The international commitment and instruments regarding women and human rights also invite us to intervene in such situation. Therefore, SHARP-Pakistan realizing the responsibility and looking the sensitivity of situation intervened in the case. Initially the police were reluctant to release Mr. Khan, SHARP-Pakistan team in one hand was in regular contact with police and on the other hand, with his young sister Ms. Naseema, who was alone at home with miserable condition, to provide every possible protection to her.

SHARP-Pakistan pursued the case with police to convince them, reference was given to laws, and notification issued by government to Pakistan to registered Afghan in Pakistan. Finally, Police were convinced and they released Mr. Gul Khan without of charge on early intervention basis that brought happiness to her small family. SHARP-Pakistan appreciated the police and thanked them for realizing the sensitivity of matter and to abide by the international commitments.

*\*\*\*For security purposes, names have been changed*

## Key Findings - for month of May 2016

During the month of May 2016, SHARP-Pakistan provided legal assistance to persons of concern, intervened at police stations for arrest/ detention cases 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:

**35** New Arrests

**18** Follow-up cases of April

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

Psycho-social and Medical Counselling sessions = **57** (individual/field sessions)

Total Number of House visits = **07**

### REGION WISE TREND OF NEW ARRESTS -MAY 2016

