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Editorial

We are pleased to welcome you to 5th issue of our e-Newsletter.

Happy Reading!

Revival of Monthly Magazine Al-Qanoon

Al-Qanoon the first legal magazine was pioneered by Mr. Liaqat Banori (Chairman SHARP-Pakistan and Chief Editor

of Al-Qanoon) and it is re-launched in January 2017 for the legal education and to

generate advocacy efforts for creating human rights friendly Pakistan. Al-Qanoon has the outreach throughout Pakistan and stakeholders include straddling 166 District Bar Associations (including high courts and supreme court bar association), bar councils of all 4 provinces of Pakistan including areas of Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir; Human rights ministry and departments, superior judiciary, national and international organizations, embassies, police probation and prison departments all over Pakistan and other stakeholders such as local government.

To subscribe its monthly edition, please contact

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- **#3, Irfan Plaza, F.10 markaz Islamabad**
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- **Email: monthly.alqanoon@gmail.com**

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.



Imran Ahmad Malik SP Peshawar Cantt is a regular reader of Al-Qanoon.

"Al-Qanoon is well structured and very informative magazine which covers all aspects and issues along with possible solutions. It is also a source of education, advocacy and connectivity and everyone can benefit and take guidance from it. I receive this publication every month and I enjoy reading it on regular basis."

(Imran Ahmad Malik, SP Peshawar Cantt)



SHARP-Pakistan' Team Leaders participated in National Level training of UNHCR

Mr. Faizan Ali Khan, Field Manager (FM) Mardan and Mr. Muhammad Rafiq, FM-Haripur attended a National Training of Trainers (ToT) on 'Understanding and Application of Community Based Protection & Outreach in UNHCR's Operation in

Pakistan' in Peshawar. The ToT was themed on the strategic shift of UNHCR from individual case management to Community Based Protection (CBP). This was the first National level ToT for the Managerial staff of Partner organizations, UNHCR and stakeholders for better understanding and implementation of the approach. There will be two more ToTs of the same nature. The staff involved in National ToTs will further provide trainings to the provincial level stakeholders and other staff at SHARP-Pakistan staff etc. These ToTs are



Group Photo of participants of ToT in UNHCR Islamabad Office

aimed at mainstreaming CBP in all operations of UNHCR and Implementing Partners in accordance with the new strategic shift.

The Participants also developed a work plan for the implementation of CBP where SHARP-Pakistan will be actively involved not only at field level but also for the data sharing on the existing Area profiles and network of community volunteers; that SHARP-Pakistan has developed during a course of time.



In another training, Mr. Imran Khan, Field Manager Mianwali represented SHARP at National level for four days ToT on 'Building Understanding and Application of CBP & Outreach in UNHCR Operation in Pakistan' at UNHCR in Islamabad on 28-31st March, 2017.

Distribution of tents to affected Afghan Families

In March 2017, SHARP-Pakistan with help of UNHCR, distributed 112 tents to 82 families of Village Noor Pur in Tehsil Hazroo, district Attock, Punjab.

Earlier to the distribution of tents to the affected families, they were also facilitated by providing a one-week relaxation in evacuation time from the concerned local authorities by SHARP-Pakistan as they were resided near to sensitive areas of government. These tents were given to them to settle on urgent basis on an identified alternate place.



Operational Meetings with UNHCR officials

Ms. Inna senior durable solutions officer UNHCR visited SHARP-Pakistan office to have an operational meeting with Project Director and legal team to discuss latest development in the area of responsibility and review the existing resources and to extend additional resource in the unfortunate shrinking protection space for Afghan refugees.



Meeting with Head of Humanitarian Affairs



Head of Humanitarian Affairs Ms. Franziska and National Program Officer Mr. Khursheed from SDC visited SHARP office to have meeting with Chairman SHARP-Pakistan and appreciated the effective contribution SHARP is making in the lives of women, children, young people and refugees in Pakistan. Meeting was held to contribute towards refugee cause in Pakistan through building effective partnership for the future initiative.

International Exposure

SHARP-Pakistan's Lawyer and team leader in Islamabad participated in international training workshop on "Essentials of Humanitarian Negotiations Workshop" from 27th - 30th March in Bangkok, Thailand with around 30 participants from across the world. The training was a mix of theoretical as well as practical exercises on negotiations in a humanitarian setup.

The training also included learning through simulation exercises. These exercises gave practical experiences in the field and provided learning regarding how to negotiate in emergency situation in more effective way, with stake holders, law enforcement agencies, military, refugees and others. Ms. Najma describes this opportunity as a land mark in her professional career and she is very enthusiastic to translate her knowledge and skills among colleagues and her day to day work.



Coordination Meetings

Annual Coordination Meeting (ACM)

Two days Annual Coordination meeting was organized by SHARP-Pakistan on 30-31 March, 2017, in which 32 SHARP-Pakistan staff members from all filed offices participated. The participants included team leaders of SHARP-Pakistan's nationwide offices, representatives from partner organizations UNHCR Ms. Sophia (Head FUI), Ms. Shaista, Mr. Altaf Jan and 02 other representatives from ICMC.

The ACM is organized every year and this year it was conducted with aim to share best practices and lessons learned in 2016 and to formulate strategy/plan of actions for 2017. Presentations were delivered on progress, best practices and targets achieved throughout the year in 2016. Feedback on the delivered presentations were given by senior management, colleagues, and representatives of UNHCR and ICMC with aim to bring improvement in the strategy of actions in 2017. This event also provides an opportunity for field staff members to discuss their challenges as well as recommendations with senior management, UNHCR and ICMC for producing high-quality results in their area of responsibility.



Annual Dinner

As a part of social networking, SHARP-Pakistan organized a Dinner at Islamabad Club on 30th March, 2017. High profile stakeholders including Senators, Ambassadors, UN officials, parliamentarians, government officials and other notable representatives of embassies were present at the occasion.



Best Performance Award for year 2016

During the dinner, Mr. Liaqat Banori, Chairman SHARP-Pakistan announced the winners of Best Performers Award for outstanding performance during Jan-Dec 2016. The winners included Ms. Najma Abbasi (Team Leader-Islamabad) and Mr. Muhammad Rafiq (Team Leader-Haripur). Both were awarded with shield and cash by the Honorable Guest Mr. Mahmood Khan Achakzai. Mr. Banori appreciated the performance of both the winners and termed them as a role model for all other staff.



Visit to DPO, Omarkot

On 7th Feb, Meeting was held with DPO Omarkot to discuss the arrest and detention issues related to Afghan Refugees and to seek support emphasizing the need for fostering increased interaction, cooperation and mutual understanding between SHARP-Pakistan and Police Department for Afghan Refugee communities. Project Director (PD) of SHARP-Pakistan briefed him on the reported arrest and detentions cases from this area by refugees few months ago. DPO shared that Omarkot is a border, which is very sensitive in nature and from last few months routine operations are being conducted due to security issues. Only those people were arrested, who could not produce any documentary evidence.

PD requested to DPO that police could contact SHARP-Pakistan Karachi team to seek

any support, which could help refugees before taking any action as Afghans are legally living here in Pakistan and they are allowed to travel across Pakistan for their bread and butter. PD also shared helpline numbers of SHARP along with annual report and Al-Qanoon magazine. DPO appreciated SHARP team for their continuous interventions to help and support communities and updating and sharing of their work with police. He ensured his future support and meeting was ended with the pledge by Director-SHARP and District Police Officer to continue working hand in hand for the protection, peace and prosperity of vulnerable communities.



Meeting with Trocaire Country Head

The Head of INGO Trocaire visited SHARP-Pakistan's Islamabad office on 21st March and met the Chairman and Project Director. The meeting was useful for enhanced coordination and maximizing efforts towards building referral network for the GBV victims in KP and Sindh.



Meeting with German Scholar

A German scholar Ms. Katja Meilke, visited SHARP's Islamabad office on 20th March. She shared her inspiration for the SHARP-Pakistan's work and had come especially to visit, learn and share her experiences. She praised SHARP-Pakistan work and achievements and optimized to replicate the same model to manage refugee crisis in Germany.



OTHER NEWS

Extension in PoR card validity till 31st Dec 2017

A notification for the Extension in PoR cards was issued by the Ministry of States and Frontier Region, Government of Pakistan on 24th February, 2017.



The notification serves as an intimation that PoR cards issued to Afghan Refugees by NADRA are now valid till 31st Dec, 2017.

Staff News

- SHARP-Pakistan congratulates its staff member Ms. Tasmia Kanwal on her wedding. Many wishes for her happy married life.
- Congratulations and best wishes to our colleague Mr. Irfan Afridi on his son's birth.
- Ms. Waheeda Ludin joined Karachi office as Interpreter under RSD project on 20th March 2017. SHARP-Pakistan welcomes her on board.

Success Stories

Verification of PoR Card in Abbottabad instead of Peshawar

SHARP-Pakistan Team based in Haripur facilitated the registered Afghan refugee in Abbottabad to launch FIR because his wife had lost her PoR Card in the bazaar. First of all the refugee was said to go to Peshawar to bring proof or attestation from Afghan Consulate/NADRA there regarding the lost PoR Card then FIR would be launched.

When this issue was brought to SHARP-Pakistan team so they conducted meeting with higher official of the district. Through the advocacy of SHARP-Pakistan team, the high official passed direction to relevant in charge to accept verification through NADRA 7000 Number. This initiative facilitated the marginalized community instead of travelling to Peshawar now verification can be done through 7000 at their area. March 2017. SHARP-Pakistan welcomes her on board.

Support in issuance of duplicate PoR card to a kidney patient

A 60 years old Juma Khan, a resident of Sawary city in District Buner is registered Afghan Refugee with NADRA. His health condition is very weak with chronically ill and suffering from kidney disease. He lost his PoR card somewhere few months ago. On his demand, SHARP-Pakistan's lawyers provided him assistance in furnishing an affidavit and lodging a police report in the Pal centre at Gagra Police Station Buner.

As per UNHCR and NADRA rules, after lodging the report the Person of Concern (PoC) has to physically present to submit an application for the loss of PoR card at PCM centre Peshawar but due to his ill health and weaken physical condition he was unable to travel such a long distance. As a result of this policy, both he and his son have to wait until the improvement in his health.

Due the intervention and efforts of SHARP-Pakistan team with UNHCR, NADRA and RVA officials, the officials of NADRA's PCM centre were kind enough to consider this request and entertain the PoC application on prior bases. The application has been submitted and the PoC and his son are now anxiously waiting for the arrival of duplicate PoR card.

Admission of 18 students to a private school

Team conducted Meeting with Mr. Riaz Hussain Principal Wisdom Grammar School Lahore in order to enroll 18 Afghan children in his School. After successful interventions, these 18 Afghans students were enrolled in the School.

Establishment of Grand Shura/ Liaison Committee for refugees and government agencies

The efforts of SHARP-Pakistan team remained highly successful in formation of a grand Shura/liaison committee at two Refugee Villages (RV) i.e. Panian and Padhan in Haripur. In past the formation of these Shuras was carried-out BHU wise situated in different sectors of the RV.

On 6th March a general meeting of all the five Shura of Panian and Padhana RVs was convened in which the refugees/participants were briefed regarding the purpose of establishment of the new Shura. The new Shura will play a coordination role between the refugees and government agencies to help in mitigating issues pertaining to refugees in the RVs as well as during their livelihood related movements outside the camps.



Computerized Tenancy Registration

Due to SHARP's team efforts, the Punjab police ensured computerized tenancy registration of Afghan refugees in newly established front disk in Punjab region.

Recovery of employee's wages and settlement

Two brothers Hassan & Nadir worked with a local factory in Swabi. Both were terminated in year 2013 with an outstanding compensation and gratuity of around half million due on employer. The employer refused to pay the settlements. With the help of a private lawyer, they filed a suit for recovery in local court under Workmen Compensation Act. Later they approached SHARP-lawyers who took up the case.

Keeping in view the poor financial condition, time taken for such cases in court, SHARP-Pakistan Aid and Legal aid Centre (ALAC) team took an initiative and applied for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the form of Jirga and started negotiations with the employer, company hired the refugees with aim to convince them for the payment of the outstanding Gratuity and wages. After a few sessions, the ALAC-Mardan team finally succeeded in convincing the employer company for the payment. Finally, the compensation was recovered. Both brothers are thankful to SHARP-Pakistan for their support.

Key Findings - for month(s) of Jan-Mar 2017

The months of Jan-Mar were very challenging for the field teams (ALAC). One reason for this was the initiation of operation "Rad-ul-Fasaad" by the security agencies. A tremendous no. of arrests were reported in each region and extensive calls received on helpline. The efforts of SHARP-Pakistan's team must be appreciated since they provided maximum possible support to all persons of concern, without having any extra resources.

Following are some of the notable activities undertaken during Jan-Mar 2017:

ICT, Punjab, AJK & Sindh:

Court Cases dealt= **397**

Legal Advise/Counselling= **333**

Legal Assistance (out of court)= **249**

Shura meetings= **37**
(participants **1241**, male=**789**, female=**452**)

Helpline calls= **2313**

Coordination meetings= **104**

REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION (RSD)

Cases identified and referred to UNHCR= **78**

ISF interviews conducted= **67**

New arrests reported = 973

KPK:

Court Cases dealt= **100**

Released without being charged= **439**

LEGAL ASSISTANCE= **164**

LEGAL ADVICE AND COUNSELING= **2432**

Legal Camps= **04** (327 persons sensitized, 157 male and 170 female)

Focus Group Discussions held= **03** in Upper Dir with 47 participants (30 male, 17 female)

REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION (RSD)

Cases identified and referred to UNHCR= **140**

ISF interviews conducted= **42**

Helpline Calls = 1531

KPK (ECHO project):

Court cases dealt= **31**

Legal Assistance cases= **73**

Referral Cases= **44**

Legal Camps= **37**
(1994 persons sensitized, 817 male and 1178 female)

Capacity Building activity: **01** training conducted in Buner with a total of 35 male participants.

Helpline Calls = 267