

A view of Malakand jail and a view of back side of the jail without boundary wall with temporary fencing which is dangerous internally as well as externally..



Visit to Malakand Jail

I visited Malakand jail on 12th February 2010 and found it one of the most unprotected jails with lots of severe problems. The jail is supposed to host only 100 persons including 5 women. Due to less capacity mostly under trial prisoners are kept in this jail and they are shifted to other jails after conviction. Situated in an old building constructed in 1903 this jail is perhaps only jail where women cell is right in the mid of male barracks. It has about 5 barracks in front of the women cell three on each side. The door of the women cell opens in the main compound where the male used to sit. When I visited prisoners were sitting in front of the barrack to enjoy sunshine. Although at that time no women prisoner was there but according to the jail authorities if women are arrested they are kept in the same compound and not only the women prisoners but the authorities also face a lot of problems in terms of safety and security of the women prisoners.

The 17 toilets constructed in the barracks are out of order and all the prisoners use only two toilets outside the barracks. These toilets are also used by women prisoners if they are in jail. The drainage system is not available there and the prisoners are taken out of barracks even when they are detained in the barracks which is a violation of jail rules. The security measures in this jail situated at a very remote area is very poor and specially while having threats from terrorist and extremists the prisoners are prone to any terrorist activity.

The water supply to the jail is from a public tube well and it has no source of its own water supply. The juvenile prisoners are also kept with in this thickly made compound of the jail in Malakand and there are no separate arrangements for them. There is no medical facility available to the prisoners in the jail in case of any emergency and the meeting room where the prisoners can see their relatives is a very small where meeting of women prisoner with her family is extremely difficult. Very interestingly the jail has no boundary wall and it is most unsecured jail with a very less staff without any proper accommodation to the staff.

Recommendations

The urgent needs of this jail are:

- Separate women and juvenile cells out side the jail compound
- Boundary wall to secure the premise
- Proper toilets and drainage system
- Emergency medical care arrangements
- Adequate staff accommodation
- Proper meeting rooms

SHARP requests the concerned authorities to please come forward and generously help the prisoners of Malakand who are kept in custody in a very miserable condition.

Syed Liaqat Banori- Advocate

Chairman SHARP