



REPORT ON PROCEEDINGS

Launch and Consultation of
CHRI's National Report on Foreigners in Indian Prisons

STRANGERS TO JUSTICE



CHRI

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

working for the *practical* realisation of human rights
in the countries of the Commonwealth

I. Background and Context

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) organised a launch and consultation for its national report *“Strangers to Justice: A report on foreign nationals in Indian prisons”* on 11 January 2019 in New Delhi. The report was launched by Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, former chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities, former Chief Information Commissioner of India, and Chair of CHRI India’s Executive Committee, and Mr. Sanjoy Hazarika, journalist, film-maker and International Director of CHRI. The launch was followed by a presentation on the findings of the report by authors Ms. Palak Chaudhari, Project Officer, Prison Reforms Programme, CHRI and Ms. Madhurima Dhanuka, Programme Coordinator, Prison Reforms Programme, CHRI.

The event had three working sessions, which included discussing challenges faced by Foreign National Prisoners (FNPs) in consular access, difficulties in contacting their family members while detained, and issues faced during repatriation. Representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Telangana Prisons Department, the West Bengal Department of Correctional Services, the Punjab Prisons Department, the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, National Informatics Centre, and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) were present, as were representatives from the High Commissions of Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Peru, Pakistan, Australia, Canada and Iran and civil society organisations. The working sessions witnessed discussions to identify problems faced by FNPs in India, and participants suggested short- and long-term measures to address these issues.

This report documents and examines some of the most prominent challenges. While prisoners, in general, are a vulnerable class due to the asymmetrical power dynamics and closed nature of their places of detention, this report is an effort to understand the special vulnerability of foreign nationals stemming from their non-Indian nationality or statelessness. The analysis is anchored by the data collated from 22 states and four Union Territories through requests filed by CHRI under the Right to Information Act 2005, to heads of all 36 state prison departments across the country.

This report also presents key findings of the study, documents the proceedings of the consultation of January 11 and compiles the issues identified and recommendations made that day.



II. Key Findings from the report

1. Data on FNPs: As per Prison Statistics of India 2015, there are 6,185 FNPs in India. The RTI responses received from 22 states and 4 UTs for 2018 offered information on 3,908 FNPs. Seven states and three UTs did not respond to CHRI's RTI requests -- thus the number of FNPs in India could be higher. An evaluation of the data received indicates

- Of the 3,980 FNPs, 1,657 (42%) undertrials, 1382 (35%) convicts and 869 (22%) are still awaiting repatriation;
- The nationality of 522 prisoners is 'not known';
- West Bengal has 2,153 FNPs -- which, at 55% of the country's share, is the highest number of FNPs in a state;
- 38.5% of the undertrial FNP population are charged under the Foreigners Act 1948;
- 65% of FNPs -- that is 2,542 out of 3,908 FNPs -- are from Bangladesh.


2. Consular access: Data received from RTI responses revealed that consular access to FNPs in India is rarely provided.

- Only 5.7% of FNPs in India -- 222 out of 3,908 FNPs -- have ever received consular access;
- Only 83 undertrial FNPs -- a measly 5% of the total undertrial FNPs in India -- have ever received consular access;
- Gujarat has the highest percentage of FNPs (78.9%) who have received consular access;
- Delhi has 93 FNPs, out of which only two have received consular access. This is of special significance and concern since most foreign embassies are located in Delhi.

III. Proceedings of the Consultation

Opening remarks

Mr. Sanjoy Hazarika, International Director, CHRI began his welcome note by saying, "Prisoners in this country are largely forgotten -- and foreign prisoners, of whom there are over 6,000 -- are not the priority that they should be." He went on to note that India did not figure near the top of the list of countries with FNP, and that the only Commonwealth country in the top ten of the list was Malaysia, which housed a large foreign prisoner population due to its specific drug- and immigration-related issues. However, he added, the CHRI report on FNPs and the consultation was a much-needed step to fill the gap in consular access that FNPs in India face. "This consultation is



an attempt to engage in a process of sharing our findings, learnings and problems so we can approach this problem more robustly,” he said. The lack of information around the issue added to the crises faced by FNPs, since nobody was usually willing to talk about them, he said. “Needless to state, every human being has a right to be defended regardless of any crimes they may have committed.”

Launch and Remarks

Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, a retired IAS officer, former Chief Information Commissioner of India, former chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities and the Chair of CHRI’s Executive Committee in India then launched the report. “FNPs not only remain strangers to justice but are also strangers to the mainstream,” he said, adding that even though laws for their welfare exist, their problems are compounded because the stakeholders are often uninformed about their rights. “While it is the duty of the embassies to promptly address the concerns of their nationals in Indian prisons, it is primarily the duty of the home government to accurately, promptly and completely inform them about the details of such prisoners. Access to complete information is crucial for setting the law into motion, and embassies must also commission their own studies in this regard,” he said.

All countries must work together for the welfare of FNPs, he added, since the problem at hand was also one of international diplomacy. Praising the report for introducing international actors to the issue and promoting justice for those who have been ‘denied the full majesty of justice’, he concluded the launch by suggesting that the government and respective embassies work together with CHRI to address the issue.

Report presentation: Focus on implementation concerns

Leading the presentation, Ms. Madhurima Dhanuka, Coordinator of CHRI’s Prison Reforms team noted that (the lack of) communication with family and consular access are the two major areas that the consultation needed to focus on. Expressing concern over the low rate of consular access and rising number of stateless persons, she requested that the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee ensure that protection was extended to stateless persons. Even though detention is, in theory, supposed to be temporary, the disproportionately lengthy processes

involved in the repatriation and deportation of FNPs often leads to their indefinite detention in the country. She requested embassy representatives in attendance to share details on such processes – included Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for FNPs -- on their website, which could help their nationals (and their family members) gain a better understanding of procedures.

Ms. Palak Chaudhari, a Project Officer with CHRI's Prison Reforms team next spoke about the problem of inadequacy of data; foreign nationals housed in detention centers across the country are neither included in FNP data provided by state authorities, nor are they present in the records of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), she said. Nationality verification of such prisoners should be completed at the time of their arrest itself, as delays can lead to the loss of crucial information or in some cases, even render such information useless by the time the FNP completes their sentence.

Challenges to Consular Access

Mr. B D Sharma, Advisor to West Bengal State Government's Department of Correctional Administration then spoke about how embassies sometimes do not have required human resources to address the problems faced by FNPs. This is especially true for countries like Bangladesh whose nationals are lodged in Indian prisons in huge numbers, he said.

Representatives from foreign embassies then spoke at length about the problems faced by foreigners as well as by them in providing consular access to their nationals in India. H.E. Major General (Retd.) Chris Sunday Eze from the High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria said that in a globalised world, diplomacy depended on reciprocity. He spoke about how the Nigerian embassy often faced difficulty in repatriating their nationals who come to India on their own due to the lack of communication of information about such individuals from Indian authorities. This was made worse due to the limited resources of the embassies and the large geographical spread of India, which made it difficult for their officials to travel to distant prisons to offer consular access, he said. Further, several Nigerian nationals face preventative detention in India over immigration issues and other documentational lapses which are not necessarily the fault of the detainee. To counter such problems, he proposed collaborating with CHRI, which could work to bridge the communication gaps between government authorities and embassies, thus ensuring consular access and timely repatriations.



Dr. Murali Karnam, Professor of Law at NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad said that FNPs in Telangana often have to be sent to Delhi or Jaipur for consular access. NALSAR is soon launching a legal aid programme to improve FNPs' communication with their families and embassies, and if the concerned embassies agreed, he could aid the process of communication by forming a pool of lawyers adept in handling FNP cases.

Mr Namunda Lubinda Mwitumwa from the High Commission of the Republic of Zambia then spoke about some avoidable issues under the current Indian immigration law that sometimes lead to the detention of innocent persons who are willing to return to their country but are unable to due to procedural or financial difficulties. He suggested that India could consider decriminalizing illegal immigration and consider waiving criminal liability for petty offences, under which sometimes, even schoolchildren become vulnerable if they are ousted for an issue as small as a fight. Ms. Gbadebo Oluwafemi from the High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria too spoke about the bureaucratic complications in the process for seeking permission for consular access and facilitating repatriation, which was a major challenge to their work.

Elaborating further on the difficulties faced by foreign nationals, Mr. Fabio Subia from the Embassy of Peru in India said that Indian house-owners were wary of offering certificates of address proofs to foreign nationals out of fear of “getting involved with the police” – and that such lack of cooperation made it difficult for the foreign nationals to prove their residence in the country and further complicates their case.

In response, Mr. Arun Sobti, Under-Secretary, Women Safety Division, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), informed the present dignitaries that the MHA would soon be writing to all the states and Union Territories to “ensure effective and maximum consular access” for the FNPs lodged in their respective prisons. He also said that India was negotiating a Sentence Transfer agreement with Nigeria and was hopeful about finalising it very soon. A Sentence Transfer agreement between two countries allows the nationals of each country to serve the remaining sentence in their home countries i.e. a prisoner can upon completion seek transfer to his home country for serving the remainder part of his sentence.

Sharing his experiences, Mr. D Saidiah, Deputy Inspector General of Prisons, Telangana, said that officials from the UK and US embassies often responded quickly to requests for consular access but those from Commonwealth countries have often not been able to, even after permission is granted by the Indian government. The absence of local



sureties too was an impediment in furnishing bail for FNPs, he agreed, and also suggested that CHRI could help in bringing on board police officials since their role in nationality verification and other procedures is crucial.

Mr. Simratpal Singh, Assistant Superintendent, Amritsar Central Jail, Punjab then suggested that there should be a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for all the stakeholders; this could limit delays caused by a lack of understanding of procedures and responsibilities. He also stressed on the need for proactive individual efforts on part of the involved officials so that the spirit of existing law on consular access is maintained. Mr. Ajay Verma from International Bridges to Justice suggested that embassies maintain a network of lawyers and NGOs experienced in working with FNPs to aid the process. Stakeholders also had to work on challenges involved in bail and ensuring FNPs' communication with the embassy and their families, he said.

Contact with family members while in detention

Mr. Ali Asghar Moghari from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran focused on the role of embassies in helping FNPs establish communication with their families. Most Indian prisons do not have a regular calling facility which can be used by FNPs, which is a major concern. "There have been times when I have shared my personal number with the family members of an imprisoned Iranian national, so they can contact me with any doubts or questions," he said. While there was some talk of using video-conferencing technology to help FNPs contact their embassies or families, Ms. Gbadebo Oluwafemi from the High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria expressed apprehension over its effective use since the technology and internet speed required at both ends for such facilities to work might not always be available. Instead, she focused on the importance of proper documentation and sharing of prisoner information with the embassies, who can in turn, make it available to the prisoner's family in their home country.

Mr. Simratpal Singh, Assistant Superintendent of the Amritsar Central Jail in Punjab too expressed reservations over allowing video-conferencing due to security reasons. He said, however, that they could permit this with the relevant embassies, but only in accordance with the procedures mentioned in the manual for Consular Access, which could increase consular access and aid in communication.

Responding to this, Mr. Arun Sobti said that video-conferencing was in use in some prisons in India and that the MHA was in talks with all states and UTs to replicate this system. He also sought suggestions from the present



dignitaries and suggested that they could forward their complaints and grievances to the Joint Secretary, (Consular, Passport and Visa Division), Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India and the Joint Secretary, (Foreigners Division) Ministry of Home Affairs who could direct the concerned officials to look into them.

Offering an example of an effective method in practice, Ms. Fozia Manzoor from the High Commission of Pakistan said that the Pakistani embassy displays a helpline number on its website to enable families of FNPs approach them easily. A similar, permanent system of communication must be established between Indian officials and embassies, so that the responsibility of sharing information is not left to individual officers, she added. Ms. Fozia also discussed the stigma attached that Pakistani prisoners often face in India, and added that this is a factor that sometimes hampers the proper sharing of information between relevant parties.

Another good practice followed by Australia – as mentioned by Ms. Elspeth Toop from the Australian High Commission -- was a 24-hour communication facility they operate which lets family members leave messages for FNPs at any point of the day (to circumvent the problem of different time zones), which they then pass on to the prisoners. The five-minute time slots presently allotted to FNPs for using telephones in Indian prisons was not very effective, she said.

Mr. Manoj Yadav, an advocate from Alwar, Rajasthan, spoke about his experience working in the Alwar detention center, where about 15-20 FNPs have had no contact with their families for the past several years. The National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) must instruct and empower its panel lawyers to visit detention centers too alongside prison visits to provide legal assistance to FNPs, he added.

Repatriation of prisoners

Mr. Surajit Dey, Registrar (law), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India said that the existing law for repatriation was not fully equipped for efficient implementation -- as evidenced by the low rate of repatriations since its inception in 2016. After the law came into force, India signed Sentence Transfer agreements with 35 countries, but has since then completed only 16 sentence transfers, he said, criticising the Foreigners Act -- particularly Section 14 – that leads to detentions even for petty offences, adding to the burden of FNPs in India.



Ms. Gbadebo Oluwafemi from the High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria raised some other issues such as language, communication gaps and tedious bureaucratic procedures that served as barriers to timely repatriations. A central level agency established to look into all repatriation issues, and duplicating all official communications through email could go a long way in easing the backlog, she said. This would also permit embassies to maintain proper and easily accessible records. Ms. Oluwafemi also urged the India government to consider waiving criminal liability for petty offences.

Supporting digitisation, Mr. Rajiv Saxena from the National Informatics Centre, India (Retd) said that even though the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is technologically equipped to provide and store information on all FNPs in the country, but the current government policy did not permit the public sharing of these details. Mr Simratpal Singh (Amritsar Central Jail) expressed his enthusiasm in enhancing digitisation of records to accelerate the process of repatriating FNPs. Since the lack of nationality verification was a major bottleneck in the process, he suggested that this process be completed at the earliest possible stage – preferably right during arrest. Another factor which slowed down the repatriation process was only allowing the prison headquarters to communicate with embassies; no other prison official can do this, he said. This too needed resolution.

Mr. B. D. Sharma, Advisor to West Bengal State Government’s Department of Correctional Administration said that the old practice of ‘capturing and pushing back’ foreigners attempting to cross international borders was ultimately in the best interest of both the country as well as the foreign national, since it lead to no arrest and prosecution, and would spare both parties of years of repatriation and deportation efforts. He also stressed on the need for separate prisons for FNPs – and this could be taken up by the Central government as the subject matter came under its purview.

Valedictory address

Mr. Salman Khurshid, Advocate, Supreme Court of India and former Minister of External Affairs with the Government of India concluded the consultation, and discussed the humanitarian concerns around the imprisonment of foreign nationals in India, remarking, “There are some bureaucratic gaps that seem to overcome our commitment to the constitution.’ India needs specifically trained counsellors to work on these critical cases, he said. He also spoke about the problem of working with ‘stateless’ persons – those whose nationality has not been determined or ascertained – and the fact that India has still not signed the Convention on Stateless persons.



A huge problem for India today was the newly laid out ‘National Register for Citizens’ (NRC) policy, which would render thousands of people stateless. Concluding his speech, Mr. Khurshid appreciated CHRI’s efforts and its work on foreign national prisoners in India and endorsed its work.

IV. Issues identified and recommendations made during the Consultation

● Issues identified

1. The existing law governing foreign nationals in India encourages immigration detention even for petty offences, such as overstay of visa, etc.
2. Indian officials are not adequately trained in dealing with FNPs.
3. There is no central database of FNPs across the country.
4. There is no established system to share information among government authorities, families of FNPs and the relevant embassies.
5. Embassies often find it difficult to visit prisons which are far from Delhi.
6. FNPs often do not have access to appropriate legal assistance.
7. The procedures for repatriation, nationality verification and consular access are archaic and complicated.
8. Nationality verification is marred by an apparent information crisis.
9. Delays in nationality verification lead to FNPs overstaying in prisons beyond the completion of their sentences.
10. Some major issues affecting the quality of FNPs’ life in prison are the differences in diet, language and culture.
11. FNPs find it difficult to furnish bail because of difficulties in acquiring local sureties in India.
12. Embassies and prisons both suffer from resource deficits.



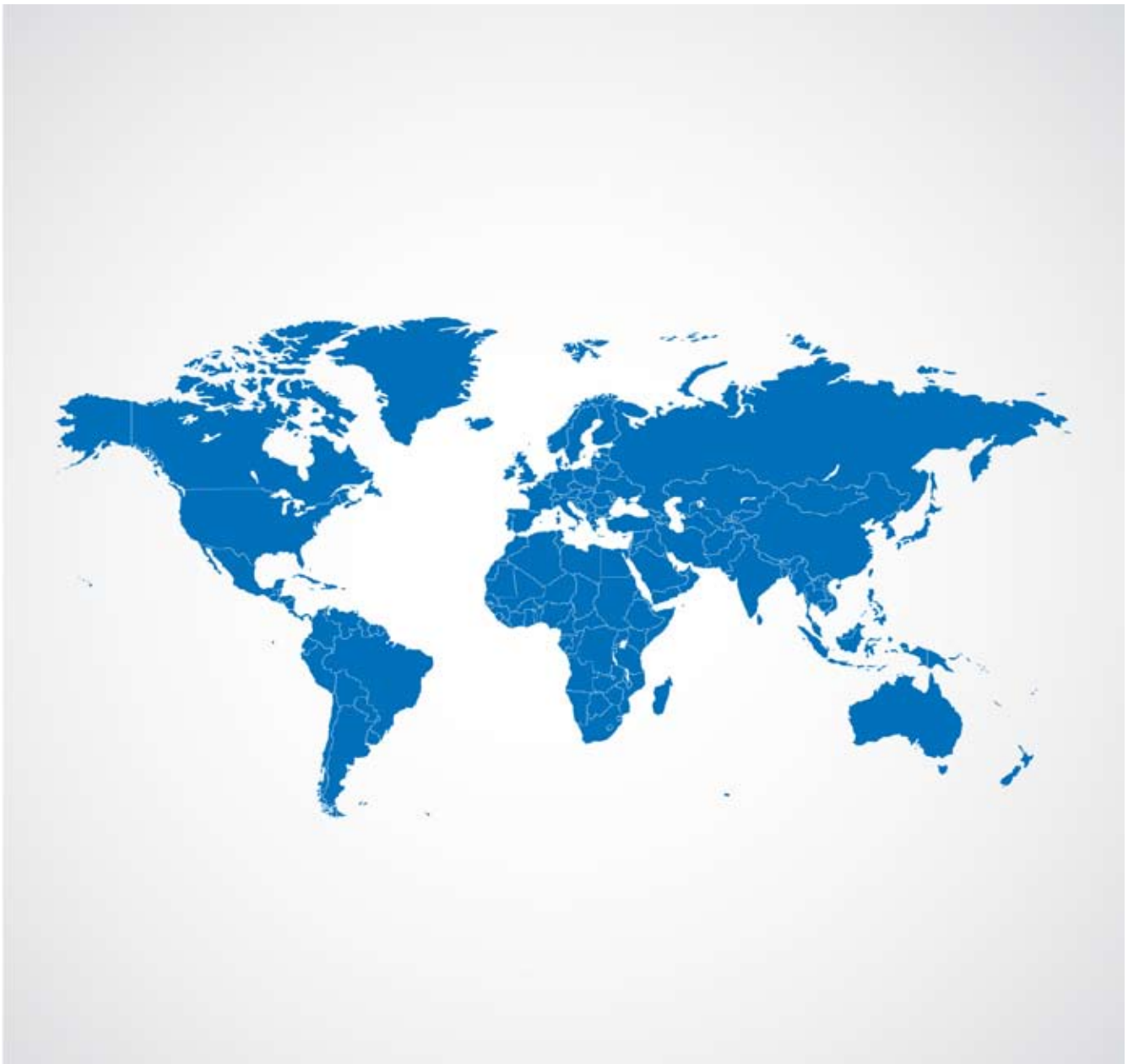
● **Suggestions and Recommendations**

1. Some provisions of the Foreigners Act 1946 must be reconsidered, so that illegal immigration may either be decriminalised or alternatives to imprisonment are considered.
2. All embassies should have a dedicated 24-hour helpline for families of FNPs and other interested information bearers.
3. CHRI may also create an urgent action desk to receive information on FNPs and facilitate consular access, contact with family, legal representation, repatriation and transfer of prisoners under the Repatriation of Prisoners Act 2003.
4. The government should ensure that complete information on FNPs is promptly communicated to the relevant embassies. A copy of all such official communications made to embassies should also be sent through email to speed up the process.
5. Prison officials should be allowed to directly communicate with embassies while keeping the relevant ministries in the loop.
6. All stakeholders should be properly trained to ensure the timely completion of procedures.
7. Embassies must display information to educate their nationals on procedures on their websites.
8. Embassies must use this report to conduct studies to address their specific challenges.
9. Police manuals should have provisions detailing the duties of the police regarding the detention of foreign nationals.
10. The government must formulate guidelines for the protection of stateless persons.
11. The FNP Module in the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS) should include an automated information-sharing system to connect all stakeholders.
12. There should be a nodal agency to ensure and monitor nationality verification, repatriation and consular access.
13. Video-conferencing facilities can be set up in prisons to facilitate FNPs' communication with their families and embassies. The Himachal Pradesh model of JailVaarta may be replicated by other states. JailVaarta is an innovative application for the prisoners and their relatives or visitors to interact visually with dignity from the



comfort of their homes without visiting the Prisons. A video talk with family reduces stress and depression.

14. The Central government can construct and administer special centralised prisons with trained staff for FNPs.
15. Nationality verification should be conducted at the time of arrest or at the earliest opportunity available.
16. FNPs should be provided with counselling during their stay in prison and during their release.
17. FNPs should be allowed to communicate through supervised emails. With the families as well as the embassy representatives in India.
18. NALSA should create a panel of lawyers specialised in defending FNPs.
19. NALSA must provide for panel lawyers to visit detention centers.



**Round Table Consultation with Key Stakeholders on
*Strangers to Justice: A Report on Foreigners in Indian Prisons***

11 January 2019

Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Programme Schedule

Time	Session	Speakers
9.30 AM	Registration and tea	
10.00 AM - 11.00 AM	<p>Welcome and opening remarks</p> <p>Launch & Remarks</p> <p>Presentation on the Report: Focus on implementation concerns</p>	<p>Mr. Sanjoy Hazarika, International Director, CHRI</p> <p>Mr. Wajahat Habibullah (IAS Retd) Chairperson, Executive Committee, CHRI; Former Chief Information Commissioner of India</p> <p>Ms. Palak Chaudhari & Ms. Madhurima Dhanuka, Prison Reforms Programme, CHRI</p>
11.00 AM - 11.30 AM	Q & A	Participants
11.30 AM – 11.45 AM	Tea break	
11.45 AM – 12.45 PM	Working Session I: Challenges for consular access	<p>Moderator: Mr. B. D. Sharma, Advisor to State Government, Department of Correctional Administration, Govt. of West Bengal</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Major General (Retd.) Chris Sunday Eze, High Commission of Nigeria - Representatives from other embassies - Mr. Arun Sobti, Under Secretary, Women Safety Division/Centre State Division, Ministry of Home Affairs - Mr. B Saidaiah, DIG Prisons, Telangana - Mr. Ajay Verma, International Bridges to Justice

12.45 PM – 1.45 PM	Working Session II: Contact with family members while in detention	Moderator: Madhurima Dhanuka, CHRI Panelists: - Mr. Moghari, Consular Division, Iran - Representatives from embassies - Mr. Arun Sobti, Under Secretary, Women Safety Division/Centre State Division, Ministry of Home Affairs - Mr. Shashikant Sharma, National Informatics Centre, India (e-prisons) - Dr Murali Karnam, NALSAR, Hyderabad - Mr. Manoj Yadav, Lawyer, Alwar
1.45 PM – 2.30 PM	LUNCH	
2.30 PM – 3.30 PM	Working Session III: Repatriation of prisoners	Moderator: Mr. Surajit Dey, Registrar (law), National Human Rights Commission, India Panelists: - Mr. Vishwajeet Singh, Legal Advisor of the Embassy of Somalia - H.E. Major General (Retd.) Chris Sunday Eze, High Commission of Nigeria - Representatives from other embassies - Mr. B. D. Sharma, Advisor to State Government, Department of Correctional Administration, Govt. of West Bengal - Mr. Simratpal Singh, Assistant Superintendent, Amritsar Central Jail, Punjab - Mr. Rajiv Saxena, National Informatics Centre, India (Retd)
3.30 PM	Valedictory Address	Mr. Salman Khurshid, Advocate Supreme Court of India & Former Minister of External Affairs, Government of India
4.00 PM	Closing remarks	Mr. Sanjoy Hazarika, International Director, CHRI
	HIGH TEA	

CHRI PROGRAMMES

CHRI believes that the Commonwealth and its member countries must be held to high standards and functional mechanisms for accountability and participation. This is essential for human rights, transparent democracies and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). CHRI specifically works on strategic initiatives and advocacy on human rights, Access to Justice and Access to Information. It focuses on research, publications, workshops, analysis, mobilisation, dissemination and advocacy and informs the following principal programmes:

1. Access to Justice (ATJ)

* Police Reforms: In too many countries the police are seen as an oppressive instrument of state rather than as protectors of citizens' rights, leading to widespread rights violations and denial of justice. CHRI promotes systemic reform so that the police act as upholders of the rule of law rather than as enforcers of a regime. CHRI's programme aims at mobilising public support for police reforms and works to strengthen civil society engagement on the issues. In East Africa and Ghana, CHRI examines police accountability and political interference.

* We are preparing to add a portfolio on anti-discrimination on the basis of colour, appearance and gender.

* Prison Reforms: CHRI's work in prisons looks at increasing transparency of a traditionally closed system and exposing malpractices. Apart from highlighting failures of the legal system that result in overcrowding and unacceptably long pre-trial detention and prison overstay, we engage in interventions and advocacy for legal aid and policy changes to revive prison oversight systems. Attention to these areas can bring improvements to the administration of prisons and conditions of justice.

2. Access to Information

CHRI is acknowledged as a key organisation working on the promotion of Access to Information. It encourages countries to pass and implement effective Right to Information laws. It routinely assists in the development of legislation and has been particularly successful in promoting Right to Information laws and practices in India, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ghana, and more recently, Kenya. In Ghana, CHRI is the Secretariat for the RTI civil society coalition. We regularly critique new legislation and intervene to bring best practices into governments and civil society knowledge both at a time when laws are being drafted and when they are first being implemented. We have experience of working in hostile environments as well as culturally varied jurisdictions; these enable us to bring valuable insights into countries seeking to evolve new laws on right to information. In Ghana, for instance, it has been promoting knowledge about the value of Access to Information and to campaign for the introduction of an effective law.

* South Asia Media Defender's Network (SAMDEN)

CHRI has developed a regional network of media professionals to address the issue of increasing attacks on media workers and pressure on freedom of speech and expression in South Asia, especially in rural areas. This network, the South Asia Media Defenders Network (SAMDEN) recognises that such freedoms are indivisible and know no political boundaries. Anchored by a core group of media professionals who have experienced discrimination and intimidation, SAMDEN is developing an interactive website platform to highlight pressures on media, issues of shrinking media space and press freedom. It is also working to mobilise media so that strength grows through collaboration and numbers. A key area of synergy lies in linking SAMDEN with the Right to Information movements and activists.

3. International Advocacy and Programming

CHRI monitors the compliance of Commonwealth member states with human rights obligations and advocates around human rights exigencies where such obligations are breached. CHRI strategically engages with regional and international bodies including the Commonwealth Secretariat, Ministerial Action Group, the UN and the African Commission for Human and People's Rights. Ongoing strategic initiatives include advocating for and monitoring the Commonwealth reform, reviewing promised by Commonwealth members at the UN Human Rights Council, and the Universal Periodic Review. We advocate for the protection of human rights defenders and civil society spaces and monitor the performance of National Human Rights Institutions in the Commonwealth while pressing for their strengthening.

CHRI 2018

STRANGERS TO JUSTICE

A Report on Foreigners in Indian Prisons



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Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
working for the practical realisation of human rights
in the countries of the Commonwealth



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