

**BEFORE THE GOA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**PANAJI – GOA**

**Proceeding No.47/2024**

Radhika Halarnkar and 25 others,  
Lady Home Guards,  
Mapusa Divison.

... Complainants

V/s

The Inspector General of Prisons,  
Panaji-Goa.

... Respondent

**INQUIRY REPORT**

(19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024)

The complaint dated 08/02/2024, was received in the Commission from 26 Lady Home Guards, with a request to withdraw Lady Home Guards from the Central Jail Colvale, as they are subjected to abuses and threats from the prisoners.

2. By Order dated 25/04/2024, the Commission directed to issue notice to the Respondent, calling for their reply and to remain present for the hearing.

3. The Respondent filed their reply on 19/06/2024.

4. The Commission heard seven of the Complainants and Shri Vithal Gawas, Jailor, on behalf of the Respondent.

5. The Commission has gone through the complaint and the reply of the Respondent along with documents enclosed.

6. It is seen that the Complainants who are Home Guards have requested to withdraw the Lady Home Guards from duty at the Central Jail Colvale.

7. From the reply of the Respondent and documents, it is stated by them that four Lady Home Guards are deployed in the Female Block on monthly basis to man the Entrance Gate of the Female Block only and their duty is to open and close the Entrance Gate of the Female Block only and no other work is

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assigned to them. They stated that the services of Lady Home Guards shall continue till the vacancies of Lady Warders and Lady Matrons are filled in the Department.

8. The Commission recommends that the Respondent expedite the filling of the vacancies of Lady Warders and Lady Matrons in the Department, within 60 days from today. The Commission also recommends that the duties to be performed by the Lady Home Guards be specified by a written Order, from time to time, within 60 days from today.

9. Under Section 18(e) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, the Commission shall send a copy of the Inquiry Report together with its recommendations to the concerned Government or authority and they shall, within a period of one month or such further time as the Commission may allow, forward its comments on the report, including the action taken or proposed to be taken, to the Commission.

10. Copy of the Inquiry Report be sent to the Respondent, calling for their comments, including the action taken or proposed to be taken within a period of 60 days or on or before 20/08/2024, in terms of Section 18(e) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

Date : 19/06/2024

Place : Panaji-Goa.

Sd/-  
(Desmond D'Costa)  
Acting Chairperson/Member  
Goa Human Rights Commission

Sd/-  
(Pramod V. Kamat)  
Member  
Goa Human Rights Commission