

BEFORE THE GOA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PANAJI – GOA

Proceeding No.58/2024

Undertrial accused,
Presently lodged at Central Jail Colvale,
Bardez-Goa. ... Complainants

V/s

The Inspector General of Prisons,
Panaji-Goa. ... Respondent

INQUIRY REPORT

(19th June, 2024)

The complaint dated 04/03/2024, had been received in this Commission, signed by 56 undertrial prisoners of the Central Jail Colvale, in respect of the ill treatment towards prisoners.

2. On perusing the complaint, the Commission by Order dated 11/03/2024, called for the report/reply from the Respondent.

3. The Respondent filed their reply on 12/06/2024 and a copy was forwarded to the Complainants.

4. The Commission heard the Complainant No.1 Shri Julius Beford on behalf of the Complainants and Jailor Shri Vithal Gawas, on behalf of the Respondent.

5. The Commission has gone through the complaint as well as the reply of the Respondent.

6. The Complainants raised grievances in respect of not receiving canteen facilities, water problems, health issues, not being allowed use of the sports ground, assaults and harassment by the officials of the Central Jail.

7. In their reply, the Respondent has denied that the office staff has been ill treating the undertrial prisoners. They have also stated that the grievances raised by the Complainants have been addressed. The Respondent stated that the facility of canteen has been provided to the inmates as per Chapter XVII (Welfare of

Prisoners), Rule 1136 of Goa Prison Rules, 2021. So also, water purifiers have been installed in the blocks to facilitate the inmates to get pure drinking water and anti mosquito repellents spray is used in the cells. Similarly, sports events are conducted and inmates are given access to participate in the events. The Respondent denied that any inmates have been assaulted.

8. The Complainants had stated that they are being threatened and assaulted and the CCTV footage would be relevant.

9. The Respondent has stated that the CCTV cameras installed in the Central Jail Colvale have backup storage of 12 to 13 days and thereafter automatically gets deleted from the system.

10. The Commission accordingly recommends as under:-

- i. The Respondent takes steps to ensure that the CCTV cameras installed in the Central Jail Colvale have back-up storage for a period of 60 days.*
- ii. The Commission also recommends that the Respondent take up with the Public Works Department and other departments, the regular maintenance of the facilities in the jail, so as to avoid inconvenience to the undertrials/convicts who are housed in the jail.*

11. A copy of the Inquiry Report be put up by the Respondent on the Notice Boards of the Central Jail Colvale.

12. 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.

13. 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