

BEFORE THE GOA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PANAJI – GOA

Proceeding No.59/2023

Women Inmates,
Central Jail Colvale.

... Complainants

V/s

The Superintendent,
Central Jail, Colvale,
Bardez-Goa.

... Respondent

INQUIRY REPORT

(06th March, 2024)

The complaint dated 14/06/2023 from the women prisoners of the Central Jail Colvale had been forwarded to this Commission by the letter dated 06/07/2023, of the Court of the Principal District and Sessions Judge, North Goa.

2. On perusing the complaint, the Commission by Order 06/11/2023 called for the report from the Respondent.
3. The Respondent filed their reply.
4. The Commission heard Shri Vithal Gawas, Jailor, on behalf of the Respondent.
5. The Commission has gone through the complaint which is in respect of the grievances of the women inmates of Central Jail, Colvale, as male officials, though prohibited to visit the women's block, they come to the women's block, unaccompanied by the Jail Matron and the women are embarrassed.
6. From the reply of the Respondent, they state that the male officers are always accompanied by lady officers.
7. Under **Rule 1445 of Goa Prisons Rules, 2021**, no male shall be permitted to enter the female ward of any prison at any time, unless he has a legitimate duty to attend therein. No adult male shall enter it at all by night except in an emergency and even then along with the female warder/female officer and he shall thereafter record a clear report of his visit with the reasons for such visit, and the hour thereof, in his report book.

8. Accordingly, the Commission recommends that the Jail Authorities of the Central Jail Colvale, strictly comply with the said provision, ensuring that when male officers visit the female wards, they always be accompanied by female wardens/female officers and that they shall make a record of the report of the visit with reasons for such visit in the report book. So also, the Commission recommends that a copy of the Inquiry Report be put up by the Respondent on the Notice Board outside the Women's Block.

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 his comments, including the action taken or proposed to be taken within a period of 30 days or on or before 05/04/2024, in terms of Section 18(e) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

11. Copy of the Inquiry Report also to be forwarded to the Court of the Principal District & Sessions Judge, North Goa, for information and necessary action.

Date : 06/03/2024

Place : Panaji-Goa.

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

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