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Prof. Eice Mohammad's struggle for improvement of working conditions for young doctors

Reminiscences from Life in Rawalpindi and Jehlum Prison

Dr. Eice Mohammad FCPS retired as Professor of Medicine a few years ago and is currently affiliated with Islam Medical College Sialkot. During his professional career he has served as Professor of Medicine and at times as Principal and Chief Executive as well at numerous medical colleges in Rahim Yar Khan, Rawalpindi, Lahore, and Sargodha. In fact he had requested the Health Department that he was prepared to serve anywhere in the country.

During his early professional career he struggled for the betterment of working conditions for the doctors, creating more jobs for Medical Officers, serviced structure for the doctors working in government service and 100% paid house jobs. As President and leader of Paksitan Doctors Organization, he led this movement and had to face the music. He was arrested twice, suspended from service and then sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for all these sins. Eventually investigations during the Martial Law government of Gen. Ziaul Haque, he was proved innocent and released. Later on he was re-instated with full Honours and served at numerous medical colleges before earning an Honourable retirement. Not only that, he was also awarded Sitar-e-Imtiaz by the Government and he became an automatic choice for the authorities who nominated him to be member of various important committees and was also made Member of the PM&DC.

During his days of struggle some of his friends proved to be *Kufis*, some other healthcare professionals remained steadfast

with him. He had a large army of young doctors who loved him many of whom now occupy coveted positions in medical institutions. He enjoys lot of respect but he also has some critics who hate him. One does not have to agree with his viewpoint on everything as difference of opinion has to be accepted and tolerated but one thing is certain that he is an honest, kind hearted physician who is not at all infected with a materialistic virus and is among a very few healthcare professionals who is struggling to promote ethical medical practice.

On my personal request he has agreed to share his experience in Jail, details of the trial in Summary Military Court, eventual release from Jail and then how he managed to get an Honourable reinstatement with all the benefits and privileges. Lot of misinformation was also spread about his reinstatement and this write up has thrown light on all these issues in detail. This was first published in a series in Pulse International and since it contains lot of historical facts not only about the medical profession, some issues of national importance as well, hence I decided to make it a part of this book to preserve this history for future generation of healthcare professionals. The whole story has been written by Prof. Eice Mohammad himself and it is he who deserves the credit for this as well. **SAJ**

Reminiscences from Life in Rawalpindi Prison

“I was sent to jail twice. First time in 1980 and then in 1981 during the protests by doctors all over Pakistan under the leadership of Pakistan Doctors Organization (PDO). Other regional associations of doctors also took full part in this struggle for better employment opportunities for doctors all over Pakistan. At that time there was Martial Law rule in the country.

This classic struggle was for:

1. Increase in number of posts of Medical Officers as very large number of doctors were unemployed in the country at that time.
2. Formulation of service structure for doctors in government service.
3. 100% paid house job.
4. Posting of doctors in rural areas of Pakistan under a system so that rural population of Pakistan could also benefit from qualified MBBS

and BDS doctors. PDO considered that health of rural population is back bone of Pakistan and it should not be left at the mercy of quacks or dispensers.

PDO planned a meeting in Holy Family Hospital (HFH), Rawalpindi (RWP) to finalize strategy for putting our demands to the government. However some intelligence officers mislead then Military Government that doctors are assembling in Rawalpindi to lock down the Rawalpindi City. Section 144 was also imposed in Rawalpindi one day before. We went ahead to hold the meeting because PDO had no descriptive plan and we were holding meeting in a closed area.

During night before the meeting, I slept in a doctor's room in Holy Family Hospital (HFH), Rawalpindi. When the meeting started in the cafeteria of HFH, a large contingent of police in full gear entered the cafeteria and arrested me and nine other doctors. Doctors from Sind and KPK were also present there. We were taken to nearby police station and then shifted to district Jail in Sadder area of Rawalpindi in the evening.

I was put in an isolated room in the jail compound. The room had no door and iron rods closed one side of the room. It was month of December and nights were icy cold. Other doctors were kept in separate place. A police man was posted to guard my cell. The blankets provided by Jail authorities were so small in size that if I would cover my head, my feet would become uncovered and vice-versa. No cot was provided and I had to lie on the floor. At about 12 midnight doctors from HFH sent a woolen blanket which provided relief from biting cold. Except me, other doctors were released after two days. A police man remained with me for about 03 days & I noted that he would remain very close to me and would discuss with me the politics of the country and invasion of Afghanistan by Russia. Then I understood that he is from some intelligence agency and is recording my utterances. After 03 days he disappeared and I never saw him again.

Many days passed and I was completely shut off from any news from outside and this isolation stressed me greatly and I realized that how the loneliness affects a person. My relatives reached

Rawalpindi and met jail authorities but they were not allowed to see me. However, they sent a copy of Holy Quran to me and reading Surah Yousaf gave me immense solace and tranquility of mind in prison. For urination and other purposes, I had to go in a remote area of that place as there was no toilet in that area.

Through my father-in-law, I conveyed to the doctors that at no excuse, emergency services will be closed and all emergency operations should go on. This Motto was adhered to by doctors all over the Pakistan.

Strange Visitors in the Jail: About 07 days had passed that my Father-in-Law succeeded to get permission to meet me in the Jail and this meeting took place in the office of Jail Superintendent. I also noted another insane looking person in tattered clothes in the room & he had strange shape and had a pen and a note book with him. I wondered who that person could be. After some time, his face figured in my memory. Then I recollected that once this person came to show himself as patient in the OPD of HFH where I was working as Associate Professor of Medicine. It then transpired in my mind that I was under surveillance by intelligence personnel's as I was President of PDO at that time before my arrest.

Some other visitors also came to meet me in the jail. One was a very senior general practitioner of RWP. (I will not name him as he is dead). After release from jail I asked from doctors about this doctor. They told me that he is very close to the Martial Law Authorities. This doctor talked to me very politely and lovingly and asked me to give call to the doctors, who had gone on strike against my arrest and other doctors, to call off strike. When I refused to give the call to end the strike, he suddenly became very harsh and threatened me that I will languish in jail for whole of my life & left angrily.

One day, two doctors from Dera Ghazi Khan came to advise me on the same. The then Minister for Health (a lady) belonged to DG Khan and these doctors had met her. They also advised me to give a call to end the strike. On my refusal they also burst in anger and warned me of tragic consequences (Both are dead and I will not name them).

Transfer to other barracks from earlier place in the Jail:

After about 07 days, I was moved to another desolate area and I was put in an earthen walled cell. It was about 04 feet wide and 10 feet long. I had to lie on a raised platform. I could listen voice of the watchman patrolling this area. There was no one to talk to. Calls of the nature were performed in some adjacent area in day time. The watchman told me one night that in this very cell Mr. Bhutto was kept for some days and that his fate is known to you. Obviously this was all to frighten me.

In this place, one night the watchman, knowing that I was doctor, asked for treatment of his wife who had black areas on her face (Melasma). He gave me a pencil and a paper through a window, but I refused to oblige him fearing that someone may not over write on my writing and put me in trouble. I still ponder that whether I acted correctly or not. Then, I was transferred to a barrack where 10 prisoners were kept and cot was provided to me. However strange behaviour of these new companions in jail was noticed. As I would begin to sleep, these prisoners would start speaking that Dr. Eice Muhammad is likely to be hanged or would be awarded life imprisonment. This was to terrorize me and obviously they used to do this on instruction of jail authorities. Some of these were ex-PIA employees who were in Jail for stealing a money full brief case of a traveler and others were some teachers who were in Jail for some unwanted political activities. Door of the barrack used to be locked at 5 PM. Light bulb used to remain alight during night and day.

Strange Scenes: In this area of the jail I also saw prisoners with their legs in chains and they had to walk and sleep with those. I used to see a prisoner working as sweeper who used to collect faecal matter of prisoners in canister with his hand in the canister and faecal matter falling on his shoulders. There was no flush latrines in the jail.

One day while I was lying on the cot, I noticed some irritation on my lip and when I tried to scratch, a lice came into my fingers which was obviously killed by me. There were large number of bed bugs in the cot which also had to be killed by the hand.

Start of the trial: One day, I was informed that I will be taken to the Summary Military Court for trial. Next day, the Deputy Superintendent Jail escorted me to the office of the Jail Superintendent where he hand-cuffed me and spoke very rudely with me. He took me to a nearby bus stop and boarded a public transport bus while I was still hand-cuffed. On reaching the Summary Military Court, charge sheet was read out to me. Some doctors had also reached the court and when they saw me in hand cuffs, they became emotional and protested. I asked for permission to get aid of a lawyer which was granted. Next day, I was brought to the court. I was not hand cuffed this time.

The trial was still in progress, that Federal Government reached an understanding with leaders of PDO that all demands of the doctors will be met with and solved in a time framework and I was also released. For this first time, I remained in jail for 20 days. I was suspended from service before arrest and remained suspended and later on removed from service.

Now after 40 years of this incident, I sometimes go in the memory lane of those very painful days. During those days when I was kept in solitary confinement. I wished I could listen and talk to a human being. It was only 05 daily prayers and recitation of Holy Quran that helped me to withstand the mental stress of those days. **The other source of strength was that medical fraternity stood like a rock behind me.**

After my release from jail, I went to Rahim Yar Khan to meet and thank the doctors for supporting the demands of doctors. A press reporter there told me that when I was in Jail, local intelligence agencies approached him and enquired if I had association with any political party opposed to the Government. Finding no such link, I was released.

Trial by the Summary Military Court

Second time I was arrested in 1981. This time I was tried in Summary Military Court at midnight in Lahore. The court gave its decision in one hour and I was sent to central jail in Kot Lakhpat, Lahore at about 1.00 AM. This time it was one year rigorous imprisonment. One hour later Dr. Khalid Obaidullah, General Secretary Pakistan Doctors Organization (PDO) also arrived in

jail after conviction by Summary Military Court (SMC). He was also awarded one year rigorous imprisonment. Next day doctors in Lahore and Punjab, KPK, Baluchistan and Sind went on strike. Two days later eight more doctors from various hospitals were sentenced by the Summary Military Court in Lahore and they were also brought to the Lakhpat Jail.

I and Dr. Khalid Obaidullah and other doctors were given C-Class in Jail. In C-class in jail you have to sleep on floor. Water was available in earthen pot for drinking and for other purposes like washing, for Wazoo. Breakfast used to consist of Grams and a cup of tea. Lunch & Dinner consisted of *Jali Roti and Daal*. Two days later all of us, ten in number were herded in a Pakka two room area. All used to lie on the floor and prayed together.

From the morning of our arrest, I and Dr. Khalid Obaidullah were kept in Police Station old Anarkali till midnight when we were taken to Summary Military Court (SMC) for trial. We both had not eaten or drank anything since last night. I paid Rs. 100/- to the SHO so that he can arrange some food for us.

I remember names of few dear colleagues who were also arrested and included, Dr. Anwaar Ahmad Bugvi (still alive), Dr. Gulzar from Gujranwala, Dr. Jahanzeb (ENT Specialist DHQ Sahiwal (now dead) Dr. Hashmi (now a Cardiac Surgeon), Dr. Ijaz Butt (Retired Pathologist Gujranwala)..

Next morning after our arrest and night stay in the Jail, I and Dr Khalid Obaidullah were given prisoner's clothes to wear and were presented before the Jail Superintendent. We along with newly arrived prisoners were asked to sit with folded knees and to keep our heads between the knees. Dr. Khalid Obaidullah got irritated on this treatment but I, having experience of Jail in the past asked him to control his rage. I told him that on the slightest of excuse the Jail warden will hit any prisoner with the cane in a merciless manner just to frighten the other new prisoners. Each prisoner was asked to rise in turn so that Jail Superintendent (JS) could see them. The JS knew that we were doctors and asked few questions from us. The JS seemed to be a good natured person because he talked very politely to each new prisoner and advised all of us to abide by the prison discipline.

One day a prisoner in nearby room invited all of us to have lunch with him. I informed the Head Warden of Jail who after talking to jail officials allowed us to have lunch with that prisoner who was in jail for the last many years. During the lunch, he told us that when Air-Marshal Asghar Khan was in this Jail he also invited him to lunch. During the lunch one of the doctor remarked that he will not remain in the Jail for one year and that he will scale the wall and try to escape. Our host, the permanent dweller of the prison informed of this **informal sentence by one doctor** to the Jail officials. It will be of interest to the readers, that as old prisoners have to spend their lives in the prison they become very loyal to Jail authorities to get some freedom of movement in Jail and they also regularly pay bribe to officials to avoid rigorous imprisonment. However, effect of that remark about escape from Jail had immediate reaction.

Next day in the evening the Chief Warden came into our compound and told us to collect our luggage as orders of our release have been received. I doubted this statement in my heart. But other colleagues became overjoyed and went to the prison gate. They were taken out one by one. I was the last to leave the Jail and I was asked to board a police vehicle. Soon, I realized that they are not going towards the city but away from the city. All of us were taken to different jails of Punjab. I was brought to District Jail, Jehlum. Dr. Khalid Obaidullah to Mianwali, Dr. Bugwi to Sargodha and other doctors to other jails. **The doctors all over Pakistan went on strike. However, I conveyed the message that at no cost the emergency patients or operations will be stopped.** The Health Department, Punjab terminated jobs of many doctors and employed new doctors in their places. These temporarily recruited doctors sabotaged the movement of doctors. However, these doctors were asked to leave after a month or two and so they tasted the shame of their betrayal.

Dr. Abdul Hafeez Kardar, President, PDO Faisal Abad staged great fight and his job was terminated and he had to leave the country. He returned to Pakistan after many years and is doing

private practice in Faisalabad. I have great regard for his sacrifice and of other doctors who were victimized by the government.

Background events which lead to my second arrest

When I was arrested for the second time, a strange incident took place in Kot Lakhpat Jail. An arrested MPA came in our cells and asked us how the life is going on. After some minutes he began to admonish us and told that it will be better that you apologize to the government otherwise you people will be taught a lesson. Myself and other doctors burst into rage and asked him to leave our area and told him that you should be ashamed of yourself and of your behaviour. Actually this MPA and the man who had called us for lunch were doing all this on instructions of jail authorities to know about our plan and to demoralize us.

The events which lead to my second arrest which took place in Lahore in 1981 are as under:

After my release from prison, after first arrest I visited various hospitals in Lahore and other cities to thank the doctors for showing exemplary courage during the strike after my arrest. The Federal Government had promised to take positive steps to fulfill the demands of doctors but there was no progress. Hence, PDO started having corner meetings in all cities. I visited Karachi, Hyderabad, Quetta and Peshawar to make the doctors realize the need to have better working conditions for them and need for service structure. Other PDO members also went to many cities to meet doctors. Historic meetings used to take place in canteen of Mayo Hospital Lahore and in Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar.

The pressure was built on the government to start negotiations. Professorial staff of medical colleges were also requested to support the struggle of doctors. Local branches of PMA were also requested to cooperate. Token strikes were held to persuade the government to start the negotiations. During one such token strike in Lahore, I was informed that elective surgery is being done in west operation theatre of Mayo Hospital Lahore. After wearing operation theatre shoes, mask & gown two of us went to the theatre and requested for the surgeon to

complete the operation but not to do elective surgery though emergency surgery should not be stopped. After this we came out. I did not ask anybody to stop the operation. Meanwhile Federal Government called PDO for negotiations in Islam Abad. Dr. Mahboob-ul- Haq the Minister of Finance headed this meeting. In this meeting, PMA office bearers and Principal of Rawalpindi Medical College and KEMC were also invited to attend the meeting. Director General Health Pakistan and Chief (Health) Planning Commission of Pakistan also attended the meeting.

In the meeting, government agreed to the following:

1. 100% paid house job to the medical and dental graduates.
2. Creation of about 2000 new posts for doctors.
3. To frame service structure for doctors to promotion to Grade 20 and higher.

It may be mentioned here that doctors went on country wide strike in 1974 also for:

1. Grade 17 to medical and dental graduates on induction in government service.
2. Increase in salary of House Job doctors
3. Formulation of Service Structure for doctors.

I was President of PDO Punjab at that time and Dr. Khalid Nawaz was General Secretary of PDO Punjab. It was the time of Prime-Minister Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

As a result of that strike, the following demands were met:

1. Doctors were to be inducted in service in scale 17 and were to receive 05 advance increments.
2. The junior House Officers were also to get pay while earlier it was unpaid. There was increase in their salaries also.
3. At any time 40% of scale—17 doctors will be in scale—18.
4. Later on an agreed formula will be worked out for promotion of general cadre doctors to scale—20 in a time frame of service years and general cadre doctors could go to BS—20. For this purpose Prof. Yasmin Rashid, present Minister of Health Punjab played a great part in 1983—1986 and onward. She also actively took part to sustain the strike of doctors after my arrest in 1981. Her role for rights of doctors has been praiseworthy.

After sometime in 1975–1976, with the efforts of late Professor Iftikhar Ahmad (who was Patron of PDO) the teaching cadre got a service structure. A new cadre of teachers was created i.e. Associate Professors.

The scales of medical teachers were also upgraded. The following betterment was done in pay scales.

1. Professors, Basic Scale–20. Earlier they were in BS–19.
2. Associate Prof.: Basic Scale–19 (This was new cadre in BS -19).
3. Assistant Professors: Basic Scale–18.

With later efforts by doctors, Professors can now go to BS–21 and BS–22, and general cadre doctors can go to BS–20. Prof. Iftikhar Ahmed later on became Principal of KEMC and Secretary Health Punjab.

After the first meeting with the Federal Government, it was decided to meet again after one week for further discussion. When meeting started, the document presented by the government showed that 55% house officers will be given paid house job as against 100%. There was no mention of service structure. When I reminded that it was agreed that house officers will be given 100% paid house job, One Principal remarked: Dr. Eice, do you want an army of house officers in the ward. I asked him that how many house officers are working in your ward. He told about 35 are working. I told him that is this number is not an army; I remarked that you only oppose PDO proposal lest these poor young doctors do not get paid house job. I also raised question of elimination of quackery as they are a danger to the public. However, this Principal had his own viewpoint. The meeting ended without clear cut decisions and I was asked to put up a written document outlining the demands & their solution & PDO prepared a 20 page document & it was delivered to (Chief Health) Planning Commission of Pakistan, Dr. Siraj-ul-Haq by a special messenger. However, government did not announce any decision and PDO planned for fresh initiatives which included holding press conferences, meet the then Secretaries of Health of different provinces and different MPAS and MNAs and preparing the doctors all over Pakistan for a fresh initiative for acceptance of their demands.

One day, news appeared that Government is preparing to proceed against Dr. Eice Muhammad under Martial Law regulations. Suddenly, Police vehicles began to patrol the house of my father in law on Waris Road, Lahore where I was residing. Whenever, I came on the road, police vehicle began to move with me. On these indications, I understood that government is going to arrest me any time. One day, police followed me on the road near Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. I hurried and went inside & sat in the side room of an operation theatre. I could listen the sound of boots outside and asking each other about me. An OT assistant came into the side room and he asked me that who are you and why I was sitting here. I told him that I am a doctor & want to meet the operating surgeon who is my friend. So he allowed me to sit there. After about half an hour when I thought that chasing police men probably have gone, I came out and left the hospital through its back gate.

A day earlier, I and Dr. Khalid Obaidullah were chased by police in Mayo Hospital & we escaped through chained gate of Mayo Hospital on Nisbet Road and police could not arrest us. Now, it became very clear that Government has decided to arrest me on one pretext or the other. I did not go that night to WARIS Road residence but instead a doctor took me to his house to spend the night. I planned with him to go to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in the morning. As per schedule, I and that doctor reached the gate of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. Police men were present at the gate and on a tip by someone that I am Dr. Eice Muhammad, police arrested me at the gate and took me to Police Station of old Anarkali. Obviously, this was due to betrayal by that doctor where I had spent the night. Soon after Dr. Khalid Obaidullah was also brought to this police station. We did not know under what charges we have been arrested.

Trial in Summary Military Court (SMC)

At about 11.00 PM that night we both were taken in Police vehicle to the SMC on Aiwan Tijarat Road. The Presiding Officer (PO) of SMC read out charge sheet to me and also gave a copy of that to me to read it. **“It was written that on 5th of the month (It was probably March or April) that I trespassed into West**

OT in Mayo Hospital and tried to stop the surgeon while in operation and thereby interfering in the official duty.” Same allegation was on Dr. Khalid Obaidullah.

I began to remember the date of the alleged incident. I noticed and told the presiding officer of SMC that wrong date has been written in the charge sheet and that alleged incident occurred on 4th. On this, the PO was surprised. He also remarked; Dr. Eice, I am told that you do not talk lie. I said yes, I always speak truth. On this PO adjourned the proceeding and went to a side room. When he returned he told me; Dr. Eice, you are right and I am changing the date from 5th to 4th. Before everyone he slashed the date from 5th to 4th.

This alteration later helped me winning the legal battle for re-instatement. Secondly, I told PO that the patient had gone home about 1.5 month back, hale and hearty then why am I being tried. One of the witnesses against me was son-in-law of then Additional Inspector General (Special Branch) Punjab. This fact also helped me later. The Medical Superintendent of Mayo Hospital, Lahore did not give statement against me and told the court that he was not informed of this incident by the concerned Professor. Afterwards, I came to know that for providing an excuse to arrest me, the government of Punjab asked the concerned administration to pass a resolution for taking action against Dr. Eice for trespassing the OT. So, some doctors of KEMC provided that document on which I was arrested and then sentenced.

Dr. Khalid Obaidullah was also sentenced on the same allegation. We both were awarded one year rigorous imprisonment at midnight. I was caught by the neck by SHO of old Anarkali Police Station & forcefully pushed into the police van and taken to Kot-Lakhpat Jail soon to be joined by Dr. Khalid Obaidullah.

Reminiscences of life in Jehlum Prison

From Kot-Lakhpat Jail, I was taken to District Jehlum Jail at night and presented before the Jail Superintendent (JS) in the morning. After few days in a separate C-Class cell, I was shifted

to a cemented block having six separate cells (called B-Class cells). Being a graduate and tax- payer, I was given this cell. In the cell, a cot was provided and toilet was inside the room and one could defecate and urinate inside the cell. A bucket, a plastic Mug was provided & a water point was also present in the room which was of 04 feet and 6 feet dimensions.

Interesting Episode on arrival: After wearing the prisoner's dress, I lined up to appear before the JS. One prisoner who was also standing there came towards me and began to embrace me. I got perturbed and I asked him who are you. He told me that he is old prisoner of this jail & told me that he knows my name and named a doctor of Lahore who was his relative. However, I separated myself from him and wondered why he behaved like that. On asking from other prisoners, I was told that this prisoner is in jail for terrorist crime.

A month later, a jail warden came to my cell and told me that there are books in jail library and I may get books to read. When I came to jail, there was no one there. Suddenly, same prisoner came in front of me and tried to talk to me. I almost ran out of library room and was extremely upset. I understood that authorities want to link me with some terrorists and charge me in some crime and keep me in jail for a long time. As this was a serious incident, I reported this incident to the JS and also wrote a letter to the Secretary Health Punjab narrating this incident and expressing my concern on this happening.

Another serious incident in the Jail: One day a prisoner was sent to me that he will help in preparing my meals and of other inmates of this barrack. He had arrived a day earlier and was from army. I do not know what his offence was. He again immediately struck a note of familiarity with me and mentioned name of my elder brother and told that he himself and his family have been getting treatment from my elder brother who was a TABIB.

In this prison, I used to be given Rs. 02 and fifty paise daily so that I may purchase anything for personal use. With this money I purchased soap, tooth brush, and tooth paste and sunlight soap for washing my clothes. I started to do some exercise in the morning. As a result, muscles of my neck became stiff and

painful. I asked this helper prisoner (Mushaqqti) to press my neck muscles. He, once told me that he was boxer in the army. He massaged my neck muscles with great force and also put his fingers in the supraclavicular fossae and began to squeeze the tissues very hard. I told him not to press hard as it was painful. Next day he did the same and specially squeezed in the fossae as mentioned above.

On third day when I started exercise, I found that my left hand has become blue and swollen. Being a doctor, I immediately realized that he has crushed my left sub-clavian artery and vein. I also noted that if I laughed, automatic yawning will start. Obviously this was an attempt to kill me. I requested the JS to call some doctor to examine me. Medical Specialist from DHQ Hospital, Jehlum Dr. Muhammad Sabir came to examine me in jail. He agreed with my diagnosis and prescribed.

1. Tab: Persantin 100mg. 1 tab, TDS after meals.
(Dipyridamole)
2. Tab: Dispirin 1 tab, TDS after meals

The cyanosis and swelling decreased progressively but whenever, I lowered the left arm it used to become blue and swollen.

Days passed slowly, in the Jail. One feels as if the time has slowed down. On awakening in the morning after few hours when I used to look on the watch, it used be only 7 AM. While it was felt that many hours have passed. In the jail, I was asked by the JS to examine patients and advise the treatment to the sick prisoners. One night, I was awakened and asked to examine a prisoner who had developed pain and swelling of abdomen. On examination, it appeared he had obstructive signs. It was necessary to pass nasogastric tube but it was not available in Jail. I got hold of an intravenous drip set which was present in jail dispensary. I cut it to the suitable size and tried to pass it in his stomach. Fortunately it went through & large amount of gas came out. On aspiration about 200ml, fluid was aspirated through this tube. Patient became comfortable and settled. A Jail warden was diabetic and his glucose level was very high. He was put on Regular Insulin and his glucose level came in normal limits.

During the stay in Jehlum and later in this Rawalpindi Jail, I went through the TAFHIMUL-QURAN completely and also read Tafsir by Imam IBN-i-Kaseer and many other books on Islam and History. This gave me a deep insight into the message of Quran and I realized that Holy Quran wants that all humans should be example of finest and affable qualities and have sweet and merciful attitude toward other human beings.

My left arm was not getting well and I requested the JS to get me examined by some vascular Surgeon. A doctor (Orthopaedic Surgeon) came from Lahore and examined me. After a week or so I was transferred to Rawalpindi Jail where some vascular surgeon will examine me. This was the same Jail where I was kept on my first arrest one year ago. In Jehlum, many doctors came to see me in jail and some brought eatables and dry fruit for me for which I always remained grateful to them. This gave me strength to face hardship of Jail. Twice the family members also came to see me which gave great solace to me.

Strange Social life in Jehlum Prison: Prisoners in Jail celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day, Eid Days and collectively offer Friday prayers. I also took part in Independence Day function in Jehlum Jail and made a speech in which I implored the prisoners to be good citizens, abide by jail discipline and try to go to their homes as early as possible.

Similarly on each Thursday some prisoners used to sing *Qawwali* in a very melodious voice and I used to listen it by standing outside their barrack. In district Jail Jehlum, the cells for prisoners on death row were just inside the main gate of jail. One day a prisoner fell ill there. I was asked to see him. He had pain in abdomen. He was in chains and two or three such prisoners were in a very small cell. They had to defecate and urinate in the cell. What struck me was that the prisoner already knew that he is going to be hanged sooner hence he appeared half dead. These prisoners were brought out of their cell for half hour in the morning and half hour in the evening accompanied by armed Jail wardens. These cells and all other barracks used to be closed at 5 PM. Once some prisoners were few minutes late to enter their barracks and immediate alert was sounded in

the jail. Any prisoner who will commit some offence in jail was mercilessly thrashed, chained and put in some cell in a desolate area of the jail. Such scenes were very agonizing to watch.

Friday prayer used to be regularly held in the prison. Most of the prisoners used to come except those on death row or some dangerous prisoners. According to some religious condition gate of the Jail used to remain open during the Friday prayer, but the gate used to be heavily guarded lest some prisoners try to escape. During one such prayer interval one can meet other prisoners. One day, I was introduced to some prisoners. The jail warden (constable) introduced them like this.

At this is Mr. one header b. This is Mr. two header c. This is Mr. three header d. this is Mr. four header. I was perplexed on this introduction and asked what does these terms mean. Warden told me that this means that each one has murdered one, two, three and four persons and have either been convicted or are facing murder trial.

In this jail one young boy and his elder brother were under trial prisoners. The boy told me that they used to rob motor cyclists or cars. On one such occasion, we looted a large amount of money from a car passenger. He told that I asked my elder brother to let him go as we have got large amount of money from him. But the elder brother did not agree and pinning the unfortunate car owner against a tree stabled him with a dagger again and again, killing him there and then. This is how I spent my time among strange human beings, but from such stories, I learnt a lot about human behaviour and reasons behind the crimes.

There is also war of hegemony in C-class barracks. Some prisoners grow lot of influence and status among prisoners. This is mainly out of fear of their crimes background and how much money they can pay to jail wardens or some jail official. In the jail the duty, in jail kitchen is the toughest duty. About 12–15 prisoners have to prepare rotis, vegetables or other thing round the clock. If bread is undercooked or is overcooked in both ways, the prisoner is thrashed there and some prisoners become neurotic under mental and physical stress.

Second time Life in Rawalpindi Prison

I was brought to Rawalpindi Jail in a police van and reached at night. Because I was already given B-class in jail in Jehlum, arrangement for my stay had been made in the same barrack where I had spent jail in 1980 with ten other inmates. The police van was arranged with the effort of JS of Jehlum who was happy with my conduct in the jail especially treating two emergencies in the jail at night.

A good thing for me in Rawalpindi Jail was that a Deputy Superintendent of jail was posted here from District Jail Jehlum. He obviously knew me and treated me with respect. One Mr. Naqvi was JS. A good natured person. After some years, I read in the newspaper that he was gunned down in sectarian killing while he was on morning walk.

Arrangement was made for my examination in CMH, Rawalpindi. I was not taken to public teaching hospital for fear of doctor's reaction on seeing me in police custody. I was examined by some cardiovascular surgeon who advised that medical treatment should continue. By that time, volume of left radial artery had become low as compared to right artery and collaterals had developed on left anterior chest wall with reversal of flow.

For many years later, whenever I lowered my left arm for some time, the arm would swell and mild cyanosis would also develop in left hand. But I am grateful to Allah Almighty that I survived a potential attempt to kill me. Rest of the prison term was spent in this jail in Rawalpindi.

One day I was told that a prisoner is going to be hanged in the early hours of the morning. The gallows area (hanging area) was very near to my barrack. All inmates of the barrack wakeup at about 4 AM. Soon after I listened noise of boots outside the barrack and a very frail shivering voice of the condemned prisoner raising slogan of "Allah Akbar" was heard, but there was no force in that voice. After about 45 minutes the sound of returning persons carrying the dead body of the hanged person was heard. For next few days a strange gloomy silence pervaded the prison.

The fellow prisoners told me of the prison area where Mr. Bhutto was kept during his trial and before his hanging. For reason still not known to me, I was shifted to an isolated earthen cell where prisoners on death row are kept. But after two days, I was again shifted to the barrack where I was already staying.

Hanging of Mr. Z.A. Bhutto

The night when Mr. Bhutto was hanged in this Rawalpindi Jail, one prisoner narrated the story like this. Early in the morning some persons went into the underground cell where Mr. Bhutto was kept. One version was that in addition to the JS, there were persons from some sensitive departments as well. The Medical Superintendent (MS) of District Headquarters Hospital, Rawalpindi Dr. Ikram-ul-Haq was to attend the hanging of Mr. Bhutto, but disappeared as he did not want to be a part of this tragedy. Some other doctor was hurriedly brought in. I was told that one official told Mr. Bhutto to prepare as he is to be hanged. There was some altercation between Mr. Bhutto and Officials. It was alleged by the prisoner that Mr. Bhutto could not walk to the gallows because he had become very frail and that he was carried on a stretcher to the gallows where he was hanged.

A strange visitor: One day, I was called to the office of the Deputy Superintendent of jail. When I reached the office, I found a person sitting with him. The Deputy introduced that he is a retired army officer and nowadays he is practicing law in Rawalpindi. On closely watching him, I remembered that this visitor once remained under my treatment in DHQ Hospital Faisal Abad where I was working as Medical Specialist in 1974–1975. He was a prisoner in Faisal Abad Jail and sent to the hospital for treatment from Jail. He had remained under my treatment for about two months in DHQ hospital. The Deputy asked me Doctor, do you recognize him. I decided not to recognize him as I did not know the reason of his visit. On this the visitor looked surprised.

The above mentioned Deputy was earlier posted in District Jail Jehlum from where he was transferred to the Rawalpindi Jail. While I was also in Jehlum Jail, this Deputy was diagnosed

to have Hypothyroidism and he wanted leave for rest. For this, he needed a medical certificate. He requested me to help him. After great hesitation, I wrote a letter to a Dr. Friend in Islam Abad Poly Clinic, requesting him to help the deputy. That friend issued him a certificate of his disease and advised one month rest to him. It was a valid certificate of real illness. Obviously the Deputy was very happy on this relief. Late Prof. of Cardiac Surgery, **Prof. Col. M.A. Cheema** also visited me in jail in Rawalpindi to examine the problem of my left arm. He assured me that there is no need of surgery and medical treatment should continue. In this Jail, one day I was taken to a room where I was formally registered as a prisoner where my thumb impression was taken and allotted a prisoner number.

Moment of my release

I had spent about nine months in prison that my father in law applied for my release in accordance with jail rules invoking rule of good conduct in jail by prisoner. A prisoner, whose conduct in Jail is good, is entitled automatic remission in prison term of 3—4 days per month. As I did not break any jail rules, I earned, cumulative relief of about 2.5 months, but I was still 15 days short. On this, the Jail Superintendent Mr. Naqvi, using his powers gave me relief of 15 days and I was asked to get out of Jail as soon as possible.

I left the jail and went to the home of a relative in Rawalpindi. My in laws also arrived to take me to Lahore. While travelling back to Lahore, I wanted to thank the Deputy Superintendent of Jail and bought sweets for him. When he saw me at the door of his residence, he asked me to disappear somewhere as news of my release was conveyed to General Jilani, he got furious and asked from concerned authorities that why Dr. Eice was released from jail without his permission. The Deputy told me you may be re-arrested soon.

Ways of Allah Almighty are strange and I got release from jail. There were big challenges before me to settle my family, have a rented house for the family and to have means of income and most important how to fight for reinstatement in service.

Long Struggle for reinstatement in service

The Allah Almighty says in Quran-i-Majid that “**Days change among human beings**” meaning that days of sorrow and hardship change to days of happiness and pleasure and vice-versa among people. I always believed in this “**Ayat of Holy Quran**”. Few years before my removal from service, Secretary Health issued many warning notices to me. In one reply, I wrote this very Ayat to him. For few months after my release from jail, I was busy to find some place to practice for earning livelihood and to find some house to settle the family in Lahore so that I could shift from the house of my father in law.

Obtaining FIR and charge sheet

After these two problems were solved, the first priority was to get the copy of the FIR and charge sheet from Nisbat Road Police station, Lahore as KEMC administration had lodged complaint against me in this Police Station on the basis of which, I and Dr. Khalid Obaidullah were arrested and later convicted by SMC. One day, I went to that Police Station. Fortunately only “**Moharrar**” was present in the station and no ASI, SI or SHO was present. I introduced myself in very soft words and requested him to provide me a copy of the FIR and charge sheet, it was the Will of Allah that the Moharrar displayed quite a bit of courtesy and asked me to collect the FIR after half an hour. I also feared that he may not refuse if his superior officer directs him to refuse. However, when I went to him after half an hour, he handed over to me the copies of FIR and charge sheet issued by SMC, I was very happy to get these documents because without these, I would not have been able to file a petition at any forum. I filed review petitions to the Martial Law Authorities. There were obvious contradictions between FIR and charge sheet. Most glaring was the difference in dates.

I also met many MPAs and MNAs of Rahim Yar Khan and Bahawalpur. I travelled to these places and requested for their intervention and help. They did try but Government of Punjab was not agreeing to my reinstatement. District Branches of PMA (taken over by PDO) passed numerous resolutions demanding my

reinstatement in service, but the matter lingered on. So far, I was suspended from service, but then Health Department started proceedings against me under “**Efficiency and Discipline Rules, 1976**”. I was called for personal hearing by the then Secretary Health Punjab. While questioning me, he asked; will you leave doctor’s politics if government reinstates you. I replied that I cannot forego this option for ever. After about a month, I was “**Removed from Service**”. This event was painful for me. Now, I knew that uphill efforts may succeed or may not succeed. Doctors condemned this action of Health Department Punjab.

Once, Chief Secretary Punjab called me for personal hearing. He also put the same question as mentioned above and this meeting also failed. During this period of almost nine years, Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid, Chief Editor of “Pulse International” and Specialist, kept alive issue of my reinstatement in service through writings in his publications. He also kept my name in the Editorial Board of his publication. He was constant source of strength for me. I have always been grateful to him for his support.

By this time, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo’s civil government had been installed. I filed a review petition with legal cell in Corps Headquarters Lahore which dealt with remaining martial law cases. Twice, I met a law officer who was of the rank of a major and explained to him the flaws in the case against me but no decision was made. Some of my students of Rawalpindi Medical College (RMC) were also sons of high ranking officers. On their own they pleaded my case telling their elders that injustice had been done to Dr. Eice Muhammad. I also met Public Relation Officers in the Prime Minister Junejo’s office.

One day, I received a call from Army Legal Cell in Corps Headquarters Lahore to meet an officer there. I went there and met a Brigadier who was the Head of the Army Legal Cell of Punjab. He put to me some questions about the allegations on me in the charge sheet. He asked me that I have written in my petition that Inspector General Police Punjab (Special Branch) was against me in the case. He asked me why was IG against you. I told him that son-in-law of IG Police (Special Branch) was a

witness against me in the case and the Professor who had lodged the FIR against me, had arranged the marriage of this doctor with the daughter of IG. Secondly, I showed the change which had been made in the date of the occurrence of incriminating incident by the Presiding officer of SMC during the trial. On listening these explanations from me, Brigadier appeared to be satisfied. After about a month, when I returned home in the evening, I found a postal envelope lying in the compound. When, I opened it, this was the letter from Legal Cell of Army from Lahore which stated that President of Pakistan had remitted my sentence following my review petition. I offered “*Nawafil Shukrana*” immediately and then wanted to have guidance from “Holy Quran” about future course of action. I opened the Holy Quran with closed eyes. The first word on the page was **وَأَصْبِرْ** i.e. remain patient. I understood that I will be reinstated but it will not happen quickly and it took one and half year when ultimately I received orders of reinstatement.

When my sentence from SMC was remitted, I informed my friends who were over joyed. I framed an application to the Secretary Health Punjab for reinstatement in service and attached the decision on my sentence from Martial Law authorities. First I went to a section officer. After reading my application, he talked to me very rudely and returned my application. Then, I decided to meet the Secretary Health **Mr. Perwaiz Masud** directly. He read my application and referred it to the Additional Secretary for further action. I complained in writing about the behaviour of the Section officer (Mr. Afzal Sheikh) fearing that he will spoil my case. Mr. Perwaiz Masud took a serious note of my complaint and transferred Mr. Afzal Sheikh from Health Department. This was very kind gesture from Mr. Perwaiz Masud. I had met him for the first time. After this my file was sent to Law Department of Punjab for opinion about my reinstatement who gave a partly positive decision. Application was also sent to Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) and to many other departments for opinion. By this time, I had shifted my practice from Ravi Hospital to Allied Hospital which was near the Civil Secretariat and it became easy for me to keep a track

of my application. One day, a clerk of Health Department came to me in Allied Hospital and asked me to provide two recent photographs as these were needed to process my case. However, I thought that this is a strange demand. I consulted some senior doctors who told me that most likely the authorities want to reinstate me but after, I join, I will be retired from service. I did not submit the photographs. Mr. Pervaiz Masud on his part fully supported my reinstatement in service. He arranged my meeting with the then Minister of Health and Chief Secretary Punjab to whom I explained my case.

Earlier when the Law Department was not giving clear cut opinion on my case, I met **Prof. Iftikhar Ahmed**, Principal of KEMC, Lahore and told him the problem. Prof. Iftikhar Ahmed took me to the residence of the Punjab Law Minister **Chaudhary Abdul Ghafoor** MPA from Bahawalnagar. Dr. Mazhar Iqbal, the son of Ch. Abdul Ghafoor accompanied us. Prof. Iftikhar pleaded my case. That very night Ch. Abdul Ghafoor directed the Law Secretary and next day my file with recommendation of my reinstatement in service was sent to the Health Department. The file was then sent to the office of the Chief Minister of Punjab Mian Nawaz Sharif who kept the file pending. Many MPAs and MNAs also requested him to approve the summary but he delayed the decision. Meanwhile, PMA Lahore elections were due. Both opposing panels included demand of my reinstatement in their election manifesto. His name was Dr. Faiz Ahmed an Orthopaedic Surgeon who was strong supporter PDO who took me to Mr. I.A Rehman, then Chief Editor of Pakistan Times and apprised him about my case. Next day he wrote an Editorial emphasizing my reinstatement in service. All these events created a strange atmosphere as from every side, demands of my reinstatement were made from everywhere but CM was not giving his permission.

My uncle, **Master Abdul Rahim** was school teacher in India before partition in 1947. **Mr. Mustafa Sadiq**, the Chief Editor of "**Daily Wafaq**" was his student in India. In Pakistan Mr. Mustafa Sadiq was widely respected in media and was also elected chief of CPNE more than once. My uncle took my application to Mr.

Mustafa Sadiq who felt it as a duty assigned to him by his old teacher. In few days, he met the CM who gave approval of the Summary of my reinstatement. The news was conveyed to me by a Section Officer in CM Secretariat by Mr. Khadim Hussain, a very gentleman officer. In few days, the Summary reached the office of Mr. Perwaiz Masud who was very pleased that his efforts ultimately bore fruit. I thanked him from the core of my heart.

Orders of my reinstatement were issued and on my request, I was posted in QAMC Bahawalpur as Associate Prof. of Medicine. This is how the circle was completed. I travelled to Bahawalpur by a train in the afternoon and reached Bahawalpur station at 3 AM. I rested in the waiting room of the station and wrote letters of thanks to many doctors for their role in my reinstatement. I also wrote letter from the waiting room to Dr. Yasmin Raashid, now Minister of Health Punjab, thanking her for she was elected President of PMA, Lahore.

When CM had cleared my file, I went to see the Chief Secretary Punjab, **Mr. Anwar Zahid** a perfect gentlemen. I thanked him for his support and I asked him to give me some advice. He narrated the story of his relative Mr. Inaam-ul-Haq, Ex-Chief Engineer Punjab. Mr. Inaam-ul-Haq was one of the founders of Nishtar Medical College, Multan, my alma-matter. Mr. Anwar Zahid told me that when Mr. Haq was Executive Engineer, a person brought a *cannister of desi ghee* to his house when he was not at home. The servant accepted the gift. When Mr. Haq came to know he was extremely disturbed. He asked his wife, whether she has used the ghee. She replied in negative. On this, Mr. Haq asked the servant to dig a pit and saw the all ghee was spilled in the pit. This was the level of honesty of officers of those times. Mr. Anwar Zahid came to the door of his office and wished me all the luck in the new phase of my life. This meeting cast a lasting impact on me conditioned my mind to remain above malpractices in my professional life. Later Mr. Anwar Zahid became Principal Secretary of Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Mr. Perwaiz Masud was very senior civil service officer and had been Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner as well. What

impressed me was that he used to come out of his office twice or thrice daily and listen to problems of visitors to his office. On an average he would order for redressal of complaints of about 100 persons on daily basis. He was very soft speaking and sympathetic to low paid employees of the Health Department. He retired as Chief Secretary Punjab.

In the morning, I met the Principal, Prof. Iqbal Ahmed Khan at 9.00 AM. He did not know of my orders. I filled the joining report on November 1, 1989. As the news of my joining spread, a large number of old friends who were active members of PDO came to congratulate me. It included Prof. Mansoob Ahmad Khan (Anatomy), Prof. Saeed Ahmad Malik (Pathology), Dr. Abdul Haleem (Community Medicine) and Dr. Iftikhar Imam Kamzi, Messages began pouring in from different sections of society. Name of Dr. Abdul Khaliq, Dr. Niaz Ahmad from Rahim Yar Khan and Dr. Muhammad Tufail, Dr. Abdus Slam from Sadiq Abad and Dr. Ghulam Asghar Channa from JPMC, Karachi are worth mentioning. Friendship with them developed when I was posted in Rahim Yar Khan as District Physician in 1972. They were staunch supporters of doctor's struggle. Dr. Captain (Retd) Muhammad Munawwar of Sialkot also suffered great hardship during the struggle. There were many other doctors who waged heroic struggle for rights of doctors. This is how Allah Almighty lifted me out of the ditch and fulfilled my dream of again becoming a medical teacher. In this very college, I became Prof. of Medicine here and later on the Principal of this college in 1997. Once I went to Bahawalpur City to meet Mr. Tabish Alvani, then MPA, to apprise him about obstacles in my reinstatement. After the meeting I asked the rickshaw driver to take me to medical colony of QAMC. As he drove me through the colony he passed before B-1 residence where I used to live during my posting here from 1976 to 1978. I wondered if I will ever again live in this colony. Allah Almighty fulfilled my desire. I shall always remain grateful to HIM.

Journey from prison to Sitara-i-Imtiaz (SI)

I was released from Rawalpindi Jail after about nine months. I temporarily started living in a rented house on Waris Road,

Lahore. My Father-in-Law was the tenant of this rented house. When I was released from Jail, I felt as if I have come in a new world as I had no personal house to live no money. Although, I was Associate Professor of Medicine with FCPS qualification. I had not done private practice or government service in Lahore. Public of this city did not know of my abilities as a physician. I had worked as a Registrar (MO) in East Medical Ward of Mayo Hospital, Lahore in 1967–1969 under Late Professor M. Akhtar Khan.

I had no personal transport. I had to ride wagons to go from one place to the other in Lahore. When, I was in Jail, I asked Dr. Muhammad Sarwar (Oncologist), a partner of Ravi Hospital, Lahore, to sell my ECG machine and give that money to my wife but the partners of the hospital did not agree to that. When I was released from Jail, the owner doctors of Ravi Hospital were very sympathetic to me and asked me to start doing private practice in their hospital.

I remember that on second or third day, I earned Rs.80/- and when I handed over that money to my wife, I saw a feeling of self-respect on her face as she had her own source of income. During many years, I travelled in wagons to and from the house of my Father-in-Law to the Ravi Hospital near Minar-i-Pakistan. My consultation fee was Rs.50/- only while other consultants charged Rs.300/- to Rs.500/- on every visit. I never charged on second visit and later charged only Rs.25/- on alternate visits. ***Miracle of getting a house to live independently:*** Obviously, I could not live for long in the house of my father-in-law. I had not enough income to rent a house. My Father-in-Law, Lt. Commander (Retd.) Muhammad Sarwar used to say Friday prayers in a mosque in Bagh-i-Jinnah Lahore after Dr. Israr Ahmad where he met a retired Inspector of Police also used to come to offer Friday prayers in that very mosque. My father in law told the Inspector about me and said he needs to rent a house. The Inspector talked to one of his relatives Dr. Khawar Grumman who knew me as he was my student. That is how I got a portion of the Inspector's house on rent. He also told me that I can pay him the rent whenever I have money which was a great relief. For many months, I did not pay the rent and later on when my income increased, I began to pay the rent.

Ravi Block is on Multan Road and my house No.510 was at a walking distance from Multan Road. This location helped me to catch wagon to take me to Bhati Gate. From Bhati Gate I had to catch another wagon to reach Ravi Hospital, the place of my work. Sometimes, I used Omni Bus service but it was not common. The Inspector Mr. Ghumman had wife, one son was Major in Army, one was Engineer working in Saudi Arabia and the eldest son was a manager in General Tyres Company and was based in Brazil. However, he never received a penny from his sons. Mr. Ghumman and his wife treated me and my wife as their children and many a times cooked food for us. Because of this help from Allah Almighty, gradually I adjusted myself to the new realities of life. I began to attend symposia, medical conferences held in the city and to keep myself abreast of latest medical knowledge. I also attended meetings of APPNA (Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America) in KEMC.

Late Dr. Bashir Ahmad a General Practitioner had established Bashir Medical Center on Mohni Road, near Ravi Hospital. There used to be weekly clinical meetings to which Professors from medical colleges used to speak on different topics. I regularly attended those meetings and also used to present clinical cases to general practitioners. Motivation behind this pursuit for knowledge was my firm resolve to come back as a medical teacher one day. I derived maximum benefit from those meetings and when I was reinstated in service, I was not too much behind in latest advances in medical knowledge. Unfortunately, many years later, Dr. Bashir Ahmad was murdered by some persons. His hospital is still there which is run and managed by his son.

After I was re-instated in service in November 1989, I was posted in 1992 as Prof. of Medicine in KEMC Lahore. During those days, Prof. Bashir Ahmad, famous neurosurgeon was Principal of KEMC, Lahore. With his permission, training course of MCPS for Family Physicians was started in my ward in collaboration with Dr. Bashir Ahmad. Many Family Physicians passed MCPS (Family Medicine). One of them was Captain Muhammad Munawar of Sialkot. He was a very ardent supporter of PDO struggle and bore many hardships in this struggle. He was still healthy and

doing practice but unfortunately died due to COVID-19 about two weeks ago in June 2020. May Allah Almighty bless his noble soul. Ameen. This is how life passed during those nine years. However, Allah Almighty gave me everything a doctor can dream of after my reinstatement in service.

I became Principal and Professor of Medicine and have served in the following medical colleges:

1. Quaid-E-Azam Medical College, Bahawalpur.
2. Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore.
3. Sheikh Zayed Medical College, Rahim Yar Khan.
4. Akhtar Saeed Medical College, Lahore.
5. Sargodha Medical College, Sargodha.
6. Professor of Medicine in King Edward Medical College, Lahore.
7. Islam Medical College, Sialkot.
8. Dean Academics, University of Health Sciences, Lahore,
9. Commissioner, Punjab Health Care Commission, Punjab.
10. Member, Board of Directors, Punjab Health Foundation, Lahore.
11. Member Search Committees for selection of Vice-Chancellors, Principals, and for Medical Superintendents of teaching hospitals of Punjab.
12. Member, PMDC, Pakistan and Chairman PMDC Curriculum Review Committee for MBBS Course in Pakistan.
13. Member of Medical Education Committee of PMDC.
14. Member, Syndicate of Islamia University, Bahawalpur.
15. Member, Inspection teams for medical colleges, University of Health Sciences, Lahore.
16. Convener of inspection teams of PMDC for recognition of medical colleges in Pakistan.
17. I have been awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz by Govt. of Pakistan in 2016.
18. And above all Allah Almighty has kept me mentally and physically healthy so far, for which I am grateful to HIM. Another treasure that will never finish is the love, respect of my patients whose prayers brought me out of the abyss into which I had fallen.” How true it is;

تِلْكَ اللَّيَالِيَّامُ نُدَاوِلُهُا بَيْنَ النَّاسِ- (القران)

Verily we alternate days among human beings (AL-Quran)”
Dr. Eice Mohammad was born in 1944 in a village in Tehsil

Dasuha, District Hoshiarpur in British India i.e. before partition. His father was a religious scholar, a *Khatib* and famous Hakim (Physician) of that area. Although he had not received any formal school or *Madarassa* education, he had deep knowledge of religion and could read and write Urdu, Persian, Arabic and Punjabi. Having deep study of religious books as a Khatib, he named his son as “Eice Muhammad”. Eice it may be mentioned here was the twin brother of Prophet Yaqoob (PBUH) who were sons of Prophet Isacc, son of Prophet Ibrahim Khalilullah (PBUH).

Dr. Eice Mohammad recalls that at the time of partition, two of their relatives were in Navy who arranged few military trucks to carry them to Pakistan. Dr. Eice Mohammad graduated from Nishtar Medical College Multan. In 1965, passed ECFMG examination in 1967 but did not go to United States. He earned Fellowship of College of Physicians & Surgeons of Pakistan in 1972 and did Masters in History from Sargodha University in 2013. In recognition of his services the Government of Pakistan honoured him with Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 2016. He was Capitan of Nishtar Medical College Cricket Team. First he served as District Specialist in various hospital in Punjab and later joined medical college as Assistant Professor of Medicine and after serving at numerous medical colleges of Punjab he retired as Professor of Medicine and Principal from Sargodha Medical College in 2013. Later he also served at Akhtar Saeed Medical College in Lahore before joining Islam Medical College Sialkot where he is still serving.

Important Points

1. I was sent to Jail twice, once in 1980 and then in 1981
2. Often strange visitors came to see me in Jail who were sent by some agencies to convey a message and frighten me
3. I was produced in the court handcuffed. Seeing this some doctors became emotional and protested
4. Myself and Dr. Khalid Obaidullah were kept in C-Class in Jail and we had to sleep on floor.
5. Lunch and Dinner in Jail consisted of *Daal and Jali Roti*
6. When Trial started in Summary Military Court, the date of incident which was the basis of my arrest was written wrong which had to be corrected and later it helped me in my reinstatement
7. Medical Supdt. of Mayo Hospital refused to become a witness in my case saying no such case has been brought to his notice
8. Medical Supdt. DHQ Hospital Rawalpindi Dr. Ikram-ul-Haq was to attend the hanging of Mr. Bhutto, but he disappeared as he did not want to be party to this tragic event
9. Those who helped me in re-instatement include Prof. Iftikhar Ahmad, Ch. Abdul Ghafoor the then Punjab Law Minister, Health Secretary Mr. Perwaiz Masood, Chief Secretary Punjab Anwar Zahid, Editor Daly WAFQ Mustafa Sadiq.
10. Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid kept the issue of my arrest alive through his publications despite lot of pressures
11. After reinstatement I joined QAMC on Nov. 1, 1989, was also awarded Sitara-e-Imtiaz and appointed to numerous coveted posts in medical institutions and health services