

## **Three Mentally Challenged Persons of a Family rescued by District Legal Services Authority(DLSA).**

Three mentally ill members of a family were rescued by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) of S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali, Punjab, India, from a house in Mohali where they locked themselves for the last about ten years. They were brought to Civil Hospital by the police, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Mohali and members of NGOs Lawyers For Human Rights International and Prab Asra Trust of Kurali on 23.4.2014. The Additional District Judge-cum- Chairman Sh. P.P.Singh and Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Seretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Mohali, Sh. Tarantarn Singh Bindra were present at the spot when the house was checked. Three family members were found in a pathetic condition when the team reached their house. It was found that they were not come out of their house for the last about ten years. The forth member of the family who is about 72 years old age was used to come out of the house to fetch the food for the family from a nearby shop. They were living in complete isolation and not taken bath for the last many years. The two of them have a serious mental disorder and referred to Institute of mental Health in Amritsar by Dr. Harinder Singh, the Psychiatrist at civil hospital who checked the family.

The family was rescued following a complaint by human rights activists Tejinder Singh Sudan and Parminder Singh of Lawyers For Human Rights International and Shamsher Singh of Prab Asra Trust to the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Mohali. The two human rights activists approached Shamsher Singh of Prab Asra, a home for destitute and disabled people and apprised him conditions of the family.

The neighbours of the house knew little of the family and only seen the older male member of the family coming out of the house for getting food and other chores. Most of the neighbours refused to talk and claimed total ignorance about the family. The old member of the family who used to fetch food for family was found lying injured outside the house a few days ago and was shifted to hospital and there was no one to fetch the food for the family members for the last one week. The human right activists who were in touch with the old male member of the family in a property dispute case recently learned that he was lying injured outside his house a week ago and admitted in the hospital by the police. The activists approached Mr. Shamsher Singh of Prab Asra and after which the issue was brought to the notice of Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Seretary District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Mohali, Sh. Tarantarn Singh Bindra.