

The Asian Age, Bangalore, 16 Jul 2008

# Law students pool in to bail out woman

16.07.08

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Rita walking out of jail with law student Tina

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MUMBAI

**July 15:** A routine visit to Byculla jail for some students of Gopaldas Advani Law College, Bandra could well become the beginning of a new trend in which students will not only play an important role in giving concrete solutions but also provide legal aid to jail inmates.

During their visit to the Byculla jail last week, the students of Advani Law College were confronted by a person who said that his sister was languishing in jail as he could not arrange for her bail. "Initially this person was incoherent but we felt sorry at his plight and hence asked him to visit our college," said Mr Mahesh Vaswani, chairman, Legal Aid Committee of Advani Law College. The account given by Mr Deepak Kemse, brother of the accused ita (name changed on request) shocked the students.

"We realised that rather than providing justice to Rita, who was a victim of a fraud, the police had framed her in another case and put her behind bars. Vijay Dalal, a central railway

employee, had married her despite having a wife and children," said Ms Tina Lewis, one of the students.

The students immediately decided to help Ms Rita by putting together Rs 3,000 — the bail amount that her brother could not arrange for. On Tuesday evening, a beaming Rita walked out of Byculla jail.

"There has been gross injustice meted out to this hapless woman and we, as students, have only gone a step beyond symbolic representation of a case on paper by providing concrete solutions too," said Mr Kamlesh Badgujar, another student.

College principals of other law colleges in the city lauded the act of the Advani Law College students and said that it was the first time that something of this sort was heard.

"After the high court passed an order, legal-aid cells have been set up in all courts and law colleges. However, beyond giving legal solutions none of the cells have given any aid to the poor on humanitarian grounds. This is indeed a novel initiative by the students which should be followed by others too," said a senior high court judge.