



Human Right Developments in Iran

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The Human Rights Development of Iran Newsletter, stresses on the promotion of human rights through monitoring positive actions and developments that have occurred with regards to human rights and raising the awareness of the audience in this regard. This newsletter, compiles measures taken for the promotion and realisation of human rights for the transparency of the real human rights situation in Iran through benefiting from correct information and credible documents.

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1- Overview of the most important developments

1-1 Children's Social Damages Information Text Message Centre Launched

The National Children's Rights Authority text message centre was launched on the 2nd of June this year. From now on children or third parties can through sending a text message to 30003636 report any type of social damage or abuse against children to the National Children's rights Authority, which is situated in the Justice Ministry. The aim of launching this text message centre of this authority is receiving reports, continued monitoring of the social damages situation of children and reduction of child abuse. Also, the stress on the need for raising the awareness of all of society, culture building on the observation of children's rights to reduce child abuse and prevention of tragedies from occurring are some of the other objectives of this text message centre.

1-1-1 The Target Group of the National Children's Rights Authority's Text Message Centre

The target group of this text message centre is child labourers, children from dysfunctional families, street children, children deprived of education and children who due to poverty, addiction, unemployment, divorce of parents are threatened by underage marriage, all of which are examples of child abuse.

1-1-2 Other Similar Actions Taken with the Aim of Investigating Child Abuse Cases

Earlier, the Welfare Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran (an organization in support of families without households and needy and provider of services to children in need) also by launching the 123 24 hours a day telephone hotline provided answers for child abuse cases, and currently the centre's psychologists, when needed, alongside the police or a bailiff of the court go to cases that have been referred to them. Approximately there are 300 social services centres in outskirts areas and 2500 social workers and psychologists of the Welfare Organization in providing social services, including to children. Overall, in view of the launching of the text message centre and Iran joining the Convention

on the Rights of the Child and the formation of the National Children's Rights Authority in the Ministry of Justice and cooperation of NGOs, to-date positive steps have been taken towards the realisation of children's rights at the national level, and there is hope a more clear future will available for the promotion of children's rights in Iran.



1-2 Approval of the Holding of Legal Demonstrations Draft Legislation

The legislation for the setting of specific locations for holding legal demonstrations in Tehran and other Iranian cities was approved on 28 May this year. This legislation tried to facilitate locations for people to hold protest rallies so that the protests are heard and also security is provided for the protesters and businesses and public are not disturbed.

1-2-1 Setting Suitable Locations for Legal Demonstrations

According to Article 27 of the Iranian Constitution, the holding of any unarmed and not conflicting with Islamic ideals is free. For this reason, with the recommendation of the members of the Tehran City Council, in Tehran and other provincial cities, specific locations have been selected for holding demonstrations. This recommendation was approved by the Cabinet. On this basis some sports stadiums and parks (that include Dastjerdi, Takhti, Motamedi, Azadi and Shahid Shiroodi sports stadiums, and Goftegoo, Taleghani, Velayat, Pardisan, Honarmandan, Shahr and the northern sector of the

Parliament parks) were selected as suitable locations for demonstrations in Greater Tehran. Also in other cities, Provinces Provision Councils (the Province Provision Council is subdivision of the National Security Council at the provincial level, whose head is the provincial governor) for cities with less than 1 million population, one location, and for those over that number, two locations with consideration of the following necessities:

- Must be accessible and within city limits
- The area of the demonstration must be in proportion with the number of protesters
- Other citizens and existing media must be able to see and hear the voices of the protesters
- The location must be protectable by the police
- If necessary immediate access by emergency services must be available
- The location must be away from protected security areas
- Not to make any serious disruptions in government and public sector's services to the people
- Be far away from heavy traffic, and not to cause diversion of traffic to inaccessible routes.
- Not to cause the inadvertent joining of people into the protest or facilitation of individuals

access with other motives into the demonstration

- Do the utmost not to disrupt the daily business of other citizens

1-2-2 A Step towards the Realisation of Citizen's Rights

Freedom of association and assembly is one of the facets of democracy where through physical participation and direct presence on the scene people can speak their peace and their voices be heard by the leaders of the country without a middleman. This right is one of the general freedoms rights in international documents, Sharia and the Iranian Constitution have been recognised. The right of assembly is not limited to political parties and unions, and ordinary people can also hold demonstrations. Overall government's action in determining suitable locations for public assemblies and demonstrations, is another step towards the realisation of citizen's rights which through facilitation of a safe basis for to hold protest assemblies, and the possibility of the protesters' voices being heard.



2-Introduction of a Human Rights Centre in Iran

2-1 The Convention on the Rights of the Child National Centre

The Islamic Republic of Iran in 1993, through the legislation of the Parliament joined the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. From that year till 2009, representing the government, the Foreign Affairs Ministry dealt with supervision of the implementation of the contents of the Convention and preparation and submission of periodic reports. With the approval of the government, from December 2009, the Justice Ministry set up The Convention on the Rights of the Child National Centre, and the Centre began its operations. With the approval of the guidelines of this Centre, a coordination council made up of relevant governmental and nongovernmental bodies was set up and the National Centre's secretariat was founded.

2-1-1 The Duties of this National Centre in Iran

This Centre like other rights of the child national centres around the world has duties such as:

- The writing of projects and programmes to promote children's rights and promotion of

respecting the child through submission of consultative views in regards with regulations, procedures and programmes related to children's rights.

- Creating interdepartmental coordination and facilitation to this aim.
- Recommendation for the amendment of existing laws and regulations.
- Evaluation and assessment of the situation of the observation of children's rights in society and submission of report to relevant authorities.
- Conducting studies related to children's rights and scientific exchanges with scientific and research centres

Some of the functions of the Children's Rights National Centre include:

- The writing of a comprehensive children and juveniles rights programme and its implementation from late March 2005 for a 10 year period.
- Design and implementation of children and juveniles comprehensive date ban.
- And cooperation and interaction with governmental, judicial, law enforcement, legislative and supervision bodies, and also NGOs active in the field and experts and

activists in the field is another of the functions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child National Centre.