



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- Refugees Rights

1-1 Granting of Citizenship through Motherhood in Iran Approved by the Guardian Council

Finally following many ups and downs, the Determination of the Citizenship of Children born to Iranian Women Married to Foreign Nationals Act was approved by the Guardian Council.

This Act states: children born to Sharia marriage of Iranian women to non-Iranian men who are born before or after the adoption of this Act, can become Iranian citizens, at the request of the Iranian mother before reaching the age of 18, in the condition of not having security issues (at the discretion of the Information Ministry and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard's Information Organization).

These children, can apply for Iranian citizenship after reaching the age of 18, if their mothers have not made such an application, and they will be granted Iranian citizenship in the absence of a security problem (confirmed by the Ministry of Intelligence and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Intelligence Organization). The response for security check must be given by no later than 3 months and the police authority is obligated to take steps for issuing residency permits for the non-Iranian fathers in the event of not having security issues (at the discretion of the Ministry of Intelligence and the Intelligence Protection Organization of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps).

Clause 1 of this Act states: in the event that the mother or the father of the applicant is not alive and or there is no access to one of the parents, a competent court will make the decision on the citizenship application.

According to Clause 2 of this act, individuals without citizenship who themselves and at least one of their parents were born in Iran can, apply for Iranian citizenship following reaching the age of 18 and if they have no criminal records and security issues (at the discretion of the Ministry of Intelligence and the Intelligence Protection Organization of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps) they can become Iranian citizens.



Right to Life

2- Right to Life

1-1 Drop in the Number of Executions in Iran

Following the amendment of national laws, the number of executions in the country in the last year has had a sharp drop compared to the year before, and almost halved. It is to be mentioned that, the overall execution cases in the world has seen a 31 percent drop. This notable trend has not been seen over the last decade.



3-Women's Rights

3-1 Iran's Women to Attend Historic Match in Azadi Stadium

What made the Iranian football game against Cambodia important for Iranians and world's media, was not the 14 Iranian goals, but the presence of women in the stadium.

After 40 years, the gates of Azadi stadium were finally opened to women and they managed to attend the game and support their national team.

First Deputy to the President, Eshagh Jahangiri saw this as a step towards "the realization of one of the demands of a significant group of women, youth and civil society activists." And the activists welcomed the move as a step towards the realization of women's rights.

It must be said that the match between Iran and Cambodia had 6000 spectators, more than 4000 of which were women.

3-2 Increase in the Number of Women Pilots in Iranian Aviation following the Islamic Revolution

In the past, more men were seen flying planes, but with the passage of time and advancements in women's rights and equality in the world, more women have been drawn to this profession. Today, women work in famous airlines as pilots, stewardesses and copilots. In Iran, women were working as stewardesses and copilots for a long time, but nowadays, their presence in position of pilots and flight engineers is growing.

Following Ms. Shahrzad Shams, Ms. Jahandari managed to become the second Iranian women to become captain of a commercial airline plane. She flew as copilot for around five years.

She began her career with Zagros Airlines in 2010 in the field of flight safety and flight data monitoring. Around three and a half years later, she attended an exam for pilots and passed with the highest grade. She began flight training courses at the age of 18, and at the same time started studying aviation flight engineering technology courses at university. Finally with great efforts she became a pilot. With this achievement, she paved the way

for more women to be in the same arena and showed that “where there is a will there is a way”.

3-3 Activities of 17 Homeless Shelters in Tehran – 50 Percent Increase in Homeless Shelters Capacities in the Cold Season

The activities of Homeless Shelters have expanded with the aim of protection of women and vulnerable individuals of society. Each year from late September the activities of special Homeless Shelters in Tehran begin and continue till mid-April. Of course in some instances such as this year, these homes continue operating till late May due to the continuation of rainfall and weather conditions, and efforts have been made for these shelters to continue operation for as long as they are needed.

Usually, there are 12 active Shelters in Tehran and this year another 5 are being prepared and equipped to be added to this number. Officially these warm homes hold 2800 individuals, but during emergency weather conditions and in the case of heavy rain or snowfall, the capacity increases by 40 to 50 percent and reaches around 4000 to 4200 individuals.

Studies have shown that 60 percent of those who seek shelter wish to stay in the shelter all day it therefore, it was decided that shelters offer services round the clock as well as breakfast and lunch. Currently two centers in Districts

12 and 22 (Tehran) are allocated to women and it is hoped that more centers are made available in the future.



4- Human Rights

4-1 47thousand People with Disabilities and Elderly People Receive Social Services in 24-hour Welfare Centers

With the signing of an agreement between the State Welfare Organization and the Iran Bar Association, pro bono legal services are offered to senior citizens and people with disabilities, expanding the legal services offered to these individuals.

The head of Iran Bar Association regarding the letter of understanding said: “we do not wait for individuals to search for pro bono lawyers, but we visit organizations

which provide services to people in need and recommend the presentation of pro bono legal services.

Saying that the State Welfare Organization has an important role in prevention of disabilities and social harms, the head of the State Welfare Organization said: “approximately 6 million people who are covered by the Welfare Organization and 1,450,000 people with disabilities and one million and fifty-thousand households receive benefits from this Organization.”

Saying that, the Welfare Organization has 1000 24-hour residences for 47 thousand individuals with disabilities and senior citizens, he said: “these individuals are kept in these centers because their families cannot take care of them.” He added that, “26,000 individuals with spinal cord problems are covered by the Welfare Organization.”

4-2 Appointment of the First Kurdish - Sunni as Iran’s Representative to the ILO

In late October, Dr. Soleiman Pakseresht was appointed as Iran’s representative in the International Labour Organization. He is the first Iranian Kurd - Sunni to be introduced as Labour Ambassador of Iran to Geneva.

This is a step towards opening more space for appointment of the country’s religious and ethnic minorities to government positions and their presence in the field of managerial and decision making positions which has increased over the last few years.



5- Right of Access to Health and Medical Treatment

5-1 Iran, Number One Country in the Region in Health Services Coverage

While domestically expanding health and treatment services, Iran has also been dispatching humanitarian aid to other countries such as Iraq, Syria and Yemen. Furthermore, in Arbe'ain ceremonies, visiting foreign nationals from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria recieved vaccinations.

The health deputy of the Health Ministry pointing out the 71.5 percent health coverage in the country said: “in this field we are the number one country in the region and by 2025 the figure will reach 80 percent.”

He added, “the health coverage in some countries is between 25 and 30 percent and we are ready to share our experiences in health services with other countries.”



6- Introducing Human Rights Institutions

6-1 United Nations Association of Iran (UNA-Iran)

Promotion of human rights and respect to human dignity, has been one of the most important goals of mankind in the past and present, and preservation of all human rights achievements need strong national and international will as well as close cooperation with the United Nations. The, the United Nations Association of Iran (UNA-IRAN) which is a non-governmental, non-profit and people's movement for the United Nations began its work officially in 1994. Supporting the United Nations; promotion of human and humanitarian rights, strengthening a culture of tolerance, as well as freedom of religion, freedom of expression, and peace and respect for human dignity, are included in the UNA-IRAN agenda. In spite of different views and definitions of human rights, UNA-IRAN shall endeavor to be a bridge between the

international institutions including the United Nations and Iran, and shall try to bring human rights standards home.

In 1998, UNA-IRAN officially became a member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA). In 1986, the United Nations General Assembly issued resolution 41/68 thus establishing WFUNA, and national UNAs towards the general mobilization in support of UN programs and activities. Currently there are more than 120 UNAs around the world and WFUNA represents and coordinates them.

UNA objectives:

- Republication of United Nations news and information on various subjects
- Making links with other national and international organizations that have similar objectives as UNA-Iran.
- Awareness-raising, and promotion of cooperation among men, women and children for elimination of all forms of discrimination.
- Participation in the movement for the removal of obstacles of peace building and cooperation for the establishment of justice, security and disarmament.
- Supporting economic and social development for the realization of a better living standards
- Research and education on the UN System.

To reach the aforementioned objectives UNA-Iran plans its activities, independently or with the cooperation of other organizations and UN agencies, some of which are as follows:

- Publishing thematic reports.
- Publishing an electronic newsletter on a weekly basis.
- Commemoration of various UN days
- Participation in national and international conferences such as participation in UN Human Rights Council Sessions.
- Education courses on the introduction to the UN system with the cooperation of UN agencies (including UNIC) in Iran as well as national and international NGOs and performing activities such as the following:
 - i) UN System and its Activities in Iran, Specialized Course for Students of Law and Political Sciences
 - ii) Workshop on Methods for CV Writing for University Students
 - iii) Education Course on the Introduction to Facilitation Methods, for Iran NGO members
 - iv) Workshop on NGOs Capacity-building in Yazd Province

v) MDG Education Course for Education and Training School Heads and Teachers (First Stage)

vi) Education Course on the Introduction to the Guidelines and Documentation of the Sustainable Environmental Management System (ISO14001)

viii) The first Conference on Social Responsibility of Companies in Achievement of MDG

ix) Introduction to International Mechanisms, the UN Model Education Course for NGOs representatives

x) Democracy Culture and the Role of NGOs in Iran, Education Course for NGOs with the partnership of Danish UNA.

For further information on the activities of UNA-Iran and subscribing to its weekly e-newsletter visit the following **website:**

www.unairan.org