

Human Right Developments in Iran

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ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

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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-Statement

1-1 ODVV's Statement on Iran November Protests

The recent protests against the increase in petrol price, inflicted lots of financial and physical damages to people, and caused destruction of public property and spread of violence.

Many social and political analysts believe that the events are rooted in lack of suitable space for expression of discontent in the society. Also, the protests are strongly believed to be rooted in economic pressures on people; United States' inhuman sanctions imposed on Iran and the organized misdeeds of some regional and foreign powers. The root causes lead to spread of protests that in some instances turned into violence, vandalism, and clashes between the protestors and the police.

Once again, the events are reminding the decision-makers, the government and the civil society of the need for exercising and protecting the right to peaceful protest.

At the moment, the need to avoid violence, bridging social inequalities, and preservation of national unity are deemed as the ongoing urgencies of society. All those who are concerned about Iran must avoid violent actions and stress on the rule of law through conciliation and tolerance.

ODVV calls upon decision-making bodies to open suitable space for peaceful protests in the country and adopt the draft legislation that guarantees freedom of association and demonstrations¹ as quickly as possible, which is clearly been mentioned in article 27 of the Constitution.

ODVV deems the use of economic sanctions by the United States as tools of putting maximum economic pressure on the Iranian people as one of the main causes of the recent protests, and will continue its campaign to make the effects of such illegal and inhuman measures transparent for the international community.

ODVV also calls upon the government to accelerate the implementation of the National Security Supreme Council's "decision" for compensating the losses of the victims of the recent violence.

¹ <https://bit.ly2YqQ13O>

1-2 Joint Statement of 18 Iranian NGO's in Consultative Status with ECOSOC on the Occasion of Universal Human Rights Day

71 years ago on this day, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted so that all humans regardless of colour, age, religion, race, and gender enjoy freedom, justice, and peace on the basis of equality and inherent dignity.

This year, the potential of youths as constructive agents of change to amplify their voices and to engage a broad range of global audiences in the promotion and protection of rights, made the United Nations pick “Youth Standing up for Human Rights” as this year’s theme. Perhaps the reason behind this choice is that the United Nations knows neither human rights feel good nor do youths.

For example in recent years, the youths of Iran have fully understood the exploitative use of the holy concept of human rights, particularly by the United States. A country which through leaving the Human Rights Council is not even pretending to observe international human rights, and by taking unilateral coercive measures, secondary sanctions and launching economic terrorism, has inflicted harsh blows on the Iranian economy, and almost all Iranian citizens, particularly vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, patients, people with disabilities, victims of chemical weapons and many other groups of people, have faced drugs and medical

equipment shortages, lack of suitable nourishment and even unsustainability of jobs, education, and living.

Now, the question that an Iranian youth ask is: How much is today's world standing up for the human rights of youths?

The impact of instances such as imposition of sanctions on many Iranian individuals and entities, not renewing the exemptions on the purchase of Iranian oil, applying punishments to those who purchase oil from this country, the possibility of 50 percent inflation because of the sanctions, banking restrictions effects on citizens' enjoyment of right to health, complex supervision of all bank transactions and even importing drugs, education costs for Iranian NGOs clients, shortage of foreign currency in Iran to pay foreign companies are all repercussions that have repeatedly been in the reports and documentation of international UN officials.

In spite of aforesaid problems and also the need for the lifting of sanctions from sectors such as drugs, foods and aviation safety services in the order of 3 October 2018 of the International Court of Justice, the response that has taken place in the continuation and even harshening of sanctions by the United States shows that today's world is inclined to be silent, indifferent, with no explanations towards the grave violation of human rights, and towards power-based interests.

This is while the existence of such trends results to undermine the trust of international community by

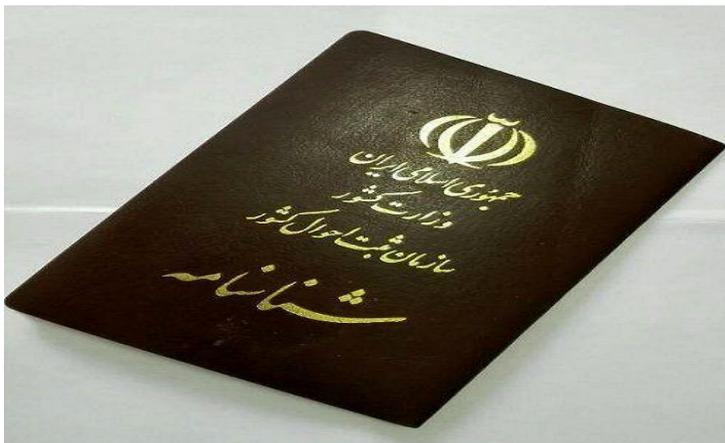
identifying gaps in the existing mechanisms and their effectiveness.

Now that we observe human rights violations from all corners of the world, human rights defender organizations have an important responsibility for the guarding of human dignity and finding practical solutions for resolving the issues at hand. With this in mind, the NGO that is releasing this statement, while reiterating on the necessity to protect and preserve human dignity, calls on all UN special rapporteurs, human rights defenders and peacekeepers in the world to show their wills for the realization of a world where human rights, human dignity, peace, security, and justice are respected and protected, more than before and by standing up to states who solely impose their will through force against the other 190 UN Member States, to give a new life to the tired and beaten body of human rights which in practice has become politicized.

We, the signatories of this statement, are re-affirm our commitment for the observation of hope and health and trust of human rights future investments, meaning all youth of the world, believe it is only through this that the youth will find the ability to stand up for real human rights.

1. Abshar Atefaha Charity Institute
2. Disability Association of Tavana
3. Ertegha Keyfiat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute

4. Family Health Association of Iran
5. Imam Ali Charity Institution
6. Iran Autism Association
7. Iranian Thalassemia Society
8. Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian
9. Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute
10. Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran
11. Organization for Defending Victims of Violence
12. Peivande Gole Narges Organization
13. Prevention Association of Social Harms
14. Rahbord Peimayesh Research & Educational Services Cooperative
15. Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment
16. The Association of Citizens Civil Rights Protection "Manshour-e Parseh"
17. The Society for Recovery Support
18. Humanitarian Ambassadors NGO



2- Refugees Rights

2-1 800 Thousand Foreign Nationals who Have Iranian Mothers Will Receive Iranian National ID Documents

With the approval of the legislation on the “determination of the status of children born to Iranian women married to foreign men” according to the officer-in-charge of Khorasan Razavi BAFIA, it was clarified that 800 thousand individuals in Iran are eligible to receive Iranian ID documents, 50 thousand of which are in Khorasan Razavi province.

Most of these individuals are children and undocumented individuals born to foreign fathers with Afghan nationality. In addition to foreign undocumented individuals and or their undocumented children, currently

there are over 950 thousand registered Afghans living legally in Iran.

According to this legislation children born to legal marriages of Iranian women to foreign men who have been born before or after the adoption of the law, can before reaching the age of 18 upon the request of the Iranian mothers in the event of not having security issues (on the assessment of the Information Ministry and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Information Organization) become Iranian citizens.



3- Human Rights

3-1 Pardoning of a Number of Convicts

On the occasion of the birth of the Prophet (PBUH) and Imam Jaafar Sadeq (PBUH), the Iranian Supreme Leader agreed with the suggestion of the pardoning and reducing of sentences of 3,552 individuals convicted by General and Revolutionary court, the Armed Services Judicial Organization, and State Reductions.

Among those that were pardoned were 32 individuals who had security crime sentences (a number of journalists and students), following the legal process in the Judiciary Branch, with the recommendation of the head of the Judiciary, through an independent letter addressed to the Revolution's Leader, were pardoned or their sentences reduced with the approval of the Leader.

The number that were pardoned through the recommendation of the head of the Judiciary and agreement of the Leader is significant. Also another significance in the letter sent by Ibrahim Reisee to the Leader of the Revolution is the request for the pardoning of a number of security convicts which took place for the first time and accepted by the Leader. Furthermore in adding the names of some of the media and university students' convicts to the recommendation list which sent by the head of the Judiciary, is a very commendable action, and no doubt will help increase public's trust and hope towards the Justice Department and the government.



4- Women's Rights

4-1 The Third Shelter for Women is launched

With consideration of the vulnerability of women and the need for their protection and support, the capacity of taking in homeless women in the Municipality's shelters has increased. Before this, there were two shelters for women in the west and south of Tehran, there were no shelters for women in the east and near Farahzad Valley regions. Thus, Tehran Municipality built and equipped a shelter for women in District 8.

Farahzad is one of the defenseless regions of the city where homeless people gather, some of which are women, and the shelter was urgently needed, and thus it can prevent possible threats that may exist in the region from occurring.



5- Rights of People with Disabilities

5-1 Livelihood Improvement for Persons with Disabilities and Full Exemption of Employers from Paying Insurance Premium for the Disabled

In 1992 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed December 3rd to be International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). The overall aim of the observance is to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. Therefore, this day is commemorated in Iran by governmental and nongovernmental organizations with the aim of awareness raising on the rights of people with disabilities. This year's slogan is the Promotion of the Participation of Individuals with Disabilities to Access Fair and Sustainable Cultural Development. Since the beginning of this edict the hiring of nurses for individuals with spinal cord disabilities has increased 2.5 times. Also 91 thousand eligible individuals have been identified by the State

Welfare Organization (SWO) so that livelihood and employment assistance to them will commence.

According to the head of the State Welfare Organization, the beneficiaries of this organization will receive 3.6 to 4.8 million Rials benefits, every three months, in addition to receiving regular other livelihood services and facilities. Furthermore, according to the government's adoption, centers that take care of the elderly with mental and physical disorders shall receive these sums directly. The population of this target group is approximately 47 thousand.

According to received reports, there are currently 1.5 million people covered by the State Welfare Organization, 13 percent of which have hearing disabilities, 11 percent near blind or blind, 39 percent with movement disabilities, 24 percent with mental disabilities, 5 percent with vocal and speech disabilities, and 8 percent with mental disorders who need rehabilitation, and empowerment in order to get integrated into the society, and there are 1370 day care and full-time rehabilitation centers providing them with services.

Also highlighting articles 12 and 13 of the Protection of Individuals with Disabilities Act, the head of the State Welfare Organization said that income supplement will be paid to between 30 and 50 percent of these individuals. According to the new guidelines full exemption of the payment of right to insurance has been foreseen for the employer, and the Social Security will directly make the

payments. According to this article the employers will make no direct contributions to Social Security and thus the employment opportunity for people with disabilities will increase.

Highlighting article 25 of the same Act, the head of the State Welfare Organization said: “According to this article 50 percent of the incomes of the parents with severe disabilities will not be taxed.”

5-2 Education Programs for 15 Thousand Deaf Students in the Country – the Movement of Teaching Sign Language Starts from 3 December

In order to contribute to the realization of the rights of individuals with disabilities, the movement for Braille Language Education and Sign Language Education has been launched.

Currently there are more than 15,000 schoolchildren with hearing difficulties studying in 5,500 special schools and 9,900 regular schools who receive various education services.

With the services that have been provided, more than 250 of these students have been accepted in the best universities of the country.

The head of the Special Education and Training Organization in this regard has said, “we try to teach various skills, so that children learn at list one skill.”



6- Right of Access to Health and Treatment

6-1 Support for People with HIV/AIDS in the country

According to the reports, there are 120 health centers in the country which have provided special services to 21 thousand individuals, especially those with particular diseases this year. Also, 82 centers are working as full-time shelters for the homeless, 57 for men and 25 for women.

Furthermore, in order to support patients who are not able to visit health centers, there are mobile teams who are sent to vulnerable regions by the State Welfare Organization. In the current year there were 170 mobile teams who provided health services to 30 thousand individuals. In

health centers located in vulnerable regions, almost 30 thousand individuals have been tested for HIV/ Aids, in addition, 50 thousand HIV tests have been conducted in other regions.

Moreover, the health centers offer counselling services on marriage as well as midwifery services, social support, livelihood and job finding services. All these services are offered free of charge.

It must be said that on the International AIDS Day, the Justice Ministry announced the drafting of a legislation on protection of human dignity of HIV/AIDS patients which is a step forward further protection of human dignity.



7- Introducing Human Rights NGOs

7-1 Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer (MAHAK)

The Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer widely known by its acronym, MAHAK, was set up in 1991 as a non-governmental and non-profit organization (registration number 6567) with the Department of Social Affairs for NGO activities at the Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Vision

MAHAK believes that parents should have no other concern than their children's recovery and also believes that with the parents present, the children can pass the treatment processes more happily, with more hope and consequently both children and parents can change their

focus from living or not, to the lives they will lead in the future.

MAHAK ensures that every child with cancer and their families receive comprehensive and integrated services across the country and provides them with up-to-date treatment services in accordance with national and International standards. By raising awareness and education, effective diagnosis occurs in the early stages and support is provided from the very first moment a diagnosis is rendered. MAHAK strives to provide the public with the latest cancer-related information, news, necessary resources and recommendations, and by expanding its cooperation with national and international research and treatment centers, MAHAK employs the most effective methods of cancer treatment, consequently decreasing the rate of pediatric cancer.

MAHAK is known as a charity organization that serves as a model for reliability, as well as for the implementation and evaluation of programs for national and international organizations alike. By all standards, MAHAK finds its place as a top-ranked organization among NGOs, not only overall, but also in every field of its numerous activities.

MAHAK is active in three main fields as follows:

Charity

Mahak is run through donations and through reliance of such participations has been able to give full support to 27,000 children with cancer till the end of 2016

nationwide, and launch the only extra-specialist hospital in the Middle East region for children suffering with cancer. This hospital situated in the north-east of Tehran is the result of the Institute's efforts for expansion of support and medical treatment services with the highest quality to children suffering from cancer. The charity department of MAHAK is active in two fields of support services, and popular donations. The support services area distributes support services to other hospitals by resident volunteer aid workers. The notable portion of popular donations is revenue. In the charity part the revenues generated by popular donations are turned into support and treatment services to children suffering from cancer. MAHAK Institute in its quarter century activities has tried to reduce the suffering and pain of children suffering from cancer and their families. Today more than 6500 children have recovered are great investments of health and are working towards better future for themselves and their country. Now more than 19 thousand children suffering from cancer throughout our country are being treated with the support of MAHAK and its donators.

Treatment:

The MAHAK extra-specialist children's cancer hospital began its activities in 2007. Today it diagnoses and treats a large group of children suffering from cancer. This hospital which is an extra-specialist children's cancer center in the Middle East takes in children from Iran as well we the neighboring countries including, Azerbaijan, Iraq and Afghanistan. The treatment cost of Iraqi and

Afghan children is provided by UNHCR. This hospital is equipped with the latest technology and knowledge of diagnosis and treatment of cancer and also is equipped with a bone marrow transplant department that holds 15 beds.

Research:

The MAHAK research activities are done independently and also through cooperation with other relevant national and international organizations, and sister organizations, universities and research centers inside and outside Iran. The aim of research activities is to improve and advance diagnosis and combatting cancer and use the latest achievements of the field. With the start of the activities of this hospital, scientific data is produced which can be the foundations for scientific research for the improvement of the effectivity of treatment. Also with the scientific data received from the hospital's activities, MAHAK has carried out joint project with reputable domestic and international research centers. The Gostavrossi Institute in Paris, Sina Research Centre of Shahid Beheshti University and Rouyan Research Center are the main research centers that cooperate with MAHAK.

For further information on the Institute and its activities you can also visit the following website:

<https://mahak-charity.org/main/index.php/en/home-en>