



Human Right Developments in Iran

Newsletter No.15



JULY 2020

ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

www.odvv.org

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.

Contents

1- Refugees Rights	4
1-1 Offering Education to 140 thousand Undocumented Foreign Students in Iran	4
1-2 Issuing of 200 thousand Work Permits for Afghan Refugees in Iran.....	6
1-3 Judicial Support for Refugees in Iran.....	7
2- Educations Rights	9
2-1 16 thousand Schools in Deprived Regions Became Smart Schools.....	9
3- Human Rights	10
3-1 Donations to Households whose Livelihoods have been Affected by COVID-19.....	10
3-2 Expansion of Partnerships with the UN to Fight against Production and Distribution of Drugs.....	11
3-3 Support for Workers Who Have Been Made Redundant Due to the Spread of COVID-19.....	13
4- Women’s Rights	14
4-1 Support Projects through Women’s Employment.....	14
5- Introducing Human Rights Organizations	16
5-1 Khaneh Khorshid Institute.....	16



1- Refugees Rights

1-1 Offering Education to 140 thousand Undocumented Foreign Students in Iran

In view of the Supreme Leader of Iran's 2015 decree on the registration of all Afghan children in public schools, regardless of their residence situation, currently 140 thousand undocumented Afghan schoolchildren are accepted in schools without discrimination. That is, refugee and migrant children benefit from education just like their Iranian counterparts.

Furthermore, the legalization of the citizenship of children born to Iranian women married to foreign men is the basis for important achievements which fortunately the residential and education of children of Iranian women married to foreign men has been facilitated through city commuting papers.

Financial assessments show that the expenditure for each foreign student was 31 million Rials last academic year.

This is while international organizations compensate a small share of these costs, which is hardly anything compared to the full services Iran provides.

With regards to education in view of the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in the shutdown of most schools in the world, including in Iran, new challenges appeared for education, particularly for foreign nationals and refugees. But in spite of the existence of numerous challenges, the education situation for foreign students became similar to domestic students. Some of the actions taken in this regard by the Education and Training Ministry include providing education through the national media (television), handing out education and support packs, and providing education via the internet. Furthermore, refugee and migrant children's access to the official "Shad" education platform has been done just as for Iranian children; also efforts have been made to prepare suitable digital tools for children. In this regard international organizations have been asked to provide necessary support for impoverished and vulnerable refugee children alongside the Iranian government. It must be said that in spite of the cruel sanctions imposed by America against Iran which unfortunately have affected the economic, social, health and education spheres; Iran has accepted this large refugee population and their children due to its moral duty, and prevent a flood of refugees from arriving in Europe. Thus it is expected that countries of the world, especially Europe and also international organizations to join the global

consensus and remove sanctions, particularly those that directly affect physical and mental health and education of children.

It must be said that in this year's World Refugee Day in Tehran, which due to the COVID-19 pandemic was commemorated online the Representative of UNHCR in Iran thanked and appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for refugees in all spheres, particularly education of children.

1-2 Issuing of 200 thousand Work Permits for Afghan Refugees in Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran is host to approximately 3 million Afghan refugees and migrants in Iran, around 1 million of which have been officially registered and received Amayesh Cards, but approximately 2 million are illegals and undocumented.

In spite of all existing problems in Iran and America's unilateral sanctions against Iran, refugees continue to receive health, livelihood and education services just like Iranian citizens.

As part of organizing jobs for Afghan refugees in Iran, 200,000 of them who were in the working age range and wanted to legally work in the country, received work permits. Currently the working conditions for Afghan refugees in Iran are good and this trend is growing. Furthermore, not only Afghan refugees can legally work

in Iran, also migrants who have entered the country at employer levels can legally work. Currently there are more than 30,000 Afghan employers working in Iran. According to reports and published information, Afghan nationals annually send notable amount of money to their families in Afghanistan, and the livelihood of most of these families is provided this way.

It must be said that Afghan workers who enter the country legally and have work permits, receive various services as their Iranian counterparts, such as insurance services. And last year more than 30 billion Rials was paid to them in work related accident compensations. This is while according to published reports as well as legal foreign workers there are 700,000 Afghans working illegally in the country.

As well as the four official profession which legal migrants can work in, according to Article 121 of the Labour Act 1400 permits have been issued for expert Afghan nationals, 15 of which are doctors and nurses, and most of them work as employers. Also Article 122 of the Labour Act includes individuals who have Iranian spouses and are in Iran as refugees are exempt from paying taxes.

1-3 Judicial Support for Refugees in Iran

With the assistance of UNHCR the Iranian government provides legal and judicial services for refugees free of charge, and free consultations are provided for them.

In this regard, recently in a pilot scheme in Semnan Province, the opportunity to receive judicial reference codes, were provided for foreign nationals. Registration to receive judicial reference codes is to ease judicial affairs for foreign nationals. It was started on the occasion of the Judiciary Week and towards fulfilment of Iran's commitment to provide legal and judicial support for all sectors without consideration of nationality, religion or belief.

This judicial reference code helps foreign nationals to resolve their legal and judicial issues better and speedier. This programme was launched through a letter of understanding between the Justice Department and BAFIA, and in the first phase foreign nationals will receive these reference codes free of charge.



2- Education Rights

2-1 16 thousand Schools in Deprived Regions Became Smart Schools

In view of the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country and the need to use computer and cyberspace education tools especially for schoolchildren, the Telecommunications Company of Iran while supporting schoolchildren in this area has taken steps in to create 16000 smart schools for deprived regions of the country.

Also considering that the number of Telecommunications Company internet users had until before the outbreak of the virus reached 1800 which during the outbreak increased to 8000, this Company improved its infrastructures to improve its services to subscribers.

3-2 Expansion of Partnerships with the UN to Fight against Production and Distribution of Drugs

The discovery of more than 950 tons of various narcotic drugs in the last year which in itself is a record drugs bust in Iran. Also spending a few hundred million dollars in two areas of fight against distribution and reduction of demand are some of actions taken which is the determination to respond to the realization of the objectives of this day to achieve a world free of drugs.

On this basis the Islamic Republic of Iran stresses on the pivotal role of the United Nations Office on Drugs Control - UNODC (as the main specialized international authority in the fight against drugs). The stress of Islamic Republic of Iran officials in this regard specialized agencies in the field of humanitarian law need the international community's and aiding countries' financial support in their programmes and projects, and in this regard the implementation process of a significant chunk of the programmes of UNODC in Tehran is challenging and slow due to the shortage of needed financial resources and drop in the partnership of aid providing countries. Therefore, it is expected towards practicing the collective responsibility principle and also considering good partnership that we witnessed in the recent years, once again we witness the technical and financial support of UNODC in the two areas of border control and fight against supply and also treatment and reduction in

demand in Iran and other countries fighting the drugs frontlines.

Furthermore, since international diplomacy is based on mutual cooperation and will to resolve regional and global problems, the imposition of illegal sanctions and unilateral coercive measures prevent international cooperation especially in the field of the fight against drugs.

It seems that failure in implementing partnerships, particularly in the supply of necessary equipment in border control and fight against drugs supply which are inaccessible due to the sanctions, it disrupts the fight against drugs in such way that other countries which have the market for drugs will not be unaffected and the responsibility and consequences of this in creation of vacuum in the international fight against drugs will be on the shoulders of those who impose these illegal sanctions through pressure on the international community.

According to UN 2020 report, 90 percent of opium, 26 percent of heroin, and 48 percent of morphine in the world is discovered by Iran, which is a notable statistic and shows the Iranian society's fight against drugs.

3-3 Support for Workers Who Have Been Made Redundant Due to the Spread of COVID-19

According to figures published by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, individuals who lost their jobs with the outbreak of COVID-19 according to the registrations in the Comprehensive Jobs and Unemployment website for February was 840 thousand which in the subsequent months has seen a drop in figures in such way that the number of those receiving unemployment benefits dropped to 2800 in June.

Out of the 840 thousand registrations to-date 703 thousand individuals were eligible for receiving unemployment benefits; 103 thousand of which unemployment benefits have been paid and in the next 10 days another 260 thousand individuals will receive unemployment benefits, and the rest of the applications are currently under review and will soon be determined.

Also those who lost their jobs due to COVID-19 but are not eligible for unemployment benefits such as taxi drivers and or construction workers whose insurance is the responsibility of their employers, 60 million Rials will be paid to them which after a three-month break will be paid back starting from September in 24 month installments.



4- Women's Rights

4-1 Support Projects through Women's Employment

With the outbreak of COVID-19 in Iran, various projects have been running by governmental and nongovernmental organizations for women, especially in their employment. One of these projects was the empowerment of women through strengthening cooperatives.

Women's cooperatives are more in the fields of tourism, transport, housing, handicrafts, sewing, clothes production and other professions which are mostly small and medium jobs, although due to the COVID-19 situation, most of the small markets of the productions of these cooperatives are closed and fewer locations are open, but though calls for participation to cooperatives that produce clothes, handicrafts, sewing, or cooperatives

that produce beddings, the use of online sale capacities and also their ability to produce nurses uniforms, hospital gowns, masks, shoe covers and even cloth gloves, to improve the employment situation for women.

In Tehran province alone, during the virus outbreak 180 women with workshop sewing machines or home sewing machines in 30 workshops with 5 women working in each are working, and the initial contract of the Women's Cooperatives Union and other groups were signed, which there were three contracts for the production of 250 thousand masks, gowns and aprons, and they were delivered to the customers.

It must be said that currently 250 thousand women are working in women's cooperatives in the country. Some of them sell their products online.



5- Introducing Human Rights Activists

5-1 Khaneh Khorshid Institute

Khaneh Khorshid (House of the Sun) Institute began its activities in January 2007 in Tehran, so that as the first center for reduction of women's addiction harms in a very vulnerable district be a place to present treatment, support and education services. The main and important goal of the Institute is the reduction of individual and social harms of drug and opioid abusers and related illnesses for women.

For the reduction of harms and recovery of women from drugs, in this center efforts are made to empathize with the victims, so that hope returns to them and the path for life which at times their turbulences they've had without a fault of their own, be able to grow and have a future with a hope of reducing damages through raising awareness in the neighborhood and society.

The harms reduction programme for women and efforts to return them to society and their families, has gradually entered the activities of the Institute in the professions training and job creation.

In general, the objectives and programmes of this Institute are as follows:

- Raising the quality of life of women addicts, having dangerous behaviors and homeless.
- Help to detoxification and creation of the basis for their return to their families and society, for homeless addicts with dangerous behaviors.
- Reduce the consequences of drug abuse for addicts with dangerous behaviors and efforts to prevent infectious diseases caused by drug abuse.
- Increase access to women addicts who have dangerous behaviors.
- Raise awareness of women addicts who have numerous sex partners with regards to physical and mental health and ways that HIV/AIDS and hepatitis are transmitted and prevented.
- Reduction of occurrence and spread of criminal behaviors of the patients of the centre.
- Raise awareness and access to damage reduction tools among the community under the care of the center and far away groups.

- Harms reduction caused by drug abuse of women with multiple sex partners.
- Raise the physical and mental health levels of the patients.
- Raise the individual hygiene levels and nutrition of patients.
- Increase social supports to improve the living conditions of patients and their children.
- Modeling for planners and those active in prevention and treatment of women's social damages.
- Create social and life skills, job and profession skills for women.

Currently over 600 women patients and their children are covered by the Institute and benefit from its services and facilities. Also every day more than 100 women addicts receive methadone treatment and their children and families receive free social services such as psychological counselling, social work, medical, dental, psychiatric, women, education and other services towards goals of the Institute which are to reduce social damages. Every day more than 50 individuals receive outpatient services.

Also each day Khaneh Khorshid is host to 15 children from infants to 16 year olds. It is worth to mentioning that from its founding to-date, several children have recovered from addiction by support of the Institute.

For further information about the Institute and its activities please visit the following website:

<http://www.khanehkorshid.ir>