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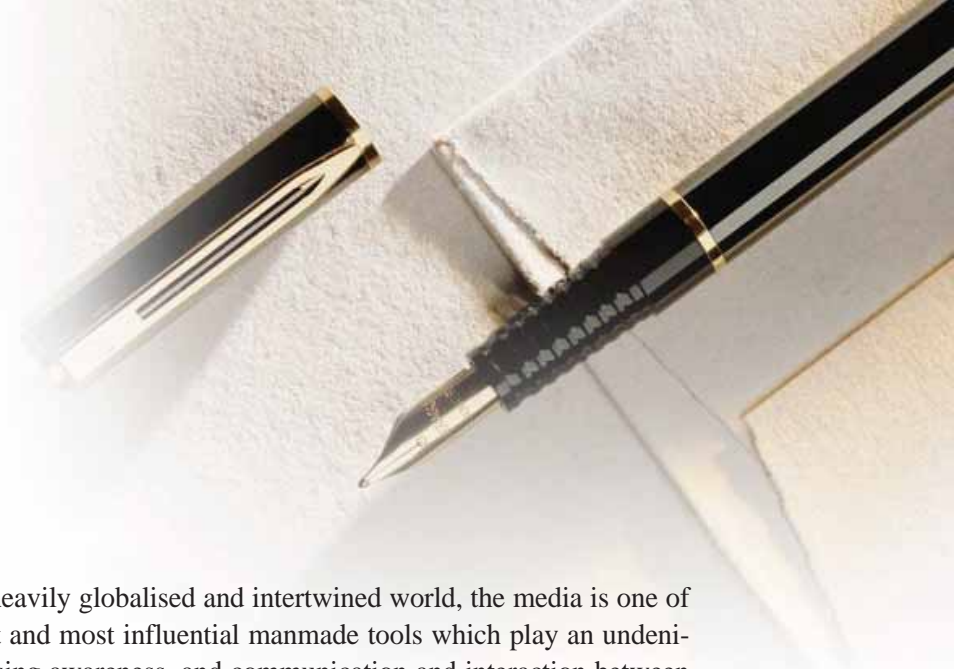
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Editorial



In today's heavily globalised and intertwined world, the media is one of the biggest and most influential manmade tools which play an undeniable role in raising awareness, and communication and interaction between nations and governments. The smallest of events that takes place in some part of the world, and the inhabitants of other countries and continents become aware of them within a matter of seconds and minutes. This shows that the media cannot be omitted from important national, regional and international equations.

Human rights is one of the subjects that the media plays a key role in ranging from cooperation, promotion and improvement to monitoring and reporting violation cases. Nonetheless a lot of other subjects further highlight this role which can have good consequences and bad, deceitful and politicised consequences. This in today's world where media tools, aside from TV and radio, has also vastly expanded in cyberspace too, and in the form of several social networks such as Twitter, Facebook and various news websites, broadcast human rights developments all across the world, have taken more serious and sensitive forms. In fact having a plethora of media outlets, makes finding the truth and reaching the depth of the subject, aside from media frenzies, has become a difficult objective. Meanwhile the media domination of a limited number of news networks – almost all of which are either based in the United States or Europe – have made it more difficult to broadcast proportionate news and events that are balanced, true and unbiased.

This is why although numerous media companies, specially the new ones, have the ability to speedily reflect human rights violations in the most distant parts of the world due to their sheer coverage, and sensitise the world public opinion towards an issue., but at the same time their biased concentration towards some human rights violation claims (in select few countries), the attention to which before having genuine human rights justification and reason, indicates the entry of politicisation of the media, which can damage the sanctity of human rights and meaning of justice, and confuse the minds of human rights activists towards the practicality and balance of the media tool.

With this approach, this autumn edition of Defenders reviews the case of “human rights and the media” and tries with a fair approach, publish the lesser seen implications of the influence of the media in the promotion and improvement of human rights.

Editorial



Human Rights Day in Iran

The “Review of Human Rights in the Current Times” on the occasion of International Human Rights Day was held by the ODVV with the cooperation of United Nations Association of Iran (UNA-IRAN), Association for the Support of Women and Children Refugees, Institute for Women’s Studies and Research, Charitable Institute for Social Victims, Child Labour Protection Institute, and the Development Sustainable Peace Centre on Monday 13 December at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Iranian Organization for International Conferences hall. In this ceremony where the message of the UN Secretary General was also read, Mr. Siavash Rahpeik the director of the ODVV, Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani the Secretary of the High Council for Human Rights of the Judiciary, Mr. Mohammad Ali Rajaei Moghadam representative from UNIC in Iran, Mr. Pierre Ryter the ICRC representative in Iran, Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mozafari the director of the Centre for Dialogue among Religions and Civilizations, Dr. Kamran Hashemi director of the Human Rights and Cultural Diversity Centre of NAM, Dr. Mahmoudreza Golshanzahed researcher and member of ODVV board of directors, Mr. Alireza Taheri member of ODVV board of directors, and Ms. Fatemeh Ashrafi director of the Association for the Support of Women and Children Refugees (HAMI), and also a number of foreign missions’ representatives and international organizations representatives also participated in the event.

Parts of the speeches of the distinguished guests are as follows:

“

Speak Up, Stop Discrimination, is the universal slogan for International Human Rights Day this year, and we civil society organizations believe that it can be a common focal point for the campaigns and activities of human rights advocates

”

Siavash Rahpeik, Director of the ODVV

The director of the ODVV and the secretary and representative of partner NGOs in the holding of the commemoration started by welcoming the guests and said that the commemoration of the International Human Rights Day in Iran is the duty and fulfilment of commitments towards all of mankind.

Continuing with his speech Mr. Rahpeik said: “Speak Up, Stop Discrimination, is the universal slogan for International Human Rights Day this year, and we civil society organizations believe that it can be a common focal point for the campaigns and activities of human rights advocates. Of course it must be cautioned that we and all the people that have human rights concerns in the world and in Iran must not be prejudiced in our behaviours and actions and in the defence of the victims and advocates. In this regard, mechanisms, individuals and effective variables at the domestic and international levels can play a positive interaction role. From government officials we ask to trust civil and nongovernmental organizations more than before so that they can benefit from the great capacities that these groups have in various social, scientific, technological and arts. Considering the communication that they have in various domestic and international networks, civil institutions can play a positive role in clarification and defence of all the people’s rights. We call upon relevant international organizations to make use of the existing potentials and capacities that these or-



ganizations have, because these organizations can transfer sympathetic information and realities into the international community and assist them in reaching their objectives. In the hope of breathing in a world where justice is in abundance and a world without poverty, violence, corruption, discrimination.” At the end the secretary of the event thanked the High Council of Human Rights, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UN agencies in Iran and civil society organizations who provided invaluable assistance in the holding of the ceremony, and expressed hope for these activities to move towards betterment and more quality.

Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani the Secretary of the High Council for Human Rights of the Judiciary

Stressing on the subject of human dignity, Dr. Larijani said: “the entrance of the Islamic Republic of Iran into human rights is positive, and the our human dignity characteristic is our entry towards the subject of human rights. The world is our home, and in this territory every human being has a status without boundaries. When a human being is told his human dignity is protected, but it must be based on what has been dictated to him, is a subject with many problems.

Fortunately the Islamic Republic of Iran is a place where both the regime and nongovernmental organizations are active. We have signed a number of documents in this regard to which we are committed. Of course there is no need for these documents to be interpreted with specific tendencies. For example with regards to the subject of torture, western countries believe that if an individual receives ten flogs, he is subjected to torture. But we believe that torture has a more accurate definition. In this regard the main issue is that we are committed to eliminate torture and this has been mentioned in Iran’s Constitution. On the other hand the subject of human rights is not a steamroller for the domination of the west. The problem that the west with their domineering and abusing it inflict the biggest damage to human rights is interfering with other countries internal affairs on the pretext of human rights, which results in the toppling of a regime, which is a huge offence. This is something that western countries are promoting and making customary all over the world, and thus they interfere wherever they wish to do so, and open a human rights book.

Iran is a country where lawyers are respected just like citizens. An individual who is the lawyer of an accused individual must pursue the legal matters of the accused and not go from capital to capital and hold interviews. This is an offence and taking advantage, and today people like these who abuse the law practice

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An individual who is the lawyer of an accused individual must pursue the legal matters of the accused and not go from capital to capital and hold interviews

”



are labelled human rights defenders. Unfortunately defending oneself against terrorism has also become a human rights issue. For example when members of Pejak, who have killed and maimed many people are punished for their crimes, we are faced with extensive protests that claim Iran is punishing ethnic Kurds. Consider this that the first deputy president of the country is a Kurd.

Furthermore the west defends any individual that defames and insults the prophet of Islam, while Islamophobia cannot be the focal point of support for human rights. The Islamic Republic of Iran’s strategy is that we must have active international and human rights participation in rights that are evolving. In this regard the High Council for Human Rights of the Judiciary sees it as its duty to support nongovernmental organizations in this regard.



With regards to executions in Iran it must be said that it is an issue that is much more carefully considered than it is in the United States. Therefore human rights must not become a tool for fighting cultures of different countries. As for the stoning scheme which the west today deems it a violation of human rights, it must be said that it's fake and is a publicity stunt for the west; because the subject of human rights supersedes the types of punishments that each country has in its laws, to be able to cover. Iran welcomes the marking of a day in the name of human rights. But it must be noted that exploitations are taken in the human rights that must be spoken about. It is necessary for us to know that one of the main things that the west exploit human rights with is the domination of the secularism ideology and pressuring people, and another concentration is pretext of human rights in the war on terror. This war on terror goes to such extents that Majid Shahriari and Masoud Ali Mohammadi are assassinated and martyred.”

**Mohammad Rajae Moghadam,
Representative from UNIC in Iran**

The next speaker was Mr. Mohammad Rajae Moghadam, representing UNIC in Iran who read out UN Secretary General's message for the day, which is as follows:

Human rights are the foundation of freedom, peace, development and justice -- and the heart of the work of the United Nations around the world.

Laws to protect and promote human rights are indispensable. But quite often, progress



comes down to people... courageous women and men... striving to protect their own rights and the rights of others... determined to make rights real in people's lives.

It is these human rights defenders to whom we dedicate this year's observance of Human Rights Day.

Defenders are a diverse group. They might be part of a civil society organization, a journalist or even a lone citizen, spurred to action by abuses close to home.

But they all share a commitment to expose wrongdoing, protect the most vulnerable and end impunity. They stand up, speak out -- and today they tweet -- in the name of freedom and human dignity.

Human rights defenders play a vital role in the fight against discrimination. They investigate violations and help victims gain justice

and support.

Far too often, their work entails tremendous risk.

Defenders are harassed, stripped of their jobs and wrongfully imprisoned. In many countries, they are tortured, beaten and murdered.

Their friends and family members are also subjected to harassment and intimidation.

Women human rights defenders face additional risks, and therefore need additional support.

This Human Rights Day is an occasion to salute the courage and achievements of human rights defenders everywhere – and to pledge to do more to safeguard their work.

States bear the primary responsibility to protect human rights advocates. I call on all States to ensure the freedom of expression and the freedom of assembly that make their work possible.

When the lives of human rights advocates are endangered, we are all less secure.

When the voices of human rights advocates are silenced, justice itself is drowned out.

On this Human Rights Day, let us be inspired by those seeking to make our world more just. And let us remember that everyone -- no matter their background, training or education -- can be a human rights champion.

So let us use that power. Let us each be a human rights defender.

Mr. Pierre Ryter ICRC Representative in Iran



The next speaker was ICRC Representative in Iran Mr. Pierre Ryter who said: Dear guests, please allow me to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of this event for inviting the International Committee of the Red Cross and making me part of it. I would also like to specially thank the ODVV director Mr. Rahpeik and also his predecessor Mr. Taheri for the cooperation we've



had since 2004.

One hundred years ago Henri Dunant passed away. The founder of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the first Nobel Peace Prize winner had his life changed in 1859 on the battlefields of Solferino in Northern Italy when he witnessed the horrors of war and discovered the common humanity of all of its victims. His first action was to take humanitarian initiatives in favour of the sick, wounded and dead and then he wrote about his experience. His book *Memory of Solferino* is a starting point of what has developed International Humanitarian Law and modern humanitarian action. In 1863, together with a group of Geneva philanthropists he promoted his ideas through the International Committee of the Red Cross. Ever since the ICRC alongside with national societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent is promoting humanity as the core value and the core principle of humanitarian law and humanitarian action. In order to be accepted by all in a world that is divided along political, social and economic lines the ICRC has to be neutral, impartial and independent.

To promote humanity in the non-partisan way has not been an easy task in the 20th Century and today it remains very challenging. In many parts of the post 9/11 world feelings of insecurity are undermining humanitar-



ian values. When security comes first ICRC's neutral, independent humanitarian action is not easy to uphold, but it is all the more necessary.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran hundreds of thousands of people are still suffering from the consequences of the eight years of war with Iraq. Twenty-two years after the end of active hostilities many victims of mines, chemical gas and other indiscriminate weapons have to be under continuous care. Meanwhile, renewed efforts are made to bring to the families news about people missing or killed in action. In October 2010, a first working session of the Tripartite Committee – Iran, Iraq and the ICRC – was held in Geneva. Next month (January 2011) Iranian and Iraqi authorities will meet in Tehran to discuss practical ways to start joint excavation and exhumation work. This process shows a deep respect for the human dignity missing people and of their families.

This year celebrations marked the twentieth anniversary of the global repatriation of Iranian and Iraqi prisoners of war. On these occasions former POWs underlined in the Geneva Conventions which may have failed to protect them against all forms of ill-treatment but have succeeded in keeping them close to their families during their captivity

through the exchange of Red Cross messages and in bringing them home once the war was over. In Qom, the ICRC is involved in an in-depth dialogue with religious circles. Through this dialogue it becomes more and more apparent that the International Humanitarian Law has deep roots in the fertile grounds of Islam. At a time when indiscriminate acts of violence affect the population of many countries in the region, it is essential to unite all efforts to put an end to the violations of universal rules.

As a consequence of the regional situation Iran is hosting a very large number of migrants who cannot find security in their home countries. Upon the invitation by the authorities the ICRC is going next year to support the activities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society in favour of the most vulnerable among these migrants who have access to public service but do not have financial resources to pay for them. On this International Human Rights Day, I would like to conclude by stressing the importance of dialogue. In Iran many individuals and many governmental and nongovernmental organizations are eager to exchange on their experience and expertise. In the ICRC we feel privileged to work with so many partners who are driven by the need to protect human life and human dignity. To all of you thank you.



Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mozafari
Director of the Centre for Dialogue
among Religions and Civilizations



As the next speaker, Dr. Mozafari’s speech was entitled: International Human Rights Mechanism: Damages and Problems. “the human rights mechanism has been exploited by domineering nations, and they use this mechanism as a tool for their own interests. In this regard the damages inflicted upon human rights mechanism can turn into the kidnapping of human rights by powers, lack of honesty in countries with regards to approaching human rights and the use of human rights mechanism by domineering states for their interests can be mentioned.

It must be said that the human rights mechanism has itself turned into a problem where the lack of practicality in this mechanism, the excessive expansion of its documentation, the bureaucracy debate, and forgetting the nature of the human rights mechanism can all be mentioned.

Presently the international human rights situation is such that this mechanism is faced with country leaders who either do not legislate laws and or present new interpretations and or make exceptions.

Following the end of the Second World War, some western governments such as the Soviet Union, United States and Great Britain opposed the mention of the term human rights in

the UN Charter, and also the establishment of the Commission on Human Rights, and also during the ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights there were some obstructions from European countries and the United States, which continued on during the ratification of the Covenants.

Dr. Kamran Hashemi Director of
the Human Rights and Cultural Diversity
Centre of NAM



The next speaker Dr. Kamran Hashemi said: “with regards to human rights we are face with rich literature from other countries for the last sixty years for which norms were created. But the role of the Third World and the Muslim World has been missing and western governments have tried to omit the Muslim World from paper.

With regards to human rights the thing that we can say is that benefits can be made from Islamic and Iranian culture for the enrichment of the universality of human rights (something that has hardly been utilised). With attention to some verses from the Koran that are based on the protection of the destitute and war in the name of God, one of the most important debates in the human rights mechanism in protection of the destitute, a subject which clearly is evident in versus of the Koran and Islamic culture. In fact human rights debates are mixed with our blood.

“

In past years bloody small and large scale wars took place for individual or a collective of countries' interests.

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**Dr. Mahmoudreza Golshanpazhooh
Researcher and Member of ODVV
Board of directors**



One of the current methods of reviewing the human rights situation of the world is the use of the science of creative thinking science. In this science and with the use of “six thinking hats”, the founder of

which was Edward de Bono. Coloured hats are used as metaphors for each state. Switching to a state is symbolized by the act of putting on a coloured hat, either literally or metaphorically. These metaphors allow for more complete and elaborate segregation of the states than the preconceptions inherent in people's current language. All of these thinking hats help for thinking more deeply. The six thinking hats indicate problems and solutions about an idea or a product you might come up with. Furthermore, Dr de Bono asserts that these states are associated with distinct chemical states of the brain. Questions (White) - considering purely what information is available, what are the facts? Emotions (Red) - instinctive gut reaction or statements of emotional feeling (but not any justification).

Bad points judgment (Black) - logic applied to identifying flaws or barriers, seeking mismatch.

Good points judgment (Yellow) - logic applied to identifying benefits, seeking harmony

Creativity (Green) - statements of provoca-

tion and investigation, seeing where a thought goes

Thinking (Blue) - thinking about thinking

1 – Four out of nine UN Conventions are specifically on discriminatory issues, and this shows the importance of the meaning of discrimination (in various areas such as children, women, religion, race, the disabled, workers, migrants) in today's world

2 – These international conventions often are welcomed by the international community and have become implementable. Nonetheless some countries have still not made commitments to these treaties.

3 – The existence of a lot of evidence regarding the entrance of politicization of human rights, such as legitimate doubts as to seeing an unclear and uncertain future of human rights. Also the existence of numerous human rights violations of claimant states (some of which were pointed out the distinguished guests here) all indicate the extent of injustice in the development and promotion of human rights at the international level.

4 – Alongside the dark and negative instances in human rights, the continuation of the activities of the UN, human rights defenders and the step by step improvement of the Universal Review and monitoring (an example of which is in the replacement of discriminatory resolutions against specific countries, with the UPR mechanism), are points that show in the global efforts for the improvement of human rights, we cannot just say there are weak points and there is despair, but we must also say that there are positive methods to this aim too.



5 – It seems that alongside the present process in the improvement of human rights conditions, we must pay further values for the promotion of a common understanding through constructive dialogue and interaction. Alongside the holding of roundtables and sittings on bilateral or multilateral human rights dialogues among nations, can be an initiative by UN agencies in Iran, and by holding meetings and workshops with presence of different countries' representatives in Iran to share other countries' achievements and experiences with each other, and for the conclusions of these sittings to be published in the UNDP and UNHCR web pages, as initiatives for the promotion of dialogue and exchange of experiences in a friendly and cooperative atmosphere and not in a criticizing atmosphere, for UN organs in New York and Geneva to be informed.

Fatemeh Ashrafi Director of Association for Protection of Refugee Women and Children



In past years bloody small and large scale wars took place for individual or a collective of countries' interests. But today wars take place in the name of peace and the realisation of human rights. In the shadows of war and in the name of peace, freedom of women, search for WMD in Iraq, fundamentalism in Afghanistan and Yemen, not only peace, human rights and democracy

were not established in these countries, but the daily increasing interference of foreign powers in the domestic issues of the regional countries, the indiscriminate killings done by insurgents, have all increased insecurity and chaos more than ever before. Terror attacks, bombings and the killing of innocent civilians have become such common occurrences that the original objectives of the wars have been forgotten. But war in the name of peace and human rights has left huge fatalities for the people of the region. In Iraq today, 4 million people that include 2 million internally displaced and 2 million refugees all over the world are in search of safe shelters. Children make up more than half the 1.5 million population of Gaza. Up to 3 January 2009, according to figures given by the Palestinian Health Ministry, out of 550 people killed and 2800 injured during the Gaza conflict, 70 children were among the dead and at least 650 injured. Therefore the effects of war under any pretext not only does it not result in democracy, peace and the realisation of human rights, but has gone further and affects women and children's mental and physical health more deeply than before.

We cannot speak of peace and human rights when we have shut our eyes against women and children's needs, where although the path for their repatriation back to their countries has been paved but physical safety is their only option in remaining in the most appalling poverty, hungry conditions, in isolation and deprived of education. We should guard human rights for all irrelevant of gender, race, religion and nationality, and practice deep tol-



erance and conciliation within ourselves and society. Human rights is a process that must be institutionalised within every one of us.

Alireza Taheri Member of ODDV Board of Directors

At the end of the ceremony Mr. Alireza Taheri, member of ODDV board of directors said: “Over 60 years have passed since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human



Rights. Human rights documents have been codified by states, and yet no attempts have

taken place by dominant states to improve human rights, and every day in all corners of the world we witness the physical and mental abuse and homelessness of millions of people.

The biggest document regarding the above is the Rome Statute, and it can be observed that in this document the thing that it has an imperative aspect, and the acceptance of this document by states, and to implement these documents. In reality, the things that the other esteemed speakers said led me to the point that one of the words that we must choose for the world today is the age of paradoxes, because in this age the thing that occurs is that in the name of security, human rights and democracy is oppression and the violation of human rights.

On one hand people damage the environment and from the other hand governments damage nature. What can help us to remedy the situation is for us to put in our working agenda human rights education, and this is mostly seen in human rights NGOs. They have the duty to educate human rights in the most beautiful way. I hope the day comes that we have a world without violence, torture and discrimination.





Iran's Media and Human Rights – Questions of Access and Diversity



Dr Janet Blake*

* Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law and an academic member of the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Peace and Democracy, University of Shahid Beheshti, Tehran.

Introduction – Country Background

Iran is a vast country covering a total area of 1,648,000 km² with a total population of ca. 73,000,000 people, two-thirds of whom live in urban areas. Significantly, young people aged 20-24 account for 12.5 percent of the population and the proportion of the population aged below 15 and over 65 years is 25 and 5 percent, respectively. The human development index (HDI) for the Islamic Republic of Iran was 0.759 in 2005 which ranked it 94th out of 177 countries. The human development index (HDI) of UNDP is a development measurement that looks beyond GDP to a broader definition of well-being, providing a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life; being educated; and having a decent standard of living. Although it does not measure concepts like respect for human rights and political freedoms, it does allow us to view human progress in a country and at least two out of these three dimensions have a direct relevance to the role of media in society. Between 1980 and 2007 Iran's HDI rose by 1.23% annually from 0.561 to 0.782 today, which gives the country a rank of 88th out of 182 countries with data.

“Despite urbanization being deeply rooted in the history of Iran, it has expanded rapidly during the modernization process and has accelerated over the last fifty years”

As is noted further below, Iran is a country that boasts a high degree of ethnic and linguistic diversity with only 51% of the population speaking the official language (Persian) as their mother tongue and the next largest language (Azeri) being spoken by 26% as their mother tongue. Generally speaking, ethnic and linguistic differences run in parallel with each other and are not related primarily with religious diversity since 98% of the population is Muslim, with approximately 90% of them Shi'ite Muslims. This degree in terms of ethnic and linguistic diversity clearly presents a challenge to the country's media and is therefore a question addressed further below. Furthermore,

The 1989/1990 Constitution that currently applies refers in its Preamble to the media, stating that: "The mass-communication media, radio and television, must serve the diffusion of Islamic culture in pursuit of the evolutionary course of the Islamic Revolution. To this end, the media should be used as a forum for healthy encounter of different ideas, but they must strictly refrain from diffusion and propagation of destructive and anti-Islamic practices ..."

Moreover, the goals of the Constitution as set out in Article 3 include "raising the level of public awareness in all areas, through the proper use of the press, mass media, and other means". In these provisions of the Constitution, we see evidence of support for

the notion of diversity in the media (but within the framework of the Islamic system) as well as the public education role of the media that, in itself, assumes widespread access to the mass media.

Access to the Media

In relation to the question of access to the media, there are some important socio-economic indicators and infrastructural elements that need to be considered alongside the legislative framework.

Urbanization

Despite urbanization being deeply rooted in the history of Iran, it has expanded rapidly during the modernization process and has accelerated over the last fifty years. It increased gradually from 18 percent in 1921 to around 31 percent in 1956 and rose rapidly thereafter to reach 68.5 percent in 2006. Thus, the rate of urbanization has grown more than two-fold over the last fifty years and the population of urban areas in the country has risen six times, increasing from around six million to 48 million with an average annual growth rate of 4.3 percent. This trend will continue and it is expected to reach 75 percent in 2021 and will continue to increase gradually thereafter. This upward trend is reflected throughout all the provinces, but there remain significant differences between provinces in terms of their rate of urbanization. For instance, this rate in 2006 was 94 percent in Qom Province and only 47 percent in Hormozgan Province.

Another aspect of the dynamic nature of urbanization in Iran is the increase in the number of cities, which increased from 199 in 1956 to 1012 in 2006. This growth has recently been more significant with 400 cities added in the last decade. Tehran, Mashhad, Isfahan, Tabriz, Shiraz, Ahvaz, Ghom and Kermanshah are the eight largest cities in Iran and comprised around 40 percent of the country's urban population in 1996; the population of Tehran alone is equal to the population of the other seven largest cities all together and in 2006, the total population of Tehran was equivalent to that living in 822 of the country's small cities.

Literacy and education

The direct connection between literacy and access to ICT and media is made explicit in UNESCO's

2003 Recommendation on Cyberspace. In 1986, 62% of the 6+ population was literate and this has currently risen to 84.6%. Men's literacy is 88.7% while that of women is 80.3%. The Human Development Report of 2007-08, however, puts the ratio of women's literacy to men at 0.87 among adults aged 15 and above and 0.99 among youths aged 15-24, with 96.7% of the women in this latter age group are literate. Sistan and Baluchistan and Kurdistan Provinces have the lowest rates of literacy among adults and the highest literacy gaps between women and men in 1996-2006; Tehran Province is ranked highest in this regard (Statistical Centre of Iran and UN-FPA, 2007). It is worth noting that the growth rate of adult literacy among women and in urban areas is proportionately higher than that among men and in rural areas (11.3% and 17% compared to 7.6% and 12%).

In terms of the education indicators relevant to the Millenium Development Goals, these also confirm such a finding. They show the net enrolment of girls in Iran in 2004 to have been 88% for primary and 76% in secondary schools and the ratio of the enrolment of girls to boys in primary and secondary was 99% and 94%. At the tertiary stage, this ratio becomes 1.10 and so shows a higher degree of female to male university students who now comprise about 67% of first-degree university entrants.

The Internet

One of the most striking statistical facts concerning Iran is the growing number of Internet users in the country, a fact that cannot be underestimated in terms of its significance both for access to media but also for other media-related human rights. In view of the Iranian socio-political context and technological situation exceptional progress has been made both in hard and software technology. This has led to a significant decrease in the price of accessing the Internet, greater variety in Internet services with both ADSL/broadband and wireless available now and a huge increase in the number of users.

Chapter 4 of the national 4th 5YDP entitled "Knowledge-based Development" contains some articles relevant to policy-making in this sector. Article 44 calls on the Government to create an information society and provide safe and cheap accessibility for citizens to the necessary information by actions

“ One of the most striking statistical facts concerning Iran is the growing number of Internet users in the country ”

such as: supporting investment in the production and distribution of all information in Persian in the computer domain; and developing the communications infrastructure in partnership with the private and cooperative sectors. The role of ICT in education is recognised in Article 52 that requires the Government to guarantee equal educational opportunities, especially in less developed areas and to spread knowledge and skills for the quantitative and qualitative improvement of public education. Among the measures aimed at achieving this is the exploitation of ICT in educational programmes and curricula for all levels and equipping all schools in the country with computer facilities and an information network. Moreover, the Government should: provide the necessary facilities for access to high-speed broadband communications; establish network communities and support a networking economy; and increase the rate of penetration of fixed and mobile telecommunications and Internet connections in the country to reach at least 50%, 35% and 30% of the total population of the country, respectively. The following statistics reflect substantial achievements made in this area during the life-time of the Plan (2005-2009).

In 2006, there were estimated to be 11,000,000 Internet users in Iran, by 2008 there were 23,000,000 and by 2010 there are an estimated 30,000,000+ users. Such a rapid increase in Internet use obviously reflects a policy of increasing access to internet connectivity in Iran and this answers to the following articles of the 4th 5-Year Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan ('4th 5YDP') and international standards. In 2006, 7,421,000 people had access to personal computers which will have expanded significantly since that date. It is also worth noting that Internet use is widespread throughout the country,

even in villages, and is put to a variety of social, political, administrative, communication, scientific uses etc. This has given it a very important social role in Iran, especially in the realm of politics where electronic government was a main political slogan in the 2009 presidential election for all the candidates.

Although the internet first entered the lives of urban middle-class Iranians in the late 1990s its use in Iran expanded only after 2001, when the Unicode system made typing in Persian possible and when owning a computer and connecting to the Internet became technically easier and more affordable. As a new form of public space in Iran, weblogs have found many meanings, in particular for Iranian youth and women, who are using blogs as a means of self-expression. They have become a key space for discussing subjects traditionally not openly mentioned in Iranian society. Many Iranian blogs have provided a platform for discussion and debate in a vibrant political environment.

Widespread use of the Internet as a tool and medium of communication has led to familiarity with different life styles and ideas and, in particular, awakened an increasing sense of the importance of human rights. The creation of information communities, especially among young people, also provides a very good means of for information exchange. Despite some government and legal restrictions on citizens' access to the Internet (blocking certain sites, slowing down the connection etc.), the creation of these communities in recent years has played a leading role in contemporary Iranian society. One notable impact of

increased Internet access has been to create change in citizens' attitudes towards their own and others' rights. One interesting example of this is the Kurdish minority's cyber information communities which are introducing themselves to others via their own language (literally and culturally) and their cultural, social and natural heritages. The Internet has and will continue to have a major role to play in the creation of a human rights culture in Iran through its social and political effects.

The Press

The main daily newspapers currently being published in Iran are: Aftab-e Yazd, Al-Vefagh (in Arabic), An-Nahar (in Arabic), Ettelaat-International, Hamshahri, Iran, Iran Daily (in English), Iran News (in English), Jâme Jam, Jomhourī Eslami, Keyhan, Khabar Varzeshi, Khorasan, Quds, Sharq, Resalat and Tehran Times (in English). There are also various a weekly and monthly papers and magazines as well as provincial newspapers. All newspapers operate within the Islamic framework but they do not simply endorse every programme of central government and do contain critical views.

In terms of the most relevant international human rights standards to the press, most emphasis is placed, naturally on the issue of freedom of expression. Legislating for the press in Iran is not a new phenomenon, and the 1906 Constitution of Iran set out rights and duties associated with the press, stating that: "All press activities are free except for those that are harmful to the public [interest] and to reli-





gion. Any censorship of the press is forbidden and when anything is found published in any of the press that contravenes the Press Law, it should be punished according to that law.” It went on to provide that “any well-known author residing in Iran should be protected from any harmful act.”

In the current Constitutional Law (adopted in 1989/1990), the main principle dealing with freedom of the press is as follows:

Publications and the press have freedom of expression except when it is detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam or the rights of the public. The details of this exception will be specified by law. (Principle 24)

Another relevant provision of the Constitution is Principle 9 that states:

... No individual, group, or authority, has the right to infringe in the slightest way upon the political, cultural, economic, and military independence or the territorial integrity of Iran under the pretext of exercising freedom. Similarly, no authority has the right to abrogate legitimate freedoms, not even by enacting laws and regulations for that purpose, under the pretext of preserving the independence and territorial integrity of the country.

What is interesting to note here is that the limitation placed on ‘freedom’ in the first part is balanced by a requirement on the authorities not to act *ultra vires* and “abrogate legitimate freedoms”. This article, then, typifies the complicated balancing act that lies at the heart of the exercise of the freedom of the press in any State.

The main legislation that addresses press crimes is the Press Law of 1985 (amended in 1999 and 2009) as well as Principle 168 of the Constitution that provides for “press offences” to be tried by juries estab-

lished in each provincial capital and in open court. Although an important safeguard, the vague definition of such “press offences” has meant that they are frequently heard in closed session in the Revolutionary or Clerical Courts.

The main provisions of the 1985 Press Law are as follows:

- Any newspaper requires a licence to operate and the licence-holder is the Managing Director of the newspaper.

- Both the Managing Director and individual journalists (under a 1999 amendment) are held criminally liable for what they print

- The press must comply with decisions of the National Security Council (not a legislative body *per se*)

- Press and political offences juries exist in all provincial capitals

- From November 2001, Article 1 has been extended to cover electronic websites (which also need a licence to operate and therefore a licence-holder who is legally liable).

Although this recent amendment of November 2009 brings news websites and their journalists under the strict controls of the Press Law, it can also be seen to provide protection to journalists as well by bringing them within a regulated system. Certain public domain press offences are set out in the press law and penal code.

- Publishing secret government documents.

- Publishing secret defence documents.

- Publishing accounts of *in camera* sessions of trials.

- Publishing accounts of *in camera* sessions of Parliament.

- Publishing something “against public dignity” (a

All radio and television broadcasting is controlled by the government and television and radio stations exist in Tehran and the major provincial cities

rather broad notion that is at the discretion of prosecutors).

- Defamation of public authorities and/or sacred affairs.

- Inciting crimes against public security.

- Publishing propaganda against the Islamic Republic.

As well as the question of freedom of expression, rights to privacy and non-defamation are also important. Under Iranian law (mostly the Press Law and the Penal Code), the following are treated as press crimes against individuals:

- Defamation where through the publication of anything (including images, graphic images etc.) that causes humiliation and is harmful to the reputation of an individual with the writer's own awareness and intention.

- Libel where an allegation is published and there is insufficient evidence to support it.

- The crime of "spreading falsehoods", i.e. to report something that is untrue – this is (probably intentionally) not clearly defined.

- Issuing threats or revealing secrets (private individuals and others, not state secrets).

- Publishing without a licence, e.g. blogging (Art. 7(a) and 32)

Radio and TV

All radio and television broadcasting is controlled by the government and television and radio stations exist in Tehran and the major provincial cities. The main principle in the Constitution that governs radio and TV in Iran is Principle 175 under the somewhat contradictory title of "Freedom of Expression and Government Control":

(1) The freedom of expression and dissemination

of thoughts in the Radio and Television of the Islamic Republic of Iran must be guaranteed in keeping with the Islamic criteria and the best interests of the country.

(2) The appointment and dismissal of the head of the Radio and Television of the Islamic Republic of Iran rests with the Leader. A council consisting of two representatives each of the President, the head of the judiciary branch, and the Islamic Consultative Assembly shall supervise the functioning of this organization.

(3) The policies and the manner of managing the organization and its supervision will be determined by law.

The 4th 5YNDP contains some article of relevance to setting policy for the media in Chapter 9 that deals with Cultural Development. For example, Article 104 requires the Government to "prove the quality of cultural goods and services" inter alia by taking "the necessary measures to support real and legal persons who are active in the legal development of cultural, artistic and journalistic spaces within digital or network environments ... [including] ... preparing the conditions for delivering audiovisual programmes through cable networks and authorised satellite channels". More generally, Article 116 calls on the Government to guarantee the rights of creators of cultural and artistic works and provide job security for the producers of culture, artists, journalists and writers. In relation to respecting the country's ethnic diversity (see below), Article 109(e) requires the Government to "strengthen the interactions between ethnic cultures and languages with the national culture and introduce the different aspects of ethnic cultures on the national level to consolidate national unity, especially in the country's educational system, the media and in the production of cultural and artistic products".

There are seven main TV channels, of which one is a 24-hour news channel and one serves the local province and is based in the provincial capital city. Apart from showing several foreign import films, serials and documentaries (from many different countries, including Italy, Germany, South Korea and Australia), there is a strong indigenous production of television and cinema films and other documentary, news and magazine-style programming. There has also been an attempt in recent years to set more TV

serials in areas outside Tehran and, in particular, in areas where ethnic minorities are the majority population. International human rights standards explicitly recognise the educative role of the media. The Iranian state TV (as the most effective medium in a country where oral culture remains the most immediate form of communication) fulfils this role through a variety of public education campaigns on road safety and public health issues, for example. The latter have included campaigns on disease prevention and drug abuse and have tackled both of these difficult topics in an open and direct manner. It also fulfils this educative role through its children's programming that has a strongly educational content and there is also a TV channel dedicated to 'open university' style teaching for adults.

There is a wide diversity of radio stations both in the capital and in each provincial centre, with several radio stations operating in local languages as well as Persian-language ones. The radio stations (broadcasting in Persian) include ones for youth, health matters, sports news, parliamentary debates as well as general news and magazine programming.

Unfortunately, statistical information on access to other areas of the media is a bit sketchy. UNESCO has provided some information for Iran as regards culture and communications, which gives a figure of 244 cinemas country-wide in 2005 (or 3.5 cinemas per 1000 inhabitants) and a total number of books produced in 1999 as 14,783. Of course, the cinemas are generally concentrated in urban areas and, in particular, provincial centres. What is interesting to note here, however, is that the Iranian cinemas almost exclusively show Iranian-made (Persian language) films and this has resulted in a very strong indigenous film industry that has also been internationally recognised for the quality of some of its films.

Diversity in the Media

Ethnic and linguistic diversity

One of the most striking characteristics of the population of Iran is its ethnic and linguistic diversity. Persians (i.e. Fars people) constitute 51% of Iran's population and tend to dominate the central government of Iran. However, Iran is a country of high ethnic and linguistic diversity and it is therefore a major challenge for the media to respond to this fact effectively. In terms of ethnic groups, 51% of the



One of the most striking characteristics of the population of Iran is its ethnic and linguistic diversity



country's population are Persian, 24% Azeri, 8% Gilaki and Mazandarani, 7% Kurd, 3%, Arab, 2% Lori, 2%, Baluch, 2%, Turkmen and 1% from other ethnic groups. In terms of languages spoken as mother tongues, Persian and Persian dialects make up 58% of the total, Turkic and Turkic dialects 26%, Kurdish 9%, Lori 2%, Baluchi 1%, Arabic 1%, Turkish 1% and other languages 2%. In terms of population numbers, out of a total population of ca. 73 million there are over 18 million Azeris, four million Kurds, three million Arabs and 1.4 million Baluchis (all approximate numbers).

Principle 15 of the Constitution states that Persian is the official Language and script of Iran and that official documents, correspondence, and texts, as well as school text-books, must be in this language and script. However, the use of regional and tribal languages in the press and mass media, as well as for teaching of their literature in schools, is allowed in addition to that of Persian. Furthermore, Principle 19 enshrines the principle of non-discrimination, such that: "All people of Iran, whatever the ethnic group or tribe to which they belong, enjoy equal rights; colour, race, language, and the like, do not bestow any privilege". Equality before the law, full protection of the law and enjoyment of all human rights, including cultural rights "in conformity with Islamic criteria" is provided for by Principle 20.

Both TV and radio stations respond to the requirement to respect the cultural and ethnic diversity of the country by providing programming in languages other than Persian and with content appropriate to local cultures and traditions. In terms of international standards, UNESCO's Recommendation on Participation by the People at Large in Cultural Life and their Contribution to It (26 November 1976) calls in

Article 14(h) on Member States to “encourage the communication media to increase the number and variety of their programmes in order to offer the widest range of choices, bearing in mind the extreme diversity of audiences, to enhance the cultural quality of programmes intended for the public at large, to select spoken and visual languages accessible to all audiences ... and to pay special attention to the protection of national cultures from potentially harmful influences of some types of mass production”.

To this end, there are TV and radio stations in every provincial capital (ca. 40 in total) and they are instructed to work equally in the local as well as the national language and culture. These locally-produced programmes should be professionally directed in a way that people can understand that their local language and/or culture are fully respected. The TV stations based in Azerbaijan, Kurdistan and Baluchestan broadcast some programmes in Azeri, Kurdish and Baluch languages. Moreover, there are two Arabic language channels (Al-forat and Al-ma-nar) supported by IRIB and other stations broadcasting (in Iran and overseas) in international languages, amongst these and Press TV (in English), Sahar TV (in English, Arabic, Kurdish, Urdu, French and Spanish) and Al-alam and Al-kosar (in Arabic).

In radio, there is a similar diversity of languages broadcast and IRIB is also broadcasting in more than twenty languages worldwide: Chinese, Dari , English, Armenian, Azeri , Bosnian, Japanese, Arabic, Albanian, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Georgian, Hausa, Hebrew, Urdu, French, German, Spanish, Tajik, Turkish, Kurdish, Pashtu, Russian, Kazakh and Kiswahil.

Women and the Media

Another important aspect of diversity in the media is the achievement of a gender balance. Within the constraints of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s legal system, the Iranian Government has attempted to access this goal of gender balance in the media (as set out in the Beijing Declaration) by encouraging Iranian women to participate in media activities at different levels. Such activities have included allocating decision-making positions to women in these domains and motivating women to set up NGOs in the areas of the media and networking. To this end, the Government established two strategic goals of (a) increasing women’s participation in and access to



the media and modern communication technologies and (b) promoting a balanced and non-stereotypical image of women in the media.

Measures taken to realize these two strategies include: training programmes for executive staff and producers of TV programmes; holding gender-awareness educational and cultural workshops for IRIB policymakers; organizing courses for women in production, evaluation, management, research and other media-related activities to raise public awareness of women’s issues, especially through the participation of women experts themselves; running short film festivals to support women filmmakers and highlight issues related to women in the film industry; and allocating funding to extend ICT in women’s studies.

However, there remain serious barriers to the achievement of these aims including traditional discriminatory attitudes as well as a lack of reliable information or gender-based indicators in this area. The inadequate and limited number of senior women directors and decision-makers in the media who can present a positive role-model to other women is another obstacle as is the generally stereotypical image of women. Despite these challenges, however, it is worth adding that the measures taken to achieve the aforementioned objectives resulted in a growth of 56%, 270%, and 51% in the number of female publishers, writers, and translators, respectively, in the news and media from 2000 to 2003.

Medias and Human Rights Education and Training



Azadehsadat Taheri

Introduction

Today, human rights are seen in all aspects of our life. Although this concept contains a lot of different kind of rights which sometimes bare different natures, but they have a common feature: They all fully affect the human life. Human rights standards can be considered in culture, religion, economy, art tec. In this way, far from philosophical or historical debates on origins of human rights, today we must take them into more consideration.

On the other hand, there is another important and outstanding topic which has different impacts on our lives in the modern world that we call it media. Of course new technology today helps to connect with other more. With mass Medias in today's life boarders may become meaningless.

Are they- Human Rights and medias- related to each other? How? Can the media violate the man's right or can be an advice for promoting and protecting the human rights? Giving an complete answer to this question in not easy and requires a long time and detailed explanation, so in the following pages we only take a quick glance at one relationship: The media and human rights education and training & there is another restriction too, we concentrate on television and radio as two important and effective media, so in these papers "media" stands for TVs and radio, whereas some rules and suggestions can be referred to other medias as well.

A: Relationship between Human Rights and Medias

As has been said in the past section, Human rights and Media are two outstanding elements in today's world. These two have deep effects on each other. But then how? The experiences show that the media can role play in violating human rights and it can help to promote and protect the human rights at the same time. Maybe it would realize as a paradoxical comment at first but the situation can be approved.

There are many human rights can be easily violated in the media. In this list firstly we can name freedom of opinion and expression and then the right to have access to information, the right to privacy and even human dignity. When the policy makers restrict the access to media and do not allow certain groups of society to express their opinions, it absolutely means restriction on applying the freedom of expression and when they enter the private parts of lives, it can be considered as violation of the right to privacy. Of course, in many cases the producers and policy makers don't have intention to violate human rights and they just intend to apply the inherent functions of the media- for instance giving news and analyzing them. Balancing the media functions and human rights is known to be severely hard.

In addition to what we realize as different rights related to the media, many general principles must be considered in Medias too. Equality and non-discrimination (racial discrimination or discrimination against women and etc.) is one of these general rules. Such rules must be respected in enforcing all rights and so in the Medias' programs. Then these rules and principals are another way of connection to Medias and human rights.

But at the same time the media can be useful in promoting and protecting the human rights. It is now a reality that vast majority of people all around the world prefer to spend their free time with TV shows and programs, which in result they hear the news and even base their analyses on them, so the way of dealing with human rights in the media is really important and this is the exact point that we want to speak about. TVs, ra-

dios – and of course all other similar medias- can play role as teacher and trainer for human rights. They can teach what the right means, what they contain, how they may be violated and why and how they can protect themselves against this rights violation. In this way we can speak about our definite topic:” Medias and Human Rights Education & Training”. But first of all let's clarify and explain more about human rights training and education itself.

B: Human Rights Education

Education has been formally recognized as a human right since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. This has since been affirmed in numerous global human rights treaties, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1981). Because of this importance, a Special Rapporteur has also been determined to consider the situation on right to education all over the world.

But the connection between the education and Human Right does not end up in this point. Human rights provide a framework for education and determine some criteria for it but there is also another aspect which is educating the human right itself.

“Human rights education can be defined as education, training and information aimed at building a universal culture of human rights. A comprehensive education in human rights not only provides knowledge about human rights and mechanism that protect them but also impart the skills needed to promote, defend and apply human rights in daily life. Human rights education fosters the attitudes and behaviors needed to uphold human rights for all members of society.”

Maybe now there can be seen a great agreement on human rights: many organizations have been based to monitor its implementation such as UN and its specialized agencies, many NGOs have been constituted to promote and protect it in different countries, many binding and non-bind-



ing instruments have been issued on it, but are these activities sufficient? Are the agreements in the governmental level and in the high level Task Forces and conferences sufficient for elimination violation against human rights?

It seems that the answer to all those questions is negative. Implementation of human rights as its first step requires knowing about it. When people know their rights, they will demand it. If they exactly don't know what the human rights are, then how would they show reaction against their violation? Far from all scientific debates about most effective legal safeguards and mechanisms for protecting human rights, it seems that people themselves are the most important ones. So it is not far beyond the reality if we name the human rights education as the first step to ensuring human rights in different societies. Moreover, when people become to know human rights and their benefits, gradually they respect and choose the behaviors and attitudes which ensure them.

Finally we can say "The importance of the role of human rights education in the global context of the realization of human rights cannot be ignored. Universal and effective human rights protection can only be achieved through an informed and continued demand for human rights protection by the people; only through knowing the rights of all and the means to ensure their respect can we defend and ultimately realize them. In this sense, human rights education constitutes an essential contribution to the long-term prevention of human rights abuses and an important investment towards the achievement of a just society in which all persons are valued and respected."

Considering this vital role, UN has been sensitive about human rights education for a long time. For instance the United Nations decade for Human Rights education was proclaimed in Dec '94 by the General Assembly, spanning the period 1st Jan '95 to Dec 31st '05. Also there is a World Programme for Human rights Education (2005- on going). To complete this section a brief compilation of provisions relative to human rights education in the main human rights treaties will be mentioned below:



1- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Article 13:

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the rights of everyone to education. They agree that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They further agree that education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. [...].

2-Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Article 10

1. Each State Party shall ensure that education and information regarding the prohibition against torture are fully included in the training of law enforcement personnel, civil or military, medical personnel, public officials and other persons who may be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment.



To achieve a meaningful effect the educational program needs to be sustained over a period of time, involve direct and constant interaction between the trainers and the trainee



3-Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:

Article 10

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education and in particular to ensure, on the basis of equality of men and women: [...];

c) The elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels and in all forms of education by encouraging coeducation and other types of education which will help to achieve this aim and, in particular, by the revision of textbooks and school programs and the adaptation of teaching methods;[...].

4-Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29

1. States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to:

(a) The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential;

(b) The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) The development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate and for civilizations different from his or her own;

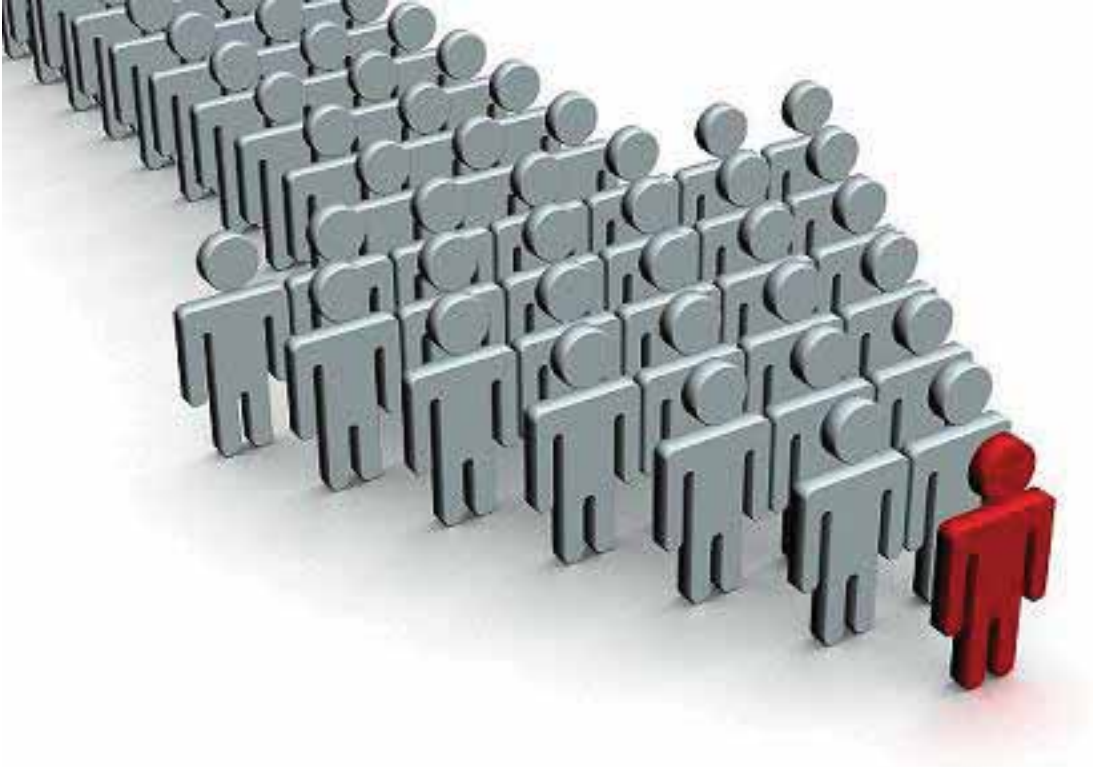
(d) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin.

c. Human Rights Education and Media

Now it is time to speak about the relationship between human rights education and Medias. As mentioned earlier, Medias can prepare good opportunities for human rights education. In this case we can imagine Medias as a classroom where different ways can be used to teach. There are two different ways and approaches in this way: direct and indirect teaching which consists of a positive and a negative approach. These aspects will be defined in the following section.

1: Direct Teaching

To achieve a meaningful effect the educational program needs to be sustained over a period of time, involve direct and constant interaction between the trainers and the trainee. In direct teaching, as the topic shows, human rights rules must be taught directly. For instance, there must be TV and radio shows in which specialized experts in human rights talk and discuss about human rights, their meaning, their history, the important and responsible institution for protecting and promoting human rights treaties and treaty bodies etc. Of course this teaching must be in an easy language so that it is understandable to everyone. In these programs there must be time to ask and answer questions. Such consultation-based programs help people to improve their knowledge on human rights free of charge for everyone. Other benefit of this way may be correcting the misunderstanding of human rights between people. As in many countries, people do



not clearly know about human rights resulting in wrong ideas and so they have no respect because of this misunderstanding, but direct questionable speech in TV or radio shows give them a chance to correct their point of view.

2: Indirect Teaching

Besides the direct teaching which helps the addressers to know their rights and obligations, there should be indirect teaching too. This kind of teaching has negative approach that means not showing anything against human rights principals and values. On the other hand, positive approach which means the producer not only prevent propagation any message, violating human rights, but also positively tries to teach them in between his/her programs:

2-1: Negative Approach

This approach requires the media not to contain the programs which violate the human rights. This violation can be in the way of giving news, dialogues and roles in movies and TV shows and even in reporting a sport game. The producer must consider the general principles (such as non discrimination, human dignity, tolerance, rights of people with disability and minorities and equality) in making programs. Based on this approach they shouldn't show and say anything against those rules and principles. For instance they shouldn't concentrate on one racial minori-

ty in joking even in comic programs, or in styling the roles in movies they have to fully consider the equality between men and women. We name this approach, negative because the policy makers and producer must not do something definite and special, they just must stop doing something. One important right which must be considered in this approach is every one's right to privacy. In giving the news and making interesting people they shouldn't miss use anyone's privacy. Of course because of wide range of media effects in today's society, non-violating can itself operate as a teacher. When there is no word or scene against human rights principles, people have less intentions to act so.

2-2: Positive Approach

It means there should be different types of program which indirectly end up in introducing and teaching human rights and what they contain. In this approach visa versa to the previous one, the involved persons must have detailed programs for human rights promotion. It means besides trying for avoiding any type of human rights violation in the media there is a positive obligation to teach and giving classified and scientific information to addressers as well, of course in a more simple and useful way. So it is not sufficient for media heads and TV show producers to violate human rights in their shows, but they should try to spread them.

In this case, for example in the movies, dramas and even in comic programs they try to encourage people to solve their problems by word instead of fighting and teach them tolerance via other opinion and beliefs. Of course this way of teaching is not only restricted to slogans but they propagandize the human dignity, non-discrimination, equality and tolerance in the shows and any other program. Even in the speaking they have to make all their efforts to follow peace and non-violation and they must use correct expression on the view of human rights standards. For example in the UN conventions we name a person with disability instead of disabled person. This term shows that all people are equal and are eligible to implement their rights and disability cannot be a reason for preventing them from such enjoyment. Using this phrase in all texts in the media indirectly leads the people to use them.

It is worth to notice that such training (indirect training) is more effective than the direct one and so it should be based on a definite and clear plan which was designed by the experts. In this case the both fields' experts (media experts and human rights experts) have to coordinate with each other to make the plan much more scientific and effective.

D: Priorities

After consideration of teaching human rights in Medias it is worth mentioning the more important cases in which we call them priorities. Of course the road to achieve the complete and satisfactory learning via Medias is not easy going and it needs a lot of time, planning and enough financial supports. But at the beginning there are priorities.

1- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

After a long term standard setting in the area of human rights now three generations for them can be named. The first one is the civil and political rights which contain right to life, freedom of opinion and expression, right to privacy etc. These rights have been protected mainly in International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The second generation which protect the right to education, adequate housing, food,



health etc have been mentioned in International Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social rights(ICECSR).

Although human rights are related to each other and integrated but in some situation it seems better to start with one. In some societies people don't have correct views on human rights, and because of lack of knowledge, they don't understand the necessity in their lives. In the context of misunderstanding in space of society, many think human rights are luxury and decorative debates which are just suitable for scholars and rich people. In order to clarify this misunderstanding and open the road of connection between people and human rights culture, they first should understand the benefits of human rights promotion in the society and its necessity. For this purpose focusing on the second generation is a good solution. Because if not accepting necessity of political and civil rights, but would never forget his right to food, house and medical care. It is clear that the civil and political rights are the basis for implementation of other rights, for instance where there is absence of freedom of expression, enforcing other rights are impossible, but it is a subjective discussion which makes it harder to realize. So especially in direct teaching when the expert wants to explain some aspects of human rights it can begin with a more subjective one that addressors can see its relationship with his/her daily life. When one realizes then he would may encourage pursuing the others as well.

2- Children

Children are like white papers, everything can be written on them, then it is better that we write human dignity and human rights which have been deprived from it on these white papers. There is no doubt that adults and children require being taught by this values and understand them but this necessity is clearer about children especially in primary school and years before. In this period, standards and norms are being shaped in the mind and if hu-

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Human rights are integrated and related to one another. they cannot and must not separated from each other

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man rights values and general principles have been learned they possibly will not change in the future. By this way, we can ensure respecting human rights in next generations as well. For this end they must learn their rights (with emphasis on Convention on the Rights of the Child) and other values and standards as well.

In between the ways discussed above, the indirect way seems to be the more suitable way for teaching children. They can learn from their favorite characters, personalities and the poems which they know off by heart. Because they haven't entered the adult life and haven't seen discriminations in the real community they can learn how to look at their friends equally and realize there aren't any differences between them even if they belong to different races, have different colors, believe in different religions etc. they can learn from their favorite personality not to fight and then hate the war in result. Finally: children learn more easier, accept new norm easier and do not stand for learning new ideas. Each child can be a good learner and a good teacher at the same time. They not only teach their friend but also sometimes can enter the human-based culture in their houses and even make their parents to respect human rights.

3- Involved Persons

When we talk about human rights education in the Medias we must know this education would only occur when the producers want it to happen. If they don't believe in the importance of human rights, they would consequently not try to teach it and make programs containing human rights standards.

For this purpose the process of education must start with policy makers, producers, writers, directors etc. Preparing guidelines and workshops can be useful.

E: Conclusions and Suggestions

Human rights are integrated and related to one another. they cannot and must not separated from each other. The way to achieve them is

difficult and long but in this way the first step is education and training. Until when human beings not know their rights and obligations, they would not try to enjoy or not to demand them. So, today many experts in human rights and related fields are seeking the best ways of human rights education. Obviously, today one of the most effective and important devices are Medias. By the improvement of technology, changes have occurred in people lives, they spend a lot of time with TVs, radios and such medias, so human rights education within this context really can promote and protect human rights. As there are direct way to teach human rights in the Medias, which try to talk to addressors directly and propagandize values, principles and standards, there are indirect ways as well. Within indirect ways we can introduce positive approach and negative approach.

In negative approach the producers of programs try not to show any human rights violation or acting or speaking against general principles and fundamental rights, but in positive approach they actually try to promote the culture of respecting human rights. In human rights education in general, and in teaching human rights in Medias specially, there are some priorities, teaching economic, cultural and social rights which are more objective and people can realize their effects on their daily lives. Another priority is children, because they can learn human rights values and norms quicker and more easily so we can ensure respecting human rights in next generations as well. But before any education in the Medias to the addressors, the people who make policies and produce the programs must believe in those norms and values, so one of important step is teaching human rights to persons involved.

Of course Human rights education via Medias is in need of coordination between many experts, specially media and human rights specialists. It is to be understood that education of Human Rights is the first step in the process of a society in which human rights are fully implemented.



Human Rights News

The 9th UPR Session



The 9th UPR session took place in Geneva in November 2010. The reports of Liberia, Malawi, Mongolia, Panama, the Maldives, Andorra, Bulgaria, Honduras, the United States of America, Marshall Islands, Croatia, Jamaica, Libya, Micronesia, Lebanon and Mauritania were reviewed.

On 9 November the Council reviewed the human rights situation in Libya. In the meeting subjects such as Libyan authorities treatment of refugees, arbitrary detentions, forced disappearances, torture, and prisons not being up to international standards.

The UPR and final report on the United States has been detailed in the practical developments section of this newsletter.

UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography Visits the United States

UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography Najat Majid Maala on a two week visit of New York, Washington DC, Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, New Orleans and Atlanta, met local, state and Federal official, NGOs and activists and visited the centre that fights this problem.

Problems such as the expansion of child pornography through the internet, and the lack of a standard central information system in this regard in the United States were some of the important issues that the Special Rapporteur discussed in the visit. He called for further social support for the victims of





these crimes and stressed on the importance of international cooperation in fighting the problem.

Pellay's Call for Investigation of Charges Proposed in the Wikileaks Documents



UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay called upon the United States and Iraq to investigate the accusations of Iraqi prisoners' abuse revealed by Wikileaks. The website released around 400 US military secret documents on the Iraq war on 19 October, which are from 2004-2009 period. The UN High Commissioner said that these documents show that US officials had been fully aware of acts of torture and mistreatment had been conducted by Iraqi forces, and yet the US handed over thousands of prisoners to the Iraqi government control.

Pellay said that the documents included details of numerous instances of US troops killing Iraqi civilians in road blocks, cases that had not been divulged before. She added that reports of serious human rights violations in Iraq with court martial executions and torture of prisoners had increased concerns. She said that US and Iraqi officials must take necessary measures to investigate all these claims and serve those responsible for unlawful killings, torture and other serious human rights violations with justice.

Wikileaks claims that the US military refrained from reporting the deaths of 15,000 Iraqi civilians during the war. These latest documents are the biggest example in the history of US top secret information.

First Meeting of the Working Group on the Performance of the HRC (25 October)

The first session of the working group on the Performance of the HRC took place on 25-29 October in Geneva. In its first session while holding debates on the Council's procedures and performance, the working group reviewed and assessed the weak and strong points of the UPR.

Within this framework, as well the presentation of the High Commissioner for Human Rights recommendations for the improvement of the UPR which included instances such as the allocation of a full working day for the review of each country, the review of 13 countries in a 3 week session and increasing each UPR from four to five years, the categorization of recommendations in the working group on the basis of subject and not country recommendations, and the enforcement of providing clear answers to recommendations, the member states and NGOs discussed and debated possible measures to increase the effectiveness of the UPR.

AI's Call Upon US Officials to Investigate Wikileaks Claims (21 October)



Amnesty International called on the United States to investigate just how much U.S. officials knew about the torture and other ill-treatment of detainees held by Iraqi security forces, following WikiLeaks' release today of new files indicating such abuse.

"We have not yet had an opportunity to study the leaked files in detail but they add to our concern that the U.S. authorities committed a serious breach



of international law when they summarily handed over thousands of detainees to Iraqi security forces -- who, they knew, were continuing to torture and abuse detainees on a truly shocking scale," said Malcolm Smart, Amnesty International's director for the Middle East and North Africa.

The new disclosures appear to closely match the findings of "New Order, Same Abuses: Unlawful Detentions and Torture in Iraq," a report published by Amnesty International in September 2010, detailing the widespread torture and other ill-treatment of detainees that Iraqi forces committed with impunity. Thousands of Iraqis who had been detained by U.S. forces were transferred from U.S. to Iraqi custody between early 2009 and July 2010 under an agreement between the United States and Iraq that contains no provisions for ensuring protection of the detainees' human rights.

Virginia Executes Teresa Lewis for Role in Slayings of Husband, Stepson in 2002



The first woman executed in the United States in five years was put to death in Virginia on Thursday for arranging the killings of her husband and a stepson over a \$250,000 insurance payment.

Teresa Lewis, 41, died by injection at 9:13 p.m. Thursday, authorities said. She became the first woman executed in Virginia in nearly a century. Supporters and relatives of the victims watched her execution at Greensville Correctional Center in Jarratt.

Lewis enticed two men through sex, cash and a promised cut in an insurance policy to shoot her husband, Julian Clifton Lewis Jr., and his son, Charles, as they slept in October 2002. Both triggermen were sentenced to life in prison and one committed suicide in 2006.

More than 7,300 appeals to stop the execution – the first of a woman in Virginia since 1912 – had been made to the governor in a state second only to Texas in the number of people it executes.

It must be said that presently 35 out of 50 States carry out the death penalty. Capital punishment is one of subjects that is left to each State to decide on its application.

UN Secretary General's Message on the International Day of Peace (21 September)



Today we observe the annual International Day of Peace – a day dedicated to ceasefire and non-violence. Peace is precious. It must be nurtured, maintained, defended.

That is why, each year on the International Day of Peace, I ring the Peace Bell at United Nations headquarters. And it is why – every day – I work for peace. I mediate between antagonists. I sound the alarm about threats – those we can see clearly, and others that lurk just over the horizon. I promote tolerance, justice and human rights, and I campaign for harmony among countries and peoples.

This year, Peace Day is dedicated to young people. This month marks the beginning of the International Year of Youth. Its theme of dialogue and mutual understanding captures the very essence of peace.

Young people today are at home with global diversity; comfortable in an interconnected world. Yet they are also vulnerable to the forces of extremism. So I say to all governments and our partners: let us do more for young people. Let us give them a world of peace and tolerance.

And I say to all young people: join us. Help us to

work for peace. You are impatient. You see what we, your elders, allow to persist, year after year: poverty and hunger; injustice and impunity; environmental degradation.

With just five years remaining to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, I ask all, young and old, to help us to find global solutions to these global problems. Share your plans and ideas, act with creativity and passion. Help us fight for peace and prosperity for all.

Five Victims of Rendition Were Denied the Opportunity to Challenge their Treatment (10 September 2010)

Of all the excesses of the post-9/11 war on terror, none was as outrageous as the practice of “extraordinary rendition” — transferring suspects abroad for interrogation and, it’s alleged, torture. Compounding the injustice, five victims of rendition were denied the opportunity to challenge their treatment in court this week when the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals blocked their lawsuit against a San Jose airline-services company accused of assisting in their transportation to foreign countries.

Overruling a three-judge panel of the same court, the 9th Circuit held 6 to 5 that allowing the suit to proceed, even on the basis of publicly revealed information, would risk the release of state secrets. Judge Raymond C. Fisher’s majority opinion agonized about the tension between national security and “justice, transparency [and] accountability.” But, in the end, the court ratified extravagant claims by the George W. Bush and Obama administrations that a trial would violate the “state secrets privilege.”

The court preempted that process by citing another court’s observation that sometimes “seemingly innocuous information is part of a ... mosaic,” so that even the use of unprivileged information creates a risk of inadvertent disclosure of state secrets.

UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances Statement on the Occasion of the International Day of the Disappeared (30 August)

In a statement to mark the International Day of the Disappeared, which is observed today, the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disap-

pearances urged States that have not yet signed and/or ratified the convention to do so as soon as possible.

The treaty defines an enforced disappearance as the arrest, detention, abduction or other form of deprivation of liberty by the State followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or the concealment of the whereabouts of the disappeared person.

The Working Group also urged the international community to continue promoting and supporting the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which was adopted in 1992.

In addition, the five-member body is urging States to define enforced disappearance as a separate and autonomous criminal offence and to bring domestic legislation in line with the declaration.



“This would significantly contribute to the prevention and eradication of this odious practice,” the group stated.

Describing enforced disappearances as “a scourge which must be eradicated,” Jeremy Sarkin, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group, said greater efforts are needed to deal with the problem.

“By employing enforced disappearances as a tactic, governments instil fear and terror into the populace. It creates confusion and panic in the society. Victims’ families may not even attempt to seek information about their loved ones out of fear that they will suffer a similar fate,” he said.

The Working Group, which was set up in 1980, strives to establish a channel of communication between the families and the governments concerned, to ensure that individual cases are investigated, with the objective of clarifying the whereabouts of persons who, having disappeared, are placed outside the





protection of the law.

In addition to Mr. Sarkin, the Group is comprised of Ariel Dulitzky of Argentina, Jasminka Dzumhur of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Olivier de Frouville of France, and Osman El-Hajjé of Lebanon.

Rise in the Number of Muslim Prisoners and the Worsening of their Conditions in US Prisons (23 August)



While the number of Muslim inmates in US prisons have increased compared to previous years, further restrictions are applied against them.

While claiming the above in a report published by the Washington Post, currently in the State of Virginia there are 2200 Muslims in prisons.

According to this report the Muslim community of the United States are subjected to discrimination and prison officials treat the inmates inappropriately. The report also details numerous instances of human rights violations in the United States and ignoring prisoners rights, and denying prisoners their rights to conduct their religious duties.

Existence of 9/11 in Terrogation Tapes Confirmed (17 August)

US officials have confirmed the existence of videotapes of the 2002 interrogation of an alleged 9/11 plotter, reportedly at a secret prison.

The tapes, which the As-



sociated Press said were found under a CIA desk, are said to show Ramzi Binalshibh at a Moroccan-run jail once used by the CIA.

But a US official downplayed their significance, saying they “show a guy sitting at a desk answering questions”.

They are said to be the only recordings from a defunct CIA secret jail network.

The US government has said the CIA destroyed 92 videotapes of interrogations of terror suspects, but the Associated Press reported two videotapes and an audiotape were discovered under a desk in 2007 at an agency office.

A CIA spokesman declined to answer questions about the tapes, but said the agency’s “past detention programme has been subject to multiple reviews by multiple government organisations under two administrations”.

‘Protecting Americans’

“Some of those examinations continue to this day, a year and a half after the programme itself went out of operation.

“The so-called black sites and enhanced interrogation methods, which were administered on the basis of guidance from the Department of Justice, are a thing of the past,” he said.

“While we continue to co-operate with inquiries into past counter-terrorism practices, the CIA’s focus now is exactly where it should be: protecting the American people now and into the future,” he told the BBC.

Meanwhile, a senior US official told the BBC: “The tapes, which were made and found years ago, show a guy sitting at a desk answering questions. That’s it, and nothing more.”

Mr Binalshibh - a Yemeni national - was named among the most wanted suspects within weeks of the 11 September 2001 attacks on the US and is now set to face charges brought by the Pentagon over the attacks.

He is currently being held at the US detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

‘Black sites’

Some say the tapes could be used to illustrate Mr Binalshibh’s mental state and his fitness to stand trial on terrorism charges.

“If those tapes exist, they would be extremely rel-



evant,” Thomas Durkin, Mr Binalshibh’s civilian lawyer, told the Associated Press.

In April 2009 the CIA said it had closed its network of “black sites” - secret prisons the Bush administration allowed it to operate on the territory of allied countries in Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa, according to media reports.

The “black sites” were used to detain terrorism suspects, some of whom were subjected to interrogation methods described by many as torture.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights message for the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples (9 August)

In her statement, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, stressed that the gap between the principles of the declaration and the reality remains wide, with indigenous peoples continuing to suffer discrimination, marginalization in health and education, extreme poverty, disregard for their environmental concerns, displacement from their traditional lands and exclusion from participation in decision-making processes.



She called for further efforts for the full implementation of the declaration and to safeguard the lives and human dignity of the indigenous people of the world.

In a statement, Professor James Anaya, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people called for serious confrontation of the international community with poverty and marginalisation of communities.

UN Names Gaza Raid Investigation Team

On 23 July, the United Nations Human Rights Council appointed a team of international experts to investigate Israel’s raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla and called on all parties to cooperate.

The fact-finding team comprises three independent experts - Sir Desmond de Silva (Britain), Karl

Hudson-Phillips (Trinidad and Tobago) and Mary Shanthi Dairiam (Malaysia), a UN statement said.

The 47-country Council voted to set up the independent inquiry on June 2nd to look into what it called violations of international law in Israel’s commando attack in May in which nine Turkish pro-Palestinian activists were killed.

“The expertise, independence and impartiality of the members of the mission will be devoted to clarifying the events which took place that day and their legality,” said Thailand’s ambassador Sihasak Phuangketkeow, current Council president.

“We call upon all parties to fully cooperate with the mission and hope that this mission will contribute to peace in the region and justice for the victims,” he said.

The Israeli navy stormed the flotilla on May 31st, killing eight Turks and a Turkish-American on board a Turkish ship.

Israel said its commandos acted in self-defence and has rejected calls for an international inquiry into the raid.

But Pakistan and Sudan led a move by Muslim countries at the UN human rights body, where they hold an effective majority, to condemn the raid as outrageous and demand “full accountability and credible independent inquiries”.

The UN team is expected to travel to Israel, Turkey and Gaza in August to interview witnesses and gather information before reporting back to the Council in September. The Council opens a three-week session in Geneva on September 12th.

It was not yet clear whether Israel - which has a long history of rejecting UN probes as one-sided - would cooperate and allow the team to visit, according to UN sources.

A separate Israeli military inquiry released on July 12th found intelligence and operational errors in the raid but defended the use of force.

Mr De Silva is a former chief war crimes prosecutor at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mr Hudson-Phillips is a former judge at the International Criminal Court who also served as attorney-general of Trinidad and Tobago.

Ms Shanthi Dairiam is a Malaysian women’s rights activist working in UN and Asian regional forums.

ODVV

Activities

Education Workshop on How to Get Consultative Status From ECOSOC ◀◀



On Monday 11 October the second education workshop on how to get consultative status from ECOSOC was held by the ODVV NGO's Training and Capacity-building Centre for 20 NGOs representatives at the ODVV conference hall. The participants were introduced to ECOSOC NGOs committee and its duties, its office, and the communication network of NGOs, the concept and the way in which consultative status was acquired, and eligibility for consultative status. This one day workshop concluded with a Q&A session and the participants were presented with certificates of attendance.

»» Participation in the 15th Session of the HRC

The 15th Session of the Human Rights Council took place between 22 September and 1 October in Geneva, Switzerland. As well as debating and reviewing the 10 working agenda of the Council, the special rapporteurs and special procedures representatives presented their reports. Just like previous sessions, the ODVV actively participated in this session and presented 5 written statements and read 9 oral statements. The ODVV also held 2 sidelines panels, had a meeting with the head of the working group on mercenaries, and hosted by the Friends of Justice Association, and also distributed ODVV newsletters and annual reports which reflected the human rights activities and developments in the nongovernmental sector.



» Commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery

The commemoration was held in the form of a technical sitting organized by the ODVV and the Advanced International Studies Centre of Law and Political Sciences College of Tehran University on 22 December in the conference hall of the Centre.

Human trafficking, review of the human trafficking phenomenon, and extent of trafficking in women throughout the world, the acute health effects of human trafficking, causes and challenges, social and cultural solutions were all subjects that were proposed and discussed by the speakers of this commemoration ceremony.

Community Based Awareness Raising on GBV Prevention Project



This project was implemented in the autumn of 2010, through the signing of a trilateral contract between the ODVV, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant's Affairs (BAFIA). The aim in the implementation of this project was to present mechanisms that can provide answers to Gender Based Violence (GBV). The main addressees were made up of 100 individuals from the Afghan legal community of Shahr-e-Rey, who were introduced to ways to prevent GBV. Also cooperating with the project were Shahr-e-Rey key officials made up of 20 Governmental Organization (GO), NGO and Community Based Organization (CBO) representatives. The project stages included coordination sitting, information dissemination sitting, group discussion sessions, strategic planning education course, reduction of GBV and introduction to various facilitation methods.

CBT Principles and Generalities Education Course

This course was held for a group of psychiatrists, and therapists from May to October in 60 hours, in theoretic and practical methods with showing videos. The aim of holding this course was to introduce the participants with the Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) concepts and their empowerment for applying CBT in treating mental disorders such as depression and anxiety. The participants learned the generalities (theories and concepts), evaluation, formulisation and modality, introduction of the components of the sessions and implementation of the sessions, communication therapy, domestic chores, and cognitive behavioural techniques in mental disorders.



IRCT meeting – Copenhagen, Denmark



The elected members of the IRCT meeting took place on 9-10 October in Copenhagen. Representatives from across the world attended this 2 day event which took place in the Danish Medical Association. The IRCT which is a decision making body is made up of 26 members from different parts of the world and 3 independent experts (jurists). The main objective of the Council is to regulate and monitor the application of IRCT policies and also the facilitation of the activities of this global network. The members of the Council are elected regionally, and this is why the primary objective of the members is to monitor the implementation of the rules and policies of the Network in their region. Also the members must identify the challenges and successes in their region and propose them.

From the ODVV, Mr. Alireza Taheri who had been elected as the rehabilitation centre representative for the Middle East and North Africa region was present alongside 2 other elected members of the region, and presented their regional views.

Overall while introducing the framework of IRCT's strategies for 2010-2014, in this meeting the existing problems and challenges were also reviewed. The representatives of each compiled the draft of their regional strategies as part of reaching a single global strategy. Numerous work groups were also formed during this 2 day meeting.

Following the meeting on the final day of the meeting the members held another sitting on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Founding of IRCT entitled: 25 Years of Torture Healing – Are We Ready to Assess Outcomes?

Various workshops were held in this sitting with the presence of international figures that included the new UN special rapporteur on torture, Mr. Juan Mendez. These were:

- Challenges to measuring outcomes in current rehabilitation practices,
- Discussion Forum: Moving towards a World Without Torture.

Schema-Therapy Education Course



This course was held in November in 60 hours with the aim of introducing the participants to the concepts of schema-therapy and their empowerment in using the method in treatment of mental health patients. In this education course the participants were introduced to schema-therapy methods, evaluation and training of the patient, therapeutic objectives setting, communication therapy, recognition methods, experience methods, change of behavioural patterns and work on schema-therapy.



Meeting of the MENA Centres for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture in the Middle East and North Africa

This meeting took place with the efforts of the Khiam Centre in Lebanon and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) on 18-22 October in Beirut. As members of this Network and the IRCT, representatives from the ODVV participated in the event. The aim of this meeting which was in two parts:

Educational and consultative, was for the empowerment of torture/violence victims support centres in the preparation and implementation of related projects and also the exchange of information and the preparation of the draft IRCT strategy (with concentration on the MENA region) were things that were discussed in this meeting, brief details of which are as follows:

Improvement of the services provided; improvement of report formulation; the exchange of experiences and views of the participants; how to organize communication with other governmental and nongovernmental partners; better management of projects (quality and quantity); review of organizational structures of centres; financial resources management; administrative matters; management structures; and also issues related to the clientele (victims of torture/violence).

In the final day of this conference, the Council's strategies were reviewed and debated and at the end a draft of these strategies was reviewed



by the members. It was approved and for final approval the MENA members would present to the IRCT upcoming conference in Copenhagen. Also in this sitting a good opportunity come about for the Middle East and North Africa based centres to exchange views.

Three guidelines that had been published by the IRCT were also introduced and the ODVV hopes to translate them into Farsi in the near future. They are:

- Action Against Torture, A practical guide to the Istanbul Protocol – for lawyers,
- Medical Physical Examination of Alleged Torture Victims, A practical guide to the Istanbul Protocol – for medical doctors,
- Psychological Evaluation of Torture Allegations, A practical guide to the Istanbul Protocol – for psychologists.

ODVV

STATEMENTS

ODVV's Statement in Condemnation of the Terror Attacks in Iran



The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (Tehran-Iran) strongly condemns the terror attacks against innocent citizens, the targets being academics of the country, and deems it as a blatant example of human rights violations.

According to the public relations of the ODVV, one of whose objectives is to expand a culture of non-violence from society, the fight against terrorism and assassinations, something that over the years has deprived thousands of innocent humans from their fundamental natural right which is the right to life, is one of the most important measures to reach a world full of peace and justice.

While the international community and human rights organizations all over the world are screaming to fight against terror, the people of Iran following the endurance of an eight-year war and with the passage of three decades since the Islamic Revolution continue to fall victim to blind terrorism by hidden powers.

Their aim in conducting these brutal acts is to disrupt the scientific and technological advancements of our country. Several times the university and scientific community has been targeted by acts of terror.

As an active civil institution in Iran, with slogan of peace and human rights, the ODVV while condemning these despicable and horrific acts, expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the university lecturers and victims of these terror acts, and calls upon the international community and responsible authorities to resolutely condemn these acts and to punish the perpetrators of these crimes.



Dr. Fereydoun Abbasi Davani, head Nuclear Physics College of Imam Hossein University



Dr. Majid Shahryari, professor of physics, Shahid Beheshti University

Some of the child victims of the brutal terror attacks in Chabahar



ODVV Statement on the Chabahar Terrorist Attack

During one of Shia Muslim's most holiest of days, Tasooa, a terrorist attack took place in the south-eastern city of Chabahar in Iran, in which two bombs were exploded killing 39 and injuring 55. Most of the dead were women children that included a 3 month old infant. The two bombs exploded in the Imam Hossein mosque and in the Imam Hossein mourners group. In a statement the terrorist group Jondollah took responsibility for the two explosions.

This terrorist action which drew the quick reaction from the international community, took place with the aim of Islamophobia, sectarian hatred and increasing conflict between Muslims. Among high international figures that strongly condemned the attacks were the UN Secretary General, the President of the United States, the British and French Foreign Ministries among several others. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned in the strongest possible terms the suicide bombing at a mosque in Chabahar, Iran, according to a statement issued today by his spokesperson. The bombing, which took place earlier Wednesday, has reportedly left scores of people dead and many more injured. The statement said Mr. Ban is shocked and dismayed by this "abhorrent terrorist act" directed at mourners commemorating the Holy Day of Ashura and he conveys his sincere condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As an active civil society organization in Iran with the slogan of peace and human rights, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, while condemning this terrorist attack, offered deep condolences to the families of the innocent victims of this inhuman action, and calls upon the international community and organizations to condemn these acts and bring to justice the culprits.



» New publications

» Human Environment laws Book

This book is the result of a study and research (international human rights, international environmental laws, and Iranian environmental laws) which has been written by Dr. Nader Saed the director of group of the Shahid Beheshti University's UNESCO Chair of Human Rights, Peace and Democracy. Having 10 years experience as international law consultant in the Environmental Protection Organization, and having a professional environmental background and approach with regards to the right to a healthy environment has combined scientific and academic data, and while reviewing the international legal status of the right to healthy environment, gives a concise review of Iran's environmental laws and the general basis for the protection of the environment and the vital value for the continuation of human life from the Koran's perspective. This research which was conducted with the support of UNDP and towards the national promotion of human rights and greater access to justice project was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Seyed Fazlollah Mousavi, and insists that "we have not inherited the earth from our forefathers but we have borrowed it from the children" this book was published by Dadgostar Publications.



Human Rights Education Book

This book was published through the hard work of Dr. Bagher Ansari and colleagues with a preface written by Dr. Jaafar Kousha the director of the Shahid Beheshti University's UNESCO Chair of Human Rights, Peace and Democracy and published by Majd Publications. This book comprises of two international documents and a number of articles related to human rights education.

The Collective of Articles of the First International Conference on Human Rights and the Environment

The collective of articles of the First International Conference on Human Rights and the Environment was published in 375 pages and among Shahid Beheshti University's UNESCO Chair of Human Rights, Peace and Democracy collectives that have been published in 2010. sixteen articles in three parts deal with environmental laws, the connection between the environment and development, climate change, and challenges in protection of the environment.

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence intends to hold the following sidelines events during the 16th Session of the Human Rights Council :

Panel on Islamophobia and violation of Human Rights



Speakers:

Dr. Mohammad Javad Javid - Islamophobia from Western Human Rights Terminology

Subject: Islamophobia and the right to Spritualism in the West

Dr. Amir Saed - Sunderland University, England

Subject: The media and its role in the rise in Islamophobia

Dr. Stephen Sheehi - University of South Carolina, USA

Subject: American Ismaophobia as a Cultural Ideology

Panel on the War on Terror & Violation of Human Rights and Humanitarian law

Dr. Mir Abbasi - Tehran University

Subject: Developments in the post 9/11 war on terror

Dr. Kadkhodae - Tehran University

Subject: Criticism of President Bush's 2001 Directive within the frame work of terror suspects military tribunals

Dr. Charles Graves - Interfaith International representative, Switzerland

Subject: Violation of citizens' rights and right to privacy in the war on terror

Dr. Amir Saed - Sunderland University, England

Subject: the effects of the war on terror on the criminal justice system

| Perhaps the day shall come when while covering human rights, the
| media do not become prejudicial and violate human rights themselves. |

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Victims of Violence