

# Annual Report 2013

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Organization for Defending  
Victims of Violence (ODVV)

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Victims of Violence (ODVV)

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- **Published:** Winter 2013
- **Special thanks to:** Hamideh Aboutorabi, Haroot Azarian, Majid Feizikhah, Farzane Mostofifar, Leila Behnam, Leila Enayati, Mansooreh Mohammadi, and all the people that assisted the ODVV in the past year.
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# FOREWORD

With all its ups and downs in various arenas, particularly human rights aspects, 2013 came to a close. A lot of the developments and events that began in 2013 did not manage to come to a conclusion and will continue on in 2014. The presidential elections in Iran and the extensive participation of the people of Iran is an indication of the dynamicity of the people and their daily increasing awareness towards the right to determine their own destiny. The 6 plus 1 nuclear talks with Iran and the initial agreement on the subject, the continuation of conflict in Syria and its subsequent human suffering, the escalation of extremist groups acts of terror through killing innocent people, and campaigns of terrorist groups such as the suicide bombing of the Iranian Embassy in Lebanon, have all drawn the Middle East region further towards chaos and insecurity, the killing of Muslims in Myanmar and extremist terrorist acts in Iraq and Pakistan, Yemen and Egypt are some of the most significant events and developments of 2013.

As a nongovernmental organization active in human rights, the ODVV has tried its best to arrange its programs alongside national and international developments and events. The grave violation of human rights in the region which is the fruit of Islamophobia and extremism, have more than ever before revealed the double standards that political actors' behaviours, is not a subject that human rights defenders can easily disregard. Therefore the purpose of concentration on the subject of a rise in violence and grave violation of human rights that is due to Islamophobia and extremism have been one of the important focal points of the ODVV programs over the last two years.

Furthermore the grave violation of human rights in the Palestinian Occupied Territories is another subject that despite existing efforts are getting worse day by day. This alongside Israel's disregard for international human rights commitments the example of which is Israel's behaviour in its UPR, is another important challenge towards the realization of human rights in the world.

Also in view of the upcoming second round of Iran's UPR, the capacity building of Iranian NGOs and playing the role of facilitator for these organizations which have based their activities on the recommendations accepted by Iran in the first round of the UPR, as in previous years have been put in the working agenda of the ODVV, and this issue includes a review of such activities.

We hope 2014 will open a new horizon for the observation of human rights for the eyes of real human rights defenders to see.

# Introduction

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political organization in Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). The ODVV was established in 1988 in Tehran and has been active in the field of human rights and humanitarian activities.

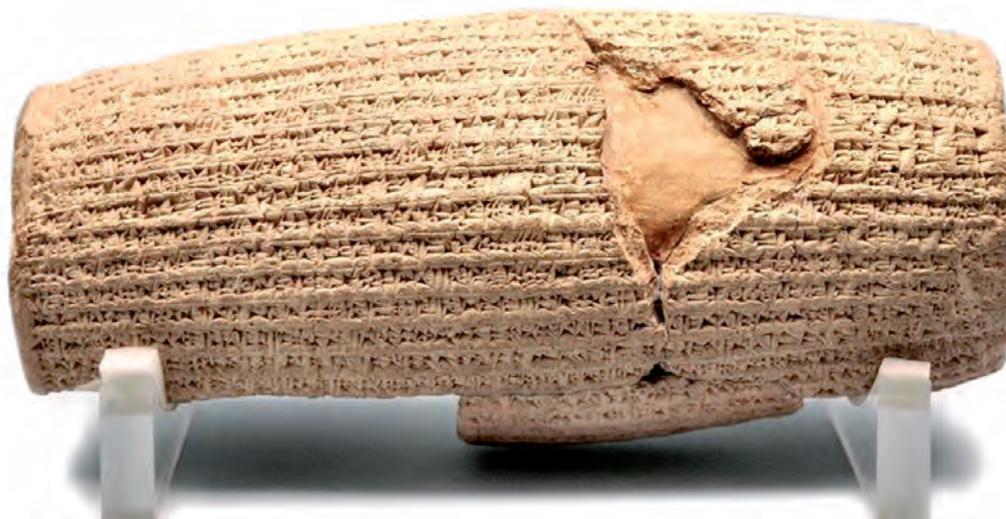


The ODVV is also associated to the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), a participatory of the NGOs Coalition for an International Court (based in New York), and national coordinator of the Global March Against Child Labour (based in New Delhi) which cooperated in a variety of issues with international organizations and has working relations with many NGOs in Iran and around the globe. The ODVV is also member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO), and the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), and International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), and AMAN Network of Middle East and North Africa Rehabilitation Centres for Torture Victims.

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# ODVV Mission Statement

## **Being committed to its moral principles the ODVV's mission is:**

- To respect high human values;
- To respect the rule of law and be committed to national values, moral principles and laws,
- To respect national interests and to avoid entering political groupings,
- To respect human dignity and status, and to recognise individual's rights and respect of society's public interests,
- To believe in justice, equality and observe everyone's rights (women and children in particular),
- To believe in being responsible, transparent, answerable, honest and virtuous;
- To accept the expansion and promotion of creativity;
- To respect knowledge, competence and experiences of individuals;
- To accept ideas, notions, recommendations and constructive criticisms;
- To be committed to collective unity and cooperation;
- To promote the spirit of service and voluntary campaigns;
- To promote and expand a culture of non-violence;

## **For the purpose of reaching its goal which is to promote and expand a human rights culture the ODVV shall utilise the following practices:**

- Hold educational, seminars, forums and workshops with the aim of information dissemination and raise the society's culture, preparation of articles and research in this regard;
- Protect and defend the rights of victims of violence and society;
- Promote and expand a culture of non-violence;
- Present advisory and counselling services for the rehabilitation of victims of society, and to refer these victims to the relevant centres to receiving care and services;
- Establishment and facilitation of links with national, regional and international organizations that follow similar objectives, and to facilitate the opportunity to exchange views, experiences and knowledge;

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# Structure

## **The ODVV conducts its activities and campaigns under the following structure**

- Research and Education Department
- International Relations Department
- Communications Department
- Rehabilitation Department (Rehabilitation Centre)

The following is a brief narration of the activities that the aforementioned departments conducted in 2013.



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# Research and Education Projects

For the purpose of releasing presentable researches to human rights scientific and official institutions on legal, economic, social and cultural issues, by forming experienced specialist teams on fields needed by society, the ODVV conducts general or thematic researches in the form of various projects. The researches conducted in these projects, bring about the basis to conduct practical projects such as education courses, workshops and scientific-educational sittings. What follows is a narrative of these projects and educational and research activities of the ODVV:

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## Prevention of Domestic Violence and Life Skills Education Workshop for Afghan Refugees Residing in Kan – 2013

Through signing of a tripartite agreement between the ODVV, BAFIA and the UNHCR, this project began in seven stages from March 2013 for 60 Afghan refugees - that included 30 men and 30 women - with the aim of reducing domestic violence. The project is still ongoing.

Stage one: the project began with the initial drafting and studying of resources, preparation of an educational package, the determination of evaluation method, determination of education methods, coordination with trainers, preparation of a guidebook and invitation of the addressees.

In this stage while conducting library resource studies, searches were done in resources on the internet, and at the same time for each skill 1 training guide book (ten in total) for peer trainers were prepared as training aid. These guide books were given to the trainers after learning each skill. A booklet that included introduction to life skills in general was prepared for the trainers. A CD that included all the educational subjects were given to the trainers at the end of the first stage of the course.

Also the training method of the course training of peers in workshop method were also determined. Evaluation method in the form of pre and post tests and a general survey were selected for the end of the stage. At first the addresses of the course were identified by one of the Afghan refugees residing in Kan (90 individuals altogether: 45 women and 45 men) and 60 individuals out of the total were selected through a written test and evaluation.

Stage two: this stage included the determination of the trainees according to the educational and criteria variables that had been considered that were selected on the basis of an evaluation form. While reviewing the general characteristics of individuals such as age, gender, education levels and so on in this form, also questions on the ability of individuals to understand the education materials and the transfer of these materials to others had been foreseen.

Stage three: in this stage the training of peer educators and the holding of pre and post tests and the documentations were done. This stage of the project concentrated on the ten life skills education via the workshop method. These trainings took place from 8 till 30 May, 2013.



The subjects of discussion in this course were:

- Self awareness education
- Sympathizing education
- Effective individual communication concepts and methods education
- Effective between individuals communication with emphasis on nonviolent communication education
- Problem solving skills education
- Creative thinking skills education
- Decision making skills education
- Coming to terms with anxieties methods education
- Confronting mental pressures and stress reduction methods education

This stage of the project began with doing a pretest and then the definition of life skills. In the next workshops the 10 skills were taught and ended with holding a post test and completion of a general survey of the course.

Through the presentation of the education subjects by the facilitators via the workshop method, group plays and workgroups were also held. The number of participants on the basis of gender were 30 men and 30 women. Stage four: In this stage a life skills pilot course was held for peer educators which had commenced in the final sessions of the education course by the educators. In order to prevent from the learned stuff being forgotten, while learning themselves, the educators started teaching others. These trainings took place in the homes or schools of the educators, and each individual according to commitment to the project was obligated to train 5 peers (this stage has not finished yet).

Stage five: in this stage the evaluation expert was sent to get answers to question and to evaluate the education process. Four observation and evaluation visits with trainers have been conducted to date in individual and group forms. In these visits, the trainers discussed their opportunities, threats and their needs for the better advancement of the project. Also questions that they had come across during the training and were not able to answer were raised by the trainers and suitable answers were provided by the observation and evaluation expert.



## Raising Capacity and Effectiveness of NGOs in the UPR on Iran

Following the formation of a new mechanisms in 2007 at the Human Rights Council called "Universal Periodic Review", the ODVV compiled a project on the basis of the raising capacity and effectiveness of Iranian NGOs in the UPR on Iran and subsequently with the planning and organizing a vast range educational, research and information dissemination activities for the presence of Iranian NGOs in the UPR.

In the first round of the UPR, while conducting extensive thematic research on countries under the UPR and submit the ssion relevant reports, the ODVV held capacity building and empowerment and the role of NGOs in the UPR mechanism education courses and prepared the basis for a large number of Iranian NGOs' participation in this mechanism.

The ODVV consequently draw a program for the second round of the UPR for raising capacity and effectiveness of NGOs in the second round of the UPR. Since the second round of the reviews are based on the recommendations given in the first round, the ODVV's research and education activities were also based on the recommendations from the first round.

One of these activities was the holding of education courses on the "introduction to UN human rights mechanisms" and "report writing for the UPR on Iran" for nongovernmental organizations. The activities of this project include:

### ■ *Extensive research on the human rights situation of counries and preparation of statements and reports to be submitted to the Human Rights Council and the UPR mechanism*

Since the start of the UPR process, the ODVV research has concentrated on review sessions in an organized way, so that in each session, and with the expert views of experts, to put a selection of countries' UPRs in its working agenda and collected information and extracted reports to present to the UNHCHR Secretariat and participation in the UPR mechanism.

With regards to the UPR on Iran, the ODVV research team in a professional way conducted the following activities: extraction of recommendations accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, thematic categorization of accepted recommendations, research on activities conducted based on the accepted recommendations by the Islamic Republic of Iran from the first round of the UPR to the second round, collection of activities and achievements of Iranian NGOs regarding the recommendations for submission to the Human Rights Council, facilitation of the extraction of NGOs reports based on recommendations. Also the ODVV facilitates the participation of other Iranian NGOs in the UPR

#### ■ *Holding of education courses*

These courses were held with the aim of capacity building Iranian NGOs and their introduction to the UPR mechanism, and how they can play a role in this mechanism. While introduction of NGOs to UN human rights mechanisms such as covenants, declarations and conventions, and the Human Rights Council and especially the UPR mechanism, then review in the second round with a stress on the recommendations were taught. In the next stage UPR report writing methods were taught, how reports were collected and submitted and the role of NGOs.

#### ■ *Holding of consultative sittings with the Iranian officials and authorities*

The ODVV frequently held a number of consultative sittings with the authorities with regards to the Islamic Republic of Iran's participation method in the UPR mechanism, and the participation of civil society, NGOs in particular in this mechanism. In these sittings representatives from governmental and nongovernmental organizations presented their views on how to interact and cooperate in this regard, especially at the international level and effectiveness in the Human Rights Council and the UPR mechanism.

#### ■ *Holding meetings with those involved with the human rights situation of Iran in Geneva*

The holding of these meetings has been one of the main programs of the ODVV over the recent years. These meetings are a worthy help to creating a balanced and realistic view towards the human rights situation in Iran. In these meetings while holding a dialogue and exchange of views, the ODVV submits reports to be placed in international reports and be influential in the process of reporting.

#### ■ *Participation in Human Rights Council Sessions.*

In view of its particular approach based on effective and constructive presence in the Human Rights Council, while participating in the Council Sessions, the ODVV writes and submits written and oral statements, hold sidelines meetings, hold meetings with those involved in the human rights situation in Iran, organize the presence of Iranian NGOs in the Council and hold meetings with international organizations.

#### ■ *Participation in UPR Sessions*

While taking part in UPR Sessions towards activities based on participation in the UPR mechanism, the ODVV presents reports and statements in these Sessions, and also brings about the opportunity for other Iranian NGOs to participate. The monitoring of the activities of countries, governmental and nongovernmental and international organizations in the UPR Sessions, and method of participation and their effectiveness in this mechanism is another focal point of ODVV's activities in UPR Sessions.

## HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Workshop for Mobile Teams of Damage Reduction Centres

This 3 day education workshop was held in May 2013 with the participation of the National Welfare Organization. In this workshop in which a group of the members of the mobile teams of Damage Reduction Centres of the country participated in, while giving explanations about HIV/AIDS, prevention, transmission and safer sexual behaviour, the education guidelines of Mobile Teams was compiled. Life skills, drugs, HIV/

AIDS prevention and reduction of their damages, poisonings, excessive use and safer injections were some of the subjects discussed in the workshop.



## Introduction to UN Human Rights Mechanisms and Project Writing for Iran's UPR Education Workshop

This education workshop was held by the ODVV over two stages of 12-13 May and 28-29 August 2013. These courses were held with the aim of capacity building Iranian NGOs and



their introduction to the UPR mechanism, and how they can play a role in this mechanism. While introduction of NGOs to UN human rights mechanisms such as covenants, declarations and conventions, and the Human Rights Council and especially the UPR mechanism, then review in the second round with a stress on the recommendations were taught.

In the next stage UPR report writing methods were taught, how reports were collected and submitted and the role of NGOs.

Following these courses participating organizations through writing independent reports acquired the ability to play their roles in the UPR mechanism.

These courses were foreseen for 30 NGOs, and due to the overwhelming reception the courses increased to two courses for 80 NGOs representatives.

The education method in these courses were workshop and participation methods in the form of 2+1, meaning in the first 2 days the participants were introduced to UN human rights mechanisms and report writing method, and approximately after 2 months and writing their reports, in 1 day the participants exchanged views and made corrections for their final reports.

### **Education Workshop on Reconciliatory Couples Therapy (Systemic - Cognitive - Behavioural)**

This workshop was held in the presence of 41 experts active in counselling and treatment centres in August 2013 with the aim of increasing their practical knowledge. In this workshop while reviewing common damages in marital relations, the functions of the systemic theory were also reviewed.

Also cognitive-behavioural techniques that include conflict resolution methods, anxiety management, recognition of distortion recognition, their changes and replacement methods were reviewed.

### **Film Therapy Education Workshop**

This education workshop took place in August 2012 in four sessions and the presence of 40 psychotherapists and psychiatrists with the aim of increasing their diagnostic and therapeutic knowledge.

In this workshop the basic principles of getting help from films as a guideline for diagnosis of psychiatric disorders (temperament-personality) were discussed.

Also the method of benefiting from films in proportion to the issue as a non-drugs complementing tool were reviewed and 150 films were analysed and discussed and their relation to psychiatric disorders analysed.

## **Education Workshop on Challenges in pre-marriage Counselling with Problem Cases**

This workshop was held in August 2013 with the participation of experts from counselling centres of the country and with the aim of increasing their practical knowledge. In this workshop problem cases that included people with identity disorders, not very talkative persons, remarriages, dangerous individuals were explained and diagnosis and interview methods, effective questions, and reputable and useful tests were reviewed. Also the basic principles of pre-marriage counselling in normal conditions were reviewed.



# International Conferences and Coalitions

As a nongovernmental organization, the ODVV conducts part of its activities in the international arena, and by acquiring a special consultative status from ECOSOC the ODVV has managed to have the opportunity to participate in the former Commission on Human Rights and its substitute the Human Rights Council periodic sessions, and by issuing statements the ODVV presents its official positions. The ODVV also endeavours to by participating in international conferences to create new opportunities and capacities in the international scene.

## International Solidarity against Inhuman Sanctions

With the escalation of unilateral inhuman sanctions against the people of Iran on the pretext of Iran's nuclear activities, which have caused countless economic and medicinal problems and a shortage of vital medical equipment in Iran, a petition was prepared by the ODVV prepared entitled International Solidarity against Inhuman Sanctions, and signed by Iranian NGOs, associations and civil society activists, and in June 2013 put in a special website [www.isais.org](http://www.isais.org) in five languages of Farsi, English, French, German and Arabic. One of the positive results of the launching of this campaign can be seen in the over 1000 signature, the support of NGOs, and the 40 thousand hits the site has had. It must be said that the campaign website is still active. Following the signatures of NGOs, associations and civil society activists the petition was sent to relevant international human rights bodies.



## OPCW Sitting

The ODVV alongside the Association in Support of Victims of Chemical Weapons, and the Peace Museum of Tehran and a number of victims of chemical weapons too part OPCW sitting. On the sidelines of the sitting for the purpose of information dissemination on the consequences of the use of chemical weapons, their long term effects on the victims, the participating Iranian associations held an exhibit with the presence of Iranian chemical weapons victims. Participatory Iranian NGOs announced in this sitting that the victims of chemical weapons in Iran today under further pressure due to America's engineered sanctions against Iran on the pretext of the Iranian nuclear program, and this had resulted in them to face difficulties in getting the drugs and medications that they needed.



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

Just as in previous Sessions the ODVV had an active and extensive presence in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council which was held from 25 February to 22 March 2013 in Geneva Switzerland. In view of the agenda of this Session, particularly the presence of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Iran, the ODVV designed a solid program which was in the form of the holding of sidelines panels, meetings with those involved in the issues, submission of written and oral statements.

Also as part of increasing the capacity of NGOs at the international level the ODVV facilitated the conditions for representatives from 7 NGOs to participate also.

### *-Written and Oral Statements*

Two weeks prior to the start of the Session, the ODVV submitted 5 written statements which were: Item 3: Violence against Women, Item 4: Objection to the removal of the MKO from the list of terror group by the West, Item 6: A Review of the UPR Mechanism, Item 7: Violation of Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, and Item 9: Islamophobia and Violation of Human Rights.

Also during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session, the ODVV read 10 oral statements on General Debate and Interactive Dialogue.

### *- Holding a Sidelines Panel on Terrorism and Violation of Human Rights*

This panel was held on 7 March in Room XXII of the Human Rights Council and with the cooperation of the Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism. The definition of victims of terrorism from the viewpoint of the Association and how victims of terrorism are supported, how terrorist groups turn into destructive cults, and the transformation of terrorist groups were subjects of discussion of this panel. This panel was held with the presence of individuals interested on the subject, and interesting exchanges and Q&As were raised by the audience and the panellists. Films on the subject of the Voice of Terror Victims, and the Powerpoints of the discussed subjects with relevant images alongside articles on the subjects of speeches were also presented in the panel.

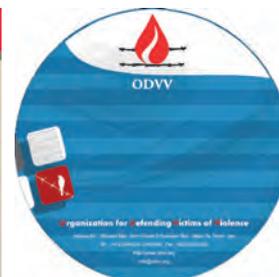
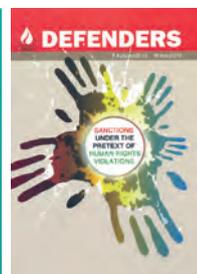


### *- Meetings with those involved on various issues and representatives from international organizations*

With the aim of expanding its international lines and creation of a logical mental space among domestic and international decision makers and influential figures on the subject of human rights in Iran, the ODVV tries to reduce the international pressure on the people of Iran on the subject of human rights. To this aim, the holding of various meetings with those in charge of writing reports on the human rights violations in Iran, the preparation and submission of reports that contain information to be included in international reports, invitation of representatives of NGOs and the UN and meetings with representatives from international and nongovernmental organizations are some of the activities that was placed in the working agenda of the ODVV, and these activities took place in the 22nd Session of the Council.

### *- Preparation and distribution of ODVV products*

The ODVV distributed various products such as Defenders Newsletter (autumn 2012-winter 2013 issue) which included articles and notes on international sanctions imposed on Iran and their effects on the violation of the rights of Iranians, 2012 Annual Report, multimedia CD that included



ODVV's one year activities, text and video, documentary on violence against women entitled What Was Your Crime, and a booklet on the speeches given in the panel were prepared and extensively distributed in the 22nd Session.

## **23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

The 23rd Session of the Human Rights Council was held from 27 May till 14 June 2013, in Geneva, Switzerland. Before the start of the Session, the ODVV submitted five written statements under five Items on the following subjects: right to development, violation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and the violation of the rights of Shia minorities. Establishment of with other NGOs, distribution of information packages such as Annual Report and Defenders Newsletter and also participation in the UNHCR's Annual Sitting with NGOs, were some of the activities of the ODVV in this Session.

## 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

As in previous Sessions, the ODVV had an active and extensive presence in the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council which was held from 9 to 27 September 2013 in Geneva Switzerland. ODDV's itinerary was set in such way that all issues related to NGOs and the reading of relevant statements were done during the length of stay in the Session.

In view of the Session's programs, the ODVV drew up a solid program and held 2 sidelines panels with participation of speakers from different countries, meetings with those involved on relevant issues, submission of written and oral statements, and holding capacity building courses.

Also towards the capacity building of Iranian NGOs at the international levels, the ODVV facilitated the presence of representatives from 8 NGO in this Session of the Council.

Seven out of the eight NGOs had Special Consultative Status to ECOSOC, and the participation of these seven NGOs in a well coordinated group and having a program can be seen as an important achievement towards the capacity building of NGOs and their effective participation at the international level, which had been bought together at the initiative of the ODVV. Some of the activities in the 24<sup>th</sup> Session are as follows:

### *- Submission of Written and Oral Statements*



Two weeks before the commencing of the Session, the ODVV submitted 5 statements on the following items: Item 3: right to development, Item 4: the role of western governments in the violation of human rights as a result of sanctions, Item 6: a critical view of the UPR mechanism, Item 7: violation of human rights in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, and 6 oral statements on the following Items: Item 6|: human rights situation in Canada, Item 5: the necessity for the redefining of the importance of the UPR mechanism, Item 7: human rights in Palestine and Occupied Territories, Item 9: Islamophobia, Item 3: Sanctions and violation of the right to development, Item 4: human rights situation of Syria. It must be said that the seven NGOs in Consultative Status read 23 statements on General Debates.

## Holding of Sidelines Panels

### *- Violation of Human Rights and Islamophobia*



the ODVV held this panel on 18 September 2013 during the <sup>24</sup> Session of the Council in Palais de Nations in Geneva. This panel was held with the cooperation of St. Joseph University and National University of Lebanon alongside 4 lecturers of these universities in Room XXIII and with 60 participants. Islamophobia, a review of facts, the expected concepts and roles, Islamophobia, the nature of the link between the West and the East, and fear of religion were subjects of this panel.

### *- Violation of the rights if the Shia minority*



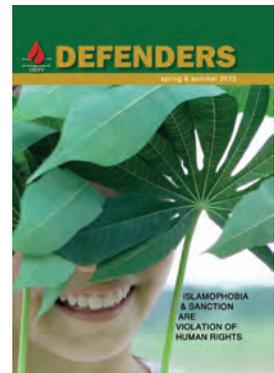
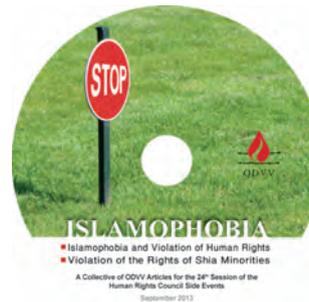
This panel was held on 19 September 2013 in Room XXII. The subjects were the violation of the rights of Shia minority with a thematic study on Syria, the violation of the rights of Shia minority is the same of genocide with a thematic study of Pakistan, and the violation of the rights of the Shia in Bahrain, with the presence of 4 university lecturers and 53 participants.

*- Meetings with those involved in various issues:*

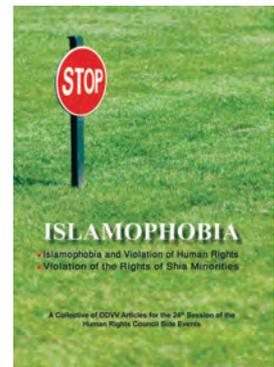
In the 24th Session of the Council with the aim of expanding international links the ODVV held various meetings with those in charge of writing reports on the human rights violations in Iran, the preparation and submission of reports that contain information to be included in international reports, invitation of representatives of NGOs and the UN and meetings with representatives from international and nongovernmental organizations.



*- Preparation and distribution of ODVV products*



While attending the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council the ODVV distributed various products such as Defenders Newsletter that included articles and notes on Islamophobia, sanctions and violation of human rights, ODVV Annual Report, a CD that included a book on Islamophobia, a CD of all recent products of the ODVV, a video CD on the training course for Afghan refugees project with English subtitles, and a collective of articles presented in the panels entitled Islamophobia.



### **Participation in the 6<sup>th</sup> Forum on Minorities**

The representatives of the ODVV participated in the 6th Minorities Session in the framework of 6 items, which was held on 26-27 November 2013 in the European Headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland and read two statements.

In this Session which took place with the participation of NGOs, six items, the approval of the programme and organizational work, legal framework and key concepts, support for the existence of religious minorities and prevention of violence against them, promotion and protection of religious minorities' identity, promotion of fair reciprocal dialogue and summation. The ODVV presented two statements in two of the two items in support of the protection of the right to existence and prevent of violence against religious minorities and promotion and protection of the identities of religious minorities

### **Launching of ODVV's Representative Office in Geneva**

Following the vast experiences of the ODVV in presence in international conferences and towards its policies which are based on the expansion of its activities, following legal procedures the Representative Office of the ODVV was officially opened . The ODVV Representative Office is ready to cooperate and partner human rights, educational and cultural projects in Iran and across the world with international organizations and NGOs. The full contact details of the ODVV Representative Office is as follows:

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence Representative Office in Geneva The Ecumenical Centre,  
150 Rue de Ferney,  
PO Box: 2100-1211  
Telefax: +41 227916030  
Mobile: +41 766231262  
Email: int-swiss@odvv.org



# Commemoration of International Days and Sittings

International and universal days on various human rights subjects will bring about good opportunities to bring to attention the results of campaigns and achievements in the form of scientific sittings and conferences. The reflection of this activity in national and international levels will shed more light on human rights issues.

## **Commemoration of the International Day in Support of Torture Victims of Torture**

On the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the workshop on the Rehabilitation of Victims of Sexual Abuse. This workshop was held in June 2013 with the participation of 30 mental health experts. Following the reading of the UN Secretary General's message for the day by the representative of UNIC in Iran, the principles of diagnostic interviews with the victims, and



the three fundamental evaluation principles (medical and physical problems- psycho oriented problems 1 and Suicidal thoughts) were reviewed. Also in this workshop the meaningful effective behavioural-anxiety-cognitive interventions in the treatment and rehabilitation of torture victims were reviewed and discussed in a group.

## **Commemoration of the International Day of Non-Violence**

The education workshop on the Analysis of Violence from the TA Perspective was held in June 2013 on the occasion of the International Day without Violence. In this workshop in which 42 human rights activists participated in the principles of the analysis of reciprocal communication including common communication patterns in three main parts (adult-parent-child) and games were discussed and reviewed. Transverse and hidden exchanges, the individuals stances in life, time structures (giving up, formalities, spending time, activity, games and intimacy), reciprocal behaviours, games and plays were some of the other subjects of discussion of the workshop.

## **Commemoration of the World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse**

The education workshop on the pathology of abusive parents, and psychotherapeutic new treatments for abused children was held on the International Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse in October 2013. In this workshop which was held in the presence of child and juvenile doctors and psychologists,

the UN Secretary General's message for the day was read by the UNIC in Iran representative. Soft child abuse was the main subject of the attention of the education workshop. In this workshop also the characteristic-cognitive and communication of abusive parents in soft child abuse were reviewed and discussed.



## Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

The education workshop on emergency treatments in working with victims of spouse abuses was held on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was held by the ODVV and the cooperation of the Tehran Medical Sciences University Psychiatric Institute in November 2013. In this workshop in which 100 psychiatrists, doctors and nongovernmental organizations experts, and social emergency experts of the Welfare Organization, the UN Secretary General's message for the day was read by the representative from UNIC in Iran. In this workshop common intervention models in spouse abuse (short term and long term interventions), influential individuals in prevention models, spouse abuse in primary healthcare and the primary healthcare models in Iran were discussed.





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# Raha Rehabilitation Centre

With a wish to mend and end mankind's pains and sufferings, and expansion of humanitarian campaigns, the ODVV Rehabilitation Department provides advisory and educational services.

For the protection of victims of domestic and social violence, the department presents counselling and therapy in legal, family, marriage, psychological disorders at the Rehabilitation Centre .

With the cooperation of 40 mental health experts and lawyers the Centre provides pre-marriage, education and legal counselling. The statistics of the cases is determined on the basis of gender, age, occupation, marital status, education levels and the reason for coming to the Centre. The ODVV uses the results of the statistics to set appropriate programmes and projects. In 3240, 2985 cases benefited from the Centre's services. 1814 of them were women and 1426 were men. According to the statistics most of the cases were married and the majority of them had family problems.

The Rehabilitation Centre also provides telephone hotline counselling services for psychological, marital, family and education issues.

The monthly statistics for the hotline cases are worked out through variables such as, gender, occupation, age, marital status, education, and reason for call. In 2013, 94 people benefited from the telephone hotline services, 654 women and 450 men. According to statistics the majority of cases had family problems.

## Statistics of Cases in the Centre for 2013

Chart 1  
Cases based on gender

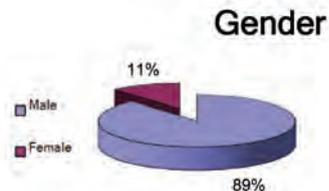


Chart 2  
Cases based on occupation

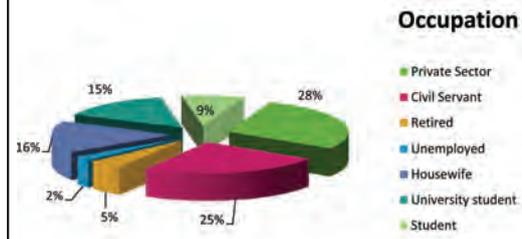


Chart 3  
Diagnosis

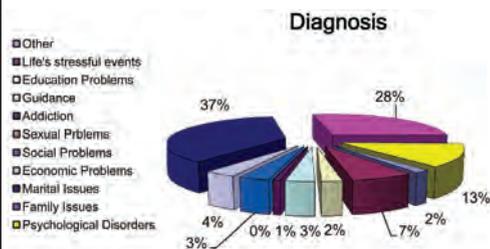


Chart 4  
Cases based on education

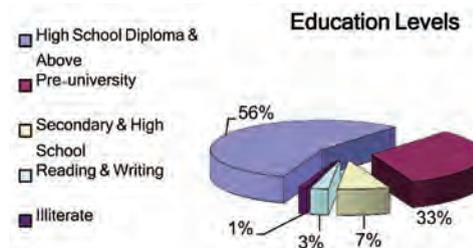


Chart 5  
Cases based on services

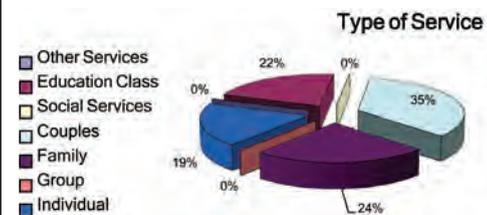
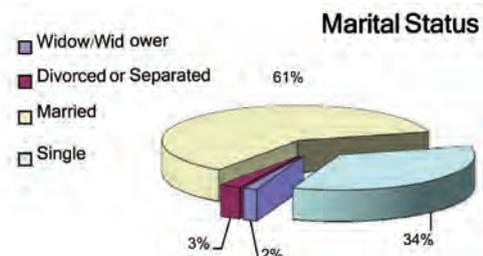
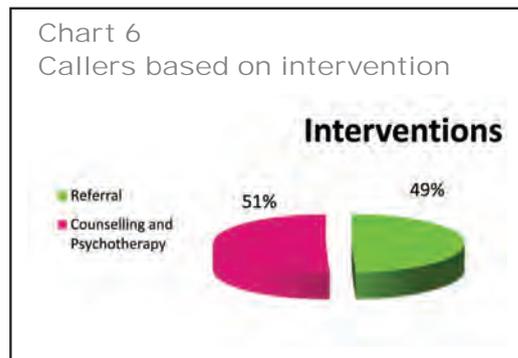
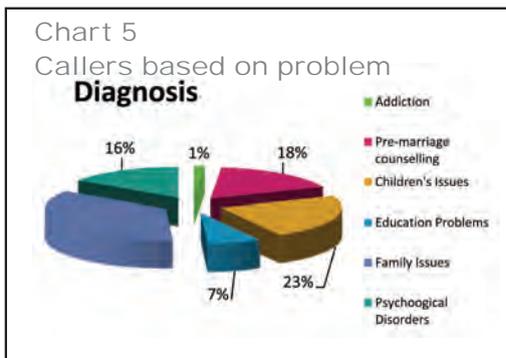
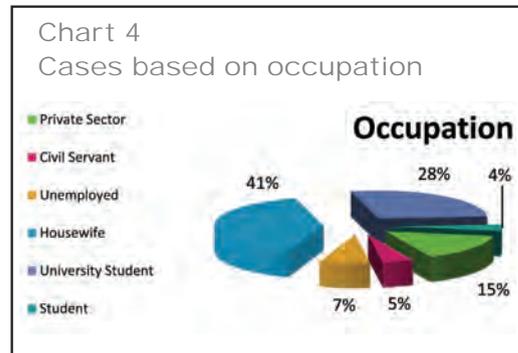
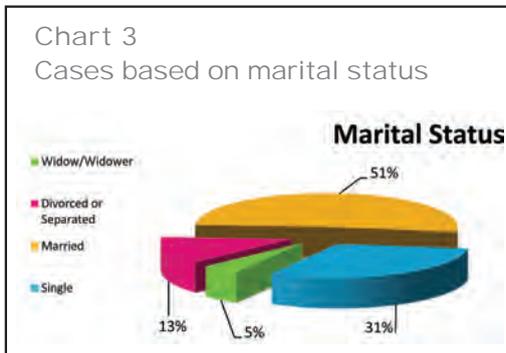
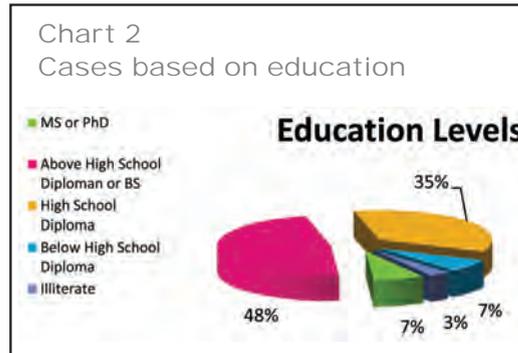
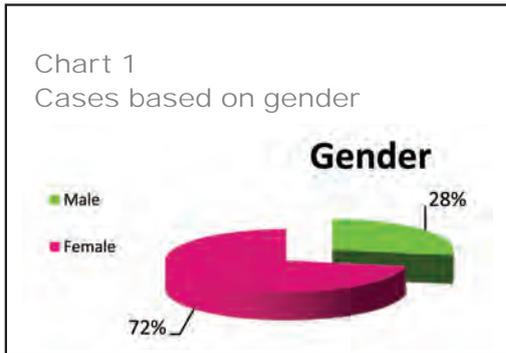


Chart 6  
Cases based on marital status



## Statistics of Telephone Hotline Calls for 2013



# Publications

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In view of its objectives, activities and programmes, the ODVV has several publication activities. As a nongovernmental organization, these activities can be a positive international reflection for the ODVV of its activities and campaigns. For this purpose the Defenders Newsletter is published quarterly, as a human rights newsletter. The ODVV also publishes various informative and educational books and booklets on various subjects. The following is a brief description of ODVV's publications in 2013:

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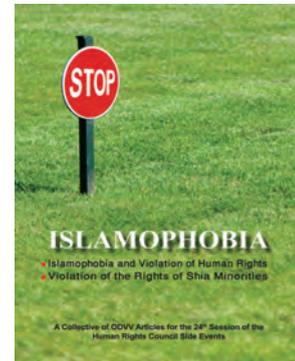
## Defenders Spring and Summer 2013

This issue was published in 52 pages on the subject of Islamophobia and Sanctions are a violation of human rights. The contents include Islamophobia and the violation of the rights of the Shia minorities, and also international sanctions imposed on Iran and their effects on the violation of the human rights of the Iranian people. Other articles and editor's note have been presented to make a transparent human rights image of Iran.



## Islamophobia book

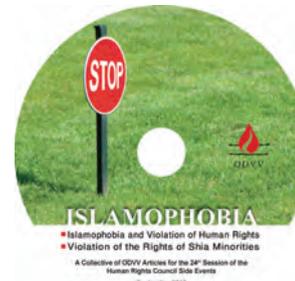
This book in 199 pages was published in English by the ODVV. The subjects in the book are: Islamophobia Facts, Implications and Expected Roles; Religiophobia Fear of Religion, Fear of Religious; Islamophobia A New Facet in the History of the Relationship Between Islam and the West; The Sectarian Unrest in Syria A Genocide in the Making against Shia Muslim; Shia Muslim Genocide and its Roots in Pakistan's Legal System and Constitution System; Sectarian Intolerance and Discrimination in Bahrain.



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## Production and Publication of the CD of the Islamophobia Book

This CD which is in English includes the following subjects: Islamophobia Facts, Implications and Expected Roles; Religiophobia Fear of Religion, Fear of Religious; Islamophobia A New Facet in the History of the Relationship Between Islam and the West; The Sectarian Unrest in Syria A Genocide in the Making against Shia Muslim; Shia Muslim Genocide and its Roots in Pakistan's Legal System and Constitution System; Sectarian Intolerance and Discrimination in Bahrain.



## Production and Publication of Multimedia CDs of ODVV Products

These multimedia CDs contain ODVV books, Defenders Newsletters, pictures, annual reports documentaries and ODVV projects. The CDs are produced by the Communications Department of the ODVV and in 2013 three CDs were published.



### Documentaries

Prevention of Domestic Violence and Life Skills Education for Afghan Refugees in Kan Project - 2013

### Foreign Internship

For the purpose of promoting and gaining further experience in its research and education field, and also expanding links and interaction with students, the ODVV provides an opportunity for internal and external interns. To-date a number of students from other countries have spent internship periods at the ODVV over the last few years. A number of Tehran University students upon completing a 3 month internship received their certificates.

### Links with honorary members

As part of the realisation of its objectives and its activities, depending on their field of expertise, the ODVV benefits from the cooperation of its honorary members. Interested parties in the field of human rights that include legal and private individuals can fill in the honorary membership application form either in person at the ODVV or the organization website: [www.odvv.org](http://www.odvv.org).

After becoming members, the honorary members can benefit from the following facilities:

- Use of the ODVV library
- Access to reports and researches available
- Access to the internet, website and subscription to electronic newsletters (English and farsi)
- Benefit from ODVV publications and links
- Participation in meetings, conferences, seminars, sittings and education courses

## Information Dissemination

Information dissemination is among the activities of the Public Relations Department, which is part of the ODVV general objectives. The ODVV uses the following applications and tools to fulfil the aforementioned goals:

### - Links with the media

Establishing links with the mass media, the press and national and international news agencies is one of the effective activities of the Public Relations Department. In view of this the Public Relations Department has placed the following in its agenda:

- Reflection of ODVV activities in the mass media, press and news agencies
- Publishing of various workgroups articles in the press
- Hold interviews for the purpose of publicising ODVV objectives and activities reports
- Releasing statements on various national and international developments and occasions and their reflections in the press

To-date the ODVV Public Relations has managed to get a good reflection of the organization's activities and events within the press and news agencies, and established good links with these groups, and new materials are released to the media approximately every two weeks.

## Participation in Exhibits

### - *ODVV's Achievements on Refugees Issues Exhibit*

Since participation and interaction as principles of the moral pledge of the ODVV has always been centre of attention, we have tried to have highlighted presences in participatory activities. The holding and participation in various exhibits as one of the arenas of participation, gives each organization a very good opportunity to provide information dissemination on its objectives, activities and programmes, and also have the opportunity to interact and establish links with other governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

For this reason the ODVV has included in its activities the participation in exhibits, and the participation in the exhibit on the services the Islamic Republic of Iran has provided to the refugees can be seen as one of them.



One of the accomplishments of the ODVV in this exhibit was the documentaries made on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Life Skills Education for Afghan Refugees in Kan, Promotion of the Psycho-Social health of Afghan Refugees in Shahr-e-Rey, the Strengthening of the Family Institution and Prevention of GBV Project (Afghan refugees in Semnan refugee camp – Autumn 2011) and the Community Awareness Raising for the Prevention of GBV (Afghan refugees in Shahr-e-Rey – 2010)



## Library

The ODVV is equipped with a specialist library which contains 2300 books in Farsi and 3000 books in English on various human rights issues and subjects.

Honorary members, students and researchers can access books from the library as well as documents and reports of the ODVV





ODVV