



Human Right Developments in Iran

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The Human Rights Development of Iran Newsletter, stresses on the promotion of human rights through monitoring positive actions and developments that have occurred with regards to human rights and raising the awareness of the audience in this regard. This newsletter, compiles measures taken for the promotion and realisation of human rights for the transparency of the real human rights situation in Iran through benefiting from correct information and credible documents.

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1- Refugees Rights

1-1 Education of 3,700 Afghan Students in Iranian Special Schools

Towards supporting the education of foreign nationals in Iran, the necessary conditions for persons with disabilities and or persons with particular difficulties has been facilitated. Currently 3,700 Afghan special needs students studying in Iranian schools are covered by the Education and Training Department. These children are treated equally as Iranian students with special needs without discrimination, and these children are currently studying in special and particular schools.

There are 1,600 schools for special children which provide services to Iranian and foreign individuals.

Currently 82,000 students with special needs are given education services, 3,700 out of this number are Afghan refugees and migrants who are studying in these schools. All education, research, sports and rehabilitation services are presented to all eligible Afghan children without discrimination.

1-2 Iran and Afghanistan’s Cooperation for Legalisation of Afghan Migrants’ Residency in Iran

Towards the legalisation of the presence of Afghan migrants in Iran, a team from Afghanistan arrived in Iran so that with the cooperation of the Iranian government for the establishment of the identity of migrants, and issue them with identity papers, *Tazkareh* (ID paper issued by Afghanistan government) and electronic passports.

Currently more than twice the number of documented Afghans in Iran are undocumented ones, which challenges the provision of assistance to them by both the Iranian government and the international community. Thus, the issuance of identity documents to Afghan migrants can reduce the undocumented migrant’s problems in the country and facilitate the provision of assistance to them.

1-3 Executive Implementation of Granting Citizenship to Children Born to Iranian Women Married to Foreign Men

Following the adoption of the Granting of Citizenship to Children Born to Iranian Women to Foreign Men Act, the registration of applicants commenced. For the prevention of any exploitation, the applicants for Iranian citizenship can refer to provincial governor offices within the country and Iranian consulates abroad.

Any registration for the provision of information for those eligible for the Act can only receive ID documents through provincial governor offices and Iranian consulates, therefore other methods through unmentioned locations such as coffee nets and etc. will not be approved.

According to this Act under 18 year old applicants can take steps through their mothers and those over 18 can directly apply themselves. The identity documents of the mother will be reviewed and confirmed in the registry office and following confirmation and approval of the Citizenship Commission, the rest of the granting of citizenship process will be carried out.



2- Education Rights

2-1 The Return of at Least 100 Thousand Students Deprived of Education Back to Education Cycle

According to the Statistical Centre of Iran, each year 800,000 finish elementary school, and are left behind from entering middle or secondary school.

Towards solving this problem for the first year with the implementation of the programme 100 thousand students deprived of education in the whole of the country are to be returned to school.

The Conciliation with Education Programme is one of the developmental packages which puts students deprived of

education, especially in rural and distant regions, with the assistance of modern the technology and participation of charitable individuals and education and training councils with satellite classes' online education are covered by the Education and Training Department. NGOs and charitable individuals partner in the implementation of this programme, especially in distant regions.



3- Women's Rights

3-1 Beginning of the Review and Amendment of the Women's Security Draft Legislation

The Improvement of Women's Conditions document has been one of the positive practices of the current government in 31 provinces, where the document is set in programme oriented form.

Towards this, with the cooperation of the Statistical Centre of Iran, various indexes have been identified and issued towards supporting women's right, which the study and survey of these indexes is one of the important issues which with the launching of the survey website and study in the Government Week, the method of implementation of these indexes are followed up.

All the programmes such as resilience, women heads of household programme, empowerment of rural and nomadic women and other programmes are towards the realisation of indexes and the Improvement of Women's Conditions Document.

Numerous and continued meetings have taken place on the Provision of Security to Women draft legislation in the Government's Legislations' Commission for reviewing and removing problems from the draft. The removal of problems in this draft legislation is a noteworthy help towards the promotion of women's rights in society.

3-2 Hundred Percent Growth in Appointment of Women Managers in the Interior Ministry

In view of the memorandum issued by the government on the allocation of 30 percent of managerial posts to women across the country, women's situation in getting managerial posts has notably improved. Towards this the Interior Ministry has seen a 100 percent increase in women being appointed to managerial positions. In this field there are 16 women deputy provincial governor generals in 15 provinces. Also in Sistan and Baluchistan province two women have been appointed deputy provincial governor generals.

From 2018 to-date, in the Interior Ministry alone there are approximately 70 women general managers, 100 assistant

general managers, 55 district heads, 65 deputy governors, and 3 governors are active in all the country's provinces.

Also, there are 2,500 female village governors (Dehyar) out of a total of 37,000 village governors which is notable. With this statistics it can be claimed that we witness the presence of women in top managerial posts as deputy governor generals, or deputy governors or district heads in each province of the country.



4- Human Rights

4-1 Ten Times Growth in the Registration of Youth NGOs for 22 March to 22 August 2020 Period

Since late March this year (2020) to-date approximately the case files of around 600 youth NGOs have been approved by governmental monitoring groups. These 600 files have either received their licenses and or are in the process of receiving their licenses at registry offices; which in comparison to same period last year (till early March 2020) didn't even reach 60 files in number has had ten times growth.

With 79 in Mazandaran province, Khuzistan province with 70, and Hormozgan Province with 49 approved files

are the three provinces with highest number of approvals by monitoring groups.

It must be said that the acquiring of a license is not mandatory for NGOs, but the authorities are obliged to at any time that an NGO wishes to receive a license, to facilitate the conditions so that they may acquire their licenses.

4-2 Expansion of Government's Support for NGOs

August 12 has been named the National Day of Social Associations and Participation. Towards this and according to released official reports we are witness to an increase in the participation of nongovernmental organizations in advancement of the economic, social, cultural conditions and empowerment of women, families and promotion and improvement of society's conditions.

Furthermore, the approach of the current government has also been in the way of expansion of support for civil institutions through various mechanisms. Therefore, for the setting of conditions for further participation of people in determining their own fate, while removing obstacles in the way of their participation, the government has eased the conditions for this participation and presents some services to NGOs. One of these services is in the legal aspect and approval and presentation of activities permits for eligible organizations.

Also financial assistance is also in the hands of organizations and charities which provide services to vulnerable individuals.

On the other hand, various president's deputies have presented necessary trainings to NGOs. In the last month alone 1,200 NGOs received specialised trainings from the cooperation of the Women and Family Affairs Deputy, and next month, in view of the COVID-19 situation, a four-day course is set to be held online for another 1,000 associations.

One of the most important achievements of these sittings is the announcement of joint programmes and policies and main strategies of the government such as gender equity which is embodied in the Promotion of Women and Families' Conditions Document. The subject of the family and attention to life and communication skills within the family and promotion of social resiliency project is another one of the Presidency's Women and the Family Deputy which is underway with the partnership and cooperation of NGOs. As well as this, subjects such as empowerment of women's economy and support for rural women is being carried out by the Agriculture Ministry.

4-3 Participation of 1,100 Lawyers in Presentation of Free Legal Services to Imam Khomeini Charity Foundation Beneficiaries

In view of the problems and difficulties that vulnerable individuals are faced with and usually they don't have the chance for following up on legal matters due to economic difficulties, Imam Khomeini Charity Foundation with the participation of 1,100 lawyers has begun to provide legal services free of charge to these individuals. To this aim, 518 Service Bureaus have been set up across the country to provide assistance for those seeking legal aid, and with an agreement with the Justice Department's Bar Association, benevolent lawyers provide free legal services to clients.

In courts towards the realisation of organizational rights and drafting of contracts which are legal matters, also legal assistance is provided to these individuals. It must be said that those that need legal help also receive 120 other various services free of charge so as exemption from paying municipality rates for one instalment, free electricity, water and gas.

4-4 Construction of 10 Dignity Camps in the Fight against Addiction

In view of being neighbours with Afghanistan and Pakistan the need for setting up detoxification camps are

strongly felt. The production levels of narcotics in Afghanistan in 2000 was around 200 tonnes and following the US presence in Afghanistan in the recent years it has reached to 10,000 tonnes. The plantation area of the narcotics in Afghanistan is more than 6,500 hectares, but today it has expanded to 265,000 hectares. Therefore, for the fight against addiction 10 new detoxification camps have been set up across the country. Also soon, two more centres have been launched in Khuzistan and Hamadan provinces and also 3 centres are being constructed in Khorasan Razavi, Mazandaran and Alburz provinces, which will soon be operational.

It must be said that the Dignity Camps are not just for detoxification, but identification, collection, keeping, treatment and observation as the addict's full return to normal life are in their working agendas.

4-5 Launching of “Tasmim” Website for Control and Reduction of Divorces

Towards helping to strengthen the family institution and reduction of divorces, the “Tasmim” (Decision) website was launched in the country. In this regard an education course on experts, psychologists and Government's Counter Services Centres' access to the Tasmim website (prevention and reduction of divorces) was held in various provinces with the cooperation of the Welfare Organization's Technology Unit.

This website was launched with the aim of controlling and reducing divorce cases through increasing the influence of psychological services and presentation of united services across the country, and also towards the implementation of the joint cooperation agreement with the Judiciary Branch for referral of divorce applicants to counselling and psychological services centres under the supervision of the Welfare Organization.

With the launching of this website in the said provinces, all the country's provinces have access to this website and can benefit from specialized services.



5-Rights of Persons with Disabilities

5-1 Yazd Becomes an “Accessible City” for Persons with Disabilities

As a pilot project, the city of Yazd was selected as the “Accessible City” for persons with disabilities for two years, and the organization of sidewalks and creation of necessary accesses for persons with disabilities began. On this basis the Welfare Organization’s Rehabilitation Department increased the budget for conversion of homes for persons with disabilities from 8 billion Rials to 16 billion Rials.



6- Introducing Human Rights Activists

6-1 Disability Association of Tavana

The Disability Association of *Tavana* was founded in 1995 with the collective efforts of individuals with disabilities in the city of Qazvin.

And in this short period, the least facilities and through renting a small property the Association began its work so that the vacuum of not having a public and support centre for the disabled in the country to be filled.

Through identification and the recruiting of capable intellectuals with disabilities of Qazvin and forming a strong team, in its first action, the *Tavana* Association set up the *Tavana* Loan Fund so that the little savings of its members be concentrated in this Fund and use it for

investment and implementation of income generating long and short term projects

Towards the protection of the human dignity of individuals with disabilities, the *Tavana* Association has prohibited any form of free help from people, so that through relying on its own capabilities and efforts to be able to take steps towards its set cultural, social and welfare goals; and for the first time in the country set up an association and run so that disability does not turn into the drawing of pity and to stir up pure humanitarian emotions of the people of Iran.

Now after the passage of 25 years, the *Tavana* Association has been able to take effective steps towards the drafting, passing and implementing of bills related to the disabled and remove their living deprivations. Also in 2016 this Association managed to acquire Special Consultative Status from ECOSOC.

Currently more than 4,200 men and women with disabilities (deaf, blind, physical and movement) in a continued basis and around 1,000 committed experts (nondisabled) in an associated and honorary way are members of the Association and as the main investments of the Association they are always the main actors of this public centre.

Disability Association of *Tavana* Strategies and Goals:

1 – The Disability Association of *Tavana* pursues the identification, collection and categorisation of domestic

and international laws regarding individuals with disabilities so that the more than 6 million Iranians who have some sort of sensual, physical and motion disabilities are kept informed and introduce them to their social rights.

2 – The Association is after changing the views of society (families, education centres and people) towards individuals with disabilities, and creation of a suitable basis for the social presence of the disabled in Iran.

3 – The Association does not receive financial assistance from the people and through designing and implementation of economic income generating projects makes an income, and alongside that creates jobs for the disabled so that the income received can be spent on high goals (cultural, social and support).

4 – In view of financial restrictions, medical and educational problems, employment difficulties, lack of the right marriage culture in the lives of the disabled in Iran, the Association has made provision of services and correct and defined support for these people, in the top of the list of its goals.

The Highlighted Characteristics of the Disability Association of *Tavana*:

1 – For the purpose of preservation of the human dignity of individuals with disabilities, requests for public donations to the Association are prohibited.

2 – The social activities of the Association are done fully public and with the thought and executive participation of citizens and without government financial support.

3 – Almost all the activities of the Association (managerial 100 percent, executive 80 percent) are done with the utilisation of the practical forces of individuals with disabilities.

4 – Political movements are prohibited in the Association and its activities are completely away from political affiliations.

5 – The management in this Association is participatory and based on consultation.

6 – The Association has notably lifted the executive, operational and referral burden from the shoulders of governmental departments of the province, especially from the State Welfare Organization.

For further information on the Association and its activities you can refer to its website (both in English and Farsi): <https://www.iranavana.com>