



Human Right Developments in Iran

Newsletter No.20



DECEMBER 2020

ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

www.odvv.org

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

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1- Refugees Rights

1-1 The first Iranian identity booklet was issued for a child born to an Iranian mother and foreign father in Tehran

According to the Determination of Citizenship of Children born to Iranian Women Married to Foreign Men Act (2019), the Islamic Parliament issued the first Iranian ID booklet to children from Iranian women married to foreign men in the country through the Issuance General Office.

In the past and in 2006 there was a single article in the law according to which children born to Iranian women married to foreign men would receive Iranian ID documents upon reaching the age of 18; this law had some

vacuums which were reviewed and ultimately the Granting of Citizenship to all Children born to Iranian Women Married to Foreign Men Act was adopted by the Islamic Parliament with the cooperation of other organizations, and dispatched to all the country's provinces. It's around 3 to 4 months that the issuing of ID documents process for children born to Iranian women married to foreign men has begun. In this plan there is a total of 75thousand individuals that include 38thousand below 18 and 47thousand over 18 have registered and currently 10thousand case files have been completed. This action of the Islamic Republic of Iran is commendable with regards to international law and human rights.

It takes three months for a declaration and review of identity process and ultimately following the issuing of necessary confirmations the issuing of ID documents takes place in the Registration Organization. According to released figures there are approximately 35thousand marriages and children born to these marriages will be eligible for this Act.

Registration for getting ID documents is done by two methods, first one is done in person at BAFIA, governor generals, governorates and foreign nationals services centres, and the second via the internet by registering personal details in the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) website.

1-2 The launch of a screening project with the aim of protection of foreign child labourers

Considering that most child labourers in Iran are foreigners, namely from Afghanistan, in the meeting of the Organization of Child Labourers Committee and through a visit of Child Labourers Screen Centres which have been set up for the identification and protection of these children, the identification and protection of foreign child labourers was reiterated.

The aforementioned meeting was held with the coordinated participation of various bodies such as BAFIA, the Justice Department, State Welfare Organization, City Municipality, the police and Golestan Ali Charity Institute and other relevant organizations, and these organization cooperate with each other towards survey and protection of child labourers particularly foreign child labourers.

1-3 Support for refugees and foreigners residing in Iran for accessing government services

According to the laws and regulations adopted by the Radio Regulations and Communications Organization, if non-Iranians have problems in reaching Government Services Bureaus and Information, Rural Communications and Technologies Bureaus and these

bureaus refrain from giving them services, they can through contacting the 195 website and or 195 hotline register their complaints about these bureaus.

This is towards respecting foreign nationals, migrants and refugee's rights in Iran. To this aim also non-Iranian nationals complaints on the refusal of Government Services Bureaus and Information Technology and Communication Services Bureaus are immediately investigated.

With having credible identity documents such as refugee cards, residency cards (Amayesh, valid passports, ID card, green card, non-Iranian nationals can purchase at least three MCI sim cards in their own name.



2- Right to Education

2-1 The spread rate of addiction among schoolchildren has stopped

The Secretary General of the Fight against Narcotics Bureau in the signing of new joint cooperation letter of understanding between the Fight against Narcotics Bureau and the Red Crescent Society, with the aim of the maximum utilization of executive capacities for initial prevention of addiction in the country which was signed for two years, announced that according to official figures and information and with actions taken, the spread rate of addiction among schoolchildren stopped.

Considering that Iran is a transit route for drugs from Afghanistan, this causes uncountable damages for the

people and also the government. The amount of drugs production in Afghanistan has reached approximately 10thousand tonnes and this shows fifty times increase in drugs production since the presence of Americans in the country, also production of industrial drugs such as crystal meth in Afghanistan has had a notable increase.

Iran's confiscation of drugs in six months in this year is 92 times more this year, and this shows Iran's all sided efforts in the fight against drugs, to this aim alongside preventive measures, Iran has decided to make more use of the cooperation of NGOs.

The spread rate of addiction among university students is at 4 percent, and among schoolchildren 2 percent.

2-2 Opportunity for the education of sixteen thousand schoolchildren with impaired hearing

The National Special Education and Training Organization covers 16thousand schoolchildren with impaired hearing in more than 1600 special schools and 20thousand schools. Also 100 schools for the deaf, 23 schools for the blind and 6 boarding schools for 300 schoolchildren with impaired hearing are functioning.

There are approximately 6,000 schoolchildren in special schools in the form of 1,373 classrooms and 10thousand schoolchildren in more than 20thousand schools in the

form of combined education are covered by the Special Education and Training organization. Also it must be said that in the first and second preschool course, 700 children are covered by the Special Education and Training Organization in 175 classes in the country.

2-3 Equipping of 30 percent of the country's schools with chatrooms

In view of the importance of the existence of a chatroom for parents and teachers in schools and towards giving identity to the status of families and the role of parents in schools to-date 30 percent of the countries across the nation have been equipped with a chatroom for parents and teachers.

To this aim, the education of families takes place through five different methods which are: TV programmes at national and provincial levels, holding of education classes in two groups of families and teachers local family education centres, parents and teachers network with approximately 4.5 million members and publication of Peyvand magazine and PTA Guide book.

Services provided in the guidance and counselling centres are done in attendance and non-attendance (telephone) which currently in 8 provinces Comprehensive Family Guidance and Counselling centres have been set up, and the number of advisory centres in the country has risen from 180 to 380.



3- Women's Rights

3-1 Realisation of the role of women consultant judges in court complexes

Towards strengthening of the family and also understanding and protection of women's rights in court complexes, particularly family court complexes, the head of the Judiciary issued an order for the capacities of women be used in court decisions. Related to this, the role of women consultant judges will be realised in court complexes.

The head of the Judiciary also ordered that motherly sentiments be considered by family court judges and in divorce cases, women's rights to see their children not be violated.

3-2 Freedom and amnesty for a number of women prisoners

With a reforming and re-socialising of prisoners to-date the Judiciary has tried to pardon more prisoners, especially female prisoners. Also in some crimes the Judiciary has been forgiving and with conditional releases, suspension of implementation of punishment or electronic tracking devices and also end of term day releases it tries to facilitate the return of prisoners to society. To this aim it has been decided those prisoners who are in prison for just fencing goods to be dealt with in a speedy manner through the use of the capacity of Dispute Settlement Council, observer judges and prison social workers to make efforts to draw the agreement of the plaintiffs.

As a result of these new orders and towards the developmental programmes of the Judiciary and in the implementation of the organization of prisoners' affairs guidelines and reduction of the prisons population 30 female prisoners in Tehran's prison were released with giving them leave and the request for conditional release of 75 people was granted and were released from the charitable credits place. Also 25 prisoners also were released through postponement of implementation of sentence and the request of another 155 prisoners was also reviewed and followed up on. Also with the order of Tehran's prosecutor a number of female prisoners who were eligible for pardons their names was sent to the

Pardons Commission and also 175 female prisoners on this occasion were given temporary release.

3-3 Nasrin Sotoodeh goes on leave with the approval of Women's Prison Organization

Nasrin Sotoodeh who was sentenced to prison for public crimes went on leave with the approval of supervising assistant prosecutor on Women's Prisons Organization.

A while ago this inmate in accordance with Article 7(b) of the Categorization of Prisoners' Guidelines (28 Feb. 2007), was transferred to women's prison because of spending her sentence in public crimes.



4 -Rights of Persons with Disabilities

4-1 State Welfare Organization launches radio station for the blind

State Welfare Organization's radio station for the blind has been set up with the aim of improving the living of the blind and protection of the rights of Persons with disabilities. This radio station is run once a fortnight in the form of podcast by a number of persons with vision disabilities and is published in the Welfare Organization's website.

Furthermore, the capacities of these individuals for production of other media products of the State Welfare Organization such as poster design, video clips and motionography will be used. One of the good things about this planning has been the poster for International Day of

the Blind and International Day of the Deaf which have been prepared and printed by persons with physical and movement disabilities.

4-2 Refurbishment of city infrastructures to ease the commuting of persons with disabilities

With the cooperation of the Coordination and Adaptation Follow-up Headquarters of the Country, the accessibility of routes, travel terminals, places and highway complexes in the launching of roads and conditions of airports, terminals and railway facilities of the country which began some time ago is being speeded up. This is towards the respect towards the rights of persons with disabilities and creation of opportunities for their further presence in society.

According to the report of the railways executive director out of 137 train stations, approximately 50 stations which have 95 percent share in transporting passengers have been refurbished for walking disabled and senior citizens. Facilities such as permanent and movable ramps, elevators and lifts, parking for the disabled, refurbished public bathrooms for the disabled have been installed in these stations. Also an opportunity has been created for purchasing tickets in which the railway officials are informed of the number of disabled passengers for each trip.

Furthermore, other websites for purchasing tickets for persons with disabilities, the blind in particular, are quickly being redesigned. According to the Coordination Headquarters and the order of the Road and Urban Development Ministry, parallel groups will be present in railway stations and passenger terminals and airports and will monitor the refurbishment process. Towards accurate supervision and also the employment of these individuals of parallel groups from public groups, the workforce of senior citizens and the disabled will be used.

4-3 Distribution of 80 thousands food packs among families of persons with disabilities and in need

Out of the 610 billion Rials cash donations to the Iranian Red Crescent Society, 350 billion Rials have been spent on the preparation of 240thousand food packs for the needy, especially families with individuals with disabilities, 140 billion Rials have been spent on hygiene goods such as masks and gowns, which these goods are for testing citizens, distribution among special patients and equipping hospitals and Red Crescent treatment centres who provide services for COVID-19 patients. There is still more than 100 billion Rials in the Red Crescent Society's account.

Also, in the *Ameran* Salamat Programme, the Red Crescent Society with allocating 15 billion Rials for

individuals with financial problems, provides them with free masks. This programme is underway with 4,000 teams across all Iran.

4-4 Insurance for 300 thousand Aid Committee clients for families of persons with disabilities

Through the signing of a letter of understanding between the Aid Committee and the Farmers, Villagers and Nomads Social Insurance Fund, in the initial step 300thousand individuals with prioritization of women heads of household and individuals who have a family member with disabilities were given social insurance for free.

With this insurance rural and nomadic client between the ages of 18 and 50 will benefit from the Farmers, Villagers and Nomads Social Insurance Fund, which includes unemployment, retirement and death.

Currently 1.3 million individuals are benefiting from this Fund which with the letter of understanding with the Aid Committee, 300thousand clients will be added to this Fund.

In this letter of understanding the government has accepted all the expenses of the insured and the same services have been foreseen for the State Welfare Organization's addressees, individuals with disabilities, women heads of household, carpet weavers etc.



5- Human Rights

5-1 Commutation of 197 executions and release of 5,000 prisoners with the efforts of Dispute Settlement Councils in the current year

On the anniversary of the founding of Dispute Settlement Councils it was announced that 3.5 million case files had been closed by these Councils and many homicides had been resolved.

Just last year alone, Dispute Settlement Councils entered more than 500 homicide casefiles and these files were resolved. The increase in resolution and resolving in case files that have incarcerations it is evident that approximately 20thousand files are reviewed in prisons and 12thousand of them have reached resolutions and more than 5,000 prisoners have been released.

According to official reports 197 individuals sentenced to *Ghesas* (Retribution), from March to September this year,

were saved from the noose. To this aim it has been announced that annually 400 execution cases have had their sentences commuted.

5-2 Release of 600 prisoners in Tehran through the Dieh (blood money) Organization/Review of 3,500 pardon requests in the current year

According to released official reports in the March to September period this year more than 600 individuals were released through Tehran's *Dieh* Organization.

Alongside this a prosecutors' group was formed in a period of less than 40 days, reviewed 1,200 cases and resulted in the release of more than 650 prisoners. Also, with the help of almost 13 billion Rials by charitable individuals, many mehrieh and unintentional cash fine crimes with less than 200 billion Rials were released and this process continues.

It must be said that in the last six months more than 3,500 pardon requests have been reviewed and in the future it is expected for more prisoners to be released.

5-3 Details of the new phase of amnesty and release of 3,700 public and security convicts

On the recommendation of the Judiciary and agreement of the Supreme Leader and continuation of non-

imprisonment and reducing the prison population of the country during the development period and birth of the Prophet of Islam (PBUH) and Imam Jaafar Sadegh (PBUH) extensive pardons which include 3,780 prisoners and those guilty of security crimes were pardoned.

The pardoning of eligible convicts and having the suitable conditions, on the occasion of religious Eids and national days, is a process which in the past years has always been in the attention of the Judiciary and the agreement and benevolence of the Supreme Leader. But this general policy has found a number of serious and common differences during the development period.

First of all, the number of pardons and individuals who are included each time, has risen in the current period, in a way that in the last 20 months there were 14 pardons and special occasion releases.

Secondly some security crimes prisoners who in other periods were not eligible for pardons, in the development period for the first time they benefited from this and their names have been added to the list of pardoned prisoners.

Now and in continuation of this process, on the occasion of the birth of the Great Prophet of Islam, has submitted a list of prisoners eligible for pardons to the Supreme Leader and with his agreement, these individuals will soon be released from prison and return to their families.

In the recent list there are a number of security crimes prisoners who will be released.

5-4 Preparation of data bank of 16,300 NGOs nationwide for easing provision of services

Following the Partnership and Interaction of NGOs with the Judiciary Method Guidelines and with the aim of interaction and further benefiting from NGOs activities, a comprehensive data bank of 16,300 NGOs was identified nationwide and prepared.

From February 2020 to-date this data has been collected and registered, and their updating is done at the same time as preparation and completion of details, type of activity, participation level etc. on a daily basis. Identified NGOs are categorised in the fields of charity, goodwill work, prevention and treatment of addiction, cultural, sports, social, arts, environment, children and women (protection of abused women and children), scientific and research, support for special diseases.

The data includes organization's name, its executive director, activities subject, address and phone number, and grouped provincially. To-date for the participation and benefiting from the activities of NGOs with the Judiciary, four working groups have been set up on the following areas: protection of victims of crime, health, combatting economic corruption, and charity affairs.



6- Introduction of Human Rights Activists

6-1 Ashoora Charity Aid Institute

The *Ashoora* Charity Aid Institute is a nongovernmental, non-political, non-profit charity institute which has been its activities in the framework of the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran and according to goals and duties defined in its statute in 1985, and in its current officially began its activities in 2002. The attention of this charity is caring and assisting cancer and terminal diseases patients, which especially in the current situation with America's unilateral sanctions imposed against Iran these patients are going through difficult times suffering from some of the costly sicknesses which impose astronomical budgets and long-term treatment on the families.

Aside from helping patients in need, this Institute believes that for the eradication of poverty and disease from the face of this land and protection of the life of the family, to its capacity the Institute promotes a religious culture and

attention to human dignity and spread of a spirit of forgiveness and conciliation in society.

Objectives

- Improving human dignity in society.
- Efforts to realise the recommendations of religious leaders and clergy towards caring for the deprived and impoverished of society for the purpose of expansion of social justice.
- Expansion of conciliation culture in society.
- Creation of suitable basis for provision of aid, health, treatment, education, counselling and rehabilitation services to the deprived through benefiting from existing talents in society.
- Encouragement of the medical community and health and treatment institutions to good deed work towards Islamic and human duties.
- Help towards eradication of poverty and diseases from society.
- Prevention of threats against the family's existence.

For further information on the Institute and its activities please visit the following website:
<https://emdadgaran.ir>