



Human Right Developments in Iran

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ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

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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 Issuing Comprehensive Code for Afghan Refugees in Iran

In view of the disruption created in refugees' access to some social services such as banking, the problem was resolved with the cooperation of Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) and Iranian banks. In this regard, through an announcement, BAFIA issued permits for new personalized number certificates for Afghan applicants who have Amayesh 15 cards to present to banks. It must be said that recently banks due to the integration of their systems and with the aim of money laundering prevention, updated the legal and private information of account holders. But due to not having national identity numbers, Afghan refugees faced problems having their information entered and updated in the nationwide banking system.

Towards the resolving of this problem those Afghan refugees who for the completion of their personal details in banks require comprehensive code (personalized number), can for the purpose of acquiring specialized 12-digit number refer to Foreign Nationals' Services Bureau.

From next year the new numbers will be included in Amayesh Cards.

1-2 Holding a Tripartite Session on Health Insurance for Afghan Refugees in Iran

With the cooperation of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Health Ministry, the Islamic Republic of Iran since 2015 to-date has launched an insurance system for vulnerable refugees, especially those who are suffering from special and painful diseases. Each year, at least 100 thousand refugees benefit from these insurance services.

The current insurance of refugees which is under the auspices of Health Insurance will come to an end in the current month. Therefore, for the purpose of renewing the insurance, a coordination session was held with the three mentioned parties. Although the Iranian Health Ministry has registered nearly one million refugees for medical treatment services – especially during the current ongoing pandemic – and provides services to around two million undocumented Afghans, but this insurance can be of good

help especially for refugees suffering from special diseases.

In this session, UNHCR representative, Mr. Freijsen, while reiterating the continuation of the insurance services process for refugees, thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its services in providing medical treatment and insurance services to refugees, and declared his readiness to provide better services to refugees. Also the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi's message was released in which he thanked the Iranian government for providing services to refugees. He said the good hosting of refugees by the Iranian government and provision of various services, particularly in Health Insurance services is unprecedented in the world and the international community is always appreciative of these services.



2- Right to Education

2-1 Expansion of Education Services to Autistic Children

In the last few years the Ministry of Education has facilitated the conditions for the education of special children that include autistic ones so that this group can benefit from the necessary standards from education services. According to published figures currently in total there are 2,617 autistic schoolchildren in special schools and 178 are being educated in schools in integrated way which in total 2,795 students are covered.

According to official findings, the education coverage of autistic schoolchildren from 2005 to-date has had a 2,500 percent growth. To this aim 387 teachers are in special education and training department and are in charge of educating autistic children.

Towards the strengthening of teachers, joint 65-hour workshops with the cooperation of the International Affairs Centre of the Ministry of Education and UNESCO regional office was held to train teachers and a 128-hour course was held for training teachers and counselors and multi-skills teacher training courses have been held with the cooperation of UNESCO.



3- Women's Rights

3-1 Increase in Number of Women Headmistresses in Education and Training

According to figures published by the Ministry of Education, women have the most responsibilities in education and administration. Thus, from this Ministry and towards the establishment of gender justice various programmes have been considered for increasing the knowledge and skill levels of women.

The creation of working women's data bank, holding training courses while working, holding technical-scientific sittings and increasing capacity and increasing skills training, dialogue for cultured women are other activities of this Ministry.

According to published official figures, the 5 percent share of women directors in the executive branch departments has risen to 20 percent from the start of the 11th government to-date; to an extent that there are one deputy minister, two provincial education and training director generals, 25 regional directors and a number of women assistant directors across the nation. Therefore, an acceptable increase can be seen with regards to the promotion of women's rights in education and training and through the foreseen skills programmes in the future, these figures will also rise.



4 -Rights of Persons with Disabilities

4-1 55thousand Households with Individuals with Disabilities Receive Nursing Care Benefits

For individuals with severe and very severe disabilities in 24-hour care centers 11,100,000 Rials and for individuals without identities 13,350,000 Rials monthly targeted subsidies are paid. This is while the nursing care benefits for households with individuals with spinal cord disabilities and individuals with severe physical-movement disabilities has increased threefold; because one of the State Welfare Organization's programmes stresses on the pivotal role of the family.

It must be said that in the last 2 years 21,000 individuals have received nursing care benefits which from now on the amount which has increased threefold will be deposited in their accounts.

4-2 Opening a Large Sports and Treatment Complex for the Disabled

The *Behesht-e Emam Reza* large sports and treatment complex for persons with disabilities was opened in the Shahr-e Ziba district of Tehran. This complex consists of various sections including workshop for assembly of walking stick, Zimmer frame and wheelchairs in addition to a gym, swimming pool and offers hydrotherapy, physiotherapy, dental surgery services as well we taxi Internet call center for persons with disabilities.

This project with an area equal to 7,000 square meters is consist of four floors and 7 sports and therapy complexes have been constructed in five years with investment of the private and public sectors and will create 500 new jobs.



5- Human Rights

5-1 Technical and Vocational Training for 40 Percent of Prisoners

According to reports published by the National Prisons Organization to-date 40 percent of prisoners have received necessary education that include literacy education and technical and vocational trainings, and the figure is projected to reach 50 percent by the end of the Persian solar year (March 20).

Attention to employment and vocational trainings, the physical and mental health of prisoners and taking care of their families are important reform and correctional activities in prisons and it is hoped that through the provision of these trainings we witness the healthy integration of this group into society.

5-2 If Necessary Prison Inspections will be Permitted

Hojatoleslam val-Muslemin Mohseni-Ejeei, the Judiciary Branch's first deputy, recently officially announced that if it is necessary, prison inspections will be permitted. Following the publication of criticisms with regards to mistreatment of prisoners in detention centres and prisons, he made the announcement. In this regard, recently members of parliament inspected *Evin* prison for conditions of those arrested following last month's protests.

Mr. Reisee head of the Judiciary has recently announced that prisons in Iran are open to the international human rights community.



6- Introducing of Human Rights Activists

6-1 KOMAK Support of Helpless Children Institute

KOMAK is an independent, nongovernmental, nonpolitical, and nonprofit but critical and questioning organization which sees itself duty bound to fully defend and protect the rights of deprived and helpless children and endeavors for the provision of their crucial material and moral needs. The institute has also received necessary permission to work and provide services to foreign nationals, including refugees.

With the registration number 35546 (from the Interior Ministry), the *KOMAK* Institute is a nongovernmental organization whose intention is to fully defend and protect deprived and helpless children under the age of 18.

The activities theme of the Institute is social assistance, and covers in cultural, health, research, education, medical treatment, education and if required provision of shelter fields and endeavors to eradicate deprivation and protect helpless children.

KOMAK Institute Activities:

- 1 – Provision of services needed for children in need and those who in a way are deemed as their guardians.
- 2 – Mental, psychological and counseling support for helpless children and efforts to observe their rights, dignity and interests.
- 3 – Identification and follow-up on the removal of obstacles and factors that socially and culturally hold back children's related rights.
- 4 – Efforts to identify and prevent forced labor or work without pay of children.
- 5 – Prevention and counseling and education of deprived and helpless children and their introduction to correct child raising methods and negative repercussions of any form of punishment, degradation and abuse of children and replacing with responsibility feeling instead of a feeling of ownership of their children.
- 6 – Empathic colloquium and dialogue with helpless, labor, criminal, addict and street children and juveniles.
- 7 – Efforts to rehabilitate and empower children (who are needy, disabled, socially damaged or victims of unforeseen disasters)
- 8 – Provision of fundamental needs that include food, clothing and hygiene for needy children and their families.

9 – Change of approach from full support to insurance in the general activities of the Organization.

10 – Expansion of job creation and self-employment programmes for target community.

11 – Efforts to increase the participation of the nongovernmental sector in provision of support and rehabilitation services.

12 – Expansion of education for target groups.

13 – Expansion of social oriented programmes and making society aware of the types and methods of KOMAK Institute activities.

14 – Action towards presentation of urgent projects to reduce food poverty of low income households and malnutrition of helpless children covered by the Institute.

15 – Further promotion of inter-departmental cooperation and preparation of data bank on the malnutrition levels and their spread among helpless children and their families.

16 – Study of growth chart which shows malnutrition and presentation of food packages.

17 – Acceptance and taking care of and rehabilitation of infant and child addicts.

18 – Timely intervention and filing complaints against parents and or guardians of children who have been subjected to abuse and exploitation, for the purpose of

their protection and prevention of repeat abuse and if necessary get court orders to remove children from incompetent guardians.

19 – Presentation of reports related to child abuse and exploitation of children to the public and international relations department in public and mass medias with the aim of drawing the public and authorities' attention.

20 – Efforts to present a comprehensive and strategic plan towards the full protection of deprived and helpless children's rights and submission of the plan to the parliament to make changes in existing laws.

21 – The use of counselors and attorneys at law for legal and judicial assistance regarding the removal of existing problems in investigation of helpless children's matters.

22 – Pursuit and efforts for the removal of the legal and judicial problems of undocumented Iranian children.

23 – Acceptance, taking care, rehabilitation, speech therapy of mentally handicapped deprived and helpless children.

24 – Collection and removal of legal and judicial problems and investigation of homeless helpless children's matters with prioritization of girls.

25 – Identification and follow-up on the removal of obstacles and factors that socially and culturally hold back helpless children's related rights.

26 – Efforts towards the implementation of principles brought in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) adopted by the UN and final adoption by the Islamic Republic of Iran government in 1983.

To this aim, to-date the Institute has covered 1367 helpless children, donated stationary to 5000 children, and supported 500 sick children who needed medical treatment.

For further information on the Institute and activities visit:
<https://komakchild.org>