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# **Human Right Developments in Iran**

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**ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE**

**[www.odvv.org](http://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

### 1-1 120,000 refugees assisted to access free of charge Iran's health insurance scheme

With the financial assistance of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the Iranian government has insured 120thousand vulnerable Afghan refugees. With this action, vulnerable refugees will be able to enjoy Medical Services Insurance. According to the official announcement of Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) all foreign refugees who have valid residency documents (ID cards, Amayesh card, travel permits in between towns for foreign nationals) are eligible for health insurance in Iran. These insurance services include day release services, hospitalization services and temporary hospitalization services in hospitals under the auspices of the Health Ministry and partners in contract.

This is whole in the current year, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect refugees and host communities in Iran, the number of vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in Iran has increased and an increase of 20thousand individuals covered by insurance compared to the previous year is still very far from the real need. According to published figures there are 800thousand Afghan refugees who are in need of being included in the insurance scheme. Therefore, the gap between international assistance and real need is very visible.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has increased financial and human pressures on the medical field in Iran. Nonetheless according to the National Medical services Insurance in Iran programme, various services often free of charge, especially on the subject of COVID-19, provided to Afghan nationals.

## **1-2 Government's Support for Afghan Refugees' Sports in Iran**

Towards support for Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers' sports in Iran, through a letter of understanding the Representative Group of Afghanistan Football Federation in Iran officially began its activities.

The Iranian government has always supported the sports of Afghan nationals in Iran and currently Afghan refugees in Iran have more effective presence in Afghanistan's sports teams. The aim of this action is also to take care of

the football situation of asylum-seekers and support for migrant football players, coordination in holding football matches and also coordination in hosting Afghan national squad in Iran.

It must be said that Representative Group of Afghanistan Football Federation in Iran will provide necessary services to all sports of migrants in all sports fields.



## 2- Right to Education

### 2-1 Formation of the First Advisory Council for Children and Juveniles in Isfahan

With the aim of promoting the qualities of accountability, participation acceptance spirit and group teamwork among children and juveniles with the elections system and participation of 1550 children and registration of approximately 22thousand individuals, the first Advisory Council for Children and Juveniles in Isfahan was formed in the framework of Child-Friendly City in Esfahan,. After months of discussions and debates in the Executive Council of the Child-Friendly City in Esfahan,, related commissions in the Council, consultation with NGOs active in the field of children and juveniles and also the Interior Ministry and UNICEF the Advisory Council for Children and Juveniles process began in view of the

executive actions adopted in the Isfahan City Islamic Council, towards the [Child-Friendly City](#) campaign.

It must be said that towards human dignity and human rights, Afghan children also were in all the stages and processes of this round of elections. In this round approximately 15thousand Afghan children also participated who were in competition alongside the rest of the children.

## **2-2 Support for Nongovernmental Nonprofit Charitable Schools**

In view of economic problems caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country, the government is taking various supportive actions for nongovernmental charitable schools. According to existing figures, most nongovernmental across the country are run in a nonprofit and charitable way. They are mostly in deprived regions and are run by popular associations and groups.

In some of these schools, only deprived and drop out students that include children with bad custodians are covered and all expenses are also paid by charitable individuals. In these schools as well as provision of education services, in most cases various other aspects of students' issues such as economic and family problems are also reviewed.





### **3- Women's Rights**

#### **3-1 200 Female Prisoners Given Leave**

With the publication of the Judiciary Head's memo regarding giving leave to prisoners, especially support for female prisoners for their more speedy return to their families, 200 female prisoners were granted leave in the new solar year (Iranian year 1400), 170 of which were from Tehran's Justice Department jurisdiction.

Towards the carrying out of the Judiciary Head's recommendations and Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor of Tehran, in the strengthening of arbitration councils through the constant efforts of the Presidency's Women's Affairs Deputy and assistance of the head of arbitration councils of Tehran Province, a peacemaking branch in women's prisons was strengthened and with the addition of another branch, a peacemaking complex was set up for the first time in women's prisons.

It is expected that with the setting up of this branch effective steps to be taken in the creation of peace and conciliation and release of prisoners.

It must be said that in the last year with the efforts of the arbitration council based in prison, seven women who were sentenced to Ghasas (retaliation punishment) for committing murder, with the consent of the plaintiffs their death sentences were commuted. Also a notable number of female prisoners who due to financial problems were doing prison sentences were released from prison with the help of arbitration council and also charities and returned to their families.

The distribution of goods packs among prisoners' families particularly families of women heads of households through the arbitration council, the galvanizing of Greater Tehran law experts and charities and also distribution of gift cards among prisoners are other actions of the Presidency's Women's Affairs Deputy.

### **3-2 Budget for Women's Sports Doubled for the Iranian Year 1400**

Towards support for the health and happiness of women in society, the women's sports budget in the new Iranian solar year (1400) has been doubled from the last year.

In view of the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country, the allocation of this budget can promote the physical and

mental health of women and also, they can play effective role in the society. To this aim in the field of women's sports various programmes designed for small home environments are prepared and presented so that during the COVID-19 crisis women are not denied their physical exercises.

It must be said that in the current conditions, there are 20 women's sports leagues, as well as various national programmes for women in different provinces are underway.

According to official figures there are more than 1.4 million organized sportswomen in the country, 10thousand of which are invited to camps and there are 499 women athletes' members of national squads. Also, we have 12thousand women coaches 450 of which are head coaches and coaches in national teams, 80 capable women are also referees and judges in various sports fields at international levels.



## **4 -Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

### **4-1 Provision of 21thousand Disability Aid Equipment and Prosthetics for Individuals with Disabilities**

Currently there are 400 daily and profession learning and supportive production workshop centres under the collective of the State Welfare Organization. Last year, these centres presented training and welfare services to 55thousand individuals with disabilities, 48thousand of which receive a share of the State Welfare Organization share of subsidies.

Last year 21thousand aid equipment and prosthetics were provided for individuals with disabilities; also 2,685 assistance for deaf children for cochlear implants were done. Also there are 1,533 centres covered by the State Welfare Organization which have 3,200 experts, who present arts therapy to their patients. As well as these

cases, last year 4 disabled theatrical festivals were held online and one national disabled drawing gallery was also held online.

With regards to aid assistance equipment to individuals with disabilities, also last year 122thousand rehabilitation aid equipment were provided for the disabled. With regards to provision of hygiene equipment for individuals with spinal cord injuries and the bedridden, according to published figures 44,500 are covered by the State Welfare Organization, 27thousand of which have spinal cord injuries and 17,500 are bedridden, were paid approximately 1.8 billion rials supplementary benefits for the provision of hygiene equipment.



## 5- Human Rights

### 5-1 Pardoning of 100 Individuals Convicted of Security Crimes and the Aban 1398 Events on the Occasion of Nimeh Shaaban

On the occasion of the birth of Vali Asr (Imam Zaman, the Disappeared 12<sup>th</sup> Imam of the Shia) and the Islamic Republic of Iran Day, in a letter to the Leader (Ayatollah Khamenei), the head of the Judiciary recommended the pardoning or commuting and alternative punishment sentences of 100 individuals convicted of security crimes and Aban 1398 events. This recommendation was approved by the Leader in accordance with paragraph 11 of article 110 of the Constitution.

One of the characteristics of the pardons of the last two years has been the addition of the names of those

convicted of security crimes in the pardons' list. Prior to that in 2020 on various occasions at the request of the head of the Judiciary from the Leader (Ayatollah Khamenei) a number of those convicted of security crimes were also included in pardons or commutation of crimes alongside other prisoners.

One of the characteristics of the recent pardons is that some prisoners such as those convicted of security crimes in previous times were not included in the pardons list, in the development period for the time benefited from this and their names were also placed on the list of pardoned prisoners.

The pardoning of those convicted of security crimes in continuation of actions such as separation of political and security crimes from each other and the issuance of the judicial security document and implementation of the judicial development programme are some of the important examples of the change seeking of the Judiciary Branch.

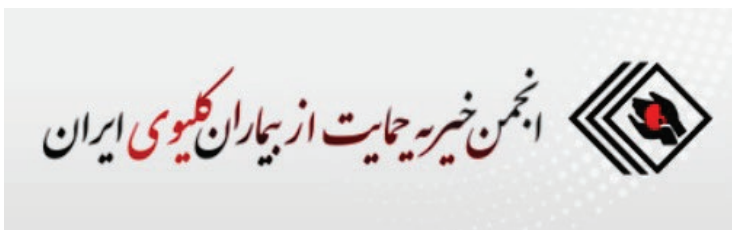
## **5-2 80 Percent Employment Rate in Tehran Province Prisons in the Current Year**

In view of the prison population of Tehran province and the existing capacities, the 80 percent employment rate was launched in these prisons. Volunteer prisoners while learning technical and vocational skills, the opportunity for them to get jobs is also brought about. This action can

create conditions when released prisoners can through learning a profession and also income generation can help themselves and their families. Also, these conditions bring about opportunities for prisoners of financial crimes to be able to repay their debts and be released from prison early.

Also, following their release these individuals can get jobs in the professions that they learned while in prison and through entering the job market choose the correct path in life.





## **6- Introducing of Human Rights Activists**

### **6-1 Kidney Foundation of Iran**

The Kidney Foundation of Iran is a charity, popular, nonpartisan and independent institute having a permit from the Interior Ministry which has more than 125 thousand members and 176 branches across the nation. This Foundation was officially founded in 1980 by a number of patients and their families and with the donations of a number of charitable individuals and medical teams. According to the Foundation's Statute its objectives are based on these principles:

#### **Education – Prevention**

The most important duty of the Foundation is the identification of kidney diseases and kidney disease prevention methods towards the practical belief in “education and prevention, lesser cost, easier and priority to treatment.”

#### **Cultural – Arts – Sports Programmes**

Following up and efforts to create facilities and opportunities and carrying out programmes and cultural,

arts, campaign, communication, recreation, pilgrimage, sports programmes for patients and their families and possibly the medical teams for the purpose of the preservation and solidification of happy spirit and raising their cultural perspective towards acceptance, and better way of facing the disease and fighting it.

### Aid and Legal Services

Planning and follow up conducting all matters related to kidney patients and solving problems that they have such as legal, administrative, employment, consultation and guidance in other related issues and also the expansion of these services across the nation.

### Medical Treatment Services

Currently the Foundation through the utilization of popular support, has created and developed a quality and quantity cure clinic having access to most sectors needed by the patients that include treatment centre, radiology, laboratory, hemodialysis departments and peritoneal dialysis and nephrology, dental work, heart, diet therapy, and by using their insurance booklet and membership cards patients can benefit from free services.

### Support Services

As well as medical treatment, the Kidney Foundation of Iran gives support for Iranian kidney patients for the provision of medical insurance, follow up and facilitation in getting the drugs that patients must have and monitoring on the better quality of the drugs, and also

provision of supplementary assistance for the cost of the medical treatment and drugs per case in kidney transplants and prepare and create facilities and opportunities, registration, coordination and doing medical tests and introduction of patients and donors and helping the patient in all stages, before, during and after transplant surgery, and to-date has issued permits for more than 30 thousand kidney transplants.

### Medical and Empowerment

The launching of the *Shafa* Pharmacy and other departments needed by patients in the *Shafa* Clinic and creation of a kidney bank are some of the actions taken for provision of more satisfactory services to patients.

Creation of facilities and opportunities for the provision of medical insurance, drugs costs, treatment, commutation, housing, education, employment, preparation of dowry and marriage and also job creating loans are other programmes for the empowerment of kidney patients and their families.

For further information on the Foundation and its activities visit <http://www.irankf.com/>