



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 Afghan Top University Student Won the National Arman Bartar Festival Award in Iran

Especially in the recent years, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has promoted the conditions for the scientific and cultural advancement of Afghan refugees and migrants to an acceptable level. To this aim, while facilitation of the opportunity to attend national universities, the opportunity for these individuals to participate in various science competitions have also been brought about. With the utilization of these conditions, Afghan university student in digital architecture Master's Degree, Nazdaneh Ahmadi successfully won the National *Arman Bartar* Festival award in 2021.

She was born in 1995 in Daykandi province in Afghanistan, and lives in Kashan Iran and has a degree in architectural engineering and successfully got the first place in the fifth National *Arman Bartar* Festival of Iran. This Festival with giving prizes and awards to top cultural, arts and sciences individuals who have done great things, commends and introduces these individuals.

1-2 Afghan Youth Gets Heart Transplant in Tehran

According to reports published by the Iranian Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Training's Transplants and Diseases Treatment Management, the heart of a 19-year-old Afghan youth who was clinically dead after an accident was successfully donated to a fellow Afghan 14-year-old girl.

With the approval and generosity of the family of the 19-year-old youth and the cooperation of transplant teams and Medical Sciences University of Mashhad prep teams, the Iranian Emergency Organization and Air Emergency Rescue, the transportation by air of the donated heart and the transplant took place successfully.

It must be said that transplants for foreign nationals in Iran is prohibited, unless there are cases where he donors and receivers are related, and if the case following confirmation from the relevant embassy, the permission for transplant is issued from the medical treatment deputy

of the Ministry of Health. In view of the large number of Afghan nationals in Iran and their vulnerability, in 2016 Afghan nationals became exempt to this rule, on the condition that the donor also an Afghan, and both parties have valid identity documents.

1-3 Scholarship for Afghan Students in Universities in Iran

Each year the National Elites' Foundation provides various support for elites. This year too, this Foundation has covered 4000 elites, 100 of which are Afghan nationals and migrants, 85 of which have announced their presence to benefit these services. Thirty out of 85 of them are studying medicine in Yazd, Mashhad and other Iranian universities.

The Islamic Republic of Iran always puts the support of the return of Iranian experts, live in other countries, to the country and support of foreign students in its programmes, particularly in the last few years, and during this period a notable number of Afghan nationals in Iran have been provided support.

1-4 Support for Refugees and Migrants’ Sports in Iran

With the expansion of its services and support for Afghan refugees and migrants’ sports in Iran, to-date, the Islamic Republic of Iran government has provided the opportunity for a notable number of Afghan athletes to take part in international sports events.

Recently Afghan migrant taekwondo competitor, Mohsen Rezaee won gold medal in the Asian championship. This is the first time that an Afghan wins a gold medal in Asia. Rezaee, lives in Golshahr in Alburz Province - Iran.

Also another Afghan athlete in Iran, Ms. Rozma Ghafouri, a 29-year-old sports coach, won the UNHCR’s annual Nansen Refugee Award, a prestigious annual prize that honors those who have gone to extraordinary lengths to help forcibly displaced or stateless people.

1-5 Support for Afghan Refugees’ Access to Bank Services in Iran

While organizing the banking system’s mechanisms, the Iranian government has eased refugees’ access to banking services and systems for Afghan nationals in Iran. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s recent move to formalize access to banking services, including debit cards, for Afghan refugees in the country was welcomed by UN Agencies such as UNHCR.

In Iran, as elsewhere, there has also been a growing preference for digital payments instead of cash to avoid unnecessary physical transactions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Salary payments, online purchases, university registrations, and reimbursements of healthcare fees are now also mostly made via online bank transfers. This makes the issuance of bank cards a very important and welcome step that can greatly benefit refugees in their daily lives.

Before the new policy was announced, banks around the country followed different practices, which meant that some refugees could access banking services but most could not. Now, all refugees will have a more secure means of managing their finances.

Furthermore, it must be said that during the outbreak of COVID-19 UNHCR took steps in distributing cash aid in the form of bank debit cards among refugees. With the expansion of refugees' access to banking services while preserving their dignity, the distribution of international agencies aid will become much faster.

1-6 Refugee and Migrant Schoolchildren's Access to Educational Software Programmes

In view of the outbreak of COVID-19 and schoolchildren not being able to go to school, the Iranian Ministry of Education and Training has tried to provide equal access

to various apps and computer programmes for individuals regardless of ethnicity, nationality and gender.

To this aim, as well as regular education programmes on national TV, the *Shad* software for schoolchildren has been designed and released, and most likely this programme will continue to be a complement to in attendance education. For this reason, and according to the Education and Training Minister the difficulties of Afghan nationals' and even undocumented ones have been resolved.

In this regard, Afghan schoolchildren who do not have National Codes (similar to US Social Security Numbers) can receive replacement Codes from the Interior Ministry, and use them for identification in the *Shad* software.



2- Children's Rights

Organization of Child Labourers in the Country

By organizing child labourers and street children, especially from one and a half years ago, the State Welfare Organization (SWO) has managed to reduce the number of child labourers and street children in the city, and placed their organization in a more serious working agenda. This plan which is ongoing is an all-sided process for the protection of children and the families of child labourers.

Out of the children which were organized by the SWO a number of them could not return home and were handed

over to the *Yasser* Child Labourers Charitable Centre to continue education and empowerment.

In this regard, various programmes alongside recreational programmes for children have been considered. While receiving legal support child labourers benefit from education and also technical and professional programmes. In the Yasser Charitable Centre, the main focus is on the continuation of children's education, but to raise the self-confidence of these children it is necessary for them to learn skills so after finishing the course, they will not go back to trivial jobs. Considering that these children have not been able to rely on their families, must stand on their own feet and as soon as they acquire mental and physical maturity begin to work in society and have necessary skills to be able to get a job.

It must be said that in Tehran alone in a six-month period 923 child labourers have been identified and organization. Only 160 out of this number are Iranians. Approximately 85 percent of them are foreign nationals. Of course it must be said that most of the foreign nationals crossed the Iranian border illegally.

Also with the families identifying them, 724 of these children were released. The release of these children is that after their families confirm their identity, if they do not want to have anything to do with them, these children are protected by the SWO. Even the social worker closely monitor's the problems and issues of the family and following the empowerment of the family and the child,

require guarantees from the family that in accordance to the International Conventions they are not allowed to send the child onto the streets for work, and the conditions for the education of the child must be facilitated.



3- Women's Rights

The Observation of the Dignity and Provision of Security for Women against Violence Draft Bill

The Observation of the Dignity and Provision of Security for Women against Violence Draft Bill was drawn up by the Judiciary Branch approximately in 2 and sent to the government for the adoption stages.

Observation of the Dignity and Provision of Security for Women against Violence is title of a comprehensive draft bill for the protection of women which was drawn up by the Judiciary Branch 2 years ago and was sent to the government for the adoption stages. With the new president elect it is expected for this draft bill to be given priority and quickly be adopted.

It must be said that the Observation of the Dignity and Provision of Security for Women against Violence bill is in 5 chapters and 77 articles. In this bill the preservation of women's mental and physical dignity and safety is requisite for the preservation of the family system and efforts are made so that laws and regulations are in such way that preventive and legal interventions, while observing the dignity and provision of safety to women against violence results in the preservation of the promotion of the family system.

According to human rights principles, forced marriage is not only prohibited in this bill, but punishments have been considered for forcing them into marriage. Abuse of rights as a result of guardianship, custody, and observation and custodianship through forcing women to marriage or divorce without consent for any reason such as resolving disputes such as exchange marriage as a result of “*khoonbass*” (make peace by paying money / compromise) or family disputes are banned according to this bill and the offender will get an imprisonment or cash fine in the sixth degree sentence.

In this bill heavy punishments have been considered for violators of women's rights.



4 -Rights of Persons with Disabilities

4-1 Easing of Access of Partially Sighted and Blind Persons to Banking Services

One of the problems that partially sighted or blind persons are faced with in society is the use of the banking system. To this aim, last year comprehensive plans for the improvement of banking services have been implemented and the access of these individuals, such as reconstruction of pathways for accessing banks, sidewalks, traffic junctions to a satisfactory level, particularly in big cities have been completed. In this regard, coordination has been made between the State Welfare Organization and the Central Bank for reforms and accessibility of the physical spaces of banks and also accessibility of these individuals to services.

To this aim, the Central Bank has accepted that special bank teller booths be installed for persons with disabilities. In relation to this, in Tehran eight banks have launched these booths and soon will expand across the nation.

Also issuing brail bank debit cards will be done on the request of blind persons and banks have been told if these requests cannot be done immediately by banks, the banks themselves should send the requests to the Central Bank themselves.

Furthermore, according to reports published by the Follow-up and Coordination Bureau of Accebilitization of the country it has been decided that the opportunity for issuing cheques to volunteer blind individuals for the use of cheques can be done without a guarantor.

4-2 Need for Reduction of Civil Servants' with Severe Disabilities 10 Working Hours with the vote of the Administrative Justice Court

According to the reasoning of the Administrative Justice Court General Committee, the observation of the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for all governmental departments who in a way use the public budget, such as state run universities is mandatory, and in this regard and according to article 28 of the Protection of

the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, long and very long working hours will be reduced by 10 hours per week.

This law is towards the protection of persons with disabilities and also their labour rights and all executive and governmental departments must observe this law.



5- Human Rights

36 People Saved from Execution following the Intervention of the Dispute Settlement Council

According to reports by the Tehran Province Dispute Settlement Council, the intervention of this Council and dialogue among plaintiffs in *Ghesas* (Retribution) criminal cases, this Council has managed to get the settlement of 36 *Ghesas* case files in the last year. It must be said that each month approximately 5,000 court cases are closed by the special peace and conciliation branches.

These around 5,000 files are closed each month without the files being referred to assistant prosecutor or investigator, and this results in reduction in the workload of criminal courts and is in accordance with the intentions of the head of the Judiciary Branch.

It must be said that in 2019 also this Council managed to get settlements for 11 *Ghesas* cases.



6- Introducing of Human Rights Activists

Kahrizak Charity Foundation

The Kahrizak Charity Foundation home for the disabled and senior citizens was founded in early 1973 with the efforts of Dr. Mohammad Reza Hakimzadeh, director of Firouz Abadi Hospital (Shahr-e-Rey) in two small rooms in Kahrizak village (Tehran). With the joining of charitable individuals and drafting of a Statute on April 8, 1973 was founded in unlimited way and under No. 1494 on April 24, 1974 was launched as Kahrizak Home for the Disabled (Aminoldoleh) as a nonprofit institute and was

registered in the Registration of Companies and Industrial Ownership Bureau.

Kahrizak Charity Foundation objectives:

- Sheltering, medical treatment and rehabilitation of impoverished persons with disabilities, senior citizens, MS patients and efforts to prevent the advancement of their disabilities and soothing their pains.
- Opening and equipping clinic and hospital to provide medical and treatment services to patients in need.
- Help to those in need and suffering from natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, fire, as much as possible.
- Planning and setting up good deed groups to serve those that need helps and draw cash and non-cash assistance.
- Gathering scientific and research information from other sister charities inside and outside the country to raise scientific and services standards levels.
- Holding education courses (while serving) to the staff at different levels to raise their scientific knowledge and services to those in their care.
- Creating a safe environment for the disabled and senior citizens to live.

- Introduction of the Foundation at national and international levels to draw financial and material aid.
- Raise the health levels of the disabled, physically and mentally.

For more information on the Foundation and its activities please visit:

<https://kahrizakcharity.com>