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## 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 Persian Gulf University Supports Afghan Students Affected by the Conflict**

The sudden withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan and the creation of security vacuum in the country, have severely affected the political, social and livelihood conditions of the people of the country. With the expansion of Taliban's domination some people have been forced to flee to other countries such as Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.

As part of support for Afghan refugees, the head of Persian Gulf University announced that in view of the critical conditions in Afghanistan over the recent days, Persian Gulf University has considered a number of options and facilities considering humanitarian observations for the return of Afghan students to this university, particularly women who due to the COVID-19

pandemic are left out, the university has provided the opportunity for online education.

Also Persian Gulf University is following up on the issuing of visas and acceptance of new students in its International Affairs Department and is doing all it can to speed up the consulate processes.

## **1-2 Provision of Services for Afghans in Iranian Public Libraries**

According to reports released by the Information Department of Public Libraries of Iran, a special services pack for Afghans which includes 11 services with the aim of responding to the needs of Afghans has been organized with the cooperation of a number of Afghan and Iranian writers, elites and cultured.

Following “designing special services for Afghans” workshops which were held in February and March this year, specialist workgroups in the network of researchers and experts of the department was founded so that from received ideas, services in proportion with the function of public libraries are designed and ultimately following the holding of several meetings, 11 services with themes such as identity, loaning equipment, consultation etc. were designed.

Some of these highlighted services are as follows, loaning equipment and education aid packs, employment and

specialised consultation, holding get-togethers for Afghans living in Iran, creation of Afghanistan and Iran Renowned Individuals Association through Migrants Information Websites.



## **2- Right to Education**

### **2-1 Refurbishment of 32 Education Environments in 32 Provincial Capitals**

The National Special Education and Training Organization in 32 provincial capitals has refurbished 32 education environments to take in special needs children, as model school. In these schools the latest standards for the enjoyment of schoolchildren, particularly children with disabilities as well as right to education have been facilitated. On this basis, wheelchair ramps toilets, water fountains, removal of steps from classrooms have taken place equally and extensively, and gradually will be implemented in other schools of the country.

It must be said that more than 100 billion Rials per capita have been spent on rehabilitation services and equipment in the last two years to schoolchildren in need of services.



## **2-2 85 Percent of Special Education and Training Personnel Receive Covid Vaccines**

According to published official reports, as well as the vaccination of the cultural colleagues of Special Education and Training Organization, all executive personnel of physical health and education prep assessment departments have been vaccinated

Also to-date, 1,000,211 new students (92.5 percent) have gone into the waiting list of the assessment programme, 950thousand of which (71 percent) have been assessed in the assessment departments.

## **2-3 Building of 9thousand New Classrooms and Equipping and Refurbishment of Schools**

As part of support for children's rights to education and enjoyment of suitable education environment, the Education and Training Ministry has equipped and refurbished schools and also built 9thousand classrooms equal to 1.5 million square meters.

For the equipping and refurbishment of schools, especially from toilets aspects, this year, 4600 billion Rials have been spent, while the last year figure for this purpose was 600 billion Rials.



### **3- Children's Rights**

#### **Expansion of Support Programmes for Special Needs Children**

Towards support for children, 105 education, training and rehabilitation and sports tools have been considered for special needs schoolchildren. In this regard, 1,450 billion Rials public and government donations were collected during the last year. Also, 10,000 children were supposed to have some of these devices, but in practice, more than 30,000 children had been provided with these devices.

Also, towards the realisation of objectives related to children with special needs, last year 64 schools were revamped for children with disabilities and another 160 schools will also get revamped this year.

Also, multi-skills training was targeted for 10 percent of teachers of mental special needs children for the realisation of education justice and education coverage,

which fortunately turned into 15 percent and 46 teachers' empowerment courses were held.



## 4- Women’s Rights

### 4-1 Promotion of Women’s Safety Document, One Step Forward

The signing of the “Promotion of Status and Safety of Women” document in the city of Tehran was one of the good actions which took place recently. This document, which in itself is rare for the Middle East region, highlights the total safety of women in the city, has 21 articles. For example article one highlights the creation of suitable and universal basis in the city, in a way that women can be able to participate in various aspects of running the city without structural obstacles. Article two identifies and removes existing obstacles and vacuums in the way of the realisation of safety and removal of discrimination against women.

Also article three highlights the promotion of knowing participation of women in all city planning and

management. In the Constitution and other top laws such as the Legal Aspects of 2025 Perspective, various subjects in the national five year development plan have been highlighted, and specifically article 141 towards the promotion of the status of women in society, the realisation of the legal rights of women and necessary action for the empowerment of women have been mentioned. Also, for enjoyment of the social investment of women towards the achievement of MDG on Islamic principles basis, and policies, programmes and general plans under article 101 of the sixth development plan are highlighted and mandates implementation by departments. In the Citizen's Rights Charter particularly article 11 stresses on women's rights in active participation and their impact on policy setting, legislation, management execution and supervision.

Also, articles 12, 13 and 14 of this document, the Citizen's Rights Document, right to freedom and safety of citizens has been deemed as a right immune to any violation. In view of the points that have been highlighted and with the understanding of the fact that safety has various social, political, economic, individual, group and cultural aspects, in fact women's safety can be a foundation for society and family's safety. When women are situated in a safe society, the family is also safe and when the family – as a serious social unit – is safe, society is also safe. In view of this and women's roles which are now active, and roles which potentially can promote and establish peace, conciliation, nonviolence and create safety in society, the

Women's Safety Document in the City was compiled and signed and sent to various Tehran Municipality departments for further action and follow ups.

## **4-2 Literacy Inequality among Men and Women has Dropped to 6.3 Percent**

The drop in literacy inequality among men and women has dropped from 23.4 percent to 6.3 percent, and the figure for the 10 to 49 age group is approximately 6.1 percent, the drop in literacy inequality in urban and rural regions from 34.9 percent to 11.3 percent and the figures for the 10 to 49 age group is less than 6.8 percent, which are some of the actions of the Iranian Literacy Movement Organization.

Last year, the presentation of literacy education services to more than 9 million individuals in an acceptable period of literacy education and 2 million in acceptable levels of end of basic period, has had an increase of more than 42 percent in the literacy rates of the country in the 6 and over age range, and around 47.8 percent in the 10 to 49 age range, are some of the fundamental activities of this Organization.

Among the other activities of the Literacy Movement Organization has been to provide more complementary educational coverage to more than one million and 500 thousand children in need of education during the years 1985 to 1999.

Another activity of the Organization has been providing the complementary educational coverage to more than 17thousand prisoners during 2013-2020 as well as providing the complementary education to more than 160thousand refugees and migrants during the mentioned period.



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

### **5-1 Allocation of 250 Billion Rials Budget for Revamping Small Towns**

In the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Follow-up and Coordination of the Revamping of the Country Organization, the creation of 52 obstacle-free provincial towns for ease of access for persons with disabilities were selected, the first one of which was Yazd.

Also, the revamping of banks has been mandated in a memoranda which includes 6 articles, to all banks, and any banks have amended their services to ease access for persons with disabilities, and the rest of the banks are in the process of amending their services.

In 2018 the conditions of 1200 governmental departments were reviewed and it was concluded that only 23 percent are revamped. But this figure for 2018 reached 39 percent



and 2020 increased to approximately 65 percent, which means 65 percent of governmental departments have been revamped.

To this aim, 2,400 positive life centres have been launched and in these centres have been revamps for the use of persons with disabilities.

## **5-2 Exemption of more than 2,000 Persons with Disabilities from National Service**

In 2018, 7,216 and in 2019, 4,048 individuals and last year 2905 individuals were exempted from doing national/military service. These figures show that since the outbreak of COVID-19, the number of individuals requesting exemption from national service has dropped.

These rules and regulations have been set to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in Iran, and in addition to exemption from national/military service, these individuals receive services from the State Welfare Organization so that they can have a normal living.



## **6- Human Rights**

### **6-1 Suspension of Indifferent Personnel of Evin Prison and Review of Support Mechanisms for Prisoners**

In view of the publication of video clips of mistreatment of some prisoners, the head of the Prisons Organization while apologising, in a Twitter post in his personal account gave news of the suspension of the individuals concerned in the video clips of Evin prison. On this basis, indifferent personnel of the Organization in published videos, were referred to the Administrative Crimes Group and were released of their duties and a number of case files were sent to the military tribunal. In the last year unlawful treatments that have resulted in the firing of abusive personnel has increased by 30 percent.

To this aim also programmes for the protection of the rights of prisoners and also increased monitoring for

reassurance of observation of these rights are in the working agenda. The Judiciary Branch has also announced that it will strongly react towards any unlawful treatment of prisoners.

## **6-2 Release of 101 Alburz Prisoners and Day Releases for Security Prisoners**

At the same time as the head of the Judiciary's mission to Alburz Province, to ensure the observation of prisoners' rights, a group made up of sixty judges from Alburz Province inspected prisoners and while discussing and looking into prisoners' problems, prepared the preliminary measures for the release of prisoners.

In this visit which took place at the same time in Karaj central and Fardis prisons, with the review of case files, 80 prisoners were eligible for day release which result in freedom, and also with the use of the capacity of *Setade Diah* (blood money task force) and the cooperation of charitable individuals, with the provision of approximately 10 billion Rials debts of 21 prisoners of nonviolent crimes, the grounds were set for their release.

According to the remarks of the director general of Alburz Province Justice Department in total the release of 101 prisoners has been fulfilled.

To this aim in the recent days several security prisoners benefited from law advantages and many were given day

release. Ms. Sepideh Foghian returned to her family in this day release action.

### **6-3 More than 50 Percent of Prisoners of the Country Get Vaccinated**

According to the director of Prisons' Organization more than 50 percent of the country's prisoners have been vaccinated against COVID-19. In view of the fifth wave of the virus in the country and towards the protection of the prisoners' right to health, a comprehensive plan for the vaccination of prisoners has been placed in the working agenda and prisoners are speedily getting vaccinated with the support of relevant governmental bodies.



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

### **Mehr and Mah Empowerment Institute**

The idea of the founders of the Mehr and Mah Empowerment Institute is to try to improve the situation of women and children through education and vocational training and belief in any change for confronting problems and living conditions is only possible through the participation of individuals.

The aim of this centre is the improvement of living conditions of its beneficiaries, not with the intention of general change of the organization of their lives but with the use of participation of the local residences and identification of their needed priorities through the individuals themselves. In fact this centre is just the facilitator of matters therefore in proportion to capacity and specific and needed conditions will be the activist.

In other words, the Institute's endeavour is with education in various fields, the local people be able to intervene

themselves in changing conditions, and this centre only operate as a link in people reaching self-awareness.

Therefore, efforts are aimed through education of local trainers and training of facilitation among them to guide and expand sister organizations of the Institute.

### Target group

- 1 – Abused and or vulnerable children, such as child labourers and children who have dropped out of school.
- 2 – Abused and or vulnerable women.

### Consultation structure

Based on these thought and objectives, the services of this Institute in various empowerment fields of professional, education, social work and consultation and recreation have been formed and alongside planning for these activities, continued evaluation in the of monitoring performance and correction of performance process through consultation expert commissions made up of experienced and knowledgeable experts on the subject and non-executive in the project.

For further information about this institute and its activities you can visit the following website:  
<http://www.mehr-o-mah.com>