



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.

Contents

1- Refugees Rights	4
1-1 Speed in COVID-19 Vaccination of Refugees and Foreign Nationals in Iran.....	4
1-2 Arrival of Tens of Thousands of New Afghan Asylum-seekers in Iran..	5
1-3 Iranian Doctors' Helping Hand to Afghan Patients.....	7
2- Right to Education	9
Refurbishment of 32 Education Environments in 32 Provincial Capitals.....	9
3-Women's Rights	11
3-1 Improvement of Women's Conditions with the Aim of Gender Justice in Tehran Province Document Has been Finalised.....	11
3-2 320 Letters of Agreement and Agreements have been Adopted for Realisation of Gender Justice.....	12
4- Human Rights	14
582 Inmates Reprieved from Execution and another 14,700 are Released.....	14
5- Introducing of Human Rights Activists	16
Association for the Support of Children with Disabilities (Tavanyab).....	16



1- Refugees Rights

1-1 Speed in COVID-19 Vaccination of Refugees and Foreign Nationals in Iran

The Secretary of the Interior Ministry's Commission on the Organization Aliens and Foreign Nationals announced that after 46 years since the revolution, and also Islamic compassion Iran is continuing to be host to millions of refugees, particularly Afghans with the least international assistance and the highest international standards and above and beyond the Refugees Convention, and Iran has been fully committed to moral and humanitarian principles and international commitments. In spite of numerous political and economic problems such as the 8 year Iraqi imposed war against Iran, imposition of inhuman and illegitimate sanctions and with a stress on reliance to limited national and domestic resources in

various sectors such as health and medical treatment and education (from primary education to university) livelihood and profession training, the Islamic Republic of Iran has provided services to these refugees just as it does to Iranians.

To this aim, and in view of all the above mentioned problems, refugees and foreign nationals not only benefit from health and medical treatment just as Iranian citizens do, and particularly in the current conditions they benefit from medical treatment and vaccination against COVID-19. Also at the same time as the launch of mass vaccinations in Iran, foreign nationals and refugees, even those without documents also benefit from vaccination services. It must be said that the vaccination of all refugees living in settlements in Iran has begun extensively. This is while in some cities and towns all Iranian eligible individuals have yet to receive the vaccination and they are in the waiting list.

1-2 Arrival of Tens of Thousands of New Afghan Asylum-seekers in Iran

Following the escalation of the recent conflict and developments and the advances of Taliban forces and taking over of different towns and cities in Afghanistan, a number of Afghans fleeing the conflict have sought shelter in the bordering regions of Iran and in view of the length of the border between the two countries, a large

number of people have entered various towns. According to unofficial reports nearly half a million Afghans have sought refuge in Iran.

It must be said that Iran continues to host one of the largest protracted refugee populations, mostly Afghans, in the world. Currently 780 thousand registered Afghan refugees and with the addition of these new arrivals and undocumented ones, there is nearly 2.5 million Afghans are living in Iran. This notable number of illegal migrants has created numerous problems for relevant departments and organization both in providing services and also for these individuals themselves.

Unfortunately the irresponsible remarks of some western countries in granting asylum to Afghan asylum seekers and refugees has amplified their problems, and their flooding into Iran has speeded up; in such a way that in the last few weeks many demonstrations have taken place outside European embassies in Iran and also UN Residence Coordinator in Tehran.

Lack of effective support for Afghan asylum-seekers in Iran by western countries, not only will it create various human problems for them, but will escalate their flooding into European countries.

1-3 Iranian Doctors' Helping Hand to Afghan Patients

These days, in view of the conflict in Afghanistan and the COVID-19 crisis in Iran, there are still good-doers who in spite of all problems extend a helping and sympathetic hand to the destitute. In spite of the notable assistance of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), particularly in the medical field, there are still Afghan asylum seekers, particularly those without any identity documents that due to financial inability are not able to receive medical services. In view of this problem, volunteer doctors through providing free visits and regardless of the surgery costs in *Tehran's Yas Hospital Complex*, have taken steps towards resolving Afghan nationals' medical problems in Iran.

With this initiative and with the conditions that have been brought about, there is no longer a need for Afghans to pay medical treatment fees. *Yas Hospital Complex*, is the first of its kind to be launched for Afghan nationals and has had a good feedback among the country's doctors, and to-date several doctor's offices in Tehran Province are prepared and ready to provide free services to Afghans. Currently *the Yas Hospital Complex* in the infections, neurosurgery, kidney and urinary duct surgery and physiotherapy departments provides free medical treatment services to Afghan refugees. This hospital is run

by Iranian elites and experts members of Tehran Medical Sciences Group.

Although the medical coverage of Afghans in Iran problems are not solved with the launching of one clinic and hospital, but the problem must be resolved fundamentally and at the roots, and that is the subject of insurance for refugees. It must be said that in this regard also in partnership with UNHCR and Health Insurance, the Iranian government has taken steps to provide free medical health insurance to 120thousand vulnerable refugees in Iran.



2- Right to Education

40thousand Schools in the Country Covered by Life's Actors Programme

According to published official reports, the Life's Actors Programme has been launched in more than forty-thousand schools in the country for the reduction of social damages, dangerous behaviours and fight against addiction.

In this programme schoolchildren and their parents and local beneficiaries through creation of small projects are active in this sector. One of the most important objectives of the programme is the organized targeting of schoolchildren's institutions towards the fight against dangerous behaviours. In this regard skills training is the best solution for the prevention of social damages and dangerous behaviours. This programme is run with the

partnership of the Education and Training Ministry and relevant departments.

Last year 30thousand schools were covered by this programme and this year they have increase to approximately 40thousand. To this aim, in the in person education three textbooks for the prevention of social damages are taught in elementary, secondary and high school years.



3- Women's Rights

3-1 Improvement of Women's Conditions with the Aim of Gender Justice in Tehran Province Document Has been Finalised

Last year the Improvement of Women's Conditions with the Aim of Gender Justice in Tehran Province Document was approved and was implemented as the first action towards the implementation of article 101 of the Sixth Development Plan at the provincial level. The Tehran Provincial Government's Women's Affairs Bureau gathered and assessed all executive departments and organizations recommended programmes and projects towards the implementation of the document and raised them in the Planning and Development Council, and following debate and review, approved a budget of 300 billion Rials for the implementation of more than 60

projects. Another objective of this approved document is the reduction of women's social and livelihood problems in society and as a result the application of gender justice.

On the basis of article 101 of the Iran Constitution, for the prevention of discrimination and drawing of partnerships in preparation of construction and welfare plans of provinces and supervision of their coordinated implementation, the Provinces High Council which is composed of representatives of provincial councils is formed.

3-2 320 Letters of Agreement and Agreements have been Adopted for Realisation of Gender Justice

According to a report by the Presidency's Women and Family Affairs Deputy important and practical steps have been taken regarding women's rights and gender justice over the last four year. In the legislative area a collective of around thirty draft bills and recommendations such as the Observation and Protection of Women's Dignity against Violence Bill and harshening of punishment of the father in the event of killing of his child, and Legal Protection of Toddlers and Juveniles Bill was drafted and sent to the government; some of which have been approved by the parliament and the executive guidelines issued. To this aim 900 rules and regulations related to

women were amended within laws towards the realisation of their rights.

Empowerment of NGOs is another measure of the Deputy towards capacity building and further expansion of their activities in the realisation of gender justice. Also, 20 documentaries on women entrepreneurs and serving women have been prepared by the Presidency's Women and Family Affairs Deputy which is accessible in the *Hashoora* website.



4- Human Rights

582 Inmates Reprieved from Execution and another 14,700 are Released

According to the Dispute Settlement Development Centre of the Judiciary, the Dispute Settlement Councils¹ branches in prisons have managed through efforts establish conciliation and get plaintiffs to drop complains,

¹ Dispute Settlement Councils are part of the judiciary but are supposed to function as an alternative dispute resolution body. They were first established under Article 189 of the 2001 Third Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan. In 2009, the Parliament passed Dispute Settlement Councils Act that is still in force.

and in 2020 managed to get a total of 14,681 prisoners released across the country. In this regard, in the following order the top provinces were: 1,534 released in Fars Province, 1,250 released in Yazd Province and 1,146 released in Isfahan Province.

As a result of conciliations and dropping of complaints in 2020 a total of 583 prisoners were spared from execution and in this regard in the following order top provinces were: 60 in Fars Province, 42 in Sistan & Baluchistan Province, and 40 in Khorasan Razavi had the top spot in commutations of death sentences.



5- Introducing of Human Rights Activists

Association for the Support of Children with Disabilities (Tavanyab)

The Ehya Group (made up of Ehya and Tavanyab Community-Based Rehabilitation Center) is a nongovernmental, non-profit organization which was founded in 1998. The aim of the founding of this group is to access new methods for the timely prevention and intervention in crises and controlling social damages, information dissemination to various groups, particularly families, sensitising society and drawing the partnership of the authorities. To this aim this group tries to highlight the role of various social pillars in the normalising and improvement of adopted methods with respect to human dignity in the private domain of individuals at local and national levels.

Tavanyab Association with the registration number 11203 began its activities in 1999, in the field of provision of free

rehabilitation services that include, occupational therapy, speech therapy and physiotherapy to disabled children and juveniles (physical and motion disabilities) from birth to the age of 16 acquired its permit from relevant authorities.

Tavanyab Association Activities:

- Provide Rehabilitation Services: Occupational therapy, speech therapy, physiotherapy, art and play therapy services to physical and motion disabled children from birth to the age of 16.
- launching of a neuro-physics and biophysics unit as a complementary therapy in the rehabilitation proves and speeding up of improvement of children's conditions.
- Holding weekly classes for Madaran-e Omid (women who have children with disabilities) on various subjects that include: introduction to disabilities, ways to increase self-confidence and creativity in children, family and behavioural and sentimental problems of children, physical and nutrition training of children etc.
- Holding talent finding classes and training of child patients in music, drawing and theatre fields.
- Activities in the field of prevention of disabilities and the health of the mother and infant.

For further information on the activities of the Association visit the following website: <https://ehyagroup.ir>