



Human Right Developments in Iran

Newsletter No.30



OCTOBER 2021

ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

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 human rights situation in Iran.

Contents

1- Refugees Rights	5
1-1 Issuing of 8000 ID Papers for Children born to Iranian Women.....	5
1-2 Renewal of the Registration of Undocumented Afghan Children in Iranian State-run Schools with Special Circumstances.....	6
1-3 461thousand Foreign Schoolchildren Received Their Textbooks.....	7
1-4 Opportunity for Afghan and Iraqi Refugees to Participate in Technical and Professional Vocational Training Courses.....	8
2- Right to Education	10
2-1 Allocation of Half a Billion Rials for the Purchase of Tablets for Impoverished Schoolchildren This Year.....	10
2-2 Vaccination of 12 to 18 Year-old12- to 18-Year-old Schoolchildren...11	
2-3 The Improvement of the Social and Education Conditions of Girls in Deprived Regions Goes into Operation.....	12
3- Women's Rights	14
The Handing of Schoolchildren's End of Year Certificates to the Parent Cleared of Ambiguities.....	14
4- Human Rights.....	16
More than 3,600 Non-intentional Crimes Prisoners were Released in the First Half of the Year with the Help of the Diah (blood money) Bureau....	16
5- Rights of Persons with Disabilities.....	18
5-1 4800thosusand4,800,000 Rials Supplementary Income Benefits for 123thousand Handicapped Unemployed Individuals.....	18
5-2 Adaptation of 4 Films in the Children's Film Festival for the Deaf and Blind.....	19
5-3 Funding for Training of Sign Language Interpreters.....	20
6- Children's Rights.....	22

Sex Education and Prevention of Child Marriages Programme.....	22
7- Introducing of Human Rights Activists.....	24
Pars Development Activists (PDA).....	24



1- Refugees Rights

1-1 Issuing of 8,000 ID Papers for Children born to Iranian Women

According to latest figures published by Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA), and towards support for refugees and their sustainable integration and also the single Act adopted in 2006, to-date approximately 8,000 ID documents have been issued to children born to Iranian women. This is while 31,777 individuals since the issuance of the new guidelines regarding granting of Iranian citizenship to children born to Iranian women married to foreign men (Act adopted on 2 June 2020) have been granted Iranian citizenship. It is expected for this Act to ease the education of Afghans in Iran who have Iranian mothers.

It must be said that currently in view of the ending of conflict in Afghanistan and also harsh economic conditions brought on by America's cruel unilateral sanctions against Iran, the flow of Afghan refugees into Iran has slowed down. This is while there is a long queue of Afghans outside Iran's Embassy in Kabul for Iranian visa applications. The Iranian Embassy is one of the few embassies which is still functioning following the Taliban takeover.

1-2 Renewal of the Registration of Undocumented Afghan Children in Iranian State-run Schools with Special Circumstances

The Iranian Ministry of Education and Training has again renewed the registration of Afghan children in state-run schools under special conditions. Individuals who have the following conditions can receive an educational introduction letter and register in state-run schools:

- 1 – First grade children of households who participated in the census of illegals in 2016 and 17.
- 2 – Schoolchildren who hold passports of households who were not successful in the recent renewal of visas.
- 3 – Children of Iranian women who have necessary marriage documents of parents and have their children's birth certificates.

4 – Schoolchildren whose parents have credible residency documents but due to differences in their parents' documents have not been successful in receiving documents for their children, and were registered in the censuses of illegals in 2016 and 17.

5 – Schoolchildren one of whose family members received education support in the current or last year and are studying in Education and Training Department schools.

It must be said that from 2015 onwards, following Supreme Leader decree, a large number of Afghan children regardless of their residency document, succeeded in entering the Iranian education system.

1-3 461thousand Foreign Schoolchildren Received Their Textbooks

Considering that access to education has been facilitated to refugees, asylum-seeker and undocumented schoolchildren, to-date more than 461thousand foreign schoolchildren, namely Afghans have registered in the country's schools. Just like Iranian schoolchildren, these children benefit from all rights to education. To this aim, they registered requests for textbooks, and to-date 461thousand schoolchildren have received their books.

SIDA Website is available to all schoolchildren for this reason. Also, in case that foreign schoolchildren have not

been able to receive their textbooks, there is the opportunity for them to register in this website and receive their books. Refugees who have Amayesh Cards can easily through the eleven-digit identity code, printed on their Amayesh cards, register in this website. Also, since the sales and education materials distribution website is linked to Registration of Schoolchildren System (*SIDA*), therefore, having a National ID Number or exclusive code is not an obstacle for the registration of these students in the textbooks website, and undocumented schoolchildren can also following registration in the website and receiving an education code easily order textbooks.

1-4 Opportunity for Afghan and Iraqi Refugees to Participate in Technical and Vocational Training Courses

Through a tripartite agreement between the Iranian government, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the National Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO), this year just as in previous years the opportunity for refugee men and women to receive free of charge various skills training courses has been brought about. This action by TVTO will result in the development of refugees' skills and positive effect on the employment perspectives of the second and third generation of refugees, towards finding the right jobs. Furthermore, those that finish technical and professional courses, can with the their acquired skills, in the event of voluntary

repatriation to their country, help with the development of their country and integrate into their domestic workforce. Also, in the event of going to a third country, they can also achieve sustainable integration and lesser pressure will be imposed on the host country.

In spite of the high unemployment rate in Iran, however, with the assistance of the Iranian government each year approximately 2,000 Afghan refugees acquire technical and professional skills in Iran, and a large number of them are drawn into the Iranian job markets.



2- Right to Education

2-1 Allocation of Half a Billion Rials for the Purchase of Tablets for Impoverished Schoolchildren This Year

For the connection and benefit of all schoolchildren from *SHAD* Network (a special website for online education of schoolchildren), particularly needy schoolchildren a programme with the aim of universal benefit from the right to education, called the Guidance and Support of Schoolchildren has been designed. For this reason, this year the credit levels for the purchasing of tablets for needy schoolchildren has been considered which will soon be memo-ed to schools in all provinces by the Schools' Renovations and Equipping Organization.

Two years ago, with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, various programs in support of schoolchildren, particularly in deprived regions, have been placed in the working agenda of the Iranian Education and Training Ministry with the partnership of other ministries such as Communications and Information Technology Ministry have been placed in the working agenda. Some of these programmes include the extensive distribution of smartphones and tablets among needy schoolchildren and extension of access to the internet even in very remote and rural regions.

2-2 Vaccination of 12- to 18-Year-old Schoolchildren

Towards establishment of collective safety against COVID-19 in the country and also preparedness schoolchildren to return to schools, the vaccination of children 12 to 18 has begun in the country. In view of the start of the vaccination of this age group and the chance for schools to reopen in November, various centers including health houses, cultural centers, and Red Crescent centers are prepared to vaccinate schoolchildren and their families.

Schoolchildren and their families can immediately approach to vaccination centers and receive the vaccine doses. It must be said that vaccines are provided to all Iranians and foreign nationals for free, and in the event of

the availability of different vaccines (i.e., Oxford Astra-Zenica, Cinopharm etc.) in vaccination centers, people can independently choose which vaccine to receive.

For the reopening of schools, schoolchildren must have received the two doses of vaccines through vaccination centers.

2-3 The Improvement of the Social and Education Conditions of Girls in Deprived Regions Goes into Operation

With regards to the problems and difficulties of girl schoolchildren, especially in deprived and rural regions, the Presidency's Women and Family Affairs Deputy announced its executive programmes.

In this regard, the Women and Family Affairs Deputy highlighting the allocation of 50 billion Rials for provision of educational aid equipment and tablets for girl schoolchildren expressed hope that with these measures hopefully facilitate the conditions for the return of schoolchildren in deprived and rural regions back to school.

To this aim, equipping of schools and skills training for girls in deprived regions has been prioritized in the working agenda of the Education and Training Department. It must be said that currently just in the Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad Province alone there are

1001 schools with less than 15 students (in each school) which make up 41 percent of schools in the province. There are also 657 schools with one to seven students each..

Support programmes for the education of girls in other provinces such as Khuzistan, and Sistan & Baluchistan are currently underway.



3- Women's Rights

The Handing of Schoolchildren's End of Year Certificates to the Parent Cleared of Ambiguities

The Deputy for Presidency's Women and Family Affairs, Dr. Ensieh Khaz-Ali in a message which she posted in her Twitter account wrote: "Thanks to God, with conducted follow-ups, the matter of ambiguities concerning handing of schoolchildren's end of year certificates to the parent have been cleared."

A while back, in a note, a magazine had published a report on refusal to hand over education certificates to the

mothers of schoolchildren. According to this report, in May this year the Education and Training Department notified schools' staff to hand over schoolchildren's documents and end of year certificates only to their fathers. The magazine also reported text messages had been sent to the mothers on the subject to inform them of this decision.

The reason for the raising of this issue went back to the ambiguity and confusion in the interpretation of the word "guardian" in the article 157 of the executive regulations of schools (adopted on 10 August this year in the Special Commission of the Higher Education Council). The clause stated: the handing over of schoolchildren's files and end of year certificates is unrestricted to the parent or legal guardian or the discretion of the school head.

In this regard the Presidency's Women and Family Affairs Deputy issued a statement and announced that in normal circumstances there are no differences between parents (fathers and mothers) in monitoring their children's education matters and receiving their documents or files, and the matter was clarified.



4- Human Rights

More than 3,600 Non-intentional Crimes Prisoners were Released in the First Half of the Year with the Help of the Diah Bureau

According to official reports published last month 5,162 individuals were able to help in the release of a number of prisoners and 65 charitable individuals went to bureaus and donated money. Also, with the campaign of the Diah (blood money) Bureau with the aim of establishing peace and conciliation among plaintiffs and defendants from the beginning to-date more than 150thousand non-intentional crime prisoners who had financial debts were released from prisons. In spite of hardships the public donated nearly 1500 billion rials, twice as much as last year, to the *Diah* Bureau.

It must be said that we have 10,689 non-intentional crimes prisoners in the country 4,673 of which are eligible for this aid, and their case files are being processed, and work is being done for their release. In the first half of the year, 3,689 individuals were released from prisons, 167 of them female and the rest male. These individuals in total owed 23 billion Rials.



5- Rights of Persons with Disabilities

5-1 4,800,000 Rials Supplementary Income Benefits for 123thousand Handicapped Unemployed Individuals

Towards the implementation of article 27 of the Defense of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, the State Welfare Organization has in total paid more than 640 billion Rials in income supplementary benefits (third quarter) for more than 133thousand persons with severe and very severe disabilities over 18, and do not have jobs.

For each individual 4,800,000 Rials income supplementary benefits have been credited to persons with disabilities debit cards. For the full implementation of article 27 of the earlier mentioned law a budget of more than 150thousand billion Rials is needed, which through

planning and allocation of necessary credits, this will soon be realized and in the near future with necessary funding we will witness the improvement of the livelihood conditions of persons with disabilities in the country.

5-2 Adaptation of 4 Films in the Children's Film Festival for the Deaf and Blind

Towards the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities especially in the arts and culture sphere, adapted versions of 4 films, *Bambala* directed by Seyed Jamal Seyed Hatami, *Yedo* directed by Mehdi Jaafari (outside the competition), *Yeki Bood, Yeki Nabood* directed by Marzieh Mansoori, and *Khabarnegar* directed by Ebrahim Foroozesh, in theatre 3 of *Farhang* Cinema in Tehran and theatre *Zندهrood* of Isfahan's *Sahel* Cinema will be shown on screen.

According to this report, *Khabarnegar* and *Yeki Bood, Yeki Nabood*, as well as being shown in the cinema will also be screened in the platforms hosted by the *Hashoor* and *Filmio* Film Festival.

These films will be screened with vocal narration for the blind and in sign language for the deaf.

The 34th Children and Juveniles International Film Festival in partnership with Cinematic Organization, *Farabi* Cinematic Foundation and Isfahan Municipality is

due to be held from 8 to 13 October 2021, in two domestic and international competitions.

5-3 Funding for Training of Sign Language Interpreters

Hard of hearing and deaf individuals due to lack of necessary social skills are faced with numerous difficulties in their daily lives. And in many instances, we see these individuals be sent to court for being conned and not recognizing social norms, and because of lack of opportunity to communicate and defend themselves and not having interpreters, they are unable to defend their rights.

Also, good use of public services for these individuals such as education, studies and going to many public places, causes them great difficulty due to not having interpreters at hand.

Thus, in view of the need to use interpreters for the deaf in universities and higher education centers, governmental departments, courts and health treatment centers, for the purpose of ease of social, educational, employment communications and in general service provision for the deaf around the country, the State Welfare Organization has facilitated a suitable basis for the training and dispatching of sign language experts.

For this reason, funds have been allocated on the basis of share for each of the provinces and this action, will pave the way for the social integration of deaf and hard of hearing individuals and a change in the view of society towards these individuals.

This action of the State Welfare Organization towards the training of sign language experts is a step towards the implementation of the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities where the necessity for further access of the deaf to social, education and health support are reiterated.



6- Children’s Rights

“Sex Education” and Prevention of “Child Marriages” Programme

On the occasion of the International Day for the Rights of the Child, children’s related issues such as sex education and child marriages prevention were reiterated at the Cultural Revolution High Council by the Women’s Cultural and Social Council. In view of the Children and Juveniles Rights National Document, relevant organizations are obligated to facilitate the conditions for necessary sex education for children and juveniles so that children can enjoy the right to health and not be exploited.

According to paragraph seven of the Children and Juveniles National Document, all children must enjoy the universal right regarding sexual hygiene skills.

Furthermore, in spite of some wrong interpretations, the Children and Juveniles Rights National Document does not endorse child marriages and has foreseen necessary legal obstacles and also punishments for forced child marriages. These points must be clearly be informed to children, their families, teachers, and social activists and educated, so that forced child marriages are prevented. Also, programs by the Education and Training Department are being followed-up for correct awareness raising with regards to sexual issues and prevention of child marriages.

According to the Children and Juveniles Rights National Document, if parents facilitate child marriages for their children and or force them into marriage, the parents will be punished by the law, because they do not have the right to force their children into marriage. These matters are strongly investigated by the Judiciary and the perpetrators are brought to justice.

7- Introducing of Human Rights Activists

Pars Development Activists (PDA)

The Pars Development Activists NGO was founded with the official permit of the State Welfare Organization and BAFIA, and its active in education, services provision, health, empowerment, harm reduction for the purpose of protecting women and children at national and international levels.

Institute objectives

The most import objectives of the Institute are as follows:

- Prevention of the rise in vulnerability threat against Iranian and refugee children and juveniles,
- Facilitation of the basis for Afghan refugee women and children's literacy education,
- Empowerment, creation of self-belief, increase hope for the future, increase self-confidence, develop the society acceptance spirit among refugee women and children,

- Rise in the physical and mental health of these refugee women and children.

Field of Activities

Prevention:

- Prevention of the vulnerability threat against refugee children and juveniles (which mostly include child laborers) towards physical and mental threats, abnormalities and crimes through education and presentation of support and social mechanisms particularly damaged families and families afflicted with addiction.

Education:

- Facilitation of basis for refugee and Afghan women and children's literacy education in District 17 of Tehran,
- Life skills education and avoiding violence skills for older schoolchildren,
- Empowerment and utilization of the extensive capacities of young migrant teachers for implementation of project objectives and presentation of services to their fellow countrymen and women,
- Reproductive health, anger management, good child raising, and confronting violence skills education for women and parents.

Health:

Health education services that include personal, family hygiene, puberty to all schoolchildren and literacy education students that are covered by project

Social work

- Presentation of medical treatment, social work and consultation services needed for children and families covered by the project.

Services

- Provision of needed equipment and facilities that include stationary, warm clothes, suitable nourishment and commuting services for schoolchildren that need them.

International field

- Participation in international conferences and implementing empowerment and damage reduction projects,
- Membership in ADNA.

Harm Reduction field

- Giving needles and syringes to refugees to reduce damages

For further information on the Institute and its activities see the following website: <http://fa.pda.org.ir>