



---

# Human Right Developments in Iran

---

**Newsletter No.31**



**NOVEMBER 2021**

**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 human rights situation in Iran.

# Contents

<b>1- Refugees Rights .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1-1 Continuation of the Vaccination of Illegal RefugeesAssylum Seekers in Iran.....	4
1-2 Renewal of Afghan University Students' Visas without Them Leaving Iran.....	5
1-3 Provision of Services to 100thousand nNewly aArrived Afghan Asylum-sSeekers in Sistan and Baluchistan Province.....	6
<b>2- Right to Education .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Commencing of Vaccination of 12 to 18-Year-Old Schoolchildren.....	8
<b>3-Children's Rights .....</b>	<b>10</b>
3-1 Increase in Credit for Protection of Unaccompanied Children.....	10
3-2 Acceleration in the Vaccination of Children.....	11
<b>4- Rights of Persons with Disabilities.....</b>	<b>13</b>
Second Stage of the Police Special Unit COVID-19 Vaccination Unit for the Sick and Disabled.....	13
<b>5- Human Rights.....</b>	<b>15</b>
76 Security Prisoners and 100 Death Row Inmates Receive Pardons.....	15
<b>6- Introducing of Human Rights Activists.....</b>	<b>16</b>
Mehrafarin Charity Institute.....	16



## **1- Refugees Rights**

### **1-1 Continuation of the Vaccination of Illegal Asylum Seekers in Iran**

Following the announcement of the Interior Ministry's Bureau of Aliens and Foreign Individuals Affairs (BAFIA) regarding the issuing of vaccination introduction letters for illegal foreign nationals and undocumented, and the implementation of the first step for Afghan nationals participating in the census of illegal foreign nationals programmes, the vaccination introduction letters were issued. In the implementation of the second step of the programme undocumented illegal foreign nationals can from 27 October go to one of the nearest BAFIA offices to receive vaccination introduction letters, only the head of household or one of the members of undocumented illegal foreign nationals' families. Even

though these individuals are in Iran illegally, but this action is towards protection of the health of asylum-seekers, human dignity and human rights.

## **1-2 Renewal of Afghan University Students' Visas without Them Leaving Iran**

In view of the security conditions in Afghanistan, the Iranian government has reviewed the renewal of Afghan university students' visas and has considered for them easier conditions. Afghans accepted in Iranian universities who previously had to return their Amayesh cards and for registration they had to return to Afghanistan, and reentered Iran with passports stamped with student visas, from now on with the new regulations can go through the visa renewal process from inside Iran.

According to the new regulations all foreign nationals in Iran do not need to leave the country for the renewal of their visas and can within less than an hour re-new their visas in Kish island. It must be said that prior to this, only Afghan girls could re-new their visas in Kish island, and boys had to return to Afghanistan and go through visa renewal process there.

### **1-3 Provision of Services to 100thousand Newly Arrived Afghan Asylum-seekers in Sistan and Baluchistan Province**

In view of the security conditions in Afghanistan, particularly following the recent security incident and terrorist attacks each day thousands of Afghans leave their country headed for Iran, and they need various supports. The Iranian government alongside other partners, such as UNHCR, has placed various services in its working agenda.

Service and aid provision organizations such as the Execution of Imam Khomeini's Order, Alavi Foundation, and *Imani MASHAAR* Society, also were present at the location, help the Aid Provision to Afghan Asylum-Seekers' Department to provide better services to these asylum-seekers.

According to published figures, the number Afghans entry registrations in the first days of the Afghanistan crisis were 3000 to 5000 per day and later dropped to 2500 per day and in the recent days due to the renewed escalation of clashes the figures have risen to 3500 per day the arrival of Afghan refugees.

Over the last 40 days more than 100,000 Afghan refugees have received services in the border regions from governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Some of the important recent services to the refugees are giving of hygiene packs for women, public health hygiene packs

and also food items (hot food). It must be said that doing COVID-19 tests and doctors' visits to newly arrived refugees are in the top priority of the Aid Provision to Afghan Asylum-Seekers Department's programme, which are all provided free of charge.



## **2- Right to Education**

### **Commencing of Vaccination of 12 to 18-Year-Old Schoolchildren**

Towards establishing general safety towards COVID-19 in the country and also preparation of the opportunity for schoolchildren to attend schools, the vaccination of 12- to 18-year-old schoolchildren commenced across the nation. In view of this move and the possibility of reopening of schools in October/November, various centres that include health houses, cultural centres and Red Crescent centres are prepared and ready to vaccinate schoolchildren and their parents.

Schoolchildren and their families can in the first opportune go to vaccination centres and get vaccinated. It should be noted that vaccination is free for all people regardless of their nationality, from foreign nationals to Iranian nationals, and if there are different vaccines in

vaccination centers, people are free to choose their favorite vaccine.

According to available information, currently more than 75 percent of 12- to 18-year-old schoolchildren in the country have been vaccinated against COVID-19, which can be seen as a precursor for the provision of safety for schoolchildren and a way to facilitate the gradual reopening of schools.

For the reopening of schools, schoolchildren must have received both doses of vaccines from vaccination centres.



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

#### **3-1 Increase in Credit for Protection of Unaccompanied Children**

Towards the protection of children's rights, particularly unaccompanied children or children from dysfunctional families, the State Welfare Organization has increased the credit in this area and has given special concentration towards the protection of this vulnerable group across the nation.

To this aim, in Isfahan Province alone, 40 child and juvenile homes have been launched and overall, 1200 children and juveniles in the Province are under the protection umbrella of the State Welfare Organization, 600 children of which lack good guardians in these home, and another 600 children have been taken in from family relatives.

Child and juvenile homes which are run by boards of directors, all protections and support that parents provide for their children such as food, clothes, education matters, jobs and skills training are provided in them.

Most of the children living in child and juvenile homes are from dysfunctional homes. Children spend their first three years of life in nurseries, from the age of three to six in child and juvenile homes and thereafter all general education support are presented for all children in accordance with Education and Training Department standards.

In the past, children in child and juvenile homes lived like in camps, but with an increase in credit and towards the preservation of the mental health of children, currently live-in homes which do not have signs, also efforts are made to get children involved in domestic chores such as shopping, washing up, cooking etc. and these children register in ordinary schools, and efforts are made to create a family environment for them.

### **3-2 Acceleration in the Vaccination of Children**

In view of the expansion of the vaccination of individuals over 18 against COVID-19, vaccination of children's process has accelerated. In this regard, PastuCovac is one of the rare vaccines which went through clinical trials for the 2 to 18 years age group and the vaccine has been

approved to be given to children, thus the vaccination of children in the country will speed up.

Currently this vaccine is in the country's vaccination basket for the protection of children and adults and around 1.8 million children in Cuba have received this vaccine, with no side-effects shown in children.

With the speeding up of children's vaccination it is hoped that they will soon be able to attend schools in person so that the mental pressures imposed on them and their families are eased. It must be said that according to available information currently more than 75 percent of the country's 12- to 18-year-old schoolchildren have been vaccinated, which with the addition of the new vaccine it can become a precursor to the provision of safety for schoolchildren and a way to ease the reopening of the country's schools.



## 4- Rights of Persons with Disabilities

### Second Stage of the Police Special Unit COVID-19 Vaccination Unit for the Sick and Disabled

The second stage of COVID-19 vaccinations began in Greater Tehran from 27 October. Towards helping persons with disabilities, the second stage of COVID-19 vaccinations commenced in the presence of Alireza Zali the commander of the Battle against COVID-19 Corps in Greater Tehran and the deputy coordinator of the law enforcement authority special unit and also a number of top police special units' commanders, at the command center of police special units.

In this programme doctors and trained police special unit forces through being present in various districts, will commence vaccinating the sick and persons with

disabilities. Also trained nurses, at the request of persons with disabilities will go to these individuals' houses to vaccinate them at home.



## **5- Human Rights**

### **76 Security Prisoners and 100 Death Row Inmates Receive Pardons**

Following the approval of the Iranian Supreme Leader with the Judiciary head's recommendation for pardoning and commutation of sentences of 3,458 prisoners convicted in general and revolutionary courts, the Judiciary of the Armed Forces and Government Punishments, these pardons and commutations were granted on Islamic holy days' occasions.

These figures include 100 death sentences and 76 security prisoners (including two foreign nationals in these figures) who were pardoned.



## 6- Introducing of Human Rights Activists

### Mehrafarin Charity Institute

Following two years of activities, in 2005 the Mehrafarin Charity Institute officially began its charity activities by Ms. Fatemeh Daneshvar. From that day to-date, Mrs. Daneshvar alongside her husband Mr. Mehrzad Akbarein put a part of their investment from *Sayahan Sepehr* Asia Co. into the Institute and without the assistance of any other organization continued their charity activities for 3 years. She even donated her paternal house for charity affairs, and the operational headquarters of Mehrafarin in *Shohada* Square is in fact her inherited paternal house. She even turned lands owned by her father in provincial towns into branches of Mehrafarin Charity Institute.

With these actions and following research it was decided for the Institute to concentrate on families with bad head of households (especially women and children) and also deaf children and children deprived of education.

For the purpose of changing the paths of child labourers from the streets that lead to prison to the streets to universities, and the correction of the culture of needy families, the Institute chose this group as its target group.

The approach of the Institute is the returning of self-dignity to the cases, replacing the pity culture with the respect of human dignity, and fight cultural poverty, and for this purpose units such as trainers of cases, and counselling in the Institute have been launched. Hamraz magazine which is the first magazine specially for cases is published to this aim, perspective and approach and towards educating families and distributed to cases.

Another of the Institute's innovations is the adoption of a familiar and society accepted cultural façade as the Mehrafarin Ambassador which is a recognized move within non-profit international Institutes such as UNICEF and Ms. Fatemeh Motamed Aria accepted this important responsibility.

### Mehrafarin Mission

Through presentation of suitable services to the cases, from helping with the food for these families to other instances which include, putting essentials in family baskets or income aid payments the Mehrafarin Institute functions until the full organization and self-discovery and return of self-dignity of the needy.

This Institute which has based its effort on the basis of “public participation in charity work” “social job creation”, bases its mission as follows:

Backing, support and empowerment of kids with bad guardians (left behind from education, street children and child labourers, and socially damaged) and their mothers with focus on national, religious and indigenous beliefs with the aim of raising an empowered, enlightened generation that has self-dignity which itself will be the origin of charitable movements.

### Mehrafafe Objectives

#### - Short-term objectives

Reduction of various types of damages suffered the weak group of society (women and children) through support (food, housing, mental and physical health, provision of basic clothing, children’s education costs).

#### Mid-term objectives

Women and juveniles’ education, particularly children for raising cultural levels and strengthening them against difficulties, with concentration of education and literacy education, education support from primary school to university with the hope of cutting poverty out of this generation from the family, education of mothers and their children, organizing recreational and educational tours for mothers, children and juveniles.

## Long-term objectives

- a) Conducting structural and foundational reforms towards general culture building, setting up a network with other relevant organizations and reforming laws.
- b) Doing relevant foundational research and studies (with regards to factors in poverty and how to approach it, psychological and sociological solutions/ family job creation/social job creation/nongovernmental organizations.
- c) Setting up network for cooperation with other NGOs, GOs and international organizations.
- d) Efforts to set up education centres (different levels) for Institute's target community (child labourers, street children, needy schoolchildren left behind from education).
- e) Efforts to set up housing centres and centres for taking care of target group women and children.

For further information on the Institute and its activities visit: <https://www.mehrafarinorg.ir>