



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 human rights situation in Iran.

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1- Refugees Rights

Commencing the Vaccination of Illegal and Undocumented Afghan asylum seekers and Immigrants in Iran

According to official figures nearly two million Afghans are living in Iran illegally or without proper identity papers. Some of these fled their country with the retaking over of Taliban and came to Iran.

In taking humanitarian steps, the protection of the health of Afghans and Iranians who are in contact with them, following an extensive vaccination campaign of legal Afghan and Iraqi refugees in Iran, the Iranian government has started the vaccination of illegal and undocumented asylum seekers and immigrants as well.

This can help the health of immigrants in Iran and also the health of the host community. Although official governmental departments have announced that vaccination of illegal immigrants does not mean it is to identify them and issuing of residency permits, but they are done solely for humanitarian purposes.



2- Right to Education

2-1 An Increase of 1.5 meters Average to Education Space of Special Schoolchildren

Right to education is one of the rights where all humans with or without disabilities must enjoy, to this aim in 1991 the Special Education and Training Organization was founded to provide services to persons with disabilities and to-date this organization has increased its schoolchildren's education coverage by 18 percent.

Currently there are 24thousand special schoolchildren getting education. Towards support for special needs children's right to education, on the basis of two adopted international and national documents for persons with disabilities, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Protection of Persons with Disabilities Comprehensive Act which has been adopted by the

parliament, the Education and Training Ministry has taken effective steps for the protection of the rights of children especially special needs children's rights to education. Also 2.5 meters of education space has been added for schoolchildren in deprived regions.

Currently 810 centres provide professional skills to special needs schoolchildren. Also, the expansion of skills education is in the working agenda and to this aim, 1,103 arts schools are running with around 10,000 students, and 75 percent of the contents are in the framework of 36 courses and 280 modular curriculums.

To-date charitable individuals have built 105 schools for special needs schoolchildren, also 30,000 tablets have been donated to special needs schoolchildren for education during the COVID-19 pandemic, and online education. Currently there are plans for another 100 schools and 100 secretariats which has been developed towards the participation of charitable individuals.

2-2 Education of Local Languages/Dialects in Schools Proposal

Towards support for lingual and ethnic minorities, the review of the implementation of article 15 of the Iran Constitution by the Parliament's Education, Research and Technology Commission was completed in the form of five articles and was referred to the Presidium for review in public.

According to this proposal the Education and Training Ministry must adopt measures for the 2023-4 school year so that local and ethnic literature and languages in proportion to the region be taught two hours a week in optional way in seventh and tenth grades.

Another article of this proposal is the Education and Training Ministry's School Curriculums Research, and Planning Organization is duty bound to within the preservation of national unity framework and with the participation of experts of each region and thematic experts, take steps towards production and provision of local and ethnic literature education content, and the alphabet of these books is Farsi.

In this proposal it has been stressed that the Education and Training Ministry is allowed to through the *Farhangian* University or holding modular service training courses in each region hold one training course on teaching methods (local and ethnic languages literature) for volunteer students at that university and interested teachers, preferably Farsi, Arabic and English language teachers.

The executive guidelines of this law will be prepared within at least three months of the adoption of this law by the Education and Training Ministry and will be adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers.

2-3 130 billion Rials worth of Tablets were Bought for the Country Special Needs Schoolchildren

Considering there are 15 million persons in the country suffering from disabilities and must have easy access to services within society, various programmes have been placed in the working agenda of the government for the enjoyment of this group from education, skills, and right to health. Currently there are 80 thousand special needs schoolchildren in 1700 schools in the country. In the COVID-19 pandemic alone 10,000 contents have been produced for special needs and disabled schoolchildren, and in this sector to-date 100 billion Rials have been spent.

Forty-two thousand special needs schoolchildren in the country have received in excess of 200 billion Rials in rehabilitation services, and 31 percent of preschool children and 51 percent of primary education special needs schoolchildren in the country have benefited from rehabilitation services.

In the skills sector also 275 competency-based modules have been prepared for these schoolchildren which are presented in 1,103 arts schools with 10 thousand skills and 35 technical and professional courses. To this aim, the Skills and Technical and Professional Comprehensive Document has been adopted for schoolchildren with disabilities.



3- Women's Rights

3-1 Launching Economic Holding for Women

Towards increasing the self-reliance levels and human rights of women, for the first time, economic holding for women was launched. This economic move, as well as creating conditions for the empowerment of women in various social interactions, can result in them learn various skills, especially in the economic field, and thus achieve create sustainable incomes.

This move, particularly in the empowerment of women heads of household who are responsible for provision of livelihood is a very effective move, and while preserving their dignity and status and through creation of social safety for them, on one hand the income levels of the family are raised, and on the other hand the whole country benefits from the energy and worthy capability of women.

With the full launch of this holding and holding education workshops on the employment market, investment,

business management and job creation, more than 3,000 women have been drawn to this holding and gradually these numbers will increase.

Women in the 18 to 55 age range, whatever their literacy levels, be they poorly literate or university post-graduates, can be accepted and drawn into this economic move. Following completion of necessary courses and learning skills, individuals can enter the activities cycle.

3-2 Counselling and Social Work Support for Victims of Domestic Violence

In view of the COVID-19 outbreak and economic problems the need for intervention in support of women and girls in society has increased. Towards the protection of women and girls, currently there are 363 State Welfare Organization crisis intervention centres across the nation. There is even access in the remotest parts of the country such as 123 emergency hotlines. State Welfare Organization intervention centres are also active in all provinces of the country and even in remote areas and provide services. Some free of charge protection services provided by hotline emergency programme and 363 intervention centres include support for domestic violence, child abuse, spouse abuse, suicide attempt and suicidal ideation, as well as psychological counseling for abusive individuals.



4- Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Equipment and Livelihood Assistance to Persons with Disabilities

The Executive office of *Farman Imam* Foundation in a programme called Movement Positive Programme, has distributed 2,900 wheelchairs and also provided livelihood assistance to identified individuals who suffer from disabilities. In this regard, 50 billion Rials have been allocated by this foundation for persons with disabilities. Previously these individuals were identified by the State Welfare Organization and were introduced to the Executive Office of *Farman Imam*.

As well as equipment and livelihood assistance for persons with disabilities, this office also has set up

extensive programmes for sheltering these individuals. Annually this office constructs and gives three to four thousand houses to families that have two or more members with disabilities.



5- Human Rights

5-1 Expansion of the Use Ankle Monitors with the Aim of Reduction of Prison Population

The Cooperation of Protocol contract between the Prisons Organizations with the Judiciary Branch's Statistics and Technology Bureau for the expansion of electronic base and expansion of the use of ankle monitors with the aim of reduction of prison population was signed.

According to this contract and towards the protection of human rights, fundamental rights, raising prisons standards and with the benefit of other countries' successful experiences and examples, the use of ankle monitors has increased in the country and will speedily be further expanded so that while reducing the prison population and furthering their enjoyment of their rights,

individuals who have committed lighter crimes can continue to live with their families and their families also get support.

5-2 Efforts to Raise Prisons' Standards and Further the Dignity of Prisoners

The State Prisons' Affairs Organization with the cooperation of the Judiciary's Human Rights Office placed in their working agenda various programmes to increase human rights indicators in prisons. The expansion of literacy education courses, higher education, and technical and professional education are some of the instances where further efforts are being made than in the past.

At the same time the use of other countries experiences, towards international interaction with penitentiary institutions abroad, and also review and identification of human rights of prisoners' cases are being investigated so that through the use of these experiences to be able to resolve probable faults.

Another one of prisoners' human rights promotion related programmes is the use of websites for the application of alternative punishments and house arrests, which can greatly prevent damages in prisons, help reduce prison population, and reduce the financial burden on prisons. Also, workshops have been set up for income generation of prisoners which are dignity based production

workshops so that prisoners' who are not eligible for conditional release be able to help their families through making a living.

Cenesta

6- Introducing of Human Rights Activists

Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment (CENESTA)

The Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment (CENESTA) a non-profit, nonpartisan civil society organization that struggles to re-empower indigenous peoples and local communities in Iran and beyond (including indigenous nomadic tribes and coastal and marine areas) by promoting and supporting appropriate recognition of indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas that emphasize nature conservation, community rights and sustainable livelihood. CENESTA also promotes democratizing agro-ecological research CESNA is a member of UNINOMAD (Union of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran). ICCA Consortium, IUCN and Global Forest Coalition. It is accredited to the three Rio Multilateral Environmental Conventions (combating desertification, climate change and biological diversity).

CENESTA has conducted its activities in accordance with the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran and within its

organizational mission framework, through creation of alignment and synergy among beneficiary groups in collaboration and co-management of natural resources and access to sustainable farming, at local, national and international levels. The most important reiteration of this institute is the protection of thousands of years old heritage (indigenous knowledge) and its suitable incorporation with today's knowledge in protection, sustainable use and rehabilitation and revitalization of renewable resources and nature. The activities territory of this institute is Iran.

Approaches and field of activity:

- Sustainable and inner development with consideration of ecological and environmental, economic and financial, social and cultural, institutional and political and gender dimensions.
- Re-empowerment and promotion of the beneficiary groups (indigenous and local communities) and other groups in the protection and sustainable use of nature and plant and animal biodiversity of the country.
- Influencing national and international policies
- Creating the basis for extensive participation of ethnic and local communities at decision making levels and decision makings elated to natural resources and impacting policies.
- Co-management of natural resources such as forests, grasslands, deserts, wetlands, wildlife etc.

- Battling desertification and cohabitation with the desert.
- New energies.

Mission:

- Re-empowerment and capacity building among indigenous and local communities (nomadic and rural)
- Accurate identification of needs and challenges based on the conditions of communities and their surroundings.
- Analysis and finding root causes of problems.
- Setting inner created solutions based on approaches defined by the community itself.
- Strengthening and reconstruction of indigenous and local mechanisms in resolving challenges.

Activities:

- Re-empowerment of Indigenous and Local Communities project (particularly nomads) on the basis of sustainable livelihood and protection of biodiversity (2003)
- Facilitation for the setting up of Nomadic Union and Indigenous Camel Herders Society of Iran
- Improvement of the Livelihood Conditions of Forest Dwellers of the North
- Ways to battle effects of climate change with leaning on participatory approaches in accessing sustainable farming (2005-2014)

- Dialogue and Development in Iran Project, alignment among beneficiary groups in Asalooiyeh (2010-2013)
- Capacity building of co-management in the alignment process of the national action for combatting desertification with the Convention's ten-year strategy (2013)
- Preparation and compilation of national environmental strategy and sustainable development, 20 studies in Farsi and English based on Working Agenda 21, in debates based on the environment, hygiene contamination, education, women, refugees, water, soil etc.

For further information on the institute and its activities visit <http://www.cenesta.org>