

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

1-1 President Orders for the Creation of the National Migration Organization

Towards the demands of Afghan elite migrant community and systematic support of refugees and immigrants residing in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the President issued necessary instructions to the Interior Ministry for the creation of necessary mechanisms to establish a of the National Migration Organization to seriously address immigrant issues.

The creation of the National Migration Organization is one of the points that have been raised especially over the recent years, but not had the opportunity to appear. This is one of the demands of Afghan refugees and migrants living in Iran which was raised before the presidential elections in a sitting of more than 200 Afghan elites with

Mr. Reisee. Currently Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA), with a collective of laws is in charge of refugees and migrants' affairs, but alongside BAFIA other bodies that include the police and various Ministries also are partners in refugees and migrants matters. The creation of this single organization with further authority which will be in charge operations and supervisions related to refugees and migrants in the country, can be a step towards organizing services that are provided to refugees and make them more satisfied.

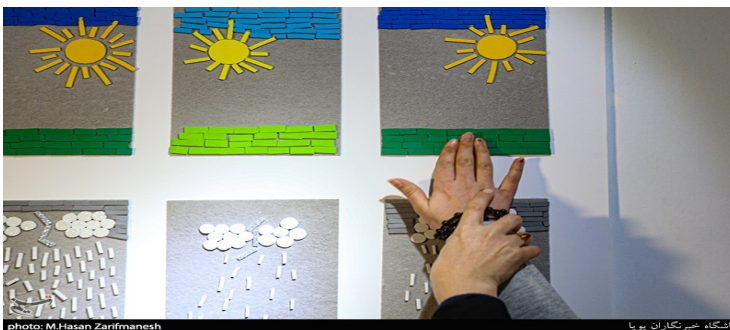
1-2 Iranian Government expands its support for international community's cooperation on newly arrived Afghan asylum seekers in Iran

Following the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, a notable number Afghans, especially soldiers, religious and ethnic minorities (the Hazare in particular) left their country and sought refuge in other countries such as Iran. According to initial Iranian government estimates, approximately 500,000 Afghans entered Iran in 2021. In this period, they have received all initial services such as access to clean water, food, hygiene as well as education services, but with the passage of time the need for international community's assistance has increased significantly. In this regard the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has paid a visit to Iran and while meeting relevant officials called on the Iranian government to consider the support

needs of the refugees and possible threats to them in the event of their return to Afghanistan.

The High Commissioner said: “the Government of Iran has been a generous host of refugees for decades, despite their precarious economic situation made worse by the pandemic. But as the situation in Afghanistan remains fragile, we need to ensure those fleeing to Iran can get the protection and assistance they need”.

For the expansion of Iranian government’s support for these people, the UNHCR will also provide assistance to the Iranian government so that the services are provided more quickly to these people.



2- Right to Education

Creating educational software for visually impaired and blind students

Towards support for the right to education of persons with disabilities, particularly visually impaired and blind students, the ability to use the *Shad* software (official Iranian education software) was activated for these group of students in the new version of *Shad*. The Education and Training Ministry issued an announcement on the activation of the ability for visually impaired and blind students to use the new version of *Shad* network. According to this announcement from now on these individuals can use this platform like all the rest of schoolchildren.

Also, for further introduction of the users of this software, *Shad* has added a section called “let us learn more about *Shad*” that explains how the platform can be used for visually impaired and blind students.



3- Women's Rights

Legislation for saving Boushehri women from depression at home

Eight out of ten Boushehr provincial towns are coastal and there are facilities to create recreation seaside places for women. In this regard and to improve the physical and mental health of women and prevent depression at home, the government has programs to create infrastructures special for women in the region in its working agenda.

Furthermore, gardens have been identified to convert to women only places so that they can use the facilities in comfort.

According to a new government decree, the immediate construction of a private beach for women in the Lian region and removal of the current problems of women's seaside resorts as well as construction of a 20-heactare

women's private park, has been given priority. In addition to providing recreational activities for women, significant funds have also been provided in the field of job creation for women in this province.

The approval of 111 plans and agreements on elimination of deprivation, infrastructural development and economic boom in Bushehr has given hope to the people of this province, especially to the women.



4- Rights of Persons with Disabilities

4-1 Implementation of the Protection of Persons with Disabilities Comprehensive Act

The head of the Judiciary ordered the implementation of the Protection of Persons with Disabilities Comprehensive Act.

The Act was adopted in 2004. In 2018 the Act was promoted to Protection of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act and it has put into force since 2019. But its implementation has seen some obstacles which with this order it is expected to be implemented with the partnership of all departments and bodies involved.

This Act has foreseen a group made up of 13 members headed by the Interior Ministry and secretariat of the director of the State Welfare Organization and also a

committee made up of 26 members and headed by the first deputy president so that they can monitor the application process of the law.

Pointing out the duty of the State Inspector General Organization's duty to monitor the application of this Act in the country, asked the organization's director to review chapters, articles, and clauses of the said Act to assess how much and how this Act is applied.

He also agreed with the suggestion of some from the blind community to set up a bureau for follow up on their legal and judicial problems, according to which working groups made up of four individuals in provincial capitals to solve blind people's problems and issues when referring to the justice department before entering the courts.

4-2 Giving homes to heads of household that have two members with disabilities over the next two years

The State Welfare Organization signed a memorandum of understanding with the Mostazafan Foundation for the construction of 160 thousand housing units in the next three years, of which 40 thousand units are in villages.

According to the plans in the next two years no head of household that has two children with disabilities will not be without a home. Also, the establishment of counseling centers with a strong approach entitled lifestyle,

expansion of insurance coverage in the rehabilitation field, provision of nursing services to individuals with spinal disabilities, full insurance coverage for 50 State Welfare Organization services, elimination of social harms such as child laborers are other instances where priorities have been places in the working agenda and are currently underway.

Also, in the prevention area, 2400 damage reduction and treatment centers, and in the credit area 31 round the clock centers for the organization of child laborers and 63 day care centers for sheltering them are active by the State Welfare Organization.



5- Human Rights

5-1 Christian Prisoners Given Leave

In view of the Christmas and New Year Festivities, and with the order of head of the Judiciary Christian prisoners are given ten days leave. This move was welcomed by the Christian community and also their members of parliament. According to the Assyrian Member of Parliament, giving Christian prisoners 10 days leave by Mr. Ejeiee (Judiciary head) for Christmas shows unity among all us Iranians.

Furthermore, in view of the overall plan of the Judiciary for reduction of the prison population, particularly minorities' prisoner in West Azerbaijan province, through letters of agreement from the prosecutor's director general and the prison director general and the provincial governor more prisoners will temporarily be released wearing ankle monitors.

5-2 Issuing of memorandum on “determining the rights of detainees, observation of their dignity and how to supervise detention centers”

In continuation of developmental approaches within itself, the Prisons’ Organization issued a memorandum/circular which guarantees boosting the rights of prisoners and detainees and observation of all Islamic, moral, and human aspects when confronting them.

For the purpose of proper implementation of citizens’ rights and Islamic and human rights of detainees in public, security, police and military detention centers and the implementation of Respecting all legitimate freedoms and protecting of citizen’s rights and acts related to this, and also considering the collective of UN minimum standard guidelines with regards to treatment of prisoners (known as the Nelson Mandela Principles, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015) and UN principles on treatment of women prisoner (known as the Bangkok Declaration 2010) the memorandum was issued. In view of national and international laws the aim of this memorandum is to facilitate the basis for the maximum monitoring of Prisons’ Organization and the said detention centers so that while confirming the observation of all the rights of prisoners, further observation of the following is stressed towards those in detention. They are:

- a) Suspects' rights upon entering the detention center
- b) Detained suspects' rights in terms of "separation and classification"
- c) Physical, mental health and observation of human dignity
- d) Visits by family and lawyer
- e) From detention to release aspects
- f) Suspects' rights in solitary confinement
- g) Right to make confidential and speedy reports to monitoring bodies
- h) The way detention centers are monitored

Each of the aforementioned include various paragraphs to ensure the rights of prisoners which towards the correct implementation of this memorandum there will be random visits every three months and at nights of all public, security, police and military detention centers and the final report will be submitted to the director of the organization and the Bureau for the observation of prisoners' rights (based in the health department).

Monitoring the correct implementation of the memorandum is the responsibility of the director general of the assessment, inspection and accountability bureau to the complaints against the organization.

6- Introducing of Human Rights Activists

KIANA Cultural and Social Group

As a nongovernmental organization, KIANA Cultural and Social Group began its activities with the aim of raising education, culture levels and empowerment of child laborers and street children and help women heads of household for income generation with a concentration on removal of the economic basis of child laborers in the family. KIANA was founded on the basis of the executive guidelines of nongovernmental organizations.

Initially, KIANA received its activities permit in December 2003 in Karaj city.. In 2009 the group managed to receive its permit from the Interior Ministry's NGOs' Committee to work with international organizations and UNHCR. In 2016 the Group received consultative status from ECOSOC.

KIANA Perspective

KIANA's perspective is the full realization of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child for all

children; in a way that the child labor phenomenon is destroyed and no child is left behind from education.

KIANA's Objectives

- Raising society's awareness of the child labor phenomenon
- Draw the support of relevant organizations and local communities
- Draw the support of relevant organizations and local communities for the improvement of child labor conditions
- Identification of child laborers and street children and children who are on the verge of becoming child labourers
- Raise employers awareness of child laborers for the purpose of introducing them to the social and psychological harms that the use of child labor causes.
- Increasing the professional levels of child laborers' families for the purpose of the elimination of child labor.

Organization Mission

KIANA's mission is to provide education services (literacy education, life skills and profession learning) and support (social work, psychological and therapy) to child laborers and street children and their families, regardless of race, color, religion and nationality, with the protection

of their human dignity. To this aim, Kiyana endeavors to utilize all of society's capacities. Child laborers' employers are one of the most important target groups of this NGO, because these individuals play determining roles in the raising of the living standards of child laborers. Thus, in Kiyana education services are also provided for employers on children's rights and life skills, so that they become more accountable and responsible towards child laborers.

Projects

- Education project

Since its founding in 2003, Kiyana has provided literacy education to child laborers, due to the following reasons these children do not have the opportunity to receive education officially:

- They cannot attend schools due to work.
- With regards to their ages do not match their education levels.
- They lack identity documents

Children who are educated in the education department of Kiyana can through taking the Education and Ministry's comprehensive exam enter the education system. From 2009 to 2016 Kiyana has conducted 8 joint projects with UNICEF for child laborers left behind from education, which in total 2500 children benefited from these services.

- Mobile Education Project

In 2009, Kiyana Cultural-Social Group dedicated part of its activities to children working in unofficial and underground workshops. To this aim 4 successful joint projects with UNICEF were conducted in the years 2009 to 2016 entitled “Increasing the Accountability and Responsibility of the Private Sector towards Child Labourers”. KIANA’s gained experiences in this field resulted for the idea of the launching of mobile schools to shape in 2018, and with the financial backing of *Arian Roshd Afza* Company be implemented. Mobile school is a minibus which has been refurbished for the education of child laborers and by being on location where child laborers are, it tries to provide them with literacy education and life skills education services. Currently with the help of charitable individuals three mobile schools are in action for the education of children on the location where they work.

- Empowerment and Job Creation Project

Since 2016, with the financial support of UNHCR and BAFIA, Kiyana founded a sewing workshop. The aim of this project is the empowerment and income generation for women heads of household and the elimination of economic basis of child labor in the family.

KIANA’s target group in this project are women who do not have good economic conditions and mostly are not familiar with sewing. For this reason, the job training is considered as a main part of the project. In such way that

the individual receives training step by step and at the same time is working and receives wages in return. This way, as well as earning an income from the outset, the individual receives sewing training also. KIANA currently has two tailoring workshops in Karaj city in which a total of 63 women heads of household are working.

For further information on this NGO visit:
<http://kiaynango.ir/>