



Human Right Developments in Iran

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ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

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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

1-1 500,000 Afghans study in Iranian schools

Based on the released official information from the Ministry of Education, there are more than 500,000 Afghan students in Iran who study in Iranian schools, while half of these students have no valid documents. It is also noted that more than 25% of foreign national university students in Iran are Afghans.

In May 2015, Iran began allowing all Afghan children of school age to attend primary and secondary school regardless of their documentation status. Since 2016, refugee children do not have to pay refugee-specific school fees (Public schools), which stood at USD \$70-90 per child. This allows equal access to education for all.

1-2 Filimo School platform provides free educational courses for Afghan students

An Iranian streaming platform, *Filimo*, which has a school section, is providing Afghan students in Iran and Afghanistan with free educational courses. The platform has announced that the educational courses from preschool level to ninth grade have been accessible to Afghan students, free of charge. The decision was made to help Afghan students access educational sources in the current difficult situation. Afghan students inside Afghanistan can use the facilities of *Filimo* School via Afghanistan phone number.

1-3 5,000 Afghans entered Iran per day since Taliban takeover

According to the Director General of the International Transportation and Transit at the Iran's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization the number of Afghans' entering Iran was up to 800 a day before the Taliban takeover. However, since the Taliban took power in Afghanistan last August, almost 5,000 Afghans enter Iran on a daily basis. It is worth mentioning that most of the car accidents during Nowruz (Iranian new year) in Eastern provinces and Fars province were due to the transport of illegal foreign nationals.

Since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021, thousands of Afghans had to leave their homes.

Many more are expected to flee due to the escalating humanitarian crisis. Millions of Afghans have been fleeing violent conflict in their home country for decades, finding refuge in other parts of Afghanistan as well as close to 100 countries around the globe. Most displaced Afghans live either as internally displaced people (IDPs) or as refugees in neighbouring Pakistan and Iran. The number of IDPs exceeds the number of refugees in other countries. According to UNHCR estimates, there were an estimated 3.4 million IDPs as of December 2021, close to 10% of the entire population of 39 million. Roughly one in five IDPs (over 700,000) have been displaced since the start of 2021. The UNHCR says there are around 2.6 million Afghan refugees recognized by UNHCR as of June 2021, making them the third-largest refugee population in the world by nationality behind Syrians and Venezuelans. As of August 2021, more than 80% of them lived in Pakistan (1.4 million) and Iran (780,000). Neighbouring countries of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan host 13,000 and 6,000 Afghan refugees, respectively. Four out of five Afghan refugees are women and children.

1-4 All foreign nationals in Iran are vaccinated

According to the released information by the Iranian Red Crescent Society all foreign nationals in the country, refugees and illegal ones have been vaccinated against coronavirus.

According to the report, five million Afghans who reside in Iran have received two doses of COVID vaccine, and in many cities and areas they have received a third dose / booster, without any discrimination and regardless their residence status.



2- Women's Rights

2-1 Launching a comprehensive database for the protection of women and children

Providing effective and efficient services to the clients, is part of the revival of public rights, especially for the vulnerable sections of society, including women and children. To this end, offices for the protection of women's and children's rights have been established in the judiciary since 2004, and based on their job descriptions, more and more women and children are being referred to these offices in the judiciary for various reasons to resolve legal, judicial, or other problems.

Since none of these measures have been recorded so far due to the large number of clients and the wide range of services provided, it was not possible to report and evaluate the effectiveness of these services to clients.

Therefore, today, the creation of electronic database and the possibility of registering information and services on daily basis, has provided the opportunity to create a comprehensive database. Collecting this information makes it possible to better monitor the performance of different service providers and to examine the quality and impact of services.

Referral system from other relevant organizations, such as State Welfare Organizations and Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation is also considered in this database.

2-2 Admission of 1100 abused women in safe houses

In order to protect the rights of women, especially women affected by violence, the State Welfare Organization (SWO) has put various programs on its agenda. SWO interventions are conducted at two levels: 1) Providing counseling and treatment services 2) Protection of abused women and admission of them in the safe houses until finding sustainable solution for their problems.

From the protection point of view, women can be accommodated in day care centers or safe houses and receive all the necessary services to prepare and empower them to return to normal life.

The difference between safe houses today with the 6 months ago is on types of the rendered services and

interventions. In the new launched modality, one intervention goes back to the abused person and the other intervention goes back to the abuser. Because the SWO model for safe houses aims at strengthening family ties rather than separating people from their family.

There are currently eight government safe houses and 19 non-governmental ones in the country. There are typically eight trained employees in each safe house.

2-3 A new law called the "Open Vote" law in support of women prisoners

Recently, with the implementation of the "open vote" law, women prisoners who wish can go home at night and be with their families. For proper implementation of the mentioned law, skill vocational training courses will be provided to interested prisoner women by Iranian Technical and Vocational Training Organization inside prison.

In this regard, women who wish, can work in the established workshops within the prison or other affiliated areas after receiving the vocational trainings under the supervision of the Prisons Organization during the day and go home after finishing work under this law.

The law, which introduces one of the alternative to imprisonment, allows women to increase their level of self-reliance and dignity and return to society.



3- Rights of Persons with Disabilities

3-1 More than 50,000 persons with disabilities live in the State Welfare Organization's boarding schools

According to official reports published by the State Welfare Organization (SWO), 53,766 persons with disabilities are employed in 955 boarding centers of this organization.

The SWO provides various services to persons with disabilities, including 500 vocational training courses at various levels, for which they pay large subsidies.

In the field of employment of persons with disabilities, significant measures have been taken and marketing has been conducted properly.

In this regard, and for the protection of this group of people active national networks have been established. Currently, 5 comprehensive national networks providing a variety of services have been established.

The care and rehabilitation need of persons with disabilities, the elderly and the chronically ill are met in day care centers. Based on relevant specialized instructions, these centers provide rehabilitation, care and cultural services in accordance with the needs of the target group, using the required equipment and spaces, as well as specialized human resources.

3-2 More than 51,000 people with disabilities received transportation grant

According to reports published by the State Welfare Organization (SWO), the annual cost of transportation for each person with disabilities is 6,860,000 Rials which is being paid.

The monthly allocated budget for each person in the city of Tehran and other metropolises is 800,000 Rials, and for Tehran province counties is 600,000 Rials.

Another initiative to empower person with disabilities is to adapt 901 vehicles for their use. The use of proper

transportation for people with disabilities has a significant role in their presence in society and reducing stress on them.

People with disabilities who have a personal car can also benefit from subsidy services to equip and adapt their car.

In the past, Pars Khodro Company had a complete site for car adaptation for people with disabilities, but now, in addition to this company, Iran Khodro Company as well as the private sector companies are active and provide required services to persons with disabilities.

Currently, 1.6 million persons with disabilities in the country are protected by SWO and they are benefiting from its various services including transportation assistances.



4- Human Rights

4-1 Pardon of 793 prisoners

According to official news published by the Iranian judiciary, 793 people sentenced to retaliation (death) were pardoned last year with support of dispute settlement communities. In this light, 80,000 other prisoners have been pardoned or had their sentences commuted.

Also, in order to protect the rights of prisoners and their families, 6,208 prisoners have been transferred to the prisons near where they live or the nearest prison.

4-2 Iran's Interim Human Rights Development Report was sent to the United Nations

Iran's interim human rights development report (UPR midterm report) covers human rights development in Iran from 20 March 2020 to 22 September 2021.

In this report several human rights issues have been considered including: the laws and structures for the promotion and protection of human rights, dialogue and interaction in the field of promotion and protection of human rights, unilateral coercive measures, the rights of persons with disabilities, human rights education, strengthening and interaction with non-governmental organizations, improving human development indicators, reducing the risk of natural disasters, religious minorities, freedom of religion and belief, ethnicity and difference, fair trial and judicial justice as well as the rights of prisoners.

In addition to the mentioned issues, several other human rights themes have been discussed in the report such as: the right to adequate housing, the right to health, the right to welfare, social security and insurance, the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, the right to education, women's rights, children's rights, freedom of association, gatherings, expression and access to information, the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and

migrants, landmines left over from the war, other human rights achievements, and the right to access water and energy.

In this regard, the Secretary of the High Council of Human Rights emphasized: The Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the countries active in the process of Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Iran's principled policy is based on supporting this non-selective and balanced mechanism.

He also added that the US unilateral coercion against the Islamic Republic of Iran over the past four decades has grossly and discriminatory violated the fundamental rights of the Iranian people, in particular the right to life, the right to health, the right to development and other economic, social and cultural rights. These actions are clearly contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and international human rights mechanisms.

The Special Rapporteur, in his report to the 75th General Assembly (2020), noted some examples of US unilateral, illegal, oppressive and criminal coercive actions in the coronation situation against the Iranian people.



5- Introducing of Human Rights Activists

Society of Recovery Support (SRS)

Society for Recovery Support is a non-political, non-governmental and independent organization. Nationally authorized by the State Welfare Organization of Iran in 2009 and having launched 34 centres and projects in 17 provinces nationwide. Obtaining the permission required for Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) to work with refugees in 2012, SRS has different projects embarked successfully in various provinces in partnership with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Committee of the Red Cross, Red Crescent Society, Norwegian Refugee Council, Relief International and embassies of different countries including Japan and Australia.

Mission Statement

By consolidating ethical principles, synergizing capabilities with the cooperation of other NGOs, this organization has a transparent function to respond to its

benefactors and supporters. In this regard, the NGO tries to have a leading, effective, and stable presence in various areas of improving individual life, strengthening the foundation of the family and the quality of social life. This organization tries also to increase the level of satisfaction of its target community by de-stigmatizing and reducing social discrimination.

To achieve the goals of sustainable development (SDG), this population uses motivated manpower, proper management and with respect to the human dignity, strengthening social capital and knowledge-based activities.

The fields of activity of this organization are as follows:

- Prevention of addiction, education and awareness raising,
- Harm reduction,
- Treatment,
- Post-treatment support.

Goals

- Social support after treatment of patients with drug addiction and various types of psychedelics in the field of employment, leisure, providing counselling and medical services, and legal and

social support for rehabilitated individuals and their families.

- Carrying out programs to prevent social harm and addiction for adolescents, youth, families in workplaces or schools.
- Establishment of addiction rehabilitation centres after obtaining an activity license from the State Welfare Organization.
- Implementing awareness raising programs to the public and other target groups.
- Carrying out harm reduction programs and prevention of addiction-related diseases.
- Research in the fields of social harms, addiction, and other related harms.
- Creating the ground for public / governmental participation to raise awareness, prevent and moderate the harms of addiction to the family and the community.
- Exchange the experience and methods of population support to individuals and organizations, interested in modelling and establishing similar centres in other parts of the world.

For further information on the Institute and its activities visit: <http://srsorg.com/>