

This Newsletter prepared by National Independent Institution of Iran for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights contains information on the Commission's highlights at the national and international level, as well as its events and initiatives on all human rights related issues.

Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission



کمیسیون حقوق بشر اسلامی ایران
Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission
لجنة حقوق الانسان الاسلامية في ايران

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Highlight Report

The public unrest in the aftermath of presidential election in Iran have in recent weeks manifested itself quite objectively and have impacted the overall, especially the academic, atmosphere of the Country. One of the manifestations of these unrests was the protest rally in 13th of Aban (8th Iranian month in Persian calendar), before and after which many discussions were put forward regarding the general status of Iranian society among different political spectra. On Aban 13th (November 4), again, some people were arrested and imprisoned on the streets, and from the both parties, that is, the protesters as well as official authorities, certain claims raised against the other. Naturally in such excited atmosphere with so many human rights aspects and concerns; the comprehensive, objective and extensive activity aside from instance impulses and passing emotions, shall encounter enormous difficulties and complexities.



However, Iranian Independent Human Rights Commission, has during the last 4 weeks tried on the basis of a comprehensive and all-around approach to modify the circumstances as well as to reinforce and strengthen of reasonable thinking and the rule of law, to be the main source of some required services for the whole society in its different predestined area of activity. Taking into account the much security and counter-intelligence-oriented atmosphere and the suspicions and stigmatizing by many of the official sources and the impact on people's immediate complications and problems especially those per-



sons who were immediately exposed to the violation of their human rights including the arrestee and detainee all over the country not only in the Capital Tehran, the IHRC is faced with numerous and various challenges and obstacles so much so that the circumstances have caused an increase in the protests and objection and general dissidence of the families and finally the slogans and protesting steps and measures took a more radical and extremist shape. The limitation in the conveyance and transference of information imposed on the media has also created a yet more confusing climate since in the absence of transparent information and accountability of official organs there shall naturally spread various gossips and rumors throughout the society and this in turn increases the unrest and excitement and abnormal sensitivity in the whole society.

Unfortunately in an atmosphere like what was described above, organs like IHRC who shall basically be and act as the voice of the oppressed and people exposed to human rights violations and who may have the capability to help clarify the issues and help official sources become more accountable, are themselves faced with some imposed limitations so much so that some official sources and their radical backers quickly chose to step in the path of untruthful analyses and assessments and try to deny the whole concept of human rights or any independent nation-wide move and activity for human rights promotion.

In this fragile stressful circumstance, full of anxiety and agitation, the lawyers and jurists, are naturally deprived of their right to have positive impacts and the arena is mainly in the hands of politicians and controlled by them, those who address themselves with special political literature and jargons or those who are the origin of influence in the different aspects of the governing body's decisions or those of the society. Anyway, the main titles of struggles of humble servants of human rights in the Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission, during the last four weeks have seen as follows:



Human Rights Monitoring

The different units of international and domestic human rights monitoring of the Commission, in the last 4 weeks, received hundreds of news and reports and recorded them as their routine procedures. It should be noted that the CD of our comprehensive Report of Domestic Human Rights Monitoring around the 16 main human rights-subjects priorities is now available on request, needless to mention that the complete set of published data through media are also accessible in the IHRC Website. As regards the international supervision over the observance of human rights, there are also five monthly prepared reports of the human rights status in the world penta-hedral regions (Europe, America, Latin America, Africa, Asia Pacific and Islamic Arabic Countries) that are divided according to each individual country and the interested individuals may obtain from the IHRC's Selling Products Unit. In the last month, the deep concerns and sympathy of Iranian Human Rights activists were expressed to the Iraqi officials regarding Baghdad's terrorist accidents by the Commission's International Unit of Human Rights Monitoring.

During this period, some of the news and data of the Internal Monitoring Unit was turned over to IHRC's Legal Unit so that to be followed-up after the filing of a dossier, mainly in connection with the arrests and events after the presentinal election. In month of Aban (15 October to 15 November) 33 petitions were received by the Legal Unit

each of them requesting for some follow-up and taking of some actions regarding the cases of human rights violations while some of them being group-petitions. From among the subjects referred to and mentioned in these petitions, the following should be cited:

- The report of the head of the Pakdasht Judiciary regarding a needy patient in need of special care for the required follow-up actions via relief and treatment organizations;
- The report of the Mr. Mahdi Khoramabadi from Varamin Prison, in which he has claimed to be continuously in confinement despite his acquittal and has called for attention to his case;
- The petition of Mr. Gol Aqa Soroush, an Afghan citizen residing in Tehran and his request for following-up his obtainment of the citizenship of a third country in order to become able to remove his human problems;
- The petition of Mr, Mohammad Heydari, a disabled person residing in Dezfoul and his request for the consideration of his financial and living problems as well as his social security status;
- The petition of some music band called Baran (the Rain) from Shirvan and their request for presenting concert called PEACE abroad;
- The petition of Ms. Hajar Nourizadeh from city of Mashhad and her objection to the arrest of her husband Mr. Ali Ebadi a clergy prisoner of conscience before and after revolution 1979;
- The report related to Mr. Mohammad Norouzi in which it has been claimed that he has been arrested by American forces in Iraq and requesting his release;
- The petition of Ms. Nazila Raeesi Mahdiabadi including her objection to having gotten deprived of the nationwide universities entrance exams only because of her belonging to unofficial minority;
- The petition of Mr. Nader Pourmaleki a judiciary lawyer regarding quality of implementation of the order for his client's finger to be cut in Tehran and request for some amendment and changes in the related procedures.

It is note-worthy that in order to follow-up different petitions in connection of arrests after the Election and to express concerns from the view-point of the observance of human rights, according to some arrangements, some of the well-known and distinguished law professors of the country who are members of the IHRC Research Committee, made for meeting with Tehran Public Prosecutor in which current human rights concerns discussed in details and the suggestions of IHRC were reflected. On the other hand, the Public Prosecutor promised to do his best to reinforce the legality and law-abiding elements in the process of consideration and investigation of the cases. He also made some points about some of the previously done measures of the former Tehran Public Prosecutor.



Events

During the last 4 weeks, IHRC held various public programmes to which we shall have some short references:

- **Technical Conference on “Pathology of the Problems and Rights of Young Girls” (Ardebil City, 20 October 2009):**

Within the framework of the national project for holding of different special conferences to promote professional human rights notions, the above-mentioned conference was held by IHRC Regional Office No.7 with the assistance of IHRC’s Central Office’s Research Department and also with the collaboration of some of the local establishments at the Conference Hall of Mohaghegh Ardebili University in Ardebil City. In this conference which was held concurrently with National Girls Day, there attended hundreds of individuals and Dr. Entezari, the president of Asia Pacific Demographic Research and Study Center, having come from Tehran was the main Lecturer.



- **Technical Conference on “Evaluation of the Level of Girls and Women’s Health” (Ardebil City, 24 October 2009):**

The said programme has been coordinated by IHRC Regional Office No. 7 with the collaboration of the Women & Family Committee of Ardebil’s Governor as well as technical assistance of IHRC’s Research Department. The main lecturer was Dr. Shirin Ahmadnia, member of academic board of Allameh Tabatabai and director of the Medical Specialty and Health Group of Iranian Sociological Society. Some of the local authorities and intellectuals attended the conference.



- **Technical Meeting on “A study of the Capabilities of Islamic Mysticism for the Promotion of Human Rights Discourse” (City of Qom, 22 October and 5 November 2009):** Within the boundaries of periodical meetings of IHRC Regional Office No. 5 in Qom city, on the mentioned dates, there were held two technical meetings with the presence of some of the related and concerned authorities on the subject. In these meetings, the discussion regarding capabilities of Islamic Mysticism for human rights discussions and the impact of mysticism on the jurisprudential attitudes were continued which are still not completed and will go on for the next weeks.



- Special Round-table on the theme of “A Glimpse of Legal Aspects of UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (UPR): Evaluating Chances and Challenges of Islamic republic of Iran” (Tehran / 27 October 2009):



This Special Round-table organized by the Central Office of the Commission accompanied by a group of international lawyers and senior researchers. Evaluating the legal basis of UPR, identifying the reasons behind the ignorance of public opinion in Iran towards UPR, the recent report of the UN Secretary-General to General Assembly concerning the human rights situation in Iran and its possible impacts on upcoming review session of Iran and the impacts of Iran's general approach to the quality of interaction with international human rights mechanisms on UPR outcome were some of the main themes of said special round-table. Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) published a summery of the presentations of the participants after its reporter's attendance at the meeting and the complete report shall also be prepared in the IHRC Selling Product Unit. The complete report may be put in the Iranian Journal of Human Rights.

- Seminar on “Reviewing the Notion and Dimensions of Tolerance in International Human Rights Standards Comparatively with Islamic Thought” (Tehran / 15 November 2009): The said seminar was held at the Central Office of the Commission with participation of human rights experts, public law professors and Islamic scholars on the occasion of World Tolerance Day. In this seminar, the conceptology of the word tolerance and different Farsi equivalents for this word as well as the variety of current philosophical, legal and scientific approaches and attitudes, different aspects of tolerance in different the ways of governance, the reflection of this concept in the international human rights instruments and how-to of increase of tolerance in Iranian society in regard with special features of its legal system were all expertly evaluated. ISNA published a summary of the discussions put forward by its presence in the seminar and the complete report shall also be published according to the routine practice of the IHRC. This output is also available for sale.



- Participation in Tehran International Festival of Short Films (11 – 13 November):



Following the suggestion of IHRC's Art and Human Rights Task Force and previous coordination, the Commission, during the period of the Festival, established a stand in the theatre wherein the Short Films Festival was held which distributed different promotional art works and at which the interested artists filled in the volunteer cooperation forms of IHRC. The presence of the Commission as the only technical human rights organization in the Festival for the first time was reflected in the media and received a warm welcome.

Research

In recent weeks, according to the routine procedure of the Commission, some different theoretical activities have been done by different units of the Commission, especially by the Research Department. In some case, the work has been completed while in some others the related works and activities continue and shall naturally end in near future. The followings are a list of completed activities:

1. A summary of international legal aspects of recent terroristic events in Iran through the interview with one of the international experts on legal matters and publication of the interview in IHRC website;
2. Final edition of an essay entitled “The Legal Aspects of the Concept of Synergy and Evaluation of the Types of Attitude towards Iranian Covenant of Prospects for 2026 in this regards” done by one of the honorary researchers of the IHRC Central Office for presenting to National Synergy Meeting;
3. Compilation of a scientific report on “Biotechnology and Human Rights with An Emphasis on Aspects of the Right to Information regarding Foodstuff”;
4. Preparation of part of a scientific report regarding the status of the right to a healthy living environment in Iran including an evaluation of the legal system, the bills presented in the parliament, challenges of observing this right and the status of NGOs in this area and etc;
5. Preparation of an essay regarding Cyrus the Great, the well-known king of ancient Persia and his works on human rights, which was published in IHRC website on the occasion of the commemoration day of Cyrus in Iran;
6. Compilation of two short reports by the researches cooperated with IHRC in the city of Qom on subjects including mysticism and human rights, human right from the view of Imam Reza (the 6h Shiite Holy Imam), of which the latter was published in IHRC website concurrently with, the birthday of Imam Reza;
7. Preparation of a of an addendum to the last month reply to the UN OHCHR on the subject of the rights of the persons with disability, and its translation to English as well as its dispatch to the said organ, taking into consideration the new development namely of Iran’s accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities;
8. Preparation of a scholarly writing on “Leniency and Tolerance from the Islamic Perspective” on the occasion of World Tolerance Day, also published in IHRC website for public use. Also a detailed scholarly interview with one of the experts on legal aspects of tolerance will be published in the website in coming days;
9. Preparing the translations into English and Arabic of IHRC’s Newsletter for the period of September and October;
10. Scholarly interview with the chairman of the Red Cross Committee in Tehran regarding the different aspects of the activities of this institution in the area of humanitarian law which was making with one of the professors of law connected with IHRC and a colleague in the Unit for Humanitarian Law at IHRC’s Research Department to be published as an attachment to the forthcoming volume of IHRC Humanitarian Law Bulletin;
11. Submission of two new books, English and Arabic, on human rights issues and discussions, to one of the interested translators to be translated honorary;
12. Continuing the detailed study of the existing challenges between international human rights criteria and Islamic norms in penal area by one of our colleagues in IHRC Working Group on Human Rights and Criminal Justice Process with the aim of procuring the scholarly report on this subject as soon as possible;
13. Perpetuation of the study of practical techniques of influencing & effecting of non-governmental organizations in different countries of the world to promote human rights (with the emphasis on the main subject of the rights of the woman and child) to compile as soon as possible a technical report in this regard;
14. Preparing a report on reservation status of Islamic countries to the international human rights instruments by one of the honorary colleagues of IHRC’s Research Department;
15. Collecting parts of scholarly materials for the Iranian Journal of Human Rights, 1st volume of which is supposed to be available for the public on the international human rights day as the designing of its separate webpage shall be completed at the end of this month;
16. Editing the materials remained from the last year’s February meeting regarding Public Domain and Human Rights prepared by 2 of the professors and one of the colleagues in Research Department, which shall be published in the form of a book shortly after;
17. Completing the materials for the latest copy of Islamic-phobia/ Islamophobia in the world” for the purpose of publication for



public use;

18. Continuing the compilation of the professional report on children and teenagers penal justice (administration) which shall probably be published in the bulletin of women and children's right works;
19. Starting the study of a collection of existing reports and resolutions in the last meeting of the First Committee of UN General Assembly from the humanitarian point of view which shall be offered to all people like other products of the IHRC after the completion;
20. The Research Committee of the IHRC has held weekly Gathering with the presence of various professors in the month Aban to study and see into the letter written by some of the lawyers of Iranian judiciary regarding the request from Administrative Court of Justice in connection with the Judiciary's Security Unit. It is noteworthy that the weekly session of the Research Committee o 26 October was allocated to the group negotiations of some of the professors selected by the Committee with Tehran Public Prosecutor regarding human rights aspects in connection with recent cases of arrests and the judicial procedures.

Regional Offices

During the last month, the Central Office according to the routine procedures of the IHRC has taken various measures so that the Regional Offices could be able to make well use of the local capabilities, to promote the human rights. Each of these regional offices has had various activities of its own in the last 4 weeks according to their capabilities as follows (Note: the details of provincial activities can be found in the IHRC 's website or the WebPages of the offices themselves in Farsi. Activities such as scientific meetings and important programs of the provinces were mentioned in the related section of this newsletter):

- During the mentioned period, for several times there were introduced some individuals by the authorities or activists of the IHRC Regional Office No. 4 to the Central Office to be appointed in the trustee board of the related office regarding which the required measured are in the process;
- The IHRC Regional Office No. 2, in the city of Shiraz, in addition to some interactions with civil institutions and providing legal services, spent a lot of time removing the problems caused for one of the honorary members connected with the office who reportedly has had visit to some related official executive institutions to follow-up the problems of Afgani immigrants residing in Iran, for more than once and this has exposed him to some accusation by the Bureau of Foreign Citizens of Fars Province and the accusation had been referred to the judicial authorities and after days of referring to the disciplinary and judiciary authority, finally he was totally acquitted and the case was completely closed due to lack of any evidence by the accusing authority. It is noteworthy that the following-up of people's petitions in the IHRC is done by the Central Office's Legal Unit and the provincial offices basically has no duty in this regard, the reason of which being avoidance of such happenings as is described above;
- In this month a mission from Tehran Office sent to Semnan province to see into the latest status of IHRC Regional Office No. 6 and after the investigations and according to previously done coordination the position of the former executive coordinator was assigned to a new person;
- IHRC Regional Office No. 7 located at Tabriz, has had many cases of information conveying by the start-up of its information's site in the area of human rights development during the last month and has naturally published the details of its activities and programs along with comprehensive information conveying, for the public use in its domain called Basharnews; In the same pried the IHRC Regional Office No. 7 followed-up the coordination of many scientific and scholarly meetings for the next month in East-Azarbaujan and other provinces as well as to send delegate professors from the Central Office. Negotiation with one of the parliamentary representative of Ardebil province regarding the inauguration of IHRC's separate and independent office in that province, holding of some of the special work-



shops with the presence of volunteers and honorary members, a visit of the institute called “Shokoufe Haye-Mehrjou (Center for the 24 care and keeping of parent-less and mal-parents children) were among the other activities of the IHRC Regional Office No. 7;



- In this month, there were some cases of negotiation from the side of the Central Office with the coordinator of the IHRC Regional Office in Shiraz to follow-up and see into the status of IHRC Regional Office No. 8 in Boushehr and/or its transference to another province and it was asked from him to submit his report to Tehran as soon as possible;

- During this month, there were printed and published some new posters by the Central Office for the Provincial Offices. Also it was requested in written from them to announce as soon as possible their programs/plans for the next month especially for the World Human Rights Day so that if there was a need to any special coordination appropriate measures should be taken.

Other Activities

In recent weeks, some of IHRC’s other activities are note-worthy as follows:

- A letter from IHRC International Affairs’ Unit addressing the UN OHCHR regarding some recent terrorist activities in Sistan-Balouchestan (IRAN) also published in IHRC’s website;



- The IHRC’s Library & Documentation Centre has purchased so many Latin and Arabic books and sources from the Book Fair annually organized by the Ministry of Science. These book, are all about human right for the public use and so now the library is richer than ever;

- During this month, there were entered and added into the articles bank tens of other essays so that to be used by the public having thousands of references and sources shortly;

- During this month, some representatives of the IHRC participated in various meetings and scholarly programs to which they had been invited and then submitted their written reports. The conference related to children rights organized by Human Rights, Peace and Democracy UNESCO Chair at Beheshti University (November 10), two seminars in connection to women's rights organized by the Organization of Defending Victims of Violence (Nov.3 - Nov.10), Scientific Gathering in connection with woman's rights from the view-point of famous mystic Ibn' Arabi at the place of Book City (Nov. 3) were some of the cases in which representatives from IHRC participated;
- During the same period, the Secretary of the IHRC has personal and in-flash gathering with the new education deputy of the Iranian judiciary regarding the capabilities of joint collaborations between IHRC's Research Committee and the deputy;
- Several visits of Iranian Annual Press Fair with many cases & talks with the media's authorities for the purpose of promoting more interactions;
- To make better use of the capabilities of the Art Group of Soureh University, there was some negotiations between IHRC Secretary and the dean of that University and there was reflected in written form, the scope and area of the effects of the Art Group and the effects of the IHRC, to said university so that are should witness more interaction between to create art works on human rights;
- The Solidarity Rights Working Group of the Commission, in Research Department of IHRC, started its serious stage. Noteworthy is that previously the theoretical area related to solidarity rights was seen into within the framework of the then-existing groups' work; now with the establishment of independent and separated working-group, both the scope of activities and the possibilities of presence and attendance of more researchers only focusing on the subject, considerably increased;
- The Information Unit of UN Tehran Office inquired for several times from IHRC regarding its programs for the international human rights day in the following month and announced the intention of their representative to participate in 2 or 3 programs in Tehran and other provinces;
- The Vice Legal Deputy of Iran Police has had some negotiations with IHRC regarding the different aspects of the Commission's activities on the citizenship rights and on what assistance can IHRC make to the disciplinary system, in this regard;
- The titles of 10 topics on Universal Human Rights Declaration were chosen and each of them assigned to ten of our colleagues Research Department. They are supposed to prepare their articles regardingly and in a compact format during the next 2 or 3 weeks. And it was decided that all of these should be published in a book format concurrently with the World Human Rights Day in the next month. Also these were done different follow-ups for the purpose of drawing-up and compilation and adjustment of IHRC's different programs in the next month (Aban) special for World Human Rights Day, especially on Tehran's program which was to be concurrent with the first uncovering of the book of Iranian professors on the 60th anniversary of Universal Human Rights Declaration and the public introducing of Human Rights Stamp designed by the Commission;



• There were various interactions between civil institutions and IHRC on some subjects related to their joint activity with IHRC. Some turns of negotiations by “Child and Peace Society” for the purpose of persuading IHRC to have some donations or other helps for the programs of the society regarding children’s rights. Some turns of contacts by the Society for Protection of Palestinian Peoples’ Right to attract some intellectual assistance and legal aids of IHRC, other turns of contacts of IHRC with the authorities in the institute of protection of cancer children (Mahak institution) to courage them to participate in the next art exhibition of IHRC Regional Office No. 7 related to cancer affected children;



• In response to the ambiguity arising from the APF policy regarding the 14th Annual Meeting in Jordan (referred to previously in last month newsletter), there was received a letter from the Secretariat of APF, the explanations and justifications of which being unacceptable; if there be enough room taking into consideration IHRC’s different concerns and hectic working days, the response to that respected Secretariat shall be prepared in detail during the next weeks.



Upcoming Works & Events



In the coming days, various programs shall be on the agenda of the Commission:

- Implementing the meeting of “Labor Law in Tabriz” by the IHRC Regional Office No. 7 with the collaboration of other local institutions;
- Holding of special round-tables regarding the current crisis in Yemen from the humanitarian law view point;
- Holding of an art exhibition to sell some of the works and to attract and absorb helps, aids assistance for children with cancer in Tabriz by IHRC Regional Office No.7 and collaboration of various local establishments;
- Implementing and holding a meeting on the area of women’s rights in Tabriz coordinated by IHRC Regional Office No. 7 and with the collaboration & assistance of IHRC’s Research Department through sending the staff;
- Holding technical meeting in the city of Qum to complete and finalize the discussion of mysticism and human rights;
- Holding several scientific & promotional programs & meetings in Tehran, the capital city, and other provinces for the World Human Rights Day;
- Preparing various artistic designs for the Day and printing and publishing them;
- Finalizing some of the specialized produced materials of IHRC to be printed and published.



Newsletter Survey

1. What is your overall opinion of the format and layout and also the content of the Newsletter?
2. Did you find this Newsletter helpful in keeping you up to date about coming events?
3. Do you have any additional suggestions or comments for being included in the future Issues? What additional feedback or suggestions do you have about the Newsletter?
4. What would you like to see more or less of in future versions of the Newsletter? Which section of the Newsletter did you find to be the most valuable?
5. Would you like to exchange your new publications with the Commission?
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