

IHRC



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

The Outline of Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission's Activities in Recent Months

July 2008 - May 2009



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Following the endeavors made during the past 15 years for promotion of human rights in Iran and other regions of the world, the Commission has taken considerable measures for realization of its ends during recent months through making the best use of valuable experiences and lessons learned in practice, exercising progressive capacity-building programmes, focusing on inclusive participatory strategy for involvement of all interested forces, being continually updated on human rights developments and related practical and analytical inputs, and above all, by virtue of pure concerns, belief and endurance of human rights activists.

Although the details of the Commission's activities include a great volume of data, the present report tries to illustrate an intensive outline of the performed activities during the afore-mentioned period.

Monitoring the Observance of Human Rights

A) Domestic Developments: Following the previous activities, during the mentioned period, IHRC has taken into its consideration the developments in Iran on a daily basis in 16 priority sections; such as the structural developments related to the scope of democracy, freedom of expression and belief, the rights of women, the rights of the child, the rights of persons with disabilities, the rights of workers, right to health, minorities rights, fair trial, the rights of prisoners, migrants rights and etc.; and it has day-by-day recorded and registered those news and developments, which are about 150 pages per day, in a way that in the end of each month, there has been presented a detailed report of the successes and failures in thousands pages, to people's access. The whole data related to the Monitoring Sections has been recorded by computers, offered to the interested people and all human rights activists, in the IHRC website for its database in Farsi. Among monitoring developments, each case requiring urgent action to prevent violation of human rights or to affect the existing process, has been referred to the IHRC Legal Affairs & Follow-up Unit so as for an appropriate action to be taken. Also, in some of the developments, it has been deemed necessary that an independent analytical report be prepared and this has been done and applied use has been made from the related reports. The IHRC monitoring comprehensive databases, at the present moment is considered indeed and in practice one of the most complete

databases of Iranian human rights developments being used by all across the country. It is worth mentioning that the possibility of sending messages through website and 24 hour hotlines has created a suitable opportunity for the public to inform the Commission from their monitoring reports and activities.

B) International Developments: According to the current system of the IHRC which has taken into its consideration the human rights developments all over the world seriously from the beginning, during the period that we are referring to, the five External Monitoring Units; including Islamic-Arabic countries, Asia Pacific countries, African countries, American and European countries as well as Latin American Region' affairs whether it be positive or negative have been followed-up and at the end of each month a detailed report of the developments in each region has been prepared, which are valuable sources of study for not only researchers and students but even for the very governmental organs. Considering the new mandate of the UN Human Rights Council to prepare universal periodic review, the IHRC's reports can be a useful information source about the human rights status in different countries. IHRC usually has tried to use and customize the positive experiences of other countries and correspond repeatedly with the other countries' authorities regarding the negative experiences, and the whole of these measures, has been published by the after IHRC's monitoring, usually on an once in 6 month basis. Also, the International Monitoring Units of IHRC usually present separate analytical reports of the most important international organizations into Farsi to be used properly inside Iran. A comprehensive list along with the texts of these reports, are available at the IHRC website and Publication Unit in Farsi. Some of them are as following:

- **European Mechanisms on Health Right;**
- **European Mechanisms on Migrant Rights;**
- **European Mechanisms on settlement of Palestine Crisis;**
- **Review of Cuba Reforms from Human Rights Based Perspective;**
- **Review of Human Rights Situation in Indonesia during Past Ten years Aftermath of National Reforms;**
- **Review Report on the Tenth Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council;**
- **Review Report on the Different Dimensions of Review Durban Conference and its Possible Follow-up;**
- **Review Report on the Reaction of Worldwide NHRIs Regarding the Israel Military Action against Gaza Strip; and**
- **European Mechanisms on Protection of Elderly Persons' Rights.**

Reviewing the Reports of Human Rights Violations and Follow-up Procedures

Seeing into and following up of the reports regarding violations of human rights, IHRC usually receive letters and reports on various issues regarding domestic human rights affairs from both inside and outside. The received cases connected with status of human rights in Iran as well as whatever has been sent from the Domestic Monitoring Unit for suitable actions are totally seen into and examined in the Legal Affairs and Follow-up Unit. During the period of this examination, the website of IHRC allows people to complain online and also with regards to the establishment of hot lines in IHRC Legal Advice Clinics in the Central office and other provinces wherein the regional offices of the Commission has been so far established, naturally there is an opportunity for people to raise their complaints by telephone and ask for it to be followed-up, yet, they can again receive legal advice by phone. The Legal Affairs Unit, during the last year, has taken action for more than **1500** cases related to different aspects of human rights through written communications or legal aids in more than **2300** cases the legal aids have been offered through phone or 24 hours legal aid system. It should be said that in some of these cases, the follow-up procedures have included various meetings with authorities of concerned organs, and notification of repeated legal advices and recommendations so that the peoples problems to get resolved. In some of the cases, since the problems and difficulties have been there due to some flaws in the laws and regulations, the subject has been referred to the research committee so that it may take action to reform the related laws by its expert opinion given to the government and the parliament (some of them are submitted in this report).

Holding of Specialized Seminars and Gatherings

During the mentioned period some different instances of professional meetings were held either in Tehran or in other provinces, most of them attended by the prominent law professors and related activists. For example, during the period, the seminars which have been held with attendance of various community based organs in capital or provinces are as follows:

- **Examination of Status of Children with Disabilities in Iran and Other Parts of the World;**
- **Introduction to International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Standards;**

- **Family Law ;**
- **Review of Legal Aspects of Israel Invasion against Gaza Strip;**
- **Review of the Relation Between Justice and Human Rights in Islamic Teachings and Contemporary Schools of Thought;**
- **Review of Durban Review Conference and Its Related Panorama from Human Rights Based Perspective;**
- **The Press and Freedom of Expression & Belief;**
- **Poverty Reduction and Human Rights: Review of Challenges and Strategies;**
- **The Significance of Election in the Light of Human Rights Based Approach.**

The set of the raised discussions in all of the above-mentioned gatherings are available for the public and some of the cases are being compiled in the final stages of it, so that to be published as a book and all professionals and people interested may make use of them.

Researches and Enquiries

During the period, various research projects has been implemented by the IHRC, some of them having been published and some other to be published. A number of the OHCHR publications, including the following, have been either completely translated into Farsi and their final edit and proof reading have been done so that to be published by the permission of the UN;

- ✓ **Health, Human Rights and Poverty Reduction Strategies (HR/PUB/08/5) (published jointly with the World Health Organization);**
- ✓ **Human Rights Training: A Manual on Human Rights Training Methodology;**
- ✓ **Handbook on National Human Rights Plans of Action;**
- ✓ **Human Rights, Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development: Health, Food and Water;**
- ✓ **Principles and Guidelines for a Human Rights approach to Poverty reduction strategies;**
- ✓ **A Compilation of UN Outputs on the Rights of Elderly.**

During the same mentioned period, there has been performed numerous specific research activities regarding the cultural fundamentals of Iran and strengthening the basis of human rights from Islamic viewpoint. The following books have been published by the Commission in recent months, some of which republished for the second time:

- **Human Rights Education: International and Legal Approaches and Strategies;**
- **Handbook on National Human Rights Plans of Action: The Theoretical and Practical Aspects;**
- **Child-Friendly Text: UN Disability Convention.**

It's worth mentioning that the following works have been already finalized and they are to be published very shortly:

- **Law Enforcement Officials & Human Rights;**
- **Poverty Reduction & Human Rights;**
- **Discrimination and Islamphobia across Europe from the Perspective of International Legal Forums;**
- **Review of Gaza Crisis in the Light of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law;**
- **Mentally Ill Persons and Human Rights.**

Moreover, during recent months, a number of specific news bulletins on different related human rights issues have been produced which offer periodic round-up of relevant inputs to all interested readers. Some of the bulletins are as follows:

- **News Bulletin on International Organizations and Human Rights;**
- **News Bulletin on the Latest Developments on Women & Children Rights: At International Level;**
- **News Bulletin on the Latest Developments Regarding Fair Trial and Human Rights;**
- **News Bulletin on the Latest Developments Regarding Islamphobia;**
- **News Bulletin on International Humanitarian Law.**

Offering Advisory Opinions Regarding Legal Bills and Plans under Examinations by the Three Powers of State

The IHRC Research Committees which consist of the distinguished law professors, famous experts with high judicial background and some Islamic jurists, has been examining, in this period, different subjects put forward in the weekly meetings by the Three Powers and which requires offering advisory opinion from the human rights perspective. The proposed opinions have been quite exact and right to the point. For example, only in the last 6 months, these issues have been worked on and opinions have been announced regarding:

- **Reviewing the Strategies for Promotion of the Rights of the Elderly Persons;**
- **Reviewing the Proposal of the Requirement which Makes Universities admit the Female PhD Applicants in their Place of Residence Only;**
- **Reviewing the Proposals Related to Development of National Network for Human Rights Promotion in the Light of Iran Twenty Years Development Prospect Act;**
- **Reviewing the Development of the Citizenship's Rights Charter in City Management;**
- **Reviewing the Legal Bill of Decriminalization and Elimination of Some Criminal Grounds from the Laws;**
- **Reviewing the Legal Bill of Court of Administrative Justice's Procedure;**
- **Reviewing the Proposed NGOs Bill before the Majlis;**
- **Reviewing the Legal Bill on Protection of Parentless Children and Adolescents.**

Expansion of the Human Rights Defender Volunteers

During the period, the number of provisional offices of IHRC has increased and every one of them covers 3 provinces instead of only one. The provincial offices have been so active during the past months. One new provincial office has been also established. At the moment, the regional offices of the Commission are open in the following provinces: Kermanshah, Fars, Gilan, Pakdasht, Qom, Semnan, East Azerbaijan and Bushehr. Also, there have been established some clinics for legal aids in the provincial offices, each having a professional library of human rights sources. During each month, different educational and promotional programs have been implemented in different areas of the country with the help of the provincial branches and the follow-up efforts of the Central Office. All members connected with provincial offices (except the executive staff) work voluntarily and honorary, covering at the present moment, 23 provinces of the state excluding the Capital. There are some serious endeavors going on for some other IHRC offices to be established in other provinces.

In the framework of the cluster project with UNDP, during the period, various educational projects were implemented in the provincial branches of the IHRC.

Expansion of the Library and Human Rights Documentation Centre

During the period, both from the standpoint of expansion of the resources of central and provincial libraries and from the standpoint of facilities of variety; including necessary software's for presentation of all titles of books and sources in the website, creating the possibility of hiring the books and resource from the Commission for those who become members of the library, and due to the joint project with UNDP; a lot of endeavors performed for updating books and journals. "The New in Library" Periodical was also published and sent to specialized libraries throughout the country. The last periodical related to spring 2009, contained a list of 400 newly purchased items, out of which 300 items are new international books. At the present moment, the central library of the Commission, having more than 120.000 professional resources in English, French, Arabic, Farsi and Spanish as well as all Iranian legal magazines and numerous international ones, is one of the most important and key places for the references of students of LLM and LLD as well as researchers. The provincial libraries are also unique places applicable for researches in those provinces. It is worth mentioning that the IHRC participated in International Book Fair held in Tehran, as the only Iranian human rights publisher in spring 2009. The published books and reports were highly welcomed by visitors.

Human Rights Education

During the period, IHRC has done different types of educational efforts for its addressees from different social groups. Only in preparing, printing and publishing general education brochures, the IHRC has just during the past year, published and distributed more than thousands brochures with 20 different titles, to them there is also an internet access available. Moreover, during this period, regularly, the periodical newsletters of the Commission, containing various educational materials on domestic and international subjects, have been published and distributed in Tehran and other provinces. The second edition of the "UN Teaching Human Rights: Practical Activities for Primary and Secondary School", has been published by IHRC. A second translation on human rights teaching is also under publication. A series of educational workshops at law faculties of Tehran Province for LLM students and other promotional workshops across the country and dispatching of different instructors from the Central Office to other provinces are among the measures taken repeatedly during past months, and the full list of the programs has been introduced in IHRC website under the phrase "Activities of Provincial offices". The IHRC also has

had professional statements for different human rights occasions, whether national or international, which have been published in the mass media, each covering its own educational points. Also, in some occasions, like Women Day and International Day for Human Rights, there has been held public promotional programs by IHRC. Furthermore, the Commission has prepared a book under the title of *A Compilation of Iranian Distinguished Law Professors' Articles on the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of UDHR* which will be published soon. The reports of the gatherings and specialized lectures have been published including a special booklet on "International Human rights Day". This special edition contains the comprehensive report of the international messages for 60th anniversary of UDHR.

Interaction with National and International Organizations

In recent months, IHRC has signed numerous agreements with organizations and different national organs to promote human rights, and in the framework of those agreements many joint measures have been stated or are going on. During the period, the international interaction of IHRC with different United Nations Organs, national human rights institutions, NGO's of different parts of the world and centers for international studies has continued and a number of delegations have been send by the IHRC to the International meetings or educational programs, most recent of them is related to Durban Review Conference which was held in Geneva. Usually IHRC send its delegations from among the talented educated youth with LLM or LLD, even those who collaborates on a part-time basis with the IHRC, to the international educational programs, so as to pave the way for the growth and training of the human forces and at the same time to take the international opportunity in a suitable way.

In fact in today world, people need each other more and it is not possible to solve the human rights problems without cooperation and interaction. So IHRC, keeping its specialized legal perspective, is trying to increase its cooperation and relations with other legal entities in national, regional and global levels. Continuous production of periodical "International Organizations and Human Rights" by IHRC International division and distributing it among the officials and legal centers indicates the Commission's knowledge on the latest developments related to international organizations in the field of human rights.