

Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission

June 2009

Issue 1



Highlight Report

News Letter

CONTENT

Highlight Report
Human Rights Monitoring
Education & Capacity-Building
Research
Events
Library
Regional Offices
Publications
Upcoming Works & Events
Newsletter Survey

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.

During recent weeks, the overall atmosphere of Iran was largely influenced by the presidential election which was eventually held in June 12 after all advertising election campaigns and public promotions with approximately 85 percent turnout across the country.

Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission (hereinafter “the Commission”) also took hosts of actions and initiatives, within its competence and capacity, in order for facilitating a free, competitive & fair election.

As making the people sensitive about the recognized standards of free and fair election and socialization of related norms is of the most effective strategies for predisposing the individuals to be “self right-seekers” and intolerant about any infringement and outlawry, the Commission did various activities, during last weeks, which are reflected in other parts of the present newsletter in details.

Some instances of these promotional initiatives are as follows: arranging a series of seminars in presence of eminent academics, lawyers and media representatives; holding special meeting on “*The Human Rights in the Process of Election*” in the Commission’s Regional Office No. 7 (Tabriz Office); settling two round-tables in the Commission’s Regional Office No. 5 (Qom Office) for clarifying the aspects of participation right and comparing the value of the people’s vote in Islamic norms and international standards; addressing some reports claiming the breach of election regulations by some official authorities; preparing a number of research papers on different aspects of a free and fair election; keeping interactive relation with the Coordinating Office of Public Election Campaign of all four candidates in order to make them pay more attention to human rights norms; and organizing four special meetings with the aim of reviewing the human rights promises and programmes of each candidate in the Central Office of the Commission (Tehran Office) with the aim of defining concrete plans of action for human rights promotion. It has worth mentioning that the afore-

Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission



authorities; preparing a number of research papers on different aspects of a free and fair election; keeping interactive relation with the Coordinating Office of Public Election Campaign of all four candidates in order to make them pay more attention to human rights norms; and organizing four special meetings with the aim of reviewing the human rights promises and programmes of each candidate in the Central Office of the Commission (Tehran Office) with the aim of defining concrete plans of action for human rights promotion. It has worth mentioning that the afore-said meetings were attended by distinguished lawyers, academics and media specialists, and the floor was also given to the legal representatives of candidates to ensure the impartiality and equity.

Notwithstanding these efforts, the presidential election was held in 12 June 2009; and a wave of protests and fallouts shown by two presidential candidates and their supporters upon proclaiming the election results. Although the protest is still going, the Commission can not intervene in executive and monitoring aspects of the election since the concerned authorities do not let any intervention and mediation. Therefore, taking any definitive side or making judgment on the technical aspects of election process which are within the exclusive competence of Guardian Council and contradictory raised claims are still impossible. If a kind of independent monitoring electoral mechanism out of sovereign bodies' competence could be established, we might never face such claims and protests that no one can verify their truthfulness or untruthfulness. Moreover, such mechanism could satiate the public opinion far much better both at home and abroad.

Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission

Education & Capacity-Building

Several educational and promotional projects have been recently planned and directed by the Commission. Some of them are as follows:

- Organizing Educational Workshop for Judges and Attorneys (circulating special manuals and educational reports, delivering informative speeches by distinguished academics sent from the Central Office and other initiatives), in southern province of Iran, Bushehr, 23 April 2009;
- Organizing Educational Workshop for Judges and Attorneys (circulating special manuals and educational reports, delivering informative speeches by distinguished academics sent from the Central Office and other initiatives), in western province of Iran, Kermanshah, 7 June 2009;

Sending educational brochures and volunteers' newsletters to Isfahan wherein the Commission does not have still any office.



Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission

Research

During recent weeks, the Research Department of the Commission managed to complete successfully several of its research-based studies. Titles of the Department's outputs, which usually offer in the format of thematic reports or bulletins, during the said period, are as follows:

- Reviewing the UN Secretary General Report on the Role of the United Nations in Supporting Security Sector Reform;
- Reviewing the latest international legal developments on the rights of the child and woman (up to now 2 special bulletins on this subject have been produced);
- Reviewing the latest international humanitarian law developments (providing two separate bulletins);
- Reviewing the latest international legal developments in the area of human rights, NHRIs and intergovernmental organizations (producing a new bulletin on "*Human Rights & Inter-governmental Organizations*");
- Editing the Farsi translation of *International Human Rights and Islamic Law* by M. Baderin for publishing;
- Producing literature on *Poverty Reduction and Human Rights* in Farsi;
- Reviewing the latest developments on Islamophobia in the world and rendering several thematic reports;
- Translating a number of international legal sources on the rights of elderly persons with the aim of preparing a book in Farsi on this issue;
- Preparing a report under the title of *International State Obligations on the Rights of the Family*;
- Producing Triple Brochures on Peace & Human Rights in Farsi and Arabic;
- Reviewing the Request of the Secretariat of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict for providing any relevant information that would assist in the implementation of the Mission's mandate.

Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission

Events

During recent weeks, the Commission organized several human rights programmes across the country and also participate in various domestic and international events. The Commission took part in many events, individually or collaboratively, through different means, for instance, by sending representative, submitting advisory opinions or statements, organizing side-events and other possible initiatives.

You can find below some events attended, organized, co-organized or facilitated by the Commission:

- **Participation of the Commission's representatives in Durban Review Conference, 20 - 24 April 2009, Geneva, Switzerland;**
- **Participation of the Commission's representative in a regional workshop organized by OHCHR, A Comprehensive Vision of the United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms, Doha, Qatar 27-28 May 2009;**
- **The Eleventh Human Rights Council Special Session, Participation of Iranian Islamic Human Commission through Submitting Statement Concerning the Humanitarian Crisis in Sri Lanka, 25 May 2009;**
- **The First ASA International Humanitarian Film Festival, as one of the focal points and by holding promotional exhibition in the same venue and through circulating special brochures, 29 April – 1 May 2009;**
- **International Tehran Book Fair, the latest publications presented in Commission Special Pavilion, 6 – 17 May 2009;**
- **International Conference on Religion, Human Rights & Peace, Mofid University, Qom, 13 – 4 May 2009 (The Commission also organized an exhibition in the venue of the Conference showing its updated & latest outputs);**
- **Cooperating with Foreign Ministry Academy of International Relations in holding an international educational workshop on Cultural Diversity & Human Rights, 17-8 May 2009 (The Research Committee of the Commission also rendered its advisory opinion on the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions);**
- **Remembrance Ceremony for the Anniversary of Armenian Massacre by Ottoman Turks held by Iranian Armenians, 24 April 2009;**
- **Taking all needed steps in order for organizing Human Rights Stamp Introduction Ceremony at the soonest appropriate national or universal occasion (the Stamp introduced by the Commission last year on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of UDHR and consequently ratified by Stamp Council of Iran after several months follow-up);**

Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission

- **Remarks by the Secretary General of the Commission at University of Tehran during Conference on Press Rights, 2-3 May 2009;**
- **Remarks by the Secretary General of the Commission at University of Shahid Beheshti during National Conference on the Right to Education, 12 May 2009;**
- **Organizing a seminar with the aim of Reviewing Different Aspects & Prospects of Durban Review Conference from Human Rights Based Point of View, 11 April 2009;**
- **Organizing the 3rd,4th and 5th Sessions of the Commission's Consecutive Meetings on "Examination of the Relation Between Justice & Human Rights under Islamic Doctrine and Contemporary Schools of Thought" by the presence of Islamic scholars, Qom Office of the Commission respectively, 9 – 16 – 20 May 2009;**
- **Organizing a seminar on "Poverty Reduction & Human Rights: Reviewing Challenges & Strategies", 10 May 2009;**
- **Organizing seminar on "Importance of Family in International Human Rights Standards: Reviewing Challenges & Best Strategies for Improving Family Status", coinciding with World Family Day, 16 May 2009;**
- **Organizing a seminar on "Reviewing the Role of Civil Society in Durban Review Conference", 20 May 2009;**
- **Organizing three continuous seminars on "The Importance of Election Among Human Rights Norms" under following titles:**
 - **To Elect or to Be Elected: Citizen's Right or Responsibility (Reviewing Theoretical Bases and Comparative Analysis), 31 May 2009;**
 - **The Importance of Election as an Effective Element on Human Rights in Different Areas, 25 May 2009;**
 - **The Importance of Election for Reforming Macro Structures and Processes, 2 June 2009.**
- **Organizing four special meetings with the aim of Reviewing Standpoints & Introduced Plans of Presidential Candidates, attended by legal advisors of candidates and eminent academics and lawyers, 1-2 June 2009.**

Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission

Library

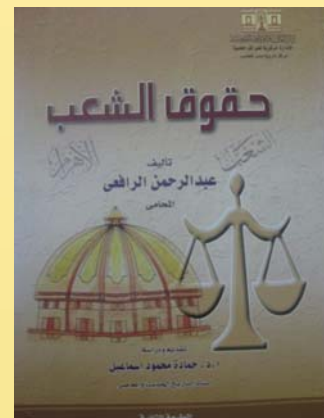
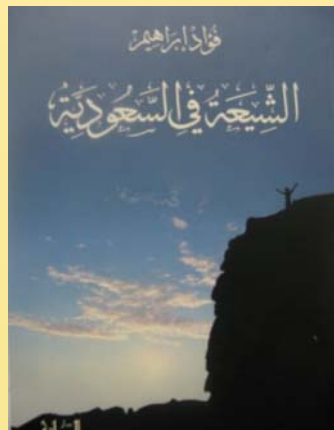
A host of English, Arabic and Persian books and sources has been recently purchased for the Library and Documentation Center of the Commission during International Book Fair of Tehran. New arrivals of the library exceed 250 titles. The Commission usually prepares a periodic bulletin under the title of “*IHRC Library New Arrivals*”, and circulates it among all national legal centers and outstanding libraries of the country. Some of the latest foreign language sources of our library are as follows:

English Books

- **Protecting the Rights of Migrant Workers: a Shared Responsibility**, ILO, 2009;
- **For Liberty? The Impact of the French Ban on the Islamic Headscarf and Other Religious Symbols in Schools**: IHRC, UK. 2009;
- **Peace, A History of Movements and Ideas**: David Cortright, Cambridge, 2009;
- **The Cultural Politics of Human Rights, Comparing the US and UK**: Kate Nash, Cambridge, 2009;
- **The Human Rights to a Green Future, Environmental Rights and Intergenerational Justice**: Richard P. Hiskes, Cambridge, 2009;
- **Feminist Legal Studies**: Joanne Conaghan,(vol. 4) Routledge, 2009;
- **Human Trafficking and Human Security**: Anna Jonsson, Routledge, 2009;
- **Global Poverty, Ethics and Human Rights, the Role of Multilateral Organizations**: Desmond McNeill and Asunción Lera St. Clair, Routledge, 2009;
- **Law Relating to Right to Information**: Prof. S.V. Joga Entgns Press, 2009.

الكتب العربية

- ◀ حماية حقوق الطفل في ضوء احكام الشريعة الاسلامية و الاتفاقيات الدولية؛ وسيم حسام الدين احمد، ناشر منشورات الحلبي لحقوقية، 2009.
- ◀ حقوق الانسان بين التشريع و التطبيق؛ سعدي محمد الخطيب، الحلبي، 2009.
- ◀ حدود الديمقراطية الدينية (دراسة في تجربة ايران منذ ١٩٧٩). توفيق السيف، دارالساقى، 2009.
- ◀ مبدأ عدم التمييز ضد المرأة في القانون الدولي و الشريعة الاسلامية؛ منال فنجان علك، الحلبي، 2009.
- ◀ حماية حقوق الانسان اثناء النزاعات المسلحة الدولية بين الشريعة و القانون؛ آدم عبدالجبار، عبد الله بيدار، الحلبي، 2009.
- ◀ حماية حقوق المرأة في ضوء احكام الشريعة الاسلامية و الاتفاقيات الدولية؛ وسام حسام الدين الاحمد، الحلبي، 2009.
- ◀ الحماية من التعذيب فى اطار الاتفاقيات الدولي و الاقليمي: هبة عبد العزيز المدور، الحلبي، 2009.



Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission

Regional Offices

During recent weeks, alongside with the central office in Tehran, the eight regional offices of the Commission which are already established across the country had a number of local human rights activities in their respective regions. The periodic reports of the regional offices can be found on the Farsi version of the Commission's website in details. However, some recent instances of human rights activities and capacity-building projects of the Commission at local level which took place mainly through organizing seminars and special workshops can be read as follows:

- Family law Seminar, organized by Regional Office No. 2 (located at Fars Province), coinciding with World Family Day, 15 May 2009;
- Two separate meetings under the title of “Right to Elect & Right to Be Elected in Public Affairs from Islamic Perspective”, organized by Regional Office No. 5 (located at Qom Province);
- Seminar on “Councils & Citizens’ Rights”, organized by Regional Office No. 8 (located at Bushehr Province);
- Regional Meeting on Press & Freedom of Expression & Belief”, coinciding with World Press Freedom Day, organized by Regional Office No. 7 (located at Tabriz), 3 May 2009;
- Interactive Meeting with representatives of presidential candidates with the aim of being more acquainted with human rights plans of each candidates, organized by Regional Office No.1 (located at Kermanshah);
- Specialized Meeting on Presidential Election organized by Regional Office No. 7;
- Providing different kind of legal assistance to applicants, by all eight regional offices across the country;
- Several programmes concerning environment in Fars & Semnan Provinces, organized by Regional Office No. 2 and 6.

Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission



Advisory Opinion

Research Committee of the Commission, composed of distinguished lawyers and academics of Iran, submitted its advisory opinions on different issues requested by the Parliament or other Powers during recent weeks. Below are some consultative actions of the Commission on different subject matters led to advisory opinions:

- Reviewing the proposal of the parliament concerning the increase of Justice Minister's powers;
- Reviewing the Convention on the Prohibition of Cluster Bombs with the aim of facilitating the possible accession of Iran;
- Reviewing the Environmental Safety Plan of Islamic Republic of Iran;
- Reviewing the Unapparent Child and Adolescence Protection Submission (Child Adoption and Foster Care);
- Reviewing the Proposed Law of Parliament on Non-governmental Organizations;
- Reviewing the OHCHR's Questionnaires on National Human Rights Institutions & Durban Review Conference.

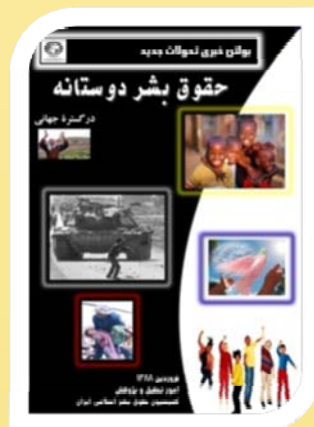
Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission



Publications

The following periodic outputs have been recently published and they are mainly distributed across the country or introduced on special occasions:

- The Annual Outlines of IHRC's Activities in English, Arabic and Farsi;
- Islamophobia Bulletin;
- News Bulletin: Latest Developments on International Humanitarian Law;
- Triple Brochures on Peace & Human Rights in Farsi and Arabic;
- The Commission's Freely Accessible Membership Brochures;
- The IHRC Library New Arrivals (2 Issues).



Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission

Upcoming Works & Events

Various plans and programmes have been already put in the Commission's agenda which are going to be realized through different IHRC's Sections in forthcoming working days.

The following are only some of the Commission's promotional priorities:

- Organizing a seminar on the Rights of Women in Ardebil, 16 June 2009;
- Organizing an Educational Workshop on Fair Trial & Human Rights, targeting judges and attorneys, East Azerbaijan Province, 18 June 2009;

The following are the very forthcoming publications:

- Poverty Reduction & Human Rights;
- International Legal Forums Attitude towards Islamophobia & Discrimination against Muslims;
- A Compilation of Iranian Eminent Lawyers' Essays on the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The following are among the latest news bulletins:

- News Bulletin on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- News Bulletin on Human Rights & Islamic Discourse in Contemporary World.

The following are among the top structural priorities:

- Creating a kind of universal human rights films database;
- Developing an inclusive network of the Commission's Weblogs for the benefit of all volunteers across Iran and the world.

Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission

Newsletter Survey

1. What are your overall opinions 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?
6. If you like to receive this Monthly Newsletter regularly, please let us know your preferable email address by subscribing to this Newsletter through ihrc1@ihrc.ir.

If you have any problems reading this Newsletter in your email program, you can read it online in our Website:

<http://www.ihrc.ir>

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