

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

CONTENT

[Highlight Report](#)
[Human Rights Monitoring](#)
[Events](#)
[Research](#)
[Regional Offices](#)
[Other Activities](#)
[Upcoming Works & Events](#)
[Newsletter Survey](#)

IHRC

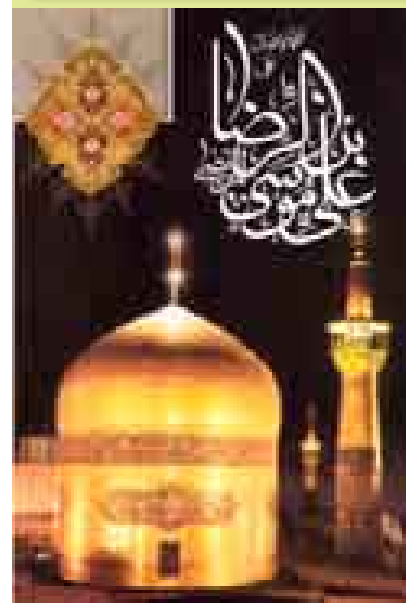


Highlight Report

During past few weeks, on the occasion of the anniversary Islamic Revolution victory in 1979 (1357) and the triumphant return of Islamic Revolution's founder from exile, like other years, there was special atmosphere in the country and it's important event was the national anniversary of Islamic Revolution's victory on February 11 (22nd of Bahman). The post-election events of recent months and their related tensions lead to various assumptions about 2010 anniversary and the final outcome was the presence of millions of people in Tehran and other provinces for honoring the 31st anniversary of Islamic Revolution. Of course, besides the widespread demonstration in Tehran, there were also some marginal events including the salient presence of security forces in some streets and some compulsory reactions toward the opposition leaders and some detentions which did not have important reflection. There were also two important religious occasions at the end of this month: decease of Islam's prophet (pbuh) and the martyrdom of two Shiite Imams (Imam Reza - the eighth Imam of Shiite the shrine of whom is in the holy city of Mashhad in northeast of Iran) which lead to a religious atmosphere and lamentation ceremonies in the country. The release and remission of a large number of the detainees on the occasion of Islamic Revolution's anniversary were also considerable. Of course, many families of the detained political actives hoped that their relatives were also released on this anniversary but, except some few cases, they were not released. The last days of the previous month also coincided with an important event relating to IHRC working area which was the participation of an official delegation consisting of about 40

officials of different governmental agencies along a number of other non-official and non-governmental companions in the UN Human Rights Council for responding about the situation of human rights in Islamic Republic of Iran within the framework of Universal Periodical Review (UPR). The mentioned event had different and sometimes opposing reflections in some internal and foreign media. According to the official internal media, this delegated committee succeeded in its mission and responded to all posed problems and objections but the critic and opposing media in Iran and abroad reflected the raised some objections and criticisms. Despite the invitation of United Nation, IHRC did not take part in UPR Session and did not submit a written report too. The submitted report of Iran's delegated committee to Human Rights Council was also written without any consultation with the IHRC. The reasons of the approach of IHRC (not to participate in the meeting) and the performance of Iran's official committee in the mentioned council have some thinkable points which definitely with settling down of the present political and excited atmosphere in future can be better criticized and evaluated by considering the rights of nation, constitutional law principles, Islamic values and recognized international obligations. But in short, it can be noted that the amendment of the problems of every society and its empowerment require the formation and presence of independent rooted bodies which are based on the legal principles and standards and consisted of different experts and elites. These bodies should act as the medium between nation and government and help removing damages and improving achievements by monitoring the performance of official agencies and by continuously pursuing for responding human rights violation cases. If this obvious and rational point were not realized, it might result in new and unsolvable problems and wasting national sources.

Anyway, during last four weeks, IHRC, as its usual trend, tried a lot in rendering honestly services for improving human rights within its capacity which will be introduced below.



Human Rights Monitoring

According to the routine practice of the IHRC, during past four weeks, national and international monitoring units continually recorded hundreds of news and reports on human rights issues. Those who are interested can buy CD of domestic human rights monitoring reports on the 16 human rights priorities from the IHRC related unit or they can study collection of reports and published claims about human rights observance or violation in Iran which were considered by IHRC Domestic Monitoring Unit and published regularly on the website. During last month, in International Monitoring Unit, there were also five separate monthly reports on human rights situation in five sections of the world (Europe-America, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Africa, Islamic Arabic countries) with denotation on situation of each region. Those who are interested can purchase it from IHRC bookshop. In this period, some considered news in IHRC Domestic Monitoring Unit were referred to Commission's Legal Affairs to be pursued by filing complaint like written complaints from people. Many of the received news and reports were related to the families of arrested people in recent months. During recent weeks, the families of detained political activists after the election requested for attending IHRC Research Committee session and rendering their complaints and demands to the prominent legal scholars and professors of the country. Their request met by the Commission and some of the said families presented in the Commission and stated



their problems and legal requests albeit due to the recommendation of one official body two hours before the meeting, most families, on their own discretion, did not take part in the meeting. The recommendation said it was better for the detainees that their families do not talk about their problems and issues!

In the previous month, the IHRC Legal Unit practically kept its schedule by reviewing all complaints and communications which had received before. Also, the computerized recording of Legal Affairs Unit' cases has been in the process from previous years till now and it is hoped that in near future it will be finished and public monitoring and answering system for pursuing complaints will be done in computerized form.

In this month, the IHRC Legal Affairs, besides pursuing the observing of human rights in socio-political events, as its usual trends, received different public complaints some of them are as follows:

- The complaint of Yusuf Mosadegh from Mashhad and the reflection of the problems relating to judicial procedure of his case and his request for implementing justice;
- The complaint of Mahmoud Molaee from Jiroft and his objection to the work of a physician;
- The complaint of Ali Hasan Mohammadzadeh and the expression of his problem about the mechanism of pursuing the complaints of Labour Administration;
- The report of Esfandiyar Sobhani from Zanjan's Central Prison House and the request for pursuing his rights in the judicial procedure;
- The letter of Bahman Shakeri Siavashani's family and the request for judicial and legal consultation;
- The report about Hossein Motaharipour who was arrested during the events of Ashura (**Tenth day of Moharam**) in Tehran.

Events

During the last few weeks, the following promotional and scientific programmes and gatherings were held by IHRC Central or Provincial Offices:

The second meeting on “Surveying the Requirements of Providing a Universal Theory of Islam and Human Rights” (Qom – Jan.21):

Following the first meeting on criticizing and evaluating the mentioned theory; on Jan. 21 (**first day of Bahman**), the second meeting was held by IHRC Research Department and Islamic Culture and Sciences Centre of Advertisement Bureau of Qom's Islamic School and with presence of a large number of Islamic scholars. Two legal scholars from board of Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran took part in that meeting and as critics expressed their opinions.



The second meeting on “Surveying the Legal Aspects of Raising the Issue of Iran’s Demand for Compensations from Foreign Aggressors over the Past Century” (Central Office – Jan.26):

Following the first meeting in previous month, a group of legal scholars in a second meeting evaluated and criticized the remaining questions. The surveyed subjects in this meeting include: the referable national and international mechanisms for pursuing Iran’s compensations, prosecution priorities and the way of benefiting from existing data and documents relating to the performance of aggressors. Iran Students News Agency (ISNA) reflected the summary of statements of scholars in that meeting.



The scientific meeting on “Surveying the Aspects of Relation between Ethics and Human Rights” (Qom – Jan. 28 & Feb. 4&18):

Following IHRC periodic meetings In Qom which were mostly devoted to the evaluation and criticism of Human Rights principles from the view point of Islamic thought and religious principles, on Jan. 28, the primary meeting of raising the issue of ethics and human rights was held and then on Feb. 4 and 18, in two separate meeting the expert questions were investigated and with presence of ethical and legal experts, the first question of the meeting which was related to the implication of ethics in modern world and various schools of thought and aspects of Islamic thought in this area was scientifically surveyed. The remaining questions of the meeting are to be investigated in future weekly meetings. These questions include: the nature of ethical requirements and their difference with legal requirements, the relation of rights and ethics, using ethics in the place of one of the imposed limitation on human rights.



The scientific gathering on “Surveying the Rights of Nation in Constitutional Law of Islamic Republic of Iran” (Central Office – Feb. 8):

On the occasion of 31st anniversary of Iran’s Islamic Revolution and with the aim of defining and emphasizing the aspects of nation’s rights reflected in Iran’s constitutional law, the mentioned gathering was held and with presence of a group of legal experts in public Law some of the raised questions were investigated. Some of the surveyed aspects in this meeting include: the nature of governments’ commitments relating to the nation’s rights in religious system, the divisions of nation’s rights in constitutional law of Iran, the imposed limitations on mentioned nation’s rights in some of constitutional law principles. The remaining questions are to be answered in another meeting during future weeks.





The promotional-scientific gathering on “The Rights of Women in the Light of Evolution of Islamic Revolution” (Ardebil – Feb.7):

Following the arrangements of Regional Office No.7 in eastern Azarbaijan and with the help of Research Affairs of central office, on the mentioned date, the gathering on women’s rights was held in Ardebil. In this gathering which was held with coordination of Ardebil’s Islamic Azad University and some other local agencies, Ayatollah Hashemzadeye Harisi, a university professor and a member of Assembly of Experts, was delegated from Tehran and delivered his speech along other local spokesmen. This gathering also had different news reflections.



Research

During last four weeks, as it is routine practice of IHRC, there were many theoretical practices some of which were completed and some others are still underway which will be completed during next weeks or the joint theoretical practices of IHRC and some other research agencies and organizations will be appeared in future. The most important activities of this month include:

- Completing the translation of a book titled “[Social Security as A Human Rights](#)” which was under translation from several months ago. One of the IHRC related legal expert honorary translated the book from English into Persian and submitted it to the Commission for publish as soon as possible.

- IHRC International Affairs Unit had done a research about the status individual duties in international human rights instruments which is to be published as a special report in the last issue of the IHRC bulletin named “[International Organizations and Human Rights](#)”. The more detailed form of this subject will be rendered as a book for Persian readers in future.

- Compiling of a weekly report about the rights to healthy environment with analyzing the acceded protocol to European convention of human rights by one of the colleagues in solidarity rights’ working group of IHRC Research Department.

- Compiling of a weekly report which analyzed the recently passed law about freedom of information by one of the colleagues in solidarity rights’ working group of IHRC Research Department.

- The newly published books and articles relating to ethics and human rights and also the books of famous jurist Michel Perri were identified and compiled for using in two IHRC future research and criticism programs. They were given to professors and researchers who are to take part in the IHRC future programs. It should be noted that before compiling the last new sources of ethics and human rights, some sources about universal ethics were compiled in IHRC for helping one of the research centers of Qom.

- Designing of four expert brochures for completing the educational brochures in the field of solidarity rights by one of the colleagues in working group of solidarity rights. The titles of the brochures are: the rights to healthy environment, the rights to development, the rights to peace, intergeneration justice.

- Following the held discussions between IHRC and Islamic Thought and Culture Research Center in several sessions and for the aim of implementing their previous agreements, the appropriate subjects for research cooperation of the two agencies in the coming year ([1389 of solar year](#)) were investigated and ten pivots along with explanation of the requirements of each of them were rendered.

- Surveying and compiling of the sections of scientific textbook titled Islam and Human Rights and its rendering to Al-Mostafa Virtual University in Qom following the held discussions between the officials of two agencies for using it in training courses of the University.

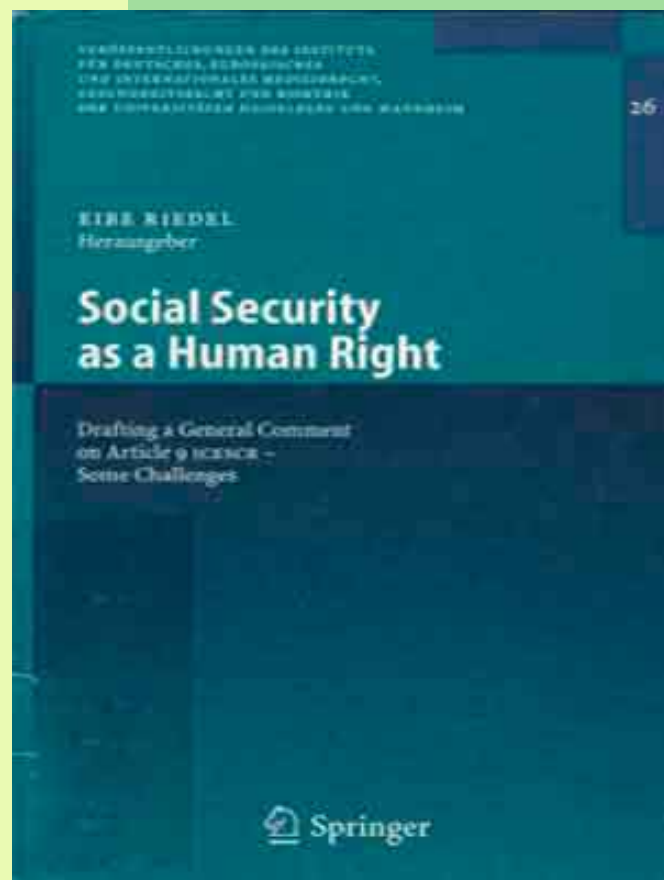
- During recent months, IHRC, as its usual weekly trend, with the presence of professors of different legal faculties, had several meetings for surveying different subjects. The thematic titles of them are: “Evaluating the Bill of Fifth Program on Development and Progress

of the Country” from the view point of observing human rights ([Jan. 25 & Feb. 1](#)), hearing the reports of some of the post election detained political actives’ families about the performance of officials from the view point of observing civilian rights ([Feb. 8](#)).

- During recent weeks, the raised theory in the meeting on Jan. 21 in Qom titled “[Surveying the Requirements of Providing a Universal Theory of Islam and Human Rights](#)” was sent for a different numbers of professors and legal experts who did not present in the meeting. They were asked to deliver their opinions in written form in order to be published along with other discussions of the two held meeting as a book in future.

- During recent weeks, for compiling the bulletins on “[Islamophobia in the Worldwide Spectrum](#)”, “[Cultural, Social and Economic Rights](#)”, “[Human Rights and Islamic Dialogue in Contemporary World](#)” and “[International Organizations and Human Rights](#)”, IHRC active colleagues had done different activities for compiling, translating and preparing the required data to prepare the new issue of each of these bulletins.

- The newsletter relating to the IHRC activities in the month of Day ([Dec.20-Jan.20](#)) was recently published in English and Arabic and after its artistic design will be available at the IHRC website and will be sent for special recipients.



Regional Offices

During past few weeks, the Central Office carried out numerous programs to help provincial offices make the best use of their local potential to advance human rights. Each and every Office had a number of programs carried out according to its potential and facilities, the most significant of which follows (the details of these activities are available in the IHRC website in Persian. Gatherings and meetings by the provincial offices have already been mentioned in this newsletter):

- In this month, IHRC, by giving financial gift, paid off with Office No.8 in Bushehr with which it had worked for some times. IHRC also paid off with Office No.3 in Rasht and provided a plaque of appreciation to be soon submitted to this office by one of the delegated representatives of IHRC Central Office to Rasht.

- In this month, some discussions were held with some of the related persons in formation of IHRC Office in Esfahan about the status of that office and they were told that if the minimum indicators of the required activities do not obtain, the Central Office will transfer this office from Iran-e-Farda institution to another agency or it will establish an independent office with a different condition from present situation.

- Office No.1 in Kermanshah announced that in the coming spring, it will hold a gathering on Civilian's Rights with coordination of province's general judiciary, Azad University and other agencies and IHRC undertakes and follows some of its programs. Office No.1 had looked for a place for some times and at last by gaining one of the local places it had secured its self sufficiency in future.

- Office No.2 announced that the Office's weblog had activated its information unit after several months gap in its work and it is to launch the office's designed website. The active members of the office also took part in the gathering on the occasion of the day of protecting people suffering from cancer, visited the children suffered from cancer in a hospital in Shiraz and visited the officials of Shiraz Bonyad-e-Omid Charity. Other activities of this office based on its report during last for weeks includes: designing and distributing the brochure on the occasion of AIDS Universal Day, painting the saloon of one of the special schools of Shiraz for obviating the needs of disabled children in that school, designing the wall calendar for the next year (1389 of solar year) in which the important human rights national and international occasions are inserted, providing some legal-consultative services for the clients and providing training booklet about family's rights in a simple language.

- Office No. 6 in Semnan province with coordination of Damghan's charitable people held a banquet for needy people.

- During last month, Office No. 7 in Tabriz had various activities specially on the occasion of Islamic Revolution anniversary including:

holding a meeting on Islamic Revolution and women's rights, holding a meeting on surveying criminal procedure before and after Islamic Revolution, meeting of the working group of protecting the detainees' rights with political detainees of before the revolution, holding a scientific meeting on Islamic Revolution and judicial development, holding a scientific meeting on Islamic Revolution and its role in reviving the rights of religious minorities and groups, holding a meeting on Islamic Revolution and its role in freedom of press and media, providing and delivering a statement of a number of human rights cooperators of the office about the action of Azarbaijan Republic's police in attacking the mournful Shiites, holding a meeting on surveying the 29th of Bahman's insurgence in Tabriz before the Islamic Revolution and its effect on the rights of Iranian nation, holding a meeting on Tazirat organization and its role on the observance of civilian's rights, holding a meeting on the role of Islamic Revolution on the fair trail, holding a meeting on Islamic Revolution and its role on reviving of farming section and healthy environment, the visiting of members of women's rights' working group with province's Imam Jome.

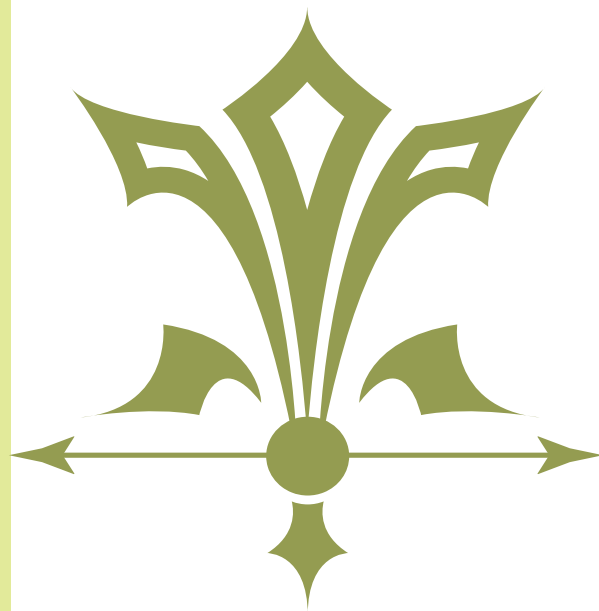


Other Activities



During recent month, the IHRC had other kinds of activities the most important of which are as follows:

- The texts of the IHRC Secretary's two speeches, one relating to a gathering at the end of 1387 (solar year) about the regional arrangements and Islamic countries and the other relating to Universal Day of Press (**spring, 1388 of solar year**), were edited by the Secretary and were submitted to the bodies which want to published them soon as a book.
- Some discussions were held by the officials of Ma'aref Radio of Islamic Republic of Iran and the common points of their cooperation for broadcasting the programs in different areas of human rights were identified.
- The IHRC Secretary had a discussion with Secretary of Citizenship Rights Watchdog Board of Tehran's General Administration of Justice about the reports of post election detained political actives' families and the state of their joint efforts to enforce law and observe citizens' rights.
- The IHRC Library and Documentation Center's coordinator had different attempts for passing the administrative procedures of IHRC participation in international book fair of 2010 (**spring of 1389 by Iranian calendar**) for exhibiting its publications.
- During recent month, before delegation of Iran's official committee to the meeting of Human Rights Council for participating in the process of surveying the human rights situation in Iran (**UPR**), some officials of judicial and executive powers had a telephone conversation with the IHRC Secretary about the participation or non-participation of IHRC in that meeting. Perhaps they were worried about the position of IHRC and they wanted to know about the evaluation of this body. Meanwhile, the IHRC International Affairs Unit inquired from National Human Rights Institution Unit of OHCHR about possible required arrangements for participation in the Session of the 7th Working Group of UPR. The reply was received in a short time. Anyway, after the decision of IHRC to not participate in that council, NIU was informed of this decision.



- On the occasion of the 31st Anniversary of Iran's Islamic Revolution, a statement was issued by IHRC which emphasized on the necessity of further efforts of all agencies for observing human rights. One of the Iran's prominent professors of public Law talked with the IHRC Secretary and asked him to write an article maximally during next two months for a book which is to be compiled and published for this occasion.

- The process of entering scientific resources to the IHRC information bank which is soon to be accessible for public through IHRC website, continued.

- Some follow up activities were done for coordinating the holding of meetings on scientific criticism of some human rights newly published books in Iran in order to be held during next weeks.

- Some follow up activities were done for coordinating the meetings on scientific criticism and evaluation of the opinions of a number of Iran's legal experts and some of the Islamic jurisprudents. IHRC talked with the experts to hold these meetings during 2010 spring.

- The Monitoring Authority of "Joint Project for Accessing to Justice and Human Rights Promotion" visited IHRC for evaluating the IHRC status and related documents of the mentioned project which was performed with coordination of eight agencies from three branches of Islamic Republic of Iran and civil society organizations and which was finished in the first half of 1388 (solar year).

Upcoming Works & Events



Some of the upcoming programs of IHRC are:

- Holding the second scientific meeting on “[The Nation’s Rights in Constitutional Law of Islamic Republic of Iran](#)”
- Providing the summary of IHRC Research Committee’s opinions about Iran’s election law in the national gathering on “[A Look on Iran’s Election Law](#)” which is to be held with cooperation of IHRC on Mar. 7 in Shahid Beheshti University.
- Delegating representative for evaluating the last status of Office No. 3 in Rasht and Office No.7 in Tabriz and surveying different aspects of these offices’ status.
- Evaluating the performances of IHRC during last year and compiling the outline of its programs in the next working year in Iran which are started to perform after the holidays of the first month of 1389 ([Mar.21 to Apr.2](#)).
- Holding an expert meeting for criticizing and evaluating the opinions and thoughts of professor Sachedina, specially his 2009 published book about human rights. It should be mentioned that this meeting will be held in IHRC office and with presence of the professor himself.



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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