

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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IHRC



Highlight Report

Since the month of Esfand is the last month of the year in Iranian calendar, it has special features. Usually, during this month, most organs try their best to finish their incomplete works. The organs which have proper plan and work within their defined framework of plans and objectives, apart from completing the unfinished works and compiling the evaluating reports of the end of year and recording the related required documents, also compiled the schedule for the coming year. On the other hand, people or organs with routine works usually are less active in this month as if they are waiting for Holidays of the end of year. These organs usually, from the middle of this month, postpone their clients' works to the next year so they do not have any benefit (even in a small scale) in solving the problems of people. With these descriptions, people themselves can better judge about the activities of IHRC. During last few weeks, most of the IHRC active colleagues work late every day, even on holidays, and tried a lot to carry out their responsibilities. Even in the last week and day of Esfand, IHRC Central Office and some of the Regional Offices had various attempts for promotion of Human Rights. Although, due to some of the national and religious occasions in this month, such as the Birthday of Islam Prophet (pbuh), Tree Planting Day or Charity Day, there were various promotional and ceremonial programs in different parts of the Country, IHRC modest and philanthropic colleagues did not have time to take part in the invited ceremonies and programs. Their efforts were to reduce the long list of expectations of people from the Commission and the major aims of this body so that at the end of year they can thank God for fulfill-

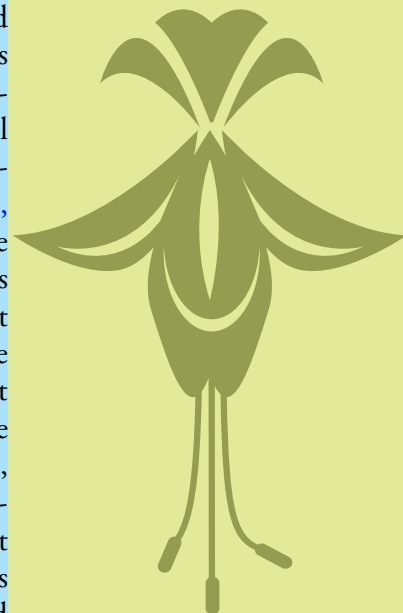
ing their responsibilities. So the most important news of the past month is the twofold status of IHRC colleagues for promoting human rights: on the one hand, they are happy for doing a lot of activities, and in some cases beyond the schedule of this year, despite the special situation and various tensions of the country, on the other hand, they were sorry for their inability in accomplishing many of the proper expectations of people. IHRC could not reach some of its purposes due to special situation of the country, some of the activities done in Central and Regional Offices were not at the level of defined standards of the Commission, some of the researches which were expected to be presented to the society on time were not prepared and ...



Anyway, by expressing our sincere apologies for anything which was not done or was not possible to be done and for any shortcoming, and by expressing in advance our congratulation on the occasion of the New Year and coming of spring, it should be mentioned that the outlines of the IHRC activities in 1388 (solar year) were reflected in the IHRC monthly newsletters. The respected readers can better judge about the activities of IHRC and its modest and patient personnel by considering the overall conditions of the Country and the activities of other organs and institutions and by considering the IHRC limited resources and facilities which cannot be compared in any way with any of the governmental organs. We hope that in the coming year, we can take more effective measures for promoting human rights with coordination of people and this process continues more rapidly and with more intensity for promotion of the situation of human society. Below a review of the IHRC activities during past few weeks is presented.

Human Rights Monitoring

According to the routine practice of the IHRC, during past four weeks, Domestic 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 Unit to be pursued by filing complaint like written complaints from people. Many of the received news and reports in Iran were related to some new arrests relating to the post election events or the request for pursuing the status of detainees or freedom of some of the detainees in recent months on the occasion of New Year. During recent weeks, several families of these detainees called IHRC or presented there and reported the freedom of their relatives. They've also thanked IHRC for the attempts it had carried out about these cases. Most of the received complaints from people to IHRC Legal Affairs Unit were investigated in an updated form and in each case which needed to be pursued and there was legal possibility, required measure including corresponding with related



legal officials was taken. This process continued until the last working hour of Esfand. Some of the received complaints include:

- The complaint of Azam Vafae about the status of her detained child;
- A report relating to the arrest of Dr. Mirahmadi in Qom;
- A report relating to some media and proposing some claims about the status of Mansour Osanlo in prison;
- The claimed report of some media about the illness of prisoners in Gohardasht due to water contamination;
- The complaint of Seyyed Jamal Roushan from Karaj and his request for legal consultation;
- The complaint of Shahin Robati about the status of his detained brother;
- The complaint of Mahmoud Mirzaee from Mashhad and his request for pursuing the status of his detained brother in Mashhad;
- The complaint of Ahmad Sherafati from Shiravan for pursuing his livelihood difficulties;
- The complaint of Masome Babae about her detained husband;
- The complaint of myrmidon Habibollah Ghasemi's wife from Tehran and her request for pursuing the livelihood problems;
- The complaint of Vali Abdollahi from Tabriz and the request for pursuing his administrative problem;
- The complaint of Ali Bagheri and the request for pursuing his claim of human rights violation in a car manufacturing company.

Events



During the last few weeks, the following programmes held by IHRC Central and Regional Offices:

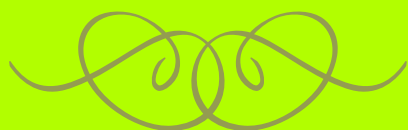
The Expert Meeting on “Surveying the Opinions and Thoughts of Dr. Abdolaziz Sachedina about Ethics and Human Rights” (Qom – Feb.25):

Since the book “Islam and Human Rights” by Dr. Sachedina, a professor at Virginia University was published in 2009 and he was visiting the scientific and academic centers of Iran as his usual trend during recent several years, IHRC use this opportunity and held discussion session about his opinions in IHRC Office in Qom and with presence of Dr. Sachedina himself and participation of a number of human rights theoretical, ethical and legal experts and scholars. Due to the extension of discussions, the discussion will be continued in a second meeting which is going to be held in future and the new version of the book will be distributed between the professors in that meeting.



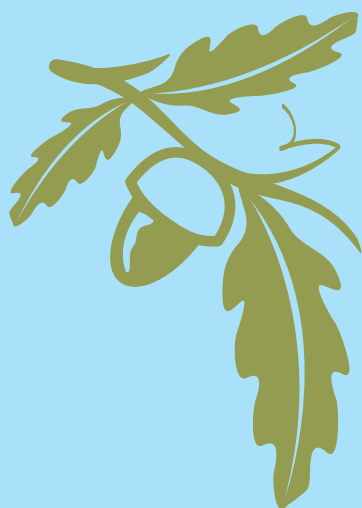
The second meeting on “The Nation’s Rights in Constitutional Law of Islamic Republic of Iran” (Central Office – Feb.28):

Following the first meeting on this subject in Month of Bahman (by Iranian calendar) and for reviewing the unaddressed questions, a second meeting with presence of two experts in public Law was held. A summary of the discussions in this meeting was published by Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) and the complete texts of these two meetings will be soon available at the IHRC bookshop for interested readers.



The meetings on “Surveying the Aspects of Ethics and Human Rights” (Qom – Mar.3 & 10):

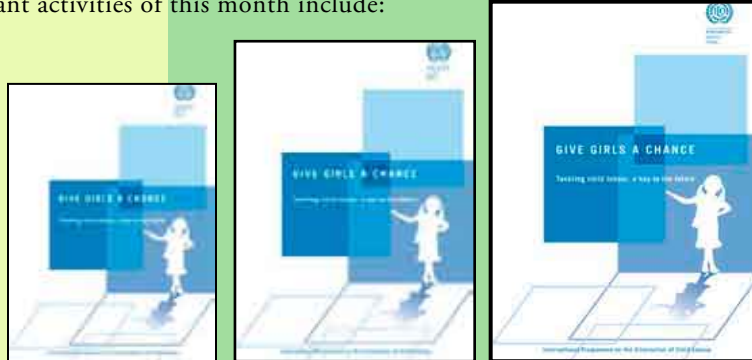
Following the IHRC periodical meetings in Qom for evaluating and criticizing various human rights subjects from the viewpoint of Islamic thought and religious principles and their comparison by the theories of international law, two meetings were held on the mentioned dates with presence of related experts and scholars. The discussed subjects in these meetings include: the relation of universalism with ethics and human rights in Islamic thought, safeguards of ethical system in relation to legal system, the legal instances about reflection of ethical principles, some examples from religious grandees’ ethical behaviors which had direct effect on promotion of human rights, the absolute or relative state of ethic from Islamic viewpoint and its effect on human rights issues and It should be mentioned that reviewing the aspects of ethics and human rights has not been completed and it will be continued in future.



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 organs and organizations will be appeared in future. The most important activities of this month include:

1. An article about Minorities Forum of UN Human Rights Council was written by one of the IHRC honorary members for Iranian Human Rights Journal which was published in its first issue.
2. The opinions of IHRC Research Committee about Iran's election regulations which were reviewed during past years were extracted and submitted for the related gathering in Shahid Beheshti University. But after the cancellation of that gathering one day before the time of gathering, the mentioned report was published on the IHRC website for public use.
3. The edition of a translated book about the right to social security was begun and more than two third of it was done in order to be published in the coming month.
4. Following the held discussions between the officials of IHRC and Law and Religious Jurisprudence Institute of Islamic Sciences and Culture Academy in Qom, the topics of a research for coming year were compiled and the reasons of working on each topic were explained. This compilation along with a series of IHRC published books and several expert bulletins were sent for each of the official of that Institute.
5. Following the held discussions between the IHRC officials and the Research Deputy of Islamic Thought and Culture Research Center, the schedule and the subjects of their joint expert meetings in the first half of next year were defined. In these meetings the scientific theories of the presenters are to be evaluated and criticized with the presence of experts and professors of Law and Islamic Sciences.
6. The newsletter of month of Bahman (Jan.21 – Feb.20) was translated into Arabic and English by the IHRC Research Affairs and was given to informatics unit for artistic design. It will be then sent for all addressees in the IHRC list and will be published in the IHRC website.
7. Several expert articles about solidarity rights were translated from English into Persian by the relating working group in the IHRC Research Department which are to be published as a book together with previous translated works.
8. Following the previous held joint meetings by the IHRC and the Office of Software Movement of the Islamic Sciences and Culture Academy in Qom, the topics and technical themes of the meetings in the coming year were compiled by the IHRC and were submitted to the mentioned body. It should be noted that the mentioned meetings mainly have theorizing aspect so for each topic the speaker about that topic and the critics should be previously defined and each meeting should be held on basis of several months of technical preliminary works.



9. Translation of the book “Give Girls a Chance” published in 2009 by International Labor Organization (ILO) which was begun several months ago, completed in this month and is ready to be edited and published.
10. A research report titled “Intellectual Property Rights and Biotechnology” was prepared by one of the IHRC colleagues in the biotechnology working group of Research Department.
11. During this month the IHRC Research Committee held two weekly meetings with presence of legal experts and scholars (Feb.22 & Mar.1) for reviewing and evaluating the aspects of Iran's participation in the meeting of Human Rights Council (UPR) and the recommendations of the related working group of Human Rights Council to Iran and their consequences.



12. During past four weeks, some of the held research activities were also notable including: translation of a book about sustainable development by one of the previous IHRC colleagues who is now studying for PHD in France, preliminary bibliography about the Theoretical Human Rights Foundations by one of the IHRC related working group member, referring some new books for translation from English into Persian to relating colleagues which are about Pluralism in Islam and Christianity, Ethics and Human Rights, the Right to Self-determination,
13. The IHRC colleagues who are working on periodical expert bulletins tried a lot to submit new issues of the bulletins and among them the new issue of Women Bulletin almost prepared.

Regional Offices

During past few weeks, the Central Office carried out numerous programmes to help Regional Offices make the best use of their local potentials to advance human rights. Each and every Office had a number of programs carried out according to its potentials 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 Regional Offices have already been mentioned in this report):

- The Central Office delegated a representative to the IHRC Office No.3 and No.7 in Gilan and Eastern Azarbaijan on Feb.23 and Mar.7 for reviewing and evaluating their activities. Various aspects of the activities of offices had been reviewed and the detailed report about each office had been submitted to the IHRC Administrative Affairs, Public Contribution Affairs and Regional Offices.

- Office No.7, following its attempts during recent months, finally could receive a vehicle (Peugeot) granted by local organs and passed its administrative stages.

- Office No.5 in Qom distributed the new issues of bulletins among different research centers in Qom and had also participated in a gathering on Human Rights Philosophy (on Mar.11) which was held by one of the Hawzah organs and had recorded its discussed items. In the joint collaboration of IHRC Libraries and Islamic Sciences and Culture Academy's, it had xeroxed the list of some of the new works and the complete text of a book on Human Rights and Islamic Theosophy and had referred them to one of the Hawzah scholars for translation of a book.

- Office No.2 in Shiraz had various activities during recent weeks including holding a Tree Planting Plan on the Day of Tree Planting, performing a play for the children in the special center for the girls with mental disability above 14 on the occasion of New Year, holding a discussion with representative of Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi's Office for receiving its published works and bilateral collaboration, holding some of the Office's internal meetings with presence of honorary colleagues of the Office.



- Office No.6 in Semnan also had various activities including visiting some of the rehabilitating centers in Damghan, holding a moot court for training the honorary members about the process of a fair trial, distributing the patient bills of rights in a form of informative tableaus in several Semnan's clinics and forming a cultural heritage working group for honorary activities of interested people.

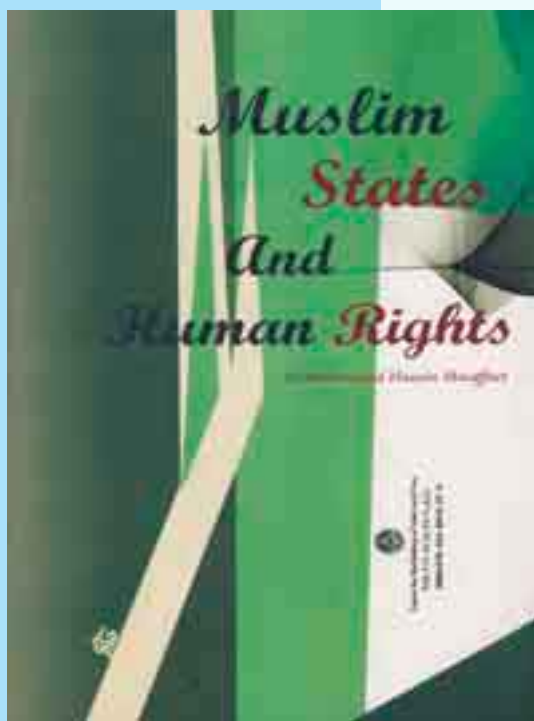
- During the month of Esfand, Bashar News website of Office No.7 and its weblog was active and had reflected various news which showed the activities of active members in northwest of Iran. The topics of published news in the Office's weblog, from end of Esfand to the its beginning, respectively include: the IHRC knotting of Universal Peace and Friendship rug, "What is the convincing response of Women Affairs' organs for removing the insurance rights of housekeeper women?" asked the secretary of Zeinab Society, "women homemakers have not yet tasted the sweetness of insurance rights" said the Secretary of IHRC Office No.7, Tabriz Prosecution a symbol of countering with economic corruptions from the viewpoint of justice seeker students, appreciating Sir Farshchian by Foundation of knotting the Universal Peace and Friendship rug, the IHRC collaboration in knotting the Peace and Friendship rug, "we hope that the peace and friendship massage of Iranian will be spread all over the world through this rug" said the secretary of Peace and Friendship Institute, signing memorandum of understanding between Office No.7 and Peace and Friendship Institute, the first meeting of Art and Human Rights Working Group of Office No.7 in the Art Center of the province, the meeting of Economic working group of Office No.7 with the managers of Aras industrial-commercial free zone, negligence to women's salary and unreasonable firings are the problems of labor women, unawareness of labor women from labor law resulted in the increased of women's problems, on the threshold of Prophet's Birthday and Compassion Day, the Human Rights Stamp was uncovered in Tabriz and gathering on immense concerns of employed women rights in Tabriz.



Other Activities

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

- Following the held discussions between the officials of IHRC and General Administration of International Organs Affairs of Islamic Culture and Communications Organization ([the trustee organization of Iran's cultural representatives all over the world](#)), the scientific plan and details of the joint international gathering of the IHRC and the mentioned agency in the coming year and the agreement letter of their collaboration were prepared and sent for the relating unit of Islamic Culture and Communications Organization to be implemented in future if they are approved by that organization.
- For reviewing the joint collaborations and holding of short term training programs about Islam and Human Rights, a meeting was held by presence of the IHRC Secretary and the chief of Jame-o-almostafa High Daneshstan in Qom.
- Following an invitation of a representative, the IHRC had participated in a session held on march 3 for unveiling of the book "[Muslim States and Human Rights](#)" by Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mozafari in Religious International Studies Center of Tehran University.



- For reviewing the joint collaboration of the IHRC and Imam Reza (pbuh) Research Institute in Qom, on march 3, a meeting was held by the presence of the IHRC Secretary and chief of the institute and a series of the publications of two organs was exchanged.

- IHRC and Shahr-e-Danesh Legal Research and Studies Institute agreed on exchanging their publications and based on this agreement a series of the publications of two organs was exchanged.

- The cover of a book titled “the Right to Social Security” which is passing the preparation stages for publishing was designed and prepared to be sent for publisher after New Year’s Holiday.
- Tens of articles and other sources about human rights were added to the IHRC data bank. It should be mentioned that the process of entering data into the bank started from several months ago and after entering several thousand sources it will be ready for public use. At present only the IHRC members can use from this bank.
- The IHRC Informatics Unit did some artistic developments in the IHRC website. Like previous months there were also tens of pages of new information and news about various human rights aspects.
- Following the held discussions with research deputy of Islamic Azad University in Qom, a written offering about the IHRC cooperation in the holding of National Citizenship Rights Gathering on Civilian Rights in the light of 1404 Prospect Bill was submitted to the said organ.
- The Library and Documentation Center of IHRC Central Office had different attempts for participating in 2010 International Book Fair in Tehran. Some discussions were held by some of the foreign publishers about the subjects of the books which need more to be exhibited.
- Collaboration between the libraries of IHRC and Islamic Sciences and Culture Academy was begun and in this regard, apart from the exchange of some published books between two organs, some newly bought sources of human rights in library of the Academy were xeroxed to be used in the Commission. One Arabic-Persian translation was also referred to one of the Hawzeh scholars in the IHRC Office in Qom.
- A meeting with presence of the IHRC members of Interest Free Loan Fund was held and its new board of directors assigned. It should be mentioned that this Fund has been formed by the investments of the IHRC colleagues who are mostly belong to the vulnerable group of the society so that they can take loan when they need and solve their problems as far as possible.
- Some discussions was held by the IHRC Self-Sufficiency Affairs with some of the book distributor’s companies for granting the agency for distributing the IHRC published books in near future.
- Following the held discussions between the officials of the IHRC and Ma’aref Radio, the draft the joint letter of agreement for organizing various cooperations of two organs was prepared and sent for the Ma’aref Radio’s director. Based on previous agreement, a series of request publications about human rights was also submitted to the agency.



Upcoming Works & Events



Some of the upcoming programmes of IHRC are as follows:

- Implementing some alterations in the IHRC International Monitoring Unit and Research Department with aim of improving the activities and more dynamism.
- Publishing the yearly report of the IHRC activities in a CD form.
- Notification of the IHRC programmes in 1389 (solar year) to its various Units.
- Delegating a representative from Central Office to Kermanshah and Pakdasht (Office No.1 and No.4) for evaluating the last status of these offices and deciding about their future.
- Pursuing the finalization process of publishing the books about social security, solidarity rights and the right to associations.
- Reviewing the new proposed legal plan in Parliament of Islamic Republic of Iran about the activities of political groups and parties in the IHRC Research Committee from viewpoint of its conformity with the Nation Rights principles.
- Finalizing the unpublished expert periodical bulletins of 1388 (solar year).



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?
6. If you like to receive this monthly Newsletter regularly, please let us know your preferable **E-mail address** by **subscribing to this Newsletter through ihrc1@ihrc.ir**.

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