

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 الإنسان الإسلامية في إيران

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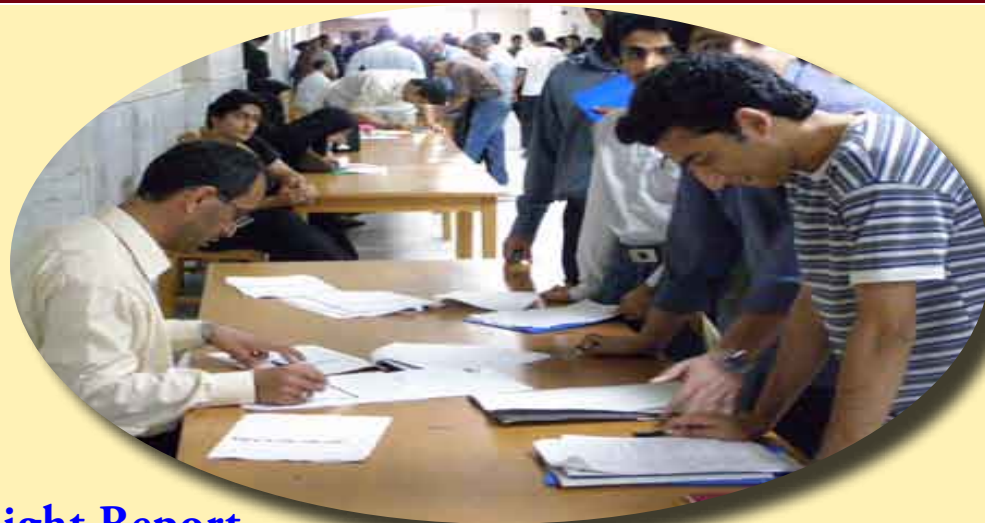
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IHRC



Highlight Report

The month of Mehr (Sep. 15-Oct. 15) marks the beginning of academic year in Iranian schools and universities. To get a vivid mental portrait of the atmosphere in Iran during this month, it is enough to know that, in a country with a **70-million**-strong population, over **14 million** students attend primary and secondary schools, high schools and pre-college centers with about three million and eight hundred youngsters start their courses in universities. Interesting to point out, the days of children and elderly are part of the calendar in this month, indicating in a symbolic manner that during this month special attention is to be paid to the situation of children who are just starting their academic lives and to the elderly people who are at the peak of their lives with great experiences. The best way to celebrate the position of these two age groups is to recognize their human dignity and recognize their freedom and rights. In the still developing society of Iran where, like other similar countries, the infrastructures needed for respecting the rights of human beings and the proper public culture to advance human rights in different aspects are lacking and in a fluctuating trend a general attempt is underway to raise the level of development and progress, it's so unrealistic to expect any major events to take place in the arena of protecting and respecting human rights and dignity. However, human rights activists and those of the general public including the officials of different organizations and bodies or ordinary citizens who have faith in human rights and freedom and feel committed to observing them, use every chance to serve these ideals. Thus the **IHRC**, too, tried to celebrate the occasions with different programs like: issuing expert statements for public audiences, introducing publicity posters, holding panels and research gatherings, producing educational pamphlets and distributing the produced items in wide circulation for related organizations. Moreover, great efforts were made to take frank measures in line with the commission's long-term objectives and plans in different areas especially in the sphere of interactions with honorary members nationwide after all those days of excitement and tension following the presidential elections in the country as well as the special atmosphere dominating the country during the holy month of Ramadan. The efforts are still going on but still the fact should not be ignored that after four months elapsing the presidential elections the consequences of differences among different political and social trends are still clearly visible all over the society, leaving a quite natural footprint on



all activities of organizations in Iran including the [IHRC](#). Some protests in universities and their domestic and foreign reflections, continuing protests by the families of those people who were arrested in connection with post-election events, closing down of a number of newspapers, issuing of statements and the fiery and intense remarks by some people affiliated to both official and non-official centers against their opponents, are just a number of the facts building up the general atmosphere in the country during the past month. The whole bunch of these developments put together seem to be stressing the need for the Iranians to promote diversity, respecting opposing views and diverse thought trends within the legal frameworks and in a bid to promote dynamism and social satisfaction and the commitment of those in power to respecting the rights and freedom of individuals in various aspects is the most effective way out of the present arguments and to foster public security, national sovereignty and solidarity. In line with its efforts in the past months, the Commission humbly tried its best to employ all within its power to promote the above-mentioned approach to improve the general atmosphere in the country. It is for the people who are monitoring the [IHRC](#) activities to judge the degree of its success in carrying out its mission. Highlights of the [IHRC](#) activities in the past four weeks follows:

Human Rights Monitoring

During the period, different parts of the internal and international monitoring departments in the [IHRC](#) considered and recorded hundreds of reports and news items as a routine job. Those interested can get the report on the performance of domestic monitoring section on 16 different categories on the compact disk from the related office in the [IHRC](#) or study the cases gathered by the internal human rights monitoring department from the contents of newspapers on the [IHRC](#) website. The international monitoring section, too, compiled five separate reports on the human rights in five world regions ([Europe](#), [America](#), [Latin America](#), [Africa](#), [Asia and Pacific](#), [Islamic-Arab countries](#)) with focus on every single country in each region. The reports are available in the [IHRC](#) bookstore. During the period, those news items worked on by the internal human rights monitoring department were referred to the legal affairs department to be followed up by the experts. Some of these cases included those relating the conditions in Iranian prisons, conditions of some of the people arrested in connection with the presidential elections and also some reports about the unhealthy food-stuff specially the imported stuff items. In the past month, in addition to cases in which people submitted their individual complaints to the [IHRC](#), a special meeting was held by the experts and law scholars to hear the complaints and protests of the families of political prisoners detained in connection with post-election events. In the meeting, the families were able to explain their cases in detail. A report on the meeting was also put up on the [IHRC](#) website in the news section and necessary actions were undertaken to attract the attention of judiciary officials to the



issue and the cases put forward by the prisoners' families. It is important to note that this was the second group meeting of the kind between the families of prisoners and the IHRC legal experts after the presidential elections in Iran. There were of course cases where detainees' families lodged their individual complaints with the IHRC on the recent developments both in Tehran and other provincial cities. To ensure the rights of these people, the Commission did some correspondences with the legal authorities in provinces and offered legal continuing counseling to the families. In the past month, statistics were done on the cases which were referred to the legal affairs department in the past six months in two categories of the "Citizens' Complaints" and "the Organizations against Which the Complaints Were Filed". The report indicated that majority of the complaints demanded judicial support and then

consular and human rights support for Iranians living outside the country, and economic support and other kinds of humanitarian rights stood at a lower rate. Meanwhile, the complaints received from members of some minorities which are not officially recognized in Iran were examined separately and these included the right to education, or demand for legal support for some of their detainees and the right to employment. There were also six complaints by Iraqi and Afghan citizens living in Iran who were asking for legal counseling and support to solve their problems.

As for the activities of the external human rights monitoring department, there was a case of correspondence with Netherlands about a report on mistreatment of Muslims in the country.

Events

In the last month, several group activities were done by the Commission. Some of them include:

Scholar meetings on role of Islamic mysticism on fostering human rights dialogue (Qom Oct. 1 – Oct. 8)



As part of an IHRC program to hold periodical meetings in office No. 5 in the city of Qom, two sessions were held with participation of a number of Islamic scholars and law experts in which differences between the mystical viewpoints towards human being, the universe and human rights and other sciences like jurisprudence, philosophy and law were discussed. Also, the complications in the mystical methods in comparison with other forms of sciences as well as its subtle viewpoints which contribute in attracting people and encouraging them to absorb the messages of mysticism were discussed. The sessions will continue to hold in coming weeks.



Research gathering on the rights of elderly people (Shiraz – Oct. 4)



Office No. 2 held a gathering in Shiraz on the occasion World Day of Elderly People in cooperation with a number of local organizations. A speaker, who used to serve as the director general of the department of elderly people affairs in the Welfare Organization was dispatched to the city on the occasion and delivered a speech in the gathering.

Research gathering on the rights of citizens (Isfahan – Sep. 30- Oct. 1)

Seminar on the Rights of Citizenship
Human Rights Commission of Esfahan Bar Association

بمایش حقوق شهروندی

کمیسیون حقوق بشر کانون وکلای دادگستری اصفهان برگزار می کند
 با همکاری کمیسیون حقوق بشر اسلامی - سازمان دفاع از قربانیان خشونت

روزهای ۹ و ۱۰ مهر ماه ۱۳۸۸
مجلس سخنرانی و کارگاه وکلای دادگستری اصفهان
چهارشنبه ۲۲ بهمن - پنجشنبه ۲۳ بهمن ۱۳۸۸

Main Topics

- 1- Concept of Citizenship Rights
- 2- Rights of Citizenship from Religious viewpoint
- 3- Parts of Citizenship rights in Islamic legal system
- 4- Lawmaking and Citizenship Rights
- 5- Citizenship Rights and the judiciary
- 6- Citizenship Rights and state
- 7- Legislative power and the Enforcement of citizenship rights
- 8- Obligations toward citizenship Rights
- 9- Obstacles toward the Rights of citizens
- 10- Comparative study of Citizenship Rights
- 11- Rights of Citizens from International law perspective
- 12- Implications of Citizenship Rights
- 13- Membership for possession of Rights of Citizens
- 14- Model of Law Society and Citizenship Rights

Co-Organizers:
 Islamic Human Rights Commission
 Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

Date: 30 Sep. – 1 Oct.
Venue: Esfahan Bar Association,
 Asef Kabiri Administrative Complex

موضوعات اصلی

- ۱- مفهوم حقوق شهروندی
- ۲- حقوق شهروندی از دیدگاه دینی
- ۳- اجزای حقوق شهروندی در نظام حقوقی اسلام
- ۴- قانونگذاری و حقوق شهروندی
- ۵- حقوق شهروندی و قوه قضائیه
- ۶- حقوق شهروندی و دولت
- ۷- قوه مقننه و حقوق شهروندی
- ۸- تعهدات شهروندان نسبت به حقوق شهروندی
- ۹- موانع حقوق شهروندی
- ۱۰- مطالعه تطبیقی حقوق شهروندی
- ۱۱- حقوق شهروندی از منظر حقوق بین الملل
- ۱۲- پیامدهای حقوق شهروندی
- ۱۳- عضویت در جامعه حقوق شهروندی
- ۱۴- مدل جامعه حقوق شهروندی

Following preparation started since mid-summer days, a gathering was held as a joint project with the Isfahan Bar Association and the Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission with participation of a number of law experts. A number of speakers and an article were dispatched to the gathering from IHRC's central office in Tehran. The provincial Bar Association is to publish the articles delivered to the gathering in its periodical.



Research gathering on strategies to eliminate violence against children from a human rights viewpoint (central office – Oct. 7)



This gathering was held on the occasion of Children Day in the central office with the participation of number experts in different scientific areas. The gathering examined such issues as the causes of violence against children, strategies and tactics to eliminate them and evaluation of Iranian legal system in connection with the issue. Iran's Students News Agency published a report on the gathering and the detailed report on the content of the gathering will be available to the public soon in the [IHRC](#) bookshop.

Research and promotional gathering on the rights of children from the Islamic viewpoint (Qom - Oct. 8)



This gathering was held on the occasion of the Children Day by office No. 5 with participation of experts on Islamic schools of thought on the rights of children. A question and answer session followed with the press and media reporters which was given wide coverage.

Attending an exhibition on the rights of children in Shiraz (Oct. 8-9)



Activists working with the IHRC central office and its No. 2 representative office in Shiraz had a section for themselves in an exhibition which was held on the occasion of the Day of Children. During the two-day event, they distributed pamphlets, offered books and indulged in attracting membership from the public, thus managing to get a large of visitors know about the outlines of human rights, the rights of children in particular.

IHRC participated in a book exhibition in the city of Tabriz (Oct. 4-8)



Office No. 7 got a stand for itself in the International Book Exhibition in Tabriz in which it offered titles of the books published by the Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission as well as bulletins and pamphlets. The section had hundreds of visitors including a number of provincial officials and managed to grant honorary membership to a remarkable number of volunteers.

Research gathering to explore different aspects of “rights” from the viewpoint of a Shiite Islam (Tabriz – Oct. 15)



This gathering was held on the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Sadeq (the Sixth Imam among the twelfth Imams of Shi-ite) by Office No. 7 to explore different aspects of the notion of “Rights” and the duties of governments towards the human rights in a bid to get people familiar with the cultural backgrounds existing in their own society in connection with the issue.

Research gathering on the rights of children (Shiraz – Oct. 13)



This gathering was held on the Day of Children by the Office No. 2 in cooperation with the provincial Welfare Organization. Experts were sent to the gathering from the central office and participants were introduced to the different aspects of the rights of children.



Research gathering on the rights of persons with disabilities (Rasht - Oct. 12)



This gathering was held by Office No. 3 as a joint program with the Association of the Blind in Gilan province. The central office dispatches speakers to the gathering to outline the theoretical and practical aspects of international laws as well as the laws existing in Iran on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Research

1. In the past few weeks, as is the usual trend of work with the [IHRC](#), there were many theoretical activities some of which were completed and some others are still underway. These include:
2. Compiling of a report titled “Story of the Imported Rice; Another Chance to Stress the Importance of Right to Food from the Viewpoint of the International Human Rights Law as well as Iran’s Legal System”
3. An expert report on “Ban on Hijab or Lack of Hijab in International Human Rights Documents”
4. Compiling of a research article titled “Executive Guarantees of Citizenship Rights” by a researcher who is an honorary member of the central office to be presented to the gathering on the same issue in Isfahan
5. Compiling of an article titled “the Scope of Impressibility of Governmental Decisions from Non-governmental Organizations in the Area of Internet” which was compiled by one of the honorary members of the central office to be published in the Iranian Journal on Human Rights
6. Compiling data and issues pertaining to “Biotechnology and Human Rights”, as well as a report on the aspects of the kind of relationship existing between human rights issues and biotechnology
7. Compiling of a commentary presented to the [UNHCR](#) in answer to three question posed by it on human trafficking with special focus on trafficking of women and girls based on human rights standards and having the text done in English as well to be sent to the [UNHCR](#) office
8. Compiling of a scholarly commentary in answer to questions by the [UNHCR](#) on the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and the status of the issue in Iran’s legal system and having it translated into English to be sent to the [UNHCR](#) office
9. Translation of the newsletter for the past month into English and Arabic by the [IHRC](#) translation team
10. Compiling of a research report on “Policies of Slovak Republic Regarding National Minorities”
11. Accumulating and compiling of a body of documents and international reports on the human rights situation in Iran
12. Compiling of two brochures specially done on the occasion of Children’s Day focusing on “Child’s Rights to be Heard” and “Children’s Right in Islam”
13. Compiling of some texts on Islam’s viewpoints regarding girls used on the occasion of “National Day of Girls” which is included in Iran’s official calendar
14. Discussing the report of Richard Goldstone as head of Gaza fact-finding delegation and the developments after the report in the United Nations from the point of view of international criminal law and international humanitarian law
15. Putting final touches on an expert bulletin on the rights of women and children ([summer issue](#)) and preparing it for the publishing house
16. Translation of two articles from German into Persian on the notion of human dignity
17. Examining ways of implementing Durban Declaration and the document of [Durban II](#) meeting with the purpose of compiling research commentary to be presented to the seventh session of Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of action in Geneva
18. Holding of weekly meetings by the [IHRC](#) research committee with participation of distinguished scholars and law experts which focused on following issues: evaluating [IHRC’s](#) contribution or non-contribution in the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council about Iran, examining the answer provided by the [UNHCR](#) on human trafficking and human rights, examining a call by Iran’s Law Enforcement Forces on the need to compile appropriate material on the area of binding humanitarian factors to be taken into consideration in times of unrest, exploring ways of dealing with the continues and numerous visits to the [IHRC](#) by the families of those arrested during post-election events based on human rights standards and finally considering of a new report by the United Nations Secretary General to the General Assembly on situation of human rights in Iran.
19. Compiling and public distribution of a research report on “Considerations on the Rules and Regulations on Internal Unrest from the Viewpoint of Humanitarian Law” which was completed in the closing days of the past month
20. Continuation of work on translation of a book on fair trial from English to Persian as well as editing a translated book on the right to association
21. Continuation of work on translation of a book on the right to health and its relationship with the development of countries ([English to Persian](#))
22. Beginning of compiling of a report on Iran’s situation in regards with fighting use of cigar products and the degree its complies with the World Health Organization standards, juvenile justice for the children from the viewpoint of human rights, different aspects of international law standards and Iran’s legal system regarding human trafficking, meaning and scope of the issue of contribution/cooperation from the legal point of view, identifying practical tactics and techniques for the non-governmental to influence affairs in different world countries to advance human rights, discussing existing challenges in international human rights standards and Islamic norms in the area of criminal justice and

Regional Offices

During the past month, the central offices 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 Farsi. Gatherings and meetings by the provincial offices have already been mentioned in this report):

- Office No. 7 (for northwestern Iran) was the first in rank among other offices in terms of communication and data work and was quite active in the past month. Apart from running a very active web log, the office launched a news website titled “Bashar News” based on only local and provincial capacities and potential. The site was inaugurated during a ceremony with the participation of local authorities including the province’s head of justice department and prosecutor.

- Office No. 7 also carried out many attempts to make necessary coordination to hold two research gatherings in Ardebil province on the problems and rights of young girls and enhancing social health of women. After the dates are fixed for these two meetings, the central office will dispatch speakers to the events. In the past month, the office also hold sessions on the rights of handicapped people in the Society of Handicapped People in the city of Tabriz and also at the office of NGO working on raising donations. The detailed reports on the sessions were also published.

- Office No. 2 in the city of Shirza, except for the activities already mentioned in the section dedicated to gatherings and events, had other numerous activities like holding meetings with music groups, attending programs on commemoration of Hafez (the great Iranian poet), participating in a training course on the occasion of World Elderly Day in a healthcare center in Shiraz, participating in a ceremony celebrating the same occasion by a non-governmental organization in Shirza and offering legal counseling services to a number of guests and attracting honorary members.

- Office No. 6 in Semnan province compiled and sent to the central office a program for the next six months for the activities of the working groups formed for their





volunteer members. A number of work- had also meetings during the time. Day, a group of activists work- pital in the city and hold University of Damghan research gathering

- Negotiations were provincial official the past month ing of an IHRC province and representative, some attempts vincial board of up the same fice No. 4 situ- Pakdasht, some with the local of the central of- month, to decide No. 8 will or will as a central site in some negotiations were and the Commission set basis of the report of Of- has some familiarity with visit from the province and its eval- siderations. Furthermore, to further acti- executive officer of the branch would change and some changes be made in the composition of the board of trustees so that the potential in the region be implemented in a better way in promoting human rights.

- Office No. 3 in Gilan province had talks with officials to promote cooperation, offered legal counseling in a few cases and monitored the activities of the headquarters on paying blood compensations in northern parts of the country.

ing groups for the voluntary members Also on the occasion of the Children ing with the office visited a hos- meetings with Payam-e Nour City to coordinate a joint next month.

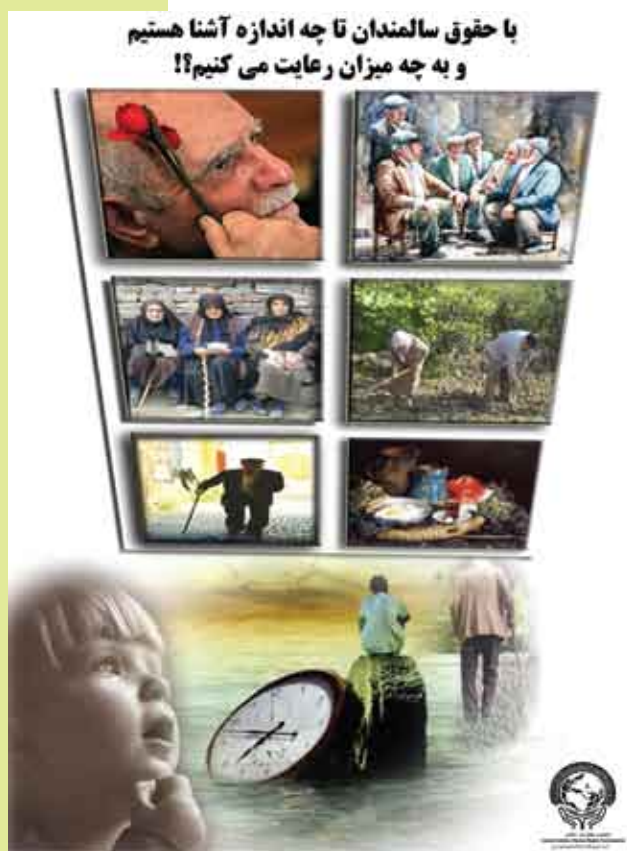
undertaken with the in Isfahan during to speed up open- office in the the temporary too, carried out to form the pro- trustees. To speed procedure for of- ated in the city of talks were hold officials at the site fice. Finally, in this whether the Office not continue to act Boushehr province, held with local officials to make its decision on the fice No. 2 in Shiraz which Boushehr province and after the uation based on Commission's con- vate Office No. 6, it was decided that the



Other Activities

During the past four weeks, the IHRC had other kinds of activities like:

- An IHRC representative took part in preparation session for the National Contribution/Cooperation Gathering which is due in next months. The IHRC voiced readiness to contribute a number of articles to the event and supervise an expert panel on the rights of citizens.
- Answers were provided to questions posed the research organization of International Council of Human Rights on assessing some expert projects published by it on climate changes and human rights, terrorism and human rights, anti-corruption campaign and human rights and ...
- A call for paper for the International Seminar on climate changes and human rights which was sent to the IHRC by the UNHCR was forwarded to experts working on the issue to contribute articles to the event if interested.
- Necessary measures were taken in regards with an invitation by the UNHCR calling for introducing a candidate to take part in a one-year course for national human rights institutions. It is important to note that from among the candidates introduced by national human rights institutions from among the world only five people – or even less – will have the chance to use the opportunity for 2010.
- As a routine job, the IHRC sent tens of its new bulletins to parliament members, judiciary officials and some other organizations in the country.
- In line with the IHRC promotional programs and in a bid to raise public awareness, a number of artistic posters were designed and printed by the IHRC on such occasions as the Children Day, World Elderly Day and Girls Day. Also, another poster initially done by a designer working with the IHRC on the rights of family was finalized and prepared for print. A poster on the International Day of Poverty was also designed and will be published after needed financial resources are provided. Cards with the address of the central office on them were also designed and prepared for print.





- There was also a five-minute video-clip done on the rights of citizens which was sent to an Isfahan gathering and the [IHRC](#) colleagues are currently working on another video-clip with a different content on the same issue to be used in future programs.

- An [IHRC](#) representative took part in critics' session on a new book published by War Research Center and had some negotiations on research cooperation with a number of other participants.

- Officials of a gathering on the rights of the press which was held in May of the World Media Day in Tehran University asked the [IHRC](#) for permission to include an article by the [IHRC](#) secretary contributed to that event in the book of articles of the gathering in a bid to make it available to all soon.

- The activities of the Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission got a wide coverage in press and media during the month the highlights of which includes:

detailed statement by the Commission on the occasion of the Children Day, announcements on the [IHRC](#) programs on the same occasions nationwide, announcement on the [IHRC](#) programs on the World Elderly Day, reports on meetings with families of those political prisoners detained in post-election events, reports on some of the gatherings by the central and provincial offices, statement of the National Girls Day, statement on condemnation of the terrorist attack in Sistan-Baluchestan province, expert report on right to food with a focus on the aspects of the issue of imported rice to Iran.

- Also, during the past month, the [IHRC](#) website in English, Persian and Arabic was regularly updated and news and data on different topics was made available to all. Thousands of new brochures on different human rights occasions were also published and distributed in Tehran and provinces.

Upcoming Works & Events

A diversity of programs is included in the agenda of the Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission for coming days some of which are:

- Holding of two gatherings on rights of girls and women in Ardebil province by Office No. 7 in cooperation with the central office
- Holding of scholar gatherings on legal aspects of UPR (Universal Periodic Review) which is to consider Iran's case in March 2010
- Compiling and publishing of an expert commentary on the new report by the United Nations Secretary General to the General Assembly on situation of Human Rights in Iran
- Inaugurating the website for Iranian Journal on Human Rights and putting up the material for its first issue
- Inaugurating a computerized data bank on thousands of articles and books on human rights suitable for Arabic, English and Persian speaking scholars
- Holding of a joint meeting between a number of scholars who are members of the IHRC research committee and the public and revolutionary prosecutor of Tehran to explore aspects of the rights of citizens and capacities hold by the prosecutor to restore civilians' rights and some of the new forms of complaints lodged by people
- Holding of a joint meetings with NGOs working on different aspects of civilians' rights to brief them on the notion introduced by the IHRC research committee on a proposed outline of a legal plan pertaining to non-governmental organizations which is currently under discussion in parliament and demands the NGOs to play a more active role in this juncture and present their views to the legislators
- Preparing the outlines of special programs on the occasion of Universal Human Rights Day which is 50 days from date to be done in Tehran and other provincial cities
- Purchase of new books published worldwide from book fair for Latin books which is due next month as a regular annual event by Ministry of Higher Education.

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**.

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

<http://www.ihrc.ir>

www.humanrightsiran.com

