

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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Highlight Report

All activities during the period mentioned above which coincided with the holy month of Ramadan – the month of fasting for world Muslims – naturally take on the same quality which prevails the sacred period. In fact in a month during which many activists try to refrain from eating and drinking in the long hot summer days to gain the satisfaction of the Creator, and try to strengthen their will and determination to resist material attractions and think of only sublime goals, it will be only natural to expect domination of a spirit of kindness, self-sacrifice, love for fellow human beings, patience and tolerance in society specially among human rights activities who are working to enhance human values. It is for those who monitor the activities of the Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission to judge to what extent the IHRC staff and affiliates have managed to accomplish the goals which are to be gained during Ramadan through worshipping and fasting. Regardless of the degree of their success in achieving this goal, the fact remains that the overall attempts have targeted such a goal. Despite the month of Ramadan and the special spiritual atmosphere which is prevailing it, the overall public atmosphere in Iran still remained tense because the events following the presidential election in Iran. The chal-



lenges and the tensions not only failed to calm down but they continued the most outstanding case of which was in the International Qods Day- the day of defending of Palestinian people- in September 18 when everyone witnessed massive turnout of people and the world media too gave an extensive coverage to it. The IHRC too received a remarkable number of complaint letters and reports all of which related to the post-election events like registering and recording all news and incidents relating to those who were arrested during the incidents, were released from prisons, the procedures of the court hearings, legal actions on the received complaint letters or the reports which needed to be urgently followed up by the official sources, participation of an IHRC representative in the official meetings the Police legal department to examine the scope and aspects of the behaviors of law enforcement officials in the unrest situations from the human rights point of view, sending letters to justice departments in some provinces to thank them for their balanced and tolerant attitude towards people during the post-election events, compiling of several expert reports on such topics as the ways of proving torture according to human rights standards, a review of the standards prevailing detention centers from the human rights point of view and publication of some of the reports in public media, publishing of legal analyses of the recent incidents and the right to know truth which were fully and extensively quoted from the IHRC website in a number of newspapers, distribution of reports in provinces among the heads of the justice departments, prison directors, attorney general and ... which were carried out in the past four weeks by the Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission. However, the fact should not be ignored that, given the rapid pace of developments in Iranian society and the immense body of demands the Iranian nation is demonstrating in different areas to enhance its human rights, the IHRC has in some cases failed to depict an adequate and convincing picture of itself. This means that people expect much more from independent legal and specialized institutions and consequently embark on pursuing their demands and working to remove the sources of their concerns themselves by setting up social networks. In such a sensitive situation, many of official organizations and bodies which are to play a critical role and possess executive forces have the wrong the assumption that their performance is exactly what people desire and approve and thus persist on their old ways and manners, supposing that the differences in opinion and the objections voiced so far were of no real importance or even were directed and guided by some external elements whom should be dealt with harshly. This makes things even harsher for independent institutions who try to fill the gap between the public and the authorities especially for those bodies which are strictly abiding by legal standards because radicalized demands and requirements keep pouring down on them from both sides and each side, confident of its views and its righteousness, tries to pressure them. The hope is that the Iranian society manages to get rid of such a tense atmosphere in the coming weeks so that all groups and people are able to work collectively to improve social situation and promote human rights indicators through solidarity, convergence and tolerance.



Human Rights Monitoring

Different sections of the department in charge of internal and external monitoring human rights situations recorded and observed hundreds of news pieces and reports in the past four weeks (those interested in having a report of internal cases which is compiled in 16 different topics could either get them on a CD from the monitoring affairs department at IHRC or go to its site to review the cases which have



been coverage in local media). As for external monitoring activities, there were five reports compiled for each of the world areas (namely Europe, America, Latin America, Africa, Asia and Australia and Arab and Islamic states) focusing on every single country in each of them (these are available in the [IHRC bookshop](#)).

-During the period, some of the news items monitored by the domestic monitoring section were referred to the legal affairs department of the Commission to be more carefully examined in the form of a full case. These cases mostly included the ones pertaining to those have received damages in post-election events or the claims put forward about those arrested during the period which needed to be investigated more closely through legal channels.

-During the period, the legal affairs department received over thirty written complaints in additions to several cases which put forward verbally in different human rights areas. Every case was filed separately to receive due legal attention. For a number of these cases, the legal department had correspondence with related legal officials especially the legal department of Police force to make sure that the damages suffered was compensated for.

-In an overall view, the many cases, the complaint letters by the legal affairs department received to those who had registered other cases with the [IHRC](#) before and the number of the new complaint letters was the lowest among the received ones. It should be mentioned here that many of the complaint letters pertain to economic and social rights of citizens or the problems they have been facing in the bureaucratic procedures in various organizations. The legal affairs department is currently working on a report on the cases referred to the [IHRC](#) in the past six months to get a view of what aspects of human rights people have been mostly complaining and also against what organization or institution they have been filing their cases of human rights breaches with the [IHRC](#). Also, plans are underway to attract higher number of legal experts who like to work with the legal affairs department free of charge. There are also other programs to start as of late September when universities start their semesters so that [MA](#) students in law could get some of their practical courses with the [IHRC](#) legal department to give them a chance to a first-hand experience and close view of real cases under the supervision of the department's law experts. Meanwhile, during the period the present newsletter is referring, in the legal clinics in [IHRC's central](#) and provincial offices the automatic answering machines have been in the service of callers who been seeking advice or answers in different areas. The legal affairs department is planning to stage a wide publicity program about these legal clinics to make people aware of the existence of such a top facility

which is also free of charge.

-In the foreign monitoring department too, during the same period, some of the cases received were given special notice and there correspondence with different countries to get the necessary measures taken to solve the problems. As example could be sited correspondence with the Moroccan officials about the violation of the Shiite minority living in that country, correspondence with the Yemeni officials about the continued and extensive military operations against the Shiites there and the reported use of phosphoric bombs against them, correspondence with British officials about the racist elements' attacking the mass prayers leader of a mosque in that country, correspondence with Netherlands about the discriminatory treatment of the distinguished Muslim scholar Tareq Ramezan and the continued insults of the leader of Netherlands's Freedom Party against Muslims.



Information Dissemination and Nation-wide Distribution of Exclusive Reports”

The Commission, as part of its customary activities which always pays special attention to expert information dissemination in different areas of human rights, indulged in distributing several texts nationwide or to the media and press. Some of the distributed items include:

- New bulletins on “[Rights of Women and Children](#)” to the chief justices, Friday Prayers Leaders of provincial capital cities, attorney generals of provincial capital cities and governor generals.

- New bulletin on “[Islamophobia Cases in International Arena](#)” together with a pamphlet on “[Theoretical Aspects of the Islamic Human Rights Day](#)” which was sent to the above mentioned officials

- Weekly bulletins titled “[Events and Analyses](#)” on the rights of detainees families and the ways of proving torture from the viewpoint of international human rights to the prison heads of provincial capital cities, attorney generals of the provincial capital cities and the chief justices of the provincial capital cities

- Two issues of a bulletin on “[New International Developments in Humanitarian Laws](#)” to the heads of the Red Crescent Societies and governor generals of all provinces

- Sending of all of the above-mentioned bulletins and reports to over 150 of senior officials including ministers, top judiciary officials, some of the parliament members, some members of the Expediency Council,....

- Sending of all of the above-mentioned bulletins and reports to faculty members in different universities and scholars who are conducting courses on any of these subjects in the [MA](#) or [PHD](#) levels

- Distribution of the new bulletin on rights of women, report on the theoretical aspect of the Islamic Human Rights Day and the new bulletin on Islamophobia in research centers and offices of some of distinguished scholars in [Qom](#) (over 120 cases)

- Public distribution of the full text of weekly reports and analyses on the ways of proving torture from the viewpoint of the international human rights, rules in detention centers from the viewpoint of human rights and the rights of detainees families through the [IHRC](#) website in section containing educational material for specified groups



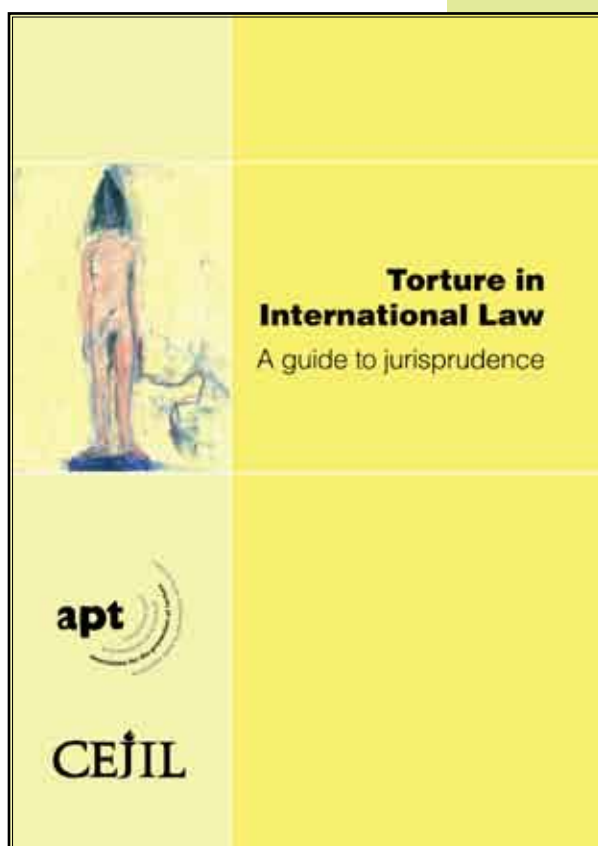
-Publishing of some of the above-mentioned reports in the “[Law](#)” pages of some of Iranian dailies who quoted the IHRC website. For example, reprinting of a report “[on the Rights of Detainees Families from a Human Rights Perspective](#)” in “[Irاندokht](#)” monthly No 26 or [Ettelaat](#) daily in two days. Another daily, “[Arman](#)” published a IHRC’s case study on the “[right to know truth in post-election developments](#)” in place of its editorial, with a number of other online websites having republished some of the IHRC free-of-charge reports.

* The above-mentioned publications are all available in the [IHRC](#) bookshop and the central/provincial offices.



Research

1. In the past weeks, as is the routine work within the IHRC, there were different activities underway some of which were completed and in some cases activities are still going on. These include:
2. Compiling of an expert report titled “[Considerations about Ways of Proving Torture in the International Human Rights](#)”
3. Compiling of an expert report titled “[A Review of the Standards Prevailing Detention Centers from the Human Rights Point of View](#)”
4. Compiling of an expert report titled “[Social Security within the European System of Human Rights](#)”
5. Completion of translation of 60 pages of the book “[Torture in International Laws; A Guide to Jurisprudence](#)” from English to Persian published in 2008 by the Association for Prevention of Torture and Center for Justice and International Law.



6. Gathering sources and data in German on the issue of human dignity
7. compiling of a case study titled “[Recent Developments in Iran and the Right to Know Truth](#)” and its publishing it in the “[case studies](#)” section of the IHRC website the exact content of which was re-printed in some Iranian newspapers
8. Beginning of translation of a book published in 2009 by the International Labor Organization titled “[Give Girls a Chance: Tackling Child Labor, a Key to the Future](#)”



9. Speedy review of reports by different international organizations to get legal information about the non-human acts committed by Israel to be used by the Society to Defend Palestinian Nation – based on a request by the organization- on billboards on the occasion of the International Qods Day (the day of defending of Palestinian people).
10. Compiling of an investigative report about the human rights situation in Islamic-Arab states from the point of view of international human rights NGOs
11. Start of a comparative study about the ways the Police force handles unrests in different countries from the viewpoint of human rights standards.
12. Voluntary translation of a book from English to Persian titled “[Rights Of People with Disabilities](#)” - published in 2007 by the UNHCR – which is being edited by one of our colleagues
13. Translation of another article from the book “[Racial Discrimination](#)” published by UNESCO
14. Compiling of a report on the researches done so far about the right to a standard of living adequate for well-being (promoted in the paragraph 1 of article 25 of the UDHR) from the viewpoint of Islamic thinkers
15. Compiling of a case study on the legal challenges beyond the law enforcement officials in Iran’s legal system
16. Voluntary translation of the book “[Social Security Rights](#)” from English to Persian by one of the professors who is member of Commission which is editing now
17. Final touches on the third bulletin on “[Islamophobia in International Arena](#)” which is due to be published soon
18. Final touches on the bulleting on “[Human Rights and Islamic Discourse in the Contemporary World](#)” which is to be published soon
19. Gathering of all international reports and documents on the human rights situation in Iran

International Exchanges

During the past, as is the routine within the IHRC, there took place many international exchanges. For example, the IHRC received a large number of newsletters from organizations working on human rights or sent its own latest news bulletins to such organizations. In addition to the regular course of international exchanges, a few cases deserve more attention:

- The legal institute of Raoul Wallenberg in Sweden's Lund University, in an email, asked for the Commission's opinion about the seven workshops and training courses held by it across the Asia.
- The UNHCR office asked for the Commission answer for the five questions put forward on the issue of implementation of a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.
- An international human rights educational center (EQUITAS) sent an invitation letter for an IHRC scholar for its educational course in 2010. It also asked the IHRC to introduce a high-profile scholarly figure as candidate for its award which will be selected from among world countries.
- Upon a request by the UNHCR asking the IHRC for comments on the guidelines for fighting human trafficking specially smuggling of women and children and also on the periodical assessment report of the situation of human rights in world countries especially in those countries which are in the list for 2010, scholars in the Commission started an expert analyses of the above-mentioned issues and will offer their final comments and reports soon.
- The IHRC received an invitation to take part in the next session of the Forum on Minorities Issues which is sub-category of the United Nations' Human Rights Council.
- The IHRC received an invitation from the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of the Action in the United Nations' office in Geneva.
- The point to mention here is that, given the limited financial sources and the priority of domestic activities for the Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission, the IHRC usually sends representatives only to those meetings outside the country which are exclu-

sively expert legal gatherings not political meetings and the costs are covered by the hosts. As for the legal interactions with the United Nations or other international bodies, it is a custom with the IHRC to ask for the scholarly contribution of distinguished legal figures in the country to comment on cases or compile reports. Thanks to such brilliant contributions, the IHRC reports and comments enjoy a good authority in international level.

Regional Offices

As is the customary procedure by the IHRC, the central office during the recent weeks has been supervising the activities of provincial offices as well. In several cases, recommendations were made for the provincial offices to boost their activities or some case special measures were taken to enable these offices to carry out their already-planned programs. It should be mentioned here that due to the Holy month of Ramada, the provincial offices had a decline in their activities. The highlights of these activities include: (the details are available in the IHRC website in Persian)

- A letter of appreciation was sent to the provincial Chief Justice Office in Kermansh province upon a proposal by the office No1 based in the same province – for their remarkable contribution in educational and promotional programs organized by the IHRC office. The same was done by the office No7 based in Tabriz to thank the Chief Justice and the attorney general of the provincial capital for their wise handling of post-election protests.
- Office No7 located in the city of Tabriz suggested sending a letter of appreciation to mayor, head of Tabriz airports organization and head of the province's society of handicapped people to thank them for their activities in improving transportation situation for the handicapped people in public areas.
- Office No2 in the city of Shiraz made



following preparations for two scientific gatherings on the rights of the elderly and children, asking the central office to designate scholars and speakers to be dispatched to the seminar. The central office took the necessary measures to this end and the list was announced to Shiraz office. The office also had special program during the holy month of Ramadan to attract and encourage donations to poor people and also organized visits to a center where psychological and neurotic patients are kept. It also had some meetings with a number of artists affiliated to the IHRC and informed the arts working group and the human rights committee of the outcomes of the session and the suggestions made by the artists. During the past month, the office also screened a film on the issue of Euthanasia the educational notes on which have already been prepared and distributed.

- The central office sent a number of questionnaire to be used in provincial meetings of arts and human rights working groups to office No7 (Tabriz) and the IHRC temporarily office in Isfahan province for preliminary preparation so that a representative from the central office travels to the two places after the holy month of Ramadan to do the necessary administrative work to enactive provincial potential.

- Office No7 has announced imminent launching of a news website on the human rights called "Basharnews".
- Starting cooperation with a number of clergies has been one of the most important measures pursued by the office No5 in the city of Qom.
- The computer facilities in the law clinic in office No1 which has been out of work for a while due to some hardware problems which required a handsome of budget to repair was fixed in the past month in the central office and will be sent to Kermanshah soon.
- The central recommended all provincial offices in the past month to use the Holy month of Ramadan to take measures to encourage charity organizations or charitable people to help get persons who are in prison for financial reasons out of jails. Only office No7 (Tabriz) had any remarkable activity and was finally to release a report on the special ceremony it held in cooperation with a number of other provincial organizations to celebrator release of a number of such prisoners.
- Officials of office No7 accompanied by the provincial officials visited a patient who has been in coma in the small town of Marand for five years now and then they put up a public call for charity to get financial aid for the man's family.
- Based on prior coordination by the IHRC temporary office in Isfahan, preparations were made for a gathering in October 1, on the rights of citizens in cooperation with the provincial Bar Association.



Other Activities

There have been a number of other significant activities in the Commission during the past weeks some of which are:

- The **IHRC** representative took part in the joint meeting of the managers of a **UNDP** program in Iran and later hosted a site visit by the representatives of the **UNDP** and the Cluster Project On National Capacity Building for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Greater Access to Justice from the Commission. (It should be noted that in the past four years, the **UNDP** has been carrying out a project titled Good Governance with the contribution of eight Iranian bodies like the judiciary, Tehran University, Shahid Beheshti University, Mofid University in Qom, Bar Association, Press Association and **IHRC**, ... as a national cooperation plan with Iran which is currently in its final stages and will conclude within a month).
- An **IHRC** representative took part in two scholar meetings on the legal aspects of Police forces' treatment of public during the recent unrests from a human rights perspective which was held by the legal department of law enforcement officials. It is already arranged for the **IHRC** to hold a training course for the Police commanders.
- Presence of an **IHRC** representative in a research gathering in Strategic Research Center on the scope of authority of the Prosecutor General in Iran's legal system
- Written answers were provided to some questions put forward by a number of **MA** students who were doing their theses on law subjects
- The IT department of the Islamic Human Rights Commission operated a new website for the Iranian Journal on Human Rights ([the call for papers for which had already been published](#)). It has also designed a logo for it. Part of the work has been completed but work on it is still going on.
- During the past few weeks, there have been some planning and programming for human rights training courses which are hoped to commence in October.



Upcoming Works & Events



A number of programs are in the IHRC schedule for coming weeks:

- Setting up of a data bank containing articles in different areas of human rights for the general use of all researchers
- Holding of special programs on the occasions of Children's Day on Iranian calendar, the Elderly People Day and ...
- Final touches on expert bulletins by the IHRC's research department related to Summer period.
- IHRC's commentary on human rights situation in Iran which will be reported to Human Rights Council related to UPR and responding to UN High Commissioner on Human Rights Office related to rights of persons with disabilities and human trafficking due to previous requests.
- Start of work of a number of MA students in the IHRC legal affairs department as part time colleagues focusing on public complaints received
- Designing and printing of a number of posters on various human rights themes in line with programs to promote human rights issues to the public
- Printing of a number of already-published public training brochures with some topics added or revised in a national scope
- Speeding up formation or real activities of the Board of Trustees in those provinces where the IHRC offices lack any or if they have ones they are not active enough
- Publishing of a statistical report on the performance of the IHRC legal affairs department in the past six month.



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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