



# DEFENDERS

Spring&Summer 2015

Iran: Nuclear Talks and Human Rights



## Editor's Note

Over the recent months alongside the usual human rights issues, the world has also faced two different issues. One, is the unprecedented violence in the Middle East which includes the expansion of the ISIS or IS terror group in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan, who commit the most heinous of crimes, and the crisis in Yemen and Saudi Arabia launching an attack against the country which has resulted in a human crisis, and all these have caused many challenges for the world, such as the refugees crisis.

The other one is the nuclear agreement between Iran and the west which affects various aspects of human rights. It can even be viewed from the perspective that this agreement is a complete human rights agreement because the diplomacy and peace option replaced the threat of war and bloodshed. As a human rights advocate nongovernmental organization, the ODVV expresses its deepest concern over the grave violation of human rights via wars and conflict and by dedicating some parts to human rights violations in different countries, Defenders Newsletter tries to draw the attention of countries and the United Nations to the extensive evil dimension of these violations, and take responsibility.

As mentioned above, the nuclear agreement turned the war dialogue to peace and affected various aspects of human rights. This perspective can be seen in an article in this issue of Defenders.

The new face of refugee has emerged in the world as a result of the conflict and violence in the region's countries, also needs contemplating, and in this issue we have article with images on this serious crisis.

The advancement of women in today's world is an assessment of the observation of human rights and development of a country. For this reason in this issue Defenders there is a report and an interview on the subject of women's situation in Iran. "This is Iran" is a collective of colour pictures and captions which introduces Ira.

A review of the ODVV activities , a look at the role of NGOs in the UPR process, and an article on Islamic countries regarding globalization is another part of this issue of Defenders.

Our colleagues in Defenders hope that the avoiding of damages such as politicization and media propaganda and presentation of a real picture of human rights, can result in taking more sturdy steps towards human rights in the world.



# Iran: Nuclear Talks and Human Rights

By: Mahmoudreza Golshanpazhooh (Ph.d)  
Human Rights Issues Expert

After nearly 20 months of crammed talks between Iran, the EU and 5+1 (five permanent members of the Security Council, China, Russia, the United States, Britain, France, and Germany) an agreement was finally reached on 14 July under the heading of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in Vienna, Austria.

Based on this Plan, Iran will suspend a major part of its nuclear activities, and will facilitate the IAEA inspectors to make extensive inspections, and in return, alongside the preservation of the country's right to enrich uranium, all nuclear related sanctions which the UN, the United States and the EU had imposed over the last few years, will be lifted. Although the procedures set in the agreement, makes reaching practical conclusions and long process, and it cannot be expected that in the short run notable changes occurs in the welfare of the people of Iran and their release from the binds of anti-human rights sanctions, but overall, the positive psychological effects of

the agreement, both for Iran and the 5+1 and the international order and the Middle East region development is most certainly visible and even measurable.

In all of this, one subject that even before the agreement had been reached was discussed in medias active in human rights was the possible effect of this agreement on the human rights situation of Iran. There were and are two different views in this regard.

One view believes that with the improvement of Iran's relations with other countries and the reduction of pressure on the Islamic Republic on the pretext of nuclear activities, the Iranian government will probably have more space and power to increase pressure, and in a more reassured way suppress the opposition and as a result the human rights situation of Iran will deteriorate.

A second view which is more optimistic and says that with the improvement of Iran's international relations and systematic Iranophobic atmosphere

constructed against the country and with the easing of security concerns Iran the atmosphere for human rights activities will become more open and the Iranian government, even if it is not inclined to, will be forced to loosen its grip on human rights issues.

Through studying the two different views it can be observed that each have their own particular reasons which strengthen their arguments; nonetheless the necessity to reach a comprehensive analysis in this regard, is the attention that must be given at the same time to a number of points that are often forgotten in analysis.

1 - The nature of the nuclear issue and human rights issue to an extent differ from each other. The subject has more a political nature than a legal one. In fact the political decision of the United States resulted in the 2003 Iran and three EU countries talks to fail, and the crisis went on for another twelve years. Again, another US political decision resulted in the 5+1 to be determined from 2013, to settle the issue with Iran. This is while the legal aspect of the human rights subject of Iran, to at least have the same amount as its political aspects an influential factor. In fact, although the issuing of resolutions and appointing of a Special Rapporteur on Iran process has always had the protest and objection of Iran, and has seen these moves as politics of western countries but at the same time a lot of the existing claims against Iran are regarding the legal judicial system's conflicts with what is known as the international human rights mechanism. The differences regarding punishments and religious jurisprudence subjects are some of the most important areas of conflict between Iran and countries that support resolutions against Iran. Therefore it must be noted that the solving of a completely political issue like the nuclear issue, at the most can affect the political aspects of the subject of human rights, and its legal aspects will remain untouched.

2 - The resolving of the nuclear issue has three important effects in the Iranian human rights debates. First, it helps reduce the Iranophobic atmosphere in the region and the world, and further opens the Iran's maneuvering space to play an active role in various international arenas, such as human rights debates in the UN General



**The resolving of the nuclear issue has three important effects in the Iranian human rights debates**

Assembly and the Human Rights Council, and this will have positive effects on both Iran's foreign and domestic policies and will make them more mature. Second, in view of the lifting of the special atmosphere from Iran, the movements of NGOs inside the country will increase, and will allow them to pursue their issues and demands with more ease. And third, which the most important, it will put an end to the increasing shadows of sanctions from the right to life, the right to health, right to hygiene, right to self determination, right to development and the Iranian people's right to peace, and put an end to the four years of this painful process which resulted in the grave violation of the basic rights of Iranians, particularly the vulnerable groups such as children, women, the elderly and the sick.

The important point is that with releasing of Security Council Resolution 2231, the UN and the EU will not impose any more harsh sanctions against Iran on the nuclear issue. Also on the same day, the EU approved the Comprehensive Plan of Action through a vote in the Foreign Relations Council meeting (EU foreign ministers group), in Brussels. This move resulted in the lifting of some EU sanctions such as oil imports from Iran. The collective of these measures and moves will result in the returning of the Iranian economy



to normality and therefore help Iranians to once again enjoy their economic and social rights and right to development.

3 - And ultimately, the subject of human rights is a complex and multi-layered subject and any form of shallow thinking and presentation of shallow solutions for media's liking, can have a reverse effect on the human rights situation. It is a fact that in the eyes of many people in Iran and also Iranian authorities that the west often uses the human rights issue as a tool against Iran, due to enmity with the Islamic Revolution. The disregard of those who claim to human rights, to the human rights situation in many of the region's countries and their failure to criticise and not issuing resolutions in the Human Rights Council or the UN General Assembly, solely because these countries are west's allies, has strengthened this interpretation for years.

Furthermore, it has been proved at least for many countries that the naming and shaming tactic does not work. If the improvement of the human rights in society is due to outside pressure, perhaps it might work, but its sustainability and stability is very little. Against this, if improvements that are made slowly and with the wishes and insistence of domestic actors, particularly various civil society organizations ,and in interaction with forces of society, the government, the Judiciary and Legislative powers, and the backing of scientific and religious community of the country, these improvements will be more sustainable and valuable. Over the years, the Iranian civil society has shown good examples of these logical, asserted

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**the improvement of human rights is the result of a scientific, logical and deep rooted effort in the country which has continued for years and will continue on**

and calm moves, some of which have even been pointed out and welcomed in the reports of the Special Rapporteur regarding the human rights situation in Iran.

In any event, the resolving of the nuclear dispute does not necessarily have positive or negative effects on the human rights situation of Iran. Although if the sanctions are lifted and the economic activities atmosphere inside the country grows, the welfare of the people will increase, but the improvement of human rights is the result of a scientific, logical and deep rooted effort in the country which has continued for years and will continue on. In this path, the players, experts and human rights defenders of the country will continue their efforts without the political atmosphere created by country's foreign policy, and the all sided development of infrastructures and human rights examples of the country will continue on.

# Interview with Top Iranian Female Entrepreneur

## A Review of Women's Capacities & Challenges in Iran

By: Farzane Mostofifar  
Supervising editor

In today's world one of the most important criteria for assessing the development level of a country, is the status that women have in the country in various areas of education, health, employment and participation. This is why the world's perspective has more than any time before been concentrated on women's empowerment, and shows the fact that the all sided promotion of women's conditions has got a key concept in sustainable development and establishment of social justice. But the realities of today's world are far away from the beautiful perspectives that have been drawn for the future.

Currently, considering that women make up half the population of the world, and two thirds of working hours are conducted by women, only one tenth of the income of the world and one hundredth of property ownership belongs to women, therefore inequality for women exists more or less in all societies.

Inequality shows itself in various areas. For example domestic work to create a livable place, raising of children and provision of fundamental living services are crucial. But the point being is domestic work differs from other occupations from various perspectives, because it is unpaid and usually takes place in a place separate from the public domain. This is why there are no official laws in this regard and the job is repetitive and endless.

The employment of women has lots of positive effects from psychological, social and economic aspects. But employment for women in the public domain is not without challenges. In Iran too, just like in other parts of the world, more or less inequalities exist in women's employment. Furthermore,



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according to the Labour Act, the perks that have been given to women labourers and workers, has resulted in the hiring of women to be very costly for employers, and some of them in dodging the law, in order not give maternity leaves, the right to breastfeeding, setting up of day care centres, do not employ women. As a result, the unemployment rate for women under 29 is at over 50 percent.



### Challenges facing women

But the point cannot be disregarded that overall due to having more challenges that they have in front of them, women are seen less in the daily hubbub of living, and that they have forgotten their capacities or being mothers, wives, discriminatory laws, incorrect customs, and patriarchal views have all prevented them from other active identities. In fact it can be said that alongside the common experiences with all individuals of a society, women also experience different problems and issues. Nevertheless, these differences form the unique individual experiences, and just may be the collective of these challenges in some instances may have increased the success in society.

In view of all problems and obstacles, there are women that not only have overcome problems but have climbed the ladder of success faster than any man. Ms. Seyedeh Fatemeh Moghimi is one of these women. She is the first Iranian woman who managed to register an international freight company in her name, and has been very successful in the trade. And all during the time when this was a difficult task and the society's beliefs saw this norm as abnormality. Her job was not limited to inside Iran, and in 2012 Ms. Moghimi was chosen as an effective entrepreneur from 57 countries by the Islamic Development Bank.

The positions that she has held include three terms as member of board of directors of the International Freight Companies Trade Union Association, 12 years membership and director of the department of arbitration and investigation of the complaints of businessmen and companies and businessmen with

each other and drivers with businessmen, and it is an honour for her that she has managed to resolve 95 percent of cases with amicability and conciliation between disputing parties. Fatemeh Moghimi's office in Tehran's Chamber of Commerce is very busy. Alongside men who go to her for advice in entrepreneurship, the faces of many determined and hopeful women can be seen who go to her to start entrepreneurship and or to expand and improve their businesses, and seek her guidance. This is the thing that sets her office apart from other similar offices. Here, not only the presence of women is not low, but it is very highlighted and purposeful. Ms. Moghimi provides time for all who go to her. She provides technical guidance and provides accurate answers to basic questions. She does this even in interviews.

*Ms. Moghimi please tell us about your economic life? How come you took the job of management of an international freight company as the first woman in Iran?*

In 1979 I began work in an international freight company initially in the translation department and then the trucking department, and worked for the company for three years. Because of my independence seeking spirit and ambitious mentality in 1982 I decided to work independently the execution of which was delayed by two years. The reason for the delay was due to acquiring a permit from the companies registration office, due to personal preferences and that until then no women had entered the job market in the field of freight and transportation, and there were many challenges

to overcome. Even though there is no restrictions in the law for a woman to register an international freight company, nonetheless beliefs existed which made this task difficult. I can say that this work was in a completely male dominated environment, which I intended to change. After two years of persistent follow up and follow through with various institutions finally in 1984 I managed to register my freight company, and expand my activities.

*How did you manage your family relations with your work?*

In my view, the family is the main pillar of society. If someone does not believe in family principles then they cannot have sustainable belief in the society's principle. Therefore when we start a task, at first we must pay attention to the basis of living, which is the family. On the other hand if someone wants to enter the job market as an entrepreneur, they will not be successful unless they have their family's support. Therefore these are two inalienable factors. In all women's professions and job experiences this issue is pertinent. I do not see any clashes between the function or performance of a woman outside the home and accepting responsibility at home, of course a woman who works outside the house expects cooperation from her husband and children when she gets home. But I believe that if we have time management and time tabling we can easily conduct our tasks in predetermined times.

*What challenges have you faced in the way of your work as a woman?*

The most important one was that no one imagined that a woman can ever do managerial work in the field of freight and transportation. But I do not see any obstacles or restrictions for being a women in any healthy work. I believe when there is interest then certainly there is the ability to do the job too. Only the basis for nurture must be prepared. These are the facts that I arrived at. The registration of a freight company had a difficult process for women. When I entered the industry no woman had stepped into the field. I had many difficulties until I was successful and registered my company. The first and most important difficulty was there was no belief in the presence of women in this profession. When I asked where is the legal obstacle in this, there were



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no answers. My resolve and pursuit resulted me in passing through the winding road and get a approval of companies registration. As for getting a heavy good vehicle drivers license the same difficulties existed. When I decided to get my license I met strong opposition and they prolonged my case for two years. When I asked the authorities what is the reason for their refusal to issue me a license, they said because women can't! and when I asked why/ what's the legal reason for not being able to, there were no answers. Glass barriers had completely surrounded me. I could see it was the mentality and preference of the official that had created the prohibition, and there was nowhere in the law was there any reason to not issue this credit to a woman. Finally through persistence and my tireless spirit I managed to make them issue me with heavy goods vehicle license.

*You have not limited your activities to inside Iran and been active at the international level too. Please tell us more in this regard.*

I opened and office called Women Businesswomen's Council at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce which is associated to the Ministry of Commerce and from there I began my international interactions. One of

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our international activities is cooperation with the world's universities which for apt youths, especially women we get sponsorships for short-term course and it is around seven years that for university fees apt and entrepreneur students are studying, which I believe have been very effective and continue to be.

*You were also voted the top entrepreneur too, what was the reason do you think?*

In 2012 I was voted best entrepreneur in the Islamic world by the Islamic Development Bank the headquarters of which is in Saudi Arabia.

It was because of the entrepreneur work that I had done in Iran and the region, in other words because of the classes and training courses that I had set up in developing countries. I have worked in countries such as Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam, and continue to work, but specifically because of a woman being a forerunner in the transport industry they have leaned on me. The Sharif Industrial University has published a book on my entrepreneurship which we translated with the help of my daughter. I took this book to a conference in which there were representatives from 56 countries and distributed over 300 copies, so that I didn't participate for the sake of participation only and to make an impact at least and by reading this book, women around the world believe that they can do a lot of things.

*Do you also have social activities?*

Yes because I love social activities, and I have launched a complex called Women Business women's Centre, and representatives from various organizations were present

in this Centre. I also launched a nongovernmental organization, and also an office in the Sharif Industrial University called Women's Entrepreneurship Development. I have the readiness to cooperate with various NGOs regarding the empowerment of women.

*How do you think, women can overcome difficulties? And as a successful woman what do you do for other women so that they get on the path of success?*

Women's issues and their problems have always been raised in social circles and among women's rights and human rights defenders, and today, with the more highlighted presence of women in social arenas these discussions have become more colourful. In fact with the increase in the literacy and awareness levels of women, they have reached this self belief and have worked hard to have their rights realized. Although in our country lots of improvements were made, but there are still obstacles in the way, and to remove them plenty of work must be done, and of course some of these obstacles are theoretic and attitude that requires twice as much hard work.

As for work for other women I can say that I see it as part of my duty. This is why I have always tried to empower women through holding education workshops, provide advice, technical assistance. I hold these workshops for free, because I believe it is through raising awareness and empowerment that women can surmount their difficulties. My and my colleagues' objective is through creating impetus and movement and self belief among women and girls, for them to be able to recognize their abilities and use these abilities. One of the most important tasks undertaken by us is the cultural debate of documentation. Because currently the expansion of the entrepreneurship culture among women and identification entrepreneurs in this period of time can fruition. Another important concern for us is youth employment. We try to give youths and women who have university education the self belief factor so that they can identify their abilities. We must teach our youth and women that with a small location and little investment and basic tools advances can be achieved and certainly be successful. We must teach the youth and women that with self belief and risk taking they can remove any obstacles.

*Thank you for giving Defenders Newsletter the time for the interview.*

# Middle East: The Victim of Terrorism



By:Helyeh Doutaghi  
ODVV Expert

I hope that we all have been educated enough to realize the fact that terrorism is more a political issue than a religious one. Middle East has long been the battle field of the world, or better said, of the west. Terrorism and the conflicts that are currently taking place in the region are the result of western canalizations. A brief look at the history would convince anyone that west has been a real threat to the peace and security of both Middle East and the world as a whole. And yet, they say Iran is the threat to the international peace and security for the weapon that they think it is developing. The last time Iran invaded another nation was in 1738. Since independence in 1776, the U.S. has been engaged in over 53 military invasions and expeditions.<sup>1</sup> Truth is, any Iranian nuclear activities, real or imagined, is as a result of American hostility towards Iran, and not the other way around.<sup>2</sup>

Since the attacks on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in 2001, the world entered

to a new history and the “war on terror” was officially established:

Before 9/11 because of the human rights disasters from 1980 to 2001 in the world (i.e., Rwanda genocide, Bosnian genocide), human rights issues were the center of international politics. The events of 9/11, however, made a shift in the dominant political discourse of antagonism and “terrorism” was now represented as the threat to Western values including human right.<sup>3</sup>

As Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attack of 9/11 the relationship between terrorism and Middle East was founded and hence the pretext for “war on terror” found substance. The invasion of Iraq on 2003 was the very first step taken by the US to fight the “terror” which lasted until 2011. The invasion of Afghanistan (in order to find Ben La Dan) was another attack on a sovereign state with the same justification

Although there are no agreements on definition of terrorism neither among states, international



It can be safely said then that 9/11 has been used by Western militaries as a mean to justify their ends in the region. Being present in region for more than a decade gave US the required power to control the oil industry of Iraq and the mineral resources of Afghanistan

institutions nor scholars<sup>4</sup> (which has produced many issues in terms of the subjectivity of the definition); there are however international laws which legitimize the use of military force in times of need. After 9/11 two resolutions were passed by the Security Council, neither of which authorized the use of force in Afghanistan. I find Marjorie Cohn correct to argue that "the invasion of Afghanistan was not legitimate self-defense under article 51 of the charter because the attacks on 9/11 were criminal attacks, not "armed attacks" by another country. Afghanistan did not attack the United States. In fact, 15 of the 19 hijackers came from Saudi Arabia the greatest allies of US.<sup>5</sup>

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power to control the oil industry of Iraq and the mineral resources of Afghanistan. Some scholars even went further and argued the 'just war' on Afghanistan and Iraq, are to be considered as the "resources war".<sup>6</sup> Another words, the fact that the United States has a long and torrid history of backing terrorist groups will surprise only those who watch the news and ignore history. Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), is not an exception from all this.

In addition, with respect to the discussion of linking Muslims or Arabs to terrorism, as has been mentioned above, due to the subjectivity of the definition, media (particularly in West) tends to cover the news in great depth when the Muslims are found behind the gun rather than in front of it. A 2014 study by University of North Carolina found that since the 9/11 attacks, Muslim-linked terrorism has claimed the lives of 37 Americans. In that same time period, more than 190,000 Americans were murdered due to non-terrorist reasons.<sup>7</sup>

Therefore, I would argue that terrorism has no substantial solution unless aggression on the part of western forces subsides. This, however, is not to deny the importance of presence of health and economic infrastructures in the both First and Third World as preventing factors in radicalizing groups with ideological leaning. Much of the funding that is spent on so called war on terror, if spent on infrastructures in the countries west finds itself in war with, may in fact produce more effect results in combating terrorism in the long run.

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2- Ibid.

3- Wilson, Richard Ashby, ed. "Human rights in the 'War on Terror'" (2005). Cambridge University Press. Pg. 37.

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# 2015: Critical Global Refugee Crisis

By: Haroot Azarian  
ODVV Expert

## Introduction

Fifteen years into the Second Millennia, and there are still wars and conflicts around the world, some old ones and some new ones. North Africa and the Middle East regions are ablaze with wars. From Nigeria to Libya, From Yemen to Iraq and Syria, there are bloodshed and chaos. Countries are turning into failed states. Newer and more deadly terror groups, such as ISIS are getting stronger and swallowing swathes of land in Iraq

and Syria and declaring to be Islamic State. Like, Al-Qaeda, ISIS is spreading its tentacles around the world. We see this through the acts of terror committed from Australia, to the Middle East, Europe and right across the Atlantic in Canada and the United States.

All these wars, conflicts and atrocities have created a huge displacement of people from their homes, villages and towns in their countries. Neighbouring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan



and Turkey have been host to millions of Syrian and Iraqi refugees. Over the last couple of years, Europe has become the target of refugees desperately seeking better and safer lives. The number of refugees that flood into Europe has surged in 2015.

#### **Europe: Biggest Refugee Crisis since the end of WWII**

Europe has not faced a serious refugee crisis since the end Second World War, when the whole of the continent laid in ruins with millions of people homeless and displaced.

Today, there is a new kind of refugee crisis in Europe, one in which thousands of refugees from North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia risk their lives to reach safety in Europe, through perilous cross border travelling on foot, and crammed in overcrowded boats crossing seas.

#### **First Stop: Greece**

Syrians make up a notable part of the refugees, who have had to leave their home and country to escape the horrors of war and bloodshed. The civil war in Syria has displaced millions of people. Syrian refugees await on the shores of Greece to see if their host country will fulfill its promise and register them as refugees. Perhaps they might get lucky. All these refugees had jobs and homes in their country.

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#### **The rest of Europe**

Almost every day nonstop overcrowded boats and ships leave the coasts of Turkey and Libya and head for Europe, their post of calls: Greece and Italy. Many perish in their treacherous journeys, boats capsizing, people killing and throwing each other overboard. It is estimated that up to 3000 refugees have drowned since the beginning of this year.

Refugees also make their way via foot crossing borders into FYR Macedonia, Hungary and Austria hoping to reach the EU countries that provide more social services such as Germany and Belgium. The EU countries response to this flood of refugees has

not been unison. Slovakia declared that it would only take in Christians; reasoning that due to its very low Muslim population, Muslim migrants would not be able to fit in the Slovak society. Hungary barb-wired its borders in an attempt to prevent the refugees entering the country. In the last week of August a grim discovery shocked and angered some EU leaders. A refrigerated truck abandoned on a freeway in Austria contained the lifeless bodies of 71 refugees.

### The Root Cause

When the protests, initially peaceful, began in Libya, following the protests in Tunisia, expectedly the Qaddafi regime used excessive force to quash the protests. Gradually, the situation spun out of control and a civil war began. Leading the way, France urged the UN Security Council to do something about the death of innocent civilians, and eventually a resolution was issued that created a no fly zone over Libyan airspace.

Soon on the pretext of this resolution, the French air force started bombing Qaddafi's troops which led to the toppling of the regime. All the various tribes and factions and armed groups who fought against Qaddafi could not reach an agreement on how and by whom the country should be run.

When the unrests began in Syria, Russia, a close ally of the country, who was furious over the events in Libya, was resolute to not let the Libyan mistake happen again and subsequently vetoed numerous Security Council resolutions.

The western countries and some Syrian neighbouring countries took the matters in their own hands and began arming and training rebels in Syria, the so-called Syria Free Army. But it did not take long for extremist groups like ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front to enter the fight, and the regional countries and the west began to choose and pick who to supply. And the conflict which at first could have easily been avoided through regional cooperation, turned into a bloody devastating war.

### Conclusion

What is happening in Europe today is the fruition of disastrous policies of the United States, its regional allies and the European Union. It is high time that all the bickering and finger pointing are stopped and the international community



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It should also be reminded to the EU countries that despite all the sanctions and even the 8 year enforced Iraq-Iran war, Iran successfully played host to almost 3,000,000 Afghan and Iraqi refugees, providing them with food, shelter, health services and safety

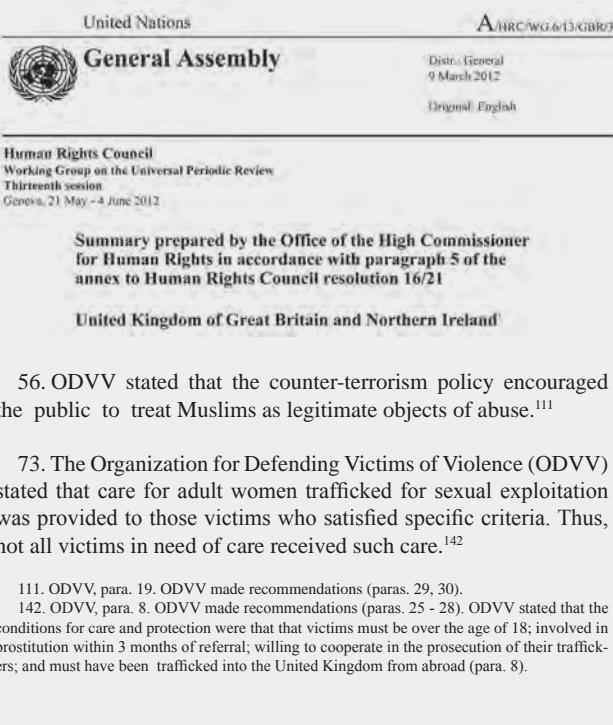
especially the instigators, got together and found a quick, sensible and lasting solution for the region's problems.

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Therefore it should not be too difficult for the EU with all its available facilities to take in these refugees, even if it is for a temporary basis until the region becomes stable again.

## I. Before the review

- Take part in national consultations
- Submit information on the human rights situation
- Lobby States



## II. During the review

- Attend the review
- Hold a side event
- Organise a screening of the webcast in the country
- Hold a press conference/statements



## III. Between the review and the report's adoption at the Human Rights Council

- Lobby the State under Review to accept recommendations

**Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have many opportunities to take part and influence the Universal Periodic Review(UPR) process.**

## IV. During the report's adoption at the Human Rights Council

- Make an oral statement
- Submit a written statement



## V. Between two reviews

NGOs have a big role to play between two reviews. They can:

- Make recommendations and pledges public;
- Monitor their implementation;
- Engage in dialogue with the State reviewed to participate in their implementation;
- Report to the Human Rights Council on the progress by publishing a mid-term report or by making a statement at any “general debate” under item .

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<b><u>Mid Term Report (2014)</u></b>	
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<b><u>(2014)</u></b>	





# A Review of the Extent of Human Rights Violations in the Middle East

By:Leila Enayati  
ODVV Expert

A look at the 21st Century Middle East, shows a region strife with ethnic, tribal and religious conflicts which on one hand has turned into a playground interests and conflicts of western countries. On the other hand in the recent years the wave of people's demands has taken a turn to violence. The result of these two is the creation of failed states, unpopular and unable to organize internally and externally, reliant to security providing powers, and as a result of all these a daily increase in the violation of human and humanitarian rights in the region. The clash of governments and people from one side and the intervention of foreign forces on the other, add fuel to the fire of human rights violations in the region, to the extent in which the military intervention of foreign powers has expanded the dimensions of massacres and violence.

In **Yemen**, following the intervention of alliance forces led by, the humanitarian crisis has increased and thousands of civilians been killed. In the latest attacks against Ta'az province alone, many homes

and villages have been bombed and 60 left dead and another 80 injured.

According to latest figures, following the attacks of the alliance to-date 23,000 have been left dead and injured. UNICEF announced that the average number of Yemeni children that have been killed or injured has reached to number of 8 per day. From 26 March till now and the start of the war in Yemen, 400 children have been killed and another 600 injured.

13 million Yemenis are suffering from food shortages and 6 million are suffering from extreme food shortages, and badly need international aid. And this means that 2 out of every five Yemenis are in need of emergency aid, and this average is on the increase.

This situation calls to remind respecting of the sovereignty of nations, the right of self determination of nations and prohibition of military intervention principles. The military attacks against Yemen is unlawful in accordance with the Geneva

Conventions, and while condemning this, the UN must provide the basis for the observation and proper implementation principles, and facilitate the judicial and executive measures for the plaintiff. Furthermore air attacks against residential and civilian areas in Yemen and the killing of civilians, are all violations of the natural and fundamental humanitarian law principles which requires the serious attention of human rights bodies.

The human rights situation in **Bahrain** continues to deteriorate. And the legislation and application of unjust laws in the country is on an increase. These include the Press law of 2002 which allows for journalists that criticise the government get arrested, the defamation and insult law of 2014, which criminalises any insult against the king, the anti-terror law which allows the security forces to persecute political opponents of the government, the 2013 law on the prohibition of all demonstrations and congregations all over the country, which has resulted in the detention of many citizens, civil activists and journalists (since 2011, more than 300 women have been detained in Bahrain and been subjected to torture), and many more laws.

Unfortunately there are numerous reports that indicate the freedom expression and belief is severely violated by the government, to such an extent that in the recent unrests a large number of journalists, reporters and media directors, and human rights defenders have been subjected to pressure and or arrested for their beliefs or news coverage of incidents and or human rights advocacy.

In **Iraq**, following the increasing crimes of the ISIS terror group, which has occupied approximately half the country, and has turned into a serious threat to the people of Iraq, the displacement of over 3 million people, the destruction of a substantial part of the economic infrastructures of the country, kidnappings, rape, the use of children in armed conflicts and the killing and injuring of over 4000 civilians are all causes for concern.

The deteriorating human rights situation of Iraq increases the urgency of the need for cooperation of the international community with the government, leadership and the people of Iraq and the economic and judicial reform of the country. Furthermore the international community must cooperate with Iraq to get rid of ISIS and reconstruct the country.



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In **Syria**, the terrorist and inhuman acts continue to take place against civilians. While reminding the articles of Human Rights Council 29th Session A/HRC/29/L.4 resolution, on the basis of the condemnation of the killing of civilians with heavy weapons, torture in prisons and detention centres, are causes for concern of the inhuman acts of terror groups in the region. Organized violence committed against civilians, the terror attacks of the numerous terrorist groups in the country with extremist religious ideologies, who are supported by a number of countries, extremist ideology and the brutality of a number of groups in the conflict theatre in Syria have exasperated the violence, does not conform to any religion, culture or civilization, and all Monotheist religions and cultures deem these types of inhuman and brutal acts only as the systematic and extensive violation of human rights and international humanitarian law principles. Perhaps the existing political and religion tensions in the country as having roots in the failure to have an apt dialogue among Syrians and supports the new people plan for Syria which is also approved by the UN Security Council be a glimmer hope for resolving the conflict.

In the Occupied **Palestinian Territories**, in the



aerial attack against Gaza by Israel in the summer of 2014 51 day war, 2149 Palestinians that included 1462 civilians - 299 women and 551 children - also the extensive destruction of infrastructures that left 100,000 people homeless, and the grave violation of the rules of war, that included the use of unconventional weapons in the densely populated Gaza region, are all clear violation of human rights and humanitarian law. This resulted in the setting up of an independent investigation commission in the Gaza Strip, which began its investigations in August 2014 but because of Israel's lack of failure its findings were based on testimonies, and published its findings on 22 June 2015. The report concludes that both conflicting sides probably committed war crimes, and following up on that on 3 July 2015 the Human Rights Council through resolution A/HRC/29/L.35 condemned Israel's committed war crimes in the 51 day conflict in Gaza. This narrative has just been a brief glance at cases and dimensions of human rights violations, war crimes, and terrorism in the Middle East, which increases the urgency and the importance of more than before of the international community's attention and human rights bodies.

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humans in international relations in today's world is very noted and reiterated, but the use of human rights as a tool or leverage has become so extensive that human rights violations are visible more than the promotion and improvement of human rights. This issue has become one of the main shortfalls and challenges in international relations which cannot improve without the particular attention of the international community and allocation of specific moral and material costs.



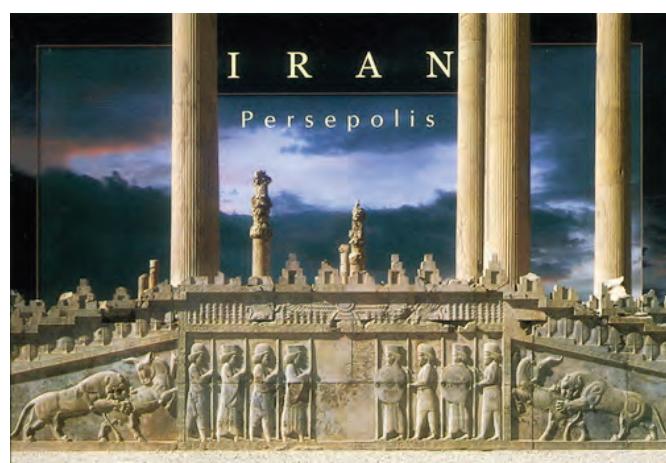
## Iran: A Record-Holder in Cultural Attractions

Compiled By: Firouzeh Mirrazavi  
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*'The most...' has been always an enticing description to human beings. This description has been the main reason which has made a lot of tourists and travelers put Iran on their itinerary. Being described by "the most" is so attractive that many people are trying to make their country be known by it in various ways. Iran, however, is a place for many record figures, but a lot of people know nothing about this. The following list encompasses instances of "the most" remarkable records that Iran holds among all countries. It would be certainly a pleasure to read about them.*

### The World's Biggest Stone Structure

The construction of Persepolis, or as has been recorded in some tablets "The City of the Persian People," started on the order of King Darius I in 518 B.C., some 55 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz on the opposite of Marvdasht Plain. The building took 120 years to become complete. The huge stone complex with an overall area of 135,000 square meters is the biggest Achaemenid building which is totally made of stone. The interesting point is that no mortar has been used to keep the stones together and big pieces of stone have been hinged together without the use of mortar.



### The First Declaration of Human Rights



What is currently covered by human rights such as freedom, equality and other human concepts according to which the rights of ethnic minorities as well as different nations and races are protected has been mentioned for the first time in the form of the law in the human rights declaration of Cyrus the Great.

### The Hottest Point on Earth

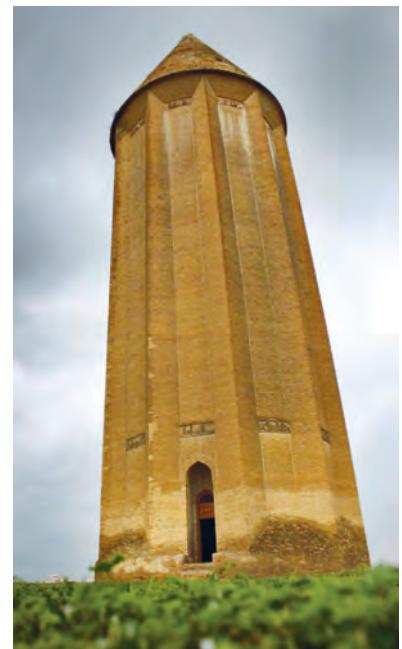


In the Lut Desert, just 80 km north of the city of Shahdad, there is a hill made up of volcanic lava with a total area of 480 square kilometers which is known as "Gandom-e Beryan (roasted wheat)" and "Rig-e Soukhteh (burned sand)" which is the hottest point on earth with a temperature of 67 degrees centigrade in the shade! There is no form of life recognized at Gandom-e Beryan, which covers a space which measures 200 km long and 150 km wide. Before this place was discovered by Professor Parviz Kordavani, the Libyan Desert in North Africa, where temperature goes as high up as 57.7 degrees Centigrade, was considered the

hottest place on earth. That record has been now given to Gandom-e Beryan. If you actually want to visit the hottest point on the planet, you should plan your trip between November and April.

### The Tallest Brick Tower in the World

Gonbad-e Qabus Tower was built in 996 AD in Jorjan (the present-day city of Gonbad-e Qabus), which was the capital city of their government. The building has been constructed using bricks and mortar and has been shaped like a multifaceted cylinder, which consist of the foundation, a water reservoir, the body, and a conical dome. Qabus Tower is located on the top of an earthen hill which stands about 15 meters above the ground. The tower is 55 meters high which when added to the height of the hill, increases overall height of the tower from the ground to 70 meters.



### The Largest Adobe Building in the World

The Arg-e Bam is the largest adobe building in the world, located in Bam, a city in the Kermān Province of southeastern Iran. It is listed by UNESCO as part of the World Heritage Site "Bam and its Cultural Landscape". The origin of this enormous citadel on the Silk Road can be Its



origin can be traced back to 6th to 4th centuries BC and even beyond. The heyday of the citadel was from the 7th to 11th centuries, being at the crossroads of important trade routes and known for the production of silk and cotton garments.

### The World's Longest Salt Cave

Namakdan (salt shaker) Cave in Iran's southern Qeshm Island is about 6,580 meters long. Before the cave was discovered, Sodom Salt Cave in Palestine was considered the world's longest salt cave with an overall length of 5,685 meters. The flow of salty water on the floor of the cave is a pleasant view. The humidity of the island and penetration of water into the cave has led to downpour of saturated salty water over the body of stalagmites continuously changing their outline. Namakdan Cave includes a salty lake with a depth of one meter, which is located 160 meters from the mouth of the cave. There is an underground river which gushes out of the depths of Namakdan Mountain, finds its way out and after solving salt on its way, comes out on the slopes of the mountain. The water flow has created a natural



pool in the pit which is located opposite to it whose color is white.

### The Biggest Urban Adobe Fabric in the World



The central Iranian city of Yazd is one of the most important historical cities in the country which is also home to a complete collection of buildings related to various periods of time including traditional bazaars, mosques, gardens, buildings, fire temples and so forth. In addition, the city contains the world's biggest urban adobe fabric with an area of 743 hectares and a perimeter of 5,000 hectares, which is also the most pristine historical fabric in the entire country.

### The Biggest Non-Independent Island in the World



Qeshm is the world's biggest non-independent island which is located in the most strategic location in the Persian Gulf; that is, at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz. The island is about 120 km long with varying width at various points. The average width of the island is about 14 kilometers. A large part of the northern coasts of the island is covered with mangrove forests over an area of 150 square kilometers. Qeshm Island has an area of 1,491 square kilometers and is thus bigger than 23 countries in the world. For example, its area is 2.5 times that of Singapore, Bahrain and San Marino; 1.5 times that of Hong Kong, 5 times that of Maldives, and 70 times that of Macao.

### The Biggest Brick Dome in the World



The Dome of Soltaniyeh is the biggest brick dome in the world and the Mausoleum of Ilkhan Oljaytu. The structure is a very exquisite mosque which is well-known in the world from the viewpoint of architecture, interior design and space. The dome is located 30 km east of Zanjan inside the rampart of the old city of Soltaniyeh. It is an octagonal building, each side of which is almost 80 meters. The Soltaniyeh Dome is built in the Arg city or old fortification of Soltaniyeh, the capital of Oljaytu, an Ilkhan ruler.

as its age has been estimated at about 4,000-4,500 years. The girth of the tree is 11.4 meters on the ground and its height has been estimated at 25-28 meters. According to some local myths, the tree has been planted by the ancient Iranian prophet, Zoroaster.



### The Hottest Spring in the World



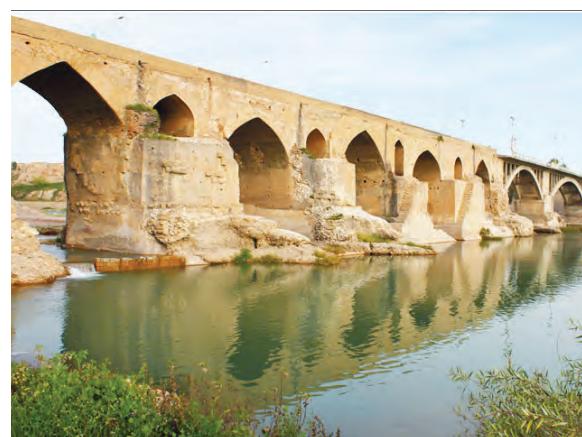
Qinarjeh hot-water spring in south of the city of Meshkin Shahr, East Azarbaijan Province, is located at a height of 1,240 meters from the sea level on the northern slope of Sabalan Mountain close to four other mineral springs. This spa, whose temperature stands at 86 degrees Centigrade, is the world's hottest chloride mineral spring and has three mouths. Due to therapeutic effects of minerals present in its water, especially high sulfur, the water of the spring is effective in treating such diseases as rickets and chronic forms of rheumatism. The high temperature of the spring also allays various kinds of pain and inflammation. There is a waterfall close to the spring which has added to the natural beauty and tourism attraction of Qinarjeh spring.

### World's Oldest Cedar Tree

A cedar tree near the city of Abarkouh is believed to be the oldest of its kind in the world

### The Most Ancient Useable Bridge in the World

This bridge is located at the center of the southwestern Iranian city of Dezful, in Khuzestan Province, and connects the eastern and western parts of the city. It has been a crossroads connecting the cities of Shushtar, Andimeshk and Dezful since very old times. According to historical accounts, the Dezful Bridge was built in 260 AD when Shapour I, the powerful Sassanid king, made 70,000 Roman captives to build the strong bridge. The bridge has 14 mouths and the Dez River flows underneath. The structure had been first repaired by the Iranian king, Azed-od-Dowleh Deylami, followed by further reconstructions under Safavid and Pahlavi dynasties. The pillars of the bridge, however, have remained unchanged as they were built by the Sassanid king.



# Legal Review of the Legitimacy of the Current Military Intervention in Yemen

By: Majid Kiani-Nejad  
Mahmoudreza Golshanpazhoo

On 25 March 2015 a coalition of forces led by Saudi Arabia began a military invention via air attacks in Yemen under the title of Resolute Storm, and they declared that the military operations were in response to the request of Yemeni president, Mansur Hadi for the protection of the people and country from the continued aggression of the Huthis in accordance to the self defence principle as stated in article 51 of the UN Charter, with all necessary tools including military intervention.

The important question is whether this military attack is legitimate in accordance to international laws?

In this article 4 internal law, international law, human rights and humanitarian law subjects are reviewed.

## a) Domestic Yemeni Law Aspect

According to articles 37 and 38 of the Yemeni Constitution, conditions that allow the intervention of another country for the stabilization of the internal situation of Yemen, have been considered in such way that conform to existing conditions. According to this law for the legitimization of the use of military force to stabilize the internal situation of Yemen: first, ratification of the parliament (article 37) and second: the ratification of the National Defence Council that's headed by the president (article 38). are required Article 37 states that: "following the ratification the Shura Parliament, declaration of mobilization of forces is the responsibility of the

president," although according to article 111 of the Constitution, the president is the highest authority of the armed forces, but he cannot independently and without getting the approval vote of the Shura Parliament, make any decisions regarding the mobilization of forces and or the intervention of other governments in the internal affairs of the country, that include military intervention.

Furthermore and according to article 38 of the constitution, the National Defence Council supreme body had not convened prior to the attack of the coalition forces, and had not made any decisions in this regard.

Therefore the attack of the Arab coalition forces on Yemen clearly, while violating the constitution of Yemen, it violated international law principles the resorting to force, interference in the internal affairs of another country, the violation of the sovereignty of Yemen, the three of which are





recognized principles in the UN Charter be justified for this aggression.

#### b) International Law Aspect

in view of the focal point of the UN Charter is the actions of countries at the international level, and since the coalition countries are all party to the Charter, it is important that the relevant articles be reviewed and analysed.

In Chapter I of the UN Charter according to Article 2(3): “All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.” This clearly states that the use of non-peaceful measures by member countries. Should be avoided. Also paragraph 4 of the same Article states: “All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.” Article 6 of Chapter 2 states: “A Member of the United Nations which has persistently violated the Principles contained in the present Charter may be expelled from the Organization by

the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.”

From the abovementioned principles it can be seen that resorting to force by UN member states against other members that contradict the objectives of the UN (international peace and security) are clearly disapproved of.

Furthermore Article 33(1) of Chapter VI states: “The parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice.”

What is notable in this Chapter is the way in which the Security Council intervenes to end disputes. On this basis, at first the Security Council will ask disputing parties to settle their differences through the aforementioned methods (33(2)). Otherwise, the parties (not just one party) must refer their dispute to the Council (Article 37), and most importantly it's the role that at the end of the Chapter (Article 38) has been considered, and that is the role of giving recommendations to disputing parties.

Articles 39 through 51 of Chapter VII deal with violation of peace and aggression. Article 51 states: "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a member state of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defense shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security."

In this regard it must be noted that the justification of the coalition and Saudi Arabia on the basis of Mansour Hadi's request to stabilize the internal situation is in no way justifiable; because he had resigned before the date of the attack, and the attack cannot be legitimized on the basis of such a request. The coalition countries could only use this justification if, first of all he had remained the president of Yemen, and secondly prior to the attack Saudi Arabia or the coalition countries had sent a report of the situation in Yemen to the Security Council, and had received the green light. Mansour Hadi only had legitimacy as a person in charge of the transition period of power in Yemen, and cannot ask Saudi Arabia for intervention as the president of the country. From UNSC Resolution 2204 it can be understood that he is not mentioned as the legal president of the country.

In this regard the principle that dents the aggression in Yemen and makes it illegitimate and illegal is Article 53(1) of the UN Charter which enforces countries to get the Security Council permission before any military operations against each other. And none of the coalition forces took this step prior to launching the attack on Yemen, and this is blatantly contrary and in violation of the Charter. It is clear that through Resolution 2216 (14 April 2015), the Security Council turned a blind eye on this grave violation, an aggression that has resulted in the killing of civilians and innocent children and the destruction of Yemeni infrastructures, and in practice the said Resolution has lost its legitimacy.

It must be said the aforementioned reasons can



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be seen as the violation of the UN Charter and the Arab Union. In view of the Charter, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states should resolve their disputes within this Organization. The same procedure applies to Arab countries in the Arab Union. Contrary to the contents of the charters of these two organizations, Saudi Arabia did not consult either of the organizations prior to launching the attack. And since Yemen is not a member of the Gulf Cooperating States, therefore no Persian Gulf country can interfere in the country's crisis. But since Yemen is a member of NAM, therefore NAM has a right to enter the debate.

### c) Human Rights Aspect

The prohibition of the unilateral military actions of the coalition countries, Saudi Arabia in Yemen can be followed up on within various human rights covenants and conventions. The most important of these documents, are the numerous articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which although Saudi Arabia was one of the eight countries that abstained in the adoption vote, but its trend, like the other countries, has been that in all these years it has not take any positions against the Declaration, and has not acted openly against



the principles of the Declaration. Furthermore, Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights pointing out the right to life and the necessity for the law to protect this right, prohibits any form of arbitrary deprivation of the right of the people. The protection of the rights of children, women and the vulnerable and the elderly, right to development, the right to a dignified living, the right to food, the right to housing, healthy drinking water, and any others are all the fundamental rights of Mankind, which have been deprived from Yemeni citizens through the military aggression of the coalition countries.

Saudi Arabia's use of cluster bombs in the bombing of Yemeni towns is another blatant human rights violation, particularly recently where with the report of HRW, in this regard which is in a way documented, alongside photos and evidence, the case gets highlighted. It must be said that the prohibition of the use of cluster weapons has been stated in a Convention of the same name, and from 2010 it is enforceable.

#### d) Humanitarian Law Aspect

The heavy military attacks and bombardments of residential and civilian areas left many Yemeni civilians, particularly women, children and the elderly dead or injured. Also the destruction of the urban infrastructures such as water, electricity and hospitals in Yemen, has been the target of the coalition forces to bring the people of Yemen to their knees. These damages and conflicts are in contradiction with the League of Nations 16 September 1924 declaration in protection of

children which was adopted under the name of the "Geneva Declaration", the UN General Assembly 14 December 1974 declaration regarding the protection of women and children during crises and armed conflict, and article 77 of the first additional protocol to the Geneva Conventions (1977) regarding special respect to children against any form of "disrespectful" attack, alongsie the contents of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Also Resolution 2444 (23) of 19 December 1968, 2597 (24) of 16 December 1969, 2674 (25) and 2675 (25) of 9 December 1970 regarding the protection of human rights and the fundamental principles regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict also refer to this approach.

The second protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions pays attention to the observation of humanitarian rights in non-international armed conflict, and it states that not only in international armed conflicts but also in civil wars the minimum humanitarian observations must be noted.

The illegitimate intervention of the coalition countries in attacking Yemen even if it is to defend the resigned president as legitimate, and it changes an international armed conflict to a non-international armed conflict, still the violation of the humanitarian rights of soldiers and civilians is unjustifiable.

In other words the coalition countries are without a doubt in violation of humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Four Conventions and their additional protocols of 1977 and 2005, by not observing the rules of war that include distinction between combatants and civilians (such as attacking hospitals, treatment centres, and sports grounds), the principle of prevention of unnecessary pain and suffering (violence and the use of banned weapons), and many other cases.

It can clearly be observed that there are no justifiable reasons for legitimization of the military aggression against the people of Yemen from legal aspects, and the continuation of this trend takes place due to the turning of blind eye of countries who claim to defend human rights, and the meaningful silence of western and Arab media in transparency of the grave violation of the human rights of the Yemeni people takes place.



## **The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) Society for Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence (SVDV) The United States of America**

This joint report (with Society for Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence) 14-page report is in two parts of challenges and recommendations. In the challenges section subjects such as privacy law, refugees and migrant workers conditions, human trafficking, women, children, racial discrimination, the right to education and access to health, prisons conditions have been reviewed. In continuation the recommendations of the ODVV have been added in each of the subjects. This ODVV report has been referred to 11 times in the Summary prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15(c) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 1/5 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 21/16

### **Recommendation**

#### **International instrument & CP rights**

Withdraw reservations, denunciations, and interpretations of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture, which undermine their compliance.

Ratify ICESCR and its Optional Protocol, the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, CEDAW, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances and the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in order to further strengthen their support to the United Nations Human Rights mechanisms.

Ratify the following conventions and protocols: the Statute of the International Criminal Court, those of the ILO, the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples, and all those from the Inter-American Human Rights System.

Proceed with the ratification of Additional Protocols I and II of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Review, reform and adequate its federal

Ensure that migrants in detention, subject to a process of expulsion are entitled to counsel, a fair trial and fully understand their rights, even in their own language

Guarantee the access of migrants to basic services, regardless of their migratory status

Avoid the criminalization of migrants and ensure the end of police brutality, through human rights training and awareness-raising campaigns, especially to eliminate stereotypes and guarantee that the incidents of excessive use of force be investigated and the perpetrators prosecuted

Consider ratifying ILO Convention 100 on equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value, and ILO Convention 111 on discrimination in employment and occupation

Ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Creation of suitable basis for the enjoyment of the right to employment and fair working conditions, to a point where workers women, minorities and migrants who have no education certificates do not become victims to prejudice or exploitation.

Recognize the right to association as established by ILO, for agricultural workers and, domestic workers and migrant.

- Reconsider restrictions on undocumented migrants' access to publicly supported healthcare.

- Make greater efforts to guarantee the access of migrants to basic services, regardless of their migratory status.

#### **Detention Condition**

- Creation of a legislative and executive basis to combat racial prejudice and preparation of the basis for equal enjoyment of the right to housing, employment and education.

- Prevent and repress the illegitimate use of violence against detainees.

- Take measures with a view to prohibiting and punishing the brutality and the use of excessive or deadly force by the law enforcement officials and to banning torture and other ill-treatment in

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and state laws, in consultation with civil society, to comply with the protection of the right to nondiscrimination established by the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, especially in the areas of employment, housing, health, education and justice

#### **Labor, migrants**

Make further efforts in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination and the abuse of authority by police officers against migrants and foreigners

its detention facilities at home and abroad.

- Take appropriate legislative and practical measures to improve living conditions through its prisons systems, in particular with regard to access to health care and education.

- Investigation of tortures allegation, extrajudicial executions and other serious violations of human rights committed in Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, Bagram, the NAMA and BALAD camps, and those carried out by the Joint Special Operations Command and the CIA.

### **Minorities**

Preparation of a programme with the aim of reduction of the growth of Islam phobia and xenophobia within society.

- Creation of a legislative and executive basis against racist campaigns committed against immigrants and minorities.

- Adopt a fair immigration policy, and cease xenophobia, racism and intolerance to ethnic, religious and migrant minorities.

- Promote equal socio-economic as well as educational opportunities for all both in law and in fact, regardless of their ethnicity, race, religion, national origin, gender or disability.

### **Guantanamo**

- Quickly close down Guantanamo prison and follow the provision of the United Nations Charter and the Security Council Resolution by expatriating the terrorist suspect to their country of origin.

- Close without any delay all detention facilities at the Guantanamo Bay as President Barack Obama has promised.

- Invite United Nations Special Rapporteurs to visit and investigate Guantanamo Bay prison and United States secret prisons and to subsequently close them.

- Prosecute the perpetrators of tortures, extrajudicial executions and other serious violations of human rights committed in Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, Bagram, the NAMA and BALAD camps, and those carried out by the Joint Special Operations Command and the CIA.

### **Woman & children**

- Take the necessary measures to consider lifting the United States reservation to article 5, paragraph 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that bans the imposition of the death penalty for crimes committed by persons under 18.

- Consider raising to 18 years the minimum age for the voluntary recruitment to the armed forces, and explicitly define as a crime the violation of the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

- End the execution of mentally-ill persons and minors.

- Further foster its measures in relation to



migrant women and foreign adopted children that are exposed to domestic violence.

- Define, prohibit and punish the trafficking of persons and child prostitution.

- Prevent slavery of agriculture workers, in particular children and women.

- Take the necessary measures in favor of the right to work and fair conditions of work so that workers belonging to minorities, in particular women and undocumented migrant workers, do not become victims of discriminatory treatment and abuse in the work place and enjoy the full protection of the labour legislation, regardless of their migratory status.

# A Brief Look at the History of Iran Playing Host to Foreign Migrants and Refugees

## Introduction

In an unprecedented move and through the wisdom of the Iranian Supreme Leader in the edict that he issued that said: "No Afghan child, must be deprived of education, even illegal immigrants who are in Iran without any documentations and they must all register in Iranian schools."

Thus Iranian schools opened their doors to all Afghan refugee children regardless of their residency status. For this historic humanitarian reason, Defenders Newsletter decided to write a comprehensive article on the long history of Iran playing host to refugees from its neighbouring countries.

## A glance at playing host to foreign migrants and refugees prior to the Islamic Revolution of '79

Iran's first experience with refugees began with the Russian revolution, a revolution that resulted in approximately the next 20 years for Iran to be faced with a steady flow of a large group of the victims of the horrors of Bolshevism.

Prior to 1929, the migration and asylum seeking of former Soviet citizens to Iran was more limited and gradual. In a period of time such as the '20s, in other words at the same time as the falling of independent Caucasus republics or the non-Bolshevik governments in Central Asia, Iran faced a notable increase in refugees, but a substantial number of them, especially those refugees who had the support of some anti-Bolshevik groups in Turkey

or Europe did not stay in Iran long, and moved to other countries. Therefore in this period in history we were not faced with the refugees phenomenon. Some such as 350 families of Ra-a-yay Taleb Ghashlaghi Nemin who returned to Azerbaijan in 1923, where those that during the unrest years had gone to the other side of River Aras and after restoration of calm returned to their homeland. And groups such as the dwellers on the north of Aras who following the fall of the Azerbaijan republic in 1921, sought refuge in Azerbaijan province, and easily settled in Iran and started a new life. Out of foreign refugees in Iran only those who had not taken up Iranian citizenship did not enter the job market, and through ups and downs, they received some sort of government financial assistance. In any event until 1926 the majority of refugees and migrants had left Iran.

During this period the main problem of refugees, particularly those that had settled within Azerbaijan province was a safety and pressure problem from the Soviet Union. These pressures had caused the numbers of those seeking refuge in Iran to increase in 1927. in view of the fact that the Iranian government at the time was faced with numerous problems, they had difficulties in housing and organizing these refugees. Therefore the government was not inclined to accept new refugees. For this reason in June 1928 the government ordered Khorasan province to refuse refugee status to new individuals.

Although considering the conditions of the time and lack of extensive control of the borders, this was impossible. Secondly those who were arrested by the police in view of the point that it was evident that they had come to Iran without having a choice, the government refrained from deporting them out of humanitarian grounds. This situation also put pressure on the government, and raised cross border tensions with the Soviet Union. According to the statistics department of the police in February 1929 alone, 173 Soviet citizens sought refuge in Azerbaijan province, most of which were looked after in Tabriz and some in Ardebil, and these numbers were expected to rise. Moscow viewed this as denting the reputation of the Soviet Union, and put pressure on the Iranian government to increase security at its borders. To put pressure on Iran, Moscow conducted a number of unofficial attacks inside the Iranian borders under the guise of highway robbers etc. to prove that the Iranians were not controlling their borders. In view of these pressures and the seriousness of the situation the government was forced to order Soviet Union bordering provinces to keep the refugees near the borders and not to transfer them further inside the country. Also there was a notable number of Iranian nationals residing in the Soviet Union for whom the Iranian government had to think of ways to facilitate their commuting, because the Soviet government was very strict on the exit of properties of the immigrants from the country.

Although following talks that were conducted between Iranian and Soviet officials at the time, particularly following the signing of the 21 May 1928 "the passage of nationals who live on bordering villages" treaty,

some of these problems were reduced. Nevertheless, the main problem, which was the identification of refugees from the usual illegal commuters, and the procedure that needed adopting for refugee remained unresolved.

Also there are no accurate statistics for the number of refugees and the numbers who repatriated for the period, but according to British consular officials in Mashhad, out of the 280 Soviet and European nationals who had sought refuge in Khorasan province, between June and December 1930, 179 were deported back and out of the remaining 101 only 19 were allowed to remain in the region, the rest were sent to the more southern parts of the country. Although later on with the setting up of the Migrants Commission at end of June 1938 the refugees and migrants issue was better organized. According to available statistics by September, 3 the same year 33,244 individuals had entered Iran as asylum seekers.

Following the creation of international mechanisms in support of refugees, for the first time in 1963, Iran gave the following definition for asylum seeker within domestic laws as, "an individual who due to political, religious or racial and or membership in a particular social group, is in fear of persecution or threat to life against the self and or members of his or her family, and seeks asylum in Iran." In 1976, Iran joined the 1972 UN Convention on the Situation of Refugees.

#### **A glance at playing host to foreign migrants and refugees following the Islamic Revolution of '79**

With the occurrence of the Iranian Islamic Revolution, the country's regional and international policies also saw some changes. With the support for

the oppressed and the poor of the world, the Islamic Revolution of Iran has always tried to support these vulnerable groups. It was with this policy that the gates of the Islamic Republic of Iran were opened to Afghan refugees, and a huge wave of Afghans who fled their country because of war and internal conflict poured into Iran, and the Islamic Republic with consideration of observation of its Islamic principles, gave them refuge with open arms, and became one of the biggest refugee accepting countries of the world. It



was due to this new Iranian policy that refugees could settle in any part of Iran without restrictions.

The periods of the entry of Afghan refugees has been very diverse. Unfortunately the people of Afghanistan have continually struggled with power conflicts, and been victims of big powers demands and wishes, and have suffered the most physical and material losses. The occupation of this country by the Soviet Union from December '79 to February '89 which left almost 1.5 million dead and six million refugees in Iran and Pakistan. Following the rise of extremist groups such as the Taliban supported by foreign powers from the

middle of 1994, another setback befell the country. Also with the US led attack against Afghanistan on the excuse of the 9/11 attacks, the fight against the Taliban took a serious turn and their eventual defeat, although on the short run voluntary repatriation of refugees saw up to 800,000 Afghans return to Afghanistan from Iran, but in the long run due to the occupation of the country and also inattention to their needs, almost 2 million Afghans entered Iran illegally.

In the initial years, the Islamic Republic of Iran provided basic services directly or indirectly (subsidies to Iranian citizens that refugees also benefited from) alone without any aid or assistance from international organizations and the UNHCR. With the passage of years of residence of these individuals and consideration of the appearance of a number of realities, economic problems and various pressures, finally the Islamic Republic of Iran, opened its doors to international organizations such as the UNHCR. Meanwhile Iranian charity and nongovernmental organizations who had entered the serving of refugees long before the international organizations, shoulder to shoulder with international organizations, continued to provide services.

The majority of refugees in Iran are Afghan, who entered Iran in the early '80s. over 70 percent of these refugees are from the Hazareh and Tajik tribes, and the rest from other tribes such as Pashtoons. According to existing figures in 2011, 57 percent of refugees were residing in Tehran, Khorasan Razavi or Isfahan provinces, and another 22 percent in Kerman, Fars or Ghom provinces. Also 8 percent of them reside in Ghazvin, South Khorasan,

Khuzistan, Gilan and Mazandaran, and 3 percent in Alburz, Semnan and Central provinces.

After the improvement of the security conditions in Afghanistan, and the formation of an internationally recognised government was formed, Afghan refugees in other countries such as Iran were inclined to return to their country, the first tripartite agreement between the UNCHR and the Iranian and Afghan governments was signed in 2002 for the facilitation of the return of Afghans to their country. According to



this agreement all the signatories were obliged to provide support services for the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Iran to other countries, and this process still continues today. But gradually, in view of the failure in fulfilling the expectations of the returnees, the trend slowed down to a point where last year only around 10,000 refugees returned to their country.

From the outset of the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees till October 2011, according to the statistics provided by BAFIA, which is governmental bureau on refugees affairs, the total number of registered refugees in the country is 882,659

which includes 840,158 Afghans and 42,501 Iraqis that have returned to their countries.

Although the conditions of refugees who have not returned to their country and have been residing for a long time (some over 30 years), there are big differences from refugees conditions in other countries, and internationally defined standards, thus subsequently to their needs, their basic education and health requirements have gone further, and often planning in proportion the new needs for the second and third generation of these groups of people have been facilitated in Iran. Furthermore the imposition of international sanctions against Iran, the global financial crisis, and the global economy crisis, have greatly affected the government's provision of services in various sectors. In the years 2011-2014, the lifting of some government subsidies such as fuel and some food goods, resulted in the rise in cost of crucial services. For example, during 2011 and 12, the school fees increased by 45 percent from the previous years, and also from 2012 medical care costs increased by 30 percent. Fuel prices also increased multiple fold. This sharp increase in costs greatly affected refugees who are often more vulnerable than the rest of the host society. Nevertheless none of these factors resulted in a huge wave of Afghan refugees to return to their countries. Various factors such as security and better economic conditions of Iran compared to Afghanistan, access to various jobs and cultural factors, which the second and particularly third generation of refugees have grown up with, resulted in the continuation of lack of inclination for return, and they remained in Iran. Also some of the individuals that had returned to their

country over the recent years, in view of the numerous security and economic problems in Afghanistan, once again returned to Iran either with passports and legally or illegally.

Currently according to the latest official figures in 2015, approximately 979,410 Afghan and 28,268 Iraqi refugees are living in Iran, 97 percent of them in urban and or suburban and rural areas, and 3 percent in 11 camps. This is while according to unofficial figures approximately 2 million Afghan refugees live in Iran, legally or illegally.

### Glossary

**Refugee status:** this is given to individuals (from other countries) that include the definitions and frameworks stated in article 1(a) of the 1951 Geneva Convention, and 2(a) of the Refugees Situation and its additional 1967 protocol.

The decision to accept the individual as a refugee is done by a government body that has specific responsibilities in the governing party, according to the relevant Convention and Protocol.

**Asylum Seeker:** a person who, from fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, social group, or political opinion, has crossed an international frontier into a country in which he or she hopes to be granted refugee status. The term asylum-seeker and refugee are often confused. An asylum-seeker is someone who says he or she is a refugee, but whose claim has not yet been definitively evaluated. On average, about 1 million people seek asylum on an individual basis every year. In mid 2014, there were more than 1.2 million asylum-seekers.

**Refugee:** The correct definition of a 'refugee' is a person who is outside the

country of nationality, and is unable to or unwilling to avail him/herself of the protection of that country due to a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

**Immigrant:** One who legally comes into a new country and settles, as opposed to an "illegal alien", who either sneaks into a new country, or enters legally, then overstays his allowed time as a visitor. There is no such thing as an "illegal immigrant" since the word "immigrant" implies legally.

**Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees:** The Convention was approved at a special United Nations conference on 28 July 1951. Denmark was the first state to ratify the treaty on 4 December 1952, which entered into force on 22 April 1954. It was initially limited to protecting European refugees from before 1 January 1951 (after World War II), though states could make a declaration that the provisions would apply to refugees from other places.

The 1967 Protocol removed the time limits and applied to refugees "without any geographic limitation", but declarations previously made by parties to the Convention on geographic scope were grandfathered. (Although, like many international treaties, the Refugee Convention was agreed in Geneva, it is incorrect to refer to it as "the Geneva Convention," because there are four treaties regulating armed conflict known as the Geneva Conventions.)

As of July 2013, there were 145 parties to the Convention, and 146 to the Protocol. Most recently, the President of Nauru, Marcus Stephen, signed both the Convention and the Protocol on 17 June 2011 and acceded on 28 June 2011. Madagascar and Saint Kitts and Nevis

are parties only to the Convention, while Cape Verde, the United States of America and Venezuela are parties only to the Protocol.

UNHCR: The UN refugee agency emerged in the wake of World War II to help Europeans displaced by that conflict. Optimistically, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly with a three-year mandate to complete its work and then disband. The following year, on July 28, the United Nations Convention relating



to the Status of Refugees - the legal foundation of helping refugees and the basic statute guiding UNHCR's work - was adopted.

By 1956 UNHCR was facing its first major emergency, the outpouring of refugees when Soviet forces crushed the Hungarian Revolution. Any expectation that UNHCR would become unnecessary has never resurfaced. In the 1960s, the decolonization of Africa produced the first of that continent's numerous refugee crises needing UNHCR intervention. Over the following two decades, UNHCR had to help with displacement crises in Asia and Latin America. By the end of the century there were fresh refugee problems in Africa and, turning

full circle, new waves of refugees in Europe from the series of wars in the Balkans.

The start of the 21st Century has seen UNHCR helping with major refugee crises in Africa, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia, and Asia, especially the 30-year-old Afghan refugee problem. At the same time, UNHCR has been asked to use its expertise to also help many internally displaced by conflict. Less visibly, it has expanded its role in helping stateless people, a largely overlooked group numbering millions of people in danger of being denied basic rights because they do not have any citizenship. In some parts of the world, such as Africa and Latin America, the original 1951 mandate has been strengthened by agreement on regional legal instruments.

In 1954, the new organization won the Nobel Peace Prize for its groundbreaking work in helping the refugees of Europe. Its mandate had just been extended until the end of the decade. More than a quarter century later, UNHCR received the 1981 award for what had become worldwide assistance to refugees, with the citation noting the political obstacles facing the organization. From only 34 staff members when UNHCR was founded, it now has more than 9,300 national and international members of staff, including over 1,050 in UNHCR's Geneva and Budapest Headquarters. The agency works in 125 countries, with staff based in 109 main locations such as regional and branch offices and 341 often remote sub-offices and field offices.

Bureau of Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs: is the main official and government body in Iran who is responsible for foreign nationals in Iran.

# ODVV

## Activities

### Participation in the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council

The 28th Session of the Human Rights Council took place from 2 to 27 March 2015 with the participation of officials from countries in Geneva, Switzerland, and over four weeks reviewed the permanent working agenda of the Council. One of the important aspects of the Session, was the submission of the human rights situation of Iran under Item 4 and the adoption of the conclusion of the UPR on Iran under Item 6 of the Council. As in previous years the ODVV has tried to have a full presence in this Session and towards the empowerment and capacity building of NGOs at international levels, for the first time, held a capacity building course for 12 NGOs in Consultative Status to ECOSOC in this Session of the Council.

#### *Preparation and Submission of Written and Oral Statements*

Two weeks prior to the start of the Session, the ODVV prepared and submitted 4 written statements on the following: Item 3 on the subject of women's conditions in Iran; Item 4 on the subject of children in the Middle East victims of armed conflicts; Item 7 on the violation of human rights in the Golan Heights; and Item 9 on the subject of Islamophobia. These statements are documented and available to read in the Human Rights Council website. The ODVV also submitted and read 6 oral statements



on the following: Item 3 on the subject of children in armed conflict; Item 4 on the spread of religious extremism in Europe/ defamation of religion; Item 5 on the subject of brutal crimes committed against religious minorities; Item 6 on the UPR on Iran; Item 7 on the Gaza conflict; and Item 9 on Islamophobia.

Also as part of impacting the human rights situation of Iran report, under Items 4 and 6 of the Council, interactive dialogue took place with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Iran. Under Item 6 where the conclusions of the UPR on Iran was adopted, representatives of Iranian NGOs were present and read two oral statements.



### *Meeting with the Special Rapporteur on Iran*

Another of the ODVV activities at the same time as the Session was an exclusive meeting with the Rapporteur on Iran, in which recommendations were given for the improvement of his report writing process.

### *Holding a Sidelines Panel on the Review of the Human Rights Situation of Iran*

This sidelines panel entitled the Review of the Human Rights Situation of Iran was another of the ODVV activities. Three main subjects in the reports of the Special Rapporteur in the UPR were discussed, which included, review of the rights and status of women in Iran, health and human rights in Iran, and the punishment limits of the

crime of drugs trafficking from international law aspects.

### *Initiative in the Putting up of the Peace and Friendship Exhibit at the Broken Chair Square in Geneva*

In this exhibit the activities of 12 Iranian NGOs alongside the traditional Iranian Haft Cin spread and banners with slogans: "Peace, Friendship and Rejection of Violence and Extremism" was presented at the Broken Chair Square in front of the Southern Gate of the European headquarters of the United Nations, in a place busy with tourists and pedestrians and where UN workers, member states representatives and NGOs went to and fro.

## **Holding of Technical Sitting on the Effect of the Family on Damage and Self Development**

This technical sitting was held on the occasion of the International Day of Families by the ODVV in May 2015 in the conference Hall of the ODVV. The sitting began with the reading of the UN Secretary-General's message for the day by the representative from UNIC in Tehran.

Next in the sitting, which was held with the presence of family therapists and psychologists from counseling centres, Dr. Jaleh Afshari-Monfared pointing to the importance of the family as the first environment that can shape the



damage or development of a person, and said: "Since damage starts from the moment of birth and threatens the individual throughout life, it needs the attention of family therapists experts in a scientific and technical way."

Most parents need therapy themselves and due to lack of awareness and having their own damaging experiences, they are the creators of various mental damages themselves. Clarification of feelings and emotions that are shaped in the family environment and in relation with the parents in the self of the individual is an important issue that is not analysed enough in

family therapy.

Since some parents are unhealthy and their children fall victims to their lack of health and this escalates the cycle of creation of violence, the abuser and victim of abuse, therefore for the starting of a healthy, balanced and developing family, culture building and education must be considered as two damage prevention factors. At the end the creation of a safe, healthy and happy environment, having developing and suitable relations and away from mental damages and a violence free environment are the most importnt priorities of the family.

## Technical Sitting on the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Child Sexual Abuse Victims



On the occasion of the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, in June 2015 the ODVV held a technical sitting on the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of child sexual abuse victims in the ODVV conference hall, with the presence of experts and psychotherapists active in the governmental and nongovernmental sectors. In this sitting, while deeming necessary education for the prevention of child abuse in different age ranges the necessary methods to educate parents, teachers and individuals that are in contact with children, the child therapist Dr.

Parisa Jahanlou explained: "domestic violence is one of the most important factors in children falling victim to sexual abuse. Feeling of guilt, worthlessness, nightmares, and isolation in the family and society are the most important psychological signs in victims of sexual abuse."

Stressing on the priority in prevention of sexual abuse of children, this therapist stressed: "the education and training departments of the country must more seriously and determination work towards provision of necessary education of lower age groups, and education of children for the prevention of child abuse must begin from 3 to 5 years of age, in accordance with international standards and recommendations. With regards to child abuse, prevention and education is more important than the treatment. Crisis intervention, the removal of signs such as fear and anger, giving trust, allowing to drain negative and hurtful emotions based on draining of anxiety and emotions are the most important measures that the therapists must take."

At the of the sitting, the participants spoke about their experiences in treatment of victims of sexual abuse, and how they treated the victims.

## Participation in the 29th Session of the Human Rights Council

The 29th Session of the Human Rights Council began on 15 June at Palais de Nations and ended on 7 July.

The ODVV's activities in this Session included: holding panel on "Yemen, Victim of Global Silence" with the participation of Khiam Institute of Lebanon and AMMAN Network, panel the human rights situation in Yemen (Stop the Violence), submission of more than ten written and oral statements, distribution of books and thematic reports.

### Written and Oral Statements

The ODVV submitted and read 5 oral statements on the following: Item 5: General Debate, Our Right to Peace; Item 4: General Debate, Ongoing Unprecedented Atrocities in Iraq; Item 3: General Debate, Economic Sanctions: Systematic Violation

of Human Rights; Item 9: General Debate, Islamophobia; Item 7: General Debate, Israel the Biggest Violator of Children's rights.

Also in this Session the ODVV submitted 5 written statements which are available in the Human Rights Council website under Item 5: Human Rights: Power v. Peace; Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention, Ongoing Unpredicted Atrocities in Iraq; Human rights situations that require the Council's attention: Sanctions :Systematic Violation of Human Rights; Human rights situations that require the Council's attention: Saudi Arabia's Human Rights Situation; Human rights situations that require the Council's attention: Yemeni People Are Deprived of Their Human Rights.

## Commemoration of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture



to return to normal life."

Touring the Peace Museum, reading of the UN Secretary General's message for the day, ODVV director Siavash Rahpeik's speech and the holding of two scientific panels on the rehabilitation of victims of torture were the highlights of the event.

Mr. Rahpeik said: "this year's slogan of

numerous covenants, conventions and treaties and monitoring and the improvements that have been made across the world, sadly a new face of inhuman behaviours and torture can be seen around the world. From Guantanamo to Abu Ghraib to the criminal behaviour of groups like ISIS, it seems the modern hypocrisy is the most suitable name for today's world's conditions.

The hope to breathe in a world void of poverty violence and discrimination and crime, can only be possible with willpower and the full actions of all governmental and nongovernmental sectors in all countries. We must all, endeavour for the reduction of humanity's problems in a world that crime is becoming routine, through information dissemination, education, production of scientific and practical contents and effective presence in all decision making levels."

Next the UN Secretary General's message for the day was read by the deputy to UNIC in Iran.

In another part of the ceremony, university lecturer, Dr. Mirzaee, who was in a sidelines panel on the subject of the rehabilitation of torture victims, said: "active therapists who are in contact with victims of torture, must be in command of the support, mental and cognitive-behavioral therapies, and have the right skills. "This lecturer explained the three therapy and rehabilitation approach process and said: "in view of UN's approach this year, we, as those that have the duty to treat and rehabilitate torture and violence victims, must have more responsibility towards the past, and provide help so that the victims can return to a normal life, and once again enjoy hope, happiness and security."



The next speaker was university lecturer Dr. Khaji, who stressed on the prevention of this vile phenomenon and said: "although the adoption of laws for the prevention of torture and the observation of conventions and protocols is necessary, but the adoption of these laws for prevention alone is not practical.."

Dr. Khasi pointed out the strengthening of human values for the prevention of any form of torture and said: "Since despite all international preventive laws and leverages, unfortunately torture continues to be committed, we must confront torture and violence with the inner, moral and humanitarian levers."

At the end of the ceremony the Peace Treaty was read by the experts, therapists and participants.