



Sanctions and the People with Disabilities

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Six Facts about the Impact of Sanctions on Persons with Disability

Currently, America's comprehensive sanctions have impacted the lives of thousands of Iranians with disabilities and created countless problems for them. This report has been prepared with the cooperation Disability Association of Tavana as an active support organization working in the field of disabled Iranians, which for years has worked towards creating jobs for individuals with disabilities. And the report focuses on parts of the impact of the sanctions imposed on the country and the suffering that they have caused for the lives of individuals with disabilities.

1 – Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states: “States Parties recognize the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the present Convention, and will undertake appropriate and effective measures in this regard, between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities.” Unfortunately, in spite of being one of the signatories to the Convention, the United States has totally disregarded the

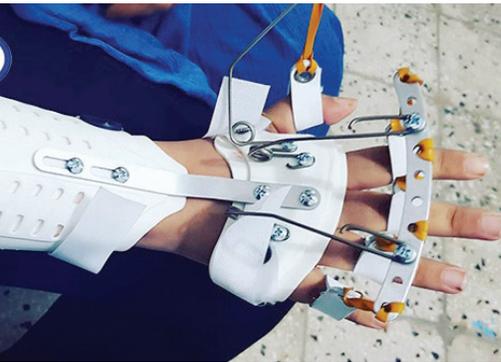


Convention by imposing comprehensive unilateral sanctions on Iran.

2 – Today, getting drugs and medicines for patients and rehabilitation equipment for the disabled have been impacted by comprehensive unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States against Iran. Inflation, shortage of medicine and equipment and especially problems caused by bank transactions, has further hurt women, children, the elderly, the sick and individuals with disabilities. Also, unilateral sanctions on third parties, and threatening and forcing

other countries not to do business with Iran, towards this political action of the United States, has threatened the jobs of the disabled working in manufacturing companies and factories.

3 – The most significant negative impact of the US comprehensive economic sanctions is seen in the disabled’s access to drugs in the following ways;



- Reduction in the production of drugs for special patients.

- Rise in unemployment and wage cuts and reduction in the financial ability of individuals with disabilities for their health care.

- Slowing down and lengthening of the time of the provision of raw materials for drug producing and importing companies.

- Poorer quality drugs and health services and thus the spreading of

diseases.

- Alarming reduction in access to necessary vaccines.

- Since America’s economic sanctions have crippled bank transactions, the chain of the provision of drugs by these companies has also been crippled. For the production of one drug sometimes more

than 15 different compounds are needed from different companies in different countries. Hard and complex bank transactions have made drugs companies unable to provide the needed raw materials and compounds in time. Since for the production of one drug, ten various compounds are required, not being able to get just one compound will disrupt the production of that drug.

4 – Currently 97 percent of Iran’s drugs are provided by domestic production companies. If companies are unable to get all the drug compounds in time, then the production and sale cycle will be

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Article 4: (f) To undertake or promote research and development of universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention, which should require the minimum possible adaptation and the least cost to meet the specific needs of a person with disabilities, to promote their availability and use, and to promote universal design in the development of standards and guidelines;

(g) To undertake or promote research and development of, and to promote the availability and use of new technologies, including information and communications technologies, mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, suitable for persons with disabilities, giving priority to technologies at an affordable cost;

disrupted. As a result, drug production will come to a halt, workers will lose their jobs, and the cost of drugs will increase due to rise in manufacturing costs and ultimately a reduction in domestically manufactured drugs. Although only 3 percent of drugs in Iran (based on quantity) are imported but the nearly 35 percent of value of the Iranian market relies on imported drugs. This is why imported drugs are specialised and expensive. For years these drugs were imported from the United States and Europe but currently the direct and indirect repercussions cause shortages and lack of access of the

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Article 32 : States Parties recognize the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the present Convention, and will undertake appropriate and effective measures in this regard, between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities. Such measures could include, inter alia: (a) Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities; (b) Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes

disabled to these drugs.

Furthermore due to high prices and the geographic location of Iran, the chances of smuggling fake forms of these drugs from bordering countries due to the sanctions have increased.

5 – The current economic conditions are putting further pressure on the weak and low income groups and among them individuals with disabilities, pensioners and the elderly's conditions are even worse. Meanwhile, shortage of rehabilitation equipment, wheelchairs and clothes for the disabled is strongly evident among senior citizens

and best practices; (c) Facilitating cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge; (d) Providing, as appropriate, technical and economic assistance, including by facilitating access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies,



and through the transfer of technologies(g) To undertake or promote research and development of, and to promote the availability and use of new technologies, including information and communications technologies, mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, suitable for persons with disabilities, giving priority to technologies at an affordable cost;

and the disabled. Under comprehensive sanctions, provision of clothes and medical equipment for physically disabled individuals is difficult, even those disabled who have their own finances cannot get the products due to shortage or lack of what they need.



6 – The increase in the price of orthopaedic equipment has resulted in some patients to change their minds in having necessary surgeries. With the tripling of the price of orthopaedic equipment in the country and due to the negative impact of sanctions on prices and reduction in accessing these goods, some patients refrain from having necessary surgeries.

Meanwhile, sharp rise in the price of wheelchairs is also very evident. Currently, on average the disabled spend 10 to 12 hours on wheelchairs and if these chairs are of poor quality, the disabled start having issues such as back curvature. Good quality wheelchairs cost up to 7000 dollars, which is practically impossible for a disabled person to afford.