

Bureau of Services for Women's Employment	Ministry of Cooperation, Labor, and Social Welfare	Services such as finding jobs, entrepreneurship, and legal assistance are provided in these bureaus
Bureau for Protecting the rights of Women and Children	Judiciary	Various issues such as social work, legal counseling, and follow-up of women's rights are dealt with in these bureaus. At the moment, these bureaus are stationed in all provincial judicial departments
General Directorate of Human Rights	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
Bureau of Ladies and Consultants	Municipalities	These bureaus are active for cultural development and promotion and improvement of women's citizenship circumstances around the country. Cultural-athletic centers such as community cultural houses have also been established, many of which are specific to young girls and women

In the 11th administration (2013-2017) which came to power in 2013, three women serve as Presidential Deputies and one as the Presidential Assistant for Citizenship Rights. In 2015, a female ambassador was appointed for the first time. At the moment, the position of Advisor or Director-General for Ladies has been anticipated in all administrative institutions at the ministerial and provincial levels (General Governorates and Governorates), the IRI Broadcasting, and the Armed Forces. In accordance with a Government adoption, the Advisors for Ladies have the right to vote and the power of decision-

making in the supreme council of their institution. In addition, the highest percentage of the management of ladies is in the Ministry of Education.

The share of women in Parliament seats has risen 450% from the first to the ninth term. The rate of candidacy for Parliamentary elections has also witnessed a 400% growth. In the current 10th Parliament, the number of female MPs has reached 18 which demonstrate a doubling in the overall number compared to the ninth term.

Table (15): The number of the MPs disaggregated by their term

	Term	Date of elections	Number of female candidates	Number of female MPs
Parliamentary elections	1	1980	66	4
	2	1984	28	4
	3	1988	37	4
	4	1992	81	9
	5	1996	320	10
	6	2000	513	13
	7	2004	828	12
	8	2008	611	8
	9	2012	249	9
	10	2016	1234	18
	Total		2732	73

(Source: Statistical Yearbook 2016, Iran Center of Statistics)

Another decision-making body in the IRI is the Islamic City and Rural Councils. The growth rate of the female members of these councils during 1997-2013 was 450%. Table 16 shows the number of female candidates and members over four terms.

Table (16): The number of the members of the Islamic City and Rural Councils disaggregated by their term

Elections of the Islamic City and Rural Councils	Term	Date of elections	Number of female candidates	Number of female MPs
	1	1999	7276	1375
	2	2003	5867	2336
	3	2007	7129	1410
	4	2013	12096	6096
Total			32268	11217

(Source: Statistical Yearbook 2014, Iran Center of Statistics)

The table below looks into certain other domains of women's political participation in Iran.

Table (17): The extent of women's sociopolitical participation in certain institutions

Item	Facts
1	In the Ministry of Interior, there are currently 107 female directors in provincial governorates including one deputy governor-general, 38 director-general deputies, two governors, nine governor deputies, 22 district governors
2	Approximately 7200 staff of the IRI Law Enforcement are women
3	There are 48 women as representatives of women in Government institutions and organizations
4	In the Ministry of Education, there were 416 senior managers, 26,941 school principals, 331,850 teachers, 24,164 educational deputies, 597 general affairs deputies, 16,231 moral education deputies, 4070 technology deputies, 13,485 administrative deputies, and 9545 moral coaches working in the 2015-2016 school year
5	There are 17 women's political parties active in Iran. The number of the female founders of organizations which have been requested in 2015 and 2016 is 13

Women also have a significant presence in Iran's judicial system as there are over 800 judges in the Judiciary, mostly in family courts. Table 18 represents the number of female judges and their judicial positions.

Table (18): The number of female judges disaggregated by their position (2016)

Judicial position	Number of persons
Barrister of provincial appeal courts and the Judiciary Headquarters	5
Judicial advisor (female advisors in family, general, and courts of revolution)	165 (163 in family courts)
Prosecutor deputies (provinces and cities)	12
Judicial deputies of the heads of justice departments	8
Deputies of the heads of judicial departments	11
Prosecutor assistants	557
Verdict enforcement judges	32
Judges of dispute settlement councils	36
Judicial apprentices	11
Total	837

(Source: The report of the Judiciary Deputy of Human Resources to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Participation in the Books and Media Sector

Women in the IRI have had many activities and played a noteworthy role in the cultural arena and the generation of knowledge and science. The share of women in the media constitutes a sizeable figure as there are currently around 1200 female directors of media with almost half of the journalists and reporters being ladies. In addition, the number of periodicals specifically for women in 2015 was 27 which reached

34 with an increase of 20% by the end of 2016. At the same time, out of the total 500 active journalists who managed to receive professional journalism cards, 200 were ladies.

Women bear a considerable role in publishing periodicals and books and are the directors, editors, and publishers of many of them. In 2015, 291 books were published on the subject of women and families. The number of this category of books is 6883 in the period between 1978 and 2015.

Table (19): The number of books published on the subject of women and families in the period between 1978 and 2015

Subject	Number (2015)	Number (1978-2015)
Number of books published on the subject of women and families	1	37
Number of books published on the subject of women – first publication	148	3131
Number of books published on the subject of women – republication	58	2312
Number of books published on the subject of families – first publication	63	771
Number of books published on the subject of families – republication	21	632
Total	291	6883

(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2015)

In 2015, 15,448 books were written and/or translated by women with the same figure standing at 248,215 for the period between 1978 and 2015.

Table (20): The number of published books written by women disaggregated by subject in the period between 1978 and 2015

Subject	Number (2015)	Number (1978-2015)
General	215	5680
Philosophy	727	12826
Religion	794	10845
Social sciences	2043	25293
Language	913	15874
Natural sciences and mathematics	1635	21318
Applied sciences	2065	39682
Art	482	7838
Literature	2073	22527
History and geography	530	7514
Children	4011	67809
Total	15488	248215

(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2015)

In the period between 1978 and 2015, 42,092 female writers and 14,881 female translators were active with 2537 women being publishers. From this total, 819 cases were related to 2015.

Table (21): The number of female writers, translators, publishers, and writers/publishers in the period between 1978 and 2015

Subject	Number (2015)	Number (1978-2015)
Female translators	1898	14881
Female writers	5047	42092
Female publishers	765	1775
Female writers/publishers	54	762
Total	7764	59510

(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2015)

Protecting needy Women

Among the strategic goals of the IRI's development plans is poverty alleviation, especially regarding women, through providing social security, financial support, entrepreneurship, and support of cooperatives. Based on the existing statistics of the Iran Center of Statistics, the spouses of 71.4% of female heads of households were deceased and

around 10% of them became heads of households as a result of divorce while 5% were never married.

Different institutions such as the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee and the Department of Welfare provide protection and empowerment services to women and girls with no caretakers. The most significant mechanisms of protecting women's rights are described in Table 22.

Table (22): The mechanisms of protecting the rights of needy women

Name of the mechanism	Organizational stance	Notes
Hotlines	Judiciary	Providing legal counseling on different issues related to women including violence
Counseling centers	Judiciary	Establishing counseling centers alongside family courts in accordance with the obligations stipulated in the Family Protection Act (2012)
Bureau of Women and Families' Empowerment	Department of Welfare	Empowering and providing protection services to individuals and groups who are left out of a normal life routine
Center for Social Emergencies	Department of Welfare	Identifying, controlling, and reducing social harms
Social Work Clinic	Department of Welfare	Developing and establishing 344 clinics around the country to provide services to needy women
Social Emergency	Department of Welfare	Providing mobile social emergency services to needy women and establishing 153 telephone lines around the country
Social Services Base	Department of Welfare	Providing social services in vulnerable areas
Bureau of Semi-Family Affairs	Department of Welfare	Empowering children and adolescents with no caretakers or under inadequate care
Bureau of the Affairs of Victims of Social Harms	Department of Welfare	Controlling and reducing social harms
Center for the Protection and Rehabilitation of Women and Girls Subjected to Social Harms	Department of Welfare	Launching 26 centers around the country
Health Home for Girls Subjected to Social Harms	Department of Welfare	Launching 31 centers around the country
Health Home for Girls Subjected to Social Harms	Department of Welfare	Launching 24 centers around the country
Addiction Counseling Hotline	Department of Welfare	Providing services over the phone to individuals exposed to drug abuse

The population covered by the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee extends beyond one million female heads of households which would sum up to approximately 2.6 million in 2015 taking into consideration the members of these households. The Committee implements numerous programs annually to protect and empower the women covered in the fields of education, housing, occupation, loans, and legal assistance especially in rural and less advantaged areas. The Department of Welfare too implements different measures to protect women in need³.

The Judiciary Bureaus of Protecting Women and Children also conduct the following extensive activities to protect vulnerable women and children: following up on the legal and judicial problems of the target group, providing legal-judicial counseling, psychology, social work, visiting women's wards in penitentiaries, holding training workshops on citizenship rights, etc. Legal and judicial protection was rendered to 103,456 women in 2015 and to 91,149 women in 2016. A total of 123,857 cases of legal assistance were provided for women in 2015 with the same number in 2016. In 2015 and 2016, 332 and 278 women, respectively, were awarded amnesty. Table 23 includes all the above information.

Table (23): The measures of the Judiciary Bureaus for Protecting Women and Children (2015 and 2016)

Measure	2015	2016
Legal and judicial protection of women	103456	91149
Legal and judicial assistance to women	123857	123857
Awarding women amnesty	332	278

(Source: The report of the Judiciary Cultural Deputy to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Preventing Gender-Based Discrimination

The Constitution of the IRI declares the prohibition of discrimination in numerous articles. Accordingly, Paragraph 9 of Article 3 obligates the Government to engage in eliminating unjust discrimination against all. Furthermore, Paragraph 14 of the same article stipulates the equality of men and women before the law. To this end, Article 19 states that the Iranian nation enjoy equal rights and identifies the fields such

as language, race, and the like where discrimination has to be eliminated. Article 20 also holds that all citizens, men and women, enjoy equal protection in the eyes of the law and are entitled to all human, political, economic, social, and cultural rights while observing Islamic principles.

The Outlook of the IRI in 2025 which portrays the features that the Government must attain by 2025 emphasizes generally the actualization of equal opportunities and eradication of discrimination. The Penal Proceedings Act (enforced in 2015) stipulates that all individuals under the age of 18 who are in conflict or contact with the law – regardless of their gender – should be subject to specific proceedings such as juvenile courts. The Protection of Children and Adolescents Act (adopted in 2002) stipulates in its Article 1 without any discrimination between girls and boys that all children enjoy the protections noted in this legislation.

The National Document of the Rights of Children and Adolescents (2016) has been drafted within the framework of the Five-Year Plan of Action of the National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The document provides equal protection to all individuals under the age of 18 regardless of their gender in all the strategies, programs, and activities anticipated but also renders special protection measures to young girls vis-à-vis gender-based discrimination and prevention of discrimination.

In the insurance policies regarding the entitlements of the staff employed in private and public sectors and issues related to the allowances for children, insurance premium, and pension which is given to their children following the demise of the staff, girls are given more protection compared to boys due to their vulnerability. Accordingly, the daughters of the demised are covered by their parents' insurance so long as they are not employed or married while the sons can enjoy the insurance only up to the age of 20 or 25 if they are studying.

Criminalization of Domestic Violence

Prevention of violence against women at the levels of prevention, protection, and rehabilitation has been emphasized with many interventions in place to this end. The most significant legal measures of recent times in line with the criminalization of domestic violence have been described in Table 24.

³ For further information on the most significant measures affected by the Department of Welfare Bureau of Women and Family in 2016, see the section on poverty alleviation and rural development of this report.

Table (24): The measures in line with criminalization of domestic violence (2015 and 2016)

Item	Subject
	<p>Producing the Preliminary Draft Bill on the Comprehensive Provision of Women's Security against Violence (2015): Regarding the access of women who are victims of violence to justice especially judicial justice, the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families undertook the drafting of this bill in its agenda; the text is currently undergoing its finalization. The following are examples of what has been included in the Bill:</p>
1	<p>Understanding the concept of violence and identification of its different typologies including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence and unhealthy practices (such as early and forced marriages), etc; Drafting the terms of reference of the authorities responsible to combat violence; Incorporating protection, prevention, and civil measures in the process of fighting with violence; Criminalizing examples of domestic violence; Predicting cases as penal proceedings regarding fighting violence against women.</p>
	<p>Producing the Final Draft of the National Document for the Security of Ladies and Children in Social Relations (2015): The document was drafted by the Ministry of Interior's Bureau of Women and Families and is undergoing its finalization. In terms of the issue of providing of security generally and providing security of women against domestic violence specifically, it aims at the following strategic goals:</p>
2	<p>Developing national, regional, Governmental, and non-governmental women-friendly capacities in social relations; Developing the equity-based system and adopting legislation regarding women's security; Unity of management on women's social security.</p>
(Source: The report of the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families to the National UPR Committee, 2016)	

The major protection interventions of pertinent institutions aimed at preventing violence against women have been described in Table 25.

Table (25): The major protection interventions of pertinent institutions aimed at preventing violence against women

Item	Category	Notes
1	The protection measures of the Department of Welfare	Implementing the initiative to prevent domestic violence with the goal of promoting awareness among women and girls as the pivot of families through providing services in: 31 centers of temporary residence for shelter-less women subjected to domestic violence in order to secure their health against social harms, 32 health homes for girls seeking shelter through providing health, educational, moral, and welfare services, 22 social rehabilitation centers for women subjected to harm through providing health, treatment, educational, moral, and welfare services
2	Free-of-charge legal counseling and representation for women subjected to violence	According to the agreement signed between the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families and Central Bar Association, women who cannot afford counseling and representation fees are entitled to free-of-charge legal counseling, free-of-charge lawyers for legal disputes, and cheap lawyers for penal proceedings. According to this agreement, women who are victims of crimes, violent acts, and gender-based violence in particular receive specific attention
3	Holding scientific meetings	Holding a series of scientific meetings on the role of religious leaders in preventing violence against women (especially young girls): these meetings are held twice a year in the form of four separate meetings by the National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in terms of identifying incidences of violence against children especially girls
4	The IRI Broadcasting	In line with enhancing the conditions of women and families, the IRI has produced 7359 hours of program

Prohibition of Girls' Forced and Early Marriages

Article 50 of the Family Protection Act adopted in 2012 has criminalized the marriage of men with girls younger than the age of 13 without observing the conditions envisaged in Article 1041 of the Civil Law; in other words, the marriage of girls under the age of 13 and boys under 15 without the permission of the child's legal caretaker and the permit of the family court is prohibited. Furthermore, any intervention of the parents in the marriage of their underage children committed in violation of Article 1041 of the Civil Law is prohibited. As for cultural capacity building and promoting the prohibition of forced and early marriages, several training workshops have been held with the theme of expounding upon the disadvantages of such marriages.

Children's Rights

Children's Rights

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.45	Continue to pursue the adoption and implementation of administrative measures aimed at the promotion and protection of the rights of the child;	Pakistan
138.87	Facilitate social inclusion of women to prevent violence against women and children as well as discrimination based on sex and social status, by improving domestic mechanisms and the adoption of legislative measures for the social integration of women;	Tajikistan
138.93	Intensify efforts for the enhancement of the cultural, social and economic rights of women, children and people with disabilities ;	Lebanon
138.99	Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of women and children;	Algeria
138.108	Continue the endeavors to enhance the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities;	Qatar
138.110	Continue to take measures to strengthen mechanisms for the protection of the rights of women and children;	Uzbekistan
138.194	Continue adequate measures for addressing the special needs of women and protecting children from violence;	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
138.217	Continue to realize concrete measures for the protection of the rights of the child and continue Government support for the institution of the family;	Russian Federation
138.252	Continue to implement programmes in the area of education, health and social empowerment and integration of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and the disabled, through the established national mechanisms as well as with the relevant NGOs and international organizations;	Brunei Darussalam
No. Rec	Accepted Recommendations /Partially	Country
138.156	Ban executions of juvenile offenders, while at the same time providing for alternative punishments in line with the new Iranian Penal Code;	Italy

Population of Persons Under 18

According to the 2011 census, 30.22 % of the country's total population was made up of people who were under 18 years old. Table 1 displays more information about the demography.

Table (1): Statistics of the Population under 18 and Its Proportion to the Total Population According to Sex

Description	number
Total population of the country	75149669
Number of the children under 18	22712821
Proportion of under 18 population to the total population	30.22 %
Number of the boys	11112840
Number of the girls	11599981

(Source: The Report of the National Authority of the Convention on Rights of the Child to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

New Mechanisms for Protecting Children's Rights

The Constitution of Islamic Republic of Iran, complying with the Islamic laws, has considered physical, intellectual, social and judicial requirements of children and teenagers logically and reasonably. In regard to Iran's accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991, it is attempted to reform the laws and regulations as much as possible in order to improve and guarantee the rights of the children in recent years. Table 2 represents the measures which were taken to create new mechanisms for protecting children's rights in 2015 and 2016.

Table (2): Measures in Creating New Mechanisms for Protecting Children's Rights (2015 and 2016)

Row	Measures
1	Proposing the bill of children and teenagers' protection by Judicial System and passing it to the House of Representatives in 2016
2	The approval of a comprehensive action plan for children and teenagers' rights up to 2025 in Feb 2015 and implementing it from 2016 for 10 years
3	Approval of "The Document of Alliance System on Students' Social Care " aimed at social protection, fulfillment of progressive prevention and integrated development of students, empowering and intersectional collaboration in December 2015 in the meeting of Supreme Council of Welfare and Social Security
4	Preparing "Social Harms Atlas" segregating into different provinces and cities aiming at creating a transparent picture of social harms in provinces and cities including child abuse, educational deprivation, local and regional planning for controlling and decreasing social harms like social harms to children
5	Proposing the bill of reduction of mothers' working hours under certain circumstances (with children below 6, with handicapped children or husband, or being the head of household); according to this law, due to their request, the working hours of working mothers are reduced from 44 hours a week to 36 hours with the same payments and salaries
6	Codification of enacted regulation of child friendly city in July 2016 and its enactment and general standardization of traffic transportation, socio-cultural, municipal health centers, urban planning and architecture, people and social cooperation and establishing committees to monitor and pursue the enforcement of legislation.
7	Contributing to facilitation of establishing non-governmental charity institutes in social support of children through revising guidelines of establishment and administration of and non-governmental institutes
8	Launch of children database under the title of "Human Treasure" in 2015 and 2016 which has categorized the data on children under 18 according to their demographics, capabilities and the type of received services as defined by the CRC

(Source: Report of National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Ensuring access of children requiring education⁴

Table 3 illustrates the measures taken in line with children access to education and the promotion of educational equity in 2015 and 2016.

Table (3): Measures Taken for Children Access to Education

row	measures
1	Planning to educate 52000 children dropped out of school in 2016 and 2017
2	Planning and implementation of social protection program for children who are deprived of education in 7 provinces in 2015 and 2016, aiming at contributing these children to return to their schools with cooperation of non-governmental organizations (protecting 2980 children)
3	Supporting the development of literacy among Nomads in four provinces of East Azerbaijan, Ardabil, Fars and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Provinces
4	Establishing schools for out-of-school children in Golestan Province
5	Paying educational stipend to 8000 people of protected families in order to prevent children dropouts and academic failures in 2016

(Source: Report of National Authority of the convention on the Rights of the Child to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Protection of Children in Rural and Less-advantaged Areas

Table 4 shows the most important works done in support of children of rural and less-advantaged areas.

Table (4): The Most Important Measures Taken for Protection of Children in Rural and Disadvantaged Areas (2015-2016)

row	The Activity Title	Quantitative Goal	
		2015 (Person)	Prediction of 2016 (Person)
1	The number of children benefited from the kindergartens' services	649486	694950
2	The number of orphan children and victims of bad parenting covered by the Welfare Organization	24637	25000
3	Providing a hot meal for children in rural kindergartens	143461	181266
4	Promoting skills and discharging children under guardianship	530	605
5	Making contributions to low-income families by paying Kindergartens' tuition	37500	20000
6	Helping to build and sustain kindergartens in less-advantaged areas, suburbs and unofficial settlements	225	225
7	Helping to develop, equip and sustain rural kindergartens	1000	1000
8	Subsidies to take care of children in care centers and non-governmental organizations	8000	9000
9	Paid subsidies to families for looking after children and teenagers under the auspices of Welfare Organization	14500	16000
10	Proposing nutritional security programs for children under 6	-	52391
11	Proposing nutritional security programs for pregnant women	-	888

(Source: The Report of Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare to the National Committee UPR, 2016)

⁴ To get more information about children benefiting from education, study the chapter on rights to the education

Children of Foreign Nationals and Refugees (Including Illegal Nationals)

The number of refugee children and immigrants who receive services from Welfare Organization was 2046 in 2015 and it was 2100 in 2016. The following Table give a more precise demonstration of actions done in this regard.

Table (5): Measures Taken to Protect Refugee Children and Illegal Nationals

row	measures
1	Revising the educational methodologies of foreign nationals which benefited refugee children and immigrants who were deprived of schooling due to the identity and nationality problems
2	Issuing birth certificates for those children who were born in Iran but their parents were in the country illegally
3	Filing 12659 folders for children of Iranian women and foreign men after age of 18 to demand for obtaining Iranian citizenship
4	Educating 3735 out-of-school Afghan refugee children
5	Preparation of ten thousand uniforms for destitute Afghans
6	Enrollment of 391625 refugee students (2535 boys and 186270 girls) of different grades in the academic year 2015-2017
7	Covering all handicapped refugee children by health insurance in cooperation with Representative Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

(Source: Report of National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Children's Health⁵

Table 6 shows the most crucial measures taken for children's health.

Table (6): Measures Taken with Regard to Children Health (2015, first 9 months of 2016)

row	measures
1	Monitoring the health of 400 children less than 6 years by Tehran Welfare organization and filing health records for them
2	The plan to improve the sanitary status of female students around the country and training 25 thousand students and their parents in 2015
3	Increasing coverage of screening programs, early diagnosis and intervention for at risk infants and toddlers to 1064750 ones in 2014 and 850000 ones in first 9 months of 2016
4	Offering health services and preventing diseases such as HIV and reducing damage that drug abusers including teenagers and young adults in suburban areas may incur
5	Covering 3052389 children under the national program of preventing amblyopia in children aged from 3 to 6 across the country in 2015 and covering 1800000 children in first 9 months of 2016
6	Initiating preventive activities regarding risky behaviors and potential diseases in 9 provinces since September 2016

⁵ To obtain more information about children's right to health, study the section of right to health in this report.

7	Training life skills to children and teenagers and their families
8	3000 Cochlear Implants (1666 cases in 1955 and 1334 cases in the first half of 2016) in support of children with hearing impairment
9	Social insurance of 51500 rural and nomadic girls and women
10	Offering social services to 36,000 people in multiple children families to decrease the pressure of giving birth to several infants concurrently in one family and to supply the balanced nurturing requirements
11	Production and distribution of 200 infant formula to promote the health level and prevent malnutrition of babies in protected impoverished families, families with multiple births and handicapped children
12	Inauguration of 1941 active centers offering dental care services and employing 1188 general dentists with priority to give services to children under 14, pregnant women and lactating mothers in order to prevent cavities and periodontal disease and to promote oral health
13	Acting out baby friendly hospitals in more than 550 hospitals across the country (more than 80% center)
14	During 2015, more than 23600000 cases of cares taken for children under 5 were done in health centers and more than 22600000 of these cases were due to the healthy children routine checkup

Street Children and Child Labor

The Welfare Organization as an official authority in organizing street children codified and implemented the program of admission, diagnosis and replacement of street children and developed centers in capital cities across the country in 1999. These centers offer free 24-hour services and provide accommodation services including feeding, bathing, clothing, medicines, detergents, television, entertainments, studies and other needs regarding child welfare and professional services (services of social workers, psychologists, health care).

The most vital activities of this organization is presented in below table. The total of children population who are under the shelter of Welfare Organization are 9854 people in houses and 14783 ones in families.

Table (7): Welfare Organization Measures Regarding Street Children and Child Labor

row	measures
1	Accepting and support of 5428 children and family members in 2015 and 3177 ones in the first six month of 2016.
2	Creating 38 non-governmental organizations across the country during first nine months of 2016 and increasing it to 52 centers to the end of the year. These centers are responsible for identifying and offering services to street children and child labor and their families and they don't segregate children from families. The number of people supported by these centers were 4349 children during first 9 months of 2016
3	Implementing the plan of admission, diagnosis and replacement of street children in all capital cities in addition to admitting and supporting 5428 street children and their families in 2015 and 2604 ones in 9 months of 2016
4	Settlement of a specialized team (including social workers and psychologists) on the streets that children are continually present there

Prevention of Violence against Children

All the judicial authorities pursue public or social workers' report with regard to child abuse seriously and prosecute suspects. The condition of hospitalized children are immediately pursued, dealt and investigated in

the case of child maltreatment. Special investigatory and judicial branches also have been created to inquire child abuse offenses within the framework of judicial system.

Legal and Judicial Protection of Children

By amending the Criminal Procedure Code (2015) and the Islamic Penal Code (2013), special protection was predicted for children in the judicial trial:

- Assigning special branches of the court to investigate juvenile offences;
- Considering special regulations to handle independent investigation of juvenile judicial files, the most important of them is enacting restorative justice according to the child's age, educational, moral and punitive activities, so diverse alternatives are used instead of imprisonment and incarceration in Youth Detention Center;
- Keeping children in Youth Correction Centers as

an alternative Punishment or Life Imprisonment or death penalty, maximum five years.

- Prediction of potential possibilities of modification in punishment in the whole process after issuing the verdict.
- Removing death penalty and "Hodoud" for offenders under 18 if they didn't understand the irreverence of their acts and haven't attained intellectual development yet.
- Using new legal systems with the aim to securing children benefits such as suspension of prosecution, cessation of proceeding and suspension of issuing sentence. Accordingly, in Tehran juvenile court, less than one percent of the issued verdicts sent children under 18 to Youth Keeping Center and rest of them were acquitted or the cessation of proceedings were ordered or other alternatives such as suspension of penalties and cash fines were used.

It should be noted that Judiciary Clemency Commission pays special attention to people under 18. 362 people in 2015, and 515 people in 2016 (first 9 months) were granted amnesty.

Table (8): Tehran Juvenile Prosecutors Office and Children's Court Measures

Issued sentences in 2015	2796		Issued sentences 2016 (9 months)	2674	
	numbers	percent		numbers	percent
Impunity	432	15.45 %	Impunity	342	12.78%
Suspension of Prosecution	419	14.98%	Suspension of Prosecution	287	10.73%
Cessation of proceedings	249	8.90%	Cessation of proceedings	229	8.56%
Suspension of Punishment	121	4.32%	Suspension of Punishment	108	4.03%
Cash Fines	1283	45.88%	Cash Fines	1396	52.20%
Keeping in Youth Correction Center	16	0.57%	Keeping in Youth Correction Center	15	0.56%

(Source: Report of Office of Tehran General Prosecutor to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

It should be acknowledged that in case of murder, the perpetrators under 18 are trialed in the penal court with the presence of relevant consultants. According to the regulations and Islamic law, the punishment for murder is retribution in kind (Qisas). In this case, the responsibility of judiciary system is just to investigate whether the murder is intentional or not and implementation of the verdict depends on the request of the victim's family and the judicial system has no role in it. However, the major policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard, is to

encourage reconciliation by helping the convict to pay Diah or the blood money. One of the judiciary acts in this regard is the establishment of the committees for prevention of capital punishment aiming at creating peace and reconciliation and getting satisfaction from victims' parents which is the task of subsidiary of Executive Committee which supports children rights in Tehran General Justice Organization. Other measures aligned with legal and judicial support of children and teenagers are given in Table 9.

Table (9): Measures Taken for Legal and Judicial Support of Children and Teenagers (2015 and 2016)

row	measures
1	To seek for the satisfaction of plaintiffs in 100 cases in 2015 and 36 cases in 2016
2	Regular visit from quarantines keeping boys and girls under 18 in Tehran
3	Monitoring and supervision over all children's residential centers in Tehran
4	Visiting of the prosecutor and his/her deputies from Youth Correction Centers
5	Establishing Dispute Resolution Councils for Youth Correction Centers with the presence of female judges
6	Presence of assisting prosecuting in Youth Correction Center
7	Establishing office of prosecutor supervising orphans and wards in Tehran in line with the rights of orphans or bad parenting children
8	Visiting protective centers of Welfare Organization and following up problems and legal and judicial issues of children and the way children are adopted through judicial authorities
9	Pursuing the organization of those who are released from Youth Correction Centers

Using Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society's Capacity for the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights

According to the Article 66 of the Criminal Procedure Code (2015), non-governmental organizations

(NGOs) whose statute support children and young people, can bring a case before the court against those who have committed crimes toward children and appear as their plaintiff. The most important measures in this regard are as following in below Table.

Table (10): Using NGOs and civil society's capacity for the protection and promotion of children's rights

row	measure
1	Existence of more than 1,000 NGOs in children domain across the country
2	Holding second course of electing NGO's members for the presence of three non-governmental organizations in Coordination Council of National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in December 2016
3	Holding Meeting with NGOs active in the field of children's rights in 14 provinces from December 2015 to January 2016
4	Using specialized opinions of NGOs in National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of child and inviting them as the professionals in this domain
5	Creating equal opportunities to increase participation of NGOs in policymaking and planning for children through formation of a the think tank in the Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare and membership of non-governmental organizations' representatives in it who are active in supporting children rights
6	Identifying 40 NGOs active in the field of children in 40 slum districts and benefiting from their participation in policymaking focusing on children, planning and implementation of social protection programs
7	Creating educational and supportive centers for children and families in form of an NGO or a charity center aiming at controlling and decreasing the effects of social harms on children family and society and identifying and protecting 4349 children by these centers across the country
8	Activating 52 NGOs in the country to identify and offer services to the needy children and those who are at risk of harm and their families

(Source: The Report of National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Cooperation and Exchange of Experience with Other Countries

In alignment with promoting children's rights, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always encouraged the exchange of experiences with other countries

and in addition to sending delegations to study child protection structures in other countries, Iran has welcomed foreign delegations' visit of children's rights situation in the country which is mentioned in the following Table.

Table (11): Cooperation and Experience Exchange with Other Countries and Organizations

row	measures
1	Visit of Terre des homes (TDH) (Swiss child relief agency), a non-governmental organization, from National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the visit of their delegations from governmental agencies and NGOs that are active in the realm of children rights
2	The plan of setting up mother and child friendly spaces in public urban areas and advertising and informing about using the spaces by mothers in capital cities in collaboration with municipalities and villages' governorates in the country and UNICEF
3	Dispatching a delegation consisting of ten members to visit New Zealand program for children and teenagers in 2015
4	Sending a specialized delegation to the 34th session of HRC on the rights of children and visiting Swiss courts and detention centers for under 18

(Source: The Report of National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Improving sports

Improving sports

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.48	Continue to allocate more resources in the area of sport for all youth;	Sri Lanka

Youth and Sports Ministry, which was established in 2010 and after the merging of Physical Education Organization and the National Youth Organization, is the greatest organization addressing the issues of youth and sport in the Islamic Republic of Iran. By development of basic strategy to develop and promote the sport and looking to balance the two categories of Sport and Youth, the ministry in years from 2013 to 2016 could make great strides in this practice. Major achievements in the field of sports are shown in Tables (1) to (7).

Table (1): Measures in the field of professional championships (2015-2016)

Row	Measure taken
1	Earning about 4 thousand Asian and international medals by athletes (year 2015, 3162 medals and 2016, 882 medals)
2	Sending more than 14 thousand athletes to camps and competitions
3	Hosting 112 Asian and international events in different sports
4	Establishing 33 talent-seeking centers in order to secure the championship in the sport
5	Establishing 13 Championship Sports Promotion Center from 18 to 31 centers in 2015
6	Holding 6077 national, provincial and regional sports event in the country
7	Implementing the regulations of champion soldiers (exemption rules), 18 soldiers and four champion exemptions
8	Activity of over 51 sports federations
9	More than 205 sports activities

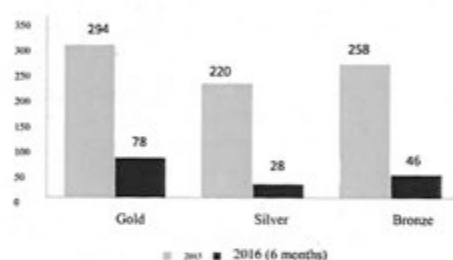
(Source: Information Center of the Ministry of Sport and Youth)

Table (2): The presence of the youth in athletics at the national, regional and global levels with the number of medals won by each sport (2015-2016)

Year	World Championships			Championship			International Competitions		
	The number of medals won			The number of medals won			The number of medals won		
	Gold	silver	Bronze	Gold	silver	Bronze	Gold	silver	Bronze
2015	294	220	258	247	181	171	345	227	247
2016 (March to August)	78	28	46	106	69	91	131	119	182

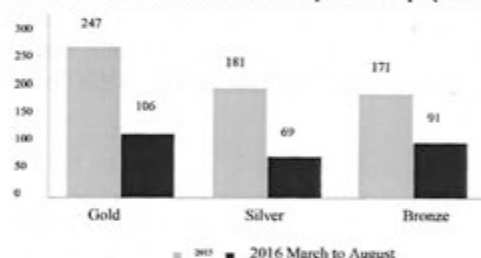
(Source: The report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth to the National Committee of U.P.R, 2016)

Chart (1): The number of medals won at the World Championships (2015-2016)



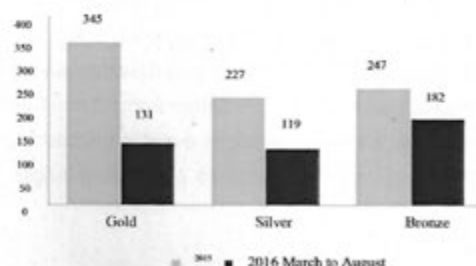
(Source: The report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth to the National Committee of U.P.R, 2016)

Chart (2): The number of medals won in the championship (2015-2016)



(Source: The report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth to the National Committee of U.P.R, 2016)

Chart (3): The number of medals won in international competitions (2015-2016)



(Source: The report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth to the National Committee of U.P.R, 2016)

Table (3): Measures in the field of public sport (2015-2016)

Row	Measures
1	Increase in women's participation in sports from 10% to 21%
2	Allocation of 10% of the budget of sports federations to the public sport
3	Holding 3158 family walking gatherings in the provincial capitals and cities of the country
4	Holding sport competitions with the participation of 48 government institutions
5	Paying particular attention to the development of rural and ethnic sports, the National Sports Festival and National Sports Festival for all peoples
6	Inauguration and equipping 183 sport rural homes including in the border provinces of the East
7	Transfer of 12 Sports Federation of championship domain and career to public sport
8	Holding 19843 sports and cultural festival since the beginning of 2014
9	Setting up 8 thousand sports center inside the school and out of school for three thousand students

(Source: Information Center of the Ministry of Sport and Youth)

Table (4): Measures in the field of women's sports (2015-2016)

Row	Measures
1	Winning the first medal and the women's quota in Olympic
2	Winning 9 Olympic quota and Para-Olympic quota of 2016 Rio, Brazil
3	Increase in assuming the presidency of Sports Federation by women from one to three
4	Winning 48 seats at international level in the field of women's sports
5	Sending 25 female Iranian judges to judge to international events
6	The formation of 32 specialized working and strategic groups of women in the country
7	Conducting 1608 competitions in women's sport in 2015 and 2016
8	Winning 488 medals at international levels (217 in 2014 and 271 in 2015)
9	The presence of 8992 women in sport leadership positions

(Source: Information Center of the Ministry of Sport and Youth)

Table (5): Measures to support the sports in villages and remote tribal areas and revitalizing local and traditional sports (2015-2016)

Title of the program	Year 2015	2016 (from March to August)
Holding cultural festivals and sports and traditional games (cases)	521	325
Number of organized sportsmen rural and tribal (people)	194 675	125 674
The establishment of rural sports in deprived villages (units)	100	70
Holding various sports competitions in the rural areas (cases)	7043	5428

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth to the National Committee of U.P.R, 2016)

Table (6): Actions towards the creation of appropriate infrastructure for Sport (2015-2016)

Row	Measures
1	Inauguration of 600 semi-finished sport projects
2	Inauguration of 361 development projects in 2015 at national and provincial levels
3	Authorizing the executive institutions to allocate a percentage of their budget to the sport
4	95 percent improvement of the second National Stadium
5	Standardizing Azadi Stadium (Tehran)
6	Completing the final phase of the 75 thousand people stadium of Naghshe-Jahan with 95 percent
7	Construction of standard laboratory for sport equipment in the country for the first time

(Source: Information Center of the Ministry of Sport and Youth)

Table (7): sports centers built throughout the country (2015-2016)

Description	Year 2015 (units)	Year 2016 (units)
National operational projects of provincial administrations across the country	361	171
Operational projects of development and maintenance of sports facilities	7	2
Operational projects to benefit from the technical assistance and credit	26	15
Operational projects of General Offices by Sports benevolent donors	54	2
Projects under construction	684	798

(Source: The report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth to the National Committee of U.P.R, 2016)

Rights of Refugees, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants

Rights of Refugees, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations /completely	Country
138.20	Consider the possibility of acceding to the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;	Egypt
138.281	Continue maintaining good cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in favour of refugees with disabilities;	Kuwait
138.285	That measures taken to protect refugee rights be in compliance with the internationally recognized norms and standards;	Afghanistan
No. Rec	Accepted Recommendations /Partially	Country
138.6	Consider ratifying CEDAW, CAT, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), ICCPR-OP2 and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED);	Sierra Leone
138.7	Consider ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and the Members of Their Families;	Burkina Faso
138.8	Consider ratification or accession to CEDAW, ICRMW, CAT and ICPPED;	Peru
138.113	Continue to work on the creation of a national legal framework for the protection of minorities, including immigrants and refugees, thus protection from violence and appropriate treatment within society;	Tajikistan
138.286	Strengthen the capacity of processing, hosting and integrating asylum seekers, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders;	Mexico

At present, I.R. Iran is host to over 980,000 refugees and 2,000,000 foreign nationals illegally residing in the country, which has ranked I. R. Iran as the second receiver of refugees in the world.

Hosting over a total three million refugees and illegal foreign nationals particularly in recent years, when Iran has been under the thrust of the unilateral, illegal and unfair sanctions, has brought a double heavy burden to bear on the country. However, due to its religious beliefs and humanitarian considerations, I. R. Iran has generously allocated huge amounts of its resources to these people providing them with services in different fields. Meanwhile, international assistance to Iran with respect to the burden of refugees has been very scant to the point that it

accounts only for a fraction (less than 3%) of the total expenses. So, it is necessary for the international community to abide by its obligation to cooperate and assist the host country in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility under such circumstances.

Education

The most important development which has taken place with respect to the education of refugees was the order issued by the Supreme Leader in April 2015 on the necessity of enrolment of Afghan children (including the Afghan immigrants illegally residing in the country) in the schools of the country. The by-law on the education of foreign nationals

adopted by the Council of Ministers in April 2015 has recognized the right of access to formal education for all children residing in the territory of I.R. Iran without any discrimination. In accordance with the by-law, children of all foreign nationals residing in I.R. Iran, irrespective of their status, are entitled to the formal education in the country.

The Literacy Movement Organization is responsible for the education of the population aged 10-49. The literacy programs of the country cover the illiterate Iranian and non-Iranian adult population alike (e.g. immigrants and foreign nationals including Afghans, Iraqis...). From 2014 till March 2016, 725,553 foreign nationals had attended "literacy courses". In the school year of 2015, 45,000 foreign nationals

attended literacy courses and, in 2016, 3000 more were covered by the Literacy Movement Organization. In 2013-2014 school year, over 360,000 children of foreign refugees and illegal immigrants were studying at primary, intermediate and secondary school levels in the country. In 2014-2015 and 2016-2017 school years, respectively over 386,720 and 405,000 children of foreign nationals were enrolled in 25,800 and 25,600 schools at different levels. The per capita cost for the education of each student is estimated over 22,000,000 Rials.

The costs of the education of the children of foreign nationals for each school year are some 8000 billion Rials (equivalent to 260 million US dollars) which are provided by the government of I.R. Iran.

Table (1) number of refugees and illegal immigrants educating at primary, intermediate and secondary school levels

2012-2013 school-year	2014-2015 school-year	2015-2016 school-year
360,000	386,720	405,000

(Source: report of Ministry of Education to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Other measures taken by Iran's Ministry of Education for children of foreign nationals in the 2016-2017 school year are reflected in the following table.

Table (2): services provided to foreign nationals by Ministry of Education in 2016-2017 school year

row	services
1	Holding health and hygiene training courses for 12,000 foreign students in different provinces
2	Holding life skills training courses for 5,000 foreign students in different provinces
3	Distribution of 10,000 pieces of school uniform among needy foreign students in Tehran province
4	Distribution of 10,000 credit cards with a balance of 693,000 Rials buyable at Refah chain stores along with school uniforms among needy foreign students in Tehran province
5	Provision of 8 billion Rials (equivalent to 230,000 US dollars) worth of educational and rehabilitation equipment for schools of exceptional children in Tehran and Alborz provinces, initiating a number of programs for promotion of Afghan studies and culture, and also holding sports events for foreign students in some provinces of the country

(Source: report of Ministry of Education to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

The total number of foreign refugee university students in I.R. Iran reached 41,414 from 2008 till 2015. The students were educating at associate, bachelor's, master's and doctorate degree levels and so far over 20,000 of them have been graduated.

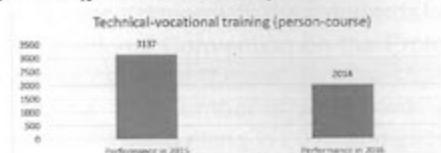
In order to help the empowerment of refugees and the reconstruction process of Afghanistan, training courses were introduced since 2011 for refugees in different fields such as welding, building wiring, building piping, vehicle repair, computer, drawing, accounting, sewing, hair dressing, etc. From 2011 till 2015, 9560 refugees attended and received the certificates of the courses.

Also, three agreements have been concluded by

Iran's Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare to provide technical-vocational training and support the employment of foreign nationals in I.R. Iran as follows:

- Agreement signed with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the General Department for Foreign Nationals and Immigrants of Iran's Interior Ministry.
- Agreement signed with Danish Refugee Council and the General Department for Foreign Nationals and Immigrants of Iran's Interior Ministry.
- Agreement signed with Norwegian Refugee Council and the General Department for Foreign Nationals and Immigrants of Iran's Interior Ministry.

Chart (1) information relating to technical-vocational training provided for refugees and immigrants (person-course)



(Source: report of Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare to National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Occupation and job opportunities for foreign nationals and immigrants

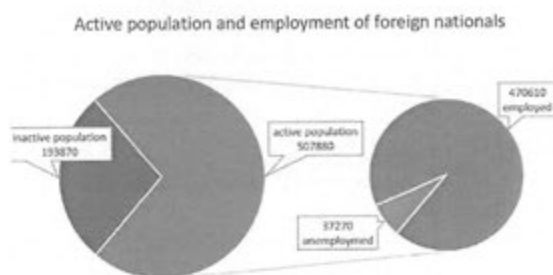
Though there has been 82% rise in the population of refugees and immigrants in Iran who are mostly from crisis-stricken countries in the past three decades, I.R. Iran's performance on creation of jobs for them has been acceptable. In accordance with the population and housing census of 2011, there were 1,688,195 legal foreign nationals residing in the country. Of the entire population of foreign nationals aged 10 and over, 507,880 (39.6%) fall in the active population group and 701,938 (54.8%) fall in the inactive population group. Also, of the active population group, 470,610 (92.7%) have occupations and 37,270 (7.3%) are without jobs. Table 3 provides information on the occupation of foreign nationals in Iran.

Table (3): information on the occupation of foreign nationals in Iran (census of 2011)

row	Foreign nationals	number
1	Total No. of foreign nationals by March 2011	1,688,195
2	Total No. of male foreign nationals	914,498
3	Total No. of female foreign nationals	773,697
4	Active population of foreign nationals	570,880
5	inactive population of foreign nationals	701,938
6	population of foreign nationals with occupations	470,610

(Source: report of the Strategic Information and Statistics Center, 2016)

Chart (2): information on the active population and occupation of foreign nationals in Iran



(Source: report of the Strategic Information and Statistics Center, 2016)

Health and medical treatment

In accordance with the MOU signed between the Ministry of Health, Medical Treatment and Education, Interior Ministry and Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare of I.R. Iran in 2015, all foreign refugees were provided with access to primary health and medical service insurance in the same way as the Iranian nationals.

Under the MOU, 87,132 insurance applicants were provided, in 2015, with insurance service in the three vulnerable, special disease, and non-vulnerable groups like other segments of the society. The number of the insured foreign nationals reached 87,132 in 2016.

As for the insurance premiums for the first two groups, no amount of money is charged to foreign nationals and the related fees are paid by UNHCR, but the third group pay their own insurance premiums. The information relating to population covered by insurance service is reflected in the following table.

Table (4): information relating to the medical insurance for foreign nationals in 2015 (5 months) and 2016 (5 months)

Statistics relating to the medical insurance for foreign nationals in 2015 (5 months) and 2016 (5 months)				
year	Non-vulnerable	vulnerable	With special diseases	total
2015 (5 months)	25,091	61,463	578	87,132
2016 (5 months)	15,333	72,886	1051	89,270

(Source: report of Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Table (5): information relating to the population of insured foreign nationals under social security service

year	Foreign nationals	% increase
2015	6,825	-
2016 (7 months)	23,500	244.32

(Source: report of Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Other services provided to foreign nationals in the health care and medical treatment sector in 2015-2016 are reflected in the following table.

Table (6): services provided to foreign nationals in the health care and medical treatment sectors in 2015-2016

row	Type of service
1	Holding training and retraining courses (30 courses in 2015 and 50 courses in 2016) for officers who are responsible for providing health-related services at foreign nationals camps and in host cities
2	Providing health and medical equipment and materials needed in refugee camps and host cities including sampling and treatment, masks, disinfection and fumigation and family hygiene items and materials
3	Free vaccination of refugees who refer on their own or are identified by the related health centers
4	Identifying and treatment of patients particularly those suffering from communicable diseases at refugee camps and in host cities
5	Pre-and-post-natal mother and infant care
6	Providing access for all vulnerable children particularly those with disabilities to health insurance
7	Provision of clinical and para-clinical services to 3000 foreign refugees with special diseases
8	Since March 2016, in accordance with the "Paragraph L of Article 28 of the Law of 5 th Five-year Development Plan", issuance of accidents insurance policy for all foreign nationals became obligatory. Under the same provision, some 100,000 Afghan nationals had been provided with accidents insurance coverage till September 2016.
9	Following up the attraction of 10,043,832,579 Rials (equivalent to 300,000 US dollars) from international sources to help the treatment of 11,660 of children of Afghan refugees suffering from disabilities
10	Following up the attraction of contributions from international sources through UNHCR to support the treatment of 120 children of Afghan refugees suffering from cancer
11	Following up the attraction of contributions from international sources through UNHCR to support the treatment of 80 children of Afghan refugees who need heart, orthopedic and rehabilitation treatment
12	Establishment of a committee for Afghan refugees with disabilities with a view to attracting the services of civil societies and non-governmental organizations involved in the treatment of Afghan disabled in Iran to help their treatment, and also improve their quality of life, job and life skills and personal capacities

(Source: report of Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare to National Committee of UPR, 2016)

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

With the accession of I.R. Iran to the Geneva Convention of 1951, the Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare has taken the necessary measures for the occupation of foreign nationals in accordance

with the provisions of the Articles 17 and 18 of the Convention (occupation of refugees). The measures taken by the Ministry for foreign nationals can be appraised in accordance with the standards laid down by the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and the Members of Their Families. The number of work permits issued for refugees has been rising in 2015 and 2016, which shows that issues such as residence, occupation and supports provided to foreign immigrants particularly refugees have been regulated as reflected by table 7.

Table (7): number of work permits issued for Afghan refugees in I.R. Iran

Year	number	% increase
2015	190,000	-
2016 (9 months)	200,000	6.5

(Source: report of Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare to National Committee of UPR, 2016)

During the past two years, around 400,000 foreign nationals residing in the country have received work permits through the Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare. Also, the client care service has been provided for Afghan nationals with the establishment of 165 residence and work legal service offices in 14 provinces of the country.

Cooperation and interaction with UNHCR

UNHCR has a central office which has been operating for three decades in Tehran. It has also offices in Kerman, Khorasan and Fars provinces. Pedro Comissario, the Chair of the Executive Committee of UNHCR visited Iran in September 2015. Also, George Okkoth-Obbo, the Assistant High Commissioner for Operation visited Iran in March 2016 and appreciated Iran's services to refugees particularly in the education and health sectors.

Filippo Grandi, the High Commissioner for Refugees visited Iran in April 2016 and met with the related Iranian authorities. He also visited some technical-vocational schemes for refugees in the city of Qom and talked to the refugees there concerning their issues. He voiced his appreciation for Iran's services and contributions to refugees.

Interior Minister of I.R. Iran, too, met with the High Commissioner for Refugees on the sidelines of his visit to New York in September 2016. SivankaDhanapala, the head of the UNHCR office in Tehran, in an interview with the media in November 2016 stated: "Iran's way of hosting refugees is a commendable and exemplary model."

Religious Minorities, Freedom of Religion and Conscience, Ethnics and Sects

Religious Minorities, Freedom of Religion and Conscience, Ethnics and Sects

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.50	Continue its policies and initiatives aimed at the promotion of dialogue, cooperation and tolerance between different cultures and religions of the national minorities of Iran;	Armenia
138.53	Strengthen and expand interreligious and intercultural dialogue;	Lebanon
138.219	Take measures to fully respect the freedom of religion and belief of its citizens;	Norway
138.220	Ensure respect, in law and in practice, of the freedom of religion and belief ;	Poland
138.221	Ensure the freedom of religion and belief for all citizens of Iran;	Romania
138.118	Guarantee the full enjoyment by all minorities of all their social, cultural and political rights, especially their right to education;	Bahrain
138.119	Adopt policies and mechanisms to avoid that members of any religious minority suffer from any kind of discrimination or human rights violation for exerting their right to worship according to their faith;	Brazil
138.122	Implement previous recommendations to guarantee the protection of the civil and political rights of all minority groups;	Iceland
138.127	Take all appropriate measures to end discrimination and intimidation against persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities;	Slovakia
138.131	Review its legislation and policy so as to ensure freedom of religion of persons belonging to religious minorities, including Baha'is, as well as protection of their other human rights without any discrimination;	Czech Republic
138.282	Ensure that religious, ethnic and sexual minorities are able to exercise their rights and freedoms, as guaranteed by the Iranian Constitution;	Netherlands
138.284	Continue to address measures that protect religious and ethnic minorities in the interests of ensuring their full and equal participation in public and private life;	New Zealand

Religious Minority

In the Islamic Republic of Iran's constitution, an independent chapter named "People's Rights" is defined in which different social classes' rights including language, religious, racial and ethnic groups as well as legitimate and legal liberties are recognized in 24 articles and based on which all citizens, men and women, are equally advocated by civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Words such as "everyone," "all," "any Iranian", and the rest are emphasized in a majority of articles in the constitution to the extent that fundamental rights are recognized for every Iranian citizen and national yet all Iranians may benefit from them without any discrimination. Nonetheless, article 14 of the constitution clearly bounds Islamic Republic of Iran's government and Muslims to observe

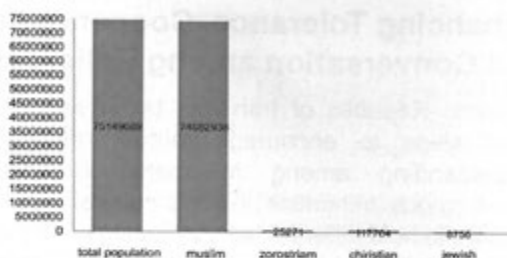
ethics, moderation and Islamic justice toward non-Muslims as well as respecting their human rights. It needs to be mentioned that based on article 13 of the constitution, Zoroastrian, Jewish and Christian are recognized as religious minorities. However, followers of other sects – whose numbers are limited – have their citizen rights recognized.

According to the Population and Housing Census⁶ in 2011, Iran's population equals to 75149669 people among which 74682938 are Muslims (99.39%), 25271 Zoroastrian (0.03%), 117704 Christians (0.16%) and 8756 Jewish (0.01%). In today's world, a country and a government with one race, one language and followers of one religion doesn't exist.

⁶ According to the laws, Population census occurs once every five years. The population of the country in accordance with the latest census which was done in March 2017, is 79,926,270, but detailed results have not been published by the time of preparing this report.

There are groups with specific racial, linguistic and religious features in most countries. Islamic Republic of Iran is among the countries with a vast ethnic diversity which are not recognized as minorities.

Chart (1): Population composition of Religious Minorities (2011)



(Reference: Ministry of State's report to the National UPR committee, 2016)

Freedom of Religion and Conscious

Article 23 of the Constitution sets forth "the investigation of individuals' beliefs is forbidden and no one may be molested or taken to task simply for holding a certain belief. Article 26 of the Constitution stipulates "the formation of parties, societies, political and professional associations as well as religious societies, whether Islamic or pertaining to one of the recognized religious minorities is permitted provided they don't violate principles of independence, freedom, national unity, the principles of Islam or the basis of the Islamic Republic. No one may be prevented participating in the aforementioned groups or be compelled to participate in them.

Article 13 of the constitution emphasizes on personal freedom to perform rituals, religious teachings and following customs of religious minorities in their personal status. Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes the right to celebrate religious ceremonies as well as the related holidays for the minorities and their followers in governmental departments as well as those serving the compulsory military service allowed to take leaves during their official ceremonies. Religious minorities are allowed to benefit from country's official holidays in addition to special leaves on religious ceremonies such as Day of Atonement, Zoroaster's birthday, Jesus Christ's (P.B.U.H) birthday and Easter Day.

Worshipping space per capita for religious minorities is almost double the size of Muslims. Christians own more than 250 churches around the country with 1 church available for a population less than 500 people; furthermore, Jews own 16 synagogues and Zoroastrians 78 places of worship. Continuously, religious places of minorities are

refurbished by the government with public budget; some of the locations being more historic are even nationally registered. For instance, Qare Kelisa in Western Azerbaijan province is globally registered by UNESCO as the 9th national monument due to its unique architecture.

Table (1): Number of Minorities' Places of Worship in Iran

Religion	Christians	Jews	Zoroastrians
Number of Sanctuaries	250	16	78

(Reference: Ministry of Interior's report to the National UPR committee, 2016)

Up to the late January 2016, 58 religious minorities associations, have been active, whose statistical details are mentioned in the following table.

In spite of the fact that religious minorities comprise less than half a percent (0.2%) of the national population, and with 150 people population they own 5 representatives in the Parliament whereas 1 representative is assigned for every 150 thousand other citizens. The approach is one of the arrangements to reserve minorities' rights as well as guaranteeing their political participation called "Guaranteed Seats." In addition to the Parliament, the representatives of religious minorities are present in urban and rural councils. Furthermore, religious minorities own more than 80 participating cooperative formations in various grounds as well as religious studies research centers.

Table (2): Number of Religious Minorities' Associations until late January 2016

Jews	Zoroastrians	Christians	
3	29	Armenians	Assyrians
		17	9

(Reference: Ministry of Interior's report to the National UPR committee, 2016)

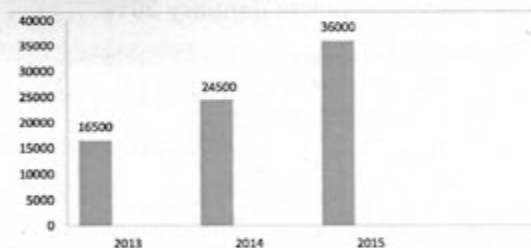
Religious minorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran own specific newspapers and monthlies so as to inform their society and coreligionists. In the society of Armenians, newspapers such as Alik, Peyman Quarterly, Araks, Ararat, Apaga Ayandeh and Loveis Noir monthlies as well as Huveis biweekly – printed in Tehran both in Persian and Armenian – could be named. Additionally, Alik institute related to the Armenian society has a long history in printing various books in Armenian in addition to newspaper issuance. Johannes Center Publications belonging to the Chaldean Catholic Church is among valid publishers of Christian texts. Besides, Assyrian society issue, Assyrians' Message monthly. Furthermore, publications of minorities,

namely Naeerie, Huveis and etc. are able to print and distribute books in the country and are active in the field. The Jews own OfoghBina review in addition to owning Tehran Jewish Association. Zoroastrians' specific publications, such as 1 Mordad weekly, Pars-e-Emruz monthly, Parsnameh, Farevahr monthly, Chista, Teahouse, Rasti and etc., are also active in the country. Additionally, all minorities are allowed to be present and active in other publications. To sum up, minorities own 20 newspapers, weeklies, monthlies and magazines as well as 5 printing and publishing centers. In the previous decade, minorities printed more 500 religious books inside the country, which is a unique event.

In 2015, around 1 million dollar was allocated through the national budget to provide services and conveniences to minorities 42.5% of which spent for Armenians, 23.5% to Zoroastrians and the rest for Assyrians and Jews based on population and geographical location. Compared to 2013, the amount depicts a twofold growth. In addition to official budget allocation to the minorities, the government and governmental institutions present them with a variety of financial aids in different forms among which construction of a stadium for the Armenians by Tehran municipality in 2016 could be named for which 628 thousand dollars was assigned.

Chart (2): Allocated Budget for Minorities (2015)
(Figures in Million Rials)

(Reference: Ministry of State's report to the National UPR committee, 2016)



According to the constitution, not only religious minorities have the right to education but also they are free to learn specific rituals and teach as well as benefitting local and ethnic languages in the Media, Press and Schools. In addition to having the chance to study in normal schools, the minorities are allowed to have their own schools. Currently, 93 schools belonging to the religious minorities are active in the country. Furthermore, the national Parliament passed a law in 2016 according to which the minorities are allowed to found their own schools. According to the law of establishing non-profit schools, the minorities are allowed to found non-profit ones. Similar to other

citizens, the religious minorities are able to study higher levels of education. In order to support the minorities' literature and cultures, their related higher education courses are defined in Iranian universities (such as B.A in Armenian Language and Literature in Azad University and Isfahan University).

Enhancing Tolerance, Cooperation and Conversation among Religions

Islamic Republic of Iran has taken serious and great steps to encourage mutual respect and understanding among members of majorities and religious minorities inviting cultural elites and thinkers to hold different talks including several inter-religious talks revolving around Muslims' Peaceful Coexistence, talks with Catholic Christians, talks with Protestant and Orthodox Christians and talks with Iranian Armenians under the title of "Muslims' Peaceful Coexistence with Armenian Christians." Holding two international Islamic Unity Conferences in 2015 and 2016 with the presence of Islamic scholars and thinkers from various religions in Tehran is a highlighted example of Iran's efforts to urge collaborations and talks in this field. In this regard, the following activities have been done in the previous two years:

- Holding unified Islamic Nation Seminar,
- Holding panels of discussion on challenges and Solutions for the current crisis of the world of Islam with the presence of Sunnite and Shiite scholars from different countries,
- Holding scientific seminar about approximation and important issues in the world of Islam with the presence of foreign guests such as scholars from Senegal,
- Holding Specialized scientific seminar with the presence of British Muslim thinkers along with visiting Sunnite elites and centers in Iran,
- Visiting of Iranian religious delegation to Moscow to participate in International Conference of Islamic Unity – muslims' unity: Base of discourse,
- Participation of Shiite and Sunnite scholars in International peace talks, cultures and religions talks in Tirana – Albania,
- Participation in "Nation's Unity" conference in Lahore – Pakistan,
- Participation of Iranian religious scholars' delegation in "European Islamic Societies Leaders" conference in Croatia,

- Participation of Shiite and Sunnite experts in the seminar of talks and cooperation among religions as the tool to achieve sustainable and just peace in Moscow,
- Participation of Iranian delegation in Islamic Unity

Conference: necessities and future perspective in Jakarta – Indonesia.

Another section of the measures taken in 2015 and 2016, are shown in the following table.

Table (3): Seminars and Ceremonies for Religious Followers

Number	title	2015	2016(9 months)
1	Seminars with Religious Minorities	34	29
2	Religious Minorities' Festivals and Ceremonies	1688	291
3	Seminars with Sunnite Scholars and Elites	109	142
4	Seminars with Sunnite Scholars and Elites	271	198
5	Religious Ceremonies	3335	2144

(Source: of Association for Islamic Report Religions proximity to the UPR National Committee, 2016)

Promotion and Strengthening of Unity and Solidarity with the Sunnites

Based on Article 12 of the constitution, other Islamic religions except Shiite, such as Sunnites, are thoroughly respected and their followers are free to perform their rituals, religious teachings and personal status, which is also recognized by the courts. In every region that these religions are as majorities, local regulations will be in accordance with their religions, based on the council's power and protect of the rights

of other religions. It needs to be mentioned that the Sunnites are not considered as religious minorities in Iran and in fact they are part of the majority. The Sunnites own more than 15 thousand mosques all around the country which forms a higher statistics in comparison with the Shiites' population. On the other hand, the president always appoints a Sunnite councilor not only to facilitate communication, but also to address their issues. The most important related steps have taken in this regard in 2015 and 2016 (9 months) are depicted in the following table.

Table (4): Some of the measures taken to strengthen unity and friendship with other religions and sects inside the country in the previous two years

Number	Explanation
1	The president meeting with Sunnite representatives from all over the country in late December 2016 stressing on solidarity between the Sunnites and Shiites
2	Establishing Al-Hiwar Al-Islami Assembly (Islamic Talks Assembly) in order to improve familiarity, understanding and deepening the understanding among followers of Islamic religions through face-to-face or virtual talks as well as building close relationships with elite and effective scholars of other Islamic religions
3	Establishing Islamic religions proximity offices in four Sunnite-living corners of the country with the aim of better communication and promotion of talks and cooperation
4	Surveying various problems of the Sunnites regions in different meetings of the authorities of Islamic religions proximity Assembly with Sunni offices in different provinces
5	Supporting regional conferences due to the Unity Week (Shiites and Sunnites) in border provinces of the country
6	Officials, including from Islamic Religions Proximity Assembly figures, travelling to Sunnite provinces visiting Sunnite leaders and scholars in various provinces
7	Attending joint conferences of Sunnites and Shiites including participation and speech giving in Sunnites' Friday prayers
8	Broadcasting religious programs related to Sunnite sanctities from IRIB
9	Compilation, research, essays and books publication with participation of Sunnite and Shiite clergies

(Source: of Association for Islamic Report Religions proximity to the UPR National Committee, 2016)

Ethnic Groups

Iran includes a wide range of various ethnic and religion spectrums, who live together with their own customs and traditions as well as difference dialects. The majority of Iranians are Persian and Farsi speakers considered to be the largest language groups. Importantly, Iranian culture and policies are always mixed with peaceful coexistence and mutual respect while Iranian society is one of the successful and friendly examples of coexistence of various ethnicities. During the history, national solidarity and unity has always been the highest principle for Iranians whose clear example is the referendum after victory of the Islamic revolution in April 1979 in which 98.2% of the eligible "agreed" with forming Islamic Republic of Iran government.

Article 19 of the constitution clearly stresses on equality and enjoying equal rights for Iranians from every ethnicity and tribe regardless of color, race, language and etc. Additionally, articles 15, 20, 24 and 26 of the constitution are about cultural freedom and the possibility of preserving ethnic identity. According to article 15 of the constitution, the official language and script of the country is Persian, however, using local and ethnic languages in the press and media as well as teaching their literature in schools next to Persian is allowed. Therefore, followers of non-Persian ethnicities and languages are not only free to speak their own languages, but also they have the right to print a publication and teaching them in schools. In this regard, Kurdish language is taught in Kurdistan universities, Gilaki in elementary schools of Gilan province as extra-curricular education, and Turkoman and Azerbaijani teaching projects could be mentioned as instances.

It needs to be mentioned that since IRIB belongs to all Iranians reflecting lives and status of all ethnicities as well as people from different walks of life; thus, IRIB has founded 31 provincial channels and some radio provincial channels, in addition to national TV programs, each of which is a sign of honoring ethnic and local culture and characteristics of each province. Besides, permanent secretariat of festivals and cultural and artistic programs was established with a focus on Iranian ethnicities in Sanandaj

(Kurdistan province) and a festival was held in May 2015 with the presence of 34 cultural and artistic groups from different ethnicities.

Notably, officials from various ethnicities as well as Sunnites are appointed in different posts such as ministers, governor general and deputy governor general, deputy governors, parliamentary representatives, members of urban and rural councils, deputy minister, director general and etc.

According to the current regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, such as press law which stress on observing different ethnicities' and groups' rights as press supervisory board consisting of scientific and ethical experts carefully scrutinizes reports about "difference making among the society, especially through expressing racial and ethnic issues" forbidden in Paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the law and takes necessary legal actions about offending media.

On the other local hand, to develop and spread local and ethnicities publications, implementation of media justice and more support of medias in less-developed regions, publication applicants in less-developed regions and provinces are prioritized so that local press related to ethnicities are spread, media justice and more support. Additionally, a specific attention is paid in providing facilities to such publications such as press subsidy allocation as well as giving of governmental advertisements to them.

Before Islamic revolution in 1999, 223 Institutes of Higher Education have been active in the country only 7 of which, 3 percent, were situated in ethnicities-inhabiting provinces. Implementation of the government's policies to support less-developed areas and public access, including the ethnicities, races, languages and even genders, to study higher education, the number reached to 2709 in 2014, 843 of which are located in the aforementioned regions allocating 31.2% of the whole number around the country.

1253351 people participated in the national university entrance exam in 2014, 35.7% of whom, 448050 people, came from different ethnicities (Azeri, Kurd, Lor, Arab, Turkoman, Balouch). 33% of the accepted in the same year came from the aforementioned ethnicities.

Table (5): Distribution of Higher Education Centers among Country's Ethnicities (2014)

Private Sector		Public Sector		Number of Institutes of higher Education	Ethnicities
Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number		
36.2	125	63.8	220	345	Azeri
25.7	36	74.3	104	140	Kurd
26.6	36	73.5	100	136	Lor
33.3	33	66.7	66	99	Arab
41.8	28	58.2	39	67	Turkoman
25.4	16	74.6	39	63	Balouch
32.2	274	67.8	567	850	Total

(Reference: Ministry of State's report to the National UPR committee, 2015)

As is seen above, the public sector has a twofold participation compared with the private sector regarding providing equitable access to higher education and creation of equal opportunities.

Charter of the citizens' rights which was signed by the president in December 19, 2016, includes some paragraphs on religions minorities and ethnic groups as following.

Table (6): Minorities-related Regulations in the character of citizens' Rights

Description	Article
Any insult, humiliation or hatred creation regarding ethnicities and followers of religions and different social and political groups are forbidden,	Article 10
The citizens have the right to benefit from gathering information and knowledge in the cyberspace freely and without discrimination. The right includes respecting cultural, linguistic diversities and traditions, religious beliefs and observing ethical rights in the cyberspace,	Article 33
The citizens have the right to choose their preferred job freely and without discrimination. No one is allowed to prevent this right due to ethnic, religious, gender reasons or difference in political or social orientations.	Article 77
Regardless of their ethnic and religious differences, the citizens have the right to cross-cultural communication.	Article 97
No one is allowed to cause ethnic, religious and political hatred in the minds of children or cause violence in the minds of children regarding a specific race or religion through teaching and educating as well as the media,	Article 110

(Reference: Character of Citizens' Rights)

The Media: Minorities and Ethnicities

The IRIB plays a highlighted role in paying attention to minorities and ethnicities. Performance of programming areas, focusing on "attention to

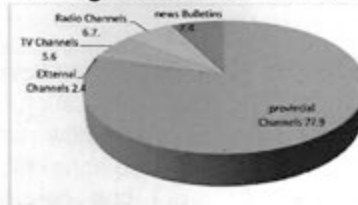
ethnicities" and religious minorities in 2015 and 9 months in 2016 have been 7834 hours which are mentioned in table 7 and chart 3 separately.

Table (7): Performance of Programming Areas in the Media Regarding Ethnicities and Minorities (2015 and 9 months in 2016)

Number	Channels	Duration
1	Radio Channels	527
2	Television Channels	438
3	News Bulletins	582
4	Provincial Channels	6100
5	Internal Channels	186
6	Total	7833

(Reference: Media report to the National UPR Committee, 2015)

Chart (3): Performance of Programming Areas in the Media Regarding Ethnicities and Minorities



(Source: Media report to the National UPR Committee, 2015)

Sects

Baha'ism is one the sects which is basically a political - not a religious – one established around 200 years ago by some colonial governments and based on certain documents with the aim of undermining Iranians' Islamic faiths and beliefs. Nonetheless, according to articles 4, 22 and 23 of the Islamic Republic of Iran's constitution. Followers of the sects benefit from all citizenship rights. Based

on Islamic religious teachings, faith inquisition is strictly forbidden and according to article 23 of the constitution "faith inquisition is forbidden and no one shall be reprimanded owing to his faith." In spite of the claims, Baha'is conditions in Iran is much better other countries concerned. The privileges assigned to this category represents a guarantee and observing their fundamental rights as citizens in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Table (8): Bahai Sect's Set of Rights

Legal Rights	Economic Rights	Social and Cultural Rights
Registration of marriage in their birth certificates	Work permit issuance	Private Cemetery
Real estate and properties trade	Principle Agreement Issuance	Sectarian activities such as attending rituals every 19 days
Baha'is marriage being official as well as recorded in registry offices	Company establishment permit issuance	Benefiting medical offices Education in Iranian Schools and Universities ,
Baha'i families with deceased during Holy Defense period benefiting from facilities and privileges of martyrs' families	Benefitting bank facilities	benefiting from medical insurance
	Loan allocation and other agricultural services	Benefiting from national medical insurance
	Significant presence in economic activities, communications and public services; winning various tenders; benefiting the right to advertise products in the pervasive media	Construction of Baha'is' nursing home
	Construction and financial organizations permit issuance	
	Owning lands and natural resource for agricultural activities such as rangelands of stock	Production and distribution of Baha'i pamphlets for members
	Owning tractors and agricultural equipment in Cooperative prices	Passport issuance and permission to travel abroad
	Benefitting interest-free loans based on possible notes	Sectarian training courses for children, teenagers and youth
	Being active in different professions such as trade, services, guilds, medical and even some guild being exclusive to them (such as optometry)	
	Living in upper areas of the cities	
	Benefitting from pensions	
	Benefitting from civil rights, amenities and services	

Contrary to the claims regarding preventing Baha'is higher education the following points should be noted. Article 30 of the Constitution names free education and physical training education for everyone at all levels as well as facilitation and expansion of higher education a duty upon the government. According to the Article, "the government is bound to provide free-of-charge education materials for the nation by the end of high school in addition to improving materials of higher education to the point of the country's self-sufficiency." Islamic Republic of Iran's education

centers have rules and regulations that as long as followed – regardless of one's religion and faith – no one has the slightest right to offend them. In contrast to the policies of the countries claiming human rights who officially deprive people with the excuse of having religious signs, Iran respects everyone's religion and beliefs. After all, presence of different Baha'is in Iranian universities studying higher levels of education, such as master's and doctorate, goes in contrary to the claims.

Freedom of Formation and Activities of Parties, Assemblies, Societies and Associations

Freedom of Formation and Activities of Parties, Assemblies, Societies and Associations

No. Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.66	Fulfil its promises of a more open society through the implementation of the recommendations it endorsed in 2010;	Norway
138.224	Work towards guaranteeing a favourable environment for the activities of journalists, human rights defenders and civil society;	Tunisia
138.235	Take the necessary steps to ensure that its citizens fully enjoy the rights and freedoms awarded to them by the Iranian Constitution, with special emphasis on the right to freedom of expression, the right to political activity and the right to assemble;	Norway
138.236	Strengthen and promote freedom of expression, particularly that of the press;	Senegal
138.239	Give further account to its measures to ensure public access to the Internet as well as progress being made thereon;	Japan
No. Rec	Accepted Recommendations /Partially	Country
138.193	Adopt comprehensive measures on the protection of women against any form of public or domestic violence and the implementation of a national policy to protect women at risk and to bring perpetrators to justice, as well as adopt measures for the protection of human rights defenders and journalists;	Brazil
138.226	Guarantee the right to legitimate freedom of expression, association and assembly, and release political prisoners, including activists, lawyers and journalists, detained solely for exercising these rights;	Australia
138.229	Enhance freedom of the media, establish effective protection mechanisms for journalists against attacks and intimidation and grant its people free access to electronic media;	Czech Republic
138.231	Ensure full respect for freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom of the media, and guarantee unfettered access for all persons in Iran to domestic and foreign media information, both offline and online;	Germany
138.234	Guarantee freedom of speech and eliminate restrictions to the free flow of information, including through the Internet, and stop arrests, prosecution and sanction of individuals for expressing views and opinions;	Netherlands
138.237	Effectively implement its international obligations to ensure the protection of human rights defenders and others exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association in compliance with international human rights law;	Finland

The Article 26 of the Constitution has recognized the freedom of the formation and activities of political parties and societies, trade unions and professional associations as well as religious societies, whether Islamic or pertaining to one of the recognized religious minorities and, no one, under the said provision, can be prevented from participating in or be compelled to participate in any such institutions. Political parties and societies in I.R. Iran conduct their activities in keeping with the provisions of the aforesaid Article and also the "Political Parties Law" (passed in 1981 by the Islamic Consultative Assembly).

Under the Article 10 of the "Political Parties Law", a commission named after the same Article, that is, "Commission of Article 10" has been established in the Interior Ministry which is responsible for registering and issuing license for the activities of political groups and civil societies. In that context, by November 2015, over 242 political parties and societies, 515 trade unions, professional associations, and associations formed by the retired staff members of governmental departments, and also 58 associations pertaining to religious minorities had been registered and operating in the country.

Table (1): Number of the registered parties and associations (October 2013 – November 2015)

Row	Year	Political		Professional & Retirees			Religious Minorities	
		Established	Issued license	Established	Issued license	Extension of license	Established	Extension of license
1	Second half of 2013& first half of 2014	4	4	11	12	50	-	15
2	2014	8	4	44	11	74	-	9
3	November 2015	12	6	19	16	56	1	9
Total		24	16	74	39	180	1	36
Total No of licenses		40		293			37	

(Source: Ministry of Interior website)

Also, in 2015 and 2016 (9 months), 12 political parties received licenses for their activities with 6 of them operating at the national and 6 others at the provincial levels.

Table (2): number of licenses issued for political parties in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

year		scope of activity	
2015	2016(9 months)	provincial	national
8	4	6	6

(Source: report of Interior Ministry to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Permits issued for holding public marches and assemblies

Under the Article 27 of the Constitution, public assemblies and marches may be freely held, provided arms are not carried and that they are not detrimental to the Islamic principles. So, under the same provision, permits are issued for public assemblies and marches with respect to professional, as well as political and international issues.

In keeping with the provisions of the Article 26 of the Constitution, the Article 131 of the "Labor Law" of I.R. Iran has recognized the right to form labor unions and professional associations.

It is also to be noted that under the paragraph 5 of the Article 73 of the "Law for the 5th Five-Year National Development Plan", the right to form workers' and employers' organizations and also the right to labor protest for such organizations have been recognized, and the "By-law on Organization

and Management of Labor Protest and Conflict Resolution Mechanisms" has been approved for that purpose. By November 2015, some 515 labor unions and professional associations had received licenses for their foundation and activities from Interior Ministry.

In the past two years, Interior Ministry alone issued 18 permits for marches and assemblies applied by political parties and societies 8 of which were issued in 2015 and 10 others in 2016 (9 months).

Table (3): number of licenses issued for public marches and assemblies in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

number of licenses issued		
2015	2016(9 months)	total
8	10	18

(Source: report of Interior Ministry to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Right of Free Access to and Dissemination of Information

The "Law on Publications and Free Access to Information" (passed in 2009), particularly in its Article 2, has recognized the right of free access to information. Under the Articles 6 and 7 of the said Law, every Iranian citizen is free to request access to public information.

To protect the right of citizens to free access to public information and also to monitor the process of the implementation of the "Law on Publications and Free Access to Information" and the proper discharge of the Government's duties in that respect, a special commission, provided for under the Article 18 of the said Law was formed on 2 July 2014, named "the Commission on Publications and Free Access to Information" consisting of the representatives of the three powers of the government charged with preparing annual reports thereof and submitting them to the President and the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

Also, in keeping with the principle of transparency in legislation and prevention of the enactment of confidential legislation, the Article 11 of the "Law on Publications and Free Access to Information" stipulates: "any legislation and decision which entails a public right or duty cannot be classified as confidential or government secret and must be publicly released."

The Article 22 of the said Law has criminalized the commission of the following acts by public authorities and has penalized them with cash fines ranging from 300,000 Rials to 100 million Rials (Iranian currency):

Denial of access to public information in defiance of the related provisions of this Law,

Elimination of public information in any area, either in part or in whole, without legal authority for doing so.

The Articles 24, 168 and 175 of the Constitution, have provided for the freedom of expression, publications and the press provided that they are not detrimental to the Islamic principles and public rights, and also for the open investigation and trial of political and press offences in the presence of a Jury; they have also provided for the freedom of expression and dissemination of thoughts on the Radio and Television channels of I.R. Iran in keeping with the Islamic criteria and the best interests of the general public.

In this context, some other legal provisions, foremost among them, the "Law on Publication and Free Access to Information" (passed in 2009) and the "press Law and Its Amendments" (passed in 2015) have been approved. Also, under the "Law on the Objectives, Policies and Norms of Book publication" (passed in 2010), freedom of expression, thought, speech, and publication of books and promoting one's thoughts and ideas internationally have been guaranteed.

Book Publication

The statistics relating to book publication released in December 2016 has registered a 19% growth as compared to the statistics of the previous year based on the principal indicators registering a surge from 5956 titles of book in 2015 to 7058 titles of book in 2016. Also, the prices of books had fallen, on average, during 2016 as compared to 2015 dropping from 174,860 Rials (an equivalent of 5 US dollars to 149,080 Rials (an equivalent of 4.2 US dollars).

Table (4): number of titles of book published in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

year	2015	2016 (9 months)
number of titles of book published	5,956	7,058

(Source: report of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Also, in 2015 and 2016 (9 months), a large number of foreign books and Journals were imported as reflected in the following table.

Table (5): number of titles of foreign books imported in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

2015	2016 (9 month)	Total
1,734,388	1,016,950	2,751,338

(Source: report of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

By the end of December 2016, over 8000 titles of press outlets including print and electronic media were active in Iran. This included 1930 news agencies and news sites, 284 dailies, 5800 weeklies, biweeklies, monthlies and other periodicals. This figure which was 6790 in 2015 had risen to 8000 (in a period of 9 months) registering a growth of 20%. Also, according to the latest statistics, the number

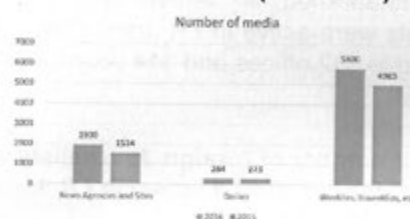
of permits issued for news agencies and news sites had surged by 30%.

Table (6): number of licenses issued for media outlets in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

item	2015	2016 (9 months)
news agencies and news sites	1,534	1,930
newspapers	273	284
weeklies, biweeklies, etc	4,985	5,800
total	6,790	8,014

(Source: report of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Chart (1): comparing numbers of media activities in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)



(Source: report of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Table (7): number of media outlets by provinces (2016)

	province	number		province	number
1	East - Azerbaijan	308	17	Fars	237
2	West -Azerbaijan	127	18	Qazvin	69
3	Ardabil	134	19	Qom	236
4	Isfahan	358	20	Golestan	99
5	Alborz	148	21	Gilan	232
6	Ilam	53	22	Lorestan	127
7	Bushehr	81	23	Mazandran	238
8	Tehran	3943	24	Markazi	117
9	chahar-Mahal-va-Bakhtiari	45	25	Hormozgan	75
10	South - Khorasan	68	26	Hamedan	108
11	Razavi - Khorasan	299	27	Kurdestan	61
12	North - Khuzestan	21	28	Kerman	275
13	Khuzestan	185	29	Kermanshah	96
14	Zanjan	54	30	Kohgiluyeh-va-Buyerahmad	73
15	Semnan	59	31	Yazd	155
16	Sistan-va-Baluchestan	60	32		
total: 8014					

(Source: report of Interior Ministry to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Also, by the end of November 2016, 8000 permits for student Journals had been issued, 4000 of which were published in the universities of the country.

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance is taking measures to grant subsidies and other facilities for Journals and publications pertaining to the recognized religious minorities in Iran and also to shorten the period of time they have to wait to obtain licenses for their Journals. Also, a good number of the licenses issued are for Journals belonging to ethnic groups. For example, in the first 9 months of 2016, in Kurdistan province alone, four licenses had been issued for Journals. In this province, at least, 60 Journals have permits for publication.

In 2015, 148 foreign news media had their own offices established in Tehran and 293 foreign Journalists were active in I.R. Iran. These numbers increased to 152 offices and 314 Journalists in 2016 (9 months).

Table (8): number of foreign Journalists and offices of foreign media active in I.R. Iran in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

year	2015	2016 (9 months)
foreign Journalists	293	314
office of foreign media in I.R. Iran	148	152

(Source: report of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Since the policy of I.R. Iran has been to help boost the activities of professional associations and encourage media groups of different sort to establish their own professional associations and unions, the number of associations of Journalists which had been established and were operating in the country had reached 20 by the end of 2016.

Protection of the rights of Journalists

In order to raise awareness and create a uniform procedure for the utilization of the capacities of the "Law on Publication and free Access to Information", the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance held a number of training workshops for chief editors and managers of the local media.

Also, in order to attract and further involve media people in improving the substantial quality and also theoretical foundations of media work in the country, the proposed provisions of the draft bill of the "Comprehensive Law of Media" and also the draft bill of the "Law of Media Organization" were submitted in 2015 and followed up for their final approval in the Council of Ministers in 2016.

These two legal documents provide the mechanisms required for the protection of the legal rights and freedoms of Journalists, investigation of possible offence and violations of media people and also reduction of the role of government in the process of issue of licenses and permits for media activities and management of media operation.

from 2014 till 2016, the issue of provision of medical insurance for Journalists and obliging media managers to provide for the insurance of their employed journalists through the introduction of incentives and payment of insurance premiums for Journalists was followed up to create psychological and Job security for and protect the professional independence of Journalists.

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance also pays subsidies on the insurance of Journalists and media people as reflected in the following table.

Table (9): subsidies provided for Journalists in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

2015	2016 (9 months)	Total
1800000000000	1100000000000	2900000000000
Rials	Rials	Rials
(equivalent of 5.14 million US dollars)	(equivalent of 3.14 million US dollars)	(equivalent of 8.28 million US dollars)

(Source: report of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Elections as a symbol for democracy in Iran

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the highest government authorities are elected by the direct or indirect vote of the people. The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran is elected by the Assembly of Experts whose members are elected by the direct vote of the people. Other high government authorities including the president and the members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, too, are elected by the direct vote of the people.

Over the past 38 years, more than thirty elections (e.g. presidential, Assembly of Experts, the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the Islamic city and rural councils) have been held with the extensive participation of the people in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Elections are held by the Executive Boards whose members are chosen from among the people's trustees. No discrimination is practiced against candidates who are nominated from among volunteers Knowledgeable in political, social, cultural

and economic fields and are qualified in accordance with the legal criteria that any society may set for nominees running for public posts through elections.

In the last election of the Islamic Consultative Assembly held in February 2016, 6180 candidates ran for the parliamentary seats; 290 of them were elected to the Assembly. One of the interesting results of the election was the entry of 18 female candidates into the parliament which was a record high in the parliamentary election history. The statistics relating to the last parliamentary election is reflected in the following table. The point to note with respect to the said election is that the election in some constituencies ran into the second round for

lack of the required majority of votes needed for the first round of the election.

It should be noted that Iranian nation once again participated in the elections on 19 May 2017 to elect the president and the members of cities and rural councils. In presidential elections 41,220,131 out of 56,410,234 eligible voters participated in election which as a result, Dr. Hassan Rouhani was elected as the president of the twelfth administration with a vote of 23,549,616.

Table (10): statistics pertaining to the 10th election of the Islamic Consultative Assembly in

2016

General statistics	1 st round	2 nd round
No. of votes	33,956,651	5,901,297
No. of valid votes	32,289,049	5,777,027
No. of acceptable votes	1,667,602	124,270
No. of eligible voters	54,915,024	17,626,335
Participation rate	61.83%	33.48%

(Source: Information Center of Interior Ministry)

Access to information network

In keeping with the provisions of the Article 46 of the "Law for the 5th Five-Year National Development Plan" pertaining to the creation and development of a national information network to enable access to high speed internet service for all citizens, The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has initiated the process of designing and building the infrastructures needed for that purpose which, unfortunately, has slowed down due to the illegal and unfair sanctions against the I.R. Iran.

13.5 million families who account for 55.5% of the entire population had access to internet at home in 2016. Of the total number of families with access to internet, 12.9 million (95.8%) had access to high speed internet, 7 million families (51.9%) had access

to fixed high speed internet and 10.7 million families (79%) to mobile high speed internet. Of the 32 million internet users in Iran, 17,068,730 are male and 15,742,553 are female.

A comparison of the statistics relating to the past three years points to the increasing use of information and communication technology among Iranian families.

Access of families to telephone, computer and internet services had grown in 2016 respectively by 1.1%, 11.5% and 17.7% as compared to 2013. It is added that access coefficient by itself does not indicate the availability or unavailability of internet infrastructures in the country. There might be areas in the country where internet coverage is available but it is not used by families.

Table (11): access of families to information and communication services from 2010 to 2015

item	2010	2013	2015			
	number	%	number	%	number	%
total number of families	20,286,247	100	22,821,770	100	24,299,758	100
access to telephone	19,502,822	96.1	22,262,811	97.6	23,977,109	98.7
access to computer	7,146,171	35.2	10,468,407	45.9	13,938,943	57.4
access to internet	4,336,567	21.4	8,625,067	37.8	13,479,815	55.5

(Source: report on Access of Families to ICT service, Ministry of Communication and IT, 2015)

Table (12): access of families to internet service by urban and rural areas (2015)

families with access to internet		urban areas		rural areas	
number	%	number	%	number	%
13,479,815	55.5	11,162,417	62.1	2,317,398	36.7

(Source: report on Access of Families to ICT service, Ministry of Communication and IT, 2015)

Table (13): access of families to high-speed internet by type and also by urban and rural areas (2015)

item	total		urban areas		rural areas	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
access of families to high speed internet	12,915,609	95.8	10,997,693	98.5	1,917,916	82.8
access of families to fixed high speed internet	9,664,725	51.9	6,408,885	57.4	585,840	25.3
access of families to mobile high speed internet	10,651,549	79	8,969,346	80.4	1,682,203	72.6

(Source: report on Access of Families to ICT service, Ministry of Communication and IT, 2015)

The rise in the number of families with access to internet service points to an increase in the number of internet users. In that context, the number of internet users in Iran has risen from 21165306 to 32821444 and also the internet penetration coefficient has surged from 30% to 45.3% among users.

Table (14): internet penetration coefficient form 2008 to 2015 by urban and rural areas

year	population with access to internet	population of six-year olds and above		
		Total	urban	rural
2008	7,955,928	7,940,790	7,234,395	706,395
Penetration (%)	11.1	12	16.3	3.3
2010	11,002,248	10,992,097	10,150,658	841,439
Penetration (%)	14.7	15.9	20.3	4.4
2013	21,165,306	21,134,399	18,761,404	2,372,955
Penetration (%)	27.4	30	36.6	12.3
2015	32,821,444	32,811,284	27,699,198	5,112,085
Penetration (%)	41.6	45.3	52.1	26.6

(Source: report on Access of Families to ICT service, Ministry of Communication and IT, 2015)

Gender of information and communication technology users

Of the entire population of the country in 2015, 36.9 million of ICT technology users (51%) were male and 35.5 million other users (49%) were female.

During the same period, the numbers of mobile phone, computer and internet male users had reached respectively 30.8 million, 15.5 million and 17.1 million while the numbers of mobile phone, computer and

internet female users had risen to respectively 25.6 million, 14.3 million and 15.7 million, which shows that penetration coefficient for male and female mobile phone users we respectively 83.5% and 72%, penetration coefficient for male and female computer users were respectively 42.1% and 40.3% and finally penetration coefficient for male and female internet users were respectively 46.3% and 44.4%. Of the entire population of internet users aged 6 and above, 52% were male and 48% female.

Table (15): gender of information and communication technology users by 2016

item	total	male	female
total population	72,375,210	36,895,732	35,479,477
population of mobile phone users	56,375,934	30,819,078	25,556,846
Penetration%	77.9	83.5	72
population of computer users	29,782,628	15,518,346	14,264,282
Penetration%	41.2	42.1	40.2
population of internet users	32,811,284	17,068,730	15,742,553
Penetration%	45.3	46.3	44.4

(Source: report on Access of Families to ICT service, Ministry of Communication and IT, 2015)

Frequency of the use of internet service by users

In accordance with the statistics of 2015, of the entire population of internet users aged 6 and above, about 21 million (61.1%) use internet, at least, once a day, 4.4 million (13.5%), at least, once a week but not every day, 908,000(2.8 %), at least, once a month but not every week and 251000 (0.8 %) less than once a month.

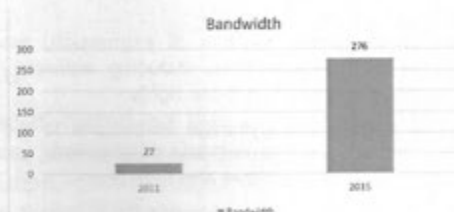
Table (16): frequency of the use of internet service by users

item	2010		2013		2015	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
total population of users	10,992,097	100	21,134,399	100	32,811,284	100
at least, once a day	2,868,507	26.1	7,361,192	34.8	21,029,852	64.1
at least, once a week, but not every day	3,644,725	33.2	5,115,841	24.2	4,437,002	13.5
at least, once a month, but not every week	2,926,129	26.2	2,267,446	10.7	908,281	2.8
less than once a month	1,545,437	14.1	3,381,429	16	251,673	0.8

(Source: report on Access of Families to ICT service, Ministry of Communication and IT, 2015)

International internet bandwidth has grown over 10 times during the past four years.

Chart (2): international internet bandwidth by gigabit per second



(Source: report of Ministry of Communication and Information Technology to the National Committee of UPR, 2015)

Judicial Justice

Judicial Justice

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.27	Consider introducing specific provisions in the Islamic Penal Code about investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of domestic violence;	Portugal
138.206	Continue to improve the national legislation and practice in the field of the independence of the judiciary;	Russian Federation
138.213	Take measures to ensure due process and fair trial, particularly in any process that would lead to the application of the death penalty;	Mexico
No. Rec	Accepted Recommendations /Partially	Country
138.204	Increase the legal measures aimed at guaranteeing due process and the impartiality in the administration of justice, including the independence of judges and the Bar Association, paying special attention to the recommendations concerning the death penalty formulated by the Human Rights Committee, especially in relation to juvenile offenders;	Chile
138.205	Ensure the independence of the judicial system and ensure the rules of fair trial and the rights of the defence;	France
138.208	Ensure immediate access to a freely chosen counsel within the first hour of the procedure, including during the first interrogations and until the end of the judicial process, as well as access to all the official documents of the procedure;	Belgium
138.209	Provide by law unobstructed access to legal counsel throughout all phases of criminal investigation, trial and appeal; ensure the accused is informed of this right immediately upon arrest; and give defendants and their lawyers unrestricted access to the full case file and all evidence against the accused ;	Denmark
138.210	Guarantee due process of law in all judicial proceedings;	Germany
138.211	Ensure, in law and in practice, that all citizens are given fair trials based on the rule of law, as accepted in the 2010 UPR examination;	Norway
138.212	Ensure all the procedural guarantees and the right to a fair trial for all persons indicted of committing a crime, including the right to defence and access to a lawyer;	Romania
138.226	Guarantee the right to legitimate freedom of expression, association and assembly, and release political prisoners, including activists, lawyers and journalists, detained solely for exercising these rights;	Australia
138.234	Guarantee freedom of speech and eliminate restrictions to the free flow of information, including through the Internet, and stop arrests, prosecution and sanction of individuals for expressing views and opinions;	Netherlands

Judicial Justice in I.R. Iran

The preamble of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in view of the importance of Justice in the Islamic justice system, underlines the need for "the establishment of a judicial system, based on Islamic justice, composed of just judges who are versed in (Islamic) laws." This system, because of its essentially sensitive nature and the need for its full ideological conformity, must be free from any kind of unhealthy relations and connections. During the past decade, the judicial system of I.R. Iran has taken a wide range of measures to administer judicial justice for all citizens by reforming the laws and regulations in force including the penal laws (e.g. Islamic Penal Code and Criminal Procedural Law) as well as civil

laws (e.g. Family Law). The reformation of laws is an on-going process and, at present, some important bills of law including the "5th Book on Criminal Laws" ("Tazirat" or discretionary punishments) and the bill of law on "protection of the rights of children and adolescents" are being formulated for consideration and approval.

An efficient, independent and impartial judicial system

According to the Article 156 of the Constitution, the Judiciary is an independent power. Also, the Articles 164 and 166 of the Constitution protect the independence of Judges and provide for the issuance of reasoned and documented verdicts by judges.

Table (1): legal foundations for the independence of the Judiciary and judges and their impartiality

legal provisions	independence of the Judiciary and judges
Article 156 of the Constitution	the Judiciary is an independent power which is responsible for the protection of individual and society rights and implementation of Justice
Article 164 of the Constitution	A judge cannot be removed, whether temporarily or permanently, from the post he/she occupies except by trial and proof of his guilt, or in consequence of a violation entailing his dismissal. A judge cannot be transferred or redesignated without his consent, except in cases when the interest of society necessitates it, that too, with the decision of the head of the judiciary branch after consultation with the chief of the Supreme Court and the Prosecutor General. The periodic transfer and rotation of judges will be in accordance with general regulations to be laid down by law.
Article 421 of the Criminal Procedures Law (passed in 2014 and enforced in 2015)	The judge should refuse to hear the following cases and the parties to such cases, too, can challenge the prosecution process if they occur: where there is a relation by blood or marriage up to a third degree between the judge and one of the parties to the dispute or his / her accessory or abettor ; where the judge is the guardian or agent of one of the parties to the dispute; where the Judge or his spouse or child is inheritor of one of the parties to the dispute or his / her accessory or abettor; where, the judge has given a substantial opinion, in any capacity, with respect to the same criminal case or has been a witness in the case; where there is a civil or criminal case between the judge or his parents, spouse, or child and one of the parties to the dispute or his / her parents, spouse, or child; or where there has been a record of such a case and not two years have passed since the issuance of a definitive verdict with respect to that case; where the Judge or his spouse or child have an interest in the case,
Article 372 of the Criminal Procedural Law (2014)	The judge should not give any opinion on the possible acquittal or conviction of the accused prior to the completion of the trial process and issuance of the verdict
Draft Comprehensive Bill on Administrative and Employment System of the Judiciary	Preparation of the Draft Comprehensive Bill on Administrative and Employment System of the Judiciary by the Department under the Deputy Head of the Judiciary for Legal Affairs in which the financial and administrative independence of the Judicial power has been stipulated

Fair prosecution and trial

The Justice system of I.R. Iran is based on the principle of fair prosecution and trial which has been underlined in the Constitution, the Criminal Procedural Law and other laws in force in all stages of the prosecution process from uncovering and investigation of crimes up to the enforcement of

verdicts, irrespective of race, religion, gender, and ethnic background. Also, the principles of presumption of innocence and that crimes and punishments must be based on law have been noted in the Article 37 of the Constitution and the Articles 2 and 12 of the Islamic Penal code, under those principles, no one is presumed guilty until his/her guilt has been established by a competent court.

Basically, the protection of the rights of the parties to disputes constitutes the core of implementation of Justice in the judicial system of I.R. Iran. The Criminal Procedural Law which was passed in 2014 and came into effect in 2015 aims to better protect

the rights of the parties to criminal cases, both the accused and the victim, and cover any gaps in the criminal justice system. Some of the new provisions and developments provided for in the Criminal Procedural Law are reflected in the following table:

Table (2): innovations in the Criminal Procedural Law (passed in 2014 and enforced in 2015)

organizing the principles governing the prosecution process and provision for a fair trial	<p>-criminal prosecution must be based on law and guarantee the rights of the parties to legal cases and its rules should be equally applied with respect to persons who are prosecuted for perpetration of crimes under similar circumstances (Article 2),</p> <p>-judicial authorities should try and issue judgments on charges against the accused in the shortest possible time with full independence and impartiality and avoid any action which might disrupt or prolong the criminal trial process (Article 3),</p> <p>-everyone is presumed innocent and in case a person raises a claim against another, evidence should be submitted thereof (Article 4),</p> <p>-the accused should be informed of the charges raised against him / her and the reasons for them, and also of his / her right of access to legal counsel (attorney) and all other rights that he / she is entitled to under the provisions of the Law in the shortest possible time (Article 5),</p> <p>-the accused, the victim, the witness and any or all other persons involved in the case should be informed of their rights in the trial process and should have access to mechanisms which guarantee their enjoyment of the rights (Article 6),</p> <p>-In the entire criminal prosecution process, the citizens' rights provided for in the Law on "Respecting Legitimate Freedoms and Protecting Citizens' Rights" of 2004, should be respected by all the related judicial authorities, Judicial enforcement officers, and all other persons involved in the trial process; violators shall be punished by the penalties provided for in the Law in addition to provision of compensation for any damages caused (Article 7),</p>
The imperative of carrying the special cards issued for the judicial enforcement officers on assignments	the Articles 29 and 30 of the Act on the Duties of the Judicial Enforcement Officers stipulate that judicial enforcement officers are only those police officers who have passed the related training courses rather than all police officers in general: any investigation conducted or other measures carried out by an officer who lacks the special card for the Judicial enforcement officer shall be void and invalid; even if a legal case proceeds to the level of the Supreme Court where it becomes clear that the related Judicial enforcement officer lacked the special card during the conduct of duties with respect to that particular case, the entire investigation process will be invalid
formation of "special police for children and adolescents"	for more effective protection of the rights of children and adolescents in view of their sensitive character, the Law has provided for the formation of a special police for children and adolescents in the Police Force for better performance of the duties of the Judicial enforcement officers
Investigation and interrogation of women and immature persons by female interrogators	to protect more effectively the rights of women and immature persons who are subject to legal accusations, they shall be interrogated, in view of their vulnerable situation, by female officers who have received the training for that purpose,
summons and arrests take place upon warrants issued by the related Judicial authorities	the authority for the issuance of arrest warrants rests only with the Judicial authorities and cannot be delegated to others,
right of contact with family members for the accused when placed under custody	this right has been provided for in the Articles 49 and 50 of the Criminal Procedures Law (2014),
right of NGOs to lodge complaints against offenders	the Article 66 of the law stipulates that NGOs, which have provided for the protection of the rights of children and adolescents, women, sick persons and persons with physical and mental disabilities, environment, natural resources, cultural heritage public health and citizens' rights in their statutes, can lodge complaints against potential offenders in the related fields,

presence of attorney in custody and preliminary investigation stages (pretrial)	under the Article 48 of the Law, the accused can demand access to an attorney as soon as he / she is placed under custody
compensation for detention period after acquittal	under the Article 255, the losses suffered by the accused and the mechanism for claiming such losses have been provided for in the Articles 257 and 261 of the Law,
opening a personality dossier for the accused	As for cases of serious crimes, it is imperative that a personality dossier be opened for the accused by the social worker; character dossiers are also opened for delinquent children and adolescents
elimination of obligatory temporary custody order	since obligatory temporary custody order is incompatible with the principles of presumption of innocence and freedom of movement and also, in order to better protect citizens' rights, the obligatory temporary custody order has been eliminated from the criminal prosecution system; under the Article 242 of the Law, a certain period of time has been set for temporary detention of the accused which is two months for most serious crimes and one month for other crimes and the accused should be set free after the lapse of the period in each case if the case is not established
conversion of the criminal arrest order into prosecution arrest order	The criminal arrest warrant issued by the prosecutor's office has been converted into arrest warrant for prosecution and the investigator is no longer allowed to treat the accused as a criminal (Article 265),

It is to be noted that there are some important principles which are observed in the entire prosecution process as reflected below:

—The principle of public Justice: the Article 165 of the Constitution of I.R. Iran has recognized the principle of public Justice reading; 'trials are conducted openly and are free to be seen by the public unless its openness will be detrimental to public order or morals upon the discretion of the court, or in private cases, the parties to the dispute may ask for the trial not to be open to the public.' this principle has also been underlined in the Article 352 of the Criminal Procedural Law (passed in 2014).

-Two-stage prosecution process: since the Iranian Justice system is based on a two-stage prosecution process, the Judgments issued by lower courts can be appealed in higher courts.

-separation of political and press crimes from general crimes; trial of political and press crimes will be open to the public and shall be held in the presence of a Jury in public courts.

Prohibition of arbitrary arrest or detention

Under the Article 32 of the Constitution, "no one may be arrested except by the order and in accordance with the procedures laid down by law. In case of arrest, charges with the reasons for accusation, must, without delay, be communicated and explained to the accused in writing, and a provisional dossier must be forwarded to the competent Judicial authorities within

a maximum of 24 hours so that the preliminaries to the trial can be completed as swiftly as possible. The violation of this article shall be liable to punishment in accordance with the law."

- under the Article 570 of the Islamic Penal Code (discretionary and deterrent punishments of 1996),"any government authority or official who deprives a person of his /her freedom or any other rights provided for in the Constitution against law shall be liable to a punishment of 6 months to 3 years in jail, in addition to his /her removal from his/ her current post and derivation of employment in governmental Jobs for 3 to 5 years.

- under the Article 575 of the Islamic Penal Code, "Judicial or other competent authorities who order the detention, arrest or criminal prosecution of a person against law, shall be liable to a punishment of permanent removal from their Judicial posts and deprivation of employment in governmental Jobs for 5 years."

- Article 583 of the Law stipulates" any government authority or official including those in the Armed Services and other governmental organs who detains or incarcerates a person or conceals him / her in a clandestine location by force without the order of the related competent authority shall be punished by a Jail term of one to three years or cash fines."

- Article 1 of the "Law on Respecting Legitimate Freedoms and Protection of Citizens' Rights" (passed in 2004) reads:" uncovering and prosecution of crimes, conduct of investigation and issuance

of orders for temporary detention or bail must be based on law and transparent Judicial orders and use of personal preferences, force or unnecessary detention must be avoided."

Access to legal counsel (attorney)

Article 35 of the Constitution of I.R. Iran, above all other laws in force in the country, has recognized the right of access to attorney. The Article reads: "both parties to a lawsuit have the right in all courts of law

to select an attorney, and if they are unable to do so, arrangements must be made to provide them with legal counsel."

The Criminal Procedural Law has adopted a human rights approach toward the right of access to legal counsel for the parties to lawsuits (the accused and detainees) and opened a new chapter in this regard as it can be seen in the following table.

Table (3): provisions of the Criminal Procedural Law concerning the right of access to legal counsel (attorney)

item	provision of the Law
Article 48	the presence of an attorney at the time of being placed under custody
Article 190	During the investigation phase a defendant may be accompanied by an attorney. This right should be communicated to the defendant by the procurator before the initiation of the investigation. If a defendant is summoned, this right is communicated to him or her in the summons. Note 1: Denial of the right to be accompanied by an attorney, or failure to communicate this right to the defendant, results in invalidation of the investigation. Note 2: When a crime is punishable by death or life imprisonment, if a defendant does not introduce an attorney during the preliminary investigation, the prosecutor will select a court-appointed attorney for the defendant.
Article 195	in view of the rights of the accused, the investigator shall warn the accused, before the commencement of the investigation, to be wary of his / her statements and, then, communicate to and inform him / her of the charges against him /her and the reasons for them and that his / her confession and effective collaboration can be conducive to mitigation of his punishment, and then start the questioning process; the attorney of the accused can warn the investigator in case of asking suggestive and leading questions
Article 346	in all criminal lawsuits, the parties can select their own attorneys
Article 347	the accused can ask (up to the end of the 1st court session) the court to appoint an attorney to defend his case. In case of the establishment of the financial incapacity of the accused to afford an attorney, the court can hire a public defender from amongst attorneys in the same Judicial complex and, if not possible, from amongst attorneys in the nearest Judicial complex to defend him/her. In case, the attorney demands a fee for his/her services, the court will determine the fees for the services provided and pay them from the allocated credits of the Judiciary
Article 348	concerning crimes which are punished by death penalty, life imprisonment, discretionary punishments of 3 rd degree and above, the court sessions cannot be held without the presence of the attorney of the accused; if the accused fails to name an attorney to defend his/her case or his/her attorney fails to attend the court sessions without a valid reason, the appointment of a public defender will become necessary and, in case, the public defender fails to attend the court sessions without a valid reason, the court shall replace the public defender; the fees for the services of the public defender shall be paid from the allocated credits of the Judiciary.
Article 23 of the Law on Attorneyship (passed in 1936)	Attorneys of justice are obliged to accept to defend three legal cases per year as Judicial assistance. under the Law, persons who cannot afford an attorney can ask for Judicial assistance from Bar Association
Article 180 of the Statute of Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization	the Statute of Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization has provided for the meeting of attorneys with the prisoners whom they represent upon the submission of a valid power of attorney and the certificate of the court.

(Source: report of Deputy Head of the Judiciary for Legal Affairs to The National Committee of UPR, 2016)

As for the immediate access to legal counsel or attorney in the early hours of the investigation process, in addition to the aforementioned legal provisions, there are some other measures provided for in the Criminal Procedural Law which are reflected in the following table.

Table (4): immediate access to legal counsel or attorney in the early hours of the investigation process

Legal Articles	Legal Provision
Article 5	the accused shall be informed, at the shortest possible time, of the charges against him / her and the reasons for them and also of his /her right of access to legal counsel (attorney) and other rights provided for in the Law
Article 48	the accused can ask for the presence of an attorney as soon as he / she is placed under custody
Article 50	the person in custody can inform his / her family members of their situation by telephone or any other means of communication and the Judicial enforcement officers are obliged to facilitate the communication process unless they have good reasons to believe that the accused should not be allowed to use the facility, and, in that case, inform the related Judicial authority of their decision to do so
Article 52	if the accused are placed under custody, the Judicial enforcement officers are obligated to inform and communicate to the accused, in writing, his / her rights provided for in the Law and receive a receipt confirming the communication of the rights to the accused and attach it to the dossier

(Source: report of Deputy Head of the Judiciary for Legal Affairs to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

The number of attorneys working in I.R. Iran is significant. The number of trainees under the lawyer apprenticeship programs was 10,880 in 2015 and the number of practicing attorneys was 30,947 in the same year. The number of cases in which attorneys had served as public defenders hired by the courts was 42,518 in 2015 (5 months).

The number of free Judicial assistance cases provided by the Office for Judicial Assistance under Bar Association stationed in the Judicial complexes was 4,126 in 2015 (5 months) and the number of visitors to the Office for Judicial Assistance under Bar Association was 11,828 in 2015 (5 months).

Table (5): number of trainees under lawyer apprenticeship programs and number of practicing attorneys by gender in 2015 (5 months)

number of trainees under lawyer apprenticeship programs		number of practicing attorneys	
female	male	female	male
3,388	7,492	9,146	21,801
total	10,880	total	30,947

(Source: report of Central Bar Association to the National Committee of UPR, 2015)

Table (6): number of cases of judicial assistance referred to practicing attorneys, Offices for Judicial Assistance as well as Bar Association in 2015(5 months)

referral of cases to practicing attorneys (public defenders)	cases of judicial assistance service provided by judicial complexes	cases of judicial assistance service provided by Bar Association
42,518	4,126	11,828

(Source: report of Central Bar Association to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Compensation of damages resulting from judicial mistakes or fault

There are different legal provisions for compensation of damages resulting from judicial mistakes or faults, which are partly reflected in following table.

Table (7): legal provisions for compensation of damages resulting from judicial mistakes or faults

legal provision	guarantees for compensation of damages
Article 179 of the Constitution	if, as a result of the failure or mistake of a judge on the subject of the dispute and the verdict thereof, the accused suffers some material or moral losses, in case of failure the guilty party shall be responsible for the losses caused according to the Islamic Principles, otherwise the losses will be compensated by the government. In either case, the accused shall be rehabilitated.
Article 255 of Criminal Procedural Law (2014)	persons who are taken into custody during the preliminary investigation or prosecution process for any reason and are subsequently acquitted or receive orders to stop proceedings of charges against them are entitled to claim damages for the detention period
Article 257 of Criminal Procedural Law	any detained person who receives a definitive acquittal verdict, may lodge a compensation claim, not later than 6 months as of the date of the acquittal verdict, with the "Provincial Commission" composed of three judges from the Provincial Appeal Court who are selected by the Chief Justice. The Commission will issue an order for compensation if the conditions for compensation under the provisions of this Article are proven. In case of the rejection of the claim, the person can lodge an appeal with the Commission of Article 258 within 28 days as of the date when the order of rejection of compensation claim is communicated to him / her
Article 258 of Criminal Procedural Law (2014)	The protest of the detained person will be handled by the "National Compensation Commission" composed of the president of the Supreme Court or one of his deputies and two judges from the Supreme Court selected by the Chief Justice. The decision of the Commission on the claim will be final.
Article 259 of Criminal Procedural Law (2014)	The government is responsible for the provision of compensation provided for under the Article 255 of the Law. In case of the biased reporting of the crime, false testimony or the failure or mistake of the judicial authorities on the case, the government may deal with the offending authority after the provision of the compensation to the victim
Article 260 of Criminal Procedural law (2014)	to pay the compensation provided for under the Article 255 of the Law, a fund is established by the Ministry of Justice with a budget which comes from the annual total budget of the government every year. the Fund operates under the oversight of the Minister of Justice and is responsible for the execution of the judgments issued by the Compensation Commission

Oversight mechanisms of the judiciary to ensure judicial justice in protection of the rights of the people (citizens)

A variety of oversight mechanisms have been developed to monitor the proceedings of tribunals and performance of judicial authorities including the prosecutor's office (s), judicial complexes and judicial enforcement officers. The oversight mechanisms include the "judicial Organization of the Armed Services", "the Prosecutors' Office" and "Disciplinary Court for Judges."

The administrative offences of government employees, too, are addressed by the special departments handling complaints against the offences and violations of the executive bodies. The violations of the executive bodies can also be dealt with by the Administrative Justice Court and the State General Inspectorate Organization.

One of the duties of the Supreme Court is to oversee the fair and sound enforcement of laws by courts and tribunals. To conduct such oversight, a unit named Case Monitoring System (CMS) has been established in the Supreme Court under the Deputy Head of the Supreme Court for Supervisory Affairs. This unit is tasked with investigating the reasons for the overturning of the verdicts in the Supreme Court through its experts. Besides, some senior, well-experienced judges of the Supreme Court are assigned to investigate the performance of the judicial authorities and judges of different provinces, on periodic missions, and submit their reports and suggestions for the improvement of the ongoing processes.

Table (8): important measures taken by the Deputy Head of the Supreme Court for Supervisory Affairs in 2015 and 2016 (8 months)

investigation and oversight	
1	investigation and supervision over the performance of all courts of first instance including district courts, courts in other cities and towns, appellate courts, the revolutionary courts and military courts in the provinces of Alborz, Qazvin, Khuzestan and Ardabil,
2	The presence of judges from the Supreme Court in all court branches where they investigate, at least, five closed or ongoing cases of the courts in a random way including the prosecution process in the current cases and also the prosecution process as well as the documents and the judgments of the prosecutors in the closed cases,
3	Assessing the performance of all judges in the provinces in terms of their adherence to the provisions of laws and also their legal knowledge,
CMS	
4	To further increase the precision and strength of judicial judgments in accordance with the Article 166 of the Constitution, the "Supervisory Unit of the Supreme Court" investigates the reasons for the overturned verdicts in the branches of the Supreme Court in a certain period of time, which has so far helped reduce the cases of defective judicial cases in higher courts and led to shorter prosecution time, and greater satisfaction of the public and the contestants as well,
5	To follow up the complaints of citizens concerning the proceedings of their cases whether in the prosecution process or in the enforcement stage
6	To prevent the prolongation of cases and investigate the old cases through CMS and warn the presiding judges or investigators or the local justice authorities who are responsible for the old cases to proceed such cases out of turn

(Source: report of the Supreme Court to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

The General Prosecutor of the country, too, has two core responsibilities, one is to protect citizens' rights and the other one is to oversee the effective enforcement of laws. The General Prosecutor or, in other words, the Prosecutor's Office of the Supreme Court is responsible for overseeing the affairs of all prosecutor's offices (e. g. public prosecutor's, revolutionary prosecutor's and military prosecutor's offices) either through field visits by dispatching groups of senior judges to provinces or through electronic surveillance.

The members of the dispatched groups visit the branches of each category of courts and study the dossiers particularly those which relate to enforcement orders. They also visit prisons where, in view of the general policies of the Judiciary such as reduction of criminal population and decarceration, monitor the performance of the judges of the prosecutor's offices with respect to the enforcement of the "manual on reduction of criminal population." They also check the activities and performance of the prosecutors and the judges overseeing prison affairs and see if the judicial officials conduct their regular visits to prisons, control the criminal population there and take the necessary measures for the release of prisoners who can be released under the Law.

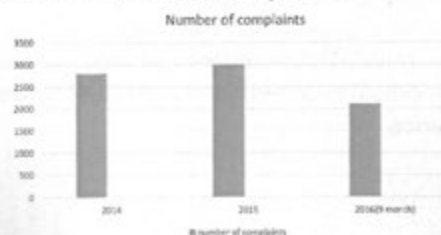
The State General Inspectorate Organization, as an institution provided for in the Constitution (Article 174) operating under the Chief Justice is responsible for the good performance of the executive bodies

with respect to the effective enforcement of laws.

In addition to scheduled, extraordinary and case-based inspections, the State General Inspectorate Organization is responsible to respond to citizens' complaints. To facilitate the processing of complaints and to ensure easy, rapid and free access to the related authorities, the Organization has launched an "on-line notices and complaints system." The chart below displays the figures on complaints handled by the Organization in 2015 and 2016 (6 months).

Also, from March 2014 till January 2017, a total number of 2840 complaints and notices were registered with the provincial offices of the Organization which had been processed and closed (the complaints had either been answered and solved, or no miscarriage of justice was detected in the process, or inspections had been carried out and suggestions had been given for their solution).

Chart (1): number of complaints registered by the "on-line notices and complaints system" from March 2014 till January 2017



Pursuant to the adoption of the "Law on Respecting Legitimate Freedoms And Protection of Citizens' Rights" in 2004, a "Central Oversight Board" composed of the members of the "Council of Deputies to the Head of the Judiciary" chaired by the Chief Justice was established to ensure the good performance of the Law. The "Secretariat for Protection of Citizens' Rights", too, based on the "executive manual" of the Article 15 of the said Law has put in place the necessary mechanisms and measures to fully protect citizens' rights.

The Secretariat is also utilizing its means to enhance and promote citizens' rights through building capacities in the "Provincial Boards" (benefiting from the contributions of the 261 members of the Boards) and organizing training programs, conducting inspections as well as collecting and answering citizens' complaints and notices. The "Provincial Boards" had conducted some 13,239 cases of inspection to judicial institutions, judicial enforcement bodies as well as prisons from March 2015 till January 2017. During the same period, 1,861 cases of complaint and notice were submitted in person and 1,571 cases were submitted through the "on-line notices and complaints system" to the Secretariat, which were processed and answered.

Criminalization of domestic violence

The "Comprehensive Bill on Protection of Women against Violence", includes a wide range of judicial, precautionary and preventive measures formulated to protect women against all forms of violence including domestic violence. The Bill, which concentrates on the four elements of the "definition and examples", the "penalties and punishments against perpetrators", a "specific criminal procedures law on acts of violence against women" and the formation of a "national committee for protection of women's security," has been drafted by the Office of the Vice- President for Women and Family Affairs and is in the final stage of its approval.

It is to be noted that the Article 54 of the "Charter of Citizens' Rights" has provided for the protection of the rights of all citizens particularly women and children against verbal and behavioral violence in family and social environments and has also provided for easy access to safe environments as well as rescue and relief, medical treatment and judicial services in case of violence.

Guarantees for fair trial on cases of capital punishment

No international treaty or convention has explicitly provided for an obligation on the total elimination of death penalty, which demonstrates that the international community has not accepted the commitment to eliminate death penalty as a strict or conventional obligation and that there is no consensus on the matter. It is important to note that every country has a right to choose its own judicial criminal, legal, economic, political and social system without others' intervention. This right has been enshrined in the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations specifically in the Para. 7 of the Article 2 of the UN Charter.

The process for the issuance of death penalty is very lengthy in I.R. Iran, which includes the issuance of the preliminary verdict in the court of first instance in the presence of three judges, referral to the appeal court, referral to the Supreme Court, and finally upholding of the verdict by the Chief Justice before its enforcement. Also, in accordance with the Article 474 of the Criminal Procedural Law, request for retrial will be accepted under specific conditions, in cases where definitive verdicts have been issued. Under the Article 477 of Law, the Chief Justice may order a new trial in cases where he finds the definitive verdicts of tribunals to be incompatible with the principles of the Islamic Law. In such cases the dossier is sent back to the Supreme Court which refers it to specific branches of court which are devoted for retrial of such cases.

The Chief Justice may, also, order a new trial in certain cases upon his discretion. The issuance and finalization of death penalty verdicts generally takes quite a few years.

In the laws in force in I.R. Iran death penalty has been provided for only the most serious crimes. Cases relating to these crimes, which include murder, terrorist acts, and narcotic drug trafficking in large quantities, are tried, with utmost care and sensitivity, by the courts in the presence of the representative of the prosecutor, the accused and his/her attorney and verdicts are issued pursuant to a fair trial which takes place in as many court sessions as necessary. The court sessions in such cases will become formal only if they are attended by the attorney of the accused and sessions held without the presence of the attorney will be invalid and the decisions adopted by them can be overturned by the Supreme Court.

The share of death penalty cases relating to

narcotic drug trafficking is over 90% of the total number of death penalty verdicts. The crime of drug trafficking is by far graver than the victimization of a single person and is, thus, more serious than the crime of murder. The Criminal Procedural Law, too, has provided for the trial of drug-trafficking cases in two stages in a more detailed manner. Also, after the finalization of the verdict and in the stage of enforcement of the verdict, clemency requests by the convict or his/her parents, spouse or children are accepted and positively responded to in a good number of cases.

Furthermore, the Islamic Consultative Assembly is considering a new plan for fighting the menace of drug trafficking and punishments for its related crimes which, if passed, enables a more effective fight against and mitigation of the maximum penalty for a considerable number of perpetrators of drug-related crimes.

Prohibition of arrest and prosecution of citizens for expression of opinions and conscience

Freedom of expression and conscience, media activities and peaceful assemblies has always been supported by different legal instruments in the I.R. IRAN. The Article 24 of the Constitution has underlined freedom of publications and media.

The Press Law (1985) along with its subsequent attachments and amendments has guaranteed the same freedoms and no individual or group, irrespective of their trade or professional affiliations, will be prosecuted for their activities if the provisions of the laws are respected and are not used as a

cover for illegal activities.

Iran's established policy has always been to promote freedom of expression. According to the latest statistics, thousands of journalists and bloggers from different political persuasions are, at present, active in the country. It is to be noted that the necessary sanctions for the protection of the rights of the press have been provided in the Press Law specifically in its Article 4 which reads: "no governmental or non-governmental authority is allowed to exert pressure on the press for the publication of any material or article, or to censor or control the press in any way."

Also, for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Article 24 of the Constitution (concerning freedom of expression), legislators have only provided penalties, under the Article 608 of the Islamic Penal Code, against people who might insult others under the cover of freedom of expression.

The Press Law, too, has affirmed freedom of expression and constructive criticism provided that it is not abused as a cover for insult, humiliation, calumny, and libel against others or violation of public and individual rights. Such limitations, of course, conform to the provisions of the Articles 18 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Furthermore, according to the laws and regulations in force, no one is practically arrested under the jurisdiction of the I.R. Iran without obvious evidence of commission of crime. The related Articles of the Constitution and the penal codes of the country stipulate that arrests may take place only under the provisions of law and upon transparent judicial orders in accordance with the principles of fair trial free from any personal preferences and use of violence.

Prisoners' Rights

Prisoners' Rights

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.186	Continue the work which has been started on the improvement of the conditions of detention in the penitentiary system and the integration of former prisoners into society;	Russian Federation
No. Rec	Accepted Recommendations /Partially	Country
138.183	Ensure, in accordance with articles 5 and 6 of ICCPR, freedom from torture, while in detention, for all, regardless also of sexual orientation;	Denmark
138.184	Release all persons detained solely for peaceful political activities; inquire into all cases of alleged torture in detention facilities and bring those responsible to justice;	Lithuania
138.185	Ensure decent conditions of detention;	France
138.207	Allow all prisoners access to legal counsel during all phases of pretrial detention and the investigative stages of cases, and allow for legal counsel to advise the accused during these proceedings;	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
138.216	Ensure that those who commit torture are held accountable and ratify CAT and its Optional Protocol;	Hungary

New Legal Measures Regarding Prisons and Prisoners

The most significant legal-legislative measures in line with the rights of prisoners and detainees during 2015-16 are described in Table 1 below. It is noteworthy that according to Article 39 of the Constitution, degrading those individuals who have

been arrested, detained, incarcerated, or exiled in accordance with the law is prohibited and the perpetrators shall receive punishment. The Executive Directive of the Department of Penitentiaries adopted in 2005 emphasizes prisoners' rights (religious rights, the right to equality, access to health services, respect of family life, judicial proceedings, adequate nutrition, human relations, etc.).

Table (1): The most significant measures put in place regarding prisons and prisoners (2015 and 2016)

Legislation / rules and regulations	Theme
Paragraph 64 of the General Policies of the 6 th National Development Plan	Revising penal laws in order to reduce prison sentences and changing them into other sanctions and adapting the sanctions with the offenses
Paragraph 65 of the General Policies of the 6 th National Development Plan	Improving the conditions of prisons and detention centers
Submitting the Directive on Classification Prisoners and Reducing the Criminal Population in Prisons (Aug 2016)	This Directive comprises 33 articles emphasizing alternative sanctions and decarceration of prison guidelines and would reduce the population of criminal prisoners

Drafting the bill on Social Sanctions as Alternative to Prison (July 2016)

Article 514 of the Penal Proceedings Act adopted in 2013 and enforced in 2015

The Bill is being discussed in the relevant parliamentary commission and, if adopted, a large number of the prison sentences would be changed into alternative sanctions including the care period, general services, daily monetary penalties, and temporary denial of social rights and thereby leading to a reduction in the penal population

The prohibition of keeping convicts and accused under one roof

Improving the Conditions of Prisons and Detention Centers

With respect to the macro policies of the Department of Penitentiaries in line with improving the

physical structures of prisons and also appropriate classification of accused and convicts, this organ has effected different measures in 2015 and 2016, the most significant of which are displayed in Table 2.

Table (2): The most significant measures effected by the Department of Penitentiaries in line with improving the conditions of detention centers in 2015 and 2016

Item	The most significant measures effected in line with improving the conditions of detention centers in 2015 and 2016
1	Restoring, optimizing, and renovating the existing facilities and installations and old buildings of the Department of Penitentiaries
2	Adding 123,209 m ² to the indoor spaces for keeping prisoners in 2015 and 2016 in order to standardize the spaces per capita for keeping prisoners
3	Implementing the Penitentiaries' Transfer to Outside Cities Act

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Integration of Prisoners into Society and Preventing Re-entry to the Prison

After-release care centers have been operational since 2008 with the aim of preventing recidivism through providing social and material support for released inmates and their families. These centers provide supports such as social work, psychological

counseling, vocational training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and treatment, loan payment (employment loans, marriage, down payment, etc.), cash and non-cash assistance. These centers have provided 395,893 cases of assistance to released inmates during Apr 2015 – Nov 2016.

Table (3): Measures taken for the reentry (integration) of prisoners into society and preventing their re-entry to the prison (Apr 2015 – Nov 2016)

Year	Covered former inmates	Inmates	Psychological counseling	Healthcare	Employment and vocational training	Cash and non-cash assistance	Cultural activities	Total measures
Apr 2015 – Mar 2016	22,028	169,508	59,203	20,815	13,341	13,098	8717	321,704
Apr – Nov 2016	4638	44,546	12,715	9111	4508	---	3309	74,189

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The aforesaid measures decreased the rate of re-entry. From a total of 26,952 prisoners in the after-release centers in 2013-2015, a total of 1.81% were re-entered.

Table (4): The rate of the re-entry of inmates covered by the after-release centers in 2015

Total	Number of those covered				Number of those re-entered				Percentage of those re-entered			
	2013	2014	2015	Total	2013	2014	2015	Total	2013	2014	2015	Total
	10,295	9062	7595	26,952	176	145	166	487	1.71	1.60	2.19	1.81

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Access of All Detainees and Prisoners to Attorneys

According to Article 187 of the Executive Directive of the Department of Penitentiaries, the attorneys of the Judiciary who hold an official letter of proxy to safeguard the rights of their clients can refer to prisons during working hours with the agreement of the relevant judge or supervising judges and meet with their clients. No disciplinary, administrative, or judicial authority can prevent a meeting between an attorney and his/her client. In addition, legal, judicial, and counseling services are rendered to

prisoners in need in accordance with the agreement of the Department of Penitentiaries with the Center of Legal Counselors, and the Legal Experts of the Judiciary in 2003.

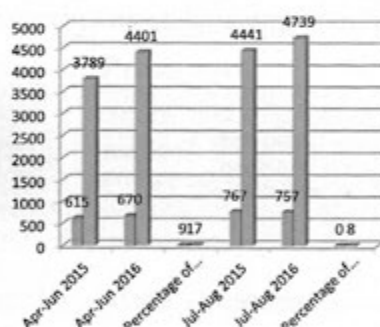
In the six-month periods between Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016, 1372 and 1427 attorneys met with their clients, respectively. In the aforementioned periods, 8210 and 9194 inmates, respectively were rendered free-of-charge counseling services by the Department of Penitentiaries. Table 5 and Chart 1 represent these statistics.

Table (5): Performance of attorneys and legal counselors (Apr – Nov 2015)

Theme	Apr – Jun 2015	Apr – Jun 2016	Percentage of growth / reduction	Jul – Sep 2015	Jul – Sep 2016	Percentage of growth / reduction
Number of attorneys	615	670	9	757	757	0
Number of inmates receiving free-of-charge counseling	3769	4401	17	4441	4793	8

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Chart (1): Performance of attorneys and legal counselors (Apr – Nov 2015)



Safeguarding the Rights of Citizens in Prisons and Detention Centers

Paying special attention to the citizens' rights of prisoners falls among the priorities of the Department

of Penitentiaries. In order to respect the human dignity of prisoners and safeguard their citizens' rights, the staff of prisons undergo the necessary trainings. Article 44 of the Executive Directive of the Department of Penitentiaries focuses on developing and promoting the fundamentals and principles of the rights of citizens in prisoners, detention centers, and institutions run by the Department and thus the Bureau of Citizens' Rights was established in the Department. In addition, *The Rights and Duties of Prisoners* was distributed in all the penitentiaries around the country informing and acquainting inmates with their rights and duties. The other legislations on inmates and their families are communicated through billboards, banners, fliers, and brochures in areas inside and outside prison thus promoting the protection of the citizens' rights of prisoners. The most significant measures in terms of protecting the citizens' rights of prisoners appear in Table 6 below.

Table (6): The most significant measures in terms of protecting the citizens' rights of prisoners

Item	Safeguarding citizens' rights in prisons and detention centers	Item	Safeguarding citizens' rights in prisons and detention centers
1	The continuous presence of prison authorities inside the wards to resolve prisoners' problems	12	Inviting judicial authorities to be present in prisons and resolve prisoners' problems
2	Providing healthcare services to sick prisoners and visiting prisoners upon entry	13	Prisoners' access to the media, press, and TV
3	Communicating prisoners' rights, duties, and regulations to them	14	Introducing prisoners who are eligible to receiving services to protection agencies such as the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee
4	Installing a box to receive suggestions and feedback in prisons	15	Providing welfare facilities in meeting halls
5	Providing hygiene packages including clothes, washing kits, etc. to prisoners	16	Allowing prisoners to phone people outside the prison
6	Launching the process of providing grants to prisoners in meeting halls	17	Following up on the judicial files of accused
7	Providing trilateral meetings (private, in-person, and in cabins) to prisoners	18	Allowing eligible prisoners to work inside and outside prisons
8	Suggesting amnesty and leave for eligible prisoners	19	Segregating and classifying prisoners (with respect to existing facilities)
9	Holding meetings between prison authorities and prisoners and their families	20	Special attention to pregnant women, lactating women, and children
10	Following up on prisoners' requests	21	Developing and equipping services centers (such as shops, etc.) to prisoners
11	Establishing dispute settlement councils in prisons		

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The Judiciary Secretariat of the Central Board of monitoring the Protection of Citizens' Rights was established in 2004 presided by the Head of the Judiciary; this body conducted 3184 inspections of the prisons around the country and 4445 inspections of the judicial enforcement institutions during the period between Apr 2015 – Sep 2016 in order to investigate the conditions of the convicts and accused in terms of citizens' rights. At the same time, the Law Enforcement Police has affected different interventions – detailed in the table below – in order to respect citizens' rights. It is worth noting that based on the Executive Directive of the Process of Establishing, Administering, and Supervising Law

Enforcement Detention Centers which was enforced in 2012 by the Head of the Judiciary, such detention centers are set up in the provinces upon the request of the Law Enforcement Police, the approval of the District Attorney, and the agreement of the Director-General of the Provincial Department of Penitentiaries. The staff of the detention centers also serve under the auspices of the Director-General of the Provincial Department of Penitentiaries. Such centers are merely dedicated to keeping those accused that based on the decree of the Judiciary authority are handed over to the Law Enforcement police for preliminary investigations.

Table (7): The major interventions of the Law Enforcement Police to safeguard the rights of detainees

Item	Safeguarding the citizens' rights of detainees
1	Establishing the Commission on Respecting the Citizens' Rights of Defendants
2	Drafting and submitting the Directive on Respecting the Legal and Citizens' Rights of accused and supervising its implementation
3	Allocating the budget to respect the citizens' rights of accused and reconstructing detention centers and surveillance centers
4	Following up continuously on removing the defects and deficiencies observed in the visits and supervisions of detention centers and surveillance centers
5	Observing the citizens' rights of accused regarding contact with their families and attorneys
6	Segregating and establishing women's detention centers and preventing any mission related to them by male staff
7	Inspecting and evaluating continuously the physical, healthcare, communication, and nutrition of detention centers

- 8 Recruiting male and female staff in all the stages of contact with accused commensurate with their gender
- 9 Holding training courses for the staff on respecting the rights of accused and detainees and observing citizens' rights

(Source: The report of the Law Enforcement Police to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Organizing Prisoners and Reducing the Criminal Population of Prisons

The Directive on Organizing Prisoners and Reducing the Criminal Population of Prisons was adopted by the Head of the Judiciary in 2013. This Directive was revised and submitted by the Head of the Judiciary on Sep 7, 2016. According to Article 6 of this Directive, drug addicts are also kept in compulsory drug rehabilitation centers and Article 22 stipulates that dispute settlement councils be established for inmates in all of Iran's penitentiaries and all capacities are to be used to create peace and reconciliation among inmates, plaintiffs, and private claimants such that creating understanding would lead to the freedom of prisoners.

A review of the reduction of the criminal population inside prisons during Apr – Sep 2016 and the comparison of the figures with Apr – Nov 2015 reveals that for the first time in the last three years, there has been a significant drop in the number of prisoners who entered and remained in prisons such that there were 226,167 prisoners in Apr – Sep 2015; the figure underwent a reduction of 3.69% during Apr – Sep 2016 standing at 217,813. The average number of admissions into prisons during Apr – Nov 2015 was 41,473 per month which experienced a 7.67% drop during Apr – Sep 2016 falling to 38,291 per month. Chart 2 illustrates these figures. It must be noted that the implementation of the new Directive on Organizing Prisoners and Reducing the Criminal Population of Prisons has engendered a considerable decline in the number of prisoners (i.e. prisoners and detainees).

Chart (2): The average number of monthly admissions into prisons during Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016



(Source: The report of the District Attorney to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

During Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016, 271 and 305 dispute settlement councils were established in Iran's prisons, respectively. As a result of the activities of these councils, 7033 cases during Apr – Sep 2015 and 9252 cases during Apr – Sep 2016 were concluded.

The Islamic Penal Code adopted in 2013 has also established an appropriate capacity to reduce the criminal population of prisons. Accordingly, 4464 persons due to suspending the punishment, 2875 persons due to reduction of punishment, 6415 persons due to conditional release, and 3661 persons (financial convicts) were released from prison during Apr – Sep 2016; a huge number also received criterion-based amnesty, i.e. those amnesties the concrete examples of which are determined and implemented by the Department of Penitentiaries through a general determination of amnesty criteria by the Judiciary Central Commission on Clemency. A significant number of inmates were also released from prison during Apr – Sep 2016 through using the related legal mechanisms.

Table (8): Implementing the legal mechanisms of the Islamic Penal Code (suspending the sanction, reduction in the sanction, conditional release, and financial punishments)

Theme	Number of releases (Apr – Sep 2015)	Number of releases (Apr – Sep 2016)
Suspending sanctions	4229	4464
Reducing sanctions	3674	2875
Conditional release	8815	6415
Financial punishments	2236	3661
Total	18,954	17,325

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Meanwhile, Iran's penal legislation has anticipated the Commission on clemency within the Judiciary which is mandated to undertake the necessary legal reviews and suggest reducing sanctions and providing amnesty for inmates. This list would be approved by the Head of the Judiciary and forwarded twice a year in general and on certain religious-national occasions in particular to the Supreme Leader for his discretion. A total of 3187 and 2471 amnesties were issued during Apr – Dec 2016 and Apr – Dec 2015, respectively.

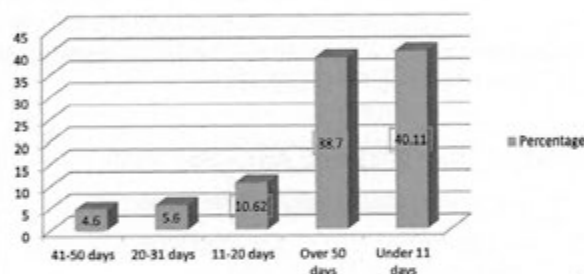
Chart (3): Comparing the performance of the Judiciary National Commission on Clemency (Apr – Dec 2016 and Apr – Dec 2015)



(Source: The report of the Judiciary National Commission on Amnesty and Pardon to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The results of the data analysis illustrate that during Apr – Sep 2015, 40.11% of prisoners were incarcerated for less than 11 days. Furthermore, 10.62% were in prison for 11-20 days, 5.8% 20-31 days, 4.6% 41-50 days, and 38.7% over 50 days. As shown in Chart 3, over 50% of Iran's inmates were in prison for a period shorter than one month.

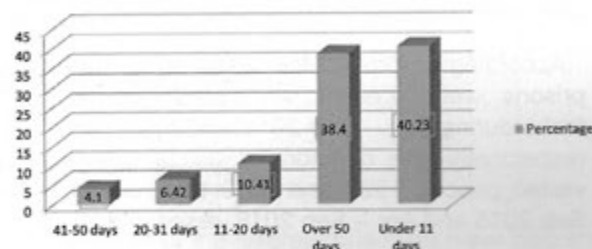
Chart (4): The duration of remaining in prison during Apr – Sep 2015



(Source: The report of the Office of the Attorney General to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The results of the analysis also demonstrate that during Apr – Sep 2016, 40.23% of the inmates were in prison for less than 11 days while 10.41% for 11-20 days, 6.41% for 20-31 days, 4.1% for 41-50 days, and 38.4% for over 50 days.

Chart (5): The duration of remaining in prison during Apr – Sep 2016



(Source: The report of the Office of the Attorney General to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

It is worth noting that the General Prosecutor is mandated by Article 28 of the Directive of Reducing the Penal Population of Penitentiaries to precisely supervise, coordinate, follow up, and implement this legislation. Accordingly, the General Prosecutor effects measures such as those displayed in Table 9.

Table (9): The most significant measures of the General Prosecutor in order to reduce the criminal population of prisons

Item	Measures
1	Announcing to the heads of judicial departments orally or in writing continuously to guarantee the accurate and correct implementation of the Directive of Reducing the Criminal Population of Penitentiaries be it for convicts and accused and finding appropriate guidelines in this regard
2	Deploying supervisory and inspection teams to the Judiciary Departments all around the country to monitor the activities of district attorneys and judges supervising prisons and the process of their performance in line with reducing the criminal population
3	Understanding the vulnerabilities of prisons and prisoners
4	Reviewing the rules and regulations which reduce or increase prisoners
5	Identifying the causes of the increase or decrease of the criminal population
6	Providing short- and long-term guidelines to reduce the criminal population.
7	Reviewing the guidelines to reduce the number of accused on bail up to maximum through the collaboration of pertinent institutions

(Source: The report of the Office of the Attorney General to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

In order to implement the Directive of Reducing the Criminal Population of Penitentiaries especially those prisoners who are detained through bail, the Supervision Unit of the Supreme Court takes the necessary measures regarding the cases of prisoners who are referred to criminal courts and are waiting for proceedings through the electronic supervision system, monitoring, and correspondence or phone contact with provincial authorities to expedite the proceedings or release of detainees based on the aforesaid Directive.

Accordingly, prosecutor assistants supervising prisons were present in prisons 932 and 991 times during Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016, respectively. The directors of judicial bureaus also visited prisons 1323 and 1639 times during Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016, respectively.

Contact of Prisoners and Detainees with Their Families

In all prisons, the possibility of phone contact and meeting in person (private and in cabins) exists for prisoners with their families; furthermore, they can send letters to their families, attorneys, judicial authorities, and official authorities (two letters per week).

Table (10): The number of the telephones in prisons and meeting cabins (Apr – Nov 2015)

Number of telephones in prisons	Number of meeting cabins
4685	5403

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The number of meetings during Apr – Nov 2015 and Apr – Nov 2016 appear in Table 11.

Table (11): The number of family visits during Apr – Nov 2015 and Apr – Nov 2016

Kind of meeting	Apr – Nov 2015	Apr – Nov 2016
Cabin	1,225,677	950,981
In-person	431,575	372,473
Private	78,535	68,851
Phone contact	11,653	9641
Remote – virtual	972	5960
Total	1,748,412	1,407,906

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

During Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016, 328,629 and 299,698 prisoners went on leave, respectively, while 52,661 extensions of leave were approved in Apr – Sep 2015 and 56,326 such extensions were approved in Apr – Sep 2016. Table 12 displays the number of leaves for prisoners.

Table (12): The number of leaves for prisoners during Apr – Sep 2015 and Apr – Sep 2016

Leave		Extension of leave	
Apr – Sep 2015	Apr – Sep 2016	Apr – Sep 2015	Apr – Sep 2016
328,629	299,698	52,661	56,326

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Providing Technical-Vocational Training to Prisoners to Facilitate After-Release Employment

In 2015, a total number of 80,011 individuals out of the total number of 98,378 those who had registered in the training courses participated in the tests and 64,781 persons (80%) passed and managed to gain professional documents. Table 13 illustrates the number of these trainings.

Table (13): Technical-vocational and handicraft training

Performance year	Number of trainees	Those taking the test	Those passing the test
Apr 2015 – Mar 2016	98,378	80,011	64,781

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Training Prisoners

Trainings in prisons include vocational training and school and academic courses for prisoners as a part of their rehabilitation programs and preparing them for life outside prisons. To this end, over 70 theoretical and skills courses are provided for prisoners all around the country. The most significant measures for the development of education for prisoners in 2015 and 2016 include:

- Signing a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Education to develop the educational activities of prisons;
- Developing a literacy program in prisons in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Literacy Movement.

Table (14): The extent of providing educational services to prisoners: Apr 2015 – Mar 2016 and Apr – Sep 2016

Year of activity	Literacy Movement	Different stages	Higher education	Total
Apr 2015 – Mar 2016	4771	24,027	767	29,565
Apr – Sep 2016	3371	8512	1109	12,992

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

It is worth noting that as a result of the above measures, over half of the illiterate prisoners have become literate in prisons.

Health, Treatment, and Nutrition of Prisoners

The most noteworthy measures in the field of health, treatment, and nutrition among prisoners have been included in Table 5.

Table (15): The most noteworthy measures in the field of health, treatment, and nutrition among prisoners in 2015 and 2016

Item	Measures
1	Providing technical treatment services for TB, hepatitis, and HIV
2	Screening and eradicating malaria in eligible provinces
3	Implementing the pilot plan to control chronic and non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, blood fat, etc
4	Establishing health bases in prisons through collaborating with the Ministry of Health
5	Providing treatment for over 45,000 drug abusing prisoners through methadone maintenance. Over 150,000 free-of-charge detoxifications have been conducted in prisons
6	Using resources and facilities and getting healthcare equipment and tools from medical universities
7	Extending the number of prisons which are equipped with sewage systems
8	Developing, equipping, and operationalizing mechanized laundries in prisons
9	Building and equipping 192 healthcare units upon entry (quarantine) in order to prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases
10	Training health workers by the Ministry of Health in order to guarantee health and promote environmental safety for prisoners' vocational training
11	Preparing and distributing a directive on adopting the necessary guidelines to prevent suicide and self-flagellation and producing the Clinical Guideline and Executive Directive of Preventing Prisoners' Self-Damaging Behaviors
12	Preparing prisoners' personality dossiers
13	Drafting the initiative for promoting mental health and stress management for prison staff
14	Empowering and rehabilitating prisoners mentally through providing psychological counseling services in all the country's prisons
15	Controlling and treating psychiatric disorders such as antisocial behaviors, aggressiveness, etc. through providing psychiatric services in all prisons
16	Using peer group and influential trainings in treating addiction and promoting self-actualization through the collaboration of NGOs
17	Preparing a food program for accused and prisoners commensurate with the seasons of the year and environmental needs and conditions

18	Providing breakfast, lunch, and dinner with adequate calories and vitamins
19	Serving food in prison canteens
20	Preparing food with respect to different groups in prisons and their nutritional needs

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Associations of Protecting Prisoners

Correction (protection) measures are provided in three different sectors: help and assistance activities regarding prisons and correction centers, protection activities for prisoners and their families, and after-release protection and care activities. At the moment, there are 205 associations working for protection

of prisoners, their families, and released prisoners around the country. From among them, around 10 have been established in cities without prisons. These entities provide a scope of services such as healthcare and treatment, construction, housing, non-cash assistance, education for their children, counseling, etc. to prisoners and their families.

Table (16): The number of families covered and the assistance provided

Number of families covered		Assistance provided to prisoners' families in IRR b	
2015	2016	2015	2016
53,425	56,096	168 (equal to USD 4.8 m)	178 (equal to USD 5.08 m)

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

The amount of assistance provided by the Association for Protecting Prisoners to prisoners and prison is described in Table 17.

Table (17): The amount of expenses made by the Association for Protecting Prisoners in 2016 (IRR m)

Assistance to prisoners	Assistance to prisons	Assistance to correction centers	Total assistance
40,204	16,654	1749	58,611 (equal to USD 1.7 m)

(Source: The report of the Department of Penitentiaries to the National UPR Committee, 2016)

Political Prisoners

The Political Crime Act was adopted by the Parliament on May 10, 2016 and endorsed by the Council of Guardians on May 9, 2016. Accordingly, each of the following offenses provided that they were committed against the management and institutions of political achievements or domestic and foreign policies with the motive of reforming the country's affairs without the perpetrator wishing to damage the entirety of the system would be regarded as a political crime:

- Insulting or accusing the heads of the three branches and the Expediency Council, presidential deputies, ministers, MPs, members of the Assembly of Experts, and members of the Council of Guardians;
- Insulting a head of a diplomatic mission or the political representative of another country residing or entering the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- Promulgating falsities;
- The offenses stipulated in the legislations on elections excluding elections administrators and supervisors; and

- The offenses included in Paragraphs 1 and 5 of Article 16 of the Activities of Political and Syndicate Parties, Associations, and Societies adopted in 1981 (accusations, defamations, and rumors).

- The court in which cases are being dealt with has the discretion to recognize whether the charge is political or not and the accused can at any stage of the proceedings in the court and up to the end of the first session of the hearing in the court comment on his/her charge being nonpolitical. Proceedings on political crimes are underway in the presence of a jury and the following points are effected vis-à-vis political accused and convicts:

- Separation of places of detention and incarceration from normal inmates;
- Prohibition of wearing prison uniforms during detention and incarceration;
- Prohibition of implementing the regulations on recidivism;
- Non-extradition of political offenders;
- Prohibition of solitary confinement unless approved by a judicial authority and not extending

15 days under any circumstances;

- The right to meet and correspond with first-degree relatives during imprisonment; and
- The right to access books, periodicals, radio, and TV during incarceration.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the charges of a person are dealt with only through the legislation and regardless of social and political equations. Any kind of prejudgment regarding judicial cases without respect to their nature and labeling perpetrators as political prisoners must be prevented.

Prohibition of Torture

Based on Article 38 of the Constitution, any form of torture to acquire confession or information is forbidden. There are also provisions on the prohibition of torture in the Islamic Penal Law (deterrent sanctions and discretionary punishments) adopted in 1996, Respecting Legitimate Freedoms and Preserving Citizens' Rights adopted in 2004, Penal Proceedings Act adopted in 2013, and the Executive Directive of the Department of Penitentiaries (as detailed in Table 18).

Table (18): The most significant provisions on the prohibition of torture

Prohibition of torture and any degrading and inhumane behavior	
Article 38 of the Constitution	Any form of torture to acquire confession or information is unlawful. Forcing a person to provide testimony, confession, or vow is not allowed and such testimony, confession, or vow lacks validity and credit. Perpetrators shall be punished based on this provision.
Article 60 of the Criminal Procedural Code	In interrogations, forcing defendants through resorting to profanities, raising indoctrinating or deceiving questions, and putting forth questions which fall outside the issue of the charge are forbidden and the responses of accused to such questions and also statements produced under coercion or through reluctance lack credibility
Article 169 of the Executive Directive of the Department of Penitentiaries	Harsh behavior, insulting, using profanities, or corporal punishment of inmates and enforcing violent, cumbersome, and obscene behaviors are strictly forbidden.
Article 9 of the Respecting Legitimate Freedoms and Protecting Citizens' Rights	Enforcing any torture on accused in order to acquire confession or forcing them to engage in any other activity are forbidden and the confessions gained accordingly, lack any credibility in the eyes of the law and Islamic jurisprudence
Article 587 of the Islamic Penal Code (1996, Taazirat and Preventive Punishments)	Torture and physical abuse of accused and forcing them to confess by Government non-judicial and judicial authorities are subject to reprisal or the payment of blood money and based on the case would be punished to imprisonment from six months to three years. In case of decease, the perpetrator would be sanctioned to the punishment of a murderer and the person who ordered the death to the punishment of murder
Article 587 of the Islamic Penal Code (1996, Taazirat and Preventive Punishments)	If the perpetrator of the previous offenses has threatened the detained, imprisoned, or hidden person to death or torture or corporal punishment, s/he would be sentenced to a prison term of one to five years and denial of access to Government services
Article 169 of the Islamic Penal Code	Any confession obtained under reluctancy, coercion or mental or physical harassment, is invalid and unauthentic and the court is obliged to reinvestigate the case

In the Law Enforcement Police too, assault and battery of defendants is prohibited in the preliminary stages of the investigations in order to preserve the rights of detainees and any complaint about the agents who have spoken or acted in such a way that citizens' rights have been violated would be

investigated immediately. At the same time, staying away from any behavioral and verbal violence and insulting defendants is a fundamental principle of the Law Enforcement.

Fighting Illicit Drugs

Fighting Illicit Drugs

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendation	Country
138.181	Continue its efforts in combating drug trafficking and fighting this scourge	Lebanon

During the past 38 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has sustained very huge human and financial costs in its fight against illicit drugs. Iran which is neighbor to the biggest illicit drug producer of the world has made extensive investments to prevent trafficking in illicit drugs. Iran has been at the forefront of the battle against drug trafficking and has mobilized all means to prevent the transit of illicit drugs to other countries.

Illicit drugs, a serious problem

According to the Report of UNODC in 2016, I.R. Iran which is responsible for 17% of the total world heroin seizures, 61% of the world morphine seizures, and 75% of the world opium seizures, has been recognized as the standard bearer of the fight against illicit drugs in the world. The quantities of illicit drugs seized by the I.R. Iran in 2015 and 2016 (9 months) are as follows: 77% opium, 16% hashish, 3% heroin, 1.5% morphine and 2.5% other types of drug.

Table (1): quantities of illicit drugs seized by the I.R. Iran in 2015 and 2016 (9 months) by tons

year	2015	2016 (9 months)
total drug seizure	620	538

(Source: report of Drug Control Headquarter to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Every year, a number of Iranian counter-drug police officers are either killed as martyrs or wounded in the fight against illicit drug trafficking. In 2015 and 2016 (9 months) respectively 3 and 8 police officers lost their lives in the battle against drug traffickers. This number is in addition to the death toll of over 4000 Iranian police officers who were killed in the battle against the drug menace prior to 2015.

Table (2): death toll of counter-drug police officers in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

Period	Prior to 2015	2015	2016 (9 months)
No. of persons	Over 4000	3	8

(Source: report of Drug control Headquarter to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Though the growth in the number and services of addiction treatment and harms reduction centers and increased access of addicts demanding treatment to a wide range of treatment and harms reduction services has led to a reduction in high-risk behavior and death toll among drug abusers particularly high-risk injection addicts, in 2015 and 2016 (8 months), respectively 3003 and 2107 persons lost their lives due to drug consumption. According to the statistics the death toll among addicts in every one million population aged 15 – 64, was around 53 in 2015.

Table (3): death toll of addicts who died of drug consumption in 2015 and 2016 (8 months)

Period	2015	2016 (8 months)
death toll of addicts	3003	2017

(Source: report of Drug Control Headquarter to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

In accordance with the related international reports, a major share of the revenues of extremist and terrorist groups and also those involved in organized crimes are generated from the cultivation, production and trafficking in illicit drugs. A priority area for the government of I. R. Iran in the battle against illicit drugs is the fight against armed drug trafficking bands.

Table (4): operations against armed drug trafficking bands in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

Period	2015	2016 (9 months)
armed operation and encounter with drug traffickers (No. of cases)	2618	1709
seizure of arms from drug traffickers (No. of arms)	1077	704
destruction of bands involved in trafficking or supply of illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (No. of bands)	2933	2006

(Source: report of Drug Control Headquarter to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Prevention and reduction of harms resulting from narcotic drugs

For the purposes of drug addiction prevention and formulation of its related programs, the general population of the country has been divided into four target social environments, namely, family environment, education environment, work environment and public environment. Such division has helped identifying the principal target groups for

addiction prevention programs and enabled target-oriented specialized planning for each group.

Under the "Comprehensive Document for Early Addiction Prevention", a 40% coverage of the population aged 15-64 has been set as an initial target for a period of five years. Some of the measures taken by I.R. Iran for early drug addiction prevention in the target environments in 2015 and 2016 (9 months) are reflected in the following table.

Table (5): measures taken for early drug addiction prevention in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

Period	2015	2016 (9 months)
number of people covered by life skills and child-rearing styles and drug abuse prevention programs in family environment	3,148,004	1,686,085
number of people covered by early drug addiction prevention in education environment	3,325,334	1,316,049
number of people covered by early drug addiction prevention in work environment	641,302	190,596
telephone guidance and advisory service through "national addiction line" (cases of response)	369,981	290,028
radio and T.V. programs on drug addiction (by hours)	2642	1408

(Source: report of Drug Control Headquarter to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

In I.R. Iran, drug addicts are not treated as criminals, rather as sick persons. Hence, a wide range of measures are taken for the long-term treatment as well as physical and mental rehabilitation and re-integration of addicts into the society.

Addiction treatment programs in Iran are varied, some of which are maintenance treatment, psychiatric and social intervention both in the forms of out-patients and in-patients and also use of scientific methods for the treatment and rehabilitation of people suffering from the consequences of narcotic drug consumption. At present, there are about 8103

drug addiction and harms reduction centers in the country covering a population of 800,000 addicts with their services.

I.R. Iran has also included social, civil and cultural approaches in its fight against the drug menace including the use of capacities of NGOs and other non-governmental institutions. The purpose is to raise public awareness, build confidence and boost real social capital in the fight against the drug problem. All these institutions are taking a range of measures, inter alia, the identification of addicts as the target population, treatment of the addicts and reduction of

the potential harms of this vicious phenomenon to individuals and the society as a whole.

The statistics relating to the drug addiction prevention programs and projects and also training

and harms reduction measures carried out by the related NGOs in 1995 in the country are reflected in the following table.

Table (6): statistics relating to the drug addiction prevention programs and training and harms reduction measures taken by NGOs in 2015

year	prevention program (No.)	growth rate as compared to the previous year	addiction treatment and harms reduction program	growth rate as compared to the previous year	total	growth rate as compared to the previous year
2015	1038	19%	1233	9%	2271	8.7

(Source: report of Drug Control Headquarter the National Committee of UPR, 2015)

Unilateral Coercive Measures

Unilateral Coercive Measures

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.46	Continue defending the rights of its people to address the imposed economic sanctions;	Sudan
138.47	Continue efforts to highlight the negative repercussions of both terrorism and unilateral coercive measures on national development plans and on the enjoyment of basic human rights by its citizens;	Syrian Arab Republic
138.52	Keep denouncing unilateral coercive measures in all possible scenarios;	Cuba

Illegal and unfair sanctions

Economic sanctions are used as pressure leverage on governments and leave directly or indirectly, an extremely negative impact not only on the citizens of the states under such sanctions, but also on non – resident persons in the same states as well. Governments should guarantee and protect human rights and, in case of their violation, be subject to civil liability.

Imposition of sanctions which are, unavoidably, conducive to the violation of the rights provided for in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights including the right to life and, negatively affect the welfare , educational and health systems particularly with respect to the enjoyment of the rights to work , food , decent living standards , development , self – determination , etc.

The resolutions, decisions and positions adopted by the related international bodies well demonstrate that the international community as a whole condemn and reject the imposition of unilateral and secondary measures and extraterritorial application of domestic laws and call for an immediate end to this unfair practice, believing that they stand in stark contrast

with the fundamental principles of international law.

The United Nations General Assembly in its 71st session in 2016, adopted the resolution on " Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures", emphasizing that the imposition of unilateral coercive measures and their enforcement by certain powers, which have extraterritorial impact , is condemned as they constitute a fundamental impediment to the enjoyment of the right to development.

The statement of the 14th session of UNCTAD held in June 2016 declares that unilateral coercive measures have not only reverse impact on the economy and development process of states, but they also adversely affect international efforts to develop an open, non-discriminatory multilateral trade system.

In the 40th Annual Meeting of its Foreign Ministers held in Sep. 23, 2016 in New York , the Group of 77 issued a statement in which it was underlined that the imposition of unilateral economic measures including unilateral sanctions against developing countries, contributes neither to the economic development of such states nor dialogue and understanding among states of the world .Also, rejecting the imposition of

laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact in all its forms including unilateral sanctions against developing countries, the Foreign Ministers called for an immediate repeal of such measures. The statement further affirms that unilateral sanctions not only undermine the principles provided for in the United Nations Charter and also international Law, but also severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment. The Ministers called on the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries.

The position of Non – Aligned Movement on unilateral and secondary measures is reflected, *inter alia*, in the statement of the 14th NAM Summit held in Venezuela in 2016. The statement declares that the heads of state and government of Non – Aligned Movement condemn imposition of unilateral coercive measures against NAM member states for their violation of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law particularly the principle of non – interference in domestic affairs and the right of self – determination and independence of states. They also stated that such measures negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights and impede the full socio – economic development of the target population.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and P5+1 agreed, on July 14, 2015, on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) under which Iran's nuclear program would be subject to certain limitations for a certain period of time and all the unilateral as well as international sanctions relating to the nuclear program of Iran would be lifted. The Islamic Republic of Iran has so far fulfilled all its obligations under JCPOA and the other parties to the nuclear deal are obliged to fully discharge their own part of the obligations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran which has been the target of unilateral coercive measures was itself a major supporter of the resolution on "Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures" and the appointment of special rapporteurs for that purpose in the 27th session of the Human Rights Council. In the context of its cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms, The Islamic Republic of Iran agreed, in principle, in 2015 to the request of Mr. IdrissJazairy, the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures to visit Iran and is waiting for the schedule of the visit. In response to the request of the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures for information relating to the measures adopted by I.R. Iran on unilateral coercive measures, the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted a report in 2016 including

such information, which was covered in the report of the Special Rapporteur to the 32nd Session of the Human Rights Council.

Terrorism

Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran has been grappling with the vicious phenomenon of terrorism supported by some external governments, which has been conducive to the extreme violation of the fundamental rights of the Iranian citizens particularly their rights to life, peace and security. In recent years, five Iranian nuclear scientists were the target of assassination attempt, four of whom lost their lives. Such attacks constitute a flagrant violation of the right to life and the right to development as well.

Also, there is ample evidence of the crimes committed by the leaders and members of the terrorist entities such as MKO (Monafegheen), PEJAK, Jundalla, Furgan and others against the people of Iran. MKO alone is responsible for the assassination of 17,000 innocent Iranian citizens. However, this terrorist group is still present and freely operating in some Western countries, which demonstrates the presence of a double – standard criterion being practiced in dealing with the issue of terrorism.

Also, a number of terrorist attacks took place against the border guards as well as the cultural houses and diplomatic missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut, Sana and Peshawar in 2013 and 2014 which led to the abduction or assassination of some Iranian border guards, diplomats or innocent citizens.

Being a major victim of terrorism itself, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the issue of terrorism, extremism and foreign terrorist fighters constitutes a formidable challenge to the international community as a whole and that its threat will not be confined to the regions directly involved with them. Terrorist and extremist threats not only endanger the physical and psychological security of societies but they are also gross violations of human rights by their very nature and adversely affect the political and socio – economic development of nations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the violent acts of extremist and terrorist groups such as Al – Qaeda, Daesh, Al Nusra Front, Al – Shabab and Boko Haram are completely incompatible with the teachings of the religion of Islam. These groups are nothing more than terrorist entities which abuse the name of Islam to justify their inhuman acts and methods. So, it is extremely important to investigate the roots of the formation of such groups particularly

their ideological and political sources and also their economic and financial resources as well. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports any measure which can help eliminate the threats of terrorism and extremist violence.

In order to counter this vicious phenomenon, the Islamic Republic of Iran has launched extensive efforts at the international level including the promotion of the idea of "World Against Violence and Extremism" proposed by the President of the state in his first speech to the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2013, which was endorsed with a consensus by the United Nations members states in a resolution adopted under the same title by the UN General Assembly in the same year. The idea of the establishment of a united international front against violent extremism and the development of a comprehensive plan of action for that purpose was raised in the speeches of the leaders of some countries including the speech of the IRI President to the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The Islamic republic of Iran believes that the proposed plan of action must lead to the elimination of violent extremism through an international consensus and the formation of a

cultural front against extremist ideologies.

Since violent acts of extremist groups are conducive to the gross violation of human rights and humanitarian law, the Islamic Republic of Iran fully supports any international effort aimed at forming such a united front at a global level. The Islamic Republic of Iran has engaged in serious bilateral and multilateral cooperation with other countries especially with those which have been victims of terrorism and extremism in West Asia and the Middle East through exchange of information and provision of training, assistance and advisory services. Iran has also had constructive cooperation with international bodies such as Interpol, Committee 1373, and other UN – affiliated institutions in such areas as prevention, exchange of information and control of financial flows and money - laundering activities of terrorist groups in the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the adoption of a double – standard approach towards states when it comes to the fight against terrorism will not only be counter-productive but it will also doom efforts in the global fight against terror and will lead eventually to more breeding grounds for terrorism.

The Mines Left Behind From the Iran-Iraq War

The Mines Left Behind From the Iran-Iraq War

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations /completely	Country
138.182	Address the serious problem with land mines;	Bosnia and Herzegovina

As a result of the unlawful aggression of the Iraqi Baathist regime to Iran and the outbreak of the eight-year imposed war (1980-1988) during which this regime used various kinds of illegal arms and weapons of mass destruction such as chemical bombs, a huge area of Iran's western territory was mined by Iraqi forces. Based on official statistics, Saddam's regime planted approximately 16 million mines in over four million hectares of Iran's territories;

this itself has turned the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) into the second most polluted country in the world in terms of mines. Ironically, international aid and assistance to Iran in order to resolve this issue has been very meager and negligible and the IRI has had to take care of the bulk of the problem on its own. Table 1 demonstrates the detrimental effects of mine contamination and unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Table (1): The detrimental effects of mine contamination and UXOs

Aspects	Description of the damage incurred
Human	The human damage for the inhabitants of the border areas and those engaged in decontamination and border guards
Social	Unemployment and migration of some of the residents of contaminated border areas
Economic	Losing the opportunity of using oil resources, agriculture, animal-husbandry, terminals, and border bazaars
Environmental	Contamination of over 4.2 hectares of Iran's territories

(Source: The Report of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics Mine Action Center (IRMAC) to the National UPR Committee, 2015)

Table 2 also displays the major infrastructural measures put in place by Iran regarding demining.

Table (2): The major infrastructural demining measures put in place

Item	Infrastructural measures
1	Establishing IRMAC which is mandated to neutralize the mines left behind from the Iran-Iraq War. This Center has cleared over 99% of the contaminated areas (4,178,000 hectares)
2	Establishing the Supreme Council of Mine Clearance consisting representatives from all eligible institutions in order to engage in demining operations with the highest degree of output and the lowest human and environmental damage
3	Signing an MOU between IRMAC and the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining. One of the provisions of this MOU is delivering the integrated management software which was not achieved due to the cruel unilateral sanctions against Iran
4	Organizing and recruiting almost 5000 human resources in mine clearance operations
5	Extending mechanized mine clearance equipment with the aim of reviewing and increasing the level of the quality of mine clearance

6	Developing the equipment for individual protection aimed at preventing and preserving the lives of the mine clearance staff
7	Signing an MOU between IRMAC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2016 for a three-year period during which the ICRC shall assist IRMAC in terms of securing the equipment, mine danger training, protecting the victims, knowledge management, and exchange of experience

(Source: The report of IRMAC to the National UPR Committee)

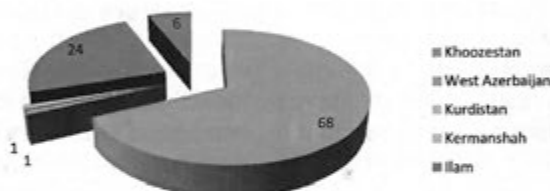
Conducting clearance operations by case and through information received from local authorities and people is another undertaking of IRMAC. During Apr – Nov 2016, over 9000 mines, UXO, and bombs have been neutralized and/or destroyed, the largest share of which (68%) was in the Province of Khoozestan. Table 3 and Chart 1 represent the figures on the case discoveries of mines and UXO.

Table (3): Mines and UXO discovered during Apr – Nov 2016

Item	Province	Number of operations	Case discoveries			Total
			Mine	UXO	Bomb	
1	Khoozestan	111	151	6382	27	6533
2	Ilam	122	90	514	4	608
3	Kermanshah	214	239	2061	1	2301
4	Kurdistan	94	14	68	0	82
5	West Azerbaijan	44	46	31	1	78
	Total	585	540	9056	33	9602

(Source: The report of IRMAC to the National UPR Committee)

Chart (1): The provincial share of case discoveries



(Source: The Report of IRMAC to the National UPR Committee)

Table 4 shows the measures especially in holding training courses regarding demining.

Table (4): Holding training courses

Item	Holding training courses
1	Holding and extending different technical courses with the goal of developing the capability, skill, and capacity of demining staff
2	Holding and extending different public trainings in order to raise awareness in preventing the incidence of contact with mines and/or UXO
3	Training 31,389 school students, 4540 coaches, and 20,151 herders and farmers in 2014
4	Participating in the publication of 134,000 books titled <i>Safe Life beside Mines</i> for different educational levels in border provinces
5	Participating in the publication of 5000 card games to raise awareness on the dangers of mines for children residing in areas contaminated with mines
6	Distributing 12,000 educational posters in order to train the residents of mined areas by the IRI Red Crescent Society Department of Rescue and Relief and the ICRC
7	Preparing and distributing animations on mine risks for farmers and herders
8	Holding first-level briefing sessions on ordnance with the presence of the clearance staff of private companies and the demining bases of military and defense forces and IRMAC in 2016

(Source: The Report of IRMAC to the National UPR Committee)

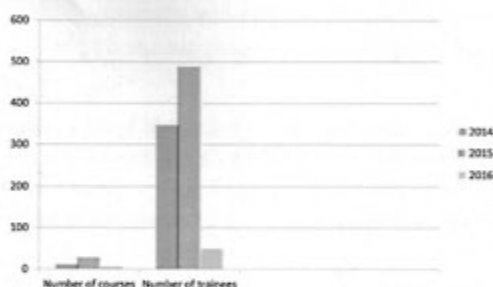
Different technical training courses were also held from Mar 21 – Sep 20, 2016 as described in Table 5 and appearing in Chart 1.

Table (5): Technical training courses on mines

Item	Year	Technical training courses		
		Number of courses	Number of trainees	Person / hour
1	2014	11	347	4220
2	2015	27	488	11,092
3	2016	5	49	1362

(Source: The report of IRMAC to the National UPR Committee)

Chart (2): Technical Training Courses



(Source: The Report of IRMAC to the National UPR Committee)

It is worth noting that as a result of the measures taken, the rate of public damages caused due to the explosions of mines and UXO has dropped 87% in the last four years. Furthermore, in accordance with a legislation adopted by the Parliament in 1993 aimed at protecting mine victims, all migrants and

individuals who lose their lives or become disabled in war zones as a result of contact with explosives such as grenades, mines, etc. are regarded as martyrs or war victims and are thus entitled to the rights and privileges of the martyrs and victims of the Iran-Iraq War.

International Humanitarian law

International Humanitarian law

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations /completely	Country
138.287	Continue its efforts to provide development and humanitarian aid to least developed countries;	Sri Lanka
138.288	Continue to provide greater technical assistance to developing countries;	Cuba
138.291	Continue its humanitarian aid to least developed countries;	Eritrea

"National Committee for Humanitarian law" was established in Iran's Red Crescent Society, based on the decision of the Council of Ministers, to "promote, develop and facilitate the implementation of the provisions of humanitarian law at home and participate in its further consolidation and more effective implementation at the international level." Hence, all governmental departments and institutions are obligated to cooperate and coordinate all their activities with the Red Crescent Society of I.R. Iran in that respect.

Measures so far taken by the "National Committee for Humanitarian law" includes the provision of humanitarian support for both domestic and international communities such as dispatch of relief aid and medical and pharmaceutical consignments,

and also promotion and teaching of the concepts and principles of humanitarian law through seminars, conferences, workshops, etc. Some of the aforementioned measures have been organized in cooperation or association with other related domestic or international bodies.

In 2015 and 2016, external humanitarian support provided through cash or non-cash contributions was 21 cases, family reunification facilitated was 1318 cases, operational-training courses held was 4 cases (on land mines), teaching of humanitarian concepts was 25 cases, and interaction with other countries, international agencies and non-governmental organizations was 3 cases as reflected in the following table:

Table (1): Most important measures taken by Iran's Red Crescent Society (the National Committee for Humanitarian law)

Provision of humanitarian assistance (cash, non-cash, reunification contributions)	
2015	2016 (9 months)
17 cases of non-cash contributions worth 7,201,243 US dollars (equivalent to 89,713,598,863 Rials) to 8 countries	8 cases of non-cash contributions worth 952,430 US dollars (equivalent to 29,783,272,445 Rials) to 4 countries
4 cases of cash contributions worth 1,825,674 US dollars (equivalent to 54,698,434,780 Rials) to 3 countries	4 cases of cash contributions worth 790,952 US dollars (equivalent to 2,561,600,000 Rials) to 3 countries
Reunification support including: -24 cases of reunification of Afghan families -143 cases of assistance for medical treatment of Afghans	Reunification support including: -7 cases of reunification of Afghan families -124 cases of assistance for medical treatment of Afghans
Holding 2 operational-training courses on land mines in border areas	Holding 2 operational-training courses on land mines in border areas
Teaching the concepts of humanitarian law	

2015	2016 (9 months)
Holding the 7 th round of competition on simulation of International Criminal Court trial sessions in association with the ICRC, Iranian Association for of United Nations Studies and Shahr-e-Danesh Legal Research Firm	Holding the 8th round of competition on simulation of International Criminal Court trial sessions
Holding a training workshop on humanitarian law from the perspective of Islam in Kurdistan province in March, 2015	Holding a training workshop on humanitarian law in Tehran province with the participation of the staff members and volunteers of Iran's Red Crescent Society as well as military and police forces in the province
Holding a training workshop on "international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement" in association with ICRC and the Red Crescent Society in Hamadan Province in October 2015 with the participation of the staff members, volunteers and representatives of student and youth associations of the Red Crescent Society and judicial judges of the Hamadan province	Holding a training workshop on humanitarian law in Lorestan province with the participation of the staff members, volunteers and the youth association of the Red Crescent Society as well as the military forces in the province
Holding a training workshop on "international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement" in association with ICRC and the Red Crescent Society in Markazi Province in November 2015 with the participation of the staff members, volunteers and representatives of the student and youth associations of the Red Crescent Society, the local government as well as military and police forces in the province	Assisting in the organization of the conference on the "Imperatives and strategies for Controlling harms from Land Mines" by the Iranian Association for United Nations Studies in the city of Saqqiz in Kurdistan province in April, 2016
Holding a training workshop on the "foundations and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the international humanitarian law" in association with ICRC and the Red Crescent Society of Hormozgan Province in Bandar Abbas in February 2016	Holding a training workshop on "the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and international humanitarian law" in Kerman province in association with ICRC and Kerman's Red Crescent Society in April, 2016
Holding a training workshop on "the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, peace-keeping operations and international humanitarian law" for the Battalion of Peace-keepers in Qazvin province in February 2016	Holding a training workshop on "the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and international humanitarian law" in ShahidBahonar University of Kerman in association with the same university, Kerman's Red Crescent Society and ICRC in April 2016
Holding a cultural-training course on "the international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its principles" for the student and youth associations of the Red Crescent Society in Bandar Anzali by the Secretariat of the "National Committee for Humanitarian Law"	Holding a preliminary session to the international conference on humanitarian law entitled "shared principles and values of religions and the role of religion in humanitarian approaches" in October, 2016
Holding a training workshop on "Islam and Humanitarian Law" for three days in the city of Qom in March, 2015 in association with AemمهAthar Jurisprudence Center, ICRC and the Center for Comparative Studies of Islam and Humanitarian Law	Holding international conference on "Islam and Humanitarian Law in the city of Qom in December 2014
Holding a training workshop on "International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and International Humanitarian Law" in association with ICRC and the Red Crescent Society of the Semnan province in March 2016	publication of the book entitled "Media, War and International Law"
Publication of the book entitled "Human Shield in International Humanitarian Law"	
Cooperating in the translation and publication of the book "Era of War Crimes in the Statute of the International Criminal Court" in association with ICRC	
Translation and publication of the book "Media, War and International Law" by Mizan Publication House	

Joint Cooperation

Implementation of the project "Narcotic Drugs and the Role of the Youth in Preventing them" in association with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Italy's National Red Cross Society and non-governmental Vila Mariny Foundation, selected national societies for cooperation: Uruguay, Iran, Thailand, Kenya and Kyrgyzstan in 2015

(Source: Report of Iran's Red Crescent Society to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Technical and developmental assistance provided by I.R. Iran to developing countries

In accordance with the articles of the Constitution relating to provision of support for needy countries and also the obligations undertaken under the 8th Goal of MDGS 2016 and the 7th Goal of Sustainable Development (SDGS) 2030, I.R. Iran has provided developmental assistance, in so many cases, to needy countries including its neighbors. These cases of developmental assistance, which were estimated to exceed 163 million US dollars by 2015, were delivered through internationally-recognized mechanisms for developmental aid mostly in the form of grants (goods and project implementation) and, to some extent, in the form of long-term non-interest loans.

Iran's grants, too, were delivered through internationally-recognized mechanisms in the areas of infrastructure, education, relief aid, humanitarian and charitable assistance, health and hygiene, agriculture, water and wastewater system, assistance for trade, refugee affairs, gender justice, etc. and also provision of loans by different governmental and non-governmental bodies.

Furthermore, I.R. Iran has always tried to include joint infrastructural projects in the cooperation agreements and contracts which it concludes with poor, developing countries within the framework of its bilateral relations.

Enhancement of the Role and Interaction with Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Societies

Enhancement of the Role and Interaction with Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Societies

No. Rec	Accepted Recommendations /completely	Country
138.57	Take appropriate measures to develop an environment conducive to the empowerment of civil society;	Algeria
138.58	Encourage and strengthen cooperation and coordination with civil society and the NGOs in the field of human rights;	Angola
138.59	Continue to strengthen the cooperation between the State and civil society organizations involved in human rights education;	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
138.224	Work towards guaranteeing a favorable environment for the activities of journalists, human rights defenders and civil society;	Tunisia

Legal measures adopted to support and enhance the role of NGOs

In order to provide the necessary support for and enhance the role of NGOs and civil societies in political, social, cultural and other fields, the Government of the I.R. Iran adopted the "By-law on the Foundation and Activities of Non-Governmental Organizations" in September 2016.

Also, Article 66 of the Criminal Procedures Law which came into effect as of June 2015, has provided a significant role for NGOs, reading: "NGOs, which provide, in their statutes, for the protection of the rights of children and adolescents, women, sick persons and persons with physical and mental disabilities, environment and natural resources, cultural heritage, public health and citizens' rights, can directly call for the indictment of possible identified offenders in their related field of activity and be part of the entire court proceedings in the related cases."

Organizing conferences and meetings with the participation of governmental authorities and non-governmental organizations

To develop an effective interaction between the Government and non-governmental organizations with a view to benefiting from their professional contributions and also meeting their concerns, conferences and meetings are organized at the provincial and national levels with the participation of the related governmental authorities and non-governmental organizations.

Some of the conferences and meetings held in the past two years at the national level for that purpose are as follows:

Table (1): conferences and meetings held with

NGOs at national and provincial levels in 2015 and 2016 (9 months)

	Item	venue	date
1	1 st National Workshop on Education of NGOs attended by the representatives of 100 NGOs	Gilan	September 2016
2	2 nd National Workshop on Education of NGOs attended by the representatives of 60 NGOs	Gilan	November 2016
3	National Conference on NGOs held by Organization of Volunteers of Iranian Red Crescent Society attended by the representatives of over 300 NGOs	Isfahan	September 2016

4	Colloquium of NGOs of Khuzestan Province on Law and the Need for Legal Organization of NGOs	Khuzestan	January 2015
5	Meeting of Director General of Department of NGOs of Ministry of Health and Medical Education with the representatives of 14 NGOs involved in the field of health in the province	Zanjan	August 2016
6	Meeting of Director General of Department of NGOs of Ministry of Health and Medical Education with the representatives of NGOs involved in the field of health in the province	Khuzestan	December 2016
7	Meeting of Director General of Department of NGOs of Ministry of Health and Medical Education with the representatives of NGOs involved in the field of health in the province	Yazd	January 2017
8	Meeting of Youths NGOs in Qom and Director General for Sports and Youths Department in the province	Qom	November 2016
9	Joint Meeting of Fraction of Human Rights of Islamic Consultative Assembly with NGOS involved in the field of human rights in Tehran	Tehran	July 2016
10	Scientific Conference on the Role of NGOs in the Enjoyment of Citizens Rights	Tehran	September 2016
11	5 th Training Workshop of Women and Family NGOS attended by the Vice- President for Women and Family Affairs	Orumiyeh	November 2015
12	6 th Training Workshop of Women and Family NGOS attended by the Vice- President for Women and Family Affairs	Golestan	January 2016
13	Colloquium of NGOs and officials of General Department for Cultural Heritage of Hormozgan Province	Hormozgan	August 2016
14	7 th Training Workshop of Women and Family NGOS attended by the Vice- President for Women and Family Affairs	Yasuj	January 2017
15	8 th Training Workshop of Women and Family NGOS attended by the Vice- President for Women and Family Affairs	Arak	March 2016
16	Consultative Meeting of High Council for Human Rights and NGOs on Recommendations of the Second cycle of UPR	Tehran	January 2017
17	National Conference on Prospects of the Rights of the Child attended by the representatives of NGOs on children in Tehran	Tehran	July 2015
18	3 rd Seasonal Meeting of NGOs on Environment and Natural Resources in the province	Semnan	January 2015
19	4 th Seasonal Meeting of NGOs on Environment and Natural Resources in the province	Bushehr	March 2016
20	5 th Seasonal Meeting of NGOs on Environment and Natural Resources in the province	Razavi-Khorasan	September 2016
21	Interactive Meeting on the Role of NGOs and Public Participation in Achievement of Environment Objectives in the province	Sistan-va- Baluchestan	December 2016
22	Specialized Workshop of NGOs on Narcotic Drug Fight	Chahar -Mahal -vaBakhtiari	March 2016
23	National Conference of Social Entrepreneurs in NGOs	Ardabil	October 2016
24	Meeting of NGOs and the Governor General	North Khorasan	January 2017
25	Meeting of NGOs of the Province of Golestan with Directors of Welfare Organization on Drug Addiction Prevention in the province	Golestan	January 2017

26	Meeting of NGOs of the Province of Qom with Vice-President and Head of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization	Qom	Qom 2016
27	Meeting of Women NGOs with the Fraction of Women Affairs of Islamic Consultative Assembly	Tehran	November 2016
28	Colloquium of Cultural Heritage NGOs and the Officials of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization	Tehran	January 2017
29	Meeting of Charities and NGOs	Tehran	August 2016
30	Colloquium of NGOs and Charities involved in the area of health with the Officials of Ministry of Health and Medical Education	Tehran	November 2016

An overview of the situation of non-governmental organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran the Government has been encouraging and supporting non-governmental organizations. So far, over 25,000 non-governmental organizations have been registered before the related governmental authorities e.g. the Interior Ministry, the State Welfare Organization, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Islamic Propagation Organization, the Office of Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, the Ministry of Sports and Youths, the Ministry of Education, etc.

As reported by the Ministry of Interior, over 3,568 non-governmental organizations had received licenses for their activities in different fields from this Ministry by the first half of 2014, with 3,147 (88.20%) of them operating at the provincial, 8 (2.2%) at the inter-provincial and 413 (11.58%) at the national levels.

The number of the non-governmental organizations varies from 10 to 407 from province to province. They operate in a variety of fields such as social matters, ethnic groups, women, arts, development infrastructures, social harms, Humanitarian affairs, health and hygiene, consolidation of family foundation, youths, protection of cultural and historical monuments and heritage, supporting orphans and the poor, scientific subjects, development and construction, culture, agriculture, tourism, environment and natural resources, crisis management, safety, environment quality, charity affairs and activities, sports, friendship between Iran and other nations, etc.

Also, 2,104 non-governmental organizations (58.96%) are active in areas relating to human rights. So far, almost 25 Iranian non-governmental organizations have secured observer status from the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOC).

Table (2): number of non-governmental organizations which have received licenses for their activities from the Interior Ministry based on the field and scale of their operation

field of activity	scale of operation provincial	scale of operation National	scale of operation inter-provincial	Total
Social matters	461	48	--	509
Ethnic groups	2	--	--	2
Women's affairs	196	4	--	200
Development infrastructure	3	2	--	5
Arts	28	--	--	28
Social harms	165	13	--	178
Humanitarian matters	36	11	1	48
Water and sanitation	180	51	3	234
Consolidation of family foundation	41	8	--	49
Youths	19	2	--	21
Cultural and historic monuments	37	7	--	44

Supporting orphans and the poor	3	--	--	3
Scientific subjects	188	11	--	199
Development and construction	48	6	1	55
culture	609	103	2	714
Agriculture	60	5	--	65
Tourism	31	9	--	40
Environment and natural resources	166	14	--	180
Crisis management	2	2	--	4
Health, safety, Environment quality	12	1	--	13
friendship between Iran and other nations	--	54	--	54
charity affairs	775	40	1	816
sports	85	21	--	106
Total	3147	413	8	3568

(Source: Report of Interior Ministry to the National Committee of UPR, 20160)

As stated earlier, there are a variety of governmental authorities responsible for non-governmental organizations and the issue of their licences based on their field of activity. However, though only 13 NGOs have obtained permits from the Ministry of Health and Medical Education for their activities, there are a total number of 600 NGOs operating in the field of health. Also, in accordance with the latest statistics of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, there are some 480 NGOs operating in the field of tourism. The number of NGOs active with respect to women affairs has exceeded 2000.

Table (3): number of NGOs active in the area of tourism by the scale of operation

city	countryside	province	national	international	total
215	1	121	63	77	477

(Source: Information Center of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization)

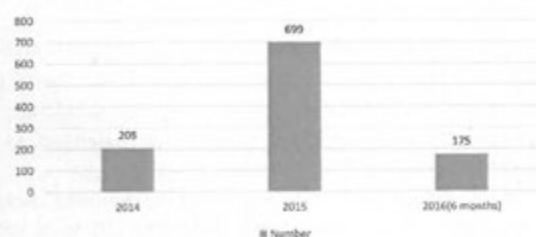
With respect to NGO involved in youth affairs, since young people constitute the most active segment of the population with a variety of issues to be attended to, the Ministry of Sports and Youths has issued a remarkable number of 699 and 175 licenses for youths NGOs respectively in 2015 and 2016 (6 months).

Table (4): number of licenses issued for youths NGOs by Ministry of Sports and Youths

year	2014	2015	2016 (6 months)
Number of permits	205	699	175

(Source: report of Ministry of Sports and Youths to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Chart (1): number of licenses issued for youths NGOs by ministry of Sports and Youths



(Source: Report of Ministry of Sports and Youths to the National Committee of UPR, 2016)

Dialogue and Collaboration on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

Dialogue and Collaboration on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations	Country
138.26	Continue to strengthen its domestic legal framework and implement its international human rights obligations;	Singapore
138.51	The dialogue and cooperation in the field of the promotion and protection of human rights;	Benin
138.55	Promote increased cooperation with the international community;	Senegal
138.56	Continue international cooperation and dialogue with the aim to improve the socioeconomic circumstances of its people;	Singapore
138.65	Continue its cooperation with the United Nations and international organizations and overcome the remaining constraints and challenges;	Lao People's Democratic Republic
138.67	Cooperate with human rights protection mechanisms;	Paraguay
138.68	Continue to cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms within the framework of the implementation of ratified international instruments;	Uzbekistan
138.77	Continue to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran with the aim of having greater cooperation and consultation with the Government;	Guatemala
138.79	Cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and other United Nations special procedures mandate holders;	Lithuania
138.80	Issue a standing invitation to the Human Rights Council special procedures;	Peru- Poland
138.82	Carry out constructive and cooperative engagement with the special procedures, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran;	Republic of Korea
138.83	Cooperate with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran;	Romania
138.85	Continue its cooperation with OHCHR and explore new avenues for human rights cooperation;	India
138.86	Continue and strengthen the cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;	Iraq
No.Rec	Accepted Recommendations /partially	Country
138.69	Take necessary steps to implement the commitment extended to special procedures by accepting pending visit requests;	Latvia
138.72	Cooperate fully with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including by inviting the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran to the country;	Australia
138.73	Fully cooperate with and allow visits by the United Nations Special Rapporteurs;	Bosnia and Herzegovina

138.74	In line with its standing invitation to special procedures, engage with and accept visits by special procedures;	Brazil
138.75	Facilitate as soon as possible the visits requested by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council;	Costa Rica
138.76	Cooperate with all United Nations special procedures mandate holders who wish to visit Iran;	Germany
138.78	Cooperate fully with United Nations experts and rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, in line with the standing invitation issued by the Government;	Hungary
138.81	Positively consider visit requests from mandate holders, in particular the request from the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the country;	Portugal
138.84	Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures and, particularly, allow the entry of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran;	Slovenia
138.214	Take the necessary measures to enhance international legal cooperation in cases of serious violations of human rights and ensure the right to truth and justice;	Argentina

The Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) is a State Party to many treaties on human rights including the following:

Table (1): Iran's accession to treaties on human rights

Item	Treaty/convention	Date of signature	Date of accession
1	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Apr 4, 1968	Jun 24, 1975
2	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights	Apr 4, 1968	Jun 24, 1975
3	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	Mar 8, 1967	Aug 29, 1968
4	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Sep 5, 1991	Jul 13, 1994
5	Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography		Sep 26, 2007
6	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities		Oct 23, 2009
7	Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	Dec 8, 1949	Aug 14, 1956
8	International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid		Apr 14, 1985
9	International Convention against Apartheid in Sports	May 16, 1986	Jan 12, 1988
10	Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery		
11	Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees		Jul 28, 1976
12	Protocol to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees		Jul 28, 1976
13	Convention against Discrimination in Education		Jan 10, 1967
14	Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour		May 8, 2002
15	Forced Labour Convention, 1930		Jun 10, 1957
16	The Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value		Jun 10, 1972
17	Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labor, 1957		Apr 13, 1959
18	The Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation		Jun 30, 1964

19	Convention concerning Equality of Treatment for National and Foreign Workers as regards Workmen's Compensation for Accidents	Jun 10, 1972
20	Convention concerning Minimum Wage Fixing	Jun 10, 1972
21	Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) Convention	Apr 13, 1959
22	Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict	Sep 21, 2010

Engaging with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights

In line with its policy of engaging with the United Nations' human rights mechanisms, the IRI has been in continuous interaction with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in the last two years. Among these interactions is the contact and collaboration of the different authorities of the IRI with the High Commissioner at the level of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary of the Headquarters of Human Rights (Mar 2015, Sep 2015, and Mar 2016). The IRI has also extended an invitation to Zeid bin Ra'ad the High Commissioner on Human Rights to visit Iran. The delegations of the IRI have also met with the different officials of the Office of the High Commissioner within the framework of collaboration and interaction. In addition, Iran agreed with the request of the High Commissioner in May 2016 to dispatch a delegation from his Office in order to identify the fields of collaboration with Iran.

Engagement with Special Procedures

The IRI has appropriate engagements with special human rights procedures. The following experts have visited Iran so far:

- Independent expert on human rights in Afghanistan, Feb 2002;
- Working Group on arbitrary detention, Feb 15 – 27, 2003;
- Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Nov 3 – 11, 2003;
- Special Rapporteur on Migrants' Human Rights, Feb 22 – 29, 2004;
- Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Jul 19 – 30, 2005; and
- Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, Jul 19 – 30, 2005.

The IRI also invited the Special Rapporteur on the right to food in 2015 to visit the country at an appropriate time. Furthermore, the IRI announced its agreement in principle with the request of the Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures to visit the country and extended a written invitation to him in 2017. Iran also invited the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health in 2017 to visit the country and extended a written invitation to him in 2017. The delegations dispatched by the IRI to the Council of Human Rights have held different meetings with the Special Rapporteur on human rights in the last three years, among them:

- Technical meeting of the delegation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran concerning narcotics in Geneva, Sep 2015;
- Meeting of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights with the Permanent Representative and Ambassador of the IRI in New York, Oct 2015;
- Meeting of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights with the Permanent Representative and Ambassador of the IRI in Geneva, Dec 2016;
- Technical meeting of the delegation with the Special Rapporteur on minorities in Geneva, March 2016;

- Technical meeting of the delegation with the *Special Rapporteur on minorities* in Geneva, November 2016;
- Specialized meeting with the *Special Rapporteur on the sale of children , child prostitution and child pornography* in Geneva, March 2017;
- Specialized meeting with the *Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran* in Geneva, March 2017
- Specialized meeting with the *Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures* in Geneva, March 2017

It is worth noting that the IRI responds appropriately and in a timely manner to the correspondences received from the special procedures of the Council on Human Rights.

Reporting on Fulfilling International Human Rights Commitments

• In fulfillment of its obligations within the Constitution and other domestic legislation and international human rights commitments, the IRI has always worked hard to demonstrate its commitment to the aforesaid obligations through its active reporting to the United Nations system. Accordingly, the following measures are noteworthy:

- Submitting and defending the periodic report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Aug 2010);
- Submitting and defending the third periodic report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Oct 2011);
- Submitting and defending the second periodic report on the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (May 2013);
- Submitting the third periodic report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2013);
- Submitting the periodic report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Dec 2013 and defending it in Mar 2017;
- Defending the third periodic report on Convention on the Rights of the Child (Jan 2016); and
- Starting the drafting of the periodic report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and fourth periodic report on the implementation of International Covenant on civil and political rights.

Bilateral Dialogues on Human Rights

In line with protecting and promoting human rights and exchanging experiences in this field, the IRI has conducted dialogues on human rights with a large array of countries, some of which in 2015 and 2016 include the following:

- The second round of Iran-Denmark technical talks on human rights (the National Institute of Human Rights), Sep 2015, Tehran;
- The third round of Iran-Denmark technical talks on human rights, Feb 2016, Copenhagen;
- The fourth round of Iran-Denmark technical talks on human rights, Sep 2016, Tehran;
- The second round of Iran-Italy technical talks on human rights, Sep 2015, Tehran;
- The third round of Iran-Italy technical talks on human rights, Sep 2016, Rome;
- Planning for the fourth round of Iran-Italy talks on human rights, Oct 2017, Tehran;
- Human rights consultations with the human rights delegation of the Council of the Chinese Government, Dec 2015, Tehran;

- The second round of Iran-Russia human rights consultation, Dec 2015, Tehran;
- The third round of Iran-Russia human rights consultation , Feb 2016, Moscow;
- The second round of Iran-Indonesia human rights talks, Jun 2015, Jakarta;
- The third round of Iran-Indonesia human rights talks, Dec 2016, Tehran;
- Human rights consultation with the Qatar National Consultation on Human Rights, Jan 2016, Tehran;
- The sixth round of Iran-Switzerland human rights talks, Jun 2016, Bern;
- Planning for the seventh round of Iran-Switzerland human rights talks, June 2017, Bern;
- The tenth round of Iran-Japan human rights talks, Feb 2016, Tokyo;
- The preliminary round of Iran-Brazil human rights talks, Oct 2016, Brasilia;
- Planning for the first round of Iran-Brazil human rights talks, 2017, Tehran;
- The preliminary round of Iran-EU human rights talks, Nov 2016, Brussels.