

Annual Report 2017

— Organization for Defending Victims of Violence —



ODVV

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2017

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence



- **Supervision:** Mahmoudreza Golb anpa ooh(Ph.D)
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- **Special thanks to:** Majid Feiz k ah, Hamideh Aboutorabi
- **Design:** Mohammad Taheri

Main office in Tehran:

No. 1, Mirarabi Alley, North Felestin St. , Keshavarz Blvd , Tehran, Iran

Telefax: +9821 88963091, 88964943, 88954943

Website: www.odv.org

Email: int@odv.org

Geneva office:

The Eumenia I Center, 150 Route,de Ferney, PO Box 2100, 1211 Geneva

Telefax: +41 227916030

Email: int-wis@odv.org

FOREWORD

2017 was a very bitter and hard year for human rights. Almost every corner of the world saw a painful event of the violation of the most basic of human rights and sadly the perpetrator was of human kind. Yemen, Myanmar, occupied Palestinian territories, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Sudan, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain are only parts of the bitter blow of the real meaning of human rights to those who claim this holy concept. Alongside this the violation of environmental rights, right to adequate housing, the right to eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the right to peaceful association, the right to clean water, the right to freedom of movement, the right to self-determination and many more, have violated the right to life of a substantial number of people and sadly they continue due to lack of accountability.

Nonetheless the qualitative and quantitative growth and expansion of the media and social networks and raising of public awareness in this heavy atmosphere, was a shining beacon to blame ailing and accountability of at least some of the violators and perhaps this is what still gives human rights defenders and victims of violence some hope. In spite of the domination of political action and putting to one side the fairness and justice procedures in the international arena, if there is still a will, human rights can still highlight its presence and without disregard.

In 2017, the ODVV through a more scientific and strategic approach, tried to take more determined steps towards raising awareness of its domestic and international addressees. The results of the tireless efforts of my colleagues in this year is a proud display of the implementation of the beautiful slogan: "We Wanted, We Could". We hope that with the help of God Almighty, next year we make double the efforts to become one of the most reputable NGOs active in the field of human rights both inside our country and the MENA region.

I am certain that with the assistance of my dear capable and professional colleagues each one of whom have carried an important share of this activity on their shoulders, ladies and gentlemen (in alphabetical order): Hamideh Aboudotrabi, Haroot Agharian, Marziyeh Azizian, Reza Alameh, Parisa Danaee-far, Helia Dotaghi, Leila Enayati, Maryam Eriz, Hassan Fartous, Majid Feizkhah, Somayeh Mesbahi, Firouzeh Mir-Razavi, Zahra Mirabian, Manooreh Mohammadi, Yadollah Mohammadi, Sanaz Moazzez, Hosein Moazavi-far, Farzaneh Mostofi-far, Rouhollah Nasolahi, Esmat Oveis, Negar Paidar, Lotfollah Parvaneh, Ahmadrza Salamati, Elham Shookhtariah, Maasomeh Taghavi, we shall achieve results.

In the hope for brighter and stronger days

Mahmoudreza Golbanpazhooh (Ph.D)

Executive Director

Introduction

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political organization in Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). The ODVV was established in 1988 in Tehran and has been active in the field of human rights and humanitarian activities. The ODVV is also associated to the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), a participatory of the NGOs Coalition for an International Court (based in New York), and member of the Global March Against Child Labour (based in New Delhi) which also operated in a variety of issues with international organizations and has working relations with many NGOs in Iran and around the globe. The ODVV is also member of the, Asia Youth Network Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO), and the International Movement for a Just World (IMJW), and International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and member of the Central Council, and AMAN Network of Middle East and North Africa Rehabilitation Centres for Torture Victims and first deputy of the Network.



ODVV Mission Statement

Being committed to its moral principles the ODVV's mission is:

- To respect high human values
- To respect the rule of law and be committed to national values, moral principles and laws
- To respect national interests and to avoid entering political groupings
- To respect human dignity and status and to recognize individual's rights and respect of society's public interests
- To believe in justice, equality and observe everyone's rights (women and children in particular),
- To believe in being responsible, transparent, answerable, honest and virtuous
- To accept the expansion and promotion of creativity
- To respect knowledge, competence and experiences of individuals
- To accept ideas, notions, recommendations and contributions critically
- To be committed to collective unity and cooperation;
- To promote the spirit of service and voluntary campaigns
- To promote and expand a culture of non-violence ;

For the purpose of reaching its goal which is to promote and expand a human rights culture the ODVV shall utilise the following practices:

- Hold educational, seminars, forums and workshops with the aim of information dissemination and raise the society's culture, preparation of articles and research in this regard;
- Protect and defend the rights of victims of violence and society
- Promote and expand a culture of non-violence ;
- Present advisory and counselling services for the rehabilitation of victims of society, and to refer these victims to the relevant entities to receive legal aid and services
- Establishment and facilitation of links with national, regional and international organizations that follow similar objectives and to facilitate the opportunity to exchange views, experiences and knowledge;

Structure

The ODVV conducts its activities and campaigns under the following structure

- Research Department ■ Education Department ■ Communications Department ■ Rehabilitation Department ■ Administrative and Financial Management

Through benefiting from experienced experts in its board of directors' structure and also the use of the expertise of close to 100 experts and volunteers in human rights, international law, international relations etc. the ODVV endeavours to through the combination of science and strategy to have the best effectivity in the field of nongovernmental human rights activities of the country. The following is a brief narration of the activities that the aforementioned departments conducted in 2017

Education and Research Projects and Activities

For the purpose of the production of presentable researches to scientific and official communities in the field of human rights with legal, economic, social and cultural subjects, through forming experienced expertise teams in the fields of demands of society, the ODVV conducts general or thematic researches in the form of various projects and researches. The conducted researches and studies in these projects, are basis for conducting practical projects such as education courses and workshops and scientific and educational sittings. The following is a brief narration of the activities that the aforementioned departments conducted in 2017.

Education Workshops

Group Conversation Workshop on the Introduction to Human Rights Terminologies

On 9 December 2017, the ODVV held a series of group conversation workshops on the Introduction to Human Rights Terminologies to increase the technical knowledge international field experts for students and post-graduates and doctors at the ODVV conference hall. The aim in holding these series of workshops is the introduction of the participants to the technical terms of the field in English, introduction to technical terms conversation in English in this regard and also strengthening their listening to technical literatures in English. One of the education contents which was used in these courses was the texts of Human Rights Council reports and resolutions and video clips of the Council Sessions. These workshops will continue into 2018.



Education Courses

First Comprehensive Education Course and Mock Human Rights Council Session Held



The First Comprehensive Education Course and Mock Human Rights Council Session was held by the ODVV and with the cooperation of UNIC and UNA-Iran. The two-month course began on 21 November and ended on 10 December. There were 43 post-graduates from the fields of international law, international relations, human rights, political science and political ecology that participated in this course.

Also on the final day of the course which was held on 10 December which coincided with Universal Human Rights Day, the UN Secretary General's message for the day was read by the representative from UNIC in Iran.

In this course step by step important and operational procedures of the Human Rights Council that include introduction to the Human Rights Council and the role of states and NGOs, learning how to write statements, report writing and serving Human Rights Council documentation, arbitration, peer training on introduction to the Human Rights Council environment, thematic and country rapporteurs, Human Rights Council working agenda and mock Human Rights Council session, were taught by top tutors experienced in international relations. At the end of the course the participants received international certificates signed by the partner organizations.

Sittings

Technical Sitting on Terrorism, Extremism and Violence

This technical sitting was held on 3 May 2017 in the ODVV conference hall by the ODVV and with the participation of Ngee University professor Dr. John Lok and the director of the Political and International Studies Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Foreign Minister, and former Iranian Ambassador to the UN, Dr. Mohammad Kazem Sajadpour.

With regards to terrorism and extremism in the region, Dr. Sajadpour explained: "terrorists and individuals associated to extremist groups have a very low understanding of Islam and in most instances they do not have any ideas about this religion." He continued: "the nurturing of terrorists includes various levels that include, individual, social, regional and international." "Terror campaigns are a combination of ideology and practice, which is an ideology and belief as a result of some existing theories and the function of these individuals are based on the beliefs of an organized organization." He added and went on to reiterate that: "this factor in three dimensions determine numerous actors and unconditional ideological



tools with regards of acts of terror and lack of foreign aid and also violent acts of terror in the Middle East.”

The next speaker was Dr. Jean-Luc Vannier, psychoanalyst and Nietzsche University Lecturer considered the explanation of the psychological dimensions of this issue, the trend to terror and extremist groups as the result of various reasons. He asserted that: “Most people who suffer mental issues such as depression and distress join terror groups to release themselves from these disorders.” This Nietzsche University lecturer added: “The feeling of need to destroy because of the feeling of guilt by these people, in the event of failure to manage these feelings will force these suffering individuals to destroy themselves and in the long run force them to destroy others by joining terror groups.”

Dr. Jean-Luc Vannier explained: “In a way with the merger of the thought to assess peace and achieving a new personality, and also to reach higher human status extremist ideology draws humiliated individuals towards it. Also the luring of the thoughts of individuals who have the suitable base to accept these types of beliefs is another instance that draws individuals towards extremist groups. The promise to control the whole world and also promises of matters which cause the uprising of individuals who have the right mentality to join extremist groups to reach their ideals is another instance which causes the drawing of some individuals towards these groups.”

At the end of this sitting, a Q&A session was held between the panel’s experts and the audience. It must be noted that an education workshop entitled, Education Workshop on Freudian Psychotherapy from Theory to Practice in Therapy Session was held by the ODVV Rehabilitation Department and Dr. Jean-Luc Vannier as facilitator for 30 psychologists and psychotherapists.

Projects

Prevention of Domestic Violence and Life Skills Training Project

According to the tripartite agreement between the ODVV, UNHCR and BAFIA the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Life Skills Education Project began on in May 2017 and is due to finish in September.

This project has been designed for 80 Afghan refugees (40 men and 40 women) in the 12 to 59 age





group and with the aim of reducing social and mental abuse, increasing self-belief, and prevention of domestic violence among Afghans residing in the Varamin district.

Also in view of:

1–the need for this community to learn domestic violence prevention and reduction methods, 2–extensive positive response of refugees from previous conducted projects, and 3–the need to further expand and these trainings to more vulnerable regions (such as Varamin; this project was designed. Based on the field visits and interviews that took place with the refugees and key Afghan community figures in Varamin, where the social and mental abuse levels – particularly domestic violence – are very high, which brings about irreparable consequences that include risk in addition, social and various social damages. This same issue made the ODVV to pursue the holding of necessary training opportunities directly for the third opportunity year, for the refugee community in the Varamin and suburbs districts.

Also 80 direct beneficiaries of the project who will be trained as P2P in life skills and violence prevention methods, will each transfer what they have learned to 5 of their peers, which ultimately will see 400 Afghan refugees that are trained in the prevention and reduction of domestic violence.

Conferences

Participation in the National Conference on the Elimination of Violence against Women: Challenges and Solutions

The ODVV participated in the holding of the Elimination of Violence against Women; Challenges and Solutions National Conference that was held on 4 January 2017 in Shahid Beheshti University, hosted by the National Union of Bar Associations of the Justice Department.

Concept understanding and pathology and examples and extent of violence against women, violence from the criminal law and criminology aspects, violence from human rights and international documents aspects, violence from sociological and psychological aspects, violence from cultural and economic attitudes, methods for confronting violence against women, religious and legal concepts of elimination of violence against women and comparative study of violence against women and distribution and severity of forms of violence in the world were some of the subjects of debate and review by the experts and speakers of this conference.



Commemoration of International Days

Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and with the cooperation of ODVV Raha Rehabilitation Centre, UNIC and Relief International,



on 25 November the ODVV held a series of educational sittings on a new perspective on intervention, prevention, reduction and treatment of gender based violence (GBV) “interview, diagnosis and treatment of GBV models” in a three-day education workshop with presentation of international certificates of attendance, on the occasion of the International Day of Non-violence.

The three-day workshop began with the reading of the UN Secretary General’s message for the day by Mohammad Rajaei Moghadam, representative from UNIC in Iran. The participants included a number of jurists, lawyers, NGOs and human rights activists.

Support and emergency intervention methods for controlling violence, prevention of GBV methods, different types of violence, pathology of the meaning of violence and its related concepts, GVB creating social and cultural beliefs, psychological views on the definition of GBV, the connection between upbringing and parenting methods in relation with GBV, personality, mood and anxiety disorders in relation with GBV, preventative emergency intervention, were some of the important subjects of discussion of the first two days of the workshop which were discussed by Seyed Ahmadreza Salamati, the ODVV Rehabilitation Department Deputy.

Also the review of the most important prevention and treatment of the victims and perpetrators of GBV methods and case based intervention and with the help of practice and role playing were some of the important topics of the third day of the workshop which was discussed by Dr. Jaleh Afshari Monfared, the technical head of the Raha Rehabilitation Centre.



Commemoration of the international Day in Support of Torture Victims

The technical sitting in support of victims of torture was held on the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June at the conference hall of the ODVV and the presence of psychologists and psychotherapists and social workers, and with the aim of teaching interview and rehabilitation of torture victims techniques.

The training of therapists for helping victims of torture to return to normal lives and support counselling were some of the important education headings of this technical sitting. Also the facilitator of the workshop, Dr. Jaafari described the logical confronting of the past and acceptance of the present in two headings, in the treatment of torture victims and said, "For treating torture victims the cognitive therapy, behavioural and psychoanalytical methods can be used. Of course the best therapy is team therapy where as well as the therapist, there are also a social worker and psychiatrist present."



International Conferences and Coalitions

As a nongovernmental organization, the ODVV conducts part of its activities in the international arena, and by acquiring a special consultative status from ECOSOC the ODVV has managed to have the opportunity to participate in the former Commission on Human Rights and its substitute the Human Rights Council periodic sessions, and by issuing statements the ODVV presents its official positions. The ODVV also endeavours to by participating in international conferences to create new opportunities and capacities in the international scene.

The 10th Minorities Forum

The 10th Minorities Forum was held on 30 Nov 1 Dec 2017 at the UN Geneva Headquarters. The subjects of this Forum were to find solutions and recommendations for minority youths with regards to education, participation in public life, participation in the media in the digital era and the role of these youths in sustainable and stable peace building. There were four panels

It must be a id that the Minorities Forum has been c eated for the purpose of c eating a e ntre for dialogue and o peration in national, ethnic religious and linguistic minorities is es and a bmis on of thematic reports and teb nia l o ns Itation to the Speç al Rapporteur on Minorities is es The ODVV tried in this Forum and preiv ous ç ar's Forum to hæ better o peration with the Forum through preparing reports writing and reading oral s atements through a rious items

Visit to Iraqi Rehabilitation Centres

Following the AMMAN Network s tting in the firs week of May 2017 in d rdan with regards to launb ing a data bank for regis ration of information of a es s who hæ been admitted to rehabilitation e ntres and the need for o ordination between member e ntres of the region and benefiting from eab other's ex periene s reprees ntatie s from the ODVV paid a iv s t to the Bahjat Al-Fuad Rehabilitation of Media l and P b ologia l Centre for Torture Vit ims (BFRCT-Bas ah) and the WCHAN Organia tion for Vit ims of Human Rights Violations – Trauma Rehabilitation and Training Centre (Sulaimania) from 14 to 20 September 2017 in Iraq. The following were reiv ewed and dia es d in thee iv s ts of the two e ntres

E b ange of ex periene s information and iv ews of related fields and fields of interes , reiv ew of the daily at iv ties and how e rive s are provi ded in thee e ntres reiv ew of the referral to thee e ntres ç em reiv ew of the po s bility of o nduc ing joint projet s drawing international o peration and s rengthening of initiatie at ions in the region.

It must be a id that the ODVV s gned two e parate letters of unders anding with thee two e ntres

Participation in the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council

The 36th Se s on of the Human Rights Council took pla e on 11-29 September 2017 at the UN European Headquarters in Geneva , Switæ rland. The mo s important activ ties of the ODVV in this Se s on inc lude:

- Organization of the participation of 6 Iranian NGOs in Consultative Status in the Session

As one of the mo s important human rights ins titutions in the international order, the Human Rights Council provi des good opportunities for NGOs to hæ a platform and play a role; where often thee opportunities turn into o mpetitions between organia tions For this reas n further benefiting from thee opportunities is e ry important. Thus one of the main at iv ties of the ODVV in the 36th Se s on was the arranging the partic pation of 6 Iranian NGOs in Cons ltatie Status This at iv ty was done in two s ages Tehran and Geneva , through whib the following at ions

were taken: identification of accompanying NGOs their registration through the new Council Session, registration for reading oral statements and preparation of 12 oral statements and their reading at the Council Session.

- Preparation of Written Statements and their Submission and their Registration in the Council's Directory

One of the existing opportunities at the Human Rights Council for NGOs to play a role is the registration of written statements in the Council's directory which is possible via the Council website. Just as in oral statements, written statements must be prepared under the 10 items of the permanent working agenda of the Council; and be set according to the relevant standards. The ODVV prepared 5 written statements for this Session. The subjects of these statements were: the human rights situation in Palestinian Occupied Territories, necessity to pay attention to the growth of Islamophobia, unilateral coercive measures and human rights, US and British financial backing of the Saudi led coalition, and the situation of Afghan refugees in Iran.

- Preparation of Thematic Strategic Report and Handing in the Council Session

With the efforts of ODVV experts and through extensive studies in this Session a thematic strategic report was prepared through consideration of priorities to the respect of human rights and the domestic and international interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

■ **“Sanctions tantamount to violation of human rights”**

The issue of unilateral sanctions imposed against Iran has been one of the focal subjects of the ODVV in its research and executive activities. Thus, following a study of various fields related to the sanctions issue that include: the banking sector, medicines and treatment, industries, development and the economy, in this stage a report on the effects of sanctions on the medicine and treatment sector entitled “sanctions, tantamount to the blatant violation of human rights: thematic study of the effects of sanctions on the supplies of medicines in the Iranian society, was prepared. Attention to the fact that this report was getting prepared by a domestic NGO, the views of the general public, the experiences of manufacturers and importers of medicines and media information was utilised in preparation of the contents of the report. Considering the lack of sufficient statistical data in this regard, through documentation and analysis of existing data efforts were made to have the contents of the report be strong and persuasive. This, is the first issue of a series of ODVV productions regarding the “effects of sanctions on the people of Iran”, which is towards the production of scientific literature in the international language with regards to the human rights situation in Iran.

- Preparation of oral statements and their reading in the Session

In this session, the ODVV in total, prepared 12 oral statements for general debates and interactive dialogues under working agenda items 3, 4 and 7 in consideration of concerns and priorities in human rights debates which were read by 6 Iranian NGOs. Some of the topics raised in the oral statements were as follows:

The situation of refugees in Iran, unilateral coercive measures and the violation of the right to development, the killing of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, Israel's settlement building in occupied territories, terrorism and Shiaophobia, build ups of armed conflicts, the situation of children deprived of education in Yemen, the effects of sanctions on scientific and technological advancements, effects of armed conflicts on the environment.

- Meeting with the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures and his assistant

One of the main and significant things that the ODVV does during participation in Human Rights Council Sessions is arranging meetings with thematic and country rapporteurs. In this Session, the ODVV managed to have a meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and his assistant. While speaking about the effects of sanctions on the economic, social, cultural, and scientific and health conditions of society, in this meeting ways to promote mutual cooperation and also ways for NGOs to help the Special Rapporteur were discussed and reviewed. Also in this meeting a copy of the book "Sanctions: Tantamount to Violation of Human Rights" was presented to the Special Rapporteur.



- Holding Sidelines Panels

Holding sidelines panels is another available opportunity in the Human Rights Council which can be utilized through the expertise and experiences of experts in the field, and while drawing the attention of government officials and NGOs towards concerning issues to exchange views

reports and experiences of governments and participating NGOs in the Human Rights Council, and pave the way for future cooperation.

Thus with the cooperation of a number of NGOs the ODVV held 2 sidelines panels on the following subjects:

■ Human Rights in Yemen, Children and Cholera

The Human Rights in Yemen, Children and Cholera sidelines panel was held on 20 September 2017 by Kimia Organization and the partnership of the ODVV and INSAN Organization for Human Rights from Germany. In this sitting which was held on the sidelines of the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council in Room XVI, Yemeni human rights activists and lawyers and the director of Human Rights for Yemen Organization Ms. Kim Sharif resident in the UK, human rights activists Mr. Hassan Al-Wazir resident in Germany and Yemeni human rights activists and director of Human Organization Mr. Ayman Al-Sandi, gave speeches.



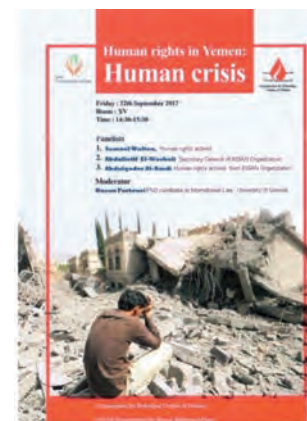
■ Human Rights in Yemen, Human Crisis

The Human Rights in Yemen, A Human Crisis sidelines panel was held on 22 September 2017 by the ODVV and partnership of Ina für Menschenrechte und Frieden Organization. In this sitting British human rights activists Mr. Samuel Walton, human rights activists and the secretary general of Ina für Menschenrechte und Frieden Organization Mr. Abd-ol-Latif Al-Wabli, and Yemeni human rights activists Dr. Abd-ol-Qader Al-Amdi resident in Germany gave speeches.

Through presentation of documents, each of the speakers established the dimensions of the dire human rights situation in Yemen. While mentioning statistics and evidence of the use of cluster munitions and weapons used by the Saudi led coalition that according to international conventions are prohibited, they also presented a report of the distribution of illegal arms and civilian casualties according to reports of UN Special Rapporteur, and also Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. The speakers also reminded the responsibility of western governments that sell prohibited weapons to the Saudi government and the coalition forces in the worsening human rights situation in Yemen, and stressed on the role of civil society in whistleblowing on the sale of these weapons and guide public opinion to demand and put pressure on governments to stop the sale of illegal weapons. At the end while stating the importance of the prosecution of war crimes for using banned weapons, the speakers called for the setting up of an

independent international fact finding committee.

The head of ODVV's Geneva Office and coordinate in international relations from Geneva University, Mr. Hassan Fartous was the moderator of this panel. Following asking the speakers to make questions and receiving replies while summing up Mr. Fartous thanked the speakers human rights activists NGO representatives and a number of UN human rights experts and members of state delegates in the UN, members of parliament and the Special Rapporteur who were among the attendees of the panel.



- Preparation and Publication of Specific Media Product

With the aim of expanding its international links and making an impact in the Human Rights Council, through publication of media products and reports of its activities the ODVV produces various items such as Defenders Newsletter, annual reports and multimedia CDs, joint statements with 30 Iranian NGOs on condemnation of the Myanmar government's actions against the Rohingya Muslims, joint letter with 700 Iranian and international journalists calling for the investigation of the Myanmar Muslims conditions, all of which were extensively reflected in the 36th Session.



- Let Us Understand the Children of Yemen Photo Gallery

On 23 September 2017 a photo gallery entitled "Let Us Understand the Children of Yemen" was held in Geneva's city centre. This gallery which was held with the support of the ODVV and Yemeni human rights activists was open from 8am to 6pm. On display were various images of Yemeni children, the extensive destruction of schools, hospitals and the spread of cholera and other diseases which had a good public response of the locals and tourists. Through handing out brochures and also holding orientations Yemeni human rights activists tried to send a message of the urgency for putting an end to the war in Yemen.

Human Rights Activists' Protests in Condemnation of the Tehran and London Terror Attacks Outside the UN in Geneva

On the initiative of ODVV Representative Office in Geneva and in condemnation of the terror attacks in Tehran and London, and also the Saudi led attacks against the innocent people of Yemen, on 15 June a protest was held outside the UN Headquarters in Geneva.

This demonstration was held at the same time as the 35th Session of the Human Rights Council and holding placards and banners the participants condemned the recent terror attacks. In separate brief speeches human rights activists called for the efforts of the international community and human rights institutions to put an end to these inhuman actions. In their speeches these human rights activists condemned the Tehran and London terror attacks and also the Saudi led attacks on Yemen and declared their support for the people of Yemen.



Participation in the 35th Session of the Human Rights Council

The 35th Session of the Human Rights Council took place from 13 June to 1 July 2017 under 10 items of the working agenda at the UN European Headquarters in Geneva. Just as in the past, ODVV representatives in Geneva through extensive effective efforts to make use of all opportunities to accomplish its objectives in the international arena. The activities of the ODVV in this Session included the preparation of 6 oral statements holding 2 side lines panels on the human rights situation in Yemen and distribution of ODVV products in the Council.



Practical Workshop on the Launching of Data Bank for the Registration of Cases in Rehabilitation Centres

To bring cohesion to victims of torture and violence related data, and also providing assistance to centres active in the field, IRCT through a global project has taken steps to prepare and design a data bank entitled Data in the Fight Against Impunity, for the purpose of registration of the information of cases that have gone to these centres. This workshop was held from 3 to 6 May 2017 in Amman the capital of Jordan with the aim of participation for the fight against impunity through the collection of necessary data from torture victims and towards the accountability, prevention and treatment of these individuals. Participating in this meeting were centres from Iraq, Iran (ODVV), Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Morocco. Also the special objective of this project is the strengthening and coordination of the capacities of rehabilitation centres to collect clinical psychological data and the use of the results and outputs for human rights activities and fight against impunity. This data bank has been launched with the cooperation of various centres from the abovementioned countries, and recently its second version which has corrected the problems of the first version have been launched in the centres of these countries and are being used. The IRCT's programme is to bring about conditions where all its members benefit from this data bank.

Participation in the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council

The 34th Session of the Human Rights Council took place from 7 February till 24 March 2017 in Palais de Nations in Geneva. Some of the important activities of the ODVV in this Session include:

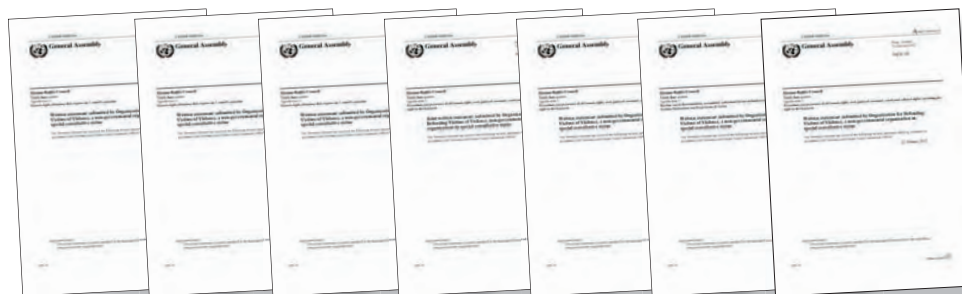
- The Empowerment of 17 NGOs in Consultative Status to ECOSOC: "Effective Participation in the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council"

One of the main activities of the ODVV in the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council was the arranging of the effective participation of Iranian NGOs in Consultative Status to ECOSOC in the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council. This activity took place in two stages one in Tehran and the second one in Geneva. In the first stage necessary trainings were given to representatives of 17 NGOs followed by the drafting of a plan of action by the ODVV. In the second stage too in Geneva while holding coordination meetings the activities planned in Tehran well put into effect.



- Preparation of Written Statements and their Registration in the Council Directory

The ODVV prepared 7 written statements under the 10 permanent working agenda of the Council, with consideration of relevant standards. These statements were mostly on the subject of violation of women and children's rights in armed conflicts in the Middle East, the refugee crisis, environmental catastrophes, Islamophobia, the effects of sanctions on societies' right to education etc.



- Preparation of Thematic Strategic Reports and their Publication at the Council

In this session with the guidance of ODVV experts and through coordination meetings 21 thematic strategic reports with consideration of priorities to reporting human rights were compiled. The refugee crisis, water crisis, violation of the rights of people with disabilities, spread of



Islamophobia etc were some of the subjects of these reports which were compiled, designed and printed and were distributed in large quantities at the Human Rights Council. Some of the reports were as follows: War and mental health in the Middle East; The necessity to pay attention to human rights principles in international policies on climate change; environmental crimes and human rights violations and human rights violations; the violation of the rights of people with disabilities in regional conflicts; the repercussions of sanctions and their effects on civil society; children deprived of education in regional conflicts; review of women's situation in the Middle East region in the last decade from the human rights aspects; child victims of terrorism.

- Preparation of Oral Statements and Reading them at the Council with a Concentration of the Subjects of the Special Rapporteur on Iran and Middle East issue

In this stage the ODVV prepared 8 oral statements in total for the general debates and interactive dialogue under the working agenda items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9. Also approximately 31 statements were prepared under the supervision of ODVV experts. Some of the subjects of the ODVV and other NGOs oral statements were as follows: violation of children's rights in the



Syrian conflict; the effects of unjust sanctions on the economic, social and health situations in Iran; threats to the environment in the Middle East; violation of women's rights in Middle East conflicts (trafficking and sexual exploitation); consequences of forced repatriation of refugees on children, negative consequences of armed conflict on children in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain and Palestine; the necessity to prepare a protocol or additional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child for the improvement of refugee children's rights; condemnation of the entry into the United States ban on 7 Muslim majority countries.

- Arranging a Meeting with Asma Jahangir the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Iran

One of the main and important activities of the ODVV during its participation in the Human Rights Council Sessions is having meetings and teleconferences with thematic and country specific rapporteurs; one of the important ones of which is meeting the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Iran. This meeting was of particular importance, in which Ms. Jahangir compiled

and submitted her report for the first time in her new position. Therefore, meeting and interaction of Iranian NGOs and raising issues and matters took place for the first time.

This meeting which took place on Sunday 12 March 2017, one day before the submission of the Special Rapporteur's report to the Human Rights Council and planned following the continued and difficult coordination of the ODVV. It must be said that the time foreseen for the meeting was an hour which increased to two hours due to the dynamism of the subjects of discussion.

A number of main pivotal points were discussed in this meeting which included: the necessity for the Special Rapporteur to deal with the consequences of sanctions on economic, social, cultural, health and education rights addressed with regards to women's rights that include the death penalty, inheritance, promotion of women's presence in the education environments, reduction in underage marriages and amendment of the drug offenders capital punishment law in her report.

- Holding the "Portal Towards Iran" Exhibit

At the same time as the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council, the ODVV held an exhibit on Nations Square in front of the UN Headquarters in Geneva, entitled, "A Portal Towards Iran". This exhibit was held with the aim of the reproduction of the concept of peace and rejection of extremism and violence by Iranians in a unique and effective way. The details of the exhibit are as follows



■ i) Photo Gallery

In this Exhibit 25 photos taken by Iranian janbaz (journalist) of the Iran-Iraq War, Daoud Ameri were on display with the subjects of Iran's nature, victims of war in Iran, and women and children in Iran. These pictures showed a different and attractive image of Iran for the European audience and was welcomed by visitors to such an extent that in some instances they wanted to purchase the works of art.



■ ii) Displaying the Nowrouz 7 Cin Spread

In view of the 34th Session being held close to the Nowrouz (Iranian New Year) and the International Day of Happiness it was a good excuse for the ODVV while setting the traditional Iranian 7 Cin spread, to also welcome spring and wish the visitors of the



exhibit a Happy Iranian New Year. This move was made with the aim of introducing Iranian culture and basic traditions and also present a good image of the Iranian history and civilization and change the perception of the European public impression of Iran.

■ iii) Introduction of Iranian NGOs

Participating in the Council Session, 17 Iranian NGOs introduced their organizations through participating in the “A Portal Towards Iran” exhibit. They did this through handing out brochures, books and reports of their annual activities and thematic reports. These products were on display for the visitors in two tents. Also banners with rejection of extremism and violence, friendship and kindness slogans were put up in different corners of the tents to send the message of the exhibit holders to the audience and passers by.



■ iv) Playing Classic Iranian Music

Alongside the photo gallery, presentation of NGOs' reports and setting up the 7 Cin display, and to complete and make a further impact of these activities this year the playing of Iranian music was put in the to-do list of the exhibit, and basic Iranian music (often with no lyrics) was played in the background for the visitors.

■ v) Holding the “Art for Peace” Exhibit

Following the successful experience of the ODVV in holding field exhibit of Iranian NGOs in Consultative Status to ECOSOC in the years 2015, 2016, and 2017, for the first time the “Art for Peace” exhibit was set up inside the main European Headquarters of the UN through the cooperation of the ODVV and three NGOs from 7 to 17 March. In this exhibit around 30 pieces of Iranian artworks were put on display with the peace theme, which was exclusively received by the audience.

- Meeting with Thematic Rapporteur

■ i) Meeting with Special Rapporteur on Rights of the Child

The Human Rights Council is a golden opportunity for interaction and dialogue with thematic rapporteurs. For this reason on 9 March 2017, a meeting was held with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child, Ms Maud de Boer-Buijze (Dutch) in Wilson Palace by the Child Foundation and the ODVV and a number of NGOs.

In this meeting the subjects of discussion included the increasing of the legal age of marriage for girls law, further interaction with Iranian NGOs and the Special Rapporteur's work methods were discussed. At the end brochures thematic reports and business cards of NGOs were presented to the Special Rapporteur for further future communications



- Holding Sidelines Panels

Holding sidelines panels is another of the available opportunities in the Human Rights Council which through the use of expertise and experienced experts in the field, benefit from these opportunities in the best way.

■ i) The Refugee Crisis and Violation of Children's Rights

This panel was held with the cooperation of the Child Foundation and UNICEF on 13 March and the speakers included Ms Sarah Crowe UNICEF spokesperson on Crisis Issues in the Geneva Office, Ms Taraneh Fathalian from Imam Ali Charity Population, Dr. Peyman Raoufi the executive director of the Child Foundation and Dr. Mostafa Mohammadi researcher from Laurence University.



The speakers spoke about refugee host countries who have amended their domestic laws so that further protection is given to children. Also it was pointed out that the European Parliament has

passed legislation in protection of refugees and legal migrant children. But Hungary has refrained from taking similar measures and it is regrettable that the Hungarians who themselves experienced displacement during the Second World War, should provide more assistance to refugees. Also in this panel it was stated that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international covenant which has the most number of signatories, but the United States has refrained from signing this Convention.



■ ii) Yemen: 700 Days of Crisis and Criminals' Impunity

The “Yemen: 700 Days of Crisis and Criminals' Impunity” sitting was held on 15 March 2017 by the ODVV. The speakers of the sitting included, jurists Dr. Kim Sharif, Mr. Abdol-Latif Al-Washli, Mr. Ayesh Al-Sandi and Yemeni human rights activist Ms. Amal Al-Ma'Khazi.

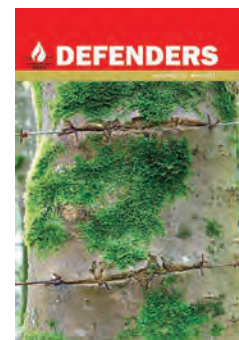
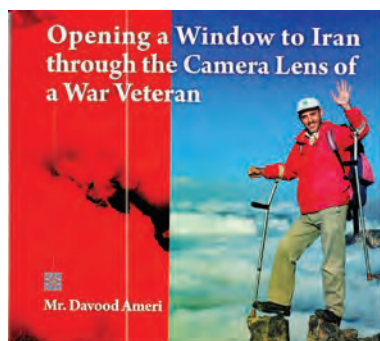
The subjects that were discussed included: lack of access to clean water in Yemen, increase in cost of drinking water to 12 dollars per litre, destruction of 50 percent of the water supply infrastructure of Saana as a result of Saudi airstrikes, the siege of the airport and shortage of



medicines, airstrikes on strategic locations and oilfields, UN not active in Yemen, targeting Yemeni women and children in medical centres, not enough food for 7 million Yemenis, presentation of a report on casualty figures of 120,000 killed and more than 20,000 wounded in Yemen.

- Publication and Distribution of Specific Books, Journals, Annual Reports and Multimedia Products

With the aim of expanding its international links and making an impact in the Human Rights Council, through publication of media products and reports of its activities, the ODVV produced various items such as Defenders Newsletter, annual reports and multimedia CDs and extensively distributed them in the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council and the exhibits that were held.



- Active Participation of ODVV Experts in other NGOs Sidelines Panels

One of the significant actions of the ODVV in this Session was the active participation of its experts in the sidelines panels. Towards this action, the table of the sidelines panels were studied and the some of these panels which were more in line with the work field of the ODVV were selected and from a pre-planned programme, the experts took part in these panels and prepared full reports.

Rehabilitation Department: Raha Counselling Centre

With a wish to mend and end mankind's pains and sufferings, and expansion of humanitarian campaigns, the ODVV Rehabilitation Department provides advisory and educational services. For the protection of victims of domestic and social violence, the department presents counselling and therapy in legal, family, marriage, psychological disorders at the Rehabilitation Centre. With the cooperation of 40 mental health experts and lawyers the Centre provides pre-marriage, education and legal counselling. The statistics of the cases is determined on the basis of gender, age, occupation, marital status, education levels and the reason for coming to the Centre. The ODVV uses the results of the statistics to set appropriate programmes and projects. In 2017, 3962 cases benefited from the Centre's services. 2050 of them were women and 1912 were men. According to the statistics most of the cases were married and the majority of them had family problems.

The Raha Counselling Centre also provides telephone hotline counselling services for psychological, marital, family and education issues via telephone hotline.

The monthly statistics for the hotline are worked out through variables such as gender, occupation, age, marital status, education, and reason for arrival. In 2017, 1240 people benefited from the telephone hotline service: 857 women and 386 men. According to statistics the majority of arrivals had family problems. As an active member of the Employment and Education Committee the ODVV Rehabilitation Centre, has always endeavored to work towards the prevention of violence in the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Document."

For the realization of the goals of this Committee, by participation in all meetings with a description of practical activities in this regard, the Rehabilitation Department has undertaken a number of important measures, the important ones of which are:

- Identification of victims of violence at the Raha Rehabilitation Centre
- Review of effective approaches in counselling and psychotherapy in prevention of violence.
- Identification of suitable titles for technical settings on prevention of violence and treatment of the victims to hold at the Raha Rehabilitation Centre.
- Setting a suitable research method to review the link between violence and impractical ideas, depression and anxiety among victims of violence.
- Identification of ongoing problems of related governmental departments with the Rehabilitation Centre project for treatment intervention and ongoing towards increasing the mental health of target group.



Memory and Learning Education Workshop

The education workshop on Memory and Learning was held by the ODVV Rehabilitation Department on 18 December 2017 for 40 psychology and counseling students and post-graduates. The facilitator of the workshop was Dr. Mansoreh Faizlati, Shahid Beheshti University lecturer. The aim of this workshop was to further understand the brain as one of the most complex organs of the body in learning and memorising information.



The power of learning, the superiority of mankind to other creatures, the physiology of learning and memory, review of the neurobiology of learning, defining, memorising what's been learned, the time the information is kept, recovery, remembering recorded information, memory stages, types of memory that include feeling, short and long term memory, capacity of memory etc were some of the points that were taught in this workshop.

Workshop on Training of Prevention of Verbal Abuse Trainers

The Workshop on Training of Prevention of Verbal Abuse Trainers was held on Saturday 2 December 2017 for NGOs and the members of the Health and Sociology | Population, with the cooperation of the ODVV and the Popular Preventions and Social Participations General Office of the Judiciary. The tutor of this technical workshop was



Dr. Shahrbanoo Ghahari and it was held with the aim of empowerment of NGOs and members of the National Mental Health Population for prevention intervention on the subject of violence and help the victims of violence. The workshop was held in the Social Deputy Assembly Hall of the Judiciary.

Determination of the definition of violence, the recommendations of the World Health Organization for the prevention of social damages, theoretic methods for the prevention of violence based on psychology approach, establishment of the boundaries of disorders in the victims and perpetrators of violence with regard to lack of skills and intervention techniques for the reduction of damages caused by rage were some of the important subjects of this one day workshop.

Education Workshop on the Prevention of Abuse that Leads to Altercation

The Prevention of Abuse that Leads to Altercation workshop was held with the cooperation and tutoring of ODVV experts and by the Popular Preventions and Social Participations General Office of the Judiciary for lawyers and experts from the Judiciary, justice department experts, NGOs and religious leaders from 20 to 25 November 2017 in the city of Mashhad. Fundamental skills related to the subject of violence education, social facilitation for getting skills for social oriented interventions to utilise popular potentials to prevent physical, mental, sexual and economic abuse were the most important subjects of this training course which were taught over four days to two groups of 35 individuals. In the opening and closing ceremonies of the workshop, officials from the Tehran and Astan Khorasan Razavi Judiciary were present as guest speakers.



Workshop on Effective Communications Skills

This workshop was held by the ODVV Rehabilitation Department on 17 October 2017 for 45 experts and psychologists in the ODVV conference hall. In this 6-hour workshop Dr. Mansoor Faizlani Shahid Behahti University lecturer spoke about communication and what makes communication effective.

In this workshop at first the ten life skills importance and necessity for teaching them to prevent social damages were discussed. This was followed by debate and exchange of views on the definition of communication and elements of effective communication.



Education Workshop on Freudian Psychotherapy: from Theory to Practice in Therapy

The one-day Education Workshop on Freudian Psychotherapy: from Theory to Practice in Therapy Session was held on 9 May, 2017 in the conference hall of the ODVV.

This one-day workshop that was entitled the “psychoanalytical approach for improvement through dialogue in various pathologies, was held with the presence of Jean-Luc Vernier, psychotherapist and Nice University professor and 30 psychiatrists, psychotherapists and psychologists.

The following topics were taught comprehensively and in detail to the audience:

- 1 – To explain the consequences of the discovery by Sigmund Freud of the primacy of the radical otherness in the creation of the unconscious and that of the human sexuality;
- 2 – studying through the historical background of psychoanalysis, the major concepts, always referring to the clinical basis;
- 3 – A thorough understanding of psychoanalysis and psychology in order to better assess the functioning of the human psyche, its desire, its identity and its place in the social group; and
- 4 – To give clinicians many efficient means in their daily work.

Also the participants of this workshop were introduced to discussions such as: a method of treatment of the neurotic disorders, presentation and exegesis of the psychoanalysis, from early childhood to adolescence, the cataclysm of puberty and the various adolescent addictions, a process of investigation of the psychic processes, the basic rules of the analytic session, conditions for the commencing of therapy session, The Freudian “setting”: from the face to face to the sofa. How? Why?, The differences between psychiatry, psychology and psychoanalysis, the fundamental situation of anthropology according to professor John Le Planch theory, trauma, sudden developments, and various addictions among youths, physical comfort.



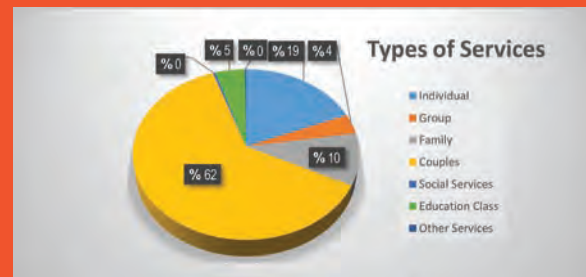
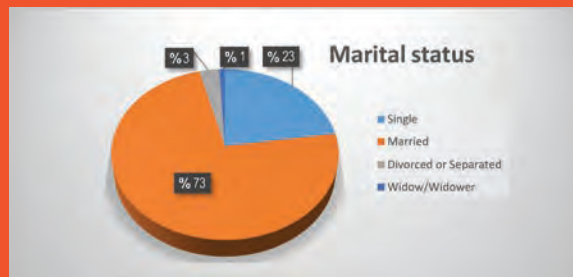
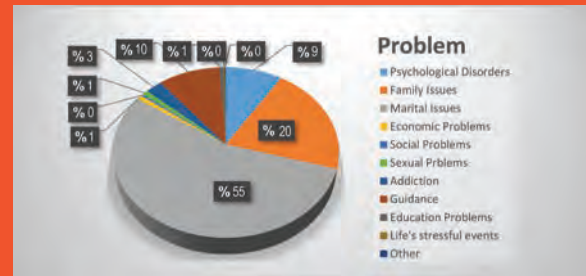
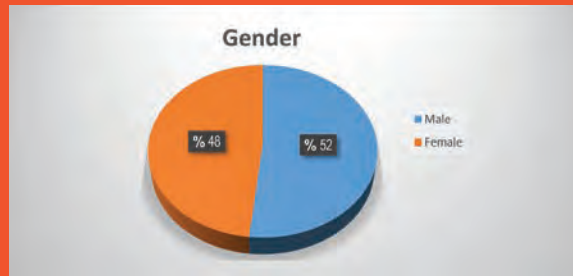
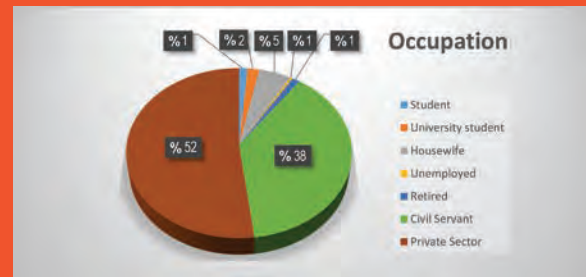
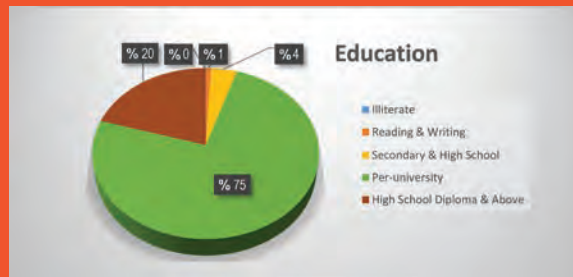
Free Counselling Services for the Victims of the Plasco Building Disaster

Following the horrific fire of the Plasco Building in Tehran on 19 January 2017, in view of the importance of the general mental health of society, and with the help of counsellors and experts from the Raha Counselling Centre, the ODVV provided free counselling services to the survivors of the disaster and victims and firefighters.

The Raha Counselling Centre also in 2017 had the following activities in its working agenda:

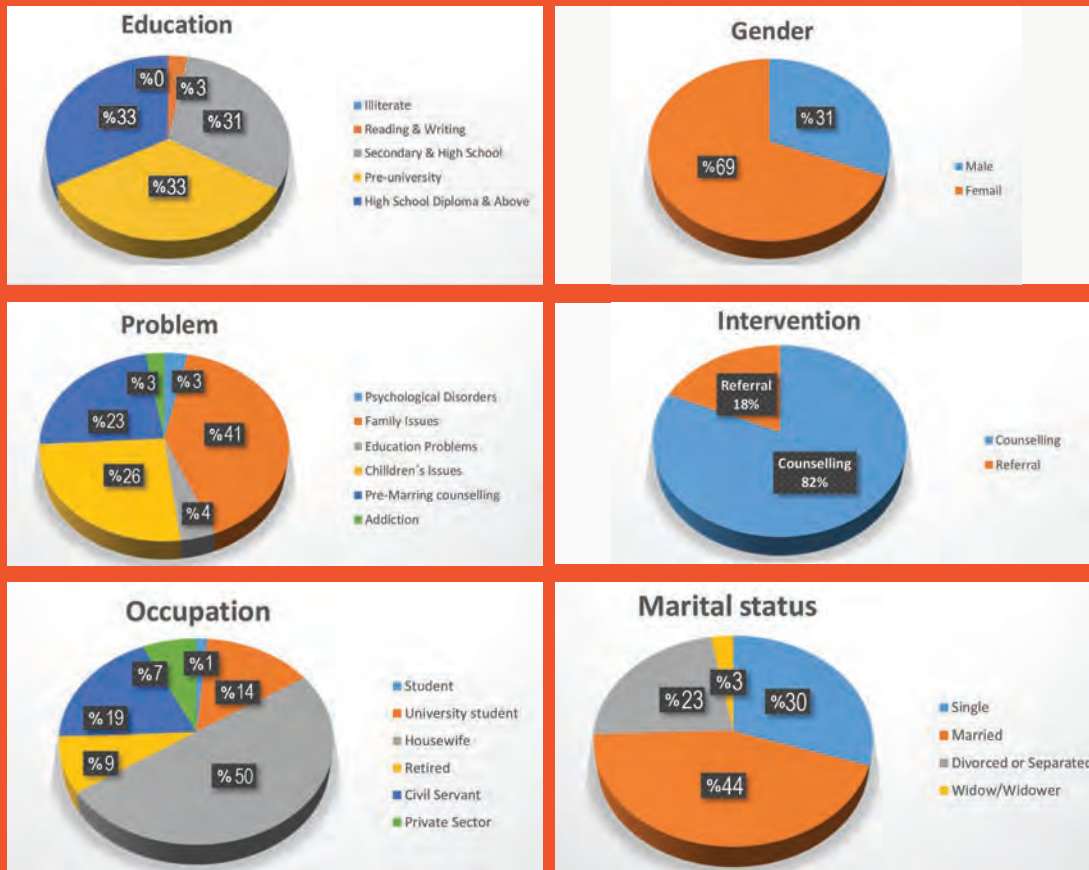
■ Increasing the number of the Centre's Telegram membership from 430 to almost 700 and posting materials daily on the application.

Statistics of Cases in the Centre for 2017: 3962



- Increasing the members of the team of psychologists, psychoanalysts and psychiatrists of the Centre.
- Preparation and translation of the Moral Statute of Raha Counselling Centre.
- Preparation of packages of products and introduction of Raha.
- Dialogue with services provision centres for cooperation with Raha Counselling Centre.
- Review of the archiving of case files and allocating a separate room for archives
- Uploading activities of the Centre on the website.
- Official contract of ODVV Rehabilitation Department with sister NGOs in Iraq (Iraqi rehabilitation centres)

Statistics of Telephone Hotline Calls for 2017: 1240



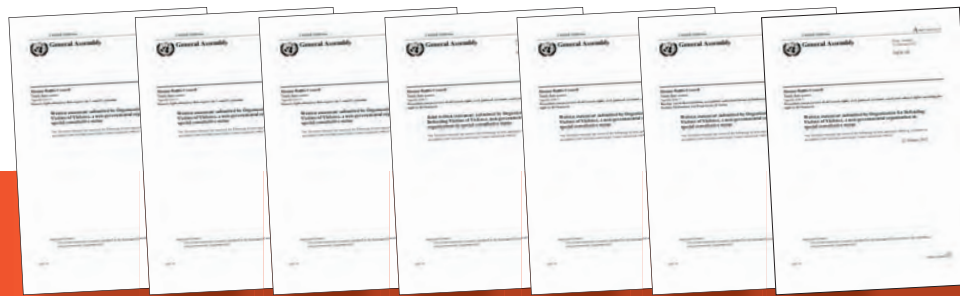
Research and Publications

In view of its objectives and functions, the ODVV Research Department has produced various publications. The reflection of ODVV's activities as a nongovernmental organization in international conferences and gatherings can be seen as a positive performance in playing an active human rights role.

Thematic Reports

- Preparation of Thematic Reports for the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council

The ODVV Research Department prepared 21 thematic & strategic reports by considering priorities for reporting human rights and distributed them at the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council.



Written and Oral Statements

- Written statements for the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council

To make use of existing opportunities at the Human Rights Council for NGOs to play a role, the ODVV prepared 5 written statements and registered them in the Council directory.

- Oral statements for the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council

With consideration of the human rights debates priorities, the ODVV prepared 12 oral statements for the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council to read at the floor of the Session.

- Preparation and Publication of Iranian NGOs' Statements on Myanmar

At the same time as the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council and to condemn the terrible events in Myanmar the ODVV along with more than 30 Iranian NGOs wrote a statement while



The statement of a number Iranian NGOs regarding the human disaster in Myanmar

condemning the killing of Muslims in Myanmar for international human rights bodies to investigate the conditions of these people.

- Written statements for the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council

The ODVV prepared its written statements for the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council in view of the Council's best standards



- Oral statements for the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council

The preparation of oral statements were done by the Research Department experts and their reading at the floor of the Session were some of the other activities of the ODVV.



Drafting and Preparation of Letter

- Joint Action of the ODVV with 700 Journalists in Condemnation of the Terrible Events in Myanmar

In a joint action, on 9 September 2017, the ODVV Research Department and more than 700 national and international journalists issued a letter addressed to the Human Rights Council calling for the international community to investigate the killing of Muslims in Myanmar. This letter and a list of its signatories was presented to the members of the Special Mandate International Fact Finding Group on Myanmar following the Human Rights Council meeting on Myanmar. Also the ODVV pointed out the journalists' concern on Myanmar and called for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to investigate the brutal killing of Myanmar Muslims.



ODVV and 700 Domestic and International Journalists Condemn Myanmar Crimes

Publications and Books

- *Defenders Newsletter Summer 2017*

This edition of Defenders was published in 56 pages with an overhaul of the structure, content and form of the newsletter and bringing it closer to framework of a quarterly. The subjects covered by this edition include: the refugee crisis and the EU, systematic violation of human rights in Saudi Arabia, the link between peace and tourism, arms trade and violation of human rights and a collection of articles by ODVV experts and volunteers



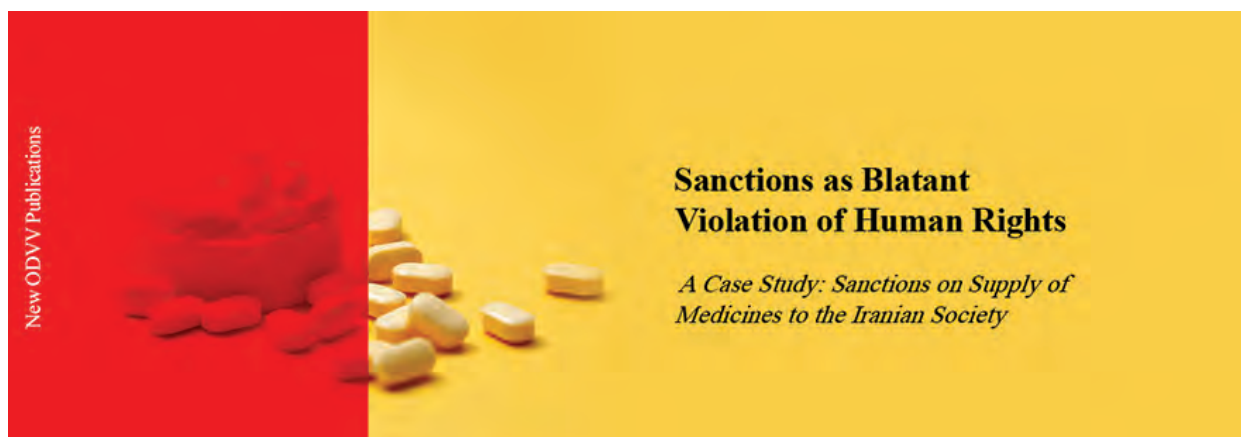
- *Preparation and Publication of the First Booklet in a Series of Books on Unilateral Sanctions*

The ODVV prepared and published the booklet on “Sanctions: Tantamount to Blatant Violation of Human Rights” in 200 copies. This booklet was sent to 66 foreign embassies in Tehran. Also on the sidelines of the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council, the digital file of the booklet was sent to all Permanent State Representatives in Geneva, and 80 hard copies were distributed in the Council Session.

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- Defenders Newsletter Autumn 2016 – Winter 2017

This issue of Defenders was published by the ODVV in 48 pages and with a concentration on human rights, citizens' rights, children, NGOs, the United Nations and the UPR. This newsletter reviews various notable current subjects and issues of the world. Subjects include the activity of NGOs in Consultative Status in the UN, a look at human rights double standards in the international order, children's policies and the necessity to set up a children's policy unit in Iran, children's human rights situation, Syria and human rights challenges Donald Trump and human rights a look at the subject of ethnicity in Iran, Kurds in a land of traditions and customs and traditions ODVV's active participation in the UPR, ways to promote human rights in Iran, Citizens' Rights Charter and independent media and an approach to the structure and nature of Citizens' Rights Charter in Iran.



Organization and Updating of the Library

The ODVV is equipped with a specialist library which contains books in Farsi and English. Also in 2017, with purchase of dozens of new books on human rights and refining of the library and introduction of 2 books from the library in ODVV's Telegram, the use of books, exchanging researches and articles ODVV has facilitated the necessary conditions for honorary members, volunteers, researchers and students access for their studies and work.



Communications Department

For the purpose of increasing the capacity of the ODVV in its international links and making more impact on information dissemination, the Communications Department conducts various activities through the utilisation of the capacities of ODVV experts and effective presence in social networks.

Coordination and Publication the Contents of Websites and Social Networks

Information dissemination is another one of ODVV's activities towards its objectives. The ODVV uses various tools to achieve this

- Farsi, English and Arabic Websites

The worldwide web is one of the necessary communication channels to reach the audience. To benefit from this the ODVV has a trilingual website – Farsi, English and Arabic – (and the Arabic site was launched from the beginning of 2016). The ODVV has managed to make human rights news and development, its activities and positions towards various issues its advertisements throughout the year, objectives and programmes available to the addressees and keep them updated on a daily basis in a way that in 2017, a total of 270 articles and around 1030 various news items on human rights issues were published on the three websites for interested parties to read.





- Editorial Board

The ODVV Editorial Board holds regular and organized meetings with a specific working agenda on a monthly basis for the purpose of promoting the activities of the websites and social networks and further communication with the audience through publication of news articles and activities of the ODVV; with the participation of members and experts

- ODVV Social Media Accounts

For the purpose of strengthening the links of the ODVV with sister international organizations and other addressees the ODVV is active in Facebook, Twitter and Aparat. This action is with the aim of the utilization of new communication tools identification and creation of networks of institutes and human rights activists to show the existence of multiple voices from Iran on human rights and information dissemination of activities and drawing further partnerships. These pages in the following address in 2017 published more than 1300 various human rights materials and articles



Production and Publication

- Launching ODVV's Official Telegram Channel entitled Human Rights Studies

The Human Rights Studies Telegram Channel has been launched by the ODVV and with the aim of raising the awareness of the addressees on human rights scientific procedures and development. Until the end of January 2018 the Telegram Channel gained 520 members and the uploading of materials on a daily basis on human rights is the communications arm of the ODVV with addressees, volunteers and honorary members and has a practical approach. This Channel alongside the ODVV Volunteers Group Telegram account is launched and run by the volunteers group.



- Launching the Data Bank of Documents and Reports of Human Rights Situation in Iran

Through the designing and launching a data bank of documents, resolutions, reports and all important human rights treaties, the ODVV has facilitated the possibility of searching for reference sources and preparation of all its written and oral statements from the first Human Rights Council Session of the year to-date which include 157 oral and 149 written statements.

Preparation of Video Documentaries

- i) Preparation of two Documentaries on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Life Skills Training Projects Varamin November and September 2017.
- ii) Preparation of multimedia CD of ODVV activities and publications in March 2017.
- iii) Preparation of video documentary of the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council.
- iv) Preparation of video documentary of the 31st Session of the Human Rights Council.

Links with Honorary Members

Towards the realization of its objectives and activities the ODVV utilizes the volunteer force with consideration of their field of expertise.

To this aim, with the launching of the ODVV Volunteers Group on the internet and the facilitation and exchange of up to date communication and information in human rights fields among the group members the scene for their activities and the blossoming of their capacities and talents was created.

An example of the activities of this group is the active participation and cooperation and presence of these members in holding education workshops and courses and also writing articles for the Farsi, English and Arabic websites and Defenders Newsletters

After becoming members the honorary members can benefit from the following facilities

- Use of the ODVV library
- Access to reports and researches available
- Access to the internet, website and subscription to electronic newsletters (English and farsi)
- Benefit from ODVV publications and links
- Participation in meetings conferences seminars sitings and education courses

Statements

Towards respecting the high human values and with a belief to justice, equality, promotion and expansion of culture of nonviolence, the ODVV has issued the following statements in view of the current events that have occurred in the world.

- Statement on the Terror Attack in Tehran.
- Statement on Imposing Restrictions on Iranian Scientific Activities
- Statement on the Killing of Innocent People in Mirza Olang
- Statement on Donald Trump's Remarks on Charlotte's Ille.
- ODVV and some Iranian NGOs Statement on the Myanmar Terrible Events
- Statement on International UN Day
- Statement on the Occasion of International Diplomament Week
- Statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- Statement on the Occasion of Universal Human Rights Day

Exhibits

Since participation and interaction has always been the attention of the ODVV one of the principles of its moral obligation, we have tried to have a highlighted presence in participatory activities. The holding of and participation in numerous exhibits as one of the participatory arenas brings about a very good opportunity for information dissemination of the objectives activities and programmes of every organization. Through participation in these arenas interaction and communication with other governmental and nongovernmental organizations can be achieved. For this reason the ODVV includes participation in exhibits in its overall plan of activities.

- ODVV's Achievements in the Field of Refugees Exhibit

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, on 19 June 2017 the ODVV held an exhibit of its achievements and activities in the field of refugees and Afghan nationals.

In this exhibit ODVV's display in this exhibit included documents, banners, posters, multimedia CDs and reports which was held on the sidelines of the commemoration of the World Refugee Day with the presence of BAFIA and UNHCR in Iran, governmental and nongovernmental organizations in the historic Golestan Gardens in Tehran.



-The “Let us Understand Yemeni Children” photo gallery

was set up in Geneva City Centre with the support of the ODVV and Yemeni human rights activists. The exhibit was widely received by locals and tourists.

- “A Portal towards Iran” Exhibit

At the same time as the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council the ODVV held an exhibit on Nations Square in Geneva outside the UN Headquarters entitled A Portal towards Iran.



-“Art for Peace” Exhibit

On the sidelines of the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council for the first time the Art for Peace Exhibit introducing 30 Iranian artists' works of art with the theme of peace was set up in the main Headquarters of the United Nations





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