

# Annual Report 2015

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Organization for Defending  
Victims of Violence (ODVV)

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Victims of Violence (ODVV)

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- **Supervision:** Siavash Rahpeik
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- **Special thanks to:** Hamideh Aboutorabi, Haroot Azarian, Majid Feizikhah, Farzane Mostofifar, Leila Enayati, Mansooreh Mohammadi, Maryam Erzi, Ahmad Reza Salamati, Esmaeel Oveisi, Lof Allah Parvaneh and all the people that assisted Who ODVV in the past year.
- **Design:** Mohammad Taheri

## **Main office in Tehran:**

No. 1 – Mirsarabi Alley - North Felestin St. – Keshavarz Blvd – Tehran – Iran

**Telefax:** +9821 88963091 – 88964943 – 88954943

**Website:** [www.odvv.org](http://www.odvv.org)

**Email:** [int@odvv.org](mailto:int@odvv.org)

## **Geneva office:**

The Ecumenical Center, 150 Route,de Ferney, PO Box: 2100, 1211 Geneva

**Telefax:** +41 227916030

**Email:** [int-swiss@odvv.org](mailto:int-swiss@odvv.org)

# FOREWORD

2015 came to an end with all its ups and downs, under circumstances in which not only most parts of the world did not become any safer compared to the year before, but we witnessed more violence. The rise in terror attacks in the world which is the result of the rise in extremism and violence, has caused great concern.

Another of the issues and challenges the world experienced last year, was the refugee crisis, which was a direct result of the ongoing conflicts in parts of the Middle East and North Africa. For the first time since the end of the Second World War, the world faced a huge refugee crisis, something unprecedented.

Unrest and conflicts in these regions were some of the most important human rights violations that occurred in the world last year.

Also in the year that has just gone the world faced the continued threat of extremist terror groups which requires the special attention of the whole of the international community.

But alongside the aforementioned terrible events, the global working agenda in ratifying the MDG till the end of 2030, the Iran and world powers nuclear agreement, the Paris agreement on climate change are some of the positive human rights achievements of last year, which has raised the hopes of many human rights activists.

Overall, the promotion of human rights in the world and Iran are some of the objectives that the ODVV tries to promote through transparency of information and various programmes and activities. As each year, the yearly itinerary included ODVV's activities such as the commemoration of International Volunteer Day, participation in annual periodic Human Rights Council Sessions and other international conferences. The continued empowerment of Iranian NGOs in consultative status to ECOSOC saw the ODVV organise the presence of these organization in the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council, the UPR on Iran.

As every year there is a section in this report on the activities of the ODVV Raha Rehabilitation centre alongside statistics on psychological counselling of victims of violence.

Let us hope that 2016 will be marked as the year in which comprehensive and lasting peace begins to be established throughout the world, in particular the Middle East.

The ODVV welcomes the cooperation of international organizations with NGOs active in human rights, to help take positive steps towards the expansion of human rights and violence culture throughout the world.

# 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 national coordinator of the Global March Against Child Labour (based in New Delhi) which cooperated 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 International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), Asia Youth Network, Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO), and the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), 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 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 recognise 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 constructive criticisms;
- 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 centres to receiving care 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 and Education Department
- Attending International Relations Department
- Communications Department
- Rehabilitation Department (Rehabilitation Centre)

The following is a brief narration of the activities that the aforementioned departments conducted in 2015



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# Research and Education Projects

For the purpose of releasing presentable researches to human rights scientific and official institutions on legal, economic, social and cultural issues, by forming experienced specialist teams on fields needed by society, the ODVV conducts general or thematic researches in the form of various projects. The researches conducted in these projects, bring about the basis to conduct practical projects such as education courses, workshops and scientific-educational sittings. What follows is a narrative of these projects and educational and research activities of the ODVV in 2015:

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## Education Workshops

### *Increasing Couples Intimacy Education Workshop*

This workshop was held by the ODVV Rehabilitation Centre in September 2015 with the presence of family experts and psychologists, with the purpose of prevention of social damages and strengthening of the family institution. In this one day workshop discussions were presented with regards to the methods of prevention of these damaging event, treatment methods, and confrontation with it.



### *Life Skills Education Workshop*

This workshop was held as the first empowerment workshop for the cases that come to the ODVV Rehabilitation Centre. By identifying the victims of violence who came to the Raha Counselling Centre, the ODVV Rehabilitation Department, held an education workshop on life skills. This workshop was held with the aim of empowerment of victims of violence to protect themselves against abusers. Control techniques and anger management were the main subjects of this one day workshop.



### *My Ideal Spouse Education Workshop*

This workshop was held in Raha Counselling Centre in September 2015 with the aim of strengthening couples relationships and the formation of a healthy family, with the presence of experts. Factors in shaping a healthy marriage, healthy communications and boy and girl relationships models, the criteria in choosing a spouse and damages that come about as a result of bad choices were the main subjects of this workshop.

While stressing on the balance of the characteristics of couples, and the importance of this subject in starting a life partnership, standard and scientific tools for the diagnosis of the subject were also presented in this workshop.

## **Conferences**

### *Family, Women, Social Supports – Opportunities and Threats National Conference*

This national conference was held in November 2015 by the Kermanshah Province Welfare Organization. The ODVV and 300 governmental and nongovernmental organizations representatives and university lecturers from all of Iran took part in this conference in Kermanshah Province. The aim of this conference was to review women's conditions in the family, the threats and opportunities that exist for them consultation of the provision of intervention practical models, social



psychological support for women and review of laws in this regard. “The role of social oriented measures in psychological and social supports of women”, “presentation of intervention practical models in psychological and social support for women”, “laws and social support for women” are all sittings that were presented in this conferences by science group members and women and family experts from around the country. The ODVV was the facilitator of two of these sittings: “The role of social oriented measures in psychological and social supports of women”, and “presentation of intervention practical models in psychological and social support for women”, which was extensively welcomed by the conference organisers and participants.

# Attending 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.

## 28th Session of the Human Rights Council

The 28th Session of the Human Rights Council was held from 2-27 March 2015 in Geneva Switzerland. The Session opened with the presence of states representatives, and in its four weeks period, reviewed the 10 permanent Items of the Council's working agenda. Some of the highlights of this Session were the submission of the report on the Human Rights Situation in Iran under Item 4 and the adoption of the conclusion of the UPR on Iran under Item 6 of the Council. As in previous Sessions the ODVV tried to have a maximum participation in this Session. A brief narrative of ODVV's activities are as follows:



### ■ *Writing and Submission of Statements*

The ODVV submitted four written statements under Item 3 on the situation of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Item 4 on Middle Eastern children victims of armed conflicts, Item 7 on the subject human rights violations in the Golan Heights, and Item 9 on Islamophobia. These statements are accessible in the Human Rights Council website.

### ■ *Reading and Submission of Oral Statements*

The ODVV read 6 oral statements under Item 3 on the subject of children in armed conflicts, Item 4 on the spread of religious extremism in Europe/defamation of religion, Item 5 on brutal crimes against minorities, Item 6 on the UPR on Iran, Item 7 on Gaza and Item 9 on Islamophobia.



### ■ *Meeting with UN Special Rapporteur on Iran*

Another itinerary item of the ODVV during this Session was to hold an exclusive meeting with the Special Rapporteur on Iran, and while criticising his one sided approach, recommendations were also given to him on how to improve his reporting process. The ODVV for the first time facilitated a meeting for 12 Iranian NGOs in Consultative Status with the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran.



### ■ *Sidelines Panel on the Review of the Human Rights Situation in Iran*

Another activity of the ODVV in this Session of the Human Rights Council was the holding of a sidelines panel on the “Review of the Human Rights Situation in Iran”. The panel was on three main subjects of Iran’s accusations in the Special Rapporteur’s reports, and in the UPR mechanism, which included “the Review Women’s Rights and Status in Iran, Health and Human Rights in Iran, and the Punishment of the Crime of Trafficking in Drugs from International Law Perspective.”



### ■ *Peace and Friendship Exhibit Initiative on International Day of Happiness*

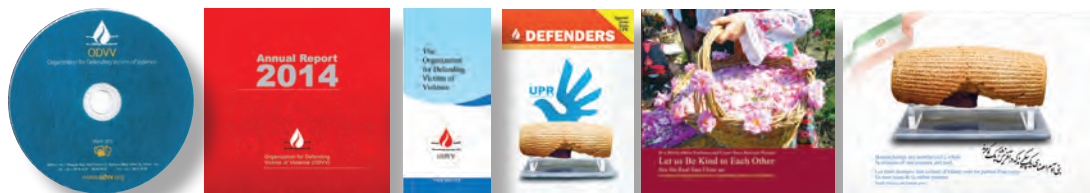
The Peace and Friendship Exhibit was put up for the first time in the Broken Chair Square in Geneva on the initiative of the ODVV as a two-day event on the sidelines of the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council.

In this Exhibit the activities of 12 Iranian NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC were presented that included pamphlets and annual reports, booklets on Iran, and Norouz (Persian New Year) greeting cards with the subject of peace alongside the traditional 7 Cin spread, and banners with slogans on “Peace and Friendship, Rejection of Violence and Extremism” in the Broken Chair Square in front of the southern gate of the European Headquarters of the UN, in a place where tourists and UN workers and state representative travel through regularly. The holding of this Exhibit was greatly welcomed by people.



### ■ *Preparation and distribution of ODVV products*

With the aim of expanding its international links through publication of media products and its activities reports, the ODVV produced various products such as books, newsletter, annual report, multimedia CDs and books of collective of speeches made in sidelines panels and distributed in the 28th Session of the Council.



### ■ *Organising Programmes and Coordination Meeting of AMAN Network in Geneva*

As a member of the board of AMAN Network of Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture, has had successful participation in the meetings and activities of the Network. ODVV has also facilitated the participation of AMAN Network in the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council.



AMAN NETWORK  
for Rehabilitation and  
Defending Human Rights

### ■ *ODVV's Joint Sitting with AMAN Network and Khiam Centre*

With the partnership of Khiam Centre, as a main member of AMAN Network, the ODVV held a sitting on the sidelines of the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council on the subject of extremism and human rights. Ahmad Nekoee from the ODVV and Mohammad Safa from AMAN Network gave speeches in this sitting.



### ■ *AMAN Network Sitting in Morocco*

The ODVV and the rest of AMAN Network members held a 2 day sitting on the subject of violence and torture in the Middle East and North Africa with a concentration on human rights in Palestine, Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia and Bahrain on 29-30 May, 2015 in Morocco. Also, in this sitting, issues relating to the Network and challenges ahead were discussed and reviewed in the presence of the majority of the members. ODVV director was elected as the first deputy of the Network in this sitting.



## 29th Session of the Human Rights Council

The 29th Session of the Council took place from 15 June to 3 July 2015 in Geneva Switzerland.

### ■ *Writing and Submission of Statements*

The ODVV submitted 5 written statements which are available to viewing in the Human Rights Council website. They were under Items: 5 the subject of Human Rights, Power vs. Peace, Item 4 on the subject of Human Rights Situations that Require the Council's Attention, Ongoing Unprecedented Atrocities in Yemen, Item 3 on Economic Sanctions: Systematic Violation of Human Rights, Item 4 the subject of Human Rights Situations that Require the Council's Attention; Saudi Arabia's Human Rights Situation,; Yemeni People are Deprived of their Human Rights, Ongoing unprecedented atrocities in Iraq.

### ■ *Reading and Submission of Oral Statements*

The ODVV read 4 oral statements under Item 3 Economic Sanctions: Systematic Violation of Human Rights, Item 4 on Ongoing Unprecedented Atrocities in Iraq, Items on the right to peace Item 9 on Islamophobia, Item 7 on Israel the Biggest Violator of Children's rights.

### ■ *Sidelines Panels*

Utilising past experiences in international conferences, the ODVV held two sideline panels with the partnerships of Khiam Institute from Lebanon and the AMAN Network. The first panel was on the subject of "Yemen, Victim of Global Silence", and "Human Rights Situation in Yemen, Stop the Violence."

### ■ *Exhibit and Protest Gathering against War Crimes in Gaza*

Following the submission of the report of Gaza Commission of Inquiry to the 29th Session of the Human Rights Council and with a stress on war crimes committed by Israel, ODVV with cooperation of 8 other NGOs, put up an exhibit tent and a protest assembly entitled "Human Rights Violations Committed by Israel in Palestine", in front of the UN headquarters, on Friday 10 July, 2015. There were posters, banners, flags, brochures and pamphlets handed out to passersby in the Nations Square in Geneva.



### **30th Session of the Human Rights Council**

The 30th Session of the Human Rights Council was held from 14 September to 2 October 2015 in Palais de Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. In this Session too the permanent 10 main Items of the Working Agenda, some new sub-subjects were debated, subjects such as the human rights situation in Syria, Ukraine, Palestine and Iraq, alongside other human rights issues around the world such as minorities and Africans.

With its effective presence again, the ODVV utilised all its capacities and conducted the following activities:

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

The ODVV submitted 7 oral and 5 written statements in this Session. Also by using the opportunity of its presence in the Council, the ODVV has tried to reflect the voice of oppressed people who do not have the opportunity to be present in the Council and make their own rightful demands for their rights. To this aim the following subjects were raised in the ODVV statements:

Shedding light on Israel's crimes against the defenceless people of Palestine which have expertly been censured by western media, and Israel's lack of cooperation with UN Gaza Fact Finding Committee; crimes committed by ISIS in the name of Islam in Syria and Iraq; crimes committed by ISIS in Iraq; financial support of terror groups by other countries; America's double standard actions against ISIS, meaning initial support and then a show fight against the group; Saudi Arabia's attack against the innocent people of Yemen, and need for international reaction; the Syrian and Iraqi refugees crisis, their suffering and need for the international community's reaction; invasion of privacy by the government in the social media; violation of the human rights of the people of the world and Iran as a result of unlawful sanctions; the UPR mechanism and the necessity for presenting practical and correct recommendations to countries; the role of UN special procedures in the protection of human rights; and that terror crimes committed in the name of Islam bring about the basis for discrimination against Muslims and violation of their rights.





### **- *Sidelines Panels on Yemen***


The ODVV held a sidelines panel in this Session entitled “Violation of the Right to Education in Yemen as a Result of the War; the Human Rights Situation in Yemen.”

In this sitting, Dr. Kim Sharif, law doctorate and human rights activist from Britain and director of Human Rights for Yemen, and Mr. Al-Hassan Alwazir representing Shaba Human Rights Organisation, Ms. Aml Al-Makhazi director of Yemen Human Rights Centre, and Mr. Abdulsalam Al-Zahbi Yemeni human rights activist from Sweden gave some speeches. Also the moderator of the panel was Dr. Hassan Fartousi.



In line with its predetermined objectives, and the defence of the region's oppressed Muslims, the ODVV held another sidelines panel in Geneva. In this sitting with the attendance of more than 60 people, the various dimensions of the human rights catastrophe of Yemen were discussed by the four Yemeni human rights activists. Two videos were also played in this regard. The main subject of the discussion was the long term effects of war on people, particularly children and issues such as the destruction of hospitals and schools and the killing of civilians, particularly children. Also it was stressed that the conflict will have long term destructive psychological, economic and environmental effects on the country.

**Human Rights  
Situation in Yemen**  
«The violation of Right to  
Education in Yemen by War»



Tuesday, 22 Sep. 2015  
17:00-18:00  
Room XXVII, Palais des Nations  
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

**Panelists:**

1. Kim Sheriff LL.M, LL.M Solicitor  
Human Rights Activist, Director/Secretary Human Rights for Yemen,  
"Campaigner/Activist on Right to Education in Yemen"
2. Ali-Hassan Alawazeer  
Sheba Human Rights Representative  
"The effects of the war on the future generations"
3. Amal Al-Mahdawi  
President of Yemeni center of human rights  
"The needs of rebuilding the educational system in Yemen"
4. Abdulrahman Al-Qhwal  
Human Rights Activist.

**"State Terrorism targeting educational institutions in Yemen"**

Moderator: Hassan Fattouhi  
PhD Candidate in International Law at University of Geneva, ODVV  
Advisor to the UN Agencies and International Organizations

### *- Distribution of Human Rights Violations in the United States pamphlets*

Two four-page pamphlets for the UPR on the United States which was held on 30th Session under Item 6 were prepared, and were distributed in large volume in the Human Rights Council. The contents of these pamphlets included cases such as America's refusal to adopt international treaties, discrimination against Muslims, and racism, bad prison conditions, police brutality, extensive use of torture in prisons, violation of human rights in the war on terror with regards to tapping into phone conversations and invasion of people's privacy, the killing of civilians with drone attacks, throwing the Middle East into disarray by adopting wrong policies and supporting Israel in its continued violation of Palestinians rights.

These pamphlets criticise the United States who incidentally claims to be fully observant of human rights, for the problems that it faces. A number of human rights violations have been highlighted in these pamphlets, such as criticising the United States for dropping nuclear bomb on Hiroshima in the Second World War, the Guantanamo detention camp, supporting Saudi Arabia's attack on the people of Yemen, and helping in the appearance of extremism such as ISIS.



### *- Preparation and distribution of ODVV products*

With the aim of expanding its international links through publication of media products and its activities reports, the ODVV produced various products such as books, Defenders newsletter, annual report, multimedia CDs and books of collective of speeches made in sidelines panels and distributed in the 30th Session of the Council.



### **Participation in the 8th HRC Minorities Forum**

The Human Rights Council 8th Minorities Forum was held on 24-25 November 2015 in Room XX at Palais de Nations in Geneva on the subject of “Minorities in the Criminal Justice System.”

Participating in this Forum, ODVV representatives read three oral statements on the following subjects:

- 1 – The Shia Minorities in Saudi Arabia, Will the Continued Discrimination End?
- 2 – Political Minorities in Bahrain.
- 3 – From the Paris Attacks to Abusing Muslims

The ODVV also compiled and published pamphlets on the violation of minorities rights in the criminal laws of countries on the following subjects:

- 1 – Deprivation from Citizenship, a Tool for the Political Crackdown of Minorities
- 2 – Violation of the Rights of the Hezareh Minorities in Afghanistan.
- 3 – Religious Minorities in Iraq and ISIS



The background of the entire page is a repeating, intricate floral and geometric pattern in a light purple color. The pattern consists of stylized flowers, leaves, and geometric shapes arranged in a symmetrical, repeating grid. The text is centered in the upper half of the page.

# Commemoration of International Days and Sitzings

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International and universal days on various human rights subjects will bring about good opportunities to bring to attention the results of campaigns and achievements in the form of scientific sittings and conferences. The reflection of this activity in national and international levels will shed more light on human rights issues.

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## Commemoration of the International Day of Families

The “Family and its Importance in Self Development” technical sitting was held by the ODVV on the occasion of the International Day of Families in May 2015, with the presence of 94 mental health experts and counsellors.

Self-development and the exultation of all individual characteristics aspects in the family, stress on the originality of the individual in family interactions, review of damages caused by the breakup of the family and the development and promotion of the human in balanced, healthy and constructive relationships, were the important objectives of this technical sitting.

At the end of the sitting, the participating experts shared their experiences with each other.



## Commemoration of the International Day in Support of Children Victims of Aggression

In June 2015 the “Prevention and Treatment of Child Victims of Sexual Abuse” technical sitting was held on the occasion of the International Day in Support of Children Victims of Aggression by the ODVV’s Raha Rehabilitation Clinic.



Participating in this sitting were child experts and therapists from the governmental and nongovernmental sectors. The aim of this sitting was to raise awareness for the protection of children and prevention of any form of abuse committed against this vulnerable group of society. Presentation of necessary training for the prevention of violence against children in different age groups, presentation of necessary methods for training of parents, teachers and individuals that are in contact with children, were some of the important topics raised in this technical sitting.

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

In July 2015, the ODVV held the “Right for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims for Their Return to Normal Living” on the occasion of this International Day. Participating were a number of governmental and nongovernmental experts, university lecturers, mental health experts, and therapists. The aim of this sitting was to prevent torture and promote torture ban culture at the Peace Museum in Tehran. The UN Secretary General’s message for the day was also read by the representative from UNIC in Tehran. In this sitting, as a member of IRCT, the director of the ODVV stressed on IRCT’s year’s slogan which was the right for the rehabilitation of torture victims. In another part of this sitting, two workshops were held on the subject of rehabilitation of torture



victims with the presence of university lecturers. The subjects discussed were control in support, cognitive-behavioural therapies with regards to victims of torture, determination of therapy and rehabilitation of torture victims approach, prevention of this evil phenomenon, the utilisation of torture prevention laws, international conventions in this regard, strengthening human values to prevent any form of torture, confronting torture with through compliance with standards and humanitarian instruments. The sitting ended with a stress on the feeling of responsibility and help for victims of torture for their return to normal living, Develop a Feeling of hope, happiness and security, and the reading of the peace covenant by the participants.

### **Commemoration of International Volunteer Day**

This commemoration took place in December 2015 with the presence of the ODVV board of directors and a number of honorary members, with the aim of establishing bilateral links with the members, and benefiting from their invaluable experiences. While welcoming the attendees, the ODVV director briefed the audience on the activities, policies and cooperation basis for the honorary members with the ODVV. And by filling application forms the honorary members indicated their field of interest for cooperation with the ODVV i.e. education, communication etc.





مرکز  
مشاوره رها

# Raha Rehabilitation 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 on 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 2015, 3809 cases benefited from the Centre's services. 2214 of them were women and 1595 were men. According to the statistics most of the cases were married and the majority of them had family problems.

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

The monthly statistics for the hotline cases are worked out through variables such as, gender, occupation, age, marital status, education, and reason for call. In 2015, 1002 people benefited from the telephone hotline services, 751 women and 251 men. According to statistics the majority of cases had family problems.



## Statistics of Cases in the Centre for 2015

Chart 1  
Cases based on gender

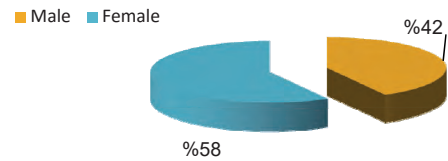


Chart 2  
Cases based on occupation

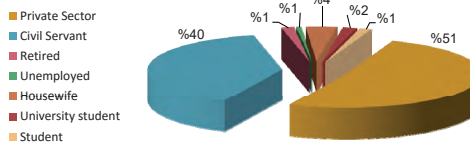


Chart 3  
Diagnosis

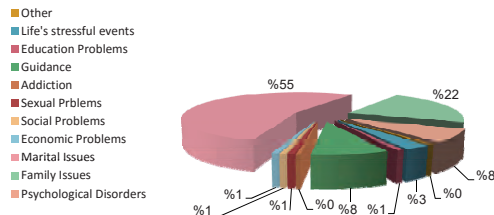


Chart 4  
Cases based on education

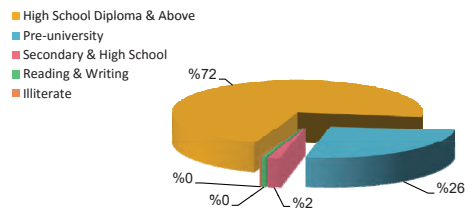


Chart 5  
Cases based on services

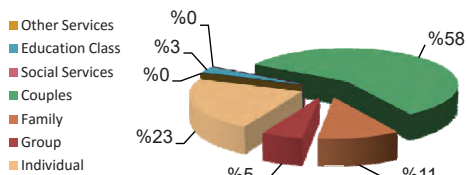
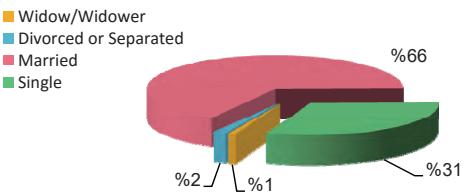


Chart 6  
Cases based on marital status



## Statistics of Telephone Hotline Calls for 2015

Chart 1  
Cases based on gender

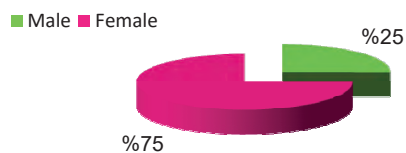


Chart 2  
Cases based on education

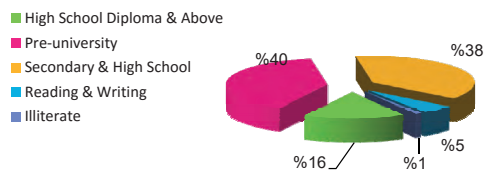


Chart 3  
Cases based on marital status

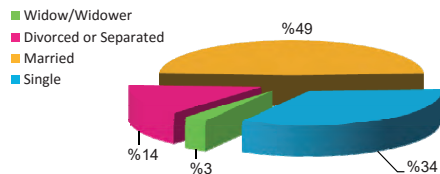


Chart 4  
Cases based on occupation

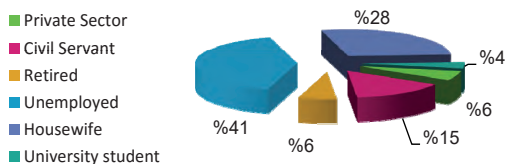


Chart 5  
Callers based on problem

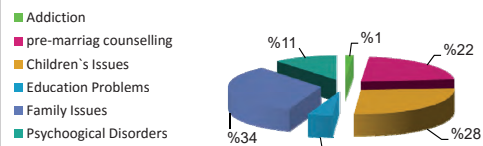
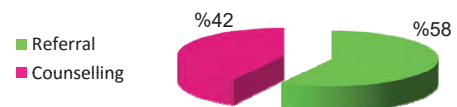


Chart 6  
Callers based on intervention



It must be said that the Rehabilitation Department of the ODVV as an active member of the Employment and Education Committee in the compiling of the "Domestic Violence Prevention Document", has always worked towards prevention of violence and continues to do so. For the purpose of the realisation of the objectives of this Committee, with presence in all meetings, with a practical activities definition the Rehabilitation Department has a number of important actions at hand, the most important ones of which are:

- 1 Identification of victims of violence who come to the Raha Counselling Centre.
- 2 Review of effective approaches of counselling and psychotherapy in the prevention of violence.
- 3 Identification of suitable headings for technical workshops on the prevention of violence and treatment of the victims of violence to hold in the Raha Counselling Centre.
- 4 Drafting of a suitable research method for the review of the link between violence and unpractical schema-therapy, depression and anxiety in victims of violence.
- 5 Identification of counselling problems of relevant governmental institutions staff with the Raha Counselling Centre to conduct treatment and counselling intervention towards raising the mental health of the target community.



Also towards capacity increasing of mental health experts, psychiatrists and towards prevention of social damages and domestic violence, rehabilitation and treatment of patients and with the aim of expanding human rights culture, strengthening of family institution and protection of mental and social health of individuals, the Raha Counselling Centre has conducted special psychotherapy and education activities under the following titles.

- Technical Workshop on the Prevention Deputy of the Welfare Organization
- Technical Workshop on "manhood" and "womanhood" for strengthening couples relationships
- Technical and education workshop on paraphilia, homosexuality, transsexuals and sex addiction.

# Public Relation

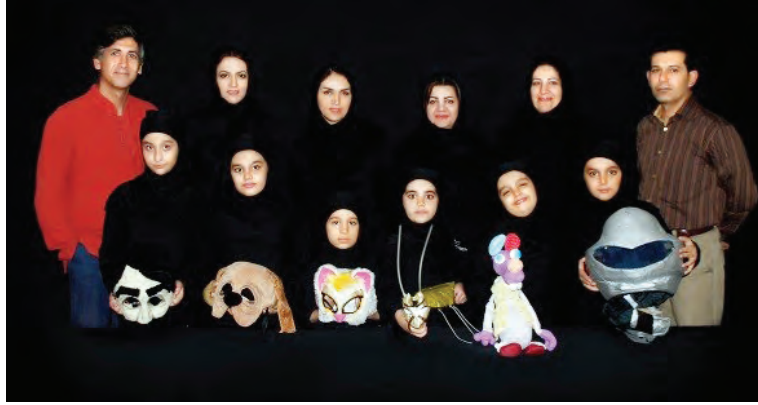
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In view of its objectives, activities and programmes, the ODVV has several public relations activities. As a nongovernmental organization, these activities can be a positive international reflection for the ODVV of its activities and campaigns. For this purpose the Defenders periodical is published on human rights. The ODVV also publishes various informative and educational books and booklets on various subjects. The following is a brief description of ODVV's publications in 2015:

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## International Last Leaf Theatre

With the support of the ODVV and UNA-Iran, on the occasion of the International Day for Peace a pantomime play on peace and friendship called the “Last Leaf” designed, written and directed by Mohammad Boroumand was held in July 2015 in two days in the Arts and Culture Complex of Azadi Tower. This pantomime has been performed



in several towns and cities, with the subject of peace and friendship for all a modern work with a bringing together of various theatrical techniques alongside multimedia, in a pantomime form and suitable for all family members, which is performed by Iranian children.

One of the important characteristics of this international project is the performance not having any dialogue and its universality, its subject being rejection of violence and conflict, promotion of peace and friendship for all and protection of the environment, and the project being non-political, nongovernmental and non-profit.

Following the performance of this pantomime by the international team in each country, the production team will let local performers from host countries have the puppets so that they can perform the show to the people of their country. Efforts shall be made for all people of the world to see this performance.

## Video Documentaries

Video documentary, a report of the presence of Iranian NGOs in the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council



## Defenders Periodical

- *Defenders Autumn 2014 - Winter 2015*

This issue of Defenders was published in 48 pages with the main theme of the second UPR on Iran.

The subjects discussed were as follows: A review of the second round of the UPR on Iran, the role of the Human Rights Council in increasing the accountability of states towards human rights, a statistical look at the second round of the UPR on Iran, ODVV's activities towards the recommendations accepted in the UPR on Iran, Iranian NGOs activities in support of refugees and foreign nationals in Iran, and a report of ODVV's activities towards social mental health of Afghan refugees in Iran. The violation of human rights in the United States (presented to the second round of the UPR in the Human Rights Council), minorities rights in the Iranian Constitution and citizen's rights, the limit of punishment of drug smugglers and traffickers in international laws, were some of the other articles in this issue of Defenders.

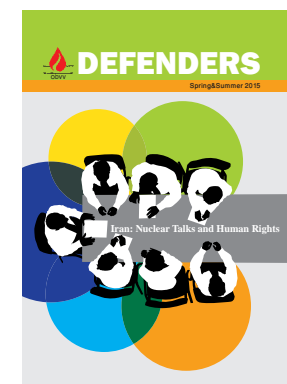
#### *- Defenders Spring-Summer 2015*

This issue of Defenders was published in 40 pages towards the promotion of human rights culture and nonviolence. Subjects in this issue included Iran: nuclear talks and human rights, Middle East victim of terrorism, a report of human rights violations in America, a review of Iranian women's capacities and problems that they face, serious global refugee crisis in 2015, and ODVV's activities in the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council.

Other subjects in this issue of Defenders include ODVV's activities in the UPR on Iran, a review of the expansion of human rights violations in the Middle East.

#### *- Preparation and distribution of ODVV booklets*

For the purpose of introducing and publishing its activities at the international level, ODVV public relations prepared and distributed ODVV booklet in the Human Rights Council.



### *- Preparation and distribution of booklets on Human Rights Violations in the USA*

ODVV public relations prepared two 4 page booklets on the subject of the UPR on the United States, which had been compiled by the research department, and distributed these booklets on a large scale at the Human Rights Council.



## CDs

### *- Production and Publication of Multimedia CDs of ODVV Products*

These multimedia CDs contain ODVV books, Defenders Newsletters, pictures, annual reports documentaries and ODVV projects. The CD was produced by the Communications Department of the ODVV. All ODVV products from 2010 to 2015 with good quality and in colour are available in this CD available.



## Foreign Internship

For the purpose of promoting and gaining further experience in its research and education field, and also expanding links and interaction with students, the ODVV provides an opportunity for internal and external interns. To-date a number of students from other countries have spent internship periods at the ODVV over the last few years. Some of these student internships include from Carlton University in Canada and Alameh University, who successfully completed a three months internship.

## Links with honorary members

### *- Preparation of Honorary Members Data Bank*

Towards the commemoration of international days, and also establishment of bilateral links with honorary members and benefiting from their invaluable experiences in the field of human rights, on the sidelines of the International Volunteer Day commemoration, the ODVV prepared an honorary member data bank. The data bank is fully up to date through the contacts the ODVV has had with honorary members.

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, sittings and education courses

## Information Dissemination

Information dissemination is among the activities of the Public Relations Department, which is part of the ODVV general objectives. The ODVV uses the following applications and tools to fulfil the aforementioned goals:

### - ODVV Accounts in the Social Media

To strengthen links with sister international organizations and other addressees, the ODVV has active accounts in Facebook, Twitter and Aparat. This move has been done with the aim of the use of new communication tools, to identify and create a network of human rights institutions and activists to influence public opinion, and to show multiple voices on human rights from Iran and information dissemination of activities and to draw further participation and cooperation with the ODVV. It must be said that in 2015 more than 1000 human rights related pages have been published in these internet pages.

Also over the last year the ODVV has continually updated and published news and human rights materials in its Farsi and English websites.

The following pages are available for interested parties:

<https://twitter.com/ngoodvv>

<http://www.aparat.com/ordvvir>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Organization-For-Defending-Victims-of-Violence/606657292784043?ref=bookmarks>





## Production of contents, design and publication of thematic statements

With the aim of expanding its international links and increasing the capacity of Iranian NGOs at international levels, the ODVV produced contents and design and published thematic statements in cooperation with these NGOs on the sidelines of the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council.

The statement of Iranian NGO`s  
in consultative status with  
ECOSOC on the Human Rights  
situation in I.R.IRAN



## Exhibits

Since participation and interaction as principles of the moral pledge of the ODVV has always been centre of attention, we have tried to have highlighted presences in participatory activities. The holding and participation in various exhibits as one of the arenas of participation, gives each organization a very good opportunity to provide information dissemination on its objectives, activities and programmes, and also have the opportunity to interact and establish links with other governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

### *- Peace and Friendship Exhibit held in Geneva, Switzerland*

This exhibit was the initiative of the ODVV with the aim of respecting the exulted human values and the development and expansion of culture of nonviolence and also to introduce the Nowrooz Festival (Persian New Year), and it was held for the first time in the Broken Chair Square in Geneva over two days on 15 and 16 March 2015.



*- Exhibit and Protest Gathering against War Crimes in Gaza*



On the sidelines of the 29th Session of the Human Rights Council the ODVV held an exhibit entitled “Human Rights Violations Committed by Israel in Palestine”, on 10 July 2015 in the Nations Square in Geneva.



### Library

The ODVV is equipped with a specialist library which contains books in Farsi and 3000 books in English on various human rights issues and subjects. Honorary members, students and researchers can access books from the library as well as documents and reports of the ODVV





ODVV