

# Annual Report 2012

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Organization for Defending  
Victims of Violence (ODVV)

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# FOREWORD

The twelfth year of the Third Millennium was full of significant human rights related incidents. Crises and developments such as the making of the blasphemous film insulting the Prophet of Islam which is a blatant indication of adding fuel to the fire of religious intolerance, the killing of the American Ambassador to Libya in Benghazi which is an indication of diplomatic insecurity, the assassinations of two Iranian physics scientists, the Syrian crisis which still continues and has claimed countless number of civilian lives, the continuation of the popular protests in Bahrain and the crackdowns, Israel's 8 Day war against Gaza which took over 160 Palestinian lives, the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre that took the lives of 20 children and six adults, which led to public opinion's criticism of the current US gun ownership law, terrorist actions in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, and the killing of Muslims in Myanmar, all indicate 2012 was a very volatile year.

In the same year we also bore witness to the continuation of ethnic and religious conflicts in line with the objectives of world political powers, continuation and escalation of sanctions against Iran which have resulted in the blatant violation of human rights in the field of medicine, food and air travel safety, development and also human rights campaigns.

In this year also Iranian human rights issues were extensively debated inside and outside the country. Existing approaches and differences that mostly are due to the use of double standards which have come about over the years, indicate the necessity to make the viewpoints of both sides more balanced and realistic.

In the year that passed, the ODVV arranged its activities in line with its strategy which is based on the creation of a balanced atmosphere among domestic decision makers, and the making the views of the foreign addressees more balanced and realistic. To this aim, the ODVV's activities included the holding of education workshops, commemoration of international days, continuous interactive meetings with governmental and nongovernmental organizations to influence the decision making process, and participation in international events and conferences, and meetings with human rights thematic special rapporteurs.

Although this matter is a difficult objective and efforts to fulfill them are exhaustive, nonetheless this organization shall continue on these issues unabated.

The ODVV believes that the peak of an NGO effectiveness is its effective presence in specialized decision making processes. The prevention of one wrong decision from being made, and or provision of assistance and strengthening of the decision makers in making a right decision, is one of the best and most effective work that an NGO can do.

We hope that in 2013 the campaigns of the ODVV and all human rights NGOs and activists around the world will result in the reduction of human rights violations and promotion of the dignity of mankind regardless of colour, race and belief. What follows in the next pages is a comprehensive and brief reflection of ODVV's activities in 2012.

# 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), Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO), and the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), and International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), and AMAN Network of Middle East and North Africa Rehabilitation Centres for Torture Victims.



# 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 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;

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# Structure

## **The ODVV conducts its activities and campaigns under the following structure**

- Research and Education Department
- International Relations Department
- Communications Department
- Rehabilitation Department (Rehabilitation Centre)

The following is a brief narration of the activities that the aforementioned departments conducted in 2012



# 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 sitings. What follows is a narrative of these projects and educational and research activities of the ODVV:



## Acquiring Consultative Status from ECOSOC Education Workshop

This education workshop was held in May 2011 with the aim of increasing the international credibility and increasing dialogue opportunities at the international level for NGOs, on 16 June 2012 with the participation of 35 NGOs and GOs representatives.

In a scientific and practical way the participants were introduced to the ECOSOC NGOs Committee and its duties, NGOs Liaison Office, NGOs Communications Network, concept and method of acquiring consultative status, necessary conditions to be eligible for consultative status, and different types of consultative status. The workshop finished with a Q&A session and the participants received certificates of attendance.



## Project Formulation Education Courses towards the Recommendations presented in the UPR on Iran

The Project Formulation towards the Recommendations presented in the UPR on Iran education courses were held over 3 days in July 2012 with the attendance of 25 representatives of Iranian NGOs from Fars, Isfahan, Yazd and Tehran provinces.

The first day of the workshop was allocated to the recommendations accepted by Iran and a review of the general process of project formulation.

In the form of a workshop, the title, objective and raising the issue were reviewed and the



participants had 2 weeks to prepare this section based on the overall objectives of the project. The second and third days which were held 3 weeks after the first day, while recapping on the activities that had been conducted on the projects over two weeks, other components of the project was presented.

While writing their own projects they directly interacted with ODVV experts. Also a model based on national and international standards for the writing of executive projects of NGOs was prepared by the ODVV and given to the participants.

### **Strengthening of the Family Institution and Prevention of GBV**



The “Promotion of the Socio-psychological Health of Afghan Refugees” project was kickstarted in Shahr-e-Rey with the partnership of the ODVV, UNHCR, and BAFIA on 22 July 2012 with the preparation of an educational package, and ended in December with the presentation of a final report of the project.

this project is in 5 stages which include: the preparation of an educational package, holding of 2 education courses of “introduction to life skills” for 30 men and 30 women, “introduction to facilitation methods”, the pilot life skills education course by the course trainers, the sending of evaluation experts to get answers to questions, and the evaluation of the education process, and





the evaluation and compilation of the final report.

There were 65 participants made up of 35 women and 30 men that attended the courses regularly. Also 35 individuals have in single sessions in some days have benefited from the project courses. The trainings were done through the participation of the participants in concentrated group discussions, brain storming, role play, proposal of question and provision of answer, alongside the showing of slides related to the subjects.

### **Analytical Psychotherapy Education Workshop**

This workshop for psychiatrists, clinical psychologists and experts was held by the Rehabilitation Department of the ODVV and towards increasing access to health and education services in two sessions on 11 and 25 May 2012.

The aim in holding this course was for the realisation of more extensive access to higher education and provision of the health of women and children. Analytical psychotherapy with an effective therapy approach towards mental health disorders, in the form of theory and practice (role play and observation of the case therapy sessions) were some of the educational discussions which the participants were taught in 40 hours.

The provision of mental health services to female cases who go to health and therapy systems was one of the conclusions for the participants.

## Family Therapy for Children & Juveniles with Internalizing Disorders

This workshop was held in February 2012 for 24 hours with the presence of a number of mental health experts and counsellors. In this course, children's internalized disorders were discussed with a recognition-behavioural approach. Disorders such as depression, anxiety, diagnosis and evaluation methods, and behavioural therapy in disorders were taught. Also counselling of the parents of children with disorders were reviewed in work group.

## Project Formulation for Positive Clubs (infected with HIV) Activists

This workshop was held by the ODVV Rehabilitation Department and with the cooperation of the Welfare Organization on 26 October 2012 and the presence of Positive Clubs activists from across the country. The aim of the workshop was to try and empower and rehabilitate and integrate to society. The workshop was held in the ODVV conference hall, and project formulation methods in theory and practice were taught. At the end of the workshop the participants acquired abilities to propose projects in the country's health management levels.



## **Parenting with Parental Skills Education Workshop**

This workshop was held with the aim of the promotion and protection of children's rights and much wider access to higher education on 12 October 2012 by the Rehabilitation Department of ODVV. The addressees of the one day workshop were mental health experts from the Welfare Organization and kindergartens. Parental skills that included child raising principles and rules, and effective tools for the prevention of mistreatment of the child were taught in the form of training of trainers.

## **Diagnosis and Treatment of Marital Problems in the Family Education Workshop**

This workshop was held by the ODVV Rehabilitation Department on 19 October 2012 with the aim of the introduction of mental health experts and doctors to correct methods of diagnosis and treatment of marital problems in the family. The participants of this workshop included mental health experts, psychiatrists and general practitioners. Common marital problems and correct ways of diagnosis and assessment, and the general principles of treatment was taught in this workshop

## **Marital Sexual Variations & Deviations Education Workshop**

This workshop was held in five courses of three hours each by the ODVV Rehabilitation Centre. This workshop was held with the aim of introduction of mental health experts with the marital wrong doings among individuals. The participants included mental health experts, psychiatrists and general practitioners. The course began 25 October 2012 and ended on 29 November. In this workshop marital sexual variations and deviations were reviewed while presenting a case. At the end of the education workshop the participants learned how to provide more practical treatment services to women and families who refer to health and therapy systems.

## **Extramarital Attractions and Disputes Education Workshop**

This workshop was held by the ODVV Rehabilitation Department in 3 sessions starting 6 December 2012, and ending 20 December 2012. The aim in the holding of this workshop was to try provide healthcare to women and children through increasing mental health experts' (couples therapists) knowledge for adultery crisis intervention which was held with the attendance of a number of clinical psychologists and couples' therapists. In this workshop the causes in the occurrence of extramarital affairs, the behavioural-personality characteristics of those that commit them, and effective therapy

methods for intervention in marital crisis, were taught. At the end of the workshop the participants learned more effective methods of therapy-intervention for women who refer to health and therapy and education systems.

### **The Principles and Techniques of Pre-marriage Counselling Education Workshop**

This workshop was held on 7 December 2012 with the attendance of a group of mental health experts and with the aim of efforts to realise a greater access to higher education and raise the knowledge of mental health experts.

The audience of the workshop were clinical psychologists and mental health doctors who were trained in the diagnosis of behavioural-personality characteristics through the appearances of individuals (in theory and practice).

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### **Diagnosis & Evaluation of socio-psychological Damages of those that are Victims of Violence as a Result of Being in Camp Project**

This project was implemented by the ODVV and the partnership of the International Committee of the Red Cross. It began on 20 August 2012, with preliminary studies and ended in February 2013 with the presentation of the report of the completed project.

In this project the target group was psychologically and medically evaluated. And the next step was the formulation process.

In this project also through a research process, the data received from interviews was analysed and discussed. The determination of the treatment and rehabilitation needs of the target group is the bases of the next stage of the project which is provision of medical and rehabilitational services to the target group.



ICRC

## Sittings

### NGOs Role in the UPR Colloquium



This sitting was held by the ODVV on 19 February 2012, with the aim of increasing the role of NGOs in the promotion of human rights on the basis of the accepted recommendation of the UPR on Iran. This sitting can be seen as a start of the movement of NGOs in line with accepted recommendation of the UPR on Iran. Subjects such as the Human Rights Council, the UPR, how NGOs prepare reports in view of the accepted recommendations of the UPR on Iran, were discussed and reviewed by experts and lecturers and with the attendance of 25 NGOs representatives in the field of women, children, the environment and human rights.

### Review of the Writing of the Working Agenda of Safe Family

This sitting was held with the aim of launching a “Safe Family Centre” for primary and secondary spouse abuse in two stages on 19 May and 6 November 2012 by the ODVV and the cooperation of the Safe Society of Tehran District 6 Municipality. Towards prevention of violence against women in the family, this centre was launched following numerous technical sittings with relevant governmental and nongovernmental experts. While providing education classes with the aim of teaching marital relations skills, problem solving methods and anger management, the centre also provides legal and psychological counselling in the form of a telephone hotline for vulnerable women.



## Interactive Sitting of Governmental and Nongovernmental Representatives



Following review and pathology of the NGOs conditions in Iran the importance of further communication between governmental bodies with NGOs became apparent. Face to face interaction and the proposition of NGOs problems and issues and also declaration of the approach, guidelines and challenges

of governmental officials in the field is very necessary. The outcome of this interaction and colloquium and mutual understanding will for certain help improve the nongovernmental sector and increase the quality and quantity of the work of NGOs. For this reason the ODVV organized a series of interactive sittings between governmental and nongovernmental representatives. To-date 2 sittings have been held and in view of the welcome received from both sides, these sittings will continue to be held with better planning in 2013.

### *First Interactive Sitting of Governmental and Nongovernmental Representatives*

This sitting was held with the participation of deputy Interior Minister, the Interior Ministry's NGOs Department, Foreign Ministry's Human Rights and Women's director general, representatives from the Judiciary's High Council for Human Rights, the Presidency's Centre for Women's and Family Affairs, and representatives from ten NGOs in September 2012 in the conference hall of the ODVV. Governmental and nongovernmental representatives presented their views on how to interact and cooperate between both, particularly at the international level and came up with the following recommendations: The holding of such sittings with other governmental officials and NGOs that have something to day should continue. Capacity building programmes and the presentation of technical education for NGOs at the international level should continue. The Interior Ministry should further coordinate monitoring governmental specialised departments with NGOs. Relevant governmental and nongovernmental human rights organizations should cooperate in projects that are to do with recommendations that have been accepted on the UPR on Iran.



## *Second Interactive Sitting of Governmental and Nongovernmental Representatives*

In their second interactive sitting, representatives from governmental organizations involved in the activities of NGOs and representatives from NGOs, which was held in November 2012 in the ODVV conference hall, they gave their views face to face. The sitting was held with the participation of the Interior Ministry's



NGOs Department, officials from the Judiciary, Foreign Ministry's Human Rights and Women's deputy director general, and 12 NGOs representatives.

In this sitting the effective presence of NGOs in the decision making process of governmental bodies was stressed upon.

Some of the subjects discussed in this sitting were:

- Empowerment of NGOs
- The removal of unnecessary monitoring and facilitation of work process regarding NGOs.
- Expansion of human rights knowledge in the country.
- Criticism of some executive bodies heads lack of understanding of the subject of NGOs and their activities.
- Necessity for a positive and trust building look at NGOs.
- Preparation of suitable reports regarding the presentation of the real and accurate human rights situation in the country.

At the end of the sitting it was decided that in its next meeting, the high delegation of monitoring NGOs in the country to raise the subject of NGOs human rights demands from bodies that monitor them, and the necessity for the support of governmental specialised departments in NGOs projects regarding accepted recommendations of the UPR on Iran.

# 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, some of these examples are as follows:

- i) First vice president of Middle East and North Africa Torture Victim Rehabilitation Centres (AMMAN NETWORK),
- ii) In association with UNDP/
- iii) Member of CONGO (Conference of Nongovernmental Organizations)
- iv) Member of Coalition for the Establishment of ICC

By being present in all the above the ODVV has the task of communication and coordination between international organizations and civil society institutions through creating the opportunity for NGOs to participate in international conferences.

## The 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council



The 19th Session of the Human Rights Council commenced on 27 February 2012 and ended on 23 March 2012 in Geneva. As in previous sessions, the ODVV also attended this session. The focal point of this participation was concentrated on the subject of sanctions and their effects on the right to life which was stressed upon in various meetings that included the UN Special Rapporteur on the

Situation of Human Rights in Iran and his assistant, and the assistant to the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders. Another focal point which was stressed upon by the ODVV was efforts to concentrate the activities of governmental and nongovernmental organizations on the UPR and necessary action towards the implementation of the accepted recommendations. The presentation of a comprehensive report on the activities of a number of Iranian NGOs towards the recommendations accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the UPR was one of these actions. This action was an initiative and took place for the first time by an NGO in the Human Rights Council.



### *Sidelines Panel on “Violation of Human Rights on the Pretext of Sanctions”*

This sidelines panel was held at 10am, 9 March 2012 in Room 27 of the Human Rights Council. In this panel which was held by the ODVV Dr. Alireza Deihim, Dr. Seyed Mohammad Kazem Sajadpour, and captain Houshang Shahbazi, gave speeches. At first Dr. Deihim talked about the concepts of sanctions, boycott, getting back at, and compared them to each other, and their effects from the international law perspective. This was followed by Dr. Sajadpour whose speech was on “sanctions, human rights and US foreign policy”, and the level and how US foreign policy affects human rights. In the end captain Houshang Shahbazi who successfully landed a passenger plane without the front landing gear spoke about the effects of sanctions on the sale of non-military plane spare parts and the right to life of people. At the end of his speech a footage of the plane that he successfully landed and also plane crashes that have occurred in Iran over the recent years was shown.

### *Written and Oral Statements*

The ODVV submitted 4 written statements and read 2 oral statements. The subjects of the written statements were on Islamophobia, human trafficking and refugees. The two oral statements were on human rights defenders, and on Item 3 (follow up on the Special Rapporteur’s report on Iran)

### *Meetings*

During ODVV’s attendance of the 19th Session, meetings were held with international organizations based in Geneva representatives to promote mutual introduction to each others’ objectives and functions.

### *Meeting with Ahmed Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur on Iran*

In this meeting, ODVV representatives raised a number of points regarding his recent human rights situation report, and also gave their opinions on the approaches of the Special Rapporteur on the subject of NGOs. Cases of direct effects of sanctions on the human rights of ordinary people (such as sanctions on necessary medicines and civilian airplane parts) were raised by the ODVV, and Mr. Shaheed was asked to have a balanced approach towards these cases. Also ODVV’s activities regarding the accepted recommendations of the UPR and the role of NGOs in amendment to the launching and monitoring of NGOs draft legislation were presented to Mr. Shaheed, which he mentioned in his recent report.

There were also other meetings with: Mr. Naveed Ahmed, the assistant to the Special Rapporteur on Iran, Mr. Nejat Mollah Majid Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, with Louise Barber the coordinator of cultural activities committee, and Mr. Ricardo Espinosa the head of the Human Rights Council NGOs Liaison.

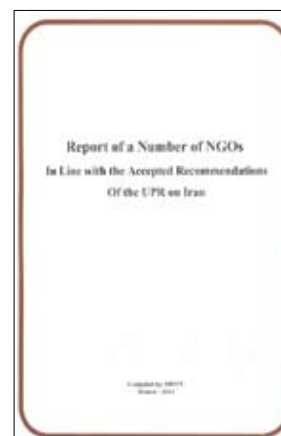
### *A Collective Articles from the Fair Peace, Lasting Peace Conference*

This book was published by the ODVV in English (84 pages) in March 2012. The articles in the book included: Introduction to the Role of International Law in the Provision of International Peace and Security; “Just Peace” Paradigm and the Settlements Construction in East Jerusalem Issue. Peace and Justice in Persian Literature and Culture; the Definition of International Crimes within the Context of International Peace and Security; Islam: Harbinger of Peace and Friendship. This book was distributed in the 19th Session of the Council.



### *Report of ODVV and a number of other NGOs Activities Regarding the Accepted Recommendations in the UPR on Iran*

One of the special activities of the ODVV in 2012 was the collection and compilation and translation of a comprehensive report of this and another 6 selected Iranian NGOs towards the recommendations of the UPR on Iran, which was distributed on the sidelines of the 19th Session. This action was initiative which was conducted by the ODVV as an NGO in the Human Rights Council. While being distributed to member states of the Human Rights Council, this report was presented to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the OIC ambassador and the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran. Also the digital copy of the report was sent via email to all countries' representatives in Geneva.



### *Multimedia CD*

Alongside other products, the ODVV also distributed a multimedia CD in the 19th Session. The contents of the CD included ODVV's activities in 2011, and included a publications section (A Collective Articles from the Fair Peace, Lasting Peace Conference, ODVV Annual Report, Defenders Newsletter) and video(Strengthening of the Family Institution and Prevention of GBV), photo gallery and special reports.



## The 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

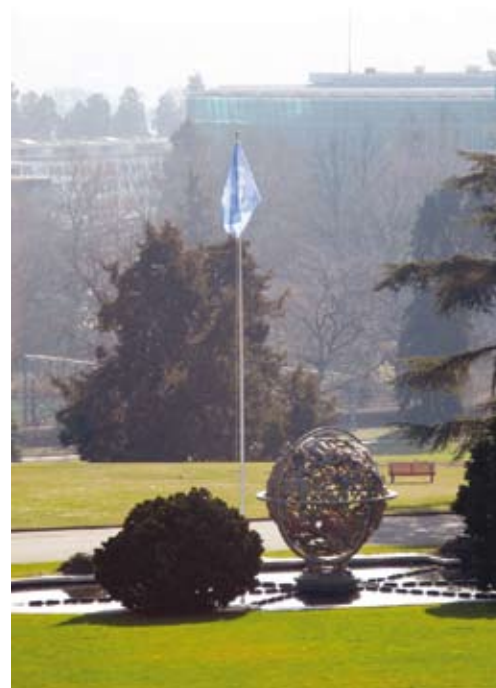
The 20th Session of the Human Rights Council began on 18 June 2012 in Geneva and ended on 6 July 2012. The ODVV also participated in the UNHCR's NGOs Consultation Meeting which took place between 3 to 5 July. As in previous sessions the ODVV submitted written statements and read oral statements. The focal point of this participation was concentrated on the human rights situation in Bahrain. ODVV representatives had a number of meetings on the sidelines with a number of Special Rapporteur assistants, and international organizations with an attention to ODVV activities and objectives.

## The 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

The 21st Session of the Human Rights Council took place in Geneva from 10 till 28 September 2012. ODVV's itinerary for the Session had been planned in such way as to cover all NGOs related subjects and the reading of statements. The delegation accompanying the ODVV in separate groups and different times attended the Council from 13 to 27 September and conducted a number of programmes and projects. The UPR on Bahrain, and the preparation of the UN Secretary General and Special Rapporteur on Iran's reports on human rights violations in Iran, and also the coinciding of the 21st Sitting of the AMAN Network in Geneva, made ODVV's activities heavier than other Sessions.

### *Written and Oral Statements*

The submission of written and reading of oral statements are some of the activities that the ODV tried to concentrate on the previously determined contents and focal points. The ODVV submitted 5 written statements and read 6 oral statements on the following subjects: human rights violations in Bahrain, human rights violations in Occupied Palestinian Territories, human rights violations in the United Kingdom, human rights violations in Myanmar, the role of sanctions in the violation of human rights, Islamophobia and condemnation of the film that insulted the prophet of





Islam, and the UPR challenges. Also in cooperation with other NGOs, the ODVV presented a joint statement with the Khiam Centre (Lebanon) on human rights violations in Bahrain, and five oral statements with the cooperation of Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charitable Institute.

#### *Meetings with Those Involved on the Subject of Human Rights in Iran*

The holding of such meetings have been one of the main programmes of the ODVV in the recent years. These meetings help to create a more balanced and realistic look towards helping to promote and improve the human rights situation of Iran. To this aim, the ODVV held various meetings with those involved in writing reports on the situation of human rights in Iran, reports to put in international reports, invitation of NGOs and UN representatives, follow up on the action towards the accepted recommendations of the UPR on Iran, and meetings with international organizations were all put in the working agenda of the ODVV and took place throughout the 21st Session.

#### *Preparation and Distribution of ODVV Products*

Alongside the implementation of its projects and programmes during Human Rights Council sessions, the ODVV always prepares and distributes its products to be more effective. For this reason 3 CDs which included ODVV products and latest reports, written and video documentaries of the human rights violations in Bahrain, and Defenders Newsletter and ODVV annual report, and 4 booklets on violation of human rights in Bahrain, picture gallery, and special reports were distributed in the 21st Session.



## Annual AMAN Network Meeting



**AMAN NETWORK**  
for Rehabilitation and  
Defending Human Rights



The annual AMAN Network Meeting was held with the attendance of 10 main and one observer members from Tunisia, Lebanon, Palestine, Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Sudan, Morocco and the ODVV from Iran, in Geneva, Switzerland. The expansion of the activities of AMAN Network from the rehabilitation of torture victims to the defense of human rights and increasing the number of members, the utilization of the capacity of the Network, and the holding of internal elections, were some of the objectives of this year's annual meeting, which was held successfully. One of the most important events to occur in this annual meeting was the secretariat's elections. Mr. Mohammad Safa (Lebanon) was elected secretary general of the Network, and Mr. Siavash Rahpeik (Iran) as first deputy, and Dr. Khadir (Palestine) as second deputy of the Network.

The launching and updating of a website, change of AMAN Network logo, publication of electronic newsletter, a more colourful presence in IRCT, active participation in human rights issues in the MENA region, and efforts to draw NGOs active in human rights in the region are all future plans of the Network all of which were placed in the working agenda of the secretariat.

In the sidelines of the AMAN Network meeting, meetings were also held with representatives of UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the UNHCHR deputy and representatives, the UNHCHR representative in the MENA Region. The ODVV also prepared and distributed its products that included Defenders Newsletter, expertise books, multimedia CDs and annual reports.

### Participation in the Annual Consultation Sitting of the UNHCR with NGO in Geneva – 2012

This annual sitting was held in Geneva, Switzerland and focused on “participation in concentration” subject. With the promotion of the participation of NGOs the UNHCR had placed its agenda with



the aim of reaching a strategic, transparent, conclusive and trusting link. This year's sitting was held over three days with concentration on the following subjects.

The repatriation of refugees, climate conditions, information management symposium, the Africa, Asia, America, Europe and MENA Offices, protection methods, lasting solutions and refugees, rights, strategies and protection mechanisms for stateless persons, a framework for the establishment and preservation of UNHCR cooperation, social deprivation of specific refugee populations, readdressing the protection of children during emergency conditions. Having a background of educational cooperation with the UNHCR in Tehran, the ODVV had also been invited to this sitting. While distributing ODVV products and brochures that had been prepared in proportion to the sitting, and in view of the objectives and activities of the ODVV the delegation attended some sideline meetings and exchanged ideas and established links with other participating NGOs.

### **Annual Meeting of the IRCT Council**

The annual meeting of the IRCT's governing council – representing a membership of 144 rehabilitation centers around the world – was held in Budapest, Hungary from 21- 22 November 2012 included the election of the new IRCT Executive Committee. Mr. Siavash Rahpeik, director of the ODVV, who was elected as a member of "IRCT Council" in 2012 for a period of three years (2012-2015), took part in this event too. The Council is the main policy making body of the IRCT and consists of 29 members out of whom 26 are representatives of rehabilitation centers and programs worldwide and three are independent experts. The purpose of the Council is to formulate, support and monitor IRCT policy, and to facilitate the advancement of IRCT's global work.

As a result of the election of the new IRCT Executive Committee for 2012-2015, which was held on 21 November 2012, the IRCT council has elected the eight members of its ExCom. Meanwhile, Ms. Suzanne Jabbour from MENA region was elected as President of the IRCT.





## **Commemoration of International Days and Sitzings**

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.

## International Day of Families



The “Review of Extramarital Affairs from Psychological Aspects and the Media” was held on 14 May 2012 by the ODVV on the occasion of the International Day of Families.

This sitting was held with the presence of university lecturers and science group members, and 50 NGO representatives and activists in the ODVV conference hall.

The participants were introduced to some of the problems that today’s families endure, the psychological and sociological reasons and the share of the domestic and international media in strengthening and creating family problems, particularly the spread of extramarital affairs, and the extramarital affairs phenomenon as a serious threat to women and children, and the family’s health were reviewed and discussed.

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



On the occasion of 26 June, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture the ODVV held a commemoration ceremony, with the participation of a number of mental health experts.

The aim of this workshop was for the generation of technical knowledge among

mental health experts which began with the reading of the UN Secretary General's message for the day by the representative from UNIC in Iran.

One of the psychological side effects of torture and a review on the treatment approach were some of the subjects of discussion of this workshop.

Also in the sidelines of on the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, and on the sidelines of the commemoration ceremony held by the ODVV, the Digital Farsi copy of the Istanbul Protocol was unveiled.

The Istanbul Protocol is the result of effective research and documentation of torture and other cruel and degrading punishments or behaviours, which has been translated into Farsi by the ODVV, at the same time as the unveiling of the digital copy, its pdf file was also uploaded on the ODVV website. Farsi speaking interested parties can see this document on the ODVV website.

### **Commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day**

On the occasion of the Nelson Mandela International Day on 16 July the ODVV held a commemoration ceremony with the aim of expansion of the culture of peace, with the participation of representatives from a number of governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

According to the ODVV public relations in line with the promotion of human rights and establishment of equalities and conciliation between races, and conflict resolutions among races, the UN has named 18 July, the birthday of former South African president and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Nelson Mandela, the Nelson Mandela International Day. The UN Secretary General's Message for the day was read by a representative from UNIC in Iran.



## Commemoration of Human Rights Day

On the occasion of the Universal Human Rights Day, the ODVV held a sitting with the participation of governmental and nongovernmental representatives. At first the UN Secretary General's Message for the Day was read by Mr. Mohammad Rajaei Moghadam from UNIC in Tehran. It must be said that this year's slogan for the day was "my voice counts", which was put to practice in this sitting, and representatives from various organizations presented their views in a very friendly atmosphere. At the same time the 2nd Interactive Sitting of Governmental and Nongovernmental Organizations took place.



## Universal Children's Day

On Sunday 18 November on the Occasion of Universal Children's Day the ODVV held the Child Abuse – Secondary Prevention education workshop. The workshop was held with the cooperation of the Tehran Psychiatric Institute (Tehran Medical Sciences University) and the Safe Society of Tehran's 6th District Municipality. The aim of this workshop was to promote and protect children's rights and prevent the repetition and the severity of examples of child abuse. In this workshop subjects such as clear physical and mental abuse of children, and diagnosis methods, danger factors in child abuse, trouble children, underdeveloped, hyper active and difficult children, and also immature parents were discussed by the lecturers.



# Rehabilitation Centre

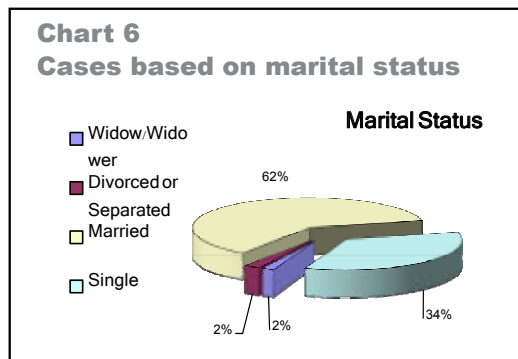
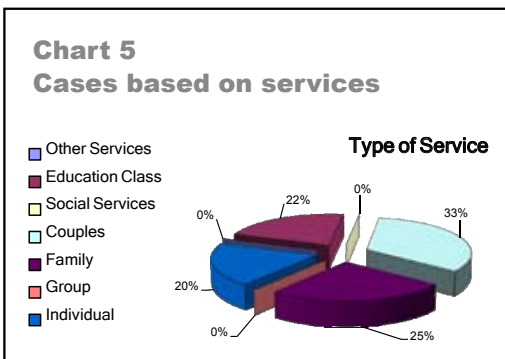
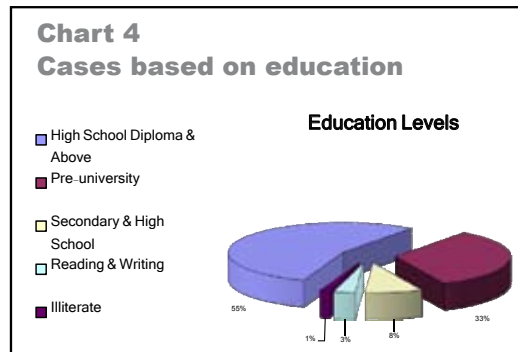
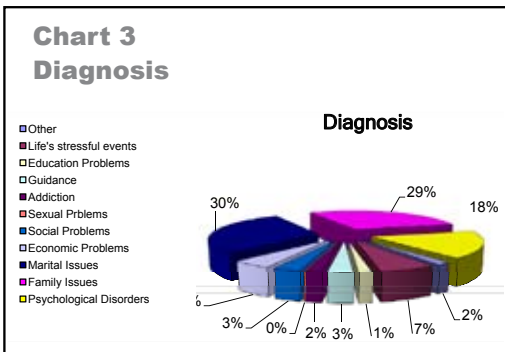
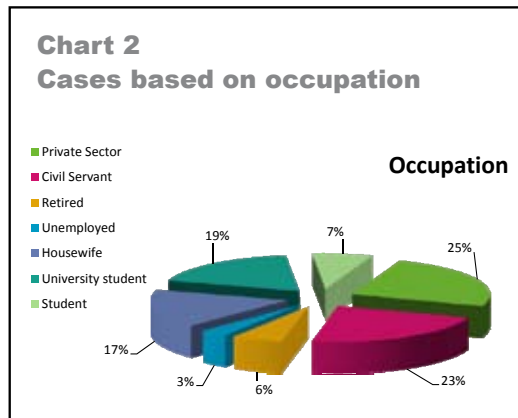
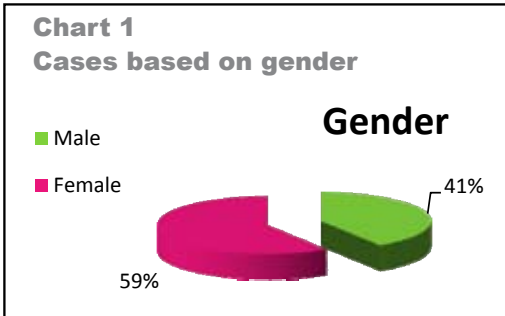
With a wish to mend and end mankind's pains and sufferings, and expansion of humanitarian campaigns, the ODVV Rehabilitation Department provides advisory and educational services. For the protection of victims of domestic and social violence, the department presents counselling and therapy in legal, 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 2012, 2985 cases benefited from the Centre's services. 1761 of them were women and 1224 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 2012, 784 people benefited from the telephone hotline services, 706 women and 78 men. According to statistics the majority of cases had family problems.

# Statistics of Cases in the Centre for 2012

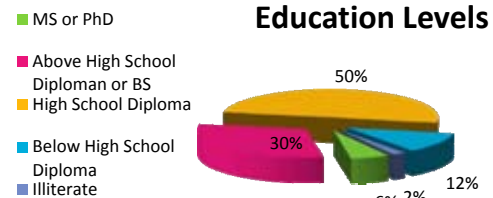


# Statistics of Telephone Hotline Calls for 2012

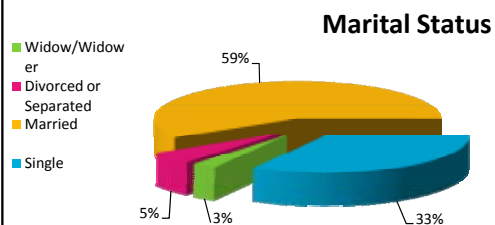
**Chart 1**  
Cases based on gender



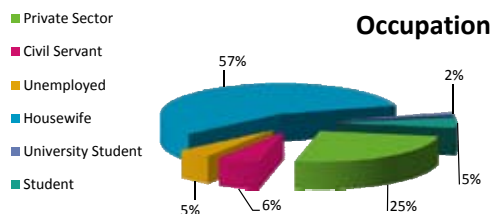
**Chart 2**  
Cases based on education



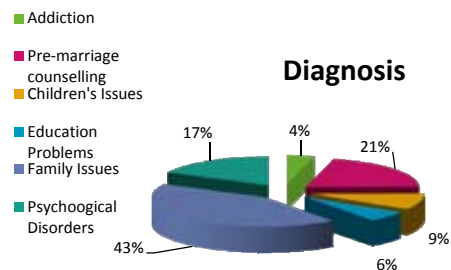
**Chart 3**  
Cases based on marital status



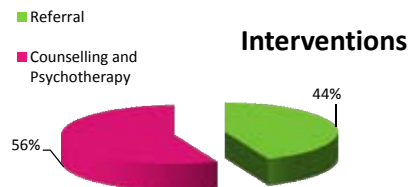
**Chart 4**  
Cases based on occupation



**Chart 5**  
Callers based on problem



**Chart 6**  
Callers based on intervention





# Publications

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In view of its objectives, activities and programmes, the ODVV has several publication 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 Newsletter is published quarterly, as a human rights newsletter. 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 2012:

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### **Defenders Spring & Summer 2012**

This 36page issue was published by the ODVV. The subjects covered were the moves of Iranian NGOs in line with the recommendations accepted by Iran in the UPR on Iran; violation of the human rights of Myanmar's Muslims; violation of human rights in Bahrain; ODVV statement on the killings in Myanmar; ODVV's statements in the 20th Session of the Human Rights Council; and the human rights situation in the West Bank. As well as the above, human rights news and developments and report of ODVV activities are included in this issue.



### **Defenders Autumn 2012-Winter 2013**

This 45 page issue was published by the ODVV. The subjects covered were: economic sanctions and human rights; Islamophobia; human rights and the Islamic Republic of Iran; the effects of sanctions on the sick in Iran; A report of the commemoration of Human Rights Day. As well as the above human rights news and developments, and report of ODVV activities and the written and oral statements of the 19th, 20th, and 21st Sessions of the Human Rights Council that were submitted and read by the ODVV are included in this issue.



### **A Collective Articles from the Fair Peace, Lasting Peace Conference**

This book was published by the ODVV in English (84 pages) in March 2012. The articles in the book included: Introduction to the Role of International Law in the Provision of International Peace and Security; "Just Peace" Paradigm and the Settlements Construction in East Jerusalem Issue. Peace and Justice in Persian Literature and Culture; the Definition of International Crimes within the Context of International Peace and Security; Islam: Harbinger of Peace and Friendship.



### **Manual of the Human Rights Situation in Bahrain**

This manual which is in four volumes was presented in the 21st Session of the HRC on the following subjects:

- 1 – Violation of Civil and Political Rights.
- 2 – Violation of Healthcare, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- 3 – Violation of Judicial Rights
- 4 – Violation of Rights of Certain Groups



### **Report of ODVV and a number of other NGOs Activities Regarding the Accepted Recommendations in the UPR on Iran**

One of the special activities of the ODVV in 2012 was the collection and compilation and translation of a comprehensive report of this and another 6 selected Iranian NGOs towards the recommendations of the UPR on Iran, which was distributed on the sidelines of the 19th Session. This action was initiative which was conducted by the ODVV as an NGO in the Human Rights Council. While being distributed to member states of the Human Rights Council, this report was presented to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the OIC ambassador and the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran. Also the digital copy of the report was sent via email to all countries' representatives in Geneva.



### **Translation of NGO Management to Farsi**

This is a new book on NGO management in today's world. The book was published in 2010 and is co-edited by Alan Fowler and Chiku Malunga. The ODVV began the translation of this book into Farsi and shall be published upon its completion in 2013. The book is in ten parts that include: Retro-perspective: NGO-ism in a Changing World Order; From NGOs to Civil Society; Managing Responsibility; Managing Strategically; Managing Organizational Change; Management Applications; Managing for Performance; Managing for Learning and Knowledge; Managing Resources; Leadership.



### **Translation of the Istanbul Protocol to Farsi**

Following the publication of the Farsi and digital version of the Istanbul Protocol (see [www.odvv.org](http://www.odvv.org)), the final preparations for the printing and publishing of the Protocol began at the end of 2012. The Farsi Istanbul Protocol will be published and released by the end of the winter of 2013 following the joint signatures of the ODVV and the Coroner's Organization of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran.



### **Preparation and Publication of Multimedia CDs from ODVV Products**

The contents of these CDs include, books, Defenders Newsletters, picture galleries, annual reports, video footages of ODVV projects. In 2012 the Communications Department released two CDs on ODVV activities, and two special issue ones on the human rights violations in Bahrain (that included a documentary with Arabic and English subtitles entitled Absolute Oppression). All these high quality products are available to all.





### Videos and Documentaries

- Promotion of Socio-psychological Health of Afghan Refugees Project in Shahr-e-Rey documentary

- Prevention of Child Abuse Educational Documentary

This educational documentary made with the aim of efforts for the promotion and protection of children's rights and prevention of and repetition of and the severity of child abuse from occurring in the family, and educational systems, This educational package includes an educational video with the attendance of thematic experts, and comes along with a booklet and a number of flash cards with the subjects of definition-examples-long/short term consequences-signs-prevention and child raising.

- Absolute Oppression Documentary

This documentary was made with the cooperation of five international human rights centres with Arabic and English subtitles, and was distributed on the sidelines of the 21st Session of the Human Rights Council coinciding with the UPR on Bahrain.

## Statements

With attention to internal and external developments and situations, the ODVV releases statements on various issues:

- Written and oral statements for the 19th, 20th and 21st sessions of the Human Rights Council
- ODVV's statement in condemnation of the killings of Muslims in Myanmar
- ODVV's statement condemning Canada's recent action
- ODVV statement on the Sandy Hook Elementary School Massacre
- ODVV's statement on the killing of Polio Health Workers in Pakistan
- ODVV's statement on the kidnapping of Iranian Red Crescent Delegation in Libya
- ODVV statement condemning the violence in Bahrain

## 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.

## Links with honorary members

As part of the realisation of its objectives and its activities, depending on their field of expertise, the ODVV benefits from the cooperation of its honorary members. Interested parties in the field of human rights that include legal and private individuals can fill in the honorary membership application form either in person at the ODVV or the organization website: [www.odvv.org](http://www.odvv.org).

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:

### **The Internet**

The worldwide web or the internet is one of the most important communications and links medium to reach an audience or a target group. By benefiting from two E-newsletters (Farsi and English), and the International Relations Emailing system, and a website, the ODVV has been able to communicate and establish links in order to provide and receive the latest human rights news and developments across the world, and also to provide information on the ODVV's objectives, activities and future programmes.

Interested parties can visit the ODVV website for updated information [www.odvv.org](http://www.odvv.org)

### **- Launching of ODVV Facebook page**

To further expand information dissemination and the need to use new and up-to-date tools of communication, and also the importance of the function of social networks, the ODVV launched its own page on Facebook. The page contains ODVV news, statements and pictures simultaneously as the website.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Organization-for-Defending-Victims-of-Violence-ODVV/311177295660239>



### **Links with the media**

Establishing links with the mass media, the press and national and international news agencies is one of the effective activities of the Public Relations Department. In view of this the Public Relations Department has placed the following in its agenda:

- Reflection of ODVV activities in the mass media, press and news agencies
  - Publishing of various workgroups articles in the press
  - Hold interviews for the purpose of publicising ODVV objectives and activities reports
  - Releasing statements on various national and international developments and occasions and their reflections in the press
- To-date the ODVV Public Relations has managed to get a good reflection of the organization's activities and events within the press and news agencies, and established good links with these groups, and new materials are released to the media approximately every two weeks.

## Participation in Exhibits

### - ODVV's Achievements on Refugees Issues Exhibit

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. For this reason the ODVV has included in its activities the participation in exhibits, and the participation in the exhibit on the services the Islamic Republic of Iran has provided to the refugees can be seen as one of them.

One of the accomplishments of the ODVV in this exhibit was the documentaries made on the Strengthening of the Family Institution and Prevention of GBV Project (Afghan refugees in Semnan refugee camp – Autumn 2011) and the Community Awareness Raising for the Prevention of GBV (Afghan refugees in Shahr-e-Rey – 2010)

## Library

The ODVV is equipped with a specialist library which contains 2300 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