

# Annual Report 2011

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Organization for Defending  
Victims of Violence (ODVV)

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**Supervision:** Siavash Rahpeik

**Published:** Winter 2011

**Special thanks to:** Dr. Mahmoud Reza Golshanpazhooh, Dr. seyed Ali-Akbar Tavakoli, Alireza Taheri, Dr. Parichehreh Shamsavand, Dr. Alireza Deihim, Farzane Mostofifar, Hamideh Aboutorabi, Majid Feizikhah, Leila Behnam, Leila Enayati, Zahra Ghazmorad, Mansooreh Mohammadi, Haroot Azarian and all the people that assisted the ODVV in the past year.

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# FOREWORD

2011 passed at a fast pace with political, social, cultural and economic upheavals, a year of tears and laughter, desperations and hopes. In this year we witnessed the fall of a number of old dictators, and welcomed the latest nation to join the United Nations, South Sudan. Our planet's population passed the 7 billion mark, and in horror we witnessed more devastating earthquakes and tsunamis, and the Japanese nuclear disaster that followed them.

The people of the world, from Arab countries to Spain and Wall Street came out and screamed human rights violations, against regimes, economic corporations, unjust detentions and even in some instances demonstrated for the sake of defending their own lives.

Aside from the natural disasters of the year, 2011 was the year of the people who spent days and nights on the streets chanting slogans, sympathizing and getting killed and fighting wars; a year that was named the year of "protest" and was full of revolution, war, uprising, the first sparks of which began from Arab revolutions resulting in the Arab Awakenings in the region countries, as well as extensive "occupy protests" in Europe and America.

Due to the number of crises and political changes, 2011 can be seen as unique in history, crises the origins of which were from the violation of human rights, and economic, cultural, political rights. This collective of developments shows the daily increasing importance of human rights in our world, rights which more than any other period in history requires the assistance of national, international and nongovernmental institutions based on practical and up-to-date mechanisms.

The Human Rights Council can be one of these mechanisms, a mechanism that has converged the three aforementioned institutions in the Universal Periodic Review. A process which from the start of its second round, is taking important steps in following up on accepted recommendations from the first round.

In line with the aforementioned process, the ODVV has placed the path for the implementation of the accepted recommendations in the UPR on Iran In its working agenda, and by thematic classification of the subjects, the ODVV has based its activities on this classification.

As a nongovernmental human rights organizations by adopting the abovementioned approach, we at the ODVV have tried to have a small share in the realization of human rights and the implementation of the accepted recommendations through holding education and research projects and holding seminars, sittings and conferences.

What follows is a brief reflection of the activities of the ODVV in the past year towards the ups and downs path of the realization of human rights.

Finally it is only right and necessary to thank all the governmental and nongovernmental experts, academia, researchers and all other individuals that have assisted us in this path.

# 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;

# 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 2011



# 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:





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

Following the success of the “Promotion of Community Based Awareness in the Prevention of GBV” project among Afghan residents of Shahr-e-Rey which was held with the support of UNHCR and BAFIA in 2010, the “Strengthening of the Family Institution and Prevention of Violence” project for Afghans in Semnan’s Afghan refugee camp began in July 2011.

The project was held by the ODVV with the cooperation of UNHCR in Iran and the BAFIA and with the aim of strengthening of the family institution for Afghan refugees, in four stages and with the participation of 236 men and women. The following is a brief report of the project.

The project was held in four stages which were: Evaluation of location and situation assessment meeting, Training of local representatives (observers), Training of peer trainers, Fourth stage: Refreshing sessions. The training subjects which were taught to all in workshop and participation method were as follows:

- Definition of the basic concepts of violence against women and child abuse
- The necessity to prevent violence against women and child abuse on the basis of Islamic texts.
- The necessity for implementation of prevention of violence against women and child abuse select programmes.
- The roots and influential factors in the occurrence of violence against women and child abuse.
- Repercussions and effects of violence against women and child abuse.
- Fundamental rights and life skills (being daring and saying no, confronting violence, facing up to anxieties and stresses and communications skills and expressing feelings).
- Parental skills education for the prevention of occurrence of violence against women and child abuse.

### **CBT principles and generalities education course**

This course was held from April 2011 for a group of psychologists and psychotherapists. This course included theory and practical work which included the showing of a video clip and presentation of a case study over 60 hours. Various aspects of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy were discussed in this course.

The Participants were introduced to the generalities (pathology theory, concepts), assessment, formulization and model building, behavioural techniques and application of cognitive behaviour techniques in mental disorders.

### **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, with the participation of 45 NGOs representatives in Fars Province.

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.



### **OCD Therapy Education Course**

With the aim of increasing the scientific and operational knowledge of mental health experts, the ODVV Rehabilitation Centre held this course in May in 30 hours for a group of psychologists.

The rise in the OCD cases referring to counseling centres and the significant role of this disorder in communication and family problems were the necessities for the holding of this course.

All the various technical aspects of this disorder were taught in this course, while presenting theories.

## Family Therapy for Children & Juveniles with Externalizing Disorders

With the aim of increasing the scientific and operational knowledge of mental health experts, the ODVV Rehabilitation Centre held this course in June in 30 hours for a group of psychologists and counsellors. The importance and particular role of childhood in the development and prevention of disorders and behavioural-psychological problems in this stage was the necessity for the holding of this education course. The principles of working with parents, the management of the resistance of parents, the structure of parents' education sessions, and parents group sessions. Evaluation tools (interviews, observations and tests), recording behaviour types, commendation, positive attention, reward and points, chart behaviour technique, setting example technique and dismissing where some of the other training concepts that were in this course.



## Emotion based Couple Therapy

With the aim of increasing the scientific and operational knowledge of mental health experts, the ODVV Rehabilitation Centre held this course in July in 30 hours for a group of psychologists and counsellors. The increase in the number of domestic problems cases that referred to therapy and counselling centres was the necessity for the holding of this education workshop. While presenting models for the evaluation of families, the family function process model, carrying out duties and problem solving, roles, communication, emotional interference, conflicting practice, habits, and role playing were among the subjects that were taught in this workshop.



## Introduction to the Human Rights Council Education Workshop

This workshop was held in September 2011 with the attendance of 50 international law experts and representatives from a number of NGOs with the aim of introduction to the structure of the United Nations. The participants were introduced to the history of the UN, how it was formed, the Human Rights Council, CONGO, the NGO Liaisons Office, the UPR on Iran and thematic rapporteurs of the UN. The workshop ended with a Q&A session.

# 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 16th Session of the Human Rights Council

The 16th Session of the Human Rights Council ran from 28 February till 25 March 2011 in Geneva Switzerland. As in previous sessions the subjects of the agenda were in the form of 10 items. The first week of the Session was the High Level Segment. In the second week thematic rapporteurs presented their reports to the Council.

### *Written and Oral Statements*

The ODVV submitted 7 oral and 9 written statements (8 joint statements with Iranian NGOs and 1 joint statement with 117 international NGOs) on terrorism, trafficking in children, trafficking in women, racial discrimination and Islamophobia, human rights violations in the United States, and human rights violations in the west. All of these statements are registered and in the Human Rights Council website archives. Also the reading of 5 oral statements indicates the highlighted presence of the ODVV in the 16th Session of the Council.



### *Sidelines sittings*

In the sidelines of the main Session the ODVV held 2 sitting as follows:

#### *Islamophobia and Human Rights:*

This first panel was held on 13 March in which approximately 90 people participated. The sitting which was chaired by Dr. Alireza Deihim, had guest speaker Dr. Amir Saeed, lecturer from Sunderland University who spoke about the media and its role in the promotion of Islamophobia, Dr. Mohammad Javad Javid lecturer from Tehran University who spoke about Islamophobia and the right to morality in the west and Dr. Stephan Sheehi from University of South Carolina who spoke on the subject of American Islamophobia as a cultural ideology.





### *Human Rights Violations on the Pretext of War on Terror:*

This sitting was held in the morning of 15 March in Room 27 of the Council. The sitting was chaired by Dr. Dehim again and the guest speakers included Dr. Mohammad Bagher Mir Abbasi lecturer from Tehran University who reviewed the legislative function of the United States in the war on terror, Dr. Amir Saeed from Sunderland University who reviewed the effects of terrorism on the criminal justice system, and Mr. Piro Diawara from Interfaith International reviewed violation of human rights in the private lives of citizens while fighting against terrorism.



### *Collective of Articles Book*

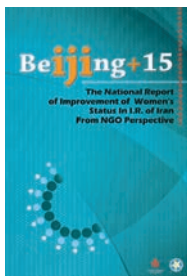
Coinciding with the 16th Session the ODVV published a book of collective of articles in two parts of Human Rights and Islamophobia, and Violation of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law on the Pretext of the War on Terror.

The book is readily available to read in the Publications Section of the ODVV website which is [www.odvv.ir](http://www.odvv.ir)

### *Meetings*

During the Session the ODVV held a number of meetings with a number of officials from international organizations based in Geneva for the purpose of learning about the goals and functions of the organizations. The meetings were with:

- Mr. Patrick Yusef, the assistant director of the Middle East Section of the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- Mr. John Andrew, the Asia-Pacific Officer of the UNHCR.



- Ms. Irene Martinetti, the Programme Director of the WFUNA.
- Mr. Ricardo Espinosa, the Chief NGO's Liaison Officer.

### *Beijing+15 Book*

This book was presented coinciding with the International Women's Day (March 8) on the sidelines of the 16th Session of the Council by the ODVV.

## **The 17th Session of the Human Rights Council**

The 17th Session of the Human Rights Council commenced from 20 May in Geneva, Switzerland.

In the opening meeting of the Session, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pelly in her opening speech said that the ongoing popular movements in the Middle East and North Africa were great and historic.

Also in this Session, thematic rapporteurs presented their reports and discussed their contents with member and observer states of the Council. The appointment of Mr. Ahmed Shaheed



as the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Iran was one of the highlighted events of this Session.

### *Meetings*

While attending the Session, the ODVV team held four meetings with thematic rapporteurs that included: Ms. Margaret Sekaggya, the Special Rapporteur on Situation of Human Rights Defenders, Mr. Christof Heyns Special Rapporteur on Arbitrary Executions, Mr. Martin Scheinin Special Rapporteur on Protection of Human Rights while Fighting Terrorism, and Ms. Magdalena Sepulveda Carmona, Independent Expert on Extreme Poverty.

These meetings were in line with the new ODVV policies for the purpose of influencing and having an effective present in the Council and the presentation of new approaches in interaction with special rapporteurs and international organizations experts.

### *Written and oral statements*

As in all other past Sessions the ODVV submitted written and oral statements. One oral statement was read on terrorism and 3 written statements on violence against women and trafficking in women, xenophobia, violation of human rights in Palestine, and human rights situations that required the attention of the Council. All ODVV statements are documented on the Human Rights Council website.

## **The 18th Session of the Human Rights Council**



The 18th Session of the Human Rights Council was held in 12-30 March 2011 at the Council headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. In this session 23 subjects were reviewed in the form of the Items on the Agenda. Some of these subjects were: The resumption of Libya's membership in the Human Rights Council, promotion and protection of freedom of expression on the internet, death penalty, reduction of mortality rates among mothers

and infants, access to safe drinking water, exploitation and servitude as violation of human rights, right to self determination, human rights and international solidarity, human rights and minorities, Human rights and issues related to terrorist hostage-taking, and climate change.

The Council also adopted decisions and mandates for: Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence, Human rights in the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice, Advisory Services and technical assistance for Burundi Advisory services and technical assistance for Cambodia, the working group for the people of Africa, migrants rights, racism, racial discrimination, Islamophobia and religious intolerance. The Council also introduced the members of the Fact finding Mission for human rights violations in Syria.



### *Written and oral statements*

The ODVV submitted 4 written and 2 oral statements to the 18th Session. The 4 written statements were submitted before the start of the session and were on the following subjects: Islamophobia, refugees, Denmark UPR, and human rights concerns, all of which were documented and are readily available in the Human Rights Council website. Also 2 oral statements on Palestine and Islamophobia were read in the session, which shows the highlighted presence of the ODVV.

### *Meetings*

The ODVV held a number of meetings in this Session the highlight of which was a meeting with Mr. Ahmed Shaheed, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Iran and his assistant Mr. Naveed Ahmed. While presenting a background on ODVV's efforts for the promotion of human rights and cooperation with special rapporteurs in different periods, the ODVV pointed out to its potentials and readiness for any form of cooperation with the Special Rapporteur towards the presentation of a fair, independent and fact based report.

The ODVV team also had meetings with Mr. Schultz the assistant to the Special Rapporteur on Protection of Human Rights while Fighting Terrorism and Mr. Ricardo Espinosa the NGOs Chief Liaison Officer.

### **Participation in Sidelines Meetings**

The ODVV held several meetings with other NGOs, special rapporteurs, thematic experts, establishing links with other NGOs, the WFUNA, CONGO.

### **Distribution of ODVV packages**

During the participation in these sessions, the ODVV distributed a number of its products that included, Defenders Newsletter, specialised books, multimedia DVDs, and annual reports, for its audience and among the people participating in the Sessions.

# Commemoration of International Days

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 Organization for Defending Victims of Violence held a conference on the occasion of the International Day of Families entitled the “Review of Today’s Situation of the Family in Iran and the World” with the global “Confronting Family Poverty and Social Exclusion”. Cooperating in the holding of the event were UNIC, UNA-IRAN and the Family Planning Association.

The conference was held on 16 May with the aim of strengthening the family’s foundation with the presence of experts in the field, members of university science groups and 40 family experts and activists in the governmental and nongovernmental sectors, in the conference hall of UNIC in Tehran.

The conference started with the reading of the UN Secretary General’s message for the day. This was followed by a number of experts who gave speeches on the following subjects: the basics of strengthening of the family foundation in the Islamic Legislation, the Situation of British Families and their problems, the Causes of Family Damages in Iran and the World, and the Glass Member of the Family, Family Damages and End of the Dialogue Era.



## International Peace Day

On Wednesday 21 September the ODVV held the “Fair Peace, Lasting Peace” seminar in commemoration of the International Day of Peace. This seminar was held with the cooperation of the Peace Museum in Tehran, ICRC, Red Crescent and UNIC in Tehran, Victims of Chemical Weapons Support Association and UNA Iran.

The participants included university science groups’ members and 40 representatives from governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

The ceremony the reading of UN Secretary General’s message for the participants were introduced to the “role of international law in international peace and security”, the “position of international crimes in international peace”, “peace and justice in Persian culture and literature”, “determination of the status of peace and justice from Islamic jurisprudence”, and “rights of Palestinians in Jerusalem and the fair peace paradigm”.





The ODVV is undertaking to publish a book from the collective of articles that were presented in this conference, and shall be available later on in 2012.

### **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

To this aim, as a human rights NGO, the ODVV pursues to have a share in the realization of all human rights, from human dignity teachings. For the purpose of the expansion of a culture of non-violence, in all its forms, with the cooperation of UNIC in Iran, the ODVV held a commemoration ceremony for the day.

The commemoration ceremony of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was held on 23 November 2011 at the ODVV conference hall with the participation of 50 experts and academics and governmental and nongovernmental experts.

Following the reading of the UN Secretary General's message for the day which was read by UNIC representative in Tehran, this was followed by a discussion on "psychoanalysis of domestic violence, profiling of the victims and the perpetrators". This was followed by a workshop entitled "Education of Avoiding Violent Behaviour Strategies". The workshop dealt with the psychosocial profiling of violence against women, different types of violence, upbringing strategies, recognition strategies, and how to confront with the violent individual.



# 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 2011, 2505 cases benefited from the Centre's services. 1503 of them were women and the rest were men. According to the statistics most of the cases were married and the majority of the problems were psychological disorders.

## Statistics of Cases in the Centre

Chart 1  
Cases based on gender

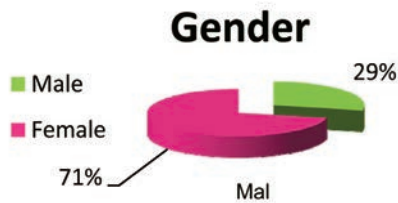


Chart 2  
Cases based on occupation

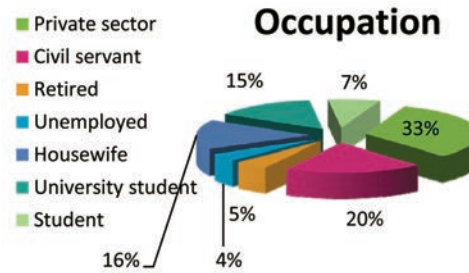


Chart 3  
Diagnosis

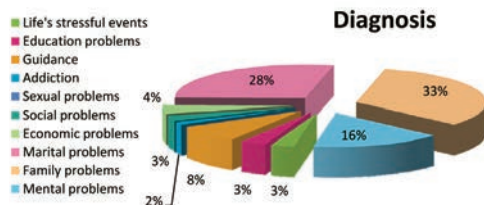


Chart 4  
Cases based on education

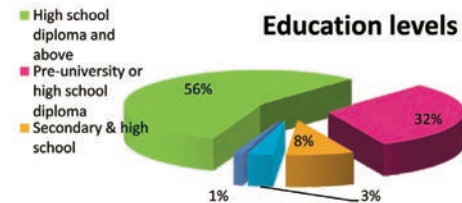


Chart 5  
Cases based on services

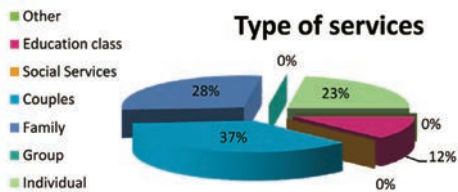
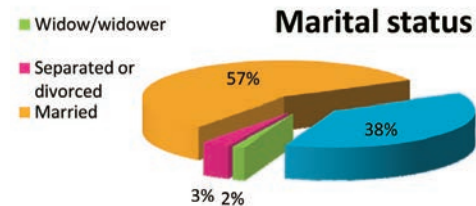


Chart 6  
Cases based on marital status



# 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 2010:

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### **Defenders Winter 2011: Special Issue: 16th HRC**

This 40 page Human Rights Council special issue deals with human rights violations. The abstract articles that were the subjects of the next session's sidelines sittings are included in this issue; an article on NGOs and the UPR on the United States of America. ODVV's report on the human rights situation in the United States, and written statements submitted to the 15th Session, are some of the contents of this issue.

### **Defenders Spring-Summer 2011: Fair Peace, Lasting Peace**

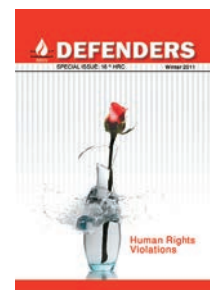
The following issues and subjects are in the contents of this 44 page issue: human rights in the Arab world, the fall of Gadaffi, a report of the ODVV's attendance in the 16th and the 17th Sessions of the Human Rights Council, review of the conditions of the family in Iran and the world on the occasion of the International Day of Families, and the commemoration of the International Day of Peace, a report of the ODVV activities, and the written statements submitted to the 16th and 17th Sessions of the Council.

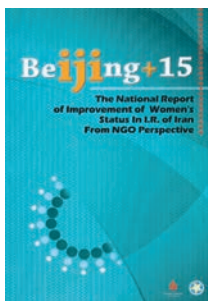
### **Defenders Autumn 2011 – Winter 2012**

This double special issue reviews the strengthening or weakening of the UPR, human rights violation and outbreak of a conflict by focusing on Egypt and Bahrain, a review of the report of the independent investigation commission in Bahrain, a report of the Strengthening of the Family Institution and Prevention of Violence Project, and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Also there is a report of ODVV's activities and human rights news and developments, and the oral and written statements submitted to the 18th Session of the Human Rights Council.

### **Sidelines Sittings Book**

The ODVV published a 156 page book of collective of articles in two parts of Human Rights and Islamophobia, and Violation of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law on the Pretext of the War on Terror. The subjects of the book include the Media and its role in the promotion of Islamophobia, American Islamophobia as a Cultural Ideology, Right to Implication and Islamophobia in the West, the Impact of Counter-terrorism on the Criminal Justice System, Analyzing of Legislative Functions of the United States War against Terrorism, and War on International Terrorism within International Humanitarian Law.





### **Beijing + 15 book**

This 263 page book was published coinciding with the International Women's Day (8 March). This book which is the national report on the improvement of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is from women's NGOs perspective, was compiled with the cooperation of the Communications Network of Women's NGOs and the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence. Parts of the book include which a review by women's NGOs in Iran states: women in the world particularly in developing countries are suffering pains which are as a result of conflicts between their individual role in the family and society, the result of this situation is not necessarily instability in daily lives and normal relations, but the existing interaction between multiple identities from one hand and cultural clashes resulted by globalisation, bring about new crises for women, the solutions for which can only be found in morality and religion. We hereby declare that the establishment of stability among multiple identities and confrontation with damages and crises that are caused by economic and cultural globalisation can be fulfilled by getting incentive from religious and natural laws.

### **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. The Communications Department of the ODVV released two CDs of products, and one CD special on the commemoration ceremony of the International Day of Peace.



### **- Videos and Documentaries**

→For the purpose of the utilization of effective video tools and towards the expansion and diversity of ODVV activities, in 2011 the ODVV produced three videos. Two of the videos are on ODVV education projects: Community Based Awareness Raising for Prevention of Gender Based Violence and Strengthening of the Family Institution and Prevention of Violence. The third video is the "Untitled" documentary which is on terrorism.

## Statements

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

- Written and oral statements for the 16th, 17th and 18th sessions of the Human Rights Council
- ODVV's letter to international officials that include the United Nations, the UNHCHR, Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Special Rapporteur on torture, the President of the ICRC on the events in Bahrain.
- Statement in condemnation of the assassination of Mostafa Mohammadi Roshan
- Statement in condemnation of the assassination of Khajeh Nasir University elite student Darious Rezaeenejad
- NGOs' letter to Ahmed Shaheed on the suspension of the draft NGOs bill at the Islamic Parliament.
- Statement in condemnation of the Norway terror attack



## 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)

## - 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.



## 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.







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