

Email: bdr.refugees@gmail.com
sirvan_qaderi@yahoo.com
Tel & Fax: 0044-2089590538
Emergency number: 0044-7765431276

دفتر دفاع از حقوق پناهندگی

Bureau for Defense of Refugee Rights



Statement of demands by Bureau for Defense of Refugee Rights

Submitted to the Dutch Parliament and Foreign Minister Mr. Uri Rosenthal

Date 27 April 2011

Since In Iran:

There is no freedom of association, organization or speech.

There are no non-Islamic opposition parties, no trade unions, no women's organizations, no independent newspapers. And if you want them or try to organize them, they arrest you, torture you or even kill you.

There are no union rights. No right to strike. Labour activists are suppressed.

Minimum wage is a quarter of the official poverty line. There is no unemployment insurance. Many workers have not been paid for months.

Women are 3rd class citizens. Sexual apartheid rules. Women are banned from a wide range of social, economic and political activities; Islamic veil is compulsory. Women are separated from men in buses, universities, and many public places. Husbands and fathers are their guardians, at home and outside. Women cannot travel, even within the country, without permission from their male guardians. They have no right to divorce, or custody of their children. The list is endless.

Intellectual dissent and non-Islamic religious expression are suppressed.

Atheism and secularism are punishable by death. Religious `cleansing` and suppression of non-Moslems is the norm, Bahais are routed, Jewish people live in constant fear of fabricated charges of espionage for Israel. Christians are second-class citizens.

There is no right to a fair trial. No right to an attorney, No presumption of innocence, No limits to imprisonment without charge. Arbitrary arrests, torture, forced or fabricated confessions, death in custody, are usual practice.

Children have no rights. Children are the property of their elders and the Islamic state. They send them to war, to work, to gallows. 5 year olds work at furnaces. 9-year old girls may be legally married off. 13 year olds may be (and have been) legally condemned to death.

Homosexuals are executed. Pure and simple.

.... The list is endless

Many people suffering the above treatment or actively opposing the situation against the Islamic Republic are forced to flee Iran and seek asylum in Netherlands. Asylum seekers do not choose to leave the country and their loved ones. They are human beings like you and me who have experienced violation of civil rights first hand and are forced to leave Iran. They are in Netherlands now and should be treated as any other citizen with full rights.

According to a report by UNHCR in their Refworld website+ in 2010, several organizations, including Amnesty International and Council for Administration of Criminal Law, criticized the manner of detention of asylum seekers prior to deportation. They maintained that since the asylum seekers were not criminals, authorities should not subject them to a criminal regime or keep them in detention for extended period of time, especially if there was little or no prospect of actual deportation.

We demand the following:

- 1- The Dutch government condemns the Islamic Republic of Iran as a dictatorship where human rights are violated and considers it as an unsafe country for political asylum seekers.
- 2- The immediate and unconditional release of all jailed asylum seekers in Netherlands.
- 3- An end to arrest of all asylum seekers in refugee camps.
- 4- The abolition of the present procedure of reviewing asylum applications where asylum seekers are denied to choose their own representatives to defend them and are given very limited time to do so.
- 5- All asylum seekers should have the right to choose their legal defense paid by the government.
- 6- The centres which were closed as a result of cuts and have made many asylum seekers homeless should be reopened.
- 7- All asylum seekers and refugees must be provided with adequate means of living, education and medical provisions.

+ UNHCR, Refworld website:

www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?page=category&docid=4da56da1c&skip=0&category=COI&quersy=netherlands&searchin=title&display=10&sort=date