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Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society (IAPSR) as a non-governmental, nonpartisan, independent, and non-political organization with the objective to alleviate social problems and relying on more than ten thousands volunteers of university students and graduates, declares:

With the election of President Rouhani, some changes have been done in the approach and view of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards NGOs. In contrast to the previous government that the issuance or renewal of a license for an NGO took long more than four years, in the new government and till now, generally we see a better policy in behaving with NGOs. However, there are some disagreements towards the NGOs' activities. It seems that the government of Mr. Rouhani wants to have a better interaction and dialogue with NGOs just like his better interaction and dialogue with the international community. Despite closing two of our offices in two cities, arresting some of our members in another town, and repeatedly summoning some of our members, we have been able to increase the number of our offices to 31 in deprived and marginalized neighborhoods of the country.

As an Iranian NGO working on promotion of the rights of children, we would like to draw your attention to protection of the rights of the child in the Islamic Republic of Iran and especially the bill of protecting children that contains legal guarantees to defend children against unqualified parents who abuse their children in different ways. However, this very important prepared bill has been standing in line for a long time to become passed and so many children do not have a strong legally safe protection against child abuse. In the past year, some positive promising activities to promote child rights have started by the new government but they are not sufficient. For example, in acute social problems such as child labor, opinions and concerns of NGOs have been listened.

Moreover, passing the new Islamic Penal Code by the Parliament was first regarded as a positive action. According to the Article 91, there are certain conditions for revoking or not issuing Qisas sentences. However, the implementation of this law and its extension to all similar cases is ambiguous. Fortunately, in the past year the interaction of Judiciary with active NGOs working on decreasing the number of Qisas sentences, especially for youth that allegedly committed crime under 18 years of age, has become better. For example, IAPSR has been able to enter in some Qisas cases on a limited basis to rescue people sentenced to death penalty and as a result rescued five people.

Furthermore, the present political situation in the Middle East has caused increasing problems for displaced persons and refugees who enter the country through the borders. Many children due to not having identity papers have become deprived of gaining their rights - as defined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Also, the deprivation in the Right for health and appropriate treatment sometimes causes life hazards for children. Fortunately, The Bureau of Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (BAFIA) in corporation with UN agencies and national NGOs have had a very positive role in alleviating the problem especially in educating children without identity. For example, IAPSR has been able to support more than 1000 afghan children without identity papers via quality education all over the country. The same projects also are being done by some other NGOs under the support of BAFIA and UNICEF.

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lessen drug trafficking and drug consumption in the country; consultation, plans and programs of active NGOs could be helpful.

3- It is strongly recommended the government in corporation with NGOs, using their supervision and consultancy, defines and implements some immediate practical solutions to eliminate child addiction.

4- Since pregnancy of addicted women helps the addiction cycle repeats; obviously the government must adopt emergency actions in identifying, treatment and providing comprehensive support for women suffering from addiction, homelessness, and girls running away due to violence.

5- The International civil society asks the government to find out the root causes of violence in the society and alleviate it fundamentally. This can be done by the advocacy of NGOs supporting children with criminal backgrounds in the deprived and marginalized areas.
