

## **Workers news from Iran and Kurdistan**

### **Forty three homeless froze to death on the streets of Tehran**

From 7<sup>th</sup> December 2004 the bodies of another twenty homeless people were found on the streets as the results of cold weather in the streets of Tehran. The majority of these bodies have not yet been identified. In the last few days bodies of another five homeless were found in the cold freezing conditions and within the last twenty one days another forty three homeless have lost their lives.

Poverty, unemployment and drug addiction have been the main causes for homelessness in Iran. Living under the Islamic roof, homelessness in Iran can only get worse.

### **Unexplained death of news reporters in 2004**

According to International Federation of Journalist (IFJ) estimated that the year 2004 had the highest rate of death between journalist/reporters from all over the world. BBC, reported that the federation raised concerns after death of two other journalist from Africa and Asia.

It is estimated that hundred twenty journalist have been killed during 2004. The Philippines and Iraq are known to have the highest rate and most dangerous places for journalists. Twelve journalists/news reporters have been murdered in Philippines and fifty three in Iraq during 2004.

### **Death of two thousand people in the first half of the year in Iran due to drug addiction**

According to an estimated figure in the first six months of 2004 two thousand people lost their lives due to drug addiction. Heroin injection was a majority among the dead. It is known that one thousand nine hundred fifty of the dead were men and fifty of them were women. The trafficking and use of drugs in Iran is supplied by the government to the drug dealers.

## **The girls who run away from home are the new kidney sellers in Iran**

According to a report from the Department of Health in Iran, the girls running away from home have become the latest kidney sellers. In an interview with Dr Hadi Motamedi he reported that girls who run away from home with no hope in life and survival have been caught up in the black market to sell their own kidneys for a very low price in hope for survival.

Anonymous suggests "80% of these girls are the victims of sexual assaults in the first twenty four hours of their escape from home. Sexual harassment in their childhood, domestic violence at home, drug addicted parents and poverty are the main reasons for girls to run away from home. Poverty, no hope for their future, unhealthy society, lack of social and economy education has increased under the control of Islamic regime in Iran and has been proved to be the main reason for this tragedy.

## **In the first year anniversary of Bam's earth quack seventeen thousand women and children are in need of shelter and help**

Because of the earthquake that occurred in the city of Bam on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2003, thousands of people have lost their lives and thousand others have been injured and are in need of help.

Now a year later, thousands of people are still in severe conditions and are in need of assistance. According to an estimated figure, seventeen thousand women and children in Bam are disadvantaged from Medicare and protection.

Five thousand children that have lost all their members of their families are living in poverty and lost regaining their hopes in life. Two thousand seven hundred are still injured and are in urgent need for emotional and physical support and thousands of people are still homeless and are living in tents.

Poverty, unemployment and an increase in drug addiction among them have become a greater problem in their lives. The majority of the help these people have received have come from National and International non-governmental associations. The Islamic republic of Iran do not seem to take responsibility for the needs and help of these people and no serious action has been taken by the government to aid them to regain their lives.