

Lilian Bates
Ovid-Elsie High School
Elsie, MI, USA
Iran, Human Rights/Air Pollution

Solutions and Recommendations for Human Rights Violations and Air Pollution in Iran

“Iran is the latest expression of a deep, ancient, powerful culture” stated Barack Obama (“President Obama Defends the Iran Deal After His American University Speech” par. 29). Iran is a 6,000-year-old country in Asia, and it is about the size of Alaska. Due to its long history, Iran has a very high population, a complex government system, and many levels of social classes and ways of life. Since human rights and air pollution have a grip on many countries, their citizens are prevented from living a healthy life. Although Iran greatly struggles with both of these issues, there are multiple solutions to solve them. There are many methods to these solutions, and there are many recommendations that can allow Iran to be the strongest it has ever been. Iran has food insecurities caused by issues that connect to human rights and air pollution, but solutions exist to combat this problem.

Iran is a country that is very family oriented, and it is located in Western Asia. The total population in Iran is 85 million. Of that population, 76% is urban, and 24% of it is rural (“Iran: Population” par. 1). Since Iran’s government is an Islamic Republic, they have both a president and a supreme leader chosen through election (“Iran: Government” par. 1). The geography in Iran is mostly made up of mountains and coastal plains, and Iran often has fatal earthquakes. Their seasons and weather vary based on the region, but typically, summer in Iran lasts from June to August, and winter lasts from December to February (“Iran: Land and Climate” par. 1&3). Ten percent of the land in Iran is currently cultivated, and, on average, their farms are about 25 acres, which is comparable to 19 football fields. Although ten percent does not seem like much land, they are able to grow many valuable crops in these fields. Some crops grown in Iran include fruits, vegetables, cotton, nuts, olives, tea, spices, tobacco, and cereals (“Iran | History, Culture, People, Facts, Map, and Nuclear Deal” par. 1&3). As with other countries, family is very important in Iranian culture. The typical family in Iran has two parents and two children (“Iran: Family” par. 1). If a family has a high income, they typically live in large, stylish houses with large pools and yards, or they live in apartments made with wood, brick, cement, and white stucco (“Iran: Housing” par. 1-4). The usual diet in Iran consists of meat stews, fruits, vegetables, rice, and white cheeses, and they mostly obtain these foods from local markets, chain markets, or in-city stores. They do not purchase or intake alcohol or pork due to their religious beliefs (“Iran: Diet” par. 1). In Iran, there is free primary and secondary school for everyone, and there is also available healthcare that is free for the poor (“Education in Iran” par. 11). Most middle class and rich families in Iran have access to clean water, toilets, electricity, telephones, roads, and local markets, however, poor families may or may not have these resources depending if they live in a rural or urban area. Many of the common jobs in Iran consist of becoming a merchant, joining the military, teaching, engineering, entering the trades, and drilling oil (“Social Class in Iran” par. 5&7). With these jobs, the average salary is about \$455 USD per month (“Minimum and Average Salary in Iran” par. 6). However, even with the citizens’ low wages, there are still many other barriers to making a living and gaining nutritious foods. Some of these barriers include inflation, living expenses, and low wages. These factors often lead to many children working jobs, teens resorting to prostitution, families selling their newborns, and people selling their organs to make a few extra dollars to survive (“Life on the Ground in Iran: From the View of the People” par. 8). In the end, Iran is a country in the Middle-East with lots of intriguing facts and elements.

Human rights and air pollution issues are very common all around the globe. Most countries have issues with air pollution and human rights, and some are moving to fix it. Human rights have always been an issue throughout the world, and they still continue. One in five people have experienced discrimination in their lives. Along with that, women only make up 39% of total employment (“Goal 5 | Department of

Economic and Social Affairs”). Although human rights is a huge issue, air pollution is also a major problem. Air pollution kills nearly 4 million people per year. Not to mention, cities account for 75% of carbon emissions, and by 2050, 70% of the world population will live in urban areas (“Clean Air and SDGs” par. 4). The food security in Iran is being impacted by air pollution and human rights issues. These issues are both very current, severe, and have gotten much worse since the hit of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 deepened the issue because it caused high inflation, job losses, and low or unpaid wages (“Iran Archives” par. 4). This affects the environment because the people cannot gather to help the planet, and unpaid workers work more in an attempt to earn money, therefore, factories have major air pollution. This affects rural and urban populations the same because they are both expected to follow strict rules, and nearly all of their civil liberties have restrictions (“Iran - United States Department of State” par. 54). These issues treat men, women, and children mostly the same, although there are some differences. For example, women face more issues, such as not having a say in marriage, divorce, custody, or even work. Child labor is very common, and many kids do not have an education, which the government is not aware of. Lastly, this topic affects marginalized groups because they face a lot of discrimination and mistreatment. They are sentenced to death for vague charges, such as offenses against God. Multiple Iranians are still on death row since being charged with vague offenses. In conclusion, human rights and air pollution problems are huge issues in many countries around the world, including Iran.

Although it seems impossible, there are many solutions to human rights violations and air pollution in Iran. One solution is ensuring due process, fairness, impartiality in legal proceedings, and judicial independence. This is important because it offers every person an equal, fair trial. This helps to establish the truth and is important for all people involved in the case, and the best way to go about this is to abide by “innocent until proven guilty” (“11.5 Due Process and Judicial Fairness - Introduction To Political Science” par. 5). Another reason this solution should be followed through with is that it separates the government from the court. This is very important so one branch does not and cannot overpower another because they have their own roles and areas of authority. People may argue that, with this method, the judges could abuse their power, but this can be solved by having checks and balances and allowing people to appeal to a higher court (“Judicial Independence” par. 1-3). To summarize, allowing judicial fairness and independence can put an end to human rights violations in Iran.

Even though judicial fairness and independence is a great method for solving human rights violations, it is not the only possible way. Human rights education is key to defeating human rights issues. Becoming educated about human rights is very important because it allows people to examine human rights issues without bias. This, in turn, allows them to create their own thoughts and views on a topic from the facts, and not from propaganda or bias. This education also strengthens their respect for human rights, and it creates high regard for fundamental freedoms. This is because they are more aware of what the basic human rights are and what violations are made, so they are more likely to respect and understand those rights and fundamental freedoms (“About Human Rights Education” par. 6&7). This is important to the human rights in Iran because if they know what their value is and what their rights should be, they are more likely to fight for their rights and not discriminate against others. On the other hand, the wrong people could be providing the wrong education, but this can be solved easily by allowing freedom of the press so that the government cannot control the media and feed the people false information.

Air pollution in Iran can be solved by using renewable energy to power factories and other machinery. This would allow them to generate energy that produces no greenhouse gas emissions because it does not use fossil fuels. This is important because trapped greenhouse gasses trap heat, and this is a main cause of global warming (“Local Renewable Energy Benefits and Resources” par. 7). Another positive of using renewable energy is that renewable energy is reliable and will never run out. Renewable resources, such as solar, wind, biomass, and hydro, are unlimited and domestic, so 100% of earth could use them (“What are the Pros and Cons of Renewable Energy?” par. 14-16). Since using renewable energy is more cost

effective in the long run, the high upfront cost does not matter in comparison to it (“6 Ways to Reduce Factory Pollution” par. 4). Renewable energy is also much more environmentally friendly, and it can help to improve public health. This is because it reduces the need for fossil fuel power generation, and this lowers the emission of harmful gasses like nitrogen, oxides, sulfur dioxide, and carbon dioxide. In conclusion, Iran should begin powering factories and machinery with renewable resources to solve their air pollution issues.

There are many solutions to these issues, and many of them are useful enough to recommend. Iran should begin to teach about human rights, ensure due process, and judicial independence. This would not completely secure all of the needs of every single person, but it would help to solve the challenge of human rights violations. The United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council can help to manage this process, as well as higher taxes and higher-paid wages, including more jobs and work offered (“HRC Home | OHCHR” par. 1-2). Iran should also begin powering factories and machinery with renewable energy. Although this also will not completely meet all of every person's needs, it can defeat the challenge of air pollution. This can be managed by the UN Environment Programme, along with higher taxes, higher wages, and more available work. For both of these recommendations to be successful, checks and balances and regulation from the UN need to be in place (“Judicial Independence” par. 1-3). While these recommendations do aim for the greater good in Iran, it must be kept in mind that the majority of the population in Iran is Islamic and may have differing beliefs or values than other countries. It is very important that the Iranian people are compliant, and this can be accomplished by especially communicating to the lower classes. The upper class individuals are less likely to accept more rights and justice for everyone, so if you reach out to the lower class, which is much more populated, you could get many more people to comply and agree with changes. It is also important to have the government on board. This is possible through providing them with the information that they will not have as many civil issues brought to them, which will lessen the amount of work the government has to do. Even though there will always be some sort of human rights issue in every country, if the UN pushes the matter and the government and people cooperate, the human rights project can be sustainable in Iran. This will help to solve food insecurity in Iran because, with more people allowed to have jobs and rights, they will be more able to make money for their households and buy food to help hunger. Along with that, if renewable resources are used, and communities regulate the usage of non-renewable energy, the air pollution project will also be sustainable. Eliminating air pollution in Iran can help to improve food security because it can enable more production for lower prices, making food more available to the people.

Iran has food insecurities caused by issues that link to human rights and air pollution, but there are many possible solutions to counter this problem. Human rights violations are a large issue because it does not allow people to get jobs to be able to provide for themselves or their families. Air pollution affects food security when it causes fields to become polluted and damages crop yields. However, there are many solutions and recommendations to resolve these issues. To solve human rights issues, Iran should implement human rights education, ensure due process, and judicial independence. In order to eradicate air pollution in Iran, they should begin replacing all energy sources with renewable energy. In just 7 years it will be 2030, and Iran has the tools to eliminate food insecurity by that time.

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