



UN News Center, Jan. 23, 2004

Worsening hygiene threatens thousands of women survivors in Bam, Iran

Worsening hygienic conditions and a critical lack of reproductive health services after last month's deadly earthquake in the Iranian city of Bam continue to threaten the well-being of thousands of women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) warned today.

"As survivors return to the area and reconstruction begins, reproductive health concerns must be a humanitarian priority," Sharareh Amirkhalili, UNFPA Assistant Representative in Iran, said. "The loss of health workers and services has left pregnant women extremely vulnerable."...

Adding to this burden, many women and girls have been left responsible for family members who survived the disaster, which officials estimate killed some 41,000 people and damaged 85 percent of all buildings in the area. As a result, these caregivers have been unable to report to distribution centers to receive humanitarian aid...

The devastation of infrastructure has been compounded by the loss of over half the city's health care personnel, paralyzing the health care system throughout the surrounding district.

Jomhuri Islami daily, Jan. 21, 2004

Newly-wed sets self ablaze

An Iranian woman who had gotten married six months ago died due to self-immolation. Investigation confirmed that she had received burns on 80 percent



of her body. Doctors lost hope in treating her because of the extent of burns. She died after two days.

Hamshahri daily, Jan. 20, 2004

Suicide is primary problem of Ilam's women and youth

Ilam province's deputy governor in women's affairs Heyran Pournajaf said, "About 70 percent of those who commit suicide in Ilam, western Iran, are women. Some 182 women committed suicide in Ilam last year... The authorities did not inform the Women's Affairs Office and are scared to announce the rate of suicide in the province."

Radio Farda, Jan. 14, 2004

20 percent of Iranians face psychological disorders



The results of a study by a group of psychologists in Tehran University, published in this month's edition of Britain's Psychology Journal, indicates that 20 percent of Iranians face psychological disorders.

Using a standard evaluation and direct interview, these doctors collected a variety of information about the mental health of more than 35,000 people nationwide. The results showed that 20 percent of Iranians suffer from psychological, nervous, or mental disorders.

The rate of mental and psychological problems among women is almost 26 percent. The ratio among men is 15 percent. Also, the highest trend in the various types of psychological disorders is prevalent among those afflicted with depression. Mental and psychological disorders are more prominent in married people than singles. Doctors believe that 20 percent of mental and psychological disorders and depression in society is very high and alarming.

Khorassan daily, Jan. 13, 2004

Female police in prisons to step up repression of women

The first group of female police entered Mashad's central prison. The seven-member team will receive two weeks of work experience in this prison in northeast Iran.

INTV, Iranian National Television, Jan. 12, 2004

Student protests

Students from the Azad University of Khalkhal, northwest Iran, staged a protest against the repression of women and girls on January 10. Clashes broke out between the students the State Security Forces which attacked the protesters, wounding many of the demonstrators and passers by.

Hayat-e No daily, Jan. 8, 2004

18,200 runaway youths in Tehran

The number of runaway girls and boys in the last nine months has reached 18,200. This figure has increased since last year, with more girls running away than boys. The average age for runaway girls was reported to be between 16 to 18. Factors contributing to the increase of runaways are domestic abuse, parental drug addictions, and step parents. Most boys who run away are children seeking jobs to be able to provide for themselves.

Shargh Daily Dec. 16, 2003

55 percent of women in Golestan Province suffer from mental disorders

Fifty-five percent of women in Golestan Province, northern Iran, suffer from mental disorders. The Province ranks second in the nation in this respect.

In reply to "Sharq" daily's question about the percentage of women faced with disorders Golestan's mayor stated: "Hopefully this staggering figure will shock others too..."

While pointing out to the lack of attention given to the problems women face in Golestan Province, Mohammad Hashem Mihani stated: "One of the problems we are faced with is that these staggering

figures numbers don't seem to move anyone, but we are ready to make changes even without the figures.”

Sedigheh Nasiri, Golestan mayor's assistant on women's affairs also pointed to the social, health, and cultural problems women face in the province, “In their research, members of the province's women's committee have found that women are facing serious problems in the following areas: lack of help from men for solving problems women, unstable physical and mental state, depression, addiction, family break-up, serious shortage of assistance and benefits. This has also had contributed heavily to the high number of suicides and self immolations among girls.”

She added: “In Golestan Province, 9.4 percent of women with specific professions are unemployed, and only 12 percent of those employed are in management positions, which they have attained after enduring great hardship. This situation does not meet today's standards.”

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