



THE FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRATIC ADVANCEMENT

Iran Electoral Fairness Research

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Recent Political History of Iran

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Political background on Iran

Flash back in Iranian history--Iran's path to democracy

Iran is the oldest community and country in world (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_oldest_people_by_nation). Main type of government before 1979 revolution was a kingdom.

Democratic revolutions:

- 1- Constitutional Revolution
- 2- Second stage of Constitutional Revolution
- 3- 1979 Revolution

Constitutional Revolution was the first democratic period in Iran (and Middle East). Iran was controlled by kings before and after Islam. The Revolution was first step to form parliament in country.

It begin with people demonstration and objection to the king and his power. Newspapers and intellectuals also were in the movement. Finally the king under pressure accepted constitutional demands and moved some power to the parliament. It happened on August 5th, 1906. The first parliament opened on 7th of October, 1906. The King died after signing constitutional reform to more parliamentary political system.

Before the First World War, the Russian army interfered in Iran and bombarded the parliament building. The new king cancelled the new parliamentary powers, and a civil war began in Iran. Actually it was a coup against people's revolution.

Pahlavi dynasty that was established in 1921 by Reza Pahlavi, in this era, improved Iran economically, but the parliament and other democratic organizations were weakened. After the Second World War, Reza Pahlavi was forced to leave Iran, and a new age of democracy was began. This era was not so long because Mohamad Reza (son of Reza Pahlavi) attained absolute power in Iran after a coup by CIA. During this period, Mohammad Mosaddegh was prime minister of Iran. He pushed for democracy and made the Iranian national oil company which was previously under the control of England.

After this action, England and United States decided to change the Iranian government. The 1953 Iranian coup d'état (known in Iran as the 28 Mordad coup[1]) was the overthrow of the democratically elected government of Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh on 19 August 1953. The coup was orchestrated by the intelligence agencies of the United Kingdom and the United States under the name Operation Ajax. (*The Ford presidency: a history*. Andrew Downer Crain, p.124.) The coup saw the transition of Mohammad-Rezā Shāh Pahlavi from a constitutional monarch to an authoritarian government which relied heavily on the United States for support. The US backed authoritarian regime was overthrow in February 1979. (*U.S. foreign policy in perspective: clients, enemies and empire*. David Sylvan, Stephen Majeski, p.121.)

B- Iran Revolution in 1979

This period of Iranian political history refers to the events involving the overthrow of [Iran's monarchy](#) (Pahlavi dynasty) under the [Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi](#) and its replacement with an [Islamic republic](#) .

[Demonstrations](#) against the Shah commenced in October 1977, developing into a campaign of [civil resistance](#) that was partly secular and partly religious,(Ervand Abrahamian, 'Mass Protests in the Islamic Revolution, 1977–79', in Adam Roberts and Timothy Garton Ash (eds.), *Civil Resistance and Power Politics: The Experience of Non-violent Action from Gandhi to the Present*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press (2009), pp.162–178.) and intensified in January 1978. Between August and December 1978 [strikes](#) and demonstrations paralysed the country. The Shah left Iran for exile in mid-January 1979, and in the resulting power vacuum, two weeks later Ayatollah Khomeini returned to [Tehran](#) to a greeting by several million Iranians. The royal regime collapsed shortly after on February 11 when [guerrillas](#) and rebel troops overwhelmed troops loyal to the Shah in armed street fighting. Iran voted by national [referendum](#) to become an Islamic Republic on April 1, 1979, and approved a new [theocratic constitution](#).

Unfortunately after two years in September of 1980, Saddam Hussein began a war against Iran that was full supported by Western countries and Arabian nationalists. The war impacted Iran's democratic improvement, and Iranian religious elements took advantage of the war by making Khomeini the supreme power holder in the country (Vali-e Faghih).

The **Iranian reform movement**, or the **Reforms Front**) also known as **2nd of Khordad Front** (which refers to the date of President [Mohammad Khatami](#)'s 1997 landslide election victory in the [Iranian Calendar](#)) is a political movement by a group of political parties and organizations in [Iran](#) who supported [Mohammad Khatami](#)'s plans to change the system to include more freedom and democracy. Iran's "reform era" is sometimes said to have lasted from 1997 to 2005 - the length of President Khatami's two terms in office. This era was a semi democratic after 1979 revolution, but it was omitted from Iranian political history by the Guardian Council.

1. Laws and regulation on equality of political content of media and broadcasters

Main Research Findings:

Public and private media and press must conform to the fundamental principles of Islam and the rights of the public.

Media licenses are denied based on criminal record and convictions of immorality.

All TV and Radio stations are under the control of the supreme leader.

There are no laws that ban TV and Radio stations; however, they are banned through severe censorship.

All publishing such as newspapers, books, and magazines are controlled by the Ministry of Culture, and they must conform to Islam and the Iranian constitution.

The state monitors monthly the circulation of media publications and their finances.

Citizens have the right to reply to publications containing insult, libel and false statements, or criticism of individuals (real or legal persons), free of charge in the same publication and within one month.

Members of the media and press are subject to the following penalties for false information, acting contrary to Islam, slander, violation of public morals, etc., up to 5 years in prison, 75 lashes, up to 6,000,000 Riyal (\$566.00 USD) in fines, and execution for directly insulting Prophet Muhammad.

Government institutions are forbidden from producing and disseminating election propaganda.

Press and publishers are forbidden from publishing articles against a political nominee or disseminating false information about a nominee.

Campaigning through state media is forbidden.

Research Excerpts:

The following excerpts were identified by the FDA researchers as relevant. The FDA researchers made some excerpts bold to emphasis high relevance:

Press Law:

The following excerpts were identified by the FDA researchers as relevant. The FDA researchers made some excerpts bold to emphasis high relevance:

Article 1: In this law, "press" means publications which are published regularly and under a permanent name, date and serial numbers on different subjects such as news, commentary, as well as social, political, economic, agricultural, cultural, religious, scientific, technical, military, and artistic matters, sports, etc.

Note: Extraordinary editions shall be published only by such publications which are published

regularly.

Chapter 2: Mission of the Press

Article 2: The following constitute the objectives of the press in the Islamic Republic of Iran:

a. To enlighten public opinion and increase the level of their knowledge on one or several topics mentioned in Article 1.

b. To advance the objectives outlined in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic.

c. To endeavour to negate the drawing up of false and divisive lines, or, pitting different groups of the community against each other by practices such as dividing people by race, language, customs, local traditions, etc.

d. To campaign against manifestations of imperialistic culture (such as extravagance, dissipation, debauchery, love of luxury, spread of morally corrupt practices, etc.) and to propagate and promote genuine Islamic culture and sound ethical principles.

e. To preserve and strengthen the policy of "Neither East nor West".

Note: Each publication should at least enforce one of the above goals and such a goal must **in no way be in conflict with the other goals specified above or with the principles of the Islamic Republic.**

Chapter 3: Rights of the Press

Article 3: The press have the right to publish the opinions, constructive criticisms, suggestions and explanations of individuals and government officials for public information while duly observing the Islamic teachings and the best interest of the community.

Note: Constructive criticism should be based on logic and reason and void of insult, humiliation and detrimental effects.

Article 4: No government or non-government official should resort to coercive measures against the press to publish an article or essay, or attempt to censure and controlling the press.

Article 5: The press are lawfully permitted to acquire and disseminate domestic and foreign news aimed at enhancing public awareness by taking into consideration the best interests of the community and by observing the provisions of the existing law.

Chapter 4: Limits of the Press

Article 6: The print media are permitted to publish news items except in cases when they violate Islamic principles and codes and public rights as outlined in this chapter:

1. Publishing atheistic articles or issues which are prejudicial to Islamic codes, or, promoting subjects which might damage the foundation of the Islamic Republic;

2. Propagating obscene and religiously forbidden acts and publishing indecent pictures and issues which violate public decency;

3. Propagating luxury and extravagance;

4. Creating discord between and among social walks of life specially by raising ethnic and racial issues;

5. Encouraging and instigating individuals and groups to act against the security, dignity and interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran within or outside the country;

6. Disclosing and publishing classified documents, orders and issues, or, disclosing the secrets of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, military maps and fortifications, publishing closed-door deliberations of the Islamic Consultative Assembly or private proceedings of courts of justice and

investigations conducted by judicial authorities without legal permit;

7. Insulting Islam and its sanctities, or, offending the Leader of the Revolution and recognized religious authorities (senior Islamic jurists);

8. Publishing libel against officials, institutions, organizations and individuals in the country or insulting legal or real persons who are lawfully respected, even by means of pictures or caricatures; and

9. Committing plagiarism or quoting articles from the deviant press, parties and groups which oppose Islam (inside and outside the country) in such a manner as to propagate such ideas (the limits of such offences shall be defined by the executive by-law).

Note: Plagiarism means intentional ascription of all or a considerable part of the works and words of others to one's own, even in the form of translation.

Article 7: The following activities are banned:

a. Printing and publishing a publication without a license and a publication whose license has been cancelled, or, one which has been temporarily or permanently closed down by a court order.

b. Publishing a publication the greatest part of whose items are incongruous to subjects which the applicant has undertaken to publish.

c. Publishing a publication that may be mistaken in name, symbol or format for the existing publications or those which have been temporarily or permanently closed down.

d. Publishing a publication without mentioning the name of its license holder and the legally responsible director or the address of the publication and its printing house.

e. Publishing and printing houses, distribution and sales departments of publications are not permitted to publish and distribute publications which the Press Supervisory Board deems to be in violation of the principle stipulated in this by-law.

Chapter 5: Qualifications of the Applicant and Stages of Issuing a License

Article 8: It is permissible to publish publications under the responsibility of real or legal persons with Iranian capital after obtaining a license from the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance.

Note: Those publications which are published by Islamic liberation movements of other countries may be published with non-Iranian capital and directorship within the framework of the regulations governing expatriates in Iran and upon the approval of the ministries of Islamic Culture and Guidance and Foreign Affairs.

Article 9: A real person who applies for a license must have the following qualifications:

1. Be a citizen of Iran;
2. Be at least 25 years old;
3. Be free of incapacity, or, bankruptcy by fraud or guilt;
4. Be free of moral corruption, or, a record of criminal conviction which, according to the Islamic code, strips him/her of social rights; and
5. He/she must possess at least a bachelor's degree, or, have completed basic seminary education verified by the Press Supervisory Board as mentioned in Article 10 of the by-law.

Note 1: An applicant for a publication license should introduce himself/herself or another qualified person as a legally-responsible director for the publication as outlined in this article.

Note 2: For internal publications published and distributed free of charge by government or private organizations, institutes and companies merely for the information of their employees only a permit from the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance would suffice provided the provisions of Article 2 of this law are observed.

Note 3: One cannot publish more than one publication under a single license.

Note 4: The license holder is responsible for the general policies of the publication and the responsibility for any article published by the publication or any other affairs related to the publication lies with its managing director.

Note 5: Prime ministers, ministers, governors general, army, police and gendarmerie commanders, heads of government departments, managing directors and chairmen of the boards of government companies and banks, Majlis and Senate deputies, ambassadors, governors, mayors, heads of city councils in Tehran and provincial capitals, members of SAVAK (the former Shah's intelligence agency), heads of departments of Rastakhiz Party (of the former regime) in Tehran and provincial capitals and towns, those affiliated to the former regime who held similar posts from 15 Khordad 1342 (June 5, 1963) to 22 Bahman 1357 (Feb. 11, 1979) or those who have publicly spoken in favor of the former regime through the news media, radio or TV, are prohibited from publishing a publication.

Article 10: The Press Supervisory Board shall consist of devoted Muslims who possess the required scientific and moral competence and are committed to the Islamic Revolution as follows:

- a. One of the judges of the state Supreme Court as elected by the Supreme Judiciary Council.
- b. Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance or his fully authorized representative.
- c. A Majlis deputy as elected by the Majlis.
- d. A university professor appointed by the Minister of Culture and Higher Education.
- e. One of the press managing directors as elected by the press.

Note 1: Two months after this law, the Press Supervisory Board shall be formed for a period of two years. For subsequent terms it shall be formed one month before the expiration of the earlier term upon the invitation of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance.

Note 2: The sessions of the Press Supervisory Board shall be considered valid upon the presence of two-thirds of the members and the decisions shall be valid and binding if adopted by the absolute majority.

Note 3: After due investigation, the Press Supervisory Board will forward its comments to the Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance for implementation.

Note 4: The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance is responsible for calling and organizing the election meeting related to paragraph E and, those mentioned in paragraphs A, B and C will have the right to examine and approve the qualifications of the election nominees. This law shall become effective after its ratification (Appendix dated 22 June, 1986).

Article 11: The Press Supervisory Board is responsible for examining applications for press licenses and the competency of the applicant and the managing director.

Article 12: The Press Supervisory Board shall examine press violations directly, or, upon the request of the Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance and, if necessary, it may file written requests for legal proceedings at competent courts.

Article 13: Three months after receiving an application for a press license, the Press Supervisory Board must determine the competence of the applicant or the responsible managing director by close observation of the provisions of the present law and it must announce its acceptance or rejection to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, citing related reasons and evidence. The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance is required to issue a press license to the applicant not

later than two months after receipt of the approval of the Press Supervisory Board.

Article 14: In case a managing director happens to lack the qualifications specified in Article 9, or he/she dies or resigns, the license holder is bound to introduce another qualified managing director within a maximum period of three months to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance. Otherwise his/her publication shall be banned. Meanwhile, as long as the qualification of the managing director has not been approved, the license holder shall be responsible for the publication and the liabilities of the managing director.

Article 15: The Press Supervisory Board shall announce its acceptance or rejection of the managing director within a maximum period of three months after the matter has been forwarded to it by the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance.

Article 16: The license holder is bound to publish his/her intended publication within six months after receipt of his/her license. Otherwise he/she will receive a written warning and a 15-day respite to publish his/her magazine/newspaper. Should, after this warning, the license holder fail to present a plausible excuse for failure to publish, his/her publication license shall be revoked. Meanwhile, failure to regularly publish a publication within a year without plausible excuse, too, shall result in the cancellation of the license (upon the discretion of the Press Supervisory Board).

Note: Publications published on an annual basis (such as year books) shall be exempt from the above ruling but should the license holder fail to publish the magazine after one year his/her license shall be revoked.

Article 17: Licenses issued on the basis of the previous regulations for the existing publications shall continue to be valid provided three months after the enforcement of this law the license holder takes steps to adapt himself/herself with the provisions of this law.

Article 18: Each issue of a publication should bear the name of the license holder, managing director, office address and the address of the printing house where the publication is printed. Moreover, the publication must insert its field of activity (religious, scientific, political, economic, literary, artistic, etc.) and its order of appearance in a fixed page and column. Printing houses are also required to comply with this article.

Article 19: Publications are permitted to publish commercial advertisements for products and services whose qualities have been officially verified by one of the recognized research centers in the country, by complying with the provisions of Article 12 of the regulations covering the establishment and supervision of the method of operation of advertising organizations, and its related paragraphs.

Note: In cases where according to the above article, the press is allowed to publish advertisements including remarks in praise of goods and services, such remarks may go beyond the remarks specified in official commendation letters issued by legal authorities referred to in this article.

Article 20: Every newspaper or magazine must procure sealed ledgers, according to the law, and record all its expenditures and revenues in them and submit an annual balance sheet covering its revenues and expenditures to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance. The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance shall inspect these financial ledgers whenever it deems appropriate.

Note: Every month all publications are required to provide the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance with statistics on their monthly circulation, in writing.

Article 21: Managers of printing houses in Tehran and provincial towns are required to forward two

copies of their publications to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, regularly and free of charge.

Article 22: Entry to and exit from the country of publications shall be in accordance with the basis of religious codes and the Constitutional Law of the Islamic Republic.

The regulations covering entry and exit of publications to and from the country shall be formulated within six months by the Ministry of Islami Culture and Guidance and shall be ratified by the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

Chapter 6: Violations

Article 23: Should a publication publish articles containing insult, libel and false statements, or, criticize individuals (real or legal persons), the concerned party shall have the right to forward a response to the same publication in writing within a period of one month. Upon receipt, the publication is obligated to publish, free of charge, such responses and explanations in one of the two subsequent issues on the same page and column, and in the same font in which the original article had appeared, provided that the response does not exceed double the size of the article and does not insult or libel anybody.

Note 1: If the publication publishes additional matters or explanations beside the complainant's response, the latter has the right to protest again. Meanwhile, publishing a part of the protester's reply in such a manner that it might render the response incomplete or ambiguous, or, adding additional topics to the reply is considered tantamount to non-publishing of the reply and the full text of the response must be published in a single issue.

Note 2: The response received from candidates during elections must be published in the first issue of the publication provided the reply is delivered to the newspaper against receipt at least 6 hours before it goes under print.

Note 3: In case a publication refuses or fails to publish the response, the complainant shall have the right to complain to the public prosecutor. Should the matter be verified by the public prosecutor, he will send a written warning to the publication to publish the reply. However, should such a warning fail to produce the desired effect, the prosecutor shall send the case to the court for action after issuing an order for temporary suspension of the publication in question and such a suspension shall not exceed 10 days.

Article 24: Those persons who publish confidential military documents and orders, and secrets of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), or, maps of military installations and fortifications during war or peace time in the press, shall be handed over to the court for trial according to pertinent regulations.

Article 25: If a person, through the press, expressly and overtly instigates and encourages people to commit crimes against the domestic security or foreign policies of the state, as specified in the public penal code, and should his/her action bear adverse consequences, he/she shall be prosecuted and condemned as an accomplice in that crime. However, if no evidence is found on such consequences he/she shall be subject to a decision of the religious judge according to Islamic penal code.

Article 26: Whoever insults Islam and its sanctities through the press and his/her guilt amounts to

apostasy, shall be sentenced as an apostate and should his/her offense fall short of apostasy he/she shall be subject to the Islamic penal code.

Article 27: Should a publication insult the Leader or Council of Leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran or senior religious authorities (top Islamic jurists), the license of the publication shall be revoked and its managing director and the writer of the insulting article shall be referred to competent courts for punishment.

Note: Attending to crimes mentioned in articles 24, 25, 26 and 27 need not be based on a complaint by a private party.

Article 28: Publication of indecent pictures and materials that offend public decency is prohibited and is subject to Islamic punishment and insistence on publishing such pictures and materials would lead to tougher punishment and cancellation of the publication's license.

Article 29: Publication of closed-door deliberations of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) and courts of justice, or, of investigations conducted by intelligence and judiciary authorities disclosure of which is forbidden by law, is prohibited. Should a publication violate this ruling it shall be treated by the Islamic penal code and by a religious judge.

Article 30: Publication of any article containing slander and libel and use of invective language and derogatory allegations, etc. against individuals is prohibited and the guilty managing director shall be referred to judiciary authorities for punishment. Legal proceedings would follow if, the injured party lodges a complaint against such offenses. However, should the complainant withdraw his/her complaint the prosecution would stop at whatever stage it might be.

Note 1: In the above circumstances the complainant (real or legal person) may lodge a complaint at a competent court and demand compensation for the damage inflicted on him/her as a result of publication of an offensive article and the court should attend to the complaint and issue a proper judgment.

Note 2: If the said publication offends a dead person but the offense also affects the survivors of the deceased, each of the legal heirs of the dead person may file a complaint, according to the above article and note, from penal and legal points of view.

Article 31: Publication of articles that threaten to harm or disgrace a person or disclose his/her confidential affairs is prohibited and the guilty managing director shall be introduced to judiciary authorities and punished according to the Islamic penal code.

Note: With regards to articles 30 and 31, as long as the matter is under investigation the publication has no right to publish anything about the issue under investigation. In case of violation, the public prosecutor must issue an order for the temporary suspension of the publication before the investigation is completed. The suspension shall cover the first issue after receipt of the court order and should the publication repeat the offense the court shall ban the publication as long as the court has not issued its ruling.

Article 32: If an individual falsely introduces himself/herself as a license holder or managing director of a publication, or, attempts to publish a paper without a license, he/she shall be prosecuted by a religious judge.

The provisions of this article also apply to those license holders whose licenses have been revoked

by the law or those managing directors of the press who have been stripped of their position by the law.

Article 33: Should a publication falsely imitate the name or emblem of another publication even with slight changes in the original logo or name in such a way which may mislead the reader, it shall be banned and the offender shall be handed over to an Islamic court. Prosecution and punishment of such an offense is subject to a complaint by an injured private party.

Article 34: Crimes attributed to the press shall be examined by competent courts in the presence of a jury.

Article 35: The executive by-law of the present law shall be prepared within a maximum period of six months by the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance and shall be ratified by the Council of Ministers.

Article 36: Upon the ratification of this law all contrary regulations shall be considered as null and void and the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance shall be responsible for its execution. The above law consisting of 36 articles and 23 notes was ratified in the open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) on Thursday March 13, 1986, and by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution on March 17, 1986.

Executive By-law of the Press Law Ratified in March 1986

Chapter 1: Definition and Specifications of the Press

Article 1: In terms of regular publication timetable, the press may be published in the following intervals:

Once in a day (daily), once in a week (weekly), once in two weeks (biweekly), once a month (monthly), once in two months (bimonthly), once in three months (quarterly), twice a year (biannual) and once a year (annual).

Article 2: When naming a publication the publisher must use such words which would prevent the publication from being mistaken with the existing publications or with those which have been closed down temporarily or permanently and the name should not bring to mind the latter group of publications. Also the name of the publication must not be strange and should not create the assumption that the publication is dependent on revolutionary and government organs.

Article 3: Adoption of any methods other than those specified in Article 1 of the Press Law must conform to the mission of the press.

Article 4: Extraordinary publication of special issues and supplements in the name of the same publication and in compliance with other specifications cited in the publisher's license, is permissible provided the publisher observes the provisions of the Press Law.

Note: Such supplements cannot be published regularly.

Article 5: Translation of all or part of materials published by licensed publications and separate and regular publication of such materials is permissible provided the publisher observes his/her other commitments indicated in the license.

Article 6: Offset or Xerox reproduction of a publication in the same printed language and format

without the permission of the license holder is prohibited.

Article 7: Materials published in a publication must conform to the methods and requirements specified in the license of the publisher and the publication is not allowed to publish matters and articles which go beyond those methods and requirements and may affect its general policies and objectives.

Article 8: While observing the provisions of Article 2 of the Press Law and in compliance with the demanded method, local dailies and weeklies are obliged to publish materials about the social and cultural issues of the place of publication, in order to enhance public awareness.

Article 9: It is permitted to quote from aberrant or anti-Islamic (domestic and foreign) publications, groupings and parties for research, criticism or rejection of their viewpoints provided this would not be tantamount to publicity for them.

Article 10: No change is permissible in the specifications cited in a license, such as change of name, method, order and place of publication, or a change in the format of the publication prior to informing the Press Supervisory Board and obtaining its approval.

Chapter 2: Requirements for Issuance of License and Permit for Publications

Article 11: Applicants for publication license must submit their application by completing a questionnaire covering the particulars of the applicant, his/her social, political, cultural, and professional background and legal commitments along with the following documents to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance in Tehran or to the Ministry's provincial offices:

1. Four 4 x 6 photos
2. Two photocopies of all the pages of the birth certificate;
3. A non-penal conviction certificate showing the applicant has not committed any act which has led to his deprivation of the social rights according to the Islamic codes; and
4. A photocopy of the application's latest educational certificate confirmed by the related departments

Article 12: In case the applicant for a publication license is a legal person, the request for the license should be coupled with a letter of introduction by the highest official in the related organization introducing a qualified managing director. In case of approval, the license shall be issued in the name of the center that has requested the license.

Article 13: Political associations, parties, organizations, and religious minorities may apply for a publication license provided that they have a legal permit for operation.

Article 14: The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance may examine and issue publication licenses to Islamic liberation organizations of other countries within the framework of regulations governing foreigners residing in Iran, after inquiring the opinion of related departments, collecting necessary documents and soliciting the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Article 15: A government or private organization, institute or company may publish an internal bulletin after receiving a license from the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance by observing the following requirements:

1. The application for the bulletin must be made by the highest authority in the organization and it should include the name of the managing director.
2. Articles and news must be mainly related to the applicant's objectives and duties and the bulletin must be published only for the use of the concerned employees.

3. The cover of the bulletin must be plain and no more than two colors should be used in it.
4. The number of its pages must not exceed 48.
5. The bulletin must be distributed free of charge.

Note 1: (Deleted on September 20, 1987.)

Note 2: The issuance of licenses for government organizations is subject to the observation of other pertinent regulations.

Article 16: (Deleted on September 20, 1987).

Article 17: The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance shall issue a license for the license holder and an identification card for the managing director of the publication.

Article 18: The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance may conduct necessary investigations for implementation of the provisions of Article 11 of the Press Law and report the findings to the Press Supervisory Board. The related ministries and organs are also required to collaborate with the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance in this connection.

Article 19: Applicants disqualified by the Press Supervisory Board based on paragraph 4 or Note 5 of Article 9 of the Press Law are not permitted to reapply for publishing a publication.

Article 20: The official date of registration of an application for publication license shall be the date when all the required documents are submitted by the applicant.

Article 21: In case of death of the license holder, his/her legal qualified heirs shall have the priority to reapply for the license unless they lack the required qualifications. Should the heirs fail to apply for renewal of the license (in their own name) during the term specified in Article 16 of the Press Law, or, fail to publish the publication after obtaining the renewed license, their license shall be revoked. (Reformed on 17/9/1987)

Chapter 3: Issues the Press (License Holders and Managing Directors) Are Obligated to Observe:

Article 22: Publications printed in the form of daily newspapers are required to insert their full name, the order and date of publishing, serial and page numbers on top of each page and the price of the newspaper on the front page. Also publications printed in the form of magazines are required to insert their full name, the order and date of the magazine's publication, serial number, the number of pages and the price of the magazine on the cover and insert page numbers on all pages.

Note: Adding any words or phrases to the name or emblem of the publication other than those specified in the publication license or printing license is prohibited.

Article 23: Each publication must possess a place as an office. The holder of a publication license is required to notify in writing the address of his/her publication to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance after obtaining his/her license.

Note: The license holder is required to notify in writing the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance in Tehran or the Ministry's provincial offices within 48 hours after change of address of his/her publication.

Article 24: All correspondence bearing the signature of the license holder or managing director of the publication or any other person introduced to the Ministry in writing and in advance by the

license holder, shall be considered as valid. Where the Press Law and its executive by-law stipulate that correspondence must be signed by the license holder or managing director of the publication, letters signed by another person they may introduce, shall not be valid.

Article 25: All publications are required to separately indicate their circulation number and the number of unsold copies in the required form, specifying places of distribution, and forward it to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance which shall regard the data as confidential.

Article 26: The managing director of the publication is obligated to announce to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance in writing, the name of the printing house he/she has concluded a contract with.

Article 27: The managers of printing houses are required to submit two copies of each publication, simultaneously with the completion of the printing process, to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance in Tehran or to the Ministry's provincial offices against a receipt.

Article 28: In case of the cancellation of license of a publication in writing by the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, the license holder is required to return documents he has obtained, such as publication license, managing director's card and press cards given to its reporters, within a period of 10 days. Those who abuse these documents shall be dealt with according to the law.

Chapter 4: Other Regulations

Article 29: The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance must avail of competent and qualified centres for examination of specialized publications.

Article 30: By publishing a notice in mass circulation dailies three months before the expiration of the term of the Press Supervisory Board, the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance shall invite the managing directors of publications to nominate themselves as candidates for the Press Supervisory Board and after the verification of their qualifications by the board members specified in Note 4 of Article 10 of the Press Law it shall again invite all press managing directors to participate in the elections. Such a meeting shall become valid when participated in by the majority of the press managing directors; voting shall take place by secret ballots and he who receives an absolute majority shall be elected as the press representative in the Press Supervisory Board.

Note 1: If the majority fail to attend in the first stage, the next meeting shall take place two weeks later. That meeting shall be official with the presence of one third of the managing directors.

Iranian Constitution:

Article 24

Publications and the press have freedom of expression except when it is detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam or the rights of the public. The details of this exception will be specified by law.

Article 93 [Mandatory Formation]

The Islamic Consultative Assembly does not hold any legal status if there is no Guardian Council in existence, except for the purpose of approving the credentials of its members and the election of the six jurists on the Guardian Council.

Article 94 [Review of Legislation]

All legislation passed by the Islamic Consultative Assembly must be sent to the Guardian Council. The Guardian Council must review it within a maximum of ten days from its receipt with a view to ensuring its compatibility with the criteria of Islam and the Constitution. If it finds the legislation incompatible, it will return it to the Assembly for review. Otherwise the legislation will be deemed enforceable.

Article 175

The freedom of expression and dissemination of thoughts in the Radio and Television of the Islamic Republic of Iran must be guaranteed in keeping with the Islamic' criteria and the best interests of the country. The appointment and dismissal of the head of the Radio and Television of the Islamic Republic of Iran rests with the Leader. A council consisting of two representatives each of the President, the head of the judiciary branch and the Islamic Consultative Assembly shall supervise the functioning of this organization. The policies and the manner of managing the organization and its supervision will be determined by law.

Islamic Penal Code:

Article 513- Anyone who insults the Islamic sanctities or any of the *imams* or her excellency *Sadigheh Tahereh* should be executed if his insult equals to speaking disparagingly of Prophet Muhammad. Otherwise, should be imprisoned from one to five years.

Article 514- Anyone who somehow insults the founder of Islamic Republic of Iran – Khomeini, or the Supreme

Leader of the country should be sentenced to imprisonment from six months to two years.

Article 515- Anyone who attempts at lives of the Spiritual Leader or any of the leaders of the three branches of the government should be sentenced to imprisonment from three to ten years.

Chapter 15- Personal Insults

Article 608- Insulting, such as swearing, or using profane language, if not punished based on the *haad* of malicious accusations, should be punished by flogging up to 74 lashes or a fine of 50,000 to 1,000,000 Ryal.

Article 609- Anyone who insults any of the leaders of the three branches of the government, or presidential deputies, or ministers, or any of the members of the parliament, or any of the staff of the ministries, or any other state employees, while they are at duty, should be punished by imprisonment from three to six months or flogging (74 lashes) or a fine of 50,000 to 1,000,000 Ryal.

Chapter 18- Offenses against Public Moral

Article 639 – The following people should be imprisoned from one to ten years, and in the case of category (a) the property should be confiscated according to decision of the court.

a) anyone who manages a property where activities against public moral take place;

b) anyone who encourages people to violate public moral;

Article 640 – The following people should be imprisoned from three months to one year and pay a fine of 1,500,000 to 6,000,000, and also be flogged up to 74 lashes, or any of these punishments.

c) anyone who publicizes any picture, text, photo, drawing, article, newsletter, newspaper, movie, or

any
other thing that violates public morals;
d) anyone who is included in the circulation of the above items;
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Chapter 27- Libels and Revilements

Article 697- Anyone who through any printed press or any other media falsely accuses some one of an offense or crime should be sentenced to imprisonment from one month to one year or flogging up to 74 lashes (unless the punishment is specified in *haads*).

Article 698 – Anyone who in order to hurt some one else or to disturb public mentality or the officials publishes false information in the form of letter, or complaint, or report, or any other press, should be imprisoned from two months to two years or be flogged 74 lashes.

Article 700 – Anyone who publicizes satiristis materials should be imprisoned from one to six months.

Election Act:

Note 2:

The publications and press belonging to organizations, ministries, offices and institutes mentioned in this article, shall have not the right to propagandize for election nominees even by publication of notice.

Article 64:

Press and publishers have not the right to publish articles against the nominees or publish false information culminating in withdrawal of a group of voters; in any case, the nominees have right to give their responses within 18 hours after publication and the publishers shall publish it immediately according to press law. If the response is not published, the publisher shall be responsible to send the nominee's response to a similar publisher for publication in its first periodical. Publication of such materials otherwise is forbidden and the nominee has right to publish his/her objection.

2. Laws and regulations on equality of candidate and party influence

Main Research Findings:

Political content must conform to Islam and the Iranian constitution.

The establishment and activity of political parties are limited by Iranian laws.

Political parties and their members must conform to the Islamic Republic of Iran and its constitution.

Members of political parties must conform to Islam and the Supreme leader by accepting the Iranian Constitution.

Guardian Council authorizes the nomination of political candidates.

Islamic Consultative Assembly determines the six jurists on the Guardian Council. The Guardian Council determines whether or not legislation from the Consultative Assembly will become laws. Islam and the Iranian *Constitution* guide the Guardian Council.

Political content of public and private TV and Radio must conform to Islam and be in the best interest of the country. The state through the Radio and Television of the Islamic Republic of Iran determines what is in the best interest of Iran and whether or not a TV or Radio's content is consistent with Islam.

Zoroastrians, Jews, Assyrian, Chaldean Christians, and Armenian Christians are entitled to one representative each in the 290 seat Islamic Consultative Assembly.

Iranian citizens are subject to the following penalties for false information, acting contrary to Islam, slander, violation of public morals, etc., up to 5 years in prison, 75 lashes, up to 6,000,000 Riyal (\$566.00 USD) in fines, and execution for directly insulting Prophet Muhammad.

The president must be Iranian origin; Iranian nationality; administrative capacity and resourcefulness; a good past-record; trustworthiness and piety; convinced belief in the fundamental principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the official madhhab of the country

Political parties must conform to the principles and goals of the Islamic republic, and not act in anyway against the Islamic republic.

The state regulates public marches and assemblies.

All members of the dissolved SAVAK (former shah's intelligence service), Freemasons, and those who, during the time interval between Aug. 19, 1952 and Feb. 11, 1979, held ministerial posts or were members of the Senate or the National Consultative Assembly, organizers of the former regime and Rastakhiz Party and those who were or are being, deprived of social rights by virtue of verdicts of courts and Islamic criteria, are barred from establishing political parties and societies or taking part in their leadership board and presidium.

Founders of groups including political parties must not have adverse record according to the Party Law or a bad penal record and not be deprived of social rights.

Campaigning restricted to 8 days before election and campaigning must stop 24 hours before Election Day.

Candidate and supporters are not allowed to campaign against other candidates.

Campaigning through government media is forbidden.

Research Excerpts:

The following excerpts were identified by the FDA researchers as relevant. The FDA researchers made some excerpts bold to emphasis high relevance:

Article 4: Parties and their members should be obligate to Islamic Republic of Iran and its constitution.

Article 28: Members should be : 1- obligate theoretically and practically to Islam 2- Obligate to Supreme leader (Vali-e Faghih) 3- accepting constitution 4- well known 5- they should be member of one party.

Article 29: Income of party will prepare by remembrance fee, people donations and other legal incomes.

Article 32: If a party cancel, all assets of party will transfer to the supreme leader.
Organizations that held election

1-The Ministry of Interior is responsible for performing, supervising, and reporting elections.
2-Guardian Council has complete authority for accepting or rejecting nominees. This action ended the reformist movement after 2003-2005 presidential and parliamentary election.

Iranian Constitution:

Article 26

The formation of parties, societies, political or professional associations, as well as religious societies, whether Islamic or pertaining to one of the recognized religious minorities, is permitted provided they do not violate the principles of independence, freedom, national unity, the criteria of Islam, or the basis of the Islamic republic. No one may be prevented from participating in the aforementioned groups, or be compelled to participate in them.

Article 62

The Islamic consultative Assembly is constituted by the representatives of the people elected directly and by secret ballot. The qualifications of voters and candidates, as well as the nature of election, will be specified by law.

Article 64

There are to be two hundred seventy members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly which, keeping in view the human, political, geographic and other similar factors, may increase by not more than twenty for each ten-year period from the date of the national referendum of the year 1368 of the solar Islamic calendar. The Zoroastrians and Jews will each elect one representative; Assyrian and Chaldean Christians will jointly elect one representative; and Armenian Christians in the north and those in the south of the country will each elect one representative. The limits of the election constituencies and the number of representatives will be determined by law.

Article 115

The President must be elected from among religious and political personalities possessing the following qualifications: Iranian origin; Iranian nationality; administrative capacity and resourcefulness; a good past-record; trustworthiness and piety; convinced belief in the fundamental principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the official madhhab of the country.

Party Law:

Article 1: Political parties, associations, societies and organizations, and such like, are organizations which have articles of association and which have been established by real persons believing in certain essential policies and ideals and whose objectives, behaviors and programs are somehow related to the administration of the state and general policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Article 16: The groups covered by this law should refrain from the following cases and matters in their publications, assemblies and other activities:

A- Committing acts which may violate independence of the state.

B- Any kinds of contacts, exchange of information and collusion with embassies, legations, government organs and parties of foreign countries, at any level and in any form, which may be harmful and injurious to freedom, independence and national unity and interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

C- Receiving any kind of financial and logistical assistance from foreigners.

D- Violation of legitimate freedom of others.

E- Resorting to accusations, slander and rumor mongering.

F- Violation of national unity and perpetration of some acts such as planning to disintegrate the country.

G- Making efforts to create and intensify the division within ranks of the nation, using various cultural, religious and racial grounds existing in the society of Iran.

H- Violating Islamic standards and the basis of the Islamic Republic.

I- Anti-Islamic propaganda and publication of seditious books and literature.

J- Hiding, keeping and carrying unauthorized arms and ammunitions.

Article 17: If the organizational activities of a group give rise to the violations mentioned in Article 16, then the Commission can act according to the following details, as the case may be:

1- Written reminder.

2- Notice.

3- Seizure and cancellation of license.

4- Request its dissolution from the court.

Article 6: Groups are free to engage in activities, provided they do not violate the rules mentioned in Article 16 of this Law.

Note 1: All groups are required to inform the Ministry of the Interior about their platform, doctrine and articles of association as well as their succeeding changes.

Note 2: It is free to hold marches or assemblies in public parks and squares without carrying arms, having obtained authorization from the Ministry of the

Interior in advance provided that, at the discretion of the Article 10 Commission, it does not disturb the foundations of Islam.

Article 7: All members of the dissolved SAVAK (former shah's intelligence service), Freemasons, and those who, during the time interval between Aug. 19, 1952 and Feb. 11, 1979, held ministerial posts or were members of the Senate or the National Consultative Assembly, organizers of the former regime and Rastakhiz Party and those who were or are being, deprived of social rights by virtue of verdicts of courts and Islamic criteria, are barred from establishing political parties and societies or taking part in their leadership board and presidium.

Article 2: The founders of the group (founding board) are real persons who possess the following conditions:

- A- Absence of adverse records as contained in Article 7 of the Parties Law
- B- Having a minimum of 25 (full) years.
- C- Being bound to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- D- Iranian citizenship.
- E- **Not having bad penal record and not being deprived of social rights.**

Article 40: The articles of association of the society of religious minorities must, in addition to the conditions stipulated in Note 3, Article 3 of the Executive Regulations of the Parties Law, contain the following points:

- A- Relations between the society and other religious minorities.
- B- Relations between the society and other political groups and parties of the country.
- C- Relations between the society and co-religious people in other countries.
- D- Relations between the society and foreign co-religious individuals residing in Iran.
- E- Relations between the society and Iranian co-religious individuals residing abroad.

Islamic Penal Code:

Article 513- Anyone who insults the Islamic sanctities or any of the *imams* or her excellency *Sadigheh Tahereh* should be executed if his insult equals to speaking disparagingly of Prophet Muhammad. Otherwise, should be imprisoned from one to five years.

Article 514- Anyone who somehow insults the founder of Islamic Republic of Iran – Khomeini, or the Supreme Leader of the country should be sentenced to imprisonment from six months to two years.

Article 515- Anyone who attempts at lives of the Spiritual Leader or any of the leaders of the three branches of the government should be sentenced to imprisonment from three to ten years.

Chapter 15- Personal Insults

Article 608- Insulting, such as swearing, or using profane language, if not punished based on the *haad* of malicious accusations, should be punished by flogging up to 74 lashes or a fine of 50,000 to 1,000,000 Ryal.

Article 609- Anyone who insults any of the leaders of the three branches of the government, or presidential deputies, or ministers, or any of the members of the parliament, or any of the staff of the ministries, or any other state employees, while they are at duty, should be punished by imprisonment from three to six months or flogging (74 lashes) or a fine of 50,000 to 1,000,000

Ryal.

Chapter 18- Offenses against Public Moral

Article 639 – The following people should be imprisoned from one to ten years, and in the case of category (a) the property should be confiscated according to decision of the court.

a) anyone who manages a property where activities against public moral take place;

b) anyone who encourages people to violate public moral;

Article 640 – The following people should be imprisoned from three months to one year and pay a fine of 1,500,000 to 6,000,000, and also be flogged up to 74 lashes, or any of these punishments.

c) anyone who publicizes any picture, text, photo, drawing, article, newsletter, newspaper, movie, or any

other thing that violates public morals;

d) anyone who is included in the circulation of the above items;

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Chapter 27- Libels and Revilements

Article 697- Anyone who through any printed press or any other media falsely accuses some one of an offense or crime should be sentenced to imprisonment from one month to one year or flogging up to 74 lashes (unless the punishment is specified in *haads*).

Article 698 – Anyone who in order to hurt some one else or to disturb public mentality or the officials publishes false information in the form of letter, or complaint, or report, or any other press, should be imprisoned from two months to two years or be flogged 74 lashes.

Article 700 – Anyone who publicizes satiristis materials should be imprisoned from one to six months.

Election Act:

Article 2:

The number of Islamic Consultative Assembly members shall be 290 persons and its increase shall be subject to Article 64 of the Constitution.

Note: 5 of 290 members of the Parliament are the deputies of religious minorities, as below:

Zoroastrians and Jews each one member, one member for Assyrian and Caldean Christians, One member for each Armenian Christians of north and south.

Article 28:

The candidates shall hold the following particulars when they are nominated:

1. Believing and practically binding to the Islamic Republic of Iran
2. Iranian Nationality
3. Binding to the Constitutions and Absolute Religious Guardianship
4. Holding at least Associate Degree of its equivalent
5. Having no bad reputation in the elections station
6. Physical Health at the extent of being able to see, hear and speak
7. At least aged 30 and at most aged 75

Note 1: The religious minorities candidates are not obliged to believe in Islam (item 1) but their own religion.

Article 30:

The followings are deprived from the Membership of Islamic Consultative Assembly:

1. 1- Those who have played a great role in stabilization or the former regime.
2. Landholders who have registered wastelands under their own titles
3. Organizations and groups whose illegibility has been declared by the competent authorities.
4. The convicted opponents of Islamic Republic of Iran
5. Those who have convicted to apostasy by the competent judiciary courts
6. Reputable for corruption and notorious for debauchery
7. Convicted persons to the religious penance, unless their repentance has been proved.
8. Smugglers of narcotic drugs and addicted persons
9. Interdicted persons and those who are subject to the Article 49 of the Constitutions, as per the judgment of court
10. Former regime attaché including the members of city societies and freemasonry caucus attaché and members of directors boards of Rastakhiz and Iran Novin factions as well as their active members, the members of senate parliaments, National Council and Savak members.
11. Persons convicted of fraud , treachery, embezzlement, receiving bribe, usurpation of others assets or properties and financial misuse by the competent judiciary court.

Chapter 6 - Campaigning:

Article 56:

Campaigning activity of candidates shall start 8 days before election (first and second phases) and shall discontinue 24 hours before the start of the election.

Article 57:

Using any placard, tract, wall writing and propaganda shows as well as mobile speakers outside the speaking hall and the like except photos at most in two forms, speech materials, questions and reply from the side of election candidates and their fans, is not allowed. The violators shall be sentenced to 3 to 30 days imprisonment.

Note: Commenting of political characters in approving the candidates is permissible provided without specifying the title and liability of them and the relevant document signed by them has been submitted to the executive board of election.

Article 58:

Nobody has right to remove and destroy the campaign posters within the legal time and such action shall be deemed as offence.

Article 59:

Any campaign activity, after official announcement of nominees, through media, Friday pray rostrum or any other means, which are official and governmental, activity of employees during working hours and also using other means of ministries, offices, public companies and institutes affiliated to the government, municipality and other organizations which use public budget (to any extent) and also providing such means and facilities are forbidden and shall be considered as offence.

Note 1:

The institutes and organizations the assets of which are from public properties, such as Mostazafan foundation are subject to this Article.

Note 2:

The publications and press belonging to organizations, ministries, offices and institutes mentioned in this article, shall have not the right to propagandize for election nominees even by publication of notice.

Article 65:

The candidates and their fans are not allowed to campaign against other candidates. They can only express their eligibilities and any disrespect towards nominees in public is forbidden and the offenders shall be punished.

3. Laws and regulations on equality of electoral finance

Main Research Findings:

The FDA found no laws and regulations on electoral finance.

Candidates and parties have no electoral spending limits.

Citizens and legal entities have no donation and electoral spending limits.

Political content must conform to Islam and the Iranian constitution.

Political parties must conform to Islam and the Iranian constitution.

Iranian citizens are subject to the following penalties for false information, acting contrary to Islam, slander, violation of public morals, etc., up to 5 years in prison, 75 lashes, up to 6,000,000 Riyal (\$566.00 USD) in fines, and execution for directly insulting Prophet Muhammad.

Research Excerpts:

See research excerpts above from: 2. Laws and regulations on influence of candidates and parties.

4. Laws and regulations on equality of voter say

Main Research Findings:

Political content must conform to Islam and the Iranian constitution.

Political parties, societies, professional associations, religious societies etc. must conform to Islam and the Iranian constitution.

Iranian citizens are subject to the following penalties for false information, acting contrary to Islam, slander, violation of public morals, etc., up to 5 years in prison, 75 lashes, up to 6,000,000 Riyal (\$566.00 USD) in fines, and execution for directly insulting Prophet Muhammad.

Marches, public gatherings, and assemblies are regulated by the state and must support Islam. (“not be detrimental to Islam”)

Societies of religious minorities are regulated by the state; these societies must state their political relationships in society etc.

Election polls are carried out in prisons, garrisons, and hospitals.

Campaign materials such as posters are regulated in the public.

Candidate and supporters are not allowed to campaign against other candidates.

Research Excerpts:

The following excerpts were identified by the FDA researchers as relevant. The FDA researchers made some excerpts bold to emphasis high relevance:

Iranian Constitution:

Article 19

All people of Iran, whatever the ethnic group or tribe to which they belong, enjoy equal rights; and color, race, language, and the like, do not bestow any privilege.

Article 20

All citizens of the country, both men and women, equally enjoy the protection of the law and enjoy all human, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, in conformity with Islamic criteria.

Article 26

The formation of parties, societies, political or professional associations, as well as religious societies, whether Islamic or pertaining to one of the recognized religious minorities, is permitted provided they do not violate the principles of independence, freedom, national unity, the criteria of Islam, or the basis of the Islamic republic. No one may be prevented from participating in the aforementioned groups, or be compelled to participate in them.

Article 27

Public gatherings and marches may be freely held, provided arms are not carried and that they are not detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam.

Party Law:

Article 1: Political parties, associations, societies and organizations, and such like, are organizations which have articles of association and which have been established by real persons believing in certain essential policies and ideals and whose objectives, behaviors and programs are somehow related to the administration of the state and general policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Article 16: The groups covered by this law should refrain from the following cases and matters in their publications, assemblies and other activities:

A- Committing acts which may violate independence of the state.

B- Any kinds of contacts, exchange of information and collusion with embassies, legations, government organs and parties of foreign countries, at any level and in any form, which may be harmful and injurious to freedom, independence and national unity and interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

C- Receiving any kind of financial and logistical assistance from foreigners.

D- Violation of legitimate freedom of others.

E- Resorting to accusations, slander and rumor mongering.

F- Violation of national unity and perpetration of some acts such as planning to disintegrate the country.

G- Making efforts to create and intensify the division within ranks of the nation, using various cultural, religious and racial grounds existing in the society of Iran.

H- Violating Islamic standards and the basis of the Islamic Republic.

I- Anti-Islamic propaganda and publication of seditious books and literature.

J- Hiding, keeping and carrying unauthorized arms and ammunitions.

Article 17: If the organizational activities of a group give rise to the violations mentioned in Article 16, then the Commission can act according to the following details, as the case may be:

1- Written reminder.

2- Notice.

3- Seizure and cancellation of license.

4- Request its dissolution from the court.

Article 6: Groups are free to engage in activities, provided they do not violate the rules mentioned in Article 16 of this Law.

Note 1: All groups are required to inform the Ministry of the Interior about their platform, doctrine and articles of association as well as their succeeding changes.

Note 2: It is free to hold marches or assemblies in public parks and squares without carrying arms, having obtained authorization from the Ministry of the Interior in advance provided that, at the discretion of the Article 10 Commission, it does not disturb the foundations of Islam.

Article 31: For organizing marches or forming assemblies and gatherings the group is required to submit an undertaking to the Ministry of the Interior that it would not carry arms and would not disturb the basis of Islam and security.

Article 40: The articles of association of the society of religious minorities must, in addition to the conditions stipulated in Note 3, Article 3 of the Executive

Regulations of the Parties Law, contain the following points:

A- Relations between the society and other religious minorities.

B- Relations between the society and other political groups and parties of the country.

C- Relations between the society and co-religious people in other countries.

D- Relations between the society and foreign co-religious individuals residing in Iran.

E- Relations between the society and Iranian co-religious individuals residing abroad.

Islamic Penal Code:

Article 513- Anyone who insults the Islamic sanctities or any of the *imams* or her excellency *Sadigheh Tahereh* should be executed if his insult equals to speaking disparagingly of Prophet Muhammad. Otherwise, should be imprisoned from one to five years.

Article 514- Anyone who somehow insults the founder of Islamic Republic of Iran – Khomeini, or the Supreme Leader of the country should be sentenced to imprisonment from six months to two years.

Article 515- Anyone who attempts at lives of the Spiritual Leader or any of the leaders of the three branches of the government should be sentenced to imprisonment from three to ten years.

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Article 700 – Anyone who publicizes satiristis materials should be imprisoned from one to six months.

Election Act:

Note 1: Polling votes in jails, garrisons and hospitals shall be carried out only by the presentation of birth certificate.

Article 28:

The candidates shall hold the following particulars when they are nominated:

8. Believing and practically binding to the Islamic Republic of Iran
9. Iranian Nationality
- 10. Binding to the Constitutions and Absolute Religious Guardianship**
11. Holding at least Associate Degree of its equivalent
12. Having no bad reputation in the elections station
13. Physical Health at the extent of being able to see, hear and speak
14. At least aged 30 and at most aged 75

Note 1: The religious minorities candidates are not obliged to believe in Islam (item 1) but their own religion.

Article 61:

Sticking of notice, photo, poster and any propaganda on the signs of traffic control signs of hospitals, schools and other educational institutes and also the signs erected in public streets by the government sector and the affiliates of the government and post boxes, telephone booth, power and telephone panels, panels and real estates of private sector is not allowed unless by permission of the owners. The offenders shall be prosecuted by the police officers and shall be handed over to judicial authorities. Governor Generals shall eliminate such papers otherwise it shall be considered as offence.

Article 62:

Any notice and propaganda shall be removed from the place of polling station before the election.

Article 65:

The candidates and their fans are not allowed to campaign against other candidates. They can only express their eligibilities and any disrespect towards nominees in public is forbidden and the offenders shall be punished.

Information Sources:

Press Law in Iran

Press Law (Ratified on March 19, 1986)

Executive By-law (January 31, 1987)

Party Law

Election Act of Islamic Consultative Assembly (1999)

Iranian Constitution

Islamic Penal Code