



Medical Support Association for Underprivileged Iranian Patients

UPR submission

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United States of America

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About Us:

1. The Medical Support Association for Underprivileged Iranian Patients began its activities in 2016 with the aim of information dissemination, awareness raising, prevention, diagnostic-treatment equipment and support for patients with low income. At the international level stressing on the presentation of services to needy and impoverished patients in Iran, this Association supports conducting treatment and medical services and has set its objective on “diagnostic-treatment and care services for patients who should not be delayed services because of poverty.”
2. This is an Association that is non-political nongovernmental and non-profit which is run through the valued efforts of charitable individuals and with reliance on the participation and support of various groups of society through moral and financial support.
3. This Association, alongside God’s guidance, with a leaning on accepting responsibility, with a good intention attitude made up of individuals with empathy and functioning, especially experts and philosophers endeavours to create a safe and full of kindness environment for the elimination of the needs of impoverished patients. The behavioural model of the Association is based on respect to high human values and attention to various issues for the reduction of the pain and suffering of patients, reduction of physical and mental effects of those with incurable diseases, at individual, family and social levels, promote the quality of the livelihood of the patients and move towards reduction of contracting diseases with the aim of social development and evolution.
4. In this path, the objectives and programmes of the Association in various areas of treatment, research, education and prevention include;
 - Help in speeding up presentation of medical and treatment services
 - Raise the awareness and knowledge of individuals of society
 - Treatment, financial and psychological support for needy cancer patients and their families in different levels
 - Planning, investment and support for preventive and treatment research of types of incurable diseases

- Reduction in the cancer growth rate through public awareness and education on various cancer types prevention
- Preparation of opportunities to optimise diagnosis and treatment of various diseases in paediatrics, anchology, ophthalmology, ear throat and nose, neurosurgery, orology, angiography, and heart surgery, skin and hair etc. in various regions with through setting up and or equipping specialised medical centres.
- Presentation of medical and psychological consultations to incurable diseases patients and their families throughout treatment period.
- Efforts to control cancer in Iran and other countries
- Cooperation with organizations and various domestic and international centres to provide information and expand the cancer prevention culture through holding seminars, preparation and distribution of specialised pamphlets and journals for the public, media advertisement and screening.
- Cooperation and links with relevant international organizations and circles to utilise their expertise and financial assistance towards the objectives of the Association and eradication of cancer in Iran and deprived countries.
- Supervision of the implementation of hospital and treatment centre constructions, provision of medical equipment domestically and internationally, preparation and distribution of medicines and also treatment of cancer patients with the assistance of the Health, Treatment and Medical Training Ministry.
- Moral and financial support through drawing the support of charitable and goodwill individuals and cooperation with charitable institutes and university and private research centres (domestic and international) for the implementation of all the above mentioned objectives.

The scope of International Obligations

Extraterritorial Obligations

5. According to Art 31 of Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, the States are called upon to “refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that creates obstacles to trade relations among

States and impedes the full realization of the human rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights instruments, in particular the rights of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, including food and medical care, housing and the necessary social services. The World Conference on Human Rights affirms that food should not be used as a tool for political pressure”.

6. This is while the field surveys of our NGO proves that the United States of America Unilateral sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran has limited the access to medicine, medical equipment and medical care for Iranian people putting a huge burden on patients specially children, the elderly and the people with disabilities. All patients who are dependent on life saving medicine are facing challenges due to scarcity of their medicine in the market as well as escalation of prices.
7. Medicine scarcity is resulted by sanctions imposed on Iran banking system which makes it almost impossible for the country to transfer money to pharmaceutical companies to purchase medicine. The same situation applies to import of all medical equipment, food stuff and essential items.
8. Also, sanctions increased the inflation rate and lead to a drop in the value of currency which makes medicine and medical treatment less affordable.

Recommendations:

9. Our NGO urges all members of the international community who are participating in the Universal Periodic Review of the United States of America to call on the State under Review to stay committed to its international obligations and eliminate unilateral sanctions that jeopardize thousands of lives through weaponizing food and medicine.
10. Our NGO urges all recommending States to warn the State under Review against the deadly consequences of comprehensive Unilateral Coercive Measures (economic sanctions) and hold the State accountable for the negative impact of sanctions on all human rights violations specially violation of the right to life and the right to health in target countries.