

This IHRDC translation of the Press Law includes the 2000 amendments in red.

Press Law

Press Law (Ratified on March 19, 1986) And Its Executive By-law (January 31, 1987)
With amendments of April 18, 2000.

In the Name of God,
the Compassionate, the Merciful

"Let us swear by the pen and whatever is written..." (Holy Quran)

Publications and news media shall enjoy freedom of expression provided what they publish does not violate Islamic principles or the civil code. The details shall be outlined by the law. (Article 24 of the Constitution)

Chapter 1: Definition of the Press

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 1: Extraordinary editions shall be published only by such publications which are published regularly.

Note 2: A publication that is publish without obtaining a license from the Press Supervisory Board is not subject to the Press Law and will be subject to regular laws.

Note 3: All electronic publications are subject to this law.

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 endeavor 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.

Note 1: violators of articles 4 and 5, if they have a complainant, will be sentenced by court verdict to dismissal from service for a period of 6 months to 2 years and in case of repeating offense, to lifetime dismissal from government services.

Note 2: All published press are subject to regulation of the Supreme National Security Council. In case of violation, courts can temporarily close the publication for up to two months and process the case out of order.

Note 3: Specific topics in the journal will be subject to the Law for Protection of the rights of Writers, Trade Experts and Artists under the name of the creator (real or pseudonym) if published under his / her name and if not, under the name of the publication.

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 offenses 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.

10. The use of people in images and content and belittling and insulting the female sex, propagating, formalities and illegal and illegitimate luxuries.

11. Spreading rumors and untrue statements or tampering with statements of others.

12. Publishing statements against the Constitution

Note 2: Violators from what is mentioned in this article are subject to the punishments as put forth in Article 698 of Islamic Penal Code and in case of recurrence, will cause intensification of punishment and cancellation of license.

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. **Using foreign aid directly or indirectly by the publications is forbidden and considered a crime.**

Note 1: 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.

Note 2: Aides of foreign non governmental real or legal persons that are received with the supervision of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and the Foreign Ministry are not subject to this law.

Note 3: Transferring the license of a publication definitely, conditionally, for loan of such as, is illegal and considered a crime unless a written request is submitted by the owner of the license and approved by the Press Supervisory Board.

Article 9: a. 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.
6. Follow up and active belief in the Constitution.

b. Legal persons requesting license must hold one of the following condition:

1. The legal proceeding for registering a legal person must be done and in their constitution or Law of Formation, it must be allowed to have a publication.
2. The area of activity of the publication must correspond to the area of activity of the legal person and the geographic area of publication must be that of the legal person.

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.

Note 6: Press Supervisory Board is responsible to, in order to investigate the competency of the applicant and the General Manager, request information of competent authorities (Ministry of Intelligence, Justice, and the Law Enforcement Forced of the Islamic Republic of Iran). The aforementioned authorities must announce their opinion to the Supervisory Board along with valid documents and statements within a maximum of two months. In the absence of a response from the aforementioned authorities and absence of a reason to prove otherwise, their competence is considered approved.

Note 7: the responsibility for the articles and pieces published in the publication is with the general manager, but this responsibility will not negate the responsibility of the writer and all others who were involved in the commission of the crime.

Note 8: Members or supporters of anti revolutionary or illegal groups and those sentenced by the Islamic Revolutionary Courts for anti revolutionary activities or activities against national or foreign securities, as well as those who propagate and conduct activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran do not have the right to have press activity or accept a post in 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.
- f. One of the teachers of the Qom religious seminary as elected by the Supreme Council of the Religious Seminary of Qom.
- g. One of the Members of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution as elected by the council.

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.~~ The Office of the Press Supervisory Board will be established with the equipment provided for by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and will operate under the supervision of the Board.

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).

Note 5: Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance will be the Head of the Press Supervisory Board and will speak to their conduct in the Majlis and to other competent authorities.

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

Note: If the license holder lacks one of the requirements mentioned in article 9, with the assessment of the Press Supervisory Board, as prescribed by article 10, and while taking into consideration the notes within the license, the license will be revoked.

Article 12: The Press Supervisory Board shall examine press violations directly, or, upon the request of ~~the Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance and,~~ at least two of the members of the Press Supervisory Board within a month and, if necessary, directly or through one of the members of the Press Advisory Board, it may file ~~written~~ requests for legal proceedings at competent courts.

Note: in cases of violations of article 6, other than those of parts 3 and 4, and sections b, c, and d of article 7, the Press Supervisory Board can shut down the publication and in such cases, the board must turn over the case file to a court for further process within a weeks time.

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~~, **the following authorities** regularly and free of charge.

a. Minister of culture and Islamic Guidance

b. Islamic Consultative Assembly

c. Justice Office of the Province where the Publication is Published.

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.

Note 4: The actions prescribed in this article and its notes will not negate the rights of the complainant to complain to a legal authority.

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 jurisprudents), 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: a. 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.

b. after the shut down of the publication, publishing any other publication in place of it in such manner that it is similar to the shut down publication by name, logo and form is forbidden and the new publication will be shut down immediately. The culprit will be sentenced to a discretionary prison term of three to six months and a fine of two million to twenty million Rials.

Article 34: Crimes attributed to the press shall can be examined by competent General of Revolutionary courts in accordance with the laws pertaining to inherent competency. Either way, the court must be open and in the presence of a jury.

Note: Press violations will be tried by competent courts of the Provincial capitals.

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.~~

Method of election of the Members of the Jury

Chapter 7: Press Jury

Article 36: Election of the jury will be as followed:

It will be held once every two years, in the month of Mehr, for the purpose of selecting the members of the jury in Tehran, by invitation of the minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance and in his presence and the head of the Justice office of the province, head of the city council, head of the propaganda office and the representative of the policy making office of the Friday Prayer Imam's of the Country, and in the capitals of the states by invitation of the manager of the office of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the province and by his presence and the presence of the head of the justice office of the province, head of the city council of the capital city of the province, head of the propaganda organization and the Friday prayer imam of the capital of the province of his representative.

21 people in Tehran and 14 people in other cities will be elected as members of the aforementioned Board from people trusted by the masses from amongst various groups in the society (clergies, university professors, physicians, engineers, writers, journalists, lawyers, teachers and instructors, members of trade guilds, employees, laborer, farmers, artists, and members of the basij)

Note 1: If the topics of this article are not done within the assigned time, the head of the Office of Justice is responsible to invite the aforementioned people and elect a jury.

Note 2: If for any reason the number of the jury members is reduced to 10 people or less, the board mentioned in this article is responsible to meet within a month and complete the jury members again.

Article 37: Members of the jury must possess the following conditions:

1. Being of at least 30 years of age and being married
2. Not having any effective criminal record
3. Be known for trustworthiness, honesty, and have good name.
4. Scientific competence and knowledge of cultural and press issues.

Article 38: After selecting the members of the jury, topic of article 36 of this law, issues will be handed over to the members by the head of the justice office of the province. The court investigating a press crime will invite the jury to participate in the trial at least a week in advance. The court will convene with the presence of at least seven jury members. The vote of the majority will be the method of decisions making for the jury; members are obliged to stay in the court until the trial adjourns.

Note 1: the decisions of the Supervisory Board and the jury are only valid if it is achieved through absolute maximum votes of those present.

Note 2: If for two court sessions of a press crime the jury does not meet the minimum requirement in number, in the third session the court will investigate the matter with those present if they are up to five people.

Note 3: The office of the jury will be established with the budget and equipments of the Judiciary and under the supervision of the jury.

Article 39: If any member of the jury misses two sessions in a row or five consecutive court sessions without a valid excuse or refuses to participate in decision making he / she will be banned from participating as a jury member for two years by order of the investigating court. The court decision is final.

Note: if any of the jury members is not able to attend a court session due to a valid reason, he / she must report his / her reason to the court two days before the court session. If not, his / her excuse is considered invalid, unless the excuse occurred within that period of time which he / she still must report to the court anyway. Valid excuses are those explained in the Code of Proceedings.

Article 40: Upon their first appearance in court, the jury members will swear to god on the Holy Koran to fulfill their duty without allowing influence of any personal or group adherence and with honesty, piety, trust, and toward proving the rights and exposing the false.

Article 41: Issues of rejecting a jury member are those that, by law, apply to rejecting judges.

Article 42: If during the court proceedings, the jury members have questions, they will submit them in writing to the head of the court.

Article 43: Once it is announced that the proceeding have come to an end, the jury will immediately enter deliberation and will give its opinion, in writing, regarding the following to court:

- a. Is the accused a misdemeanant or not?
- b. If so, is he / she deserving of a [punishment] decrease?

Article 44: If the court decision is for acquittal or sentencing that does not entail loss of social rights, the publication's printing halt, if it was enforced, will be removed immediately and its republication will not be barred.

Chapter Eight: Miscellaneous Items

Article 45: Exact supervision on the work of the Journals and their carry out of their journalistic mission is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. This matter does not prevent the Supervisory Board from performing their duties.

Article 46: Owners of the license and the General Managers are responsible for insuring all the employees of the publication so that in case the publication was shut down by order of court or opinion of the Supervisory Board, their legal wages are paid until they find another job as with accordance to the Labor Law.

Article 47: The procedural code for this law will be prepared by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance within six months time and ratified by the Cabinet.

Article 48: This law, including the manner of formation of the Supervisory Board and the jury must be followed from the time of ratification. Further, from the moment of ratification, all other laws contradicting this, including the Legal Protocol for the Press ratified on 25/5/1358 by the Revolutionary Council are nullified.

Article 48 will replace article 36 of the Press Law.

The above code including 29 articles was ratified on open session of Tuesday 30th of Farvardin 1379 by the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

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 centers 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.

Note 2: The voting right of a managing director cannot be delegated to another person.

