

## 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.