

Five years in Iran!

What we can do together with guidance from our Higher Power, the principles of Narcotics Anonymous, and the conscience of an informed group of members can never be done any other way, no matter how we try to will it or force it and no matter how much money we spend.

Nearly ten years ago, two wealthy brothers here in Iran tried very hard, with outstanding dedication, to start NA in this part of the world. But they weren't in contact with the WSO, they didn't understand the traditions, and they didn't know that alcohol is a drug. After one year, a group of twenty members all got drunk.

Five years ago, five members who were familiar with the traditions and had worked the steps, with the blessing and direction of their Higher Power and guidance from the WSO, formed a group and started taking a panel into a rehab center in Tehran. It is wonderful to inform you that last week we celebrated the fifth anniversary of our first NA meeting in Iran. It was a moving experience when, at the end of the gathering, a recovering family of four (a father and his two sons in NA, the mother in Naranon) blew out the candles on our fifth anniversary cake. This was a clear message of recovery and hope.

We had high-ranking guests from interested government agencies, including someone from the Iranian House of Representatives. For the first time we were able to invite legislators and decision makers from the Iranian government to see how our program works, and we were able to do this without jeopardizing our members or compromising our traditions.

It is a miracle to achieve such acceptance and respect in a country that only six years ago was still whipping and sometimes executing addicts. Today, thank God, several hundred members, ranging from one month to five years clean, have proven one more time that the tired old lie "once an addict, always an addict" no longer applies.

Froohar T, Iran

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If you have additional information on NA Iran / NA in the Persian language, please e-mail us.