

## **Supreme Leader Meets with Officials of Society of Midwifery - 5 /May/ 2014**

Ayatollah Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, met Monday noon with the officials of the Society of Midwifery on the occasion of the International Day of the Midwife. Speaking at the meeting, His Eminence described the role of this group as very important and valuable in preserving the human species, adding: "The issue of increasing population and preventing the number of the youth of the country from decreasing is a vital issue and it should be followed up in a serious way."

Expressing his gratitude for the sympathetic efforts of these officials in preserving the health of mothers and infants with their patience, knowledge, experience and sense of responsibility, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution stated: "For this reason, all men and women are indebted to the efforts of midwives and the people have always held these individuals in great respect."

Ayatollah Khamenei reiterated that creating a culture in this regard is an important and fundamental issue for encouraging the women of the country to benefit from the services of midwifery and natural childbirth. He added: "Experts should constantly illustrate - in the media and in public meetings - the detriments of unnatural childbirth and the positive results of natural childbirth in preserving the health of mothers and infants."

Pointing to the great significance of increasing population and the outstanding role of natural childbirth and midwifery services, His Eminence stressed: "The large number of youth is one of the advantages of the country. But if we insist on the wrong policies and measures which lead to the decrease of the number of the youth of the country in a few years, we will receive a serious blow, namely public aging."

He added: "A country without youth means a country without innovation, progress, excitement and enthusiasm. Therefore, the vital plan of increasing population should be followed up in a serious way."

The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution highlighted the importance of solving the problems of the Society of Midwifery, saying: "The officials in charge of governmental organizations should try to solve problems and eliminate shortcomings in this sector."