



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 6

Universal Periodic Review

### **Written statement\* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[03 June 2019]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

## Universal Periodic Review of Yemen

Yemen is currently facing the worst humanitarian tragedy of the 21st century. More than 233,000 people are killed and more than 23 million Yemenis are in urgent need of food and humanitarian aid.

Organization for Defending of Victims of Violence (ODVV) believes that, a major part of this catastrophe will be addressed through halting the Coalition bombings and engagement of the two sides in peaceful negotiations. ODVV considers the Yemen situation as a widespread and interconnected set of human rights violations and believes that in order to improve the situations, reforms should be made in various sectors of Yemen society. ODVV is concerned about the humanitarian situation in Yemen and condemns the attacks against civilians, considers the situation as the gravest humanitarian catastrophe in the world and believes that some of these violations amount to possible war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Being gravely concerned about the human made widespread catastrophe in Yemen ODVV:

- Calls on all parties to engage in the United Nations-led efforts to find a solution to the conflict.
- Welcomes the efforts to implement the Stockholm Agreement but remains concerned by the deepening humanitarian crisis.
- Expresses concern about the increasing number of people requiring humanitarian assistance and protection.
- Calls on Yemen government to ensure the protection of civilians in compliance with its obligations under international humanitarian law, including immediate, full and unhindered access for humanitarian supplies and personnel to all parts of Yemen.
- Calls on the government to increase the capacity of the Ministry of Human Rights and bolster the efforts of the Ministry and the Government to fulfil their human rights obligations and commitments.
- Demands the acceleration of the process of establishing an independent national human rights institution.
- Is concerned by the allegations of violations of international humanitarian law and of violations and abuses of human rights law in Yemen, including those involving grave violations against children, attacks on humanitarian workers, civilians and civilian infrastructures, including medical facilities and missions and their personnel, as well as schools, the prevention of access for humanitarian aid, the use of import and other restrictions as a military tactic.
- Calls upon all parties to the armed conflict to respect their obligations and commitments under applicable international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and in particular with regards to attacks against civilians and civilian objects, and to ensure humanitarian access to the affected population nationwide, including by lifting obstacles to the importation of humanitarian goods, reducing bureaucratic delays, resuming salary payments for civil servants and ensuring the full cooperation of the Central Bank of Yemen.
- ODVV Emphasizes on the commitments and obligations of the Government of Yemen to ensure respect for the promotion and protection of the human rights of all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, and in that connection recalls that Yemen is a party to the International

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto and look forward to the Government continuing its efforts to promote and protect human rights in accordance with the international obligations.

-Highlighting the importance of the reports compiled by the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts, ODVV encourages all parties to the armed conflict in Yemen to extend full and transparent access and cooperation to the Group.

-At the end we call on the government to do everything in its power to facilitate rapid and unhindered humanitarian access to its territory in order to facilitate the import of goods and the activities of humanitarian organization.

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