

Annual Report

2020

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence



ODVV



# Annual Report 2020

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence



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# FOREWORD

With all its ups and downs the year 2020 came to an end gave itself to a new year full of worries and hopes. What made this year more concerning was the escalation of the challenge of the international community with COVID-19. The important point is that the most of previous years' human rights problems, such as the refugee crisis, rise in the number of victims of human rights violations in Yemen, Myanmar, Syria and parts of Africa as well as many other challenges, such as the environment, health, development, water and healthy nutrition etc., in most instances became more critical.

At the same time the continuation and increasing the implementation of unilateral sanctions and illegitimate coercive measures by the United States against the Iranian people, once again showed that the government of the country has no regard whatsoever towards human rights treaties and commitments.

Every day in 2020, while present a correct and scientific reflection of human rights developments outside the country for its domestic audience, the ODVV tried to show a fair and accurate picture of human rights at the international level, domestic positive human rights developments in the country and also critique the inhuman pressures of sanctions on the Iranian people, for its international audience.

To this aim, all activities, researches, publications, workshops and meetings held and mentioned in the Annual Report are the result of every day intellectual valuable support of the board of directors and the sincere efforts of part-time and full-time managers, researchers, experts and employees of the organization who were the scientific, research and executive power of the organization including: Mr. Haroot Azarian, Ms. Hamideh Aboutorabi, Mr. Esmaeel Oveisi, Ms. Sara Balkh, Ms. Negar Paidar, Mr. Lotfolah Parvaneh, Ms. Maasoomah Taghavi, Mr. Ahmadreza Salamati, Ms. Elham Shooshtari-zadeh, Mr. Iman Ziabari, Ms. Maryam Erzi, Ms. Marzieh Azizian, Ms. Leila Enayati, Mr. Reza Alameh, Mr. Hassan Fartoosi, Mr. Majid Feizikhah, Ms. Mansooreh Mohammadi, Ms. Somayeh Mesbahi, Ms. Sanaz Moazezi, Ms. Firoozeh Mir-Razavi, and also experts from the Rehabilitation Department (Raha Counselling Centre), Ms. Jaleh Afshari Monfared, Mr. Seyed Hassan Taghavi, Mr. Mir Saeed Jaafari, Ms. Maryam Jahangiri, Ms. Foroogh Chitsaz, Ms. Tayebah Haghghatkhah, Ms. Salimeh Daremi, Ms. Maryam Sabzabadi, Ms. Liora Saeed, Mr. Mohammad Sadeghi and Ms. Maryam Saberipoor, As always, we wish for the days ahead to shape a world which is safer, better, and more stable.

Mahmoudreza Golshanpazhooh  
Director

# Introduction

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political organization in Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). The ODVV was established in 1988 in Tehran. Provision of legal and humanitarian services, holding education courses, conducting general or thematic researches through the use of a team of experienced experts in fields needed by society, productions and publications, transfer of experiences and an effective and influential presence in international arenas are just some activities done by the ODVV during its 33-year history. The ODVV received its Consultative Status from ECOSOC in 1988 and since 2014 it has had a representative office in Geneva, Switzerland and has been active in the field of human rights and humanitarian activities.



The ODVV is member of the following networks and coalitions:

- Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC);
- International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT);
- Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO);
- International Movement for a Just World (JUST);
- AMAN Network in MENA Region;
- United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) and
- Asia Youth Foundation.



# ODVV Mission Statement

## Being committed to its moral principles the ODVV's mission is:

- To respect high human values
- To respect the rule of law and be committed to national values, moral principles and laws;
- To respect national interests and to avoid entering political groupings;
- To respect human dignity and status, and to recognise individual's rights and respect of society's public interests;
- To believe in justice, equality and observe everyone's rights (women and children in particular);
- To believe in being responsible, transparent, answerable, honest, and virtuous;
- To accept the expansion and promotion of creativity;
- To respect knowledge, competence and experiences of individuals;
- To accept ideas, notions, recommendations and constructive criticisms;
- To be committed to collective unity and cooperation;
- To promote the spirit of service and voluntary campaigns;
- To promote and expand a culture of non-violence.

## For the purpose of reaching its goal which is to promote and expand a human rights culture the ODVV shall utilise the following practices:

- Hold educational, seminars, forums and workshops with the aim of information dissemination and raise the society's culture, preparation of articles and research in this regard;
- Protect and defend the rights of victims of violence and socially disadvantaged individuals;
- Promote and expand a culture of non-violence and all its forms;
- Present advisory and counselling services for the rehabilitation of victims of society, and to refer these victims to the relevant centres to receiving complementary care and services if needed;
- Establishment and facilitation of links with national, regional and international organizations that follow similar objectives, and to facilitate the opportunity to exchange views, experiences and knowledge.

# Structure

## The ODVV conducts its activities and campaigns under the following structure

- Research Department ■ Education Department ■ Communications Department ■ Rehabilitation Department ■ Administrative and Financial Management

Through benefiting from experienced experts in its board of directors' structure and also the use of the expertise of dozens of experts and volunteers in human rights, international law, international relations etc. the ODVV endeavours to through the combination of science and strategy to have the best effectivity in the field of nongovernmental human rights activities of the country.

The following is a brief narration of the activities that the aforementioned departments conducted in 2020.

## Research

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**9**

**Positive  
Human Rights  
Developments  
Bulletins**



**22**

**Exclusive  
Interviews**



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**Dispatched  
Letters**



## International Activities

### Positive Human Rights Developments Bulletins

For the purpose of information dissemination to international audiences such as UN thematic Special Rapporteurs, diplomats, experts, ambassadors and staff of international organizations and various countries representatives inside and outside the country, the ODVV put the compiling of positive human rights developments bulletin in its working agenda.

In 2020, 9 different editions of the English bulletin were published (No. 12 in March, No. 13 in April, No. 14 in June, No. 15 in July, No. 16 in August, No. 17 in September, No. 18 in October, No. 19 in November and No. 20 in December) with the following contents: human rights, rights of persons with disabilities, women and children's rights, right of access to health, right to life, workers' rights and right to education, which were emailed to the ODVV's recipients.



## Exclusive Interviews

One of the ODVV's activities at the international level in 2020 was conducting 22 exclusive interviews with top international experts (western in particular) on human rights issues with the aim of study and transparency of the human rights situation in various parts of the world. Human rights situation in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Occupied Territories, and Yemen as well as different issues such as Islamophobia, the environment and the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures against Iran were some of the subjects discussed in these interviews.

### The conducted interviews are as follows:



- Professor Vernon Burton, history and sociology professor in Clemson University in the United States on the subject of Trump's exploitation of the migrants' issue to get frustrated voters.



- Professor David Gillborn, critical racial studies professor in Birmingham University, England, on the impact of Brexit on xenophobia and rise in hatred towards non-whites and foreigners.



- Professor Shirley R. Steinberg, critical youth studies professor in Calgary University in Canada on the subject of racism in Canada.



- Professor Jean Beaman assistant lecturer in University of California Santa Barbara on the subject of Islamophobia in France and legal vacuum in the country.



- Professor David Yaghoubian, history professor in University of California San Bernardino on the subject of Peace (century deal) Israel and Palestine.



- Professor Scott Poynting, guest professor Charles Sturt University, Australia, on the subject of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in Australia.



- Professor John Packer assistant lecturer in law and director of human rights research and education centre Ottawa University, Canada, on the subject of dangers of Iran's prohibition from international aid in the fight against COVID-19.



- Professor Christina Voigt Oslo University Lecturer and Norwegian government advisor on air and water on the subject of human rights impact of climate change.



- Professor Faye V. Harrison, humanities and African-American studies professor in Illinois University on the subject of hidden and open forms of institutionalised racism in the United States.



- Professor Anthony Reddie director of religion and culture centre of Oxford University on the subject of Brexit and racism problem and British people's views on ethnic minorities.



- Dr Sumudu Atapattu, senior lecturer in law school of Wisconsin University Madison and lawyer in the Sri Lanka supreme court on the subject of climate change and its impact on human rights.



- Dr. Aminah McCloud retired lecturer in religious studies of D Pal University United States on the subject of racism and Islamophobia in American history.



- Professor Bill V. Mullen form lecturer in American Studies in Pedro University and programmer for the academic and cultural boycott of Israel on the subject of review of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,, agreement of the century and normalisation of ties between Israel and the UAE.



- Professor Constance Backhouse, lecturer in law in Ottawa University and member of the Canadian Royal Society on the subject of racism in Canada.



- Dr. Annalisa Savaresi, senior law lecturer in Sterling University and director of the European Department of the Global Human Rights and the Environment Network on the subject of the withdrawal of key governments from their environmental commitments in the recent years.



- Professor Heiner Bielefeldt, former UN special rapporteur on the freedom of religion and belief and human rights lecturer in Orlangi University of Germany on the subject of the situation of freedom of religion in the world.



- Mr. Hassan El-Tayyab top lobbyist Friends Committee on National Legislation, Washington DC, on the subject of the Yemen crisis and the profiteering of international weapons manufacturers.



- Professor Sylvia Chan-Malik, assistant lecturer of Rutgers University in the United States in women's studies and Islamic history researcher on the subject of the Muslim ban an alarm bell for their vulnerable situation in America.



- Professor Ole W. Pedersen, environment and energy law professor in Newcastle University, England on the subject of climate change and its effect on human rights.



- Professor Raymond Taras, political sciences lecturer Tulin University, United States on the subject of Islamophobia in the West.



- Professor Rachad Antonius, sociology lecturer Quebec University in Montreal Canada, on the subject of the impact of the recent developments in the Middle East on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



- Dr. Yaser Alashqar, assistant lecturer on international peace studies in Trinity College Dublin, the Irish Republic, on the subject of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the human conditions in Gaza. It must be said that the full text of all the above-mentioned interviews are available in the ODVV English website

and the translated texts in the Farsi website.

## Dispatched Letters

### *Sending Letters to UN and a Number of Domestic Officials and Experts*

In an initiative the ODVV sent 20 letters on the following subjects: human rights, sanctions, racial discrimination, Palestine etc. to UN and domestic officials and experts.

### *Joint letter to UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health*

The joint letter of the ODVV with the Latin American Human Rights Defender Foundation of Venezuela sent to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health on 30 March 2020 on the subject of his participation in issuing a joint statement in condemnation of US unilateral coercive measures.

### *Letter to the UN Secretary-General*

Cooperation in the writing and translation of Iranian NGOs letter to the UN Secretary-General on 30 March 2020 on the subject of harsh sanctions imposed by the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic, the letter called for the UN to carry out its duties under the US sanctions conditions during the virus crisis towards the Iranian people and especially the children.

### *Joint letter to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*

Sending of joint letter from the ODVV and the Latin American Human Rights Defender Foundation, a Venezuelan NGO and United Nations Association of Cuba to the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on 4 April was on the subject of inviting his participation in issuing a joint statement on condemnation of US imposed unilateral coercive measures.

### *Letter to the Education and Training Minister*

The text of ODVV's letter which was sent in May 2020 to the Education and Training Minister was about taking action towards children in deprived regions' access to technology on the subject of online education to inform and utilization of Javid Rahman and also Yasmin Abu-Mansoor Iran desk head in the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights.

### *Letter to the International Order Rapporteur*

In a letter sent on 10 May 2020 to the International Order Rapporteur the ODVV objected to the negative impacts of sanctions on human rights and international order during the COVID-19 crisis.

### *Letter to the Mayor of Tehran*

On 12 May 2020 in a letter addressed to the Mayor of Tehran the ODVV wrote a recommendation

for raising the health, education and people's welfare during the COVID-19 crisis, and forwarded a copy to Javid Rahman and also Yasamin Abu-Mansour head of the Iran Desk of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights.

*Letter to the President's Special Assistant*

In June 2020 the ODVV sent a letter to the citizen's rights special assistant to the Presidency's Women and Family Affairs Deputy on the investigation of the murder of Romina Ashrafi and death of Asieh Panahi in proportion with the human rights dimensions and commitments of the country.

*Letter to the Islamic Culture and Guidance Minister*

On 1 June the ODVV sent a letter to the Islamic Culture and Guidance Minister on the subject of support for artists in displaying arts events online during the COVID-19 crisis. The letter was also sent to Javid Rahman and Yasamin Abu-Mansour Iran Desk head in the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

*Letter to the Interior Minister*

In June 2020, the ODVV sent a letter to the Interior Minister on the subject of welcoming and commending the Minister's actions with regards to free medical treatment of foreign migrants and refugees infected with COVID-19 and the letter also called for the adoption of suitable decisions to amend the list of jobs and occupations permitted for foreign nationals towards helping these groups and their vulnerable families. The copy of this letter was also sent to Javid Rahman and Yasamin Abu-Mansoor Iran Desk head in the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

*Letter to the President of Chile*

In June 2020, as a member of International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), the ODVV sent a letter to the President of Chile on the subject of arrest of protestors and complained about the inhuman conditions of the detainees.

*Letter to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on Human Rights*

In a letter sent in June 2020 to Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, Ms. Alena Douhan, a questionnaire on the review of the impact of sanctions on the emergency COVID-19 conditions.

*Letter to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*

In June 2020 in a letter addressed to Michelle Bachelet the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights the ODVV expressed its objection towards sanctions especially medicines and medical sanctions during the dire COVID-19 pandemic.

*Letter to the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance*

In a letter in June 2020 sent to the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance, the ODVV highlighted and objected the systematic racial discrimination in the United States.

*Letter to the UN Special Rapporteur on Occupied Territories*

In June 2020 the ODVV sent a letter to the UN Special Rapporteur on Occupied Territories Michael Lynk and objected to the unilateral annexation of the West Bank.

*Letter to open online course provider Coursera*

On June 22 the ODVV sent a letter to the International Online Course Provider Coursera and complained about the selective and racist practices of the centre against Iranians and their lack of access to online education and criticised the centre for applying US unilateral coercive measures against Iranians despite propaganda slogans in their website: “we stand against racism/we stand for social justice.”

*Letter to the UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine*

In a letter sent to the UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine in September 2020, the ODVV objected to the children's conditions in Palestine.

*Letter sent to the Rights of the Child Committee experts*

In a letter sent in September 2020 to the members of the UN Rights of the Child Committee the ODVV expressed its concern over the conditions and suffering of Palestinian children in the Occupied Territories.

*Letter to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on Human Rights*

With the aim of information dissemination on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on human

rights, in October 2020 the ODVV sent a letter with an attached file of booklets on sanctions to the Special Rapporteur.

*Letter to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on Human Rights*

In November 2020 in a letter to the Special Rapporteur once again the ODVV complained about the impact of US imposed unilateral coercive measures on human rights in response to the questionnaire filled by the Special Rapporteur and sent back to the ODVV.

*Letter to 5 thematic Rapporteurs in protest against sanctions*

In July 2020 the ODVV sent a letter to the UN Special Rapporteur on food, health, impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights, international unity and extrajudicial killings thanking these Rapporteurs for objecting sanctions and calling on them to continue campaigns like this.

*Letter sent to 6 thematic Rapporteurs and complaint against the impact of sanctions on Iran's fight against COVID-19*

The ODVV wrote 6 letters on the negative impacts of sanctions during the COVID-19 pandemic to the Special Rapporteurs on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, right to food, international order, international cooperation and right to health.

*Letter sent to 12 thematic Rapporteurs in objection to various aspects of sanctions*

In protest to sanctions and their impact on all individuals of society and all aspects of their lives, the ODVV sent 12 letters to the Special Rapporteurs on the eradication of poverty, right to food, right to housing, cultural rights, senior citizens, indigenous people, exploitation of children, independent expert on sexual orientation and gender identity, toxics and human rights, independent expert on foreign debt, working group on African descent.

*Letter sent to all UN permanent missions in Geneva*

In view of the harsh sanctions imposed by the United States against Iran during the COVID-19 pandemic, the ODVV wrote a letter on the “negative impact of unilateral coercive measures during the COVID-19 pandemic” to all UN permanent missions in Geneva.



*Letter sent to the Special Rapporteur on the freedom of religion and belief*

In response to the request of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief the ODVV sent a letter in protest against Islamophobia in Europe, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

*Letter sent to the Welfare Minister*

The ODVV sent a letter on the subject of the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures during the COVID-19 pandemic to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Welfare Minister, also a copy of the letter was sent to Yasamin Abu-Mansoor Iran Desk head in the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights.

*Letter sent to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees*

In protest to the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the lives of Afghan refugees in Iran the ODVV sent a letter to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva.

*Letter sent to the UN working group on discrimination against women and girls*

In response to the letter sent by the UN working group on discrimination against women and girls, the ODVV sent a letter briefing the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on actions and services taken during the floods and COVID-19 crisis.

## International Conferences



**16**

Written  
Statements



**19**

Oral  
Statements



**1**

Exhibit



**1**

Research  
Paper



**1**

Defenders  
Newsletter



**1**

Meeting



**1**

Research



**1**

Book



**1**

Letter Sent

## International Conferences

### ODVV's Activities in 3 UN Human Rights Council Sessions at a Glance

Title	43 <sup>rd</sup> Session	44 <sup>th</sup> Session	45 <sup>th</sup> Session
Witten statements	8	8	-
Oral statements	8	4	7
Defenders' Newsletter	Winter 2020	-	-
Research Paper	Research Paper No. 7 Sanctions and Persons with Disabilities	-	-
Exhibit	Chapters from the Lives of 10 Angels Exhibit	-	-
Meetings	Meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the Environment	-	-
Infographic and Research	Research on the Martyrdom of General Soleimani from the International Law Perspective	-	-
Books	Human Rights Situation in Iran Booklet Iran, Land of Pride and Honour Martyrdom of General Soleimani from the International Law Perspective	-	-
Letter Sent	Letter to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Fight against COVID-19 in Sanctions Conditions	-	-

## Participation in the 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council

The 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council took place from 24 February to 13 March 2020 in the European headquarters of the UN in Geneva, Switzerland. The ODVV participated in this session of the Council with the aim of highlighting the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the health and lives of the ordinary people, the negative impact of sanctions on the possibility of applying the UPR recommendations, condemnation of United States human rights policies, Israel, Saudi Arabia, the dire conditions of the innocent people of Yemen, and submission of balanced report on efforts and challenges ahead of Iran in the 3rd UPR. A summary of the ODVV's activities in this Session are as follows:

The main point of ODVV's activities in this Session was the smart concentration on the subject of sanctions and their negative impact on the human rights of ordinary citizens, and its prohibition on the application of UPR recommendations. To this aim the following activities were conducted:

### *Highlighting the subject of sanctions in the form of written statements*

Some of the subjects of the statement are as follows:

- Written statement under Item 3 on the subject of economic war violates the right to food
- Written statement under Item 3 on the subject of negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the environment.
- Written statement under Item 5 on the subject of the impact of unilateral coercive measures on international cooperation.

### *Highlighting the subject of sanctions in the form of oral statements*

Some of the subjects of the statements are as follows:

- Oral statement under Item 3 on the subject of sanctions are equal to economic war.
- Oral statement under Item 3 on the subject of economic war which results in people's denial of access to crucial goods such as food and medicine.
- Oral statement under Item 3 on the subject of impact of sanctions on carrying out the commitments to the rights of persons with disabilities convention.
- Oral statement under Item 3 on the subject of the impact of COVID-19 on the people of countries under sanction.
- Oral statement under Item 4 on the subject of dialogue with Javid Rahman UN Special Rapporteur in the Human Rights Situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Oral statement under Item 4 on dialogue on the subject of dialogue with UN Special Rapporteur

in the Human Rights Situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

- Oral statement under Item 6 on the subject of economic war and Iran.

*Highlighting the subject of sanctions in produced contents.*

a) Research Paper.

The subject of unilateral coercive measures against Iran due to the extent of human rights violations have always been the centre of attention of the ODVV's research and operational activities. Following the publication of volumes one to six of sanctions research papers in previous Council Sessions, the seventh volume of this research paper entitled Sanctions and Persons with Disabilities was prepared by the ODVV and distributed in the 43rd Session. Also, this research paper has been prepared towards the presentation of details and transparency on the comprehensive impact of America's unilateral coercive measures on the health of persons with disabilities in Iran.



b) Defenders' Newsletter

Defenders' Newsletter is a technical and specialised quarterly published by the ODVV on the subject of human rights, winter 2020 edition of which was planned, compiled and published for distribution in the 43rd Session. This issue of Defenders contained articles on the following subjects:

- A Review of the UN's Practice with Regards to Unilateral Coercive Measures.
- A Look at the Violation of Women and Children's Rights in Armed Conflicts.
- The Impact of the Arms Trade in the Recent Years on Human Rights.
- Review of United States Violation of Human Rights in 3 Domestic, Other Countries and International Community Levels.
- Review of Islamic Republic of Iran's Actions Regarding Human Rights.
- Interviews with a Number of International Commentators on International Coercive Measures.



### *Sanctions and Chapters from the Lives of 10 Angels Exhibit*

The Chapters from the Lives of 10 Angels Exhibit which highlights the pain and hope of the sick Iranian people and children was another of the ODVV's important activities in the 43rd Session of the Council which had a good reflection within the domestic and international media. The theme of the Exhibit was drawing a real picture of restrictions of access to medicines and medical equipment while under sanctions with the aim of making the international community aware of the impact of sanctions on the human rights of the people especially children. This Exhibit which with the several months efforts of the ODVV team the Exhibit came to fruition, included 10 images of 10 Iranian children with heart disease, Thalassaemia, autism, cancer, IB, MS.



It must be said that this Exhibit was held from 2 to 12 March 2020 on the side-lines of the 43rd Session of the Council and in front of the Session main arena. The location which is the best space for holding an Exhibit was allocated to the ODVV with the efforts of the Geneva Office of the ODVV. It must be said that it is located very close to the main entrance of the Session arena, where no exhibits had been held before.

### *Meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment*



On the 3rd of March 2020 representatives from the ODVV had a meeting in Palais de Nations with Mr. David Boyd the UN Special Rapporteur on the Environment and his assistant Ms. Soo-Young. In this meeting the ODVV director spoke about the impact of sanctions on all the rights of the Iranian nation and also their impact on the environment. The director also

explained that sanctions close all paths for legal financial transactions and seriously has affected the importing of necessary technology for the protection of the environment such as recycling machinery and their spare parts, green technology, all of which seriously harm the environment.

*Letter to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Fight against COVID-19 under Sanctions Conditions*

Following the release of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' statement regarding the cooperation of all countries in the fight against COVID-19, at the same time as the 43rd Session of the Council, the ODVV wrote a letter the High Commissioner stressing on the lifting of unilateral coercive measures against Iran for the purpose of creating the chance to fight the virus within the country.

Some of the highlighted points of the letter are as follows:

- Lack of the citizens' access to healthcare equal to other countries due to economic sanctions.
- Challenges created through United States imposed sanctions and the formation of a type of medical terrorism for the Iranian people.
- Prohibition on bank transactions, lack of access to crucial medical treatments and purchasing of medical equipment such as X-ray and CAT scan equipment or upgrading and repairing existing equipment as a result of economic sanctions.
- Highlighting the continued link with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and also the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food and expressing ODVV's serious concern towards the negative impact of comprehensive sanctions on the people, which the former Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures called economic war.
- Highlighting paragraphs 10 to 12 of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran's recent report with regards to the impact of economic pressures on the health of the people and the need for global unity for the elimination of COVID-19 and removal of sanctions from countries, such as Iran.
- Called on the High Commissioner to openly condemn unilateral coercive measures especially during urgent and emergency conditions.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Round of UPR on Iran**

Another of the important programmes of the 43rd Session was the holding of the 3rd round of the UPR on IR Iran. Throughout this UPR session and the adoption of the report, the ODVV had active participation, which include reading of oral statements and publication of two books with the aim of presenting a real and balanced picture of Iran.

A summary of activities conducted are as follows:

#### *Reading Oral Statements*

- Highlighting 13 recommendations submitted to Iran on various aspects of development particularly “improvement of the country’s economic conditions”, continuation of “education, medical and social services in rural regions”, “expansion of medical insurance to include all citizens”, “development of infrastructures”, “protection of the rights of persons with disabilities”, and “commitment to the MDG”.
- Reiteration on the creation of numerous obstacles in the way of fulfilment of the MDG due to unilateral coercive measures against Iran.
- Objection to unilateral coercive measures which are deemed as economic war and denies the country from income, international banking transactions, and all imports and exports.
- ODVV’s request from the Iranian government to make efforts for the removal of obstacles and utilise and benefit from consultation with the civil society community particularly NGOs for the full implementation of recommendations.

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#### *Human Rights Situation in Iran Booklet*

This booklet was written towards complementary and transparent recommendations towards a number of human rights areas in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which often international observers criticise. On this basis, scientific and unbiased explanations (the literature of an NGO) regarding subjects such as the living and livelihood conditions of refugees in Iran, a comparison of the old and new texts of the Narcotics Punishment Act and positive information on the improvement of persons with disabilities’ conditions in the country, selection of a number of successful women in the country, legal explanations on the subject of Ghesas (retaliation punishment), and the right of the murder victims’ families for carrying it out, and also focuses on the realities of illegitimate unilateral coercive measures of the United States against our country, were brought up in this booklet.

#### *Iran, Land of Pride and Honour*

In this book the ODVV has tried in a pictorial way and consideration of 8 important fields in human rights chapters such as migrants, gender justice, rights of individuals with disabilities, the situation of minorities, right to education, sports justice, right to health etc. to draw a brief glancing and at the same time correct and documented understanding of these areas of human rights in the country for the reader.



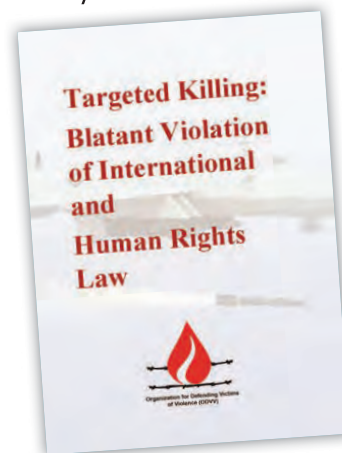


### *The Subject of the Martyrdom of General Soleimani from International Law Aspects*

The inhuman actions of the United States government in contrast to international norms in the assassination of General Soleimani in Baghdad International Airport was a new chapter in the actions of this country against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This action of America caused great pain to the people of Iran and brought on extensive international reactions. For this reason and towards a narrative of the literature of this in the international community and towards fulfilment of a debt to this great martyr, the ODVV wrote a text and distributed during the Session.

This text which was compiled as 12-page booklet, while defining the basis of preventive strikes in international law, reviewed the legal prohibition of the actions of a State in the targeted killing of the citizen of another country and attempts to show evidence and documents in the prohibition of this action from international law and also human rights to the reader.

Throughout the duration of the stay of the ODVV team a daily basis this booklet was available to experts and members of the Council. It must be said that the distribution of the booklet in the Council took place at the same time as holding of the meeting on the review of the legal implications of drone attack on General Soleimani and his entourage which took place in Geneva University.



### **Human Rights Situation in the Islamic World**

#### a) Saudi-led Coalition's actions in the war in Yemen

After five years of ups and downs the Yemen conflict continues unabated and its repercussions have affected the lives and human rights of the people. For this reason in continuation of ODVV's past years' activities, in this Session also actions were taken by the ODVV such as submission of a written statement under Item 2 on the subject of the violation of human rights in Yemen, in its working agenda.

#### b) Human Rights Situation in Myanmar

The issue of the genocide of Muslims by the Myanmar government is also another important subject which has been in the attention of the ODV in the recent years and in this Session the ODVV submitted a written statement under Item 2 on the subject of the prevention of aggression in accordance with article 2 of the Genocide Convention.

#### c) Israel's violation of human rights in the Occupied Territories

Another important activity of the ODVV in the Islamic world field was the subject of Occupied Territories and the Palestinians, which has always been in ODVV's attention. In this Session also

issues such as water shortage, settlement building, forced migration, denial of fundamental rights and violation of the right to self-determination of Palestinians were highlighted in the form of three written statements which are as follows:

- Written statement under Item 2 on the subject of interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner regarding violation of international law in the Occupied Territories and East Jerusalem.
- Written statement under Item 7 on the violation of human rights in the Palestinian Occupied Territories.
- Written statement under Item 2 on the concern over the conditions in the Occupied Territories such as settlement building, forced migration, deprivation of fundamental rights and violation of Palestinians' right to self-determination.

#### **44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

The 44th Session of the Human Rights Council took place from 29 June to 21 July 2020 in the European headquarters of the UN under Item 10. The activities of the ODVV in this Session included 10 written statements and 4 oral statements

##### *Written statements*

- Written statement under Item 4 on the subject of sanctions and right to health during the emergency COVID-19 conditions.
- Written statement under Item 3 on the subject of the violation of children's rights in Yemen due to Saudi-led coalition attacks in view of the UN High Commissioner's report on the realisation of rights of the child through a healthy environment.
- Written statement under Item 4 on the subject of the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE.
- Written statement under Item 9 on the concern over the impact of COVID-19 on the rise of xenophobia and Islamophobia in the west and the United States.
- Written statement under Item 3 on the subject of violation of the rights of indigenous women and children in Canada such as discrimination against indigenous women and children in all aspects of life and job opportunities.
- Written statement under Item 4 on the subject of concern over the human rights situation in the United States, United Kingdom, France and Canada.
- Written statement under Item 5 on the subject of violation of Palestinian rights and annexation of their lands.
- Written statement under Item 2 on the subject of the continuation of crimes committed against

the Rohingya Muslims.

- Written statement under Item 7 on the subject of a look at the position of governments and nongovernmental organizations during the holding of the submission of the special report on Occupied Territories.

#### *Oral Statements*

- Oral statement under Item 4 on the subject of sanctions and right to health during the COVID-19 emergency.

- Oral statement on the subject of objection to the impact of sanctions against Iran, Venezuela and Cuba.

- Oral statement under Item 4 on the subject of objection to the impact of new and old unilateral coercive measures against Syria.

- Oral statement under Item 9 on the subject of racism in the United States.

It must be said that the physical presence of ODVV's experts like in previous years was not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all of the ODVV's affairs were conducted by its representative office in Geneva.

#### **45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

The 45th Session of the Human Rights Council took place from 14 September to 7 October in the European headquarters of the UN in Geneva and at the same time as the continuation and harshening of America's unilateral coercive measures against Iran and international developments such as the complex situation and human rights impacts of the Yemen conflict, human rights situation in a number western and Arab countries, subject of west's arms supplies in the war in Yemen. The ODVV read 7 oral statements in this Session.

#### **Oral Statements**

- Oral statement under Item 3 on dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on International Order.

- Oral statement under Item 3 on dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights.

- Oral statement under Item 4 on the impact of sanctions on Syria

- Oral statement under Item 6 on the UPR on Sweden.

- Oral statement under Item 7 in condemnation of the situation in Palestine.

- Oral statement under Item 9 on condemnation of racism in the United States.

- Oral statement under Item 10 in objection to the situation in Yemen.

The ODVV and other NGOs from other countries were not able to attend this Session and all ODVV related affairs and matters were done through its representative office in Geneva.



مرکز  
مشاوره رها

## Rehabilitation Department: Raha Counselling Centre



**1100**

Telegram  
Posts



**2920**

Cases



**2190**

Hours of  
Counselling

## Rehabilitation Department: Raha Counselling Centre

With a wish to mend and end mankind's pains and sufferings, and expansion of humanitarian campaigns, the ODVV Rehabilitation Department provides counselling and treatment services.

For the protection of victims of domestic and social violence, the department presents counselling and therapy in legal, family, marriage, psychological disorders at the Rehabilitation Centre.

With the cooperation of 40 mental health experts and lawyers the Centre provides pre-marriage, education and legal counselling. The statistics of the cases is determined on the basis of gender, age, occupation, marital status, education levels and the reason for coming to the Centre.

In 1399 (Iranian Solar year - 20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021), 2,920 cases benefited from the Centre's services. 1,731 of them were women and 1,189 were men. According to the statistics most of the cases were married and the majority of them had marital problems. It must be said that overall, approximately 2,190 hours of counselling were provided in 1399 (20 March 2020 to 20 March 2021) to cases who came to the Centre for help.

As an active member of the Employment and Education Committee the ODVV Rehabilitation Centre, through the preparation of the "Prevention of Domestic Violence" document, has always endeavoured to work towards the prevention of violence.

For the realisation of the goals of this Committee, by participation in all meetings with a description of practical activities in this regard, the Rehabilitation Department has undertaken a number of important measures, the important ones of which are:

1. Identification of victims of violence at the Raha Rehabilitation Centre
2. Review of effective approaches in counselling and psychotherapy in prevention of violence.
3. Identification of suitable titles for technical sittings on prevention of violence and treatment of the victims, to hold at the Raha Rehabilitation Centre.
4. Setting a suitable research method to review the link between violence and impractical schemas, depression, and anxiety among victims of violence cases.
5. Identification of counselling problems of related governmental departments with the Rehabilitation Centre project for treatment intervention and counselling towards increasing the mental health of target group.

### **ODVV Raha Rehabilitation Centre Had the Following activities in its Working Agenda for 2018:**

- Expand direct communication with the Centre's audience through increasing the audience number via Telegram from 430 to 1100 and uploading materials daily.
- Expand the Centre's team of counsellors, psychologists, psychoanalysts and psychiatrists in various fields.
- Preparation of product packs and introduction of Raha Centre.
- Talks with services centres for cooperation with Raha Centre.
- Uploading Raha Centre's activities reports on its website.
- Signing letter of understanding with other NGOs (Iraqi rehabilitation centres)
- Holding education workshop on psychology such as stress management education course, pre-marriage education course etc.

## Communications and Social Networks

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**3**

Websites



**229**

Articles



**580**

Telegram  
Posts



**478**

Facebook  
Posts



**500**

Twitter Posts

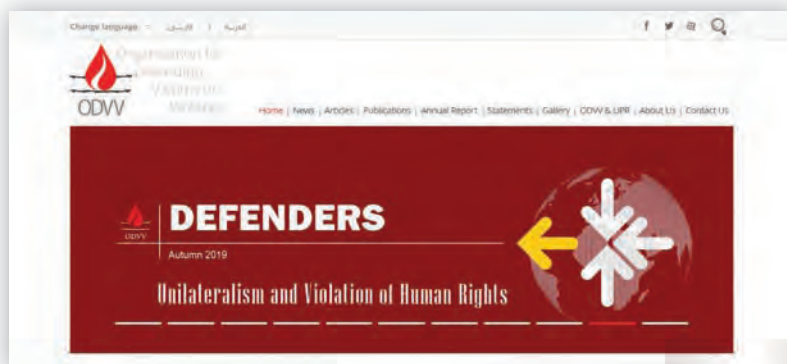
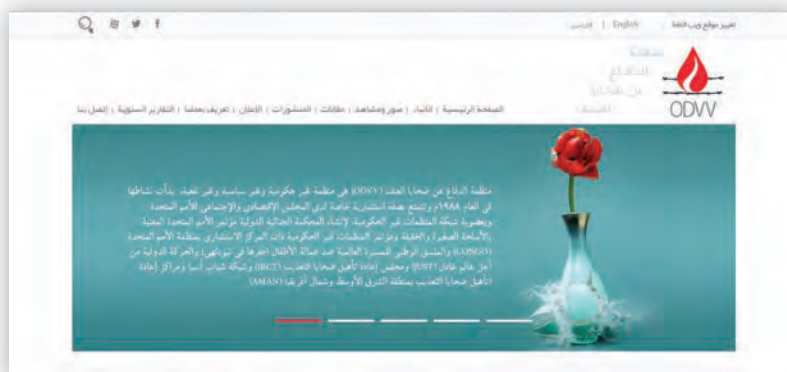
# Communications and Public Relations

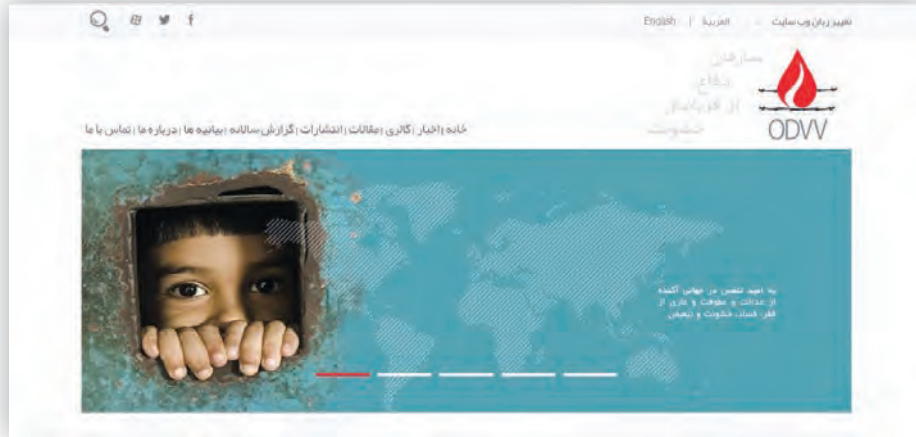
## Coordination and Publication the Contents of Websites and Social Networks

Information dissemination is another one of the ODVV's activities towards its objectives. The ODVV uses various tools to achieve this as follows:

### - Farsi, English and Arabic Websites

The worldwide web is one of the necessary communications channels to access the audience. Through utilisation of a trilingual website – Farsi, English and Arabic – the ODVV has managed to make human rights news and development, its activities and positions towards various issues, its advancements throughout the year, objectives and programmes available to the addressees and keep them updated on a daily basis. In 2020 a total of 229 articles on various news items on human rights issues were published on the three websites for interested parties to read.





### - ODVV Social Media Accounts

For the purpose of strengthening the links of the ODVV with sister international organizations and other addressees, the ODVV is active in Facebook and Twitter. This action is with the aim of the utilisation of new communications tools, identification and creation of networks of institutes and human rights activists to show the existence of multiple voices from Iran on human rights, and information dissemination of activities and drawing further partnerships. In 2020 these pages published more than 978 various human rights materials and articles.





### - ODVV's Telegram "Human Rights Studies" Channel

The Telegram "Human Rights Studies" channel was launched by the ODVV with the aim of raising the awareness of the addressees of scientific processes and human rights developments.

Up to the end of 2020, with 2910 members and daily uploads of human rights related materials, the channel is a communications arm of the ODVV with the addressees, volunteers and honorary members and it has a strategic approach.



### - Data Bank of Documents and Reports of Human Rights Situation in Iran

Through the designing and launching a data bank of documents, resolutions, reports and all important human rights treaties, the ODVV has facilitated the possibility of searching for reference sources and preparation of all its written and oral statements from the first Human Rights Council Session of the year to-date which include 300 oral and written statements.

<http://www.odvv.org/page-category-18-oral-statements>

<http://www.odvv.org/page/category-17-written-statements>

### Links with Honorary Members

Towards the realisation of its objectives and activities, the ODVV utilises the volunteer force with consideration of their field of expertise.

To this aim, with the launching of the ODVV Volunteers Group on the internet and with 95 members and the facilitation and exchange of up to date communication and information in human rights fields among the group members, the scene for their activities and the blossoming of their

capacities and talents was created.

An example of the activities of this group is the active participation and cooperation and presence of these members in holding education workshops and courses and also writing articles for the Farsi, English and Arabic websites and Defenders Newsletters.

## Exhibit

The Chapters from the Lives of 10 Angels Exhibit

The Chapters from the Lives of 10 Angels Exhibit was held by the ODVV on the sidelines of the 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, and highlighted the pain and hope of the sick Iranian children.







## Organization and Updating of the Library

The ODVV is equipped with a specialist library and up-to-date in the field of human rights which contains books in Farsi and English.

Also in 2020, with purchasing of dozens of new books on human rights and refining of the library the use of booklets, existing researches and articles, ODVV has facilitated the necessary conditions for honorary members, volunteers, researchers and students access for their studies and work.









ODVV

[www.odvv.org](http://www.odvv.org)