



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Forty-first session

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Agenda item 4

**Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**

### **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.

## **The United States of America's Unilateralism**

In spite of the reiteration of international documents and treaties on multilateralism and its necessity for the preservation of international peace and security, in the recent years we have witnessed unilateral measures taken by some governments which damage international relations norms and the credibility of international organizations and by creating chaos in the world, threaten peace, security and respect to human dignity and facilitate the growth and spread of violence and terrorism.

These types of measures are being carried out at the highest level by the United States. One of the most important examples of this is United States unilateral and illegal leaving of international treaties and conventions such as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Climate Change Treaty (Paris Accord), leaving the Human Rights Council, UNESCO, UN Global Compact on Migration, the illegal move of the United States' Embassy to Jerusalem and also imposition of pressures and unjust unilateral sanctions against countries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Bolivarian republic of Venezuela and Cuba, which has cost in countless cases of violations of human rights.

Undoubtedly America's leaving of international bodies, commitments and treaties have completely been with political objectives, such as leaving the Human Rights Council on the excuse of "institutionalized bias" of the Council against Israel, and in our view with the aim of removing Item 7 of the Council's working agenda and influencing the Council's fact-finding committee which was formed following the inhuman incidents that took place in the Gaza Strip, in 2016 and Israel's criminal conduct.

Such measures which are in clear contrast to international law and the UN Charter will not only give the United States a freer hand in extensive human rights violations and more resolute support for human rights violator states, but it will also damage the credibility and legitimacy of international bodies and treaties.

With the application of such unilateral force-based approaches in international relations and disregarding international court decisions, without a doubt it can be claimed that the international rule of law and multilateral mechanisms have been endangered.

On the other hand, in recent years, we have seen the imposition of Unilateral Coercive Measures by the United States that directly target the human rights of people in sanctioned countries.

This is while in its 71<sup>st</sup> Session in 2016, the United Nation (UN) General Assembly in the “human rights and unilateral coercive measures” resolution stressed that the continuation of unilateral coercive measures by some world powers which have extraterritorial effects is condemned and deemed these measures as one of the main obstacles in the realization of right to development.

Also, the 14<sup>th</sup> UNCTAD DOC document (June 2016) states that unilateral coercive measures have negative effects on the economy and development of countries as well as global efforts for creation of a multilateral open global trade.

UN Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM), Mr. Idriss Jazairy in his recent statement on May 6, 2019 “expressed deep concern at the recent imposition of unilateral coercive measures on Cuba, Venezuela and Iran by the United States, saying the use of economic sanctions for political purposes violates human rights and the norms of International behavior. Such action may precipitate man-made humanitarian catastrophes of unprecedented proportions.”

To this aim, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) calls upon the United Nations to confront the United States unilateral measures for the preservation of their own credibility and existence, and to pay special attention to the disregard of that government towards international law mechanism, because discredit of international treaties as a result of unilateral measures, and contrary to international law, is a threat to world peace, which is guaranteed by states’ commitments towards international law.

ODVV also calls on the UN Secretary General to appoint a special representative for unilateral measures so that in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on UCM, more serious action can be taken and the negative impact of UCMs on civilians can be alleviated.

ODVV also urges the UN Member States not to allow any country to put pressure on international institutions and international treaties through withdrawal from them, to achieve its political goals, and in particular, we call on the Human Rights Council to deliberately and vigorously prevent this kind of politically motivated action.