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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.

[19 August 2019]

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

Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

With the start of the Syrian crisis in January 2011 as a result of some Arab and western countries backing of terror groups inside the Syrian Arab Republic to-date, around 380,000 people have lost their lives. Among these victims there are more than 112,000 civilians, including 21,000 children and 13,000 women who have lost their lives.¹

In a report, UNICEF² named 2018 as the deadliest year for children in Syria with death of more than 1100 children. In this year, 748 children were injured and 806 were recruited as child soldiers by terror groups.

According to UNICEF, 8 million Syrian children are in need of assistance both inside Syrian and outside, in refugee host countries. The effects of the conflict has left 2.6 million children internally displaced and 2.5 child refugees outside the country. In refugee host countries, there are nearly 10,000 children without parents and many of these children are threatened by exploitation due to not having legal documents.

In 2018, the United Nations confirmed that there were attacks on 142 schools in Syria, which is the highest figure since the start of the conflict. It is estimated that 40 percent of the schools infrastructures in Syria have been damaged or destroyed in the conflict.

In Syria, more than 2 million children (more than a third of the total children of the country) do not attend school and 1.3 million children are in danger of leaving school.

Due to pressures from the refugee flow and difficulties in providing services, in refugee host countries there are difficulties for the Syrian community's access to fundamental services such as education, to an extent that more than 800,000 children are left out of school and are pushed to child labor or child marriage.

These figures show the extent of the crisis due to a destructive internal conflict, which has continued due to outside interventions and support for terror groups inside the country. If effective mechanisms are not foreseen for the reduction and stop to this trend, the inhuman repercussions of this crisis will spread further and will be out of control. The attacks of terror groups are still targeting the civilian population.

To this aim, based on its main objectives, which is defending victims of violence, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence submits the following recommendations:

- Prioritization of the investigation of the situation and the needs of civilians by parties in conflict and international organizations.
- Recognition of the right of countries to fight terrorism and respecting sovereignty and national boundaries.
- Reiteration that intervention of foreign powers into a country is a violation of international law.

¹ <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?cat=44>

² <https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/syria-crisis-fast-facts>