

**Item 4: General Debate**



**Madam President:**

Targeted killing is defined as: “use of lethal force by a subject of international law that is directed against an individually selected person who is not in custody and that is intentional, premeditated, and deliberate.”<sup>1</sup>

ODVV expresses the following sources of serious concern regarding the targeted killing of Iran Commander Ghasem Soleimani and his comrades:

- The murder was committed out of a conflict zone. There are no ongoing armed conflicts between Iran and the US, therefore, targeted killing of a high ranking Iranian military officer, violates the first of the UN Charter: preservation of international peace and security.
- The killing can never be justified under the principle of “self-defense”. Self-defense principle can be applied if firstly, there was no other non-deadly options left; and secondly, if the military action is urgent and proportionate.
- The act is a clear violation of the airspace sovereignty of Iraq according to the first Article of the Chicago Convention (1944), and a violation of the principle of refraining from the use of force against the territorial integrity of Iraq according to Article 2(4) of the UN Charter.

**Madam President,**

Considering the unlawful drone killing which can be considered as an act of terrorism, ODVV calls on the human rights council to support the comments made by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killing and clearly condemn the murder.

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<sup>1</sup> Targeted Killing in International Law, United Kingdom, Oxford University Press