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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

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.

[23 August 2020]

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

ID with Expert Mechanism on right to development UCMs as obstacles of the right to development

The re-imposition of the United States Sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran - following withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) which was endorsed by United Nations' Security Council resolution 2231 - has negatively affected all social, economic, cultural rights and the right to development for the people living in Iran and all other countries targeted by the United States illegal unilateral sanctions.

The Organization for defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) has been observing the effect of sanctions on Iran and our on-the-ground experience proves that the health sector is trying to offer treatment and follow up to Covid-19 patients; however, the economic pressure caused and maximized by United States (US) sanctions, is threatening many lives and reduces the people's access to health care, threatening the lives of the health workers at the same time.

Over the past two years, our organization has sent communications to many UN Special Rapporteurs including the SR on the right to health and the right to development several times and has expressed serious concerns over the detrimental effects of comprehensive sanctions on people, the sanctions that the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s consider as "de fact blockade" or "economic warfare".¹

One more time we reiterate that the UCMs meddle in with ANY effort by the government or the civil society to protect people under Covid-19. Because the sanctions negatively affect all exports and imports of vital items as well as earning national income through the "ban on oil export". In addition, the import of life saving medicine and necessary medical equipment is prevented by illegal sanctions.

In line with the remarks offered in paragraph 25 of the recent report of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (A/HRC/45/29), ODVV calls on the Expert Mechanism to study the effect of unilateral sanctions on the right to development and social and economic protection systems as obstacles to the realization of all human rights and offer recommendations to the UN Human Rights Council in this regard.

ODVV calls on the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development to identify UCMs as one of the main obstacles to the realization of the right to development and to make concrete policy recommendations on how to overcome them.

¹ ODVV has gathered information, through informal interviews, from vulnerable individuals, who are being covered by ODVV's volunteer livelihood services, and received treatment in public hospitals.

² A/HRC/42/46