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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Joint written statement* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute, Disability Association of Tavana, Ertegha Keyfiat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute, Family Health Association of Iran, Iran Autism Association, Iranian Thalassaemia Society, Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian, Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Peivande Gole Narges Organization, Rahbord Peimayesh Research & Educational Services Cooperative, Society for Protection of Street & Working Children, Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment, The Association of Citizens Civil Rights Protection "Manshour-e Parseh", non-governmental organizations 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.

[30 January 2021]

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



Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Our Iran-based non-governmental organizations, in consultative status to the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council, note the Special Rapporteur's attention to the negative impact of sanctions on human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran), including the Iranians' right to health, access to medicine, the Government's ability to respond promptly to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, the inflation, living standards, unemployment, banking, humanitarian operations of international organizations and the effect of secondary sanctions on third parties, in his reports submitted to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.¹

We also note the Special Rapporteur's recommendation to the sanctioning countries to minimize the adverse consequences of sanctions on human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, we reiterate on the fact that the scope of comprehensive unilateral coercive measures is much wider than discussed in the report and that unilateral coercive measures affect all economic, social and cultural rights including the right to life and the right to health of Iranians.

In line with the UN Human Rights Council reports² and resolutions, we condemn the negative impact of unilateral sanctions on human rights especially the right to life and the right to health and call on the Special Rapporteur to study the effect of unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) on Iranians' human rights in Iran more extensively and report the findings to the Human Rights Council.

We also call on the Special Rapporteur on Iran to support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights in line with the UN resolutions³ and join her in her public statements that criticize the impact of unilateral sanctions on the human rights of civilians in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Considering the malicious impact of UCMs on Iranians' human rights which is partly discussed in the Special Rapporteur's reports, we call on the Special Rapporteur to start a mechanism, in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on UCMs and the Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to assess the impact of the measures on Iranians' human rights in order to hold the sanctioning country responsible for all the human rights violated by sanctions. It is for certain that the contributions of Iran-based civil society will be helpful in this regard.

Finally, we are terribly alarmed by the United States of America widespread inhuman attempts to prevent Iranians from access to Covid Vaccine. On the one hand, the illegal sanctions imposed on all banking transactions and oil exports of Iran disrupt the purchase of the vaccine from foreign companies and on the other hand, the fact that the United States of America (US) has added Iranian COVID-19 vaccine developers to sanctions list⁴ reflects the US determination to threaten civilian lives in the Islamic Republic of Iran in violation of international law and international humanitarian law. We call on the Special Rapporteur to condemn the inhuman decision.

¹ E.g., A/75/213.

² A/HRC/45/7; A/HRC/42/46; A/HRC/36/44; A/HRC/33/48.

³ A/HRC/RES/24/14; A/HRC/RES/30/2; A/HRC/RES/34/13; A/RES/71/193.

⁴ <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/456988/U-S-adds-Iranian-COVID-19-vaccine-developers-to-sanctions-list>.