

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)

Item 4: General Debate



Madam President

ODVV is alarmed by the malicious effect of Unilateral Coercive Measures on Iran, Syria and Venezuela. ODVV shares the recent concerns expressed by the SR on UCMs that “The global health crisis created by COVID-19 has revealed the depth of the problem and demonstrated clearly that unilateral coercive measures may be deadly...”¹

On Syria, ODVV echoes the recommendation offered by the Commission of Inquiry² that any obstacles on delivery of humanitarian aid must be removed including the ones caused by sanctions.³ ODVV repeats the recommendation by the former SR on UCMs that “There is a pressing need to lift all sanctions which have a negative impact on ... Syrians.”⁴

On Venezuela, ODVV is alarmed by the death toll resulted by sanctions in Venezuela before the Covid-19 outbreak⁵ and highly regrets the fact that more lives are going to be lost if no action is taken to stop the malignant effect of UCMs.

Madam President

ODVV urges the Fact Finding Mission on Venezuela and the COI on Syria to study the detrimental effects of comprehensive sanctions on people, the sanctions that the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s considered as “economic warfare”⁶

ODVV calls on the UN HC, the treaty bodies, the Special Procedures, the FFM on Venezuela and the COI on Syria to study and recommend the ways to remove, minimize and redress the adverse impact of comprehensive UCMs that impose disproportionate pressures on people now threatened with Covid-19.

¹. A/HRC/45/7

². A/HRC/44/61, pp. 111

³. Over 11 million people need humanitarian aid in Syria, https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019_Syr_HNO_Full.pdf

⁴. A/HRC/39/54/Add.2

⁵. <http://cepr.net/publications/reports/economic-sanctions-as-collective-punishment-the-case-of-venezuela>

⁶. A/HRC/39/54, A/HRC/42/46