

*Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)*

### **Item 3: ID with SR on Health**

Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s Systematically Violate the Right to Health



**Madam President,**

ODVV notes the Special Rapporteur's remarks in the joint statement, on 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2020, that "Sanctions are bringing suffering and death in countries like Cuba, Iran, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen." We would like to echo the Special Rapporteur's call in the joint statement that "Sanctions should be lifted – or at a minimum eased ...to keep people alive."

Our experiences of working with civilian populations and the vulnerable groups prove the deadly effect of sanctions on all human rights especially the right to mental and physical health. Within the past year, we have been witnessing that the complications, already in place by Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s, are multiplied by the spread of Covid-19, and we express deep sorrow that in the emergency of the pandemic, UCMs systematically continue to take lives in target countries, despite the repeated calls made by the UN officials on the necessity of lifting sanctions.

**Madam President,**

We call on the Special Rapporteur to continue joining the other UN Experts to repeat the call for an immediate lifting of the sanctions on all sectioned countries, both in written reports and public statements, so that the countries can use their full capacity to fight the virus and the new mutations.

Finally, we call on the Special Rapporteur to study the deadly impact of UCMs on the people living in the sanctioned countries, especially during the pandemic, and include the findings in the thematic reports submitted to the UN Human Rights Council.