

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)

Item 3: ID with SR on UCMs



Continued Imposition of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCMs) is Alarming

Madam President,

ODVV notes the Special Rapporteur's report to HRC 48, all her activities, the allegation letters and appeals sent to the US and is deeply alarmed by the continuation of imposition of unprecedented UCMs during the emergency of the Covid-19 pandemic

We are further appalled by the bitter reality that the repeated calls made by the UN Experts (1), the UN SG (2) and the UN HC (3) to eliminate or ease sanctions during the pandemic only led the sanctioning States to tighten the grip of sanctions.

Following the repeated comments made on the negative impacts of UCMs in the Human Rights Council for the past years, one more time, ODVV reiterates on the fact that UCMs violate the principles of international law and echoes the concerns expressed by UN experts that UCMs have proven to be deadly during the COVID pandemic and the humanitarian exemptions are not working.

We support the Special Rapporteur's recommendation that the humanitarian impact of unilateral sanctions shall be assessed, the sanctioning States shall become subject to reporting obligations and appropriate UN monitoring mechanisms should evaluate the humanitarian consequences of sanctions on target populations and we strongly believe that illegal UCMs must stop.

Madam President,

Considering the mass killings of UCM victims in silence, resulted by limitation of access to medicine, medical equipment, vaccine and food, under Covid-19 pandemic, we urge the UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of UCMs to use all capacities at hand to eliminate the deadly effect of sanctions on targeted populations.

1 . e.g. UN Experts: Sanctions proving deadly during COVID pandemic, humanitarian exemptions not working; available in <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26155&LangID=E>

2 . e.g. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sgsm20024.doc.htm>

3 . e.g. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25744&LangID=E>