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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

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.

[5 February 2023]

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

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Islamic republic of Iran

We expect the Special Rapporteur on the Islamic Republic of Iran to play a more constructive role in establishing a dialogue with the country in order to be able to contribute to promotion of human rights domestically.

We would encourage his excellency to review the role played so far as a country mandate holder and the impacts of the activities of his mandate on human rights of the people inside Iran and to take steps in order to play a more effective role and to get involved in a positive engagement with the government.

The civil society, residing inside Iran, expects the Special Rapporteur to "act in an independent capacity," while the present rhetoric used by the Special Rapporteur does not seem to be objective enough to represent impartiality and independence, paying due attention to the issues raised by all Iranians. Therefore, we call on the Special Rapporteur to step forward to represent the whole Iranian population.

Finally, we note that economic sanctions are discussed in the report, however, we would expect the Special Rapporteur to discuss the negative impacts of the unilateral coercive measures on all human rights of all Iranians, including the right to life, the right to health – especially for people with chronic disease, children, people with disabilities and the elderly - the right to food, the right to an adequate living standard, the right to work, the right to education – for students studying inside and outside Iran, the right to a healthy environment, all aspects of the right to development and achievement of all suitable development goals.

Our on-the-ground experience proves that economic sanctions which directly target the economic system and aim at increasing income inequality, inflict pain and suffering in the target populations and affect realization of all human rights with disproportionate impacts on the most vulnerable strata.

Sanctions are designed to target the well-being of all citizens in the target countries rather than aiming to improve human rights. They intentionally jeopardize the life and health of all ordinary people especially the vulnerable groups. Therefore, we expect the Special Rapporteur to seriously discuss the widespread human rights impacts of sanctions on the people, among other issues.
