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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.

[30 May 2023]

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

ID with the Fact Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFMI)

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), as an NGO based in Iran, would like to draw the attention of the respected members of the Fact Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFMI) to the following issues:

1. The FFMI is expected to act in accordance with the resolution 5/2 of the Human Rights Council and especially observe the principles of objectivity, independence and neutrality.
2. The mechanism is also expected to base investigations on strong, documented and reliable evidence, so that, there will be room for verification of allegations and everyone's rights are protected.
3. Iran has had a long experience in dealing with the monitoring mechanisms of the United Nations in the field of human rights, and unfortunately, the memories of this experience are not positive from the point of view of Iranian officials. Based on its lived experience, Iran considers the UN monitoring mechanisms to be highly politicized and created under political pressures of a number of Western bloc countries. As a result, Iran does not recognize the mechanisms and does not allow reporters to visit the country.

On the other hand, reporters or commissions in charge of monitoring, often rely on information received from Iran opposition groups, even groups that were on the terrorist list of the United States, the United Kingdom and Europe until recently. The reliance, eliminates the possibility of any dialogue and cooperation between the country and the UN mechanisms. In addition, reliance on opposition groups data limits the space of co-operation between the UN mechanisms and Iran-based NGOs who, have access to reliable information, due to their presence inside the country. Whatever the result, it will neither help the State to improve the country's human rights situation, nor the Mission and other special mechanisms to fulfil their mandates effectively. We are hoping that the FFMI will break this vicious cycle with new initiatives based on impartiality and understanding of the country's view points on human rights issues.

4. For the past several years, Iran has tried to establish a good partnership with reporters, responding to the communications, allegations and cases presented in their reports. Unfortunately, because the reports of the Secretary General or the Special Rapporteur of Iran are often published with partial disregard or minimal attention to the responses provided by the State, the desire to strengthen the cooperation with the mechanism is gradually fading.

We hope that the respected members of the FFMI will adopt a cooperation procedure which takes into account both the government's and the protestors' viewpoints following a scientific and objective approach, which discriminates the real cases of human rights violations from baseless and politically motivated allegations.
