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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Joint written statement* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Abshar Atefaha Charity Institute, Ertegha Keyfiat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute, Family Health Association of Iran, Hazrat-e Fatemeh Zahra Charity Institute, Humanitarian Ambassadors NGO, Iran Autism Association, Iranian Thalassemia Society, Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian, Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute, Medical Support Association for Underprivileged Iranian Patients, Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Peivande Gole Narges Organization, Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment, The Association of Citizens Civil Rights Protection "Manshour-e Parseh", The Society for Recovery Support, non-governmental organizations 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.

[01 February 2025]

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

Ensuring Independence, Impartiality, and Constructive Dialogue: Expectations from the New UN Special Rapporteur and the FFMI on Iran

Considering the two mandates adopted on the Islamic Republic of Iran, we would like to present the following recommendations:

We hope that the new Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran succeeds in paying due attention to the serious concerns of the Iranian People. The mandate has been serving for years and its performance has not met the expectations of the people of Iran so far. As an NGO based in Iran, active in the field of human rights for decades, we would like to express our expectations from the new mandate holder and the existing Fact-Finding Mission.

Independence

We call on the new Special Rapporteur and the Fact-Finding Mission to keep constructive engagement with domestic human rights actors and activists and stay independent of political viewpoints which are expressed to them through some biased groups. We express concerns over the independence of the previous Special Rapporteurs on Iran who would manifest close friendships with Iran opposition groups and some terrorist groups. A behavior which would seriously undermine the professionalism of the Special Rapporteurs, in contradiction with the independence and impartiality that the mandate holder must adhere to, according to the Code of Conduct.

Impartiality of Reports

We are looking forward to the new Special Rapporteur's adhering to the principles of independence and impartiality in communications, relationships, speeches and reports, in accordance with the Code of Conduct. We express serious concerns over the heavy reliance of the previous reports of Special Rapporteurs, on the opposition groups information.

We would also invite the members of the FFMI to carefully verify the information they receive and cross check the reliability of their findings with Iran.

Constructive Dialogue

We are going to stay positive on the capacities of the new mandate holder to initiate and maintain a constructive dialogue with both public and private sectors of the country, build mutual trust, and undertake communications in the spirit of cooperation in order to facilitate negotiations with his mandate and pave the way for effective steps to be taken toward further improvements in Iran.

Cooperation with Iran-based NGOs

We stay hopeful for the establishment of effective dialogue, meetings and discussions between the mandate and the members of the civil society active inside Iran and look forward to seeing the viewpoints, remarks and comments of Iran based NGOs reflected in the Special Rapporteur's annual reports to the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council. We would welcome the Special Rapporteur's attention to the ongoing efforts of the civil society inside Iran to improve human rights domestically and would be ready to exchange information in this regard.

Due Attention to Human Rights Violations Affecting all people of Iran

We would expect the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on "the situation of human rights" in Iran to pay due attention and report on the widespread and adverse human rights

impacts of the comprehensive unilateral coercive measures on all human rights of Iranians including the rights to life, health, access to medicine and medical care, education, housing, work, adequate living standard, healthy environment, all aspects of the right to development and attainment of all sustainable development goals. We emphasize that the UCMs imposed by the United States and the European Union on countries beyond the authority of the United Nations and international rule of law are illegal and harmful for the target populations. We find the limited previous discussions of the issue as unacceptable, under presenting the demands of the Iranian people in this regard, especially the expectations of the victims of UCMs.

We would also look forward to hearing the cases of the violation of the right to life through acts of terrorism in the country to be discussed and publically condemned by the Special Rapporteur, such as murdering other country officials in Iran or killings of Iranian people by terrorist groups inside the country, including the heinous terrorist attacks in Kerman in early January 2024. We expect the mandate holder to bravely condemn such crimes in formal statements.

International Farda Development Activists Association, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.