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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
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Agenda item 3

**PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL,  
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS,  
INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

**Written statement\* submitted by the Organization For Defending Victims Of Violence  
(ODVV), 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.

[17 May 2009]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

## **Terrorism**

Over the last three decades, the people of Iran have repeatedly been victims of various forms of acts of terror, and have experienced various forms of terrorism that have caused bloodshed and fear among innocent citizens.

Iran has always been the target of violent acts by terrorist militia groups such as the Mujahedin Khalgh Organization (MKO). Following the assassination of Iranian and foreign figures in the seventies, and also bombing and terror campaigns between the years 1981-84, in 2000 the MKO was added to the list of international terrorist organizations by the United States and the EU. During these years in Tehran alone this terror group has carried out 366 terror attacks. Following the ceasefire in 1988, with the backing of the Iraqi military, the MKO launched an attack against Iran.

This is while by ignoring all these facts, some governments want the MKO to be removed from the list of terror groups. This is nothing but clear and open support for terrorism.

EU's request for America to remove MKO's name from its list of terror organizations, is something that is causing concern for the people of Iran, particularly the family members of the victims of the MKO attacks. This request which has been made by a number of hardline members of the European Parliament, is intended to use the MKO as a tool to put pressure on Iran, and to present this terror organization as an internal opposition group that is campaigning for the liberation of the country.

The MKO lobby in the European Parliament and its members influence on this parliament are some of the factors that have influenced the sending of this request to the United States. The Islamic Republic of Iran objects the West's use of double standards in fighting terrorism, because despite extensive incriminating documentation and evidence against the MKO and its leaders, this group is not deemed a terror organization by the EU.

As an organization that constantly condemns all forms of terrorism all over the world, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence demands the European Parliament to provide the reasons for its decision, and calls upon the United States who recently took noticeable measures in condemning some terror campaigns of the MKO in Iran, to while carefully studying MKO's dark record, and also consider the dangerous consequences of removing MKO from the list of terror groups.

Feeling the threat of the terrorist nature of the MKO and its objectives, the ODVV calls upon the Human Rights Council to take measures to prevent members of this group having a podium in the Council on the pretence of human rights, when in fact they would only lobby states to their own ulterior motives.

The ODVV also calls upon the special rapporteur on terrorism to use his capacities to review the situation of this terror group, and to devise more effective mechanisms to confront the new and dangerous decisions that are being made at the international level.

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