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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the 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.

[24 August 2014]

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

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Human Rights Situations that Require the Council's Attention

Today in the Middle East region we are seeing tragic conditions where occupation and aggression are deemed legitimate and millions of humans are driven from their homes and are refugees, and furthermore many are struggling with poverty, war and ignorance. Therefore the accomplishment of real peace requires establishment of national and international order on the basis of human dignity and recognition of rights of people to adequate material and moral life, and creation of mechanisms to provide these rights. In the World against Violence and Extremism resolution, all member states committed to the contents of the UN Charter, condemned attacks against civilians, holy places and cultural centers, and a global unity for the fight against sectarian, religious and cultural violence, and condemned hatred caused by nationalism and exploitation of religion. But unfortunately today, and after the adoption of the resolution, the most fundamental of human rights are being violated in parts of the Middle East, particularly Syria, Iraq and Palestine.

The violation of security and fundamental rights of civilians in the shadows of the disproportionate war in Gaza

Up until 17 August 2014, in occupied Palestine over 2016 people have been killed that include 456 women and 250 women, over 10,000 injured and thousands made homeless, infrastructures destroyed that include 107 hospitals, 11,855 homes destroyed or seriously damaged, 102 hits on medical staff that included 19 martyrdoms. Missiles hitting UNRWA schools and news agency buildings resulting in the deaths of 11 journalists, all of which are registered. Despite this, according to UNOCHA official figures, 67 Israelis have died in the same period of time, only 3 of which were civilians.

The one sided support of some international institutions and governments for these violent acts on the pretext of self defense and the unbalanced approach of international organizations to Israel's human rights violations, clearly indicate contradictions in their approach with international laws.

Article 51(6) of Geneva Convention states that attacking civilians even in self defense is prohibited, and there is clear and undeniable evidence that Israel is fully violating human rights and international law.

According to the ICC document, Israel has violated article 7(2) of the Rome Statute, which is one of the examples of crimes against humanity.

Systematic violation of human rights by ISIS

In Syria, terrorists have turned government buildings and religious centers into prisons and their own offices. Universities continue to be closed, because according to the armed groups women get education in them, therefore they must remain closed.

Terror groups execute people in public, and wreak terror among the population. Most of the shops in towns occupied by terrorists are shut, and only a few shops and grocery stores remain open.

ISIS associated groups destroy all religious and holy centers and destroy or loot cultural heritage, because they see these as contrary to Islamic teachings. The serious measures of ISIS in the establishment of a marriage office for the sexual exploitation of single women and widows has caused the criticisms of many human rights and women rights groups.

Lack of attention towards the International Process on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

In Iraq, when ISIS terrorists asked the families in Mosul to give them a list of all their single girls, most of them were forced to flee the city.

The IS ideology is fundamentally anti-Islam and anti-human rights. From human rights activist forcing women to marry IS fighters is tantamount to sexual rape.

In the name of the "implementation of Islamic Sharia" ISIS committed and continues to commit barbaric killings of the Shia, Sunni, Christian and Yezidi. Sexual rape, propaganda on the internet, causing terror in public opinion by

publishing the beheadings and mass executions of Iraqi prisoners of war, declaration of war on Lebanon, the use of chemicals and radioactive materials, killing of civilians and police officers, forcing of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis from their homes, mass disappearances of people, kidnapping of councilor and diplomatic officials of foreign missions, are all some of the horrific and brutal crimes that are committed by this extremist terror group in Iraq.

The actions of this terrorist group from the legal perspective including ethnic cleansing, genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and terrorism, are completely identifiable. And there are international documents for each of these cases, therefore all IS members are internationally pursuable.

Fortunately after three years of military and organized campaigns of terror committed by ISIS and other groups supporting it in the region, particularly in Syria and also the recent months lightning attack and advances of this group in northern Iraq, and its continued efforts to occupy more regions of the country, the silence of the international community was finally broken and the Security Council issued Resolution 2170 against ISIS and listed six of its members under sanction. This belated Resolution is a Resolution that after years of ISIS activities in Syria, Lebanon, Libya and Iraq, was finally issued by the UN Security Council, and this is while American fighter jets started their air campaigns in northern Iraq a few days before the Resolution was issued.

But there are many unanswered questions regarding the belated reaction of the international community towards ISIS and regional terrorism

Wasn't ISIS seen as a threat to the region by the Security Council prior to America's bombing campaign against ISIS positions?

Why did America in a sudden turn launched attacks against ISIS on the pretext of defending Yezidi and Christian minorities? Hadn't Shia and Sunnis been the victims of ISIS from a while ago? Will this sudden and selective action of America bring about the basis for regional religious differences and conflicts? Will America benefit from the existence of religious disputes and conflicts in the Middle East?

Would it have been possible for ISIS to become this powerful in the region without financial support from abroad?

How can we believe that Saudi Arabia and Qatar as the richest financial backers of ISIS are under the threat of UN and American imposed sanctions?

How is it that the European members of the Security Council adopted a Resolution that states any form of direct or indirect financial aid to ISIS is prohibited and yet there is no mention of the same European countries purchasing oil from ISIS?

What justification is there for the presence of Europeans fighting for ISIS?

British, German, Norwegian, Belgian, Dutch terrorists, among many others from western countries, step in front of cameras without their masks and call for recruits to join them from across the world, to an extent where the British MI5 was forced to form special investigation groups to identify the British members of ISIS.

Why did the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons Organization, the International Court of Justice, the Persian Gulf States Cooperation Council, Interpol, and particularly NATO all of which were actively present in the American lead war against Iraq, remained silent and only expressed concern and issued statements once in a while?

Unfortunately the timing of the adoption of the Resolution 2170, once again showed that a document is approved in the Security Council only when the White House wills it.

While expressing happiness for the approval of Resolution 2170, the ODVV condemns in the strongest terms extremist terrorism and its expansion in the region particularly ISIS actions in Iraq and Syria, and Israel's crimes committed in Gaza, which are all violations of human dignity, human rights and humanitarian law. ODVV believes that the eradication of terrorism and extremism in the region is conditional to the paying of special attention to the root causes of these movements and the accountability of a number of actors of the region with regards to provision of financial

resources and insecurity and instability management in the region. Thus ODVV believes that full halt of states backing of extremist terror groups, particularly ISIS, is one of the priorities for the provision of peace and justice in the present conditions. This Organization deems ISIS actions as equal to the definition of genocide that is stated in article 1 of the Genocide Convention, and calls for effective actions being taken including the referral of ISIS to ICC.

While reiterating on respect for human rights, legal principles that provide stability, calm and peace in the region, recommends extensive and active international cooperation with the role playing of the IOC and the UN and uniting of regional governments, to prevent these actions which are weakening the image of Islam that will undermine peace and justice among nations, religions and cultures.

The ODVV stresses that NGOs networks and intellectuals must fulfill their professional responsibilities and try to stop the actions of ISIS and its supporters, Israel's continuation of crimes in Gaza, and to participate for establishment of peace and stability in the region and guaranteeing the rights of the Iraqi, Syrian and Palestinian nations.
