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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Family Health Association of Iran, 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.

[12 February 2017]

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

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The Statement on the Female Inmate's Health in Iran

The right to health as one part of the fundamental human rights has been recognized in the international human rights system, Article 55 of the UN Charter, and Article 25 of International Declaration of Human Rights. Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights also recognizes the right of any individual to the highest attainable standard of physical and psychological health.

In many societies, paying attention to health and providing access to health and sanitary services for vulnerable women including female inmates is neglected, and these groups have least access to health and sanitary services. The Islamic Republic of Iran is dedicated to improvement of the health status of vulnerable women and in this respect has taken worthwhile efforts in order to improve the female inmates' health status by establishing specialized clinics inside prisons that deliver many specialized medical and Para clinical services to these women there free of charge. At the same time, mental health services, psychological counselling, triangle clinics, nutrition and sports services, and empowerment of clients are amongst the other efforts taken in order to improve social and mental status of these persons.

Non-governmental organizations in Iran like Family Health Association of Iran through their contracts with the State Prisons Organization have had an effective role on the female inmates' health. Family Health Association of Iran, which is an official member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and which holds consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, is a front runner in the fields of training, counselling and service delivery to improve the vulnerable women and female inmates' health, and this Association in collaboration with the State Prisons Organizations has been conducting harm reduction services, training peer groups for familiarization with STDs, especially hepatitis and HIV/Aids, and helping empowerment of women in the areas of employment, entrepreneurship and income generation.

The Family Health Association of Iran and other NGOs active in the area of health spare no effort to boost the access of female inmates to educational and counselling services and delivery of health services to them, and that they have been trying hard particularly in the fields of reproductive health, wellness, and empowerment of female clients so that these persons like other women of our country have equal and fair access to health and sanitary services.
