



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Thirty-fifth session

6-23 June 2017

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

**Joint written statement\* submitted by the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, the Women's Human Rights International Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status, and the Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, a non-governmental organization on the roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 May 2017]

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

GE.17-08386(E)



\* 1 7 0 8 3 8 6 \*

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## **Particular governments abuse the NGO framework and mechanism for their specific political goals**

Written statements that are published during the UN Human Rights Council sessions are an opportunity for the civil society of every country to inform the international community about the concerns and cases of human rights violation in their country. However, the situation is different when it comes to the Iranian civil society.

The reports of former Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, Dr. Ahmad Shaheed, indicated that in the Islamic Republic of Iran, freedom of associations does not exist and independent NGOs of state control cannot be formed. Since the civil society in Iran does not enjoy the freedom of expression (as exemplified by cases of Sattar Beheshti and Narges Mohammadi) the Iranian government has resorted to creating NGOs in order to whitewash its systematic and widespread violation of human rights by abusing the NGOs' consultative status and other facilities at their disposal to tarnish the image of the democratic opposition and Iranian independent NGOs who are in exile.

One of these so-called NGOs supported by the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran is the Association for the Defence of Victims of Terrorism (ADVT) that apparently has no other mission except demonizing and disseminating false information about the best-organized and main opposition group calling for democracy in Iran, named the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, PMOI (or as they say MKO).

The ADVT and similar ones that have come from Iran to participate in the Human Rights Council, in addition to disseminating false information and news, engage in intimidating and identifying Iranian human rights activists on the sidelines of the session, and under the supervision of the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence, which is responsible for suppressing the opposition, intimidate the families of these activists in Iran and pressure them.

We are calling for a stronger control or checks of these types of *dependent* NGOs who use the UN facilities to pursue the goals of some rights abusing governments.

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