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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, 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 August 2017]

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

GE.17-15080(E)



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End the war in Yemen

We write to express our support for all efforts to end the war in Yemen and to assist those in need. To that end, we call the council to lead the international community in introducing a resolution on Yemen at the United Nations Human Rights Council that will establish an Independent Commission of Inquiry to address ongoing human rights violations and help provide a viable solution to the crisis.

Yemen is currently experiencing a manmade humanitarian catastrophe that requires immediate action to save the lives of millions of people. We continue to be gravely concerned by reports of serious violations of International Humanitarian Law and of basic human rights by all parties to the conflict, including the use of banned weapon such as cluster bombs and the killing and injuring of civilians.

Recognizing that safeguarding human rights is essential for promoting reconciliation and stability, it is imperative that the international community create an Independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate these allegations and provide redress to those whose rights have been violated. An impartial investigation into breaches of international law will pressure all parties to engage in real, good faith ceasefire negotiations with a view toward securing peace in Yemen.

We additionally call the council and the international community to urge the Saudi-led coalition to immediately lift the blockade of Sana'a airport and Al-Hyddidah port in order to allow the entry of emergency humanitarian relief. If these blockades remain in place – and if other coalition actions to impede relief efforts continue to go unchallenged – the world's worst humanitarian crisis will only further deteriorate, with millions of people at risk of dying from famine, disease, and violence.
