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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, 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.17-15089(E)



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Attacks on the Shiite Hazara in Afghanistan

The August 5, 2017 attack on members of the Shiite Hazara community by the Taliban forces who operated together with members of the so-called „Islamic State“ marks only the latest in a long string of attacks on the Hazara community in Afghanistan. The Hazara make up for some 20 per cent of the total population in Afghanistan. At least 60 Hazara were killed during the attack that occurred in the Mirza Olang area in northern Sar-e Pul province. Many of the victims were decapitated.

It can be expected the defeat of the so-called “Islamic State” in Iraq and the Syrian Arabic Republic will result in more fighters going into Afghanistan, thus enhancing the likelihood of specifically targeted, sectarian attacks on Shiite Hazara. The first suicide attack on the Hazara claimed by the so-called “Islamic State” occurred on July, 23, 2016 in Kabul. At least 85 people were killed and 400 injured.

On August 2, 2017, a Shiite mosque was blown up by a suicide bomber, 29 worshipers were killed. On June 6, 2017, seven Hazara were murdered by a suicide bomber during an assault on Herat Jamma Masjid. Hazara were killed in the thousands during by the Taliban and Al-Qaida during the 1990s.

Society for Threatened Peoples calls on the Human Rights Council:

- To urge the government of Afghanistan to step up measures to protect ethnic and religious minorities such as the Hazara from atrocious attacks by Sunni extremists,
- To call on states in which Hazara from Afghanistan have fled to stop deportations of Hazara back to Afghanistan.