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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by 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.

[14 January 2020]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) takes note of the Special Rapporteur's discussion on economic sanctions in his report, however draws his Excellency's attention to the reality that the profound impact of the current economic warfare on the right to life and all economic social and cultural rights of Iranians is hardly reflected in the limited discussion presented on the impact of sanctions on people.

The current collective punishment of Iranians through the "de-facto" economic "blockade"¹ is taking lives and violating all human rights of the whole population, with the vulnerable groups, including the minorities, the patients, the children, the elderly and the disabled, bearing the most burnt. The comprehensive sanctions target the rights of all minorities and vulnerable groups that the Special Rapporteur is trying to defend their rights in his reports and statements, including the religious minorities and the detainees. The widespread detrimental effects of economic war are so contagious that leaves no one unaffected. The comprehensive sanctions on interbank relations prohibit the transfer of all humanitarian items including food and medicine threatening many lives.

The economic terrorism through comprehensive sanctions is pushing the country to de-prioritize promotion of civil and political rights at the expense of fighting the extreme consequences of the de-facto blockade. The unilateral measures divert and reverse most country's efforts made by the governmental and non-governmental sectors to improve human rights, because alleviating the effects of economic war on people is finding a higher priority.

ODVV has been informing the Human Rights Council about the belligerent economic sanctions and their deadly effects on the Iranians for the past 4 years. ODDV "expresses its deepest regrets" that to date, NO concrete measures have been adopted by the Human Rights Council, to stop the illegal and inhuman comprehensive sanctions that are killing many people in silence² all over the world, in all sanction-target countries including the countries that are under comprehensive sanctions.

ODVV urges the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran to make visible efforts to publicly condemn the pain and sufferings of Iranians caused by the illegal de facto blockade.

¹ A/74/165

² <http://cepr.net/publications/reports/economic-sanctions-as-collective-punishment-the-case-of-venezuela>