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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

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

[19 August 2021]

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



Coronavirus Crisis

On behalf of 10,000 volunteers of the ISPSRS, Imam Ali Popular Students Relief Society, I would like to express my grave concern over the situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Infections caused by Covid-19 are increasing in Iran and the reported daily average is at its peak. Almost 100 thousand Coronavirus-related deaths have been reported since the beginning of the pandemic. WHO has constantly mentioned that the only way out of this dreadful situation is global access to vaccines, tests and treatments for everyone who needs them, anywhere in the world.

Covid-related school closures affected children unequally (both Iranian and Afghan children), as not all children had the opportunities, tools, or access needed to keep on online learning during the pandemic.

Since the outbreak of the corona virus, Imam Ali Society (IAPSRS) has been educating families in deprived areas in Iran and providing them with personal protective equipment. Our volunteers have also been trying to reduce food insecurity for more than 3000 of underprivileged families.

Supporting healthcare providers, IAPSRS delivered a lot of personal protective equipment to different hospitals. Ventilators and other medical devices were also provided to hospitals in some provinces including Sistan and Baluchestan, Khorasan Razavi and Alborz.

IAPSRS has joined a recent campaign launched by Komak Network, National Network of Iranian NGOs for controlling the COVID-19 crisis, to demand and facilitate Government's immediate and effective actions on ameliorating the situation.

This campaign has sought the following actions to be done by the government:

1. Increasing the rate of vaccination by WHO approved vaccines such that the eligible population get vaccinated with their first dose in a period of 30 days and fully vaccinated within 90 days.
2. Seeking International aids specifically from WHO and International Committee of the Red Cross in terms of vaccines in order to relieve the pressure on the frontlines.
3. Managing and distributing reasonably priced drugs required to fight the disease.
4. Forcing a two-week lockdown to help fight the 5th wave of coronavirus and taking serious risk mitigating measures to ban all kinds of gatherings and calling people to carefully follow the key protective measures.
5. Attracting financial support from governmental organizations to better equip the healthcare system and help the underprivileged patients.

At the end, I shall restate that the only way to end the pandemic is providing global access to vaccines, tests and treatments for everybody. Let us all pray for those who have lost their loved ones.
