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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 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.

[21 August 2021]

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



Human Rights Concerns in the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) would like to draw the attention of the Human Rights Council to systematic and widespread violation of human rights in the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The United States

In the United States, ODVV expresses worries over the situation of migrants. The country has been suffering from a collection of human rights violations for decades, however, in recent years, the treatment of migrants, including the legacy of racism, overuse of force and violence by the police and situation of migrant children has attracted considerable global and national attention within the human rights organizations and the mass media. An already dire situation which has been exacerbated by the outbreak of Covid-19.

ODVV expresses serious worries over Biden government's policy to resume the process of expelling migrant families and the statement issued by the Department of Homeland Security on August 25th, regarding the decision to expedite the deportation of some immigrant families who have crossed the US-Mexico border.

Unfortunately, some asylum-seeking families are subject to a rapid deportation process, known as "expedited removal", which allows immigration officials to deport migrants before their case judged in a court. The process includes families who were not deported under the government's policy of controlling the Covid-19 epidemic at the borders.

ODVV finds the remarks made by Brian Hastings seriously alarming. The chief of Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley Sector, in his Tweet, confirmed the sharp rise in arrests, including the arrest of more than 20,000 migrants.

ODVV finds the increase in arrests of migrant families in recent months highly regrettable, including border patrols arresting more than 50,000 migrant families in June this year, compared to 40,815 in May, according to the latest data from the United States Customs and Border Protection.

In addition, ODVV is alarmed by the forcible repatriation of tens of thousands of unaccompanied children to countries from which they have fled in search for safety, without screening or providing support to prevent them from being harmed ahead of return, denying them access to asylum and putting their lives in danger.

Appalled by the situation of asylum seekers in the United States, ODVV calls for more human behavior with the vulnerable groups, especially the children in a way that their human rights are protected.

Also, ODVV calls on United States to review migration policies so that they are compatible with international commitments including the 1951 Refugee Convention.

The United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, ODVV expresses deep regret over the increase of arms sale to countries who use arms against their own people or other people including Yemenis.

An analysis conducted on Britain's largest arms company (BIA Systems) shows that the company, alone has raised 17.5 billion pounds since 2015, through selling military equipment and services to the Saudi military.¹

¹ <https://caat.org.uk/news/true-value-of-uk-arms-trade-to-saudi-arabia-worth-over-20-billion-since-2015/>.

If the figure is added to the value of bombs and missiles sold to the country based on standard export licenses, the estimated total value of arms exports since the start of the Yemeni war on March 26, 2015, will amount to 20.6 billion pounds. (\$ 28.4 billion).

ODVV expressed profound regrets over the devastating impact of British-made fighter jets, bombs and missiles on the ongoing bombing of Yemen, and the key role played by the British government and British companies in fueling the war, emphasizing that there is a serious need for transparency on the amount of weapons sold to the region and the accountability of those who have been accomplice in the war crimes committed against the people of Yemen.

Also, ODDV draws the attention of the Council to the decision of the British Court of Appeals in 2019, on the need to stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia while the ruling has not prevented the United Kingdom from continuing to sell arms to the Saudi Coalition.

ODVV calls on the Human Rights Council to urge the British government to stop arms sale to the countries that use weapons for abusing human rights.

ODVV warns the Council about the conspiracy of some States and their double standard in approaching human rights, that is, the approach adopted by some counties who justify violation of human rights if it is committed by their allies and they are benefiting financially from such violations.

ODVV call on the Human Rights Council's monitoring mechanisms to study violation of human rights through arms sales and lack of transparency committed by arms seller countries.

Finally, ODDV calls on independent NGOs, working on peace, to discuss the issue of arms sales in the United Kingdom and take action to prevent it.
