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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 International Association of Justice Watch, 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.

[7 February 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



Interactive Dialogue With The Special Rapporteur On The Promotion And Protection Of Human Rights And Fundamental Freedoms While Countering Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism: Tackling a Global Challenge out of Double Standards

The International Association of Justice Watch would like to extend its appreciation for this opportunity to send a message of sympathy to all victims of terrorism and discuss its viewpoint on the root causes of global terrorism for winning counter-terrorism.

Terrorism has been a worrisome global threat for decades: it has claimed the lives of countless innocent people, forcefully displaced millions of civilians, and jeopardized the global peace and security in all corners of the world.

The UN literature accurately says that “Terrorism is a plague from which no continent or country is immune”, so, it stands as a serious obstacle against achieving the sustainable development goals when 27 million of our children had been already left behind, out of schools in conflict zones.

Terrorism, especially its new forms, is complex by nature; however, counter-terrorism is by no means less complicated, in forms, motivations, and political ends and means. We believe, then, neither the guise of counter-terrorism claims, nor the pro human rights positions by some countries would be sufficient to cover up their multi-billion turnover of the war industry and the power of warmongers among their political decision makers. For instance, the global society deserves re-considering the United States of America’s military budget, which has rocketed to \$715 billion and a great amount of which is being injected to the pool of Pentagon contractors in its 800 overseas military bases. It all occurs when a variety of reports in countries such as Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic well indicate their pivotal role in human rights violation and disseminating terror in the region.

Planting the seeds of extremism and Takfiri ideology, the West, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, and Europeans such as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France, are complicit in atrocities and cruel war crimes of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in Yemen, the current largest humanitarian crisis in the world. They waged a full-fledged war where 1.3 million would be killed by 2030.

According to American sources such as Brookings (2021), Saudi Arabia, was the world's largest arms importer between 2015 and 2019, amidst Yemen Crisis. Its imports of major ammunitions and advanced weapons have increased by 130% compared with the previous five-year period. Washington and London continued to export arms to Saudi Arabia after their brutal invasion as 73% of Saudi arms imports come from the United States of America and 13% from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Americans and their coalition seeks to use the Counter-terrorism measures as a justification of their military interventions and the subsequent massive human losses. Evident instances of violation of international human rights and humanitarian laws, though, suggests that “indiscriminate” killing of innocent civilians and “disproportionate” airstrikes by drones have been a frequent pattern in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen where they have conducted military operations under the banner of counter-terrorism.

In addition to thinking and acting in continuity with the colonial norms and standards, lack of accountability of the West has created an imperial culture of impunity for gross rights violation and the most serious war crimes that are being normalized as 'collateral damage'.

The other side of the same coin of the West’s historical irresponsibility to the universal human rights, however, has indications within their borders: they are shrinking the civil liberties with targeting some religious and ethnic minorities through propagating stereotypes and hate speeches against them.

To sum up, the International Association of Justice Watch suggests the following:

1. Let’s break the cycle of impunity for those who are violating human rights in every corner of the world, especially currently in Yemen, and hold them

accountable for being disrespectful towards the international law, including the United Nations (UN) Charter, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, provisions of the four Geneva Conventions, etc.

2. Support the UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the enjoyment of human rights in order to identify the depth of the misery in conflict zones such as Yemen and integrate it in an intersectional manner in the Security Council and United Nations Secretariat.
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