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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 Peace Track Initiative, 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.

[16 May 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.



Violence against Women in Yemen

Introduction

In Yemen, since September 2014, violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law have been increasing, and these violations have affected many basic rights and freedoms, including the right to life, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right of women to political and social participation and their right to establish civil society organizations and work for organizations International.

With the continuation of the conflict in Yemen and the instability of the situation in the areas controlled by the Houthis group or areas under the control of the internationally recognized government, and the judicial system has stopped completely in some governorates or partially in other governorates, the frequency of violence has increased, especially directed against women by some imams of mosques through the use of "Friday sermons", as well as by some editors in traditional media or social media, this incitement is always followed by physical and moral violence against women in an attempt to force them to quit work, even though many of them are the sole breadwinners for their families.

Monitoring and Documentation

During the previous six months, we monitored many campaigns of incitement against women in a number of governorates of Yemen, most notably in the capital, Sana'a, Taiz, Abyan and Hadramawt.

One of those incitement campaigns targeted Dr. Olfat Al-Duba'i, a professor of sociology at Taiz University. She was a member of the National Dialogue Conference in the transitional justice team, a member of the committee for drafting the new Yemeni constitution, a member of the Women's Solidarity Network, and a Fellow of the Peace Track Initiative for Women's Leadership.

A number of mosque imams accused Dr. Al-Duba'i of infidelity during the Friday sermon in the city of Taiz, southern Yemen, because of her political opinions and her writings in some newspapers and her personal pages on social media in successive periods from December 2021 to April 2022. Some newspapers also made to Dr. Al-Duba'i many false accusations and slanders, while some editors on social media launched defamation campaigns against her.

Another case that suffered from this type of abuse and incitement against it is Bushra Ahmed Al-Saadi

She is constantly being bullied and threatened by private numbers. In addition to electronic bullying, her photos were published and she contacted the local authority in Abyan governorate for help and file a complaint, considering that she is one of the women working in the organizations, and the causes of abuse directed against her were caused by her activities in civil society, and she was accused That it receives sums of money from international organizations and that it encourages and pushes women to deviate in violation of societal traditions and religion.

In general, they talk about women working in the civil and international community, that they help to mix and that this is unacceptable. The sermons of some imams in some mosques were invoked. They gave him justifications in denial, but in vain. They sent the sermon and the same words are repeated that they mix with men and this usual talk has been repeated in the public street.

The authorities have not taken any measures, and to this day no measure has taken place to protect these women, and this indicates the bullying taking place against these women, which jeopardizes the safety, life and freedom of many of them. The security authorities and the security belt authorities do not provide them with any kind of protection.

Women's Solidarity Network (WSN)

The Peace Track Initiative (PTI) coordinates the work of the Women's Solidarity Network (WSN), which aims to advance women's rights and coordinate efforts to improve women's protection and contribute to peacebuilding in Yemen. We work to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Security Council's Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

WSN is considered the largest women's bloc in Yemen and includes a group of active women leaders from various political, intellectual and cultural orientations with the aim of supporting and strengthening the roles of women in political and community work and in formulating state policies. It calls for women's participation in local and international

WSN held an expanded meeting for its members. At the meeting, many members complained about the manifestations of bullying and moral violence they were subjected to by mosque imams, newspaper editors and social media. One of them said: "I could only escape from Yemen and chose not to confront the situation. The conditions were difficult. At that time, my name was included in a list of 18 male and female activists who were defamed and fabricated malicious charges, and they called the list the Black List of Shame".

The members called on the Ministries of Endowments, Human Rights and Media in Yemen to intervene quickly to stop this violence against women. They also called on the Journalists' Syndicate to activate the press code of honor, which prevents the fabrication of charges.

Recommendations

1. We recommend providing more technical support to reactivate the Yemeni judiciary.
 2. Put pressure on the Yemeni government to hold human rights violators accountable, especially those who commit violations against women, including those who incite to commit them.
 3. The necessity of putting pressure on the Yemeni government to legislate a law that protects women from violence and incitement, as well as adopting immediate and firm measures against all violators until the law is issued.
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