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**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Written statement* submitted by International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights, 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.

[22 August 2022]

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



Human Rights Situation in the Syrian Arab Republic

Despite the continuing catastrophic effects of the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic over the past 11 years, the Syrian Arab Republics human rights profile has progressed considerably this year. At its fiftieth session, the Human Rights Council had adopted the Syrian side's report on the third universal periodic review, which dealt with human rights in all Member States on an equal basis and without discrimination. This is evidence of the Syrian Government's commitment to its international commitments to the human rights file.

The Syrian Government has also endeavoured to normalize its relations with several Arab, regional and international countries, with a view to ensuring the voluntary and safe return of Syrian refugees who have emigrated from their countries because of the scourge of war.

The Syrian Arab Republic's economy has been significantly affected during the war years. The human and economic losses suffered by the Syrian people have increased. By 2021, the war's economic losses stood at US \$1.2 trillion. Costs resulted largely from the destruction of infrastructure and mass displacement resulting from a decade of war. The Syrian Arab Republic economic output also shrank by 60%, and the value of the national currency fell to historic lows.

More than 90% of the population lives below the poverty line, according to OCHA. More than 12.4 million Syrians -- out of an estimated total population of about 16 million -- suffer from food insecurity, according to the World Food Programme (WFP), a worrying increase of 3.1 million in one year. More than 600 thousand children suffer from chronic malnutrition. The Syrian Government has exacerbated the impact of the economic crisis by failing to address it fairly and adequately the shortage of bread and fuel, instead allowing for discriminatory and unequal distribution.

It should be noted that the persistence of the tragic situation in the Syrian Arab Republic is the result of sustained military interventions from many States that have been trying to assert control over some of the Syrian Arab Republic's territory, take advantage of economic wealth and take control of geostrategic realities in the region. In addition, the suffering of the Syrian people is increasing in the territory occupied by Türkiye, where Türkiye and the military factions it supports are violating civilians' rights and restricting their freedoms without accountability.

In early August, Türkiye reaffirmed its threat of military incursion into parts of northern Syrian Arab Republic, with all the fears it has for refugees and displaced persons, and the implications for Syrians detained in that area. This planned Turkish incursion is the fourth in northern Syrian Arab Republic since 2016, without losing sight of the fact that previous incursions were fraught with human rights violations.

In contrast, American forces continue to control many areas of Deir ez-Zor and Hasakeh and extend their control over the oil fields that deprive the Syrian people of their wealth.

On the other hand, Israel's aggression against Syrian territory continues through a series of air strikes and rocket strikes, which leave a large number of civilian casualties and significant destruction of infrastructure, in flagrant violation of international law. Remarkably, Israel's attacks on various civilian facilities, most notably Damascus International Airport, which came under rocket fire in June 2022, temporarily took him out of service. Although the Syrian Arab Republics foreign affairs have sent numerous letters and complaints to the UN Security Council, Israel continues to engage in repeated aggression without minimal accountability or responsibility.

In addition to the above-mentioned challenges, unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States of America, the European Union and many States on the Syrian Arab Republic remain a stumbling block in the face of securing the Syrian people's basic needs and materials. These sanctions have had a profound impact on the lives of Syrian citizens through the scarcity of foodstuffs, petroleum derivatives and medicines, which has increased the suffering of the Syrian people over the years of crisis.

The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights calls on the States Members of the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to take a firm position to put

an end to the suffering of the Syrian people by illegally withdrawing all foreign forces on Syrian territory. It also pressured Israel to halt its repeated attacks on the Syrian people and on the Syrian Arab Republic's infrastructure. Thus, the Syrian people can benefit from their wealth to improve their living conditions.

The International Council also calls for an end to the unilateral sanctions against the Syrian Arab Republic and for the Syrian Government to be allowed to unconditionally re-secure the life of food, pharmaceutical, oil derivatives and others. In addition, the International Council for the Support of a Fair Trial and Human Rights calls for the accountability of the States that participated in the war against the Syrian Arab Republic and financed the armed groups and for them to contribute to the financing of reconstruction in order to facilitate the return of refugees and ensure a dignified life for the Syrian people in a manner that guarantees human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic.
