



General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 September 2022

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-first session

12 September–7 October 2022

Agenda item 3

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

Written statement* submitted by Women's Human Rights International Association, 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.



The Visit of the Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights

The Special Rapporteur (SR) on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran has continuously reported on the horrific and worsening situation of human rights in Iran since the mandate was established. The Iranian government has not allowed the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran to travel to the country. However, The Iranian government has been happy to invite the SR on Unilateral Coercive Measures, Ms. Douhan, to the Islamic Republic of Iran to report that sanctions have negative effects on the social and humanitarian situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This visit was very unfortunate as it was used to whitewash the government's embezzlement and thefts by blaming the Iranian people's economic woes on the sanctions and asking for them to be lifted.

It is not surprising that the governmental media outlets welcomed Ms. Douhan's visit and remarks, including Fars, the IRGC affiliated news agency, Tasnim, Mizan, the criminal judiciary's news agency, Mehr news agency, affiliated to the Intelligence Ministry, and state Radio and Television, as well as Kayhan daily. Ms. Douhan met with governmental authorities on the same days when the repressive forces were suppressing anti-regime protesters and wounding or arresting many more in nationwide protests against the corruption and mismanagement of authorities.

The SR Ms. Douhan expressed sympathy with hospital patients and showed concerns about the high cost and shortage of medicine in the Islamic Republic of Iran. She ignored that a monopoly on the production and import of medicine is in the hands of a foundation called "Execution of Imam Khomeini's Order," whose entire assets, totaling \$100 billion has been embezzled from the Iranian people by corrupt government officials. At the same time, Ms. Douhan failed to express sympathy for the 550,000 Coronavirus victims, many who died because the Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei banned the import of vaccines.

The root of the problem

The difficult economic situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran is primarily a result of the Iranian government's inhumane policies and priorities. The Iranian people are suffering from hunger and lack of medicine, while the budget of the main repressive forces, the revolutionary guards' (IRGC), increased by 240% in the last fiscal year (1401 in Persian Calendar) alone. In addition, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Supreme Leader has allocated more than 5.5 billion euros from the National Sovereign Fund to security forces, most of which goes to the IRGC. In the same year, the government increased the state-run Radio and Television budget, which is often used to scare or repress dissidents, by 56 percent. Starving and depriving people of medical services is a deliberate policy of the Iranian government.

The WHRIA urges the United Nations to prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran from exploiting UN Human Rights mechanisms and Special Procedures to justify its crimes against the Iranian people. The United Nations must hold the Islamic Republic of Iran responsible and accountable to its commitments to the human rights conventions and covenants it has signed and ratified. The Human Rights Council must prevent member states using the mandate of Special Rapporteurs as an excuse for inhumane policies and cover-up for embezzlement. This is a shameful act in which the UN must not be complicit.
