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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 The Institute for Protection of Women's Rights (IPWR), 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.

[5 February 2023]

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



Repatriation From Syrian Camps Of French Children Of Parents Affiliated With ISIS

Introduction

Since Isis fighters surrendered their last Syrian enclave in 2019, many of the women who had left their countries to join militant groups ended up in the camps which sounded the alarm over the fate of children stuck in the Kurdish-run centers, where sanitary conditions are often dire. Many were either born there or were taken to the Syrian Arab Republic at a young age. The women, who were either French nationals or had French children, had faced either arrest or search warrants and were being dealt with by judicial authorities. the European Court of Human Rights ruled that France must re-examine repatriation requests from two French women who travelled to the Syrian Arab Republic with their partners to join ISIL

Between 610 and 680 children of EU citizens are now with their mothers in Roj and al-Hol camps in the northeast of the Syrian Arab Republic, according to documents. Some of these children were born in the Syrian Arab Republic and some of them have been brought to the Syrian Arab Republic by their parents. Their parents have been accused of cooperating with ISIS. Since 2019, these children have been held hostage along with their mothers; About a third of them are French, and the rest are German, Dutch, Swedes, Belgians, and British.

Since the beginning of 2021, about 62 children died in camps because according to the reports they lived in inhumane sanitary conditions and lacked access to basic needs including water, food, and health care. France has violated the rights of French children because of the inhumane and deplorable conditions in Syrian camps. According to human rights documents, the long-term imprisonment of child victims in life-threatening conditions is also an inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

France's failure to repatriate these children, two-thirds of whom are under the age of six, has provoked serious criticism from Human Rights authorities such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and European Court of Human Rights. Human Rights officials have repeatedly emphasized that the French government has failed to repatriate the children who have been imprisoned in camps inside the Syrian Arab Republic in very poor conditions for years. The important thing is that ISIS terrorists are once again looking for reconstruction and re-recruitment, and the children who live in these camps are one of their main targets.

According to evidence, ISIS terrorists smuggle children from the camps, especially the "Al Houl" refugee camp in the northeast of the Syrian Arab republic, and organize training courses for them. Meanwhile, these terrorists attack camps and commit heinous crimes such as "decapitation".

Recommendation

The Institute for Protection of Women's Rights (IPWR) believes that France should repatriate these children immediately since it has the responsibility and power to protect French children in Syrian camps from imminent danger and violations of Human Rights and dignity.

We urge the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to follow up on the issue of violence against children also remind its member states to step up repatriation efforts especially European countries.