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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.

[29 May 2023]

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



The Situation of Human Rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

Since the outbreak of the war and aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic in 2011, the series of the United States of America-European economic sanctions and the Caesar Act on the Syrian Arab Republic has doubled the pressure on the Syrian economy, to be added to the consequences of the global war and unfair sanctions that have brought the majority of Syrians below the poverty line.

The Syrian economy has been significantly affected during the war years. The scale of the human and economic losses suffered by the Syrian people has increased. By 2021, the economic losses of the war will reach \$1.2 trillion. The costs resulted largely from the destruction of infrastructure and mass displacement, as well as the shrinkage of the Syrian economic output by 60%, and the value of the national currency fell to its lowest historical levels.

And with the return of the Syrian government to the League of Arab States and its endeavor to normalize its relations with several Arab, regional, and international countries, to work to secure the voluntary and safe return of Syrian refugees who emigrated from their country due to the scourge of war.

More than 90% of the population lives below the poverty line, and more than 12.4 million Syrians - out of a total estimated population of about 16 million - suffer from food insecurity, according to the World Food Programme, an alarming increase of 3.1 million in one year. More than 600,000 children suffer from chronic malnutrition. More than 13.1 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance across the Syrian Arab Republic.

Within the framework of the policy of starving the Syrian people, the American forces and their allies are stealing more than 60,000 barrels of Syrian oil every day, at a time when the Syrians are suffering from the loss of heating materials and transportation fuel, as well as what the agricultural irrigation engines need, which affects the production of wheat, barley, and cotton, and deprives farmers of a resource Their livelihood, in addition to the death of millions of livestock due to the lack of fodder, in addition to the water war, and the decline of the Syrian Arab Republic's share of the Euphrates River from 500 cubic meters per second to less than 250 cubic meters due to Türkiye's participation in the aggression, which caused the exit of thousands of hectares of agriculture, the receding of the river water, and the death of hundreds of thousands of people Livestock and the resulting environmental pollution helped in the emergence of diseases and pandemics such as cholera and others. In those areas, the population emigrated from the Euphrates River bed and the water level in the dam decreased to its lowest limits.

It is worth noting that the continuation of the tragic situation in the Syrian Arab Republic is a result of the continuous military interventions of many countries that were and still are trying to impose their control over some Syrian lands, benefit from the economic wealth and impose their control over the geostrategic reality in the region.

In addition, the suffering of the Syrian people is increasing in the lands occupied by Türkiye, where Türkiye and the military factions that support it are violating the rights of civilians and restricting their freedoms without accountability, and Türkiye is still repeating its threat of military incursion into parts of northern Syrian Arab Republic, with all the concerns that this entails. refugees and displaced persons, and the implications for the Syrians detained in that region. Knowing that the Turkish incursion has been repeated in northern Syrian Arab Republic since 2016, without forgetting that the previous incursions were fraught with human rights violations, we appreciate all the efforts of friendly countries seeking to end this situation.

On the other hand, the American forces continue to control many areas in Deir Ezzor and Hasaka and extend their control over the oil fields and agricultural areas, thus depriving the Syrian people of their wealth.

On the other hand, Israel continues its attacks on Syrian territory through a series of air raids and missile strikes that leave a large number of civilian casualties and great damage to infrastructure, in flagrant violation of international law. It is noteworthy that the Israeli attacks targeted various civilian facilities, the most important of which is Damascus International Airport, which was repeatedly subjected to missile strikes, causing it to be temporarily out of service. Despite the fact that the Syrian Foreign Ministry sent multiple letters and complaints to the UN Security Council and the United Nations, Israel continues to carry out its aggression repeatedly without the slightest degree of accountability or accountability.

In addition to the aforementioned challenges, the unfair unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States of America, the European Union, and many countries on the Syrian Arab Republic remain a stumbling block in the way of securing the basic needs and basic materials for the Syrian people. Oil and medicine, which has increased the suffering of the Syrian people over the years of the crisis.

The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights calls on the member states of the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to take a firm stand to put an end to the suffering of the Syrian people through the withdrawal of all foreign forces illegally present on Syrian territory. Likewise, putting pressure on Israel to stop its repeated attacks on the Syrian people and the Syrian infrastructure, thus, enabling the Syrian people to benefit from their wealth to improve their living conditions.

The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights also calls for an end to the series of unjust blockades and unilateral sanctions unjustly imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic, and immediate action to abolish them, and to allow the Syrian government to re-secure the necessities of life, including foodstuffs, medicines, oil derivatives, and others, without restriction or condition. In addition, the International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights calls for the accountability of the countries that participated in the war on the Syrian Arab Republic funded armed groups, and push them to contribute to compensation for war victims, financing reconstruction, facilitating the return of refugees, and ensuring a decent life for the Syrian people in a way that guarantees human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic.
