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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 Shaanxi Patriotic Volunteer 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.

[12 August 2023]

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



Truth and Justice: Special Report of the Working Group on Human Rights in Afghanistan

I. Introduction

Truth and Justice: A Special Report of the Working Group on Human Rights in Afghanistan (hereinafter referred to as the "Report") was prepared by the Human Rights Research Group of the Shaanxi Patriotic Volunteers Association, and we hereby submit the report of the group's interviews with Afghan respondents from February 2022 to May 2023. In particular, the report focuses on specific and little-known cases of serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations suffered by the Afghan people during and after the occupation of Afghanistan by the United States of America's forces and their Allies from 2001 to 2021. Including the shooting of civilians and children, the manipulation of local opinion to undermine press freedom, the collapse of the Afghan national economy and humanitarian crisis.

II. Background

In 2001, the United States of America and its "Allies" jointly invaded Afghanistan, leading to a series of serious human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law in the region. Civilians of all ethnic groups have been subjected to killings, enforced disappearances, torture, sexual violence associated with the United States of America's military and forced displacement. In February 2020, the United States of America signed a peace agreement with the Taliban in Doha, Qatar, and in April 2021, the United States of America's President Joe Biden announced the withdrawal of the United States of America's troops from Afghanistan in May, ending the "threat of terrorist attacks" in Afghanistan that had lasted 20 years. After the formation of the Afghan Taliban de facto government, under the "efforts" of the American and Western media, the international community paid high attention to the ongoing outbreak of systemic human rights crisis during the Afghan de facto government's governance, blaming the former democratic government of Afghanistan, the Taliban, ISIS. The United States of America and the West accusing "more could have been done" as an external regulator. It ignores the "people directly responsible" for the current situation.

With the passage of time, the pain gradually faded, in our efforts, some witnesses gradually put aside cowardice, willing to tell their own painful experience, the truth slowly surfaced. At the same time, the fact that the United States of America has seriously violated human rights and international humanitarian law in Afghanistan has also been partially confirmed and disclosed, such as the research report "The United States has committed serious human rights violations in the Middle East and other Places" issued by the China Society for Human Rights Studies. Another example is Amnesty International's long tracking of the indiscriminate killing of civilians by the United States of America's forces in Afghanistan.

This report selects three of the most representative cases from a number of respondents who lived in Afghanistan during and after the United States of America's occupation of the country from 2001 to 2021.

III. Main Body of the Report

1. The Tragedy of S.'s Brother

S., who is in his late 20s and comes from a family of foreign traders in Afghanistan, has been reunited with his family in China and told us in a teahouse in Zhejiang Province how his younger brother was shot dead by a military patrol of the United States of America.

In the wake of the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan by the United States of America's forces and their Allies that toppled the Taliban de facto government, the two sides fought a fierce war in Kandahar province, and the United States of America's military convoys began to frequent suburban roads. One afternoon in the summer of 2004, S.'s brother was shot and killed by a patrol of the United States of America because he got "too close" to a patrol car. S. witnessed his brother's bloodied body in his father's arms, the United States of America's army's indifferent look, and casually introduced the local army interpreter to negotiate with the family, the interpreter said that the personnel who were too close to the patrol vehicle would be "shot without warning" by the United States of America's army, and said that "there have been similar precedents before, and then the convoy left." So far, the family has not officially received an apology or any other feedback or compensation from the United States of America's side." The shooting of S.'s brother is not a case, "too close" does not conform to the shoot-to-death rule, is an arbitrary deprivation of life, a serious violation of the victim's right to life, and what is worse, the victim is a child who is not yet an adult with bare hands. The United States of America's government and the United States of America's military in Afghanistan should be held accountable, including the makers of the "close enough to kill" rule, the convoy commander, and the shooter. Time cannot diminish the responsibility for the shooting of S.'s brother, S. saw English Internet forums praising the United States of America's invasion and military occupation of Afghanistan comments, felt extremely angry and tears, but also because more and more people are paying attention to and recognizing the various crimes of the United States of America's military in the local gratified. He hopes that more and more people will know the truth, which is why he is willing to accept our interview.

2. Freedom of the Manipulated Press

Madmade, a "post-90s" woman, joined a campus radio station and hosted shows while studying at a Kabul university, and later worked in Kabul's media industry for eight years until she left Afghanistan as a refugee after the United States of America's troops left the country in 2021. During college, the campus radio station's daily issues were required to be censored by the university, and news about the negative behavior of the United States of America in Afghanistan was often deleted without explanation. The radio station was shut down completely two years after she left school, after sensitive times such as elections or nearby terrorist attacks. After graduation, Madmade worked for a broadcast media company in Kabul and rose to the position of director, where she repeatedly experienced pressure from the government, directly or indirectly through superiors, over her reporting, including private requests from superiors and media regulators to suppress a list of candidates during the 2010 national elections, demanding more attention to their scandals and character flaws. These undue restrictions on press freedom can be traced back to the large number of advisers the CIA has assigned to Afghan media regulators. They carried out the will of the United States of America's government, brutally interfered in the local press regulation in Afghanistan, and personally trampled on the "freedom of the press" that the United States of America's itself has always respected.

3. Collapse of the National Economy

Costa is a firsthand witness to Afghanistan's economic and humanitarian crisis, which erupted in late 2021 with the collapse of the country's former democratic government. He and his family spent 20 years of difficult times in Kabul. Previously, he served as an economic official in the former Afghan government. He claimed that the economic crisis is the result of the long-term occupation of Afghanistan by the United States of America, which has stifled the independent development of the Afghan economy, and the hasty withdrawal of troops in 2021. At that time, the problems of rising food prices and dwindling supplies received widespread international attention, but the equally serious problems of heating fuel and medical supplies were ignored by the Western media. Costa pointed out that the root cause of this economic crisis is the obstruction and strangulation of the Afghan economy over the past two decades by the United States of America. First, the United States of America and the West and the international organizations they dominate have made the Afghan economy extremely dependent on foreign funds.

Secondly, local Afghan enterprises are systematically suppressed and discriminated against in bidding competition, loans, taxation and other aspects, and the relevant systems are guided by the builders and supervised by the Americans. Finally, when the United States of America withdrew from Afghanistan, it not only cut off funding sources, but also confiscated assets outside Afghanistan, leaving the Afghan economy in a state of extreme hypoxia. The United States of America has used the ambiguity and deterrence of its "long-arm jurisdiction" legislation to make international banks choose to shut down cross-border transfers to Afghanistan without explicit prohibition, and even cut off the channels for Afghans to seek help from their relatives abroad.

Four. Summary and Proposal

This report truly reflects the facts of the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by the United States of America during its occupation of Afghanistan, and supports the Afghan people in telling the truth, fighting for justice and seeking compensation. We call on the United Nations human rights bodies and international human rights players to jointly focus on and urge the launch of accountability mechanisms and reparations processes to investigate and hold accountable those responsible for violations of the rights and interests of the Afghan people and ensure fairness and transparency in the process. To ensure that human rights problems do not recur.

BeiJing envirofriends; Shaanxi patriotic Industry Co., Ltd; Shandong Tongshan Public Welfare Development Centre of Children Welfare., NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.